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# Monsoon Journal

A parfait media publication

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## Canada welcomes more economic Immigrants this year

By Siva Sivapragasam

Canada is adjusting its immigration policies for 2010 to welcome more immigrants in the economic category for this year.

The thinking behind this theory, according to Immigration Minister Jason Kenney, is to put even greater emphasis on economic recovery and further reduce the federal skilled worker backlog. As the country recovers from the recession, increasing economic immigration will ensure employers have the workers they need to supplement labour supply.

Each year, Citizenship and Immigration Canada sets out a plan for immigration target. The target for this year is between 240,000 - 265,000 new immigrants. The country is hoping to achieve more immigrants in the economic category. To be eligible to apply as a federal skilled worker, applicants must have a job offer, or they must have experience in one of the 29 in-demand occupations. The Immigration Minister is also paying attention to the investor immigrant category as Canada needs more investor immigrants.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rick Dykstra,



Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration will be the key-note speaker at a roundtable discussion to be held in Richmond Hill



on Monday, August 9th to discuss recent changes to immigration legislation with special emphasis on the role of immigration consultants.

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Ancient Tamil Nadu

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**From the Publisher's Desk ...****September 8 Celebrates International Literacy Day****By: Krishni Loganathan**

BA (Hons)

Almost 4 billion people across the globe are classified as being illiterate. But what exactly does it mean to be literate. The simple answer is the ability to read and write. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) defines literacy as the -

**"ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate, compute and use printed and written materials associated with varying contexts. Literacy involves a continuum of learning in enabling individuals to achieve their goals, to develop their knowledge and potential, and to participate fully in their community and wider society."**

So why isn't the whole global population literate? It seems simple enough to accomplish, but much of the illiterate population comes from the third world countries, which are unable to afford to learn how to read and write. Strong efforts are made from international organiza-

tions such as UNICEF and the United Nations to build schools for children to go to, and to send teachers and resources in order to educate these children.

Even the grown men and women are taught how to read and write so they too can teach their own children these same skills. Teaching children from a very early age is vital to the country's well being.

As more children become educated this knowledge transfers into the country's advantage. However as poorer conditions continue in these third world countries, these educated children migrate to other countries where conditions and opportunities are improved.

Once the child is old enough and capable of leaving the poor country the transfer of knowledge is no longer advantageous in their home country resulting in a brain drain. The main strategy is to keep these educated individuals in the country, in order to revitalize the country into a stable and secure place where people desire to remain.

Although the child has every

reason to escape the conditions which he/she face everyday, but the country will continue to suffer economically and creatively once all of these educated individuals disappear.

It is a shame that out of a world population of almost 7 trillion people only 4 billion of them are able to read and write. Increased international efforts are needed to reach an entire literate population. As impossible as that sounds, the more steps taken into reaching this goal, the more likely this goal will seem achievable.

Canada is claimed to have a 99% literacy rate, however there are many factors to take into consideration including the various data collection methods that vary from each country and self reported data that also varies into the actual amount of literate people living in Canada. The educational system that Canada has put into place has created children to become excellent performers.

In Ontario specifically testing is done as early as Grade 3 to test the child's reading, writing and mathematical skills in the EQAO (Education

Quality and Accountability Office) testing, which is the provincial agency that designs these tests.

Later in grade 6 the EQAO test is done again. In grade 10 the Literacy test is given to students in order to complete their high school certificate. All of these measures are taken in order to ensure that the students are keeping up with the standards across the globe and can achieve a competitive edge with their international counterparts.

As school resumes in September, let us celebrate the 4 billion people that are literate and be thankful that many of us had the opportunity to receive free education and the opportunity for higher learning, while the remaining population were denied and unable to receive either.

Let us come up with ways to help the remaining that are not, and help in any way we can. From tutoring a child, to donating to these international organizations, or even donating new or used books to the less fortunate. It doesn't matter what your role is, we can all help in some small way.

**US Government Support Creates 10,000 jobs in Northern Sri Lanka**

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/Colombo, the development office of the U.S. Embassy, has recently forged four new business alliances with Sri Lankan private companies, under USAID's Public/Private Alliance (PPA) Program. These partnerships are expected to create 10,000 full-time jobs in northern Sri Lanka.

**Construction Alliance**

An alliance between USAID and a Sri Lankan construction consortium will establish seven mobile training centers for construction craftsmen in the Northern Province. Training will be provided to 5,000 persons over a period of six months including three months of on-the-job training.

**Jaffna Garment Alliance**

USAID has established another PPA with a leading garment textile firm in Jaffna which manufactures and exports denim textiles to U.S. clients including Levi's, Jones New York, J.C. Penny, Tema, and Charles Voegelé. This alliance will create 1,800 full-time jobs over three years.

**Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Alliance**

To help fill workforce gaps in BPO and IT, USAID is teaming with leading BPO and IT/English language training companies to establish professional IT and

English skills development training centers in each of the five districts in the Northern Province. Courses in Business Process Outsourcing, Enterprise Java, and English Language Skills will be offered at no charge to over 3,000 under- and unemployed students who will then participate in on-the-job training schemes with private firms.

**Northern Garment Alliance**

USAID is establishing another PPA with a major garment manufacturer to expand its operations to northern Sri Lanka. This alliance is expected to initially employ 750 full-time staff and market its finished apparel to such firms as Tommy Hilfiger, Polo Ralph Lauren, Columbia Sportswear, Next, Tesco, and Burberry. Emphasis will be placed on supporting widows, single mothers, and families with disabled members.

USAID Mission Director Rebecca Cohn said, "The U.S. Agency for International Development/Sri Lanka is proud to announce these new public private alliances. We are committed to helping conflict-affected communities return to normalcy through the creation of sustainable jobs and increased business opportunities. USAID strongly believes that the private sector is the most important engine for economic growth.



In April, USAID launched five new alliances in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka, including aquaculture, horticulture, logistics, and garment partnerships. I am confident these new alliances together with the previously established alliances will be significant catalysts to spur development in the North."

These four alliances are all with Sri Lankan private companies. USAID's investment of about Rs.1.1 billion is generating an additional Rs.2.9 billion investment from the private sector for a

total investment of approximately Rs.4 billion in the construction, business process outsourcing, and apparel manufacturing sectors.

**(The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, have provided development and humanitarian assistance in developing countries worldwide for nearly 50 years. Since 1956, USAID/Sri Lanka has invested nearly Rs.230 billion to benefit all the people of Sri Lanka).**

# MAKE PARLIAMENT WORK TO AVOID UNNECESSARY ELECTION: PRIME MINISTER

OTTAWA - Prime Minister Stephen Harper says making Parliament work is essential if Canada is to avoid an unnecessary election that would jeopardize our economic recovery.

"The economy remains the number one priority of Canadians and of our Government," said the Prime Minister. "An unnecessary election is the last thing that Canadians need, that the economy needs, at this time."

To advance the objective of making Parliament work, the Prime Minister today announced the appointment of one of his most experienced, senior Ministers to the position of Leader of the Government in the House of Commons. The Honourable John Baird has a mandate to work cooperatively with the other parties and make Parliament function.



"Canadians need Parliament to work so that Canada's Economic Action Plan is not interrupted," said the Prime Minister. "We want to do our part and to work cooperatively with all opposition parties to put the economy first."

This crucial role is the latest of many in which Minister Baird has served with distinction. He

secured passage of the landmark Federal Accountability Act, served as Minister of the Environment, and most recently, oversaw the implementation of infrastructure stimulus, a vital part of Canada's Economic Action Plan.

Others changes made as part of today's fine-tuning of the Cabinet are as follows:

The Honourable Chuck

Strahl succeeds Mr. Baird as Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities.

The Honourable John Duncan, of British Columbia, enters the Cabinet by succeeding Mr. Strahl as Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians and Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency.

"Minister Strahl will take on his new responsibilities with the same dedication and hard work that he's shown in his previous portfolios," said the Prime Minister. His immediate priority is the ongoing implementation of the infrastructure stimulus component of Canada's Economic Action Plan.

In announcing the appointment of the newest member of his Cabinet, the Prime Minister



noted that "John Duncan's solid work as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development makes him a natural choice for this important role, allowing him to continue to build on the important work that Chuck Strahl and our Government have done in this area."

The Prime Minister paid tribute to the former Government House Leader, the Honourable Jay Hill. Earlier this summer Mr. Hill announced that he will not stand as a candidate at the next general election following 17 years of elected service to his constituents and Canadians.

Mr. Baird was recently named "Parliamentarian of the Year," an award decided by votes of MPs and Senators from all parties.

## Ontario Offers Aid to Pakistan Flooding Victims

McGuinty Government Makes Donation To Red Cross And Red Crescent

The McGuinty government announced on Friday, Aug 6th that it is donating \$200,000 to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to aid victims of the flooding in Pakistan.

The United Nations reports that this is Pakistan's worst flooding in nearly a century. It has now affected more than four million people and left at least 1,600 dead.

"The bonds between Pakistan and Ontario are strong. Particularly in this time of tragedy, I join not only with Ontario's Pakistani community but with all Ontarians in sending our thoughts and prayers to the people of Pakistan. I know this donation will help provide care to the victims of the floods and help ensure their basic needs are met."

- Dr. Eric Hoskins  
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

**QUICK FACTS**

After causing huge destruction in the northwest, floodwaters have moved southward and submerged villages and some urban centres in Punjab and Sindh province.

Authorities are using approximately 30 boats to help the evacuation of 500,000 people living along the river banks and have set up 400 relief camps.

Premier Dalton McGuinty visited Punjab province during a 2007 trade mission to India and Pakistan.

## Keeping Young Drivers Safe McGuinty Government Reminds Drivers of New Rules

Ontario's new zero blood alcohol level for drivers 21 years of age and under comes into effect effective August 1st.

On August 1st, novice drivers of any age and all drivers 21 and under must have zero blood alcohol level when driving:

An immediate 24-hour licence suspension

A further 30-day licence suspension on conviction

**Up to \$500 in fines**

Novice drivers in the Graduated Licensing System are already required to maintain a zero blood alcohol level while driving. These drivers will face tougher penalties if they violate the conditions of their license or if they are convicted of any Highway Traffic Act offences that carry four or more demerit points.

**Penalties include:**

30-day licence suspension for the first instance

90-day licence suspension for the second instance

Further instances can lead to a cancellation of the licence and other penalties.

These changes are part of the Road Safety Act 2009 and will keep drivers safe on Ontario roads.

"Young drivers between the ages of 19 and 21 are most at risk and we are doing what we can to keep them safe."

- Kathleen Wynne

Minister of Transportation

**QUICK FACTS**

The peak ages of drinking and driving collisions are 19, 20 and 21.

Drivers aged 19 to 21 are



almost one-and-a-half times as likely to be involved in drinking and driving fatal and injury crashes.

In Ontario, 235 drivers age 21 and under were killed in drinking and driving collisions in the latest 10-year period for which statistics are available.

## Pickering Town Centre

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The Canadian Council for Refugees, Amnesty International Canada and the Canadian Tamil Congress in a press release on July 28th has called on Canadians to be mindful of the need to honour international human rights obligations, in responding to the Tamils believed to be on board a boat approaching North America.

"Over the years Canada has saved the lives of thousands of Tamils fleeing persecution, by providing access to a fair and independent refugee system," said Wanda Yamamoto, CCR President. "Whether they arrive by plane, foot or boat, people seeking refuge from human rights

## Rights of Tamils on boat need to be respected

abuses have a right to an individual hearing on the reasons why they fled - a right recently reaffirmed by Parliament. In respecting this right we take a stand against the persecutors and the human rights violators."

In recently published guidelines on Sri Lankan refugee claims, the UN Refugee Agency notes that groups potentially at risk of persecution in Sri Lanka include journalists, human rights activists, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals and persons suspected of having links with the LTTE (Tamil Tigers).

"Amnesty International has extensively documented the use by the Sri Lankan government of anti-terrorism laws to silence human rights activists, journalists,

and other critics. Sri Lankans suspected, even if wrongly, of being LTTE supporters have been routinely imprisoned and tortured," said Alex Neve, Secretary General, Amnesty International Canada.

"It is disturbing to hear some public comments that seem to follow this lead by labelling Tamil asylum seekers as "terrorists" before they have even had a chance to tell their story. Canadian and international law requires that refugees have access to individual and unbiased determination of their claim to need protection."

Canadian law also provides for the identification of individuals who have committed serious human rights violations or who represent a risk to Canadian secu-



Wanda Yamamoto

ity, including of course any LTTE members who fit these categories. Such persons are ineligible for refugee status and may be removed from Canada.

"Taking to the seas in a boat like this is very risky," said David Poopalapillai, National Spokesperson, Canadian Tamil

Congress. "We can only imagine that the people on board must have been very desperate to undertake such a dangerous voyage. We hope that our fellow Canadians will listen sympathetically to their stories and will support the government's fair application of the law."

## Tamil American Peace Initiative Responds to Sec. Blake's Trip to Sri Lanka

The Tamil American Peace Initiative (TAPI) commends US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Robert Blake for urging the Sri Lankan government to make greater efforts towards reconciliation and democracy during his recent trip to Sri Lanka. TAPI is particularly gratified by the Secretary's emphasis on the importance of accountability for war crimes and human rights violations committed during the civil war, and by his recommendation that the Sri Lankan government accept the UN war crimes advisory panel.

TAPI is concerned, however, that in his effort to persuade the Sri Lankan government to accept the UN panel, Secretary Blake

emphasized its lack of investigatory jurisdiction. Additionally, he claimed that the panel was formed only to support the Sri Lankan Government's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission - an assertion that could undercut the United Nation's authority and weaken the growing momentum for international investigations.

"Blake's comments could signal a lack of resolve, when in fact the international community has demonstrated full support for an international investigation into war crimes and human rights abuses," said TAPI spokesperson Dr. Karunyan Arulanantham. "In addition to the UN advisory panel, dozens of international human rights group have called for inves-

tigations; the EU has rescinded Sri Lanka's trade preferences because of human rights abuses; Japan has pledged full support for the UN panel; and the US Ambassador to the UN Susan Rice, has expressed approval for investigations."

TAPI maintains that the US should support the UN Panel as a precursor to a robust international investigation into war crimes and human rights abuses and should not simply aid the Sri Lankan Government's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission. The Sri Lankan government has previously formed nine ad-hoc commissions to investigate similar abuses, and not one has resulted in a prosecution or accountability. Additionally,


the Sri Lankan Government has made clear that this new commission will not investigate war crimes, and its proceedings will not be public.

TAPI is appreciative of Secretary Blake's continued engagement with Sri Lanka. Yet the group believes that the Secretary and the US Government must take a stronger stance and explicitly push for thorough international investigations that will air abuses and prosecute those responsible. "If the US is serious about its commitment to lasting peace in Sri Lanka, it must support an international investigation

into war crimes," said. Dr. Arulanantham. "Reconciliation is difficult without a full airing of the truth. Stability, peace and reconciliation depend on it."

### About TAPI:

The Tamil American Peace Initiative was formed by a group of Tamil Americans to help bring lasting peace, justice, democracy, good governance and economic development to Sri Lanka; to focus attention on the destruction of Tamil communities and culture caused by 30 years of war; and to demand an end to the continuing oppression of Tamils on the island



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## AUGUST 9TH FORUM ON TAMIL ASYLUM SEEKERS OF CARGO SHIP MV SUN SEA

As reports of another boat containing Tamil refugees spread, so does the hysteria around their admissibility, and the means by which they arrive in Canada. Sparked by Sri Lankan government sources, and its intelligence apparatus, these innuendos effectively seek to discredit the would be refugees of their rights to a fair hearing, before they arrive ashore. This time around, there is increasing pressure from Sri Lankan sources to intercept the ship.

As an example, such sources have suggested that our government send it's military to "thwart threats to Canada", with the implication that the boatload of refugees are a threat to Canada with little regard for the validity of individual cases. Similar state-

ments made by the same sources with regards to the 76 Tamil asylum seekers who arrived on the Ocean Lady in October 2009 were investigated by Canadian authorities, and no evidence found to that effect.

The Canadian government response to the arrival of the Ocean Lady in October 2009 offers some insight as to how it may respond to this migrant ship: following due process, assessing each case individually, accepting valid cases and rejecting anyone who is seen as a threat to Canadian security.

The Canadian Tamil Congress is organizing an urgent forum to directly address this issue and discuss Canada's role in protecting refugees. In particular, we will hear from Canadian organiza-

tions, and politicians on the Canadian response to these refugees. We will also have on hand asylum seekers from the Ocean Lady who arrived in October 2009 and members of the community who themselves were refugees.

DATE: Monday, August 9th, 2010

TIME: 6 pm to 9 pm

LOCATION: Hart House - Music Room, University of Toronto,

7 Hart House Circle, Toronto, ON

For media inquiries, please contact:

David Poopalapillai, david@canadiantamilcongress.ca or Manjula Selvarajah, manjul@canadiantamilcongress.ca.

For general inquiries, please reach the Canadian Tamil Congress at 416.240.0078.



maintain what is often a fragile peace.

"Danger comes with the territory and today we also pay special tribute to the over 200 Canadians

## STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

threatens stability and peace. Today, we pay special tribute to those Canadians who have served as peacekeepers.

"For over 60 years, Canada has sent members of the Canadian Forces, civilians and police officers to act as peacekeepers in some of the world's most volatile conflict zones, including the Middle East, the Balkans, Africa and Haiti, to name a few.

Today, these brave Canadians continue to put their lives at risk on a daily basis as they work in challenging circumstances to

who have made the ultimate sacrifice on peacekeeping missions over the past 62 years.

"The nature of peacekeeping continues to change and increasingly requires robust and multifaceted capabilities. However, we can be sure that Canadian peacekeepers will continue working to make the world a better place by promoting freedom, human rights, and the rule of law.

"On National Peacekeeper's Day, I am proud to recognize the ongoing work of Canadian peacekeepers as they promote these noble objectives."

## Canadians Respond to Flood Crisis in Pakistan

TORONTO - Beginning of August, members of the Canadian Pakistani community helped GlobalMedic's Rapid Response Team volunteers load emergency aid equipment bound for the victims of the devastating floods in northwestern Pakistan.

"Once again, Canadians and GlobalMedic are answering the call to help people who are suffering in another part of the world. This is what Canadians do," said Mr. Karygiannis. "It is an embarrassment that the Harper government sits on its hands and only offers condolences."

The floods, a result of the torrential rains which began on July 22, 2010, have washed out roads, destroyed homes and businesses; killed an over 1,400 hundred people; and affected over 3.2 million people, 1.4 million of whom are children. The monsoon season in Pakistan has only just begun and more rain is predicted in the coming days.

"Pakistan faces a huge humanitarian challenge. We look to the international community for assistance in this time of need," said Consul Imran Ali of the Pakistan Consulate General in

Toronto. "It is very encouraging to see members of the Canadian Pakistani community so deeply involved in helping those who have lost everything."

GlobalMedic provides emergency relief to those affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies and empower the emergency response capacity of organizations and communities in the developing world by providing technological equipment and training. GlobalMedic strives to deliver the maximum amount of aid with the minimum operating cost. GlobalMedic has recently responded to disasters in Haiti, Chile, Indonesia, Somalia, China and Pakistan.

"In light of the worst flooding in Pakistan on record, GlobalMedic is responding to the crisis by deploying water purification assets and oral rehydration sachets to the most affected areas," said Heather McCarten, Logistics Officer for Global Medic. "We are dedicated to providing assistance to victims of this disaster."

Volunteers assisted the GlobalMedic crate mobile water purification units and water purifi-

cation tablets which will accompany members of the GlobalMedic Rapid Response Team to the affected area in Pakistan.

"This is a humanitarian crisis," said Toronto entrepreneur Aftab Rizvi. "GlobalMedic is doing a wonderful job. Those affected by this disaster are in desperate need of these supplies."

"This is the first step to help the victims of the flood," said Andy Merchant, President of the Canada-Pakistan Business Council. "Those who have lost their loved ones, their homes and their livelihoods will need help to re-establish their lives."

"Our prayers are with those who have lost so much in these floods," said Samir Dossal, Director of the Canada-Pakistan Business Council. "The magnitude of this disaster is still unknown. It will take the support of the Diaspora and the international community to assist those who are suffering."

GlobalMedic expects to deploy the Rapid Response Team and equipment soon.

## Prime Minister Stephen Harper meets singer Michael Bubl  at Scotiabank Place.



Ontario plan, which supports job creation and enhances the programs and services, including education, health care and skills training, that Ontarians value.

"These Sales Tax Credit payments are designed to put more money back into the pockets of Ontario families as part of our comprehensive tax plan. But the most important benefit will be a stronger economy and more jobs."

- John Wilkinson  
Minister of Revenue

"We are very pleased to be providing help to those who need it the most. For those who use our services the Ontario Sales Tax Credit will make a noticeable dif-

ference."

- Perry Davidson  
Executive Director  
of Furniture Bank  
QUICK FACTS

Ontario is providing a total of \$11.8 billion over three years in direct payments and permanent personal tax relief to help Ontarians adjust to the HST.

Ontario now has the lowest income tax rate of all provinces on the first \$37,106 of taxable income.

A study by taxation expert Jack Mintz estimated that Ontario's tax plan, together with other recent tax changes, will help create almost 600,000 net new jobs over the next decade.

## Putting More Money In Families' Hands

McGuinty Government Begins Ontario Sales Tax Credit Payments

About 3.1 million Ontario families and individuals will soon benefit from Ontario Sales Tax Credit payments.

Starting from early August, eligible low- to middle-income Ontarians will receive the first of quarterly payments that will provide them with up to \$260 annually for each adult and child. This

is in addition to the existing federal GST credit.

Ontario has modernized an outdated, 50-year-old tax system. Ontario's tax plan includes permanent income tax cuts for families and businesses, the new permanent Ontario Sales Tax Credit and the implementation of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST).

The tax plan also benefits Ontarians by providing:

A permanent income tax cut

on the first personal income tax bracket, benefiting 93 per cent of income tax payers as of January 1, 2010.

Ontario Sales Tax Transition Benefit payments, providing up to \$1,000 to most families or up to \$300 for most single people.

About 83 per cent of consumer spending will see no change in tax as a result of the HST. This tax package is a key component of the five-year Open



By: Dr. J. Douglas Salmon, Jr.

Dizziness is a common symptom following injury to the head, and after many other injuries and illnesses (including neck and back injury). Some people describe dizziness as a feeling of imbalance, lightheadedness, drunkenness, blurriness or as a turning sensation. Dizziness can last seconds to hours. Some people also describe these bouts as "a funny feeling", or like "going crazy." For many people the feeling of dizziness can be so hard to control that it may cause difficulties when they try to climb, bend, or move around. This can cause a lot of frustration, anxiety, worry, fear or depression.

There are several reasons why you may feel dizzy. Examination by an Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) specialist may help you to find out whether your dizziness is caused by damage to the inner/middle ear, the connections between the ear and the brain, or by other causes (e.g., over-breathing, changes in blood pressure, being out of shape). Very rarely is damage to the brain the cause of dizziness following mild head injury, but this is a possible cause, especially if a more serious injury occurs.

If the ENT specialist is unable to find the particular cause for your dizziness, then it is possible that the dizziness is related to bruising of muscles and soft tissue on the back of the head and neck. These muscles help to quickly turn the head, balance the head on the body, and help us to keep the body from falling over when we are leaning or looking in a certain direction. Therefore, when these muscles are bruised, the person's "sense of balance" and "view of the world" may be affected, creating imbalance, confusion, or a sense that things seem "fuzzy". The individual also may have trouble judging distances or speeds with his or her eyes, which may feel like a type of dizziness.

None of the typical causes of dizziness following injury are likely to worsen over time, nor are they dangerous or life threatening in and of themselves. Although a person with dizziness may want to rest so that he or she can avoid triggering a dizzy spell, in fact, unless the dizziness is caused by anxiety or "over-breathing" (hyperventilation), rest or inactivity will usually either worsen the symptoms or increase the length of time that the person has to put

# Dizziness Following Injury to the Head

\*Adapted with permission from Multi-Health Systems & Dr. J. Douglas Salmon, Jr. from Rehabilitation Education and Coping Pamphlet Series



up with them. Instead, a combination of physical activity, balance exercises, and relaxation exercises are often used to overcome these symptoms. The following are suggestions of things you might do when you have a spell of dizziness, and things you can do to cope with and reduce dizziness over time. You should apply these techniques only after consultation with your family physician and/or dizziness (ENT) specialist

## What To Do When You Have a Spell of Dizziness

1. Try to sit down and rest for a little while.
2. Use a relaxation technique, e.g., controlled breathing, thinking about a relaxing image, or self-reassuring statement like "I'll be O.K., it'll be over soon" etc., to allow yourself to fully relax and regain control.
3. Get up slowly when you are ready, then go on with your activities.

## Things You Can Do To Relieve Dizziness Over Time

" Practice various balance exercises such as: walking "heel to toe", balancing on one foot,

skipping, hopping from one foot to the other, using a mini-trampoline, or balancing on a slightly raised platform. Be sure to remove any sharp or hard objects around you when doing any exercise where you may fall over. Standing in the corner of a room while balancing on one leg at a time may help prevent injury as

the walls may be used for support when needed.

" Carefully stretch and exercise your neck and shoulders and "roll" your head around to reduce stress in the area and to produce small dizzy spells which you can practice getting over. Eventually, dizzy reactions often will diminish or disappear.

" Practice deep relaxation exercises (20-30 minutes per day) so that you will be prepared to use these techniques during a dizzy spell

Remain as active as possible to help reduce the dizzy spells and learn to cope with them more quickly.

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# Sri Lanka's Premier Tamil Daily "Virakesari" - Celebrating 80 Years of Publication...



## Siva Sivapragasam

Sri Lanka's premier and largest circulated Tamil newspaper "Virakesari" celebrates its eightieth year of publication this month.

The newspaper began its publication in August 1930 as a result of a request from Mahatma Gandhi when he visited Sri Lanka and wished that a newspaper in Tamil should be published to voice the opinions of the Tamils of Indian origin. The "Virakesari" which was founded by Peri.Subramaniam Chettiyar initially began as a voice of the Indian Tamils gradually found favour with the Tamils in other areas of Sri Lanka and came to be

portrayed as the voice of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. Tamils all over Sri Lanka considered the "Virakesari" as an independent, non-biased publication reflecting the thoughts and aspirations of the entire Tamil community in Sri Lanka.

It was therefore no surprise that the newspaper has the highest circulation in Colombo, Jaffna, Batticaloa and the upcountry. Although the newspaper had its ups and downs throughout its long-history, "Virakesari" never succumbed to pressure or intimidation from those in power. The writer vividly recalls an incident when Government advertisements were suspended for the "Virakesari" due to the puerile

thinking of a Cabinet Minister during the Srimavo Bandaranaike regime. The then Managing Director Late Krishnamurthi and the Advertising Manager Sivapragasam withstood the challenge for months and eventually the Government came back to the "Virakesari" requesting them to continue with the Government advertisements, obviously because Advertisements in other publications did not give them the desired results.

The success of the "Virakesari" can be attributed to the voicing of the opinions of the community fearlessly and reporting news without twists and turns. The independence and veracity of the content went deep

into the minds of the readers and thereby created a sense of feeling among its thousands of readers that the paper can always be depended for truth and it was the newspaper of the Tamil community.

Today, "Virakesari" has spread its wings with about 12 publications to its credit and has made use of the modern information technology to the maximum to go online with an epaper, video-content, music juke-box and updated news as events take place. They have also opened many Branches in important towns. Much of this credit should go to the vibrancy of the present Managing Director Mr.Kumar Nadesan who with the help of the staff is utilizing the



**Mr. Kumar Nadesan - Managing Director of Express Newspapers Ltd., Publishers of "Virakesari"**

modern techniques of information technology to the maximum and taking "Virakesari" to higher heights.

## K.M.Mathew, Doyen of Indian Journalism & Chief Editor of "Malayalam Manorama" passes away

Media Doyen and a Chief Editor of "Malayalam Manorama", one of India's largest circulated Newspapers passed away recently at the ripe age of 93.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh & Sonia Gandhi, President of the Congress Party called on the bereaved family and conveyed their condolences.

A graduate in Economics from Christian College, Madras, Mathew joined the "Malayalam Manorama" as Managing Editor and General Manager in 1954. Under his stewardship "Malayalam Manorama" emerged as one of the foremost and largest circulated newspapers in India. Despite the popularity of the paper, Mathew was a simple person who always maintained a low profile. The media group has



about 50 publications to its credit and he proved that a regional newspaper can cross the million mark in circulation.

Mathew was also a former Chairman of the Press Trust of India and the recipient of the prestigious Padma Bhushan Award and a host of other honours. His wife who predeceased him was also an author of twenty books.

## HNB recognized as the 'Best Bank in Sri Lanka' by Euromoney

Hatton National Bank (HNB) was recognized as the "Best Bank in Sri Lanka" by the international Euromoney finance magazine for the second consecutive time at the Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2010 Dinner held last week in London.

Recognizing HNB as the Best Bank in Sri Lanka, Euromoney stated that crucial to Sri Lanka's economic future is a solid banking system, and no lender has proved itself more capable over the past year than Hatton National Bank.

Euromoney further stated that



**Mr Rajendra Theagarajah, Managing Director/CEO, HNB receiving the award.**

the privately run Colombo-based lender, which recently celebrated its 120th birthday, posted pre-tax

## Tamil Canadians Remember the Victims of Black July

### Press Release by Canadian Tamil Congress

On July 23, 2010, Tamil Canadians marked the 27th anniversary of Black July, a dark period in the history of Tamils, in remembrance of the victims. Black July references the July 1983 riots in which Sri Lankan anti-Tamil pogroms claimed thousands of lives, as mobs, with voting lists and weapons in hand, identified, disgraced and killed Tamils while state authorities stood by. Surviving Tamils of the pogroms also lost their livelihoods as their homes and businesses were burned and looted.

"I look at my family, my life now, and am especially grateful to Canada for welcoming us here." says Raj Thavaratnasingham, a Tamil Canadian Black July survivor, "We were looking for peace and safety, to build our lives back again, and Canada opened its arms."

Following the disheartening

events of Black July, thousands of fortunate Tamils fleeing Sri Lanka were welcomed by compassionate Canadians and the Government of Canada, providing them with safe refuge in their time of need. Over the years, in part to thank Canada, Tamil Canadians have established successful businesses, donated their time and money to several worthy causes and contributed in many other valuable ways. As an example, in 2009, the Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) and the Canadian Tamil Community, through their giving, became the the largest community blood donation group across Canada.

"While 27 years have passed since the pogroms of Black July, Tamil Canadians remain seriously concerned about the situation in Sri Lanka.", says David Poopalapillai, National Spokesperson for the Canadian Tamil Congress. "From the Sri Lankan government restricting an

independent UN-established panel looking into war crimes during the 2009 conflict, through to Tamils being held in camps and continued restrictions on media and activists in the country, the current situation and outlook is troubling".

Recently, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's decision to probe into alleged war crimes was met with unruly protests in Sri Lanka organized and led by a Sri Lankan Cabinet minister; these unsafe working conditions prompted Moon to recall UN's envoy to Sri Lanka. Furthermore, the Sri Lankan government plans to setup permanent garrisons in northern Sri Lanka, where the Tamil majority reside, while nearly 60,000 IDPs have been in camps for over a year.

Commemoration events included a documentary at Scarborough Civic Centre by three young Toronto directors on the wounds left behind on six Tamil Canadians, a play from the Asylum Theatre group illustrating the parallels between the haunting survivor experiences of Black July to recent events in Sri Lanka, and archived photographs and articles on Black July.

earnings of Rs. 5.9 billion (\$52 million) for the full year 2009, up 24% year on year, on income of Rs. 39.4 billion.

Commenting on the accolade Mr. Rajendra Theagarajah Managing Director/CEO of HNB stated that "it is truly an honour to be adjudged the Best Bank in Sri Lanka by the prestigious Euromoney finance magazine for the second consecutive time. Our strong commitment towards delivering an unparalleled service to the customers, consistent growth recorded and continuous

focus on enhancing shareholder value are the cornerstones of our great achievement".

Since 1992 Euromoney, the world's leading financial markets magazine, has singled out the outstanding institutions in finance.

Over the years, the Awards for Excellence have evolved with the markets they cover. They now incorporate 25 global awards for banking and capital markets; and awards for the best banks and securities houses in almost 100 countries around the world.

All the awards have one central theme - they recognise institutions and individuals that demonstrate leadership, innovation, and momentum in the markets in which they excel.

At the recently concluded awards ceremony Credit Suisse was adjudged the best global bank while Deutsche Bank was awarded as the best global investment bank. Vikram Pandit, the Chief Executive Officer of Citigroup was recognized as the Euromoney's first banker of the year.

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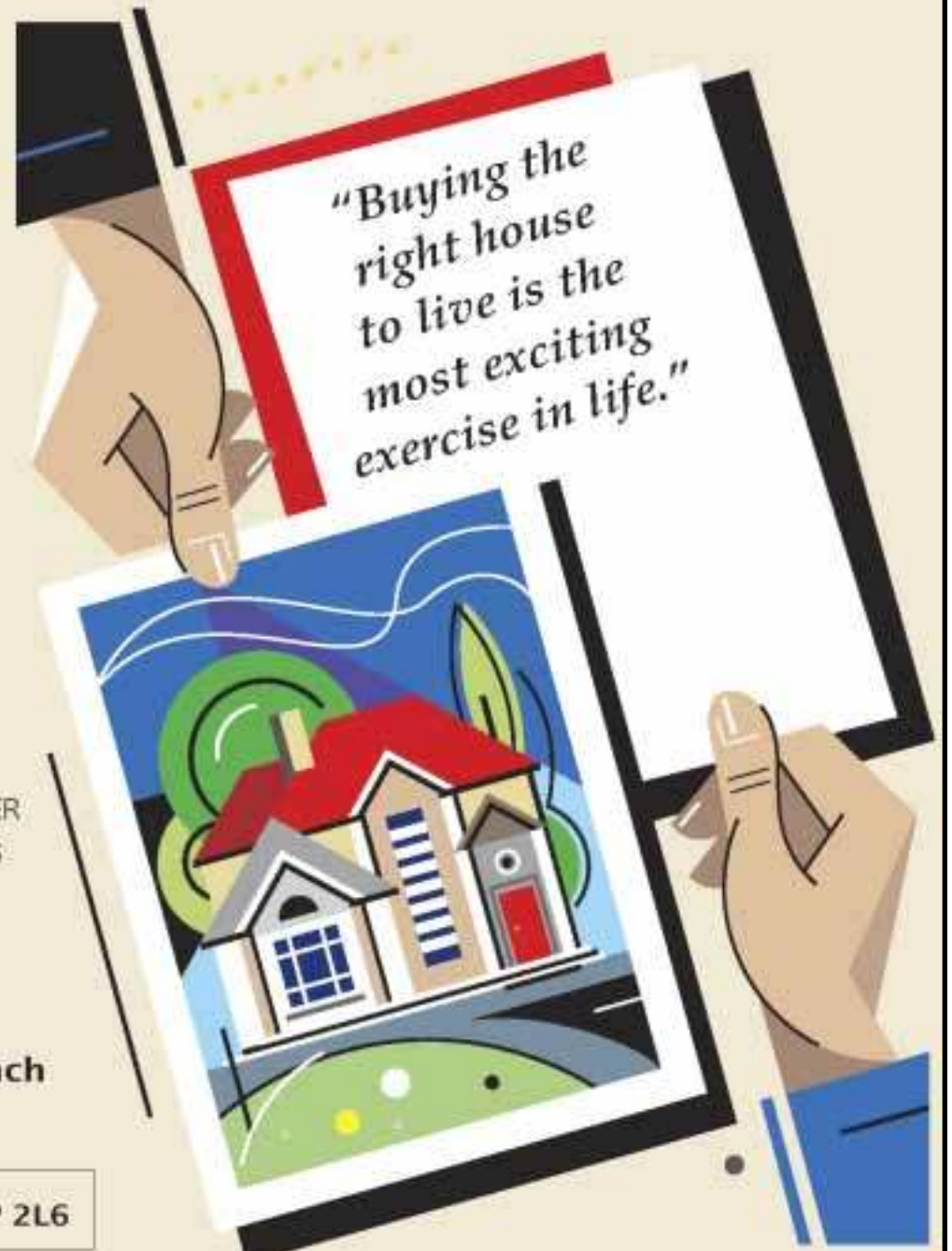
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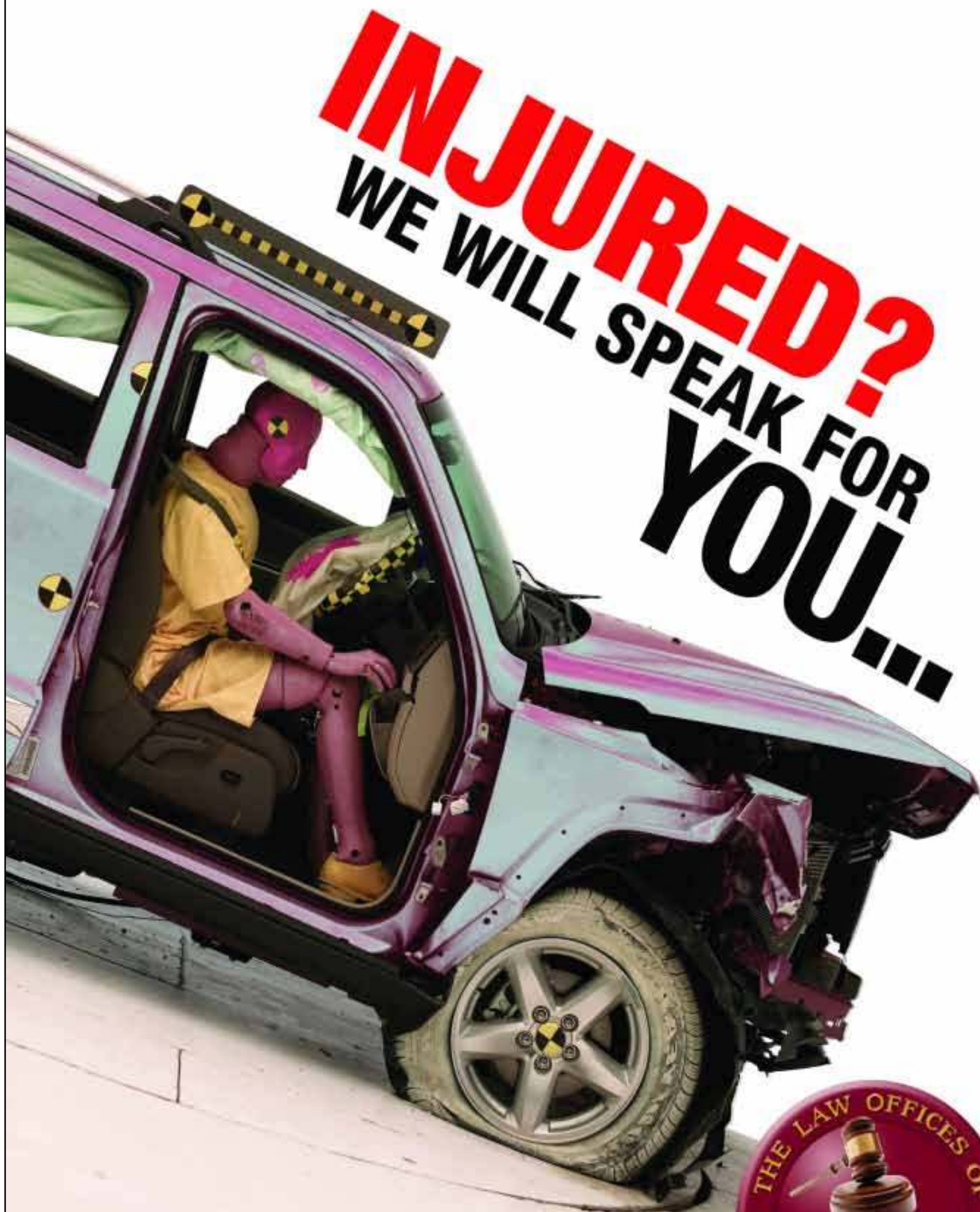
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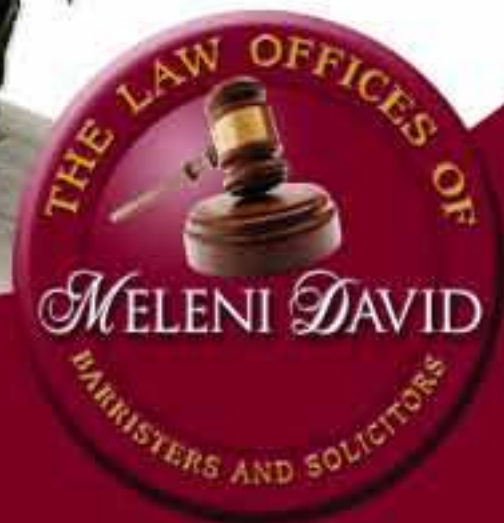
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# Lakshini Kanthagnany's Music Arangetram

Popular Indian Carnatic music maestro and Chennai Sivan Fine Academy Arts Music Director Paapanaasa Sivam Ashok Ramani paid a glowing tribute to the up-

coming carnatic musicians in Canada for their interest, talent and training in Carnatic Music, when he addressed the audience recently at the Music Arangetram of Selvi Lakshini Kanthagnani held at the Armenian Centre.

Lakshini's music Arangetram

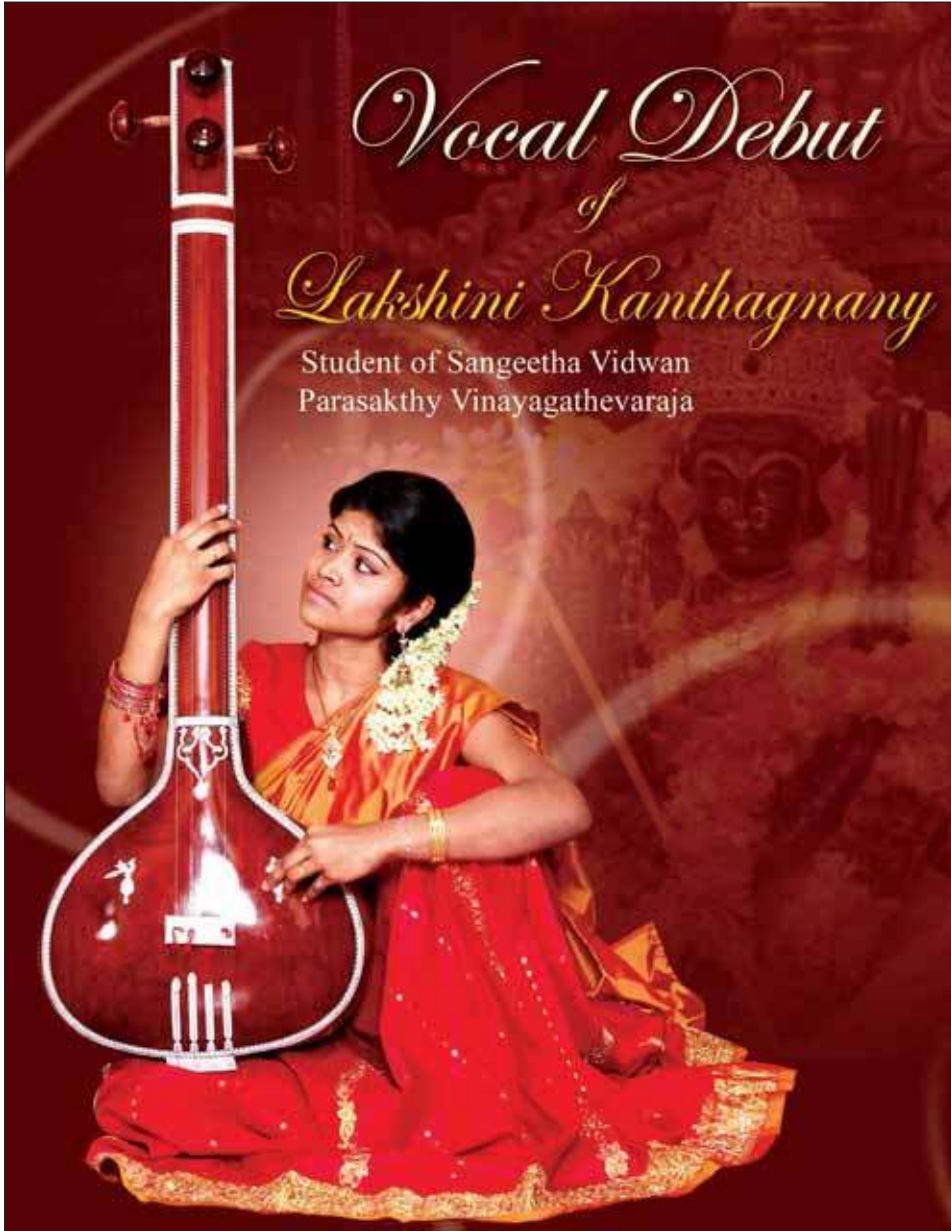
was well received by the audience for her presentation of the different hymns and songs accompanying to the different Ragas and Thaaalams. Her performance was further enhanced by the melodious accompaniment of those who played the Violin, Kancheera,

Kadam and Moorsingh. The performance was further heightened by her rendering of the traditional Lalgudi Jayaraman's Thillana. Lakshini has selected some popular melodies of Saint Tyagaraja Swamigal, Paapanasa Sivam and Suthaananda Bharathiyar for her

recital and did well in rendering them at her performance.

Selvi Lakshini is a student of the well-known Carnatic Musician Parasakthi Vinayagadevarajah.

Seen here are some pictures taken at the Arangetram...





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# Tamils Chamber successfully hosts 2nd Business Mixer at Radisson Hotel



Tamils Chamber successfully hosts 2nd Business Mixer with key presentation by TD Canada Trust on Thursday, July 29th at Radisson Hotel in Toronto East. They started the meeting with their quarterly meeting business and ended with a key presentation "GET INTO BUSINESS" by Vince Bonavota of TD Canada Trust.

During the question period, Shamal Kumar, Small Business Advisor, TD Canada Trust also joined Vince to answer the questions from the audience.

Seen here are some pictures taken by: **Ken Photo**



**President Ken Kirupa, Vice President Sritharan Thuraiajah and Former President Kana Gnanachandran**



**Chamber President Ken Kirupa addressing**



**Guest presenter Mr. Vince Bonavota from TD Canada Trust is making his presentation**



**Shamala Kumar, Small Business Adviser answering to questions from the audience as Guest presenter from TD standing next to her**



**Members and Guests at meeting**



**Amoor Thevathasan, Small Business Advisor, RBC and Mohan Sundaramohan, Branch Manager, RBC, Milner Branch**



**Shamala Kumar, Vince Bonavota**

# Lakshmi Vijanderan's Bharathanatya Arangetram in California

Lakshmi Vijanderan, who is of Sri Lankan origin and presently a resident in California held her Bharathanatya Arangetram which is a solo classical Dance debut, in California recently. Lakshmi's performance was held on at the San Ramon Performing Arts Theatre in

San Ramon, California.

Lakshmi is a disciple of Smt. Jayanthi Sridharan who is the Artistic Director of the Bharathakala Kutiram. The guests who attended the performance were entertained to dinner after the Arangetram.

Lakshmi is the daughter of Vijay Vijanderan and Anandhi Vijanderan of California. Vijay and Anandhi were originally in Sri Lanka, moved over to Hong Kong and later migrated to U.S.

Seen here are some pictures of the Arangetram.



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## CPIM favours all-party MPs delegation to Sri Lanka

Tamil Nadu unit of CPI (M) on Aug 5th favoured an all-party MPs delegation to visit Sri Lanka for assessing the progress of rehabilitation of internally displaced Tamils, saying elected members could understand the people's aspirations better.

CPI-M was not against the Centre's decision to send a special envoy but was of the view that only an elected member could understand the aspirations of the people better, state unit secretary G Ramakrishnan and Rajya Sabha member T K Rangarajan told reporters in Chennai.

"There is a difference in the approach (towards the issue) between an officer and an MP.

Only an elected member can understand the aspirations of the people better," Rangarajan said. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, at the insistence of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi, had announced that a senior official of the Ministry of External Affairs would be deputed to the island nation to assess the progress of restoration of normal life in the Tamil dominated northern and eastern parts of the country after the end of the war against LTTE.

Ramakrishnan said that India should also use its diplomatic ties with Colombo to ensure that the Tamils still lodged in camps were resettled in their places of origin at the earliest.

## Amnesty says Sri Lanka emergency rule must end

by IRIN News

NEW YORK, 4 August 2010 (IRIN) - The decades-long civil war in Sri Lanka ended more than a year ago, but emergency powers are still in place, sending the wrong message, Amnesty International says.

"With the Sri Lankan military's defeat of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] as a military force there were high hopes and every reason to expect a loosening of some of the highly restrictive laws and abusive practices that had characterized life in Sri Lanka for the past years," Sam Zarifi, Asia-Pacific director for Amnesty International, told IRIN by email from London. "Unfortunately that has yet to materialize.

"Continued reliance [on emergency regulations] when there is no longer evidence of an emergency... sends a message to Sri Lankan citizens that the state does not respect the rule of law," Zarifi said.

However, Rajiva Wijesinha, a member of parliament, defended the state of emergency, saying the government had maintained such measures since its defeat of the Tigers in May 2009 because of the concern that former cadres might "reactivate" with support from abroad.

Wijesinha said that while Amnesty's accusations were unwarranted, he recognized room for improvement. "We are aware that torture and other violations do occur, which is why we are trying to improve training for the police, as was done consistently with the army."

Expectations for reconciliation and rehabilitation are strong since fighting ended.

The Sri Lankan government has set up a truth and reconciliation commission to investigate events in the final years of the civil war, from February 2002 to May 2009. Tens of thousands of people are estimated to have died since the conflict began in 1983,



according to government figures. Both sides are accused of human rights abuses.

A three-member panel set up by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to look into human rights accountability issues during the final stages of the civil war should begin work in August, amid criticism from the government.

### Upcoming Events:

- Scotiabank Waterfront Marathon - Join Team "Match Muki" - Sunday, September 26th, 2010
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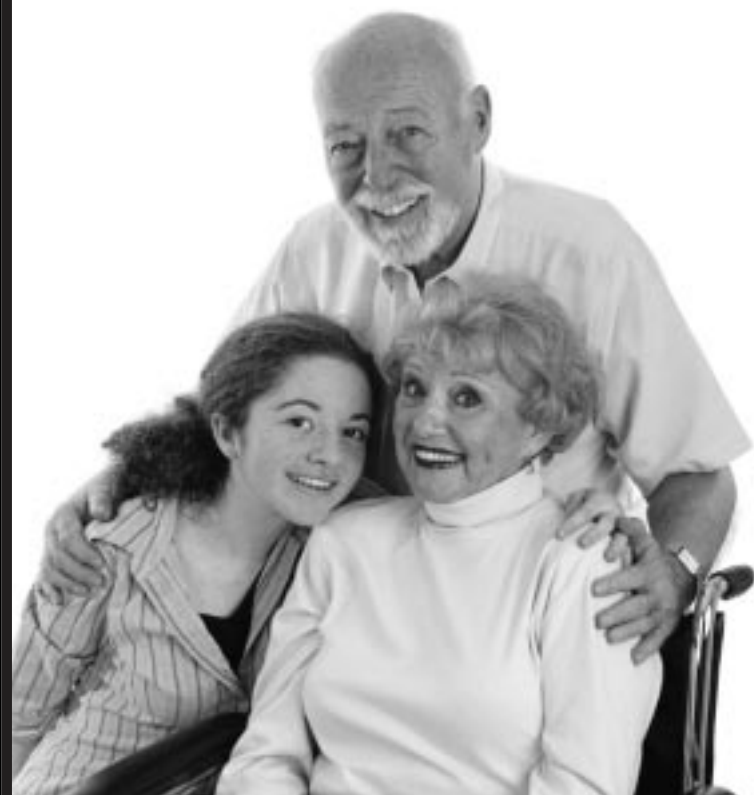
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# Sri Lanka's disturbing actions met by 'deafening global silence' - The Elders

The Sri Lankan government's clampdown on domestic critics and its disdain for human rights deserves a far tougher response according to The Elders. While welcoming the end of the decades-long civil war, the Elders say that meaningful progress on reconciliation in Sri Lanka is still desperately needed. They describe the international response to Sri Lanka's worrying approach to human rights, good governance and accountability as a 'deafening global silence' that may encourage other states to act in a similar way.

The Elders have been following events in Sri Lanka closely since the last months of the civil war between government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in 2009. They have contacted the government of Sri Lanka and officials around the world to express their concerns about alleged violations of international humanitarian law and the need for actions that promote sustainable peace and reconciliation in the country. The Elders have noted some positive change since the end of the war, including greater economic activity in the north, and the return of some 260,000 displaced people to their home districts.

However, these signs of progress are tainted by intolerance of debate or dissent and a culture of impunity that protects those close to the government. The Elders now believe that the Sri Lankan government's domestic conduct, as well as its recent unacceptable treatment of the United Nations in Sri Lanka warrants a firm, public response from its most influential friends - particularly China, India, Japan and the United States as well as the non-aligned group of countries.

Only the European Union has taken any direct action by suspending Sri Lanka's preferential trading access (GSP Plus scheme) for its failure to respect its inter-

national human rights obligations.

## Among recent events that most concern the Elders are:

- \* The persecution, intimidation, assassination and disappearance of government critics, political opponents, journalists and human rights defenders.

- \* Ongoing detention of an estimated 8,000 suspected ex-combatants without charge or access to legal representation, their families or independent monitors.

- \* The government's failure to withdraw wartime emergency laws more than a year after the end of the conflict with the LTTE.

- \* Lack of action by the government to address the political marginalisation of ethnic minorities that was at the root of Sri Lanka's thirty years of war.

- \* Unacceptable behaviour towards the United Nations - including a siege by demonstrators of UN offices in Colombo, led by a Cabinet Minister - following the UN Secretary-General's appointment of a panel of experts to advise him on accountability issues relating to alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed by both sides during the final stages of the conflict in Sri Lanka.

## Archbishop Desmond Tutu, chair of The Elders said:

"The government of Sri Lanka needs to show a much greater commitment to achieving meaningful reconciliation. The ongoing persecution and disappearances of human rights activists, journalists and government opponents is truly terrifying.

"Unfortunately, previous international commissions have done little to reveal the truth behind human rights abuses. It is doubtful that the President's 'Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission' will help Sri Lankans to work towards lasting peace and reconciliation."

Other members of The Elders



Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu



Martti Ahtisaari



Lakhdar Brahimi



Mary Robinson

say the weak international reaction to Sri Lanka's actions may erode respect for the rule of law and human rights worldwide.

## Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General said:

"There has been a deafening global silence in response to Sri Lanka's actions, especially from its most influential friends. The international community cannot be selective in its approach to upholding the rule of law and respect for human rights. Impunity anywhere is a threat to international peace and security everywhere."

## Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland and international mediator said:

"Countries operating outside international norms watch each other carefully. They will be taking courage from Sri Lanka's apparent success at avoiding international reproach. This is a worry for all those who want to see more democracy, greater respect for human rights and less violence in the world."

## Lakhdar Brahimi, former Algerian Foreign Minister and former UN envoy said:

"Sri Lanka has played a key role among countries of the Third

World in their common stand against colonial domination, violent repression and denial of human rights. All those friends of Sri Lanka are duty-bound today to help this country consolidate peace and ensure that the causes of its terrible 30-year civil war are not allowed to lay the foundations for another conflict.

"Speaking out is neither unfriendly to the people of Sri Lanka, nor an interference in the internal affairs of its government. Quite the opposite: it is a strong manifestation of support for justice, peace and progress for all the people of Sri Lanka."

## Mary Robinson, former Irish President and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said:

"The EU's suspension of Sri Lanka's GSP Plus scheme is the right approach, but it's not enough. Sustained pressure is necessary, not only to protect human rights in Sri Lanka, but to protect the rights of people everywhere. It is not just governments who can help improve the situation - anyone doing business in Sri Lanka or going there on holiday should also try to make choices that will help all its citizens to a more equitable and prosperous future."

The Elders urge the international community and especially China, India, Japan and the United States to insist that the government of Sri Lanka takes the following actions:

1. Withdraw wartime emergency legislation and make a public commitment to uphold the human rights of all citizens of Sri Lanka, including minorities.

2. Allow immediate ICRC access to the estimated 8,000 people detained on suspicion of being ex-combatants.

3. Co-operate with the UN Secretary-General's panel of experts on accountability, including granting visas if requested.

4. Ensure that any prosecutions are based on evidence and not political expediency; cease political interference in the work of the judiciary.

5. Allow domestic and international NGOs and media to carry out their work in Sri Lanka without harassment, intimidation or undue restrictions.

6. Begin a meaningful process of consultation with people in the north and east of the country on land issues and economic development as well as constitutional reforms to address long-standing political marginalisation of ethnic minorities.

7. Ensure the security of United Nations operations and personnel.

## About The Elders

The Elders are an independent group of global leaders, brought together by Nelson Mandela in 2007, who offer their collective influence and experience to support peace-building, help address major causes of human suffering and promote the shared interests of humanity.

The Elders are Martti Ahtisaari, Kofi Annan, Ela Bhatt, Lakhdar Brahimi, Gro Brundtland, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Jimmy Carter, Graça Machel, Mary Robinson and Desmond Tutu (Chair). Nelson Mandela and Aung San Suu Kyi are honorary Elders.

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# Give us our old address, say displaced Tamil civilians as concern grows over delays in resettlement

Thirteen months after the end of the war, displaced civilians have had the privilege of returning to their villages but they still lack the ability to put up their own homes or at least renovate their damaged houses, reports Chris Kamalendran in the SundayTimes.lk:

Most of them are living in temporary homes, in makeshift camps or in government buildings in the Kilinochchi district from where more than 162,000 people were displaced. Latest statistics compiled by the District Secretariat of Kilinochchi reveals that 94,644 have returned to their villages.

Each family receives Rs 50,000 in two instalments to rebuild homes, but the villagers claim the money is not enough to construct new houses. They also do not earn enough to meet the high cost of building materials. "The villagers are complaining that they are unable to resume their normal lives by engaging in their usual vocations such as farming," TNA MP Suresh Premachandran, who visited the area, told the Sunday Times.

"Some of them have been taken there as many as six months ago. But they have not been settled in their own homes yet," he said. He claimed that part of the lands had been acquired by the state for various projects and civilians had been told that they would receive alternative places. This has, however, denied them the chance to rebuild their lives.

"Though the government has assured that they will expedite

the process, they have not shown any interest in resettling them back at their homes," he said. Mr. Premachandran claimed that lands had been given to businessman to set up hotels and other projects in the Murikandi area. He said the displaced people had not been able to engage in farming, though they had been 'resettled' a few months ago.

The area also lacks agricultural equipment. Mr Kethishwaran,

additional director - planning, told the Sunday Times that the district has only 80 tractors though 80 per cent of the villagers are farmers. He said they needed more water pumps, fertilizer and seed paddy. "We have to expedite the construction of houses as the monsoon rains will start soon," he said.

Meanwhile, in the adjoining Mullaitivu district, the ongoing mine-clearing operations had



enabled civilians to be resettled in three areas. Reacting to claims that the government had acquired civilians' land, Resettlement Minister Milroy Fernando said he would visit Kilinochchi on August 16 and 17 to resolve such problems.=

Most schools have also been damaged and children are attending classes under the shade of trees.

## Reports Indicate High Malnutrition Rates throughout Northeast Sri Lanka

by International Medical Health Organization newsletter, July, 2010

Echoing the findings of humanitarian organizations, Sri Lankan media has been recently reporting on the very high levels of malnutrition in the Northeast. Child malnutrition is considerably high in the Northern and Eastern Provinces and has reached 46% out of a national average of 29%, a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) revealed.

In the two provinces the prevalence of malnutrition is significantly higher among boys,

(50%) than among girls (42%). This difference between the genders contrasts dramatically with the malnutrition pattern in the rest of the country, where malnutrition rates amongst boys and girls are very much similar.

The data also demonstrates that children aged 12-35 months constitute the most underweight demographic, with the age group of 36-59 months showing a gradual dropping off. This data holds true nationwide.

While it is somewhat surprising that the rates of malnutrition in urban and rural vary only by

1%, it is not at all surprising that the study revealed that a lack of maternal education is strongly associated with these lower levels of malnutrition.

The child malnutrition rate amongst those with uneducated mothers is 63%. Child malnutrition declines to 54% for those with primary educated mothers, 42% for secondary educated mothers, and 36% for tertiary educated mothers.

Within the Northern and Eastern provinces, Batticaloa and Vavuniya have the highest levels of malnutrition with 53% and

51% respectively. Trincomalee stands at 45%, Ampara at 44%, and Jaffna at 43%, making Jaffna the best amongst the districts within the Northern and Eastern provinces.

IMHO is proud to have sponsored many maternal health and child nutrition projects over the years, especially in Jaffna, and remains resolute in its commitment to improving child and maternal health. Only in this way can we truly ensure that the next generation grows up healthy and able.

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On October 25th, north Ajax will elect a new school board trustee. George Hawtin will be one of the candidates running for the Board. George brings both Enthusiasm and Experience. The enthusiasm of a young person

## George Hawtin to run for Ajax School Board Trustee

educated at Ajax schools who knows the education system from the inside, and the Experience

that comes from a lifetime of volunteerism and public service.

George Hawtin has cerebral palsy, but thanks to the education he received in Ajax schools, he has been able to achieve remarkable things: attending university (graduating this fall), working in government, and chairing the Ajax library board. Now, George is running for public school board trustee, so that he can help others reach their full potential. George knows the challenges Ajax stu-

dents face, because not so long ago, he was one of them.



## World Heritage Committee inscribes Central Highlands of Sri Lanka on UNESCO World Heritage List

The 34th session of the World Heritage Committee meeting in Brasilia since 25 July finished its consideration of nominations for the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger, on Aug 2, 2010.

Meeting under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Culture of Brazil, João Luiz da Silva Ferreira, the Committee inscribed 21 new sites, including 15 cultural, 5 natural and 1 mixed properties. Three countries, Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Tajikistan, had sites added for the

first time. One existing natural site was also recognized for its cultural values and thus becomes a mixed site.

The World Heritage Committee also added four sites to the List of World Heritage in Danger and removed the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) from this List.

The 5 new natural sites on the World Heritage List of Sites in Danger includes The Central Highlands of Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka's highlands are situated in the south-central part of the island. The property compris-

es the Peak Wilderness Protected Area, the Horton Plains National Park and the Knuckles Conservation Forest. These montane forests, where the land rises to 2,500 metres above sea-level, are home to an extraordinary range of flora and fauna, including several endangered species such as the western-purple-faced langur, the Horton Plains slender loris and the Sri Lankan leopard. The region is considered a super biodiversity hotspot.

[unesco.org]

### Jobs Available - Cooks Wanted

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## The Best Thing I Ever Ate:

Scarborough Edition  
Written By: Liza Franses

While on the constant search for amazing and authentic meals I have scoured the lands far and wide in the many regions of the GTA. This edition of The Best Thing I Ever Ate will take us to my top 3 favourite places in Scarborough. From Hakka Cuisine to Samosas Scarborough rarely fails in its offerings of authentic cuisine. My top three favourite places that I frequent while at home are: Chung Moi, Sultan of Samosas & Pho Vietnam.

Chung Moi is a little Hakka restaurant that sits nestled in the North-West corner of Kennedy and Eglinton. This small restaurant offers what I like to think is possibly the best Chilli chicken I've ever had. Without a doubt Chung Moi packs in the heat with their Chilli Chicken and the flavours are bold, spicy, and everything you would expect from a good Chilli Chicken. Sitting on a huge bed of rice this dish offers spice without holding anything back. Chung Moi Offers a \$5.99 weekly lunch menu that not only offers some of their best dishes but offers up portions that can feed 2 people comfortably. Other notable dishes include: beef with black bean sauce & peppers on rice, Chicken Fried Rice, and an

amazing Hot & Sour Soup. Price Range: \$6-15 per entree. Location: 2412 Eglinton Avenue East Scarborough, ON M1K 2P3.

Sultan of Samosas is another small but flavour filled little joint at O'Conner & Sunrise Ave off of Victoria Park. This restaurant offers a huge variety of flavours and sizes of Samosas. For anyone living in Scarborough if there is a party that needs to be catered most likely Sultan of Samosas will be one of the first calls you make! Samosas here can be found to be filled with everything from Steak & Potatoes, to Spinach and Feta, to a Traditional West Indian Mutton fill. The best part of the Samosas is that they can be bought Fresh or Frozen that way you can enjoy these little delicacies at any time of the day. My favourite would have to be the potatoe and cheddar Cheese filled Samosas, with that creamy potatoe filling that is infused with the sharp cheddar and has a hint of the added paprika you simply cannot go wrong! Price Range: Under \$10 per entree. Location: 1677 O'Connor Drive, Toronto, ON.

Pho Vietnam is a bright and authentic taste of Vietnamese Cuisine. This restaurant located

right on Kennedy Rd between Lawrence Ave and Ellesmere Rd is a Gem for lovers of Pho Soup. Without a doubt the rare Beef Pho soup that I love here cannot compare to any other Pho Soup restaurants. The restaurant was renovated to have a great look and atmosphere that only adds to the amazing food that they serve up. Some honourable mentions with this joint is the Pho Soup that includes the Beef Brisket and the mixed Rare and cooked Beef Soups. Without a doubt though you cannot leave this place without trying one of their amazing shakes, I highly recommend the Avocado Shake. Price Range: \$10-\$25 per entree. Location: 1280 Kennedy Road Scarborough, ON M1P 2L5.

Scarborough really is central in good authentic cuisines that you cannot find elsewhere. The places that I frequent might be small in comparison to large scale generic restaurants but the aromas and flavours that you encounter here will beat out any competition. So whether you feel like an amazing Chilli Chicken, a hot heaping bowl of Pho soup, or an amazing flavour filled Samosa Scarborough is the place to really enjoy all these authentic cuisines!

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# Harishnam in Brampton



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LARGE NUMBER OF DEVOTEES visited the site and sow the seeds from early 5 am till noon  
 Courtesy: Harikumar Mannar [freelance journalist



## Nalam Kappom 2010: Toronto, Ottawa, & Montreal

This May & June 2010, IMHO Canada held its annual Nalam Kappom events to raise awareness and funds for the betterment of the many lives deeply affected by the conflict in Sri Lanka. Starting on May 29th and 30th, IMHO Canada representatives spoke to groups in both Montreal & Ottawa for the first time. There has been a great deal of enthusiasm from those who attended these events, and many have signed up as monthly contributors. IMHO Canada intends to hold events in both locations in the future as well.

The following weekend, IMHO Canada conducted the Nalam

Jaffna, Kalmunai, and Valaichenai.

IMHO has been working with these doctors on various projects throughout the Northeast over the last several years. Perhaps most notably, IMHO funded the in-patient psychiatric unit in Vavuniya, which later served many IDPs at a very crucial time. IMHO was the first group to support psychiatric mobile clinics around the villages as well. The 4 visiting doctors presented about the past and current projects, and highlighted the projects done in partnership with IMHO. They also touched on the current basic medical needs of the IDPS who are now being resettled in various

about the current situation in Sri Lanka and to see & hear first-hand how the people are in great need of our help. The audience was also given the opportunity to ask questions to the 4 doctors and IMHO members. Through these interactions, people were better able to understand the essential needs of the people back in Sri Lanka.

IMHO Canada is very pleased to have the support of several village associations and other small

groups in recent months. The Irupalai Village Association generously gave a donation to IMHO Canada at the Toronto Nalam Kappom event in the amount of \$1,000. The donations was handed over to Dr. Lambotharan, IMHO Canada President

In addition to the guest speakers, there was a very dedicated group of IMHO volunteer high school youth, who created displays of all IMHO's projects (past and ongoing). They also

shared with those who attended what these needs are and gave specific information/data about each area of need. In total, around \$20,000 was collected from these 3 Nalam Kappom events from those who dropped in to donate. These funds will support various efforts, including amputee rehab, mental health, maternal nutrition, and much more. Thanks to all who attended, donated, volunteered, and participated!!



Dr. Lambotharan



Dr. Raguraj

Kappom event in Toronto. At all 3 of these events in Toronto, Ottawa, & Montreal, our featured guests were 4 visiting physicians from Sri Lanka who played a critical role in providing health & medical services to the people of the Northeast during the war time. These doctors are currently attending a course at McGill University in Montreal to study post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), thanks in-part to support from IMHO. The purpose of this training is to improve their knowledge and skills in caring for patients who have been deeply affected by the war, family loss, and other physical & mental hardship. These doctors are currently serving patients in Vavuniya,

areas.

Also joining us for the event was Dr. Rajam Theventhiran, a psychiatrist working in New York and current IMHO (USA) Treasurer. She recently returned from Sri Lanka where she was able to visit most of the IMHO projects undertaken since the organization's inception in 2004. A documentary showing the medical needs of the people at present was also shown. Three other doctors from the U.S.-Dr. Raguraj (IMHO International Board President), Dr. Thambipillai (IMHO International Board Secretary), and Dr. Angelo-also came for the event.

This event provided an opportunity for those in Canada to learn

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by D.B.S. Jeyaraj

The tragic history of post-independence Sri Lanka records that the Tamils of Sri Lanka have been subjected to mass-scale mob violence in the years 1956, 1958, 1977, 1981 and 1983. The anti-Tamil violence of July 1983 was the most terrible and horrible of them all. It remains etched in memory even after 27 years.

Twenty-seven years ago on the night of 23rd of July, members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ambushed an army patrol at the Post Box junction area in Thirunelvely in Jaffna and killed 13 soldiers. Troops went berserk in Jaffna in the hours that followed and shot dead 51 innocent civilians in the Jaffna Peninsula including 7 passengers in a minivan at Manipay.

Some hours later on the Sunday that followed members of the Sri Lankan Navy ran riot in Trincomalee burning down Tamil houses and also forcibly relocating Tamil refugees.

In Colombo the powers that be decided to publish, broadcast and televise the news about 13 soldiers being killed by the Tigers while blacking out reprisals by the armed forces.

In an even more inflammatory move it was decided to stage a mass funeral for the dead soldiers at Kanatte. The situation took a



P. Narasimha Rao

violent turn and mobs began moving in the direction of Borella and Thimbirigasaya.

Tamil homes and businesses were attacked and set on fire. As the Esala full moon shone brightly from a not so cloudy sky, clouds of smoke from burning Tamil establishments spiralled upwards.

The following Monday 25th saw anti-Tamil violence spreading like wildfire. The plantation Tamil Patriarch Saumiyamoorthy Thondaman known for his pithy comments later described the violence that followed Poya on Sunday as - "Sunday Sil, Monday Kill".

The violence went on for three days peaking on Wednesday 27th and ebbing on

# Horror of a pogrom: Remembering "Black July" 1983

Thursday 28th the day that Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi sent then Foreign minister P. Narasimha Rao as her special emissary to Colombo.

Friday 29th, saw Colombo and suburbs being terrified by the rumour that the Tigers had come to town. The afternoon of that fateful "Koti Dawasa" (tiger day) saw the goon squads massacring Tamils again after being "sure" that no tigers were in town.

30th and 31st July saw the violence diminish gradually. By August the violence had ceased as International opinion and pressure compelled the J.R. Jayawardene regime to "normalise" the situation.

It is noteworthy that the nature of anti-Tamil violence was transformed after July 83. Incidents of massive mob violence ceased although isolated sporadic incidents did occur but were quickly crushed by the authorities.

It has been often said that the mob violence of 1983 has not been repeated which indicates that the "Sinhala people" who perpetrated those acts have learnt their lessons. There are many references to the "tolerance and greatness of the Sinhala people in not enacting another July 1983?" in this discourse.

What should have been the "norm" is being depicted as the "exception". Some strongly

emphasise that "Black July 83?" will never ever happen again. Not all Tamil victims of that violent spree are convinced and many do have apprehensions of a repeat performance.

The main if not the only reason for the absence of large-scale mob violence after 1983 was the escalation of the war. Anti-Tamil violence was institutionalised and legitimised as an integral component of the war. With the predominantly Sinhala armed forces engaging in full-scale war there was no need for lesser forces to act on their own.

Also the events of July 83 paled into insignificance as incidents of a more terrible nature proliferated in the North and East

## Imperial and Foreign

### HOOLIGANISM IN COLOMBO

### ATTACKS ON TAMIL SATYAGRAHIS

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

COLOMBO, JUNE 5

Violence has been occurring in Colombo all day. It started this morning at Galle Face, the long stretch of green between the House of Representatives and the sea where about 200 Tamils performed *satyagraha* by merely sitting on the grass.

"Hooliganism in Colombo-Attacks on Tamil Satyagrahis,  
Times UK, June 6, 1956

under the aegis of war. If July 83 was a week long episode the war was constant and continuous victimising and displacing the Tamil people in their historical habitat.

There is however a flaw in attributing the dark events of Black July 83 to the Sinhala people on the whole. It is correct that the perpetrators were Sinhala and the victims Tamils. But it was by no means a mass uprising of the entire Sinhala race against Tamils. If that had happened no Tamil would have been left to tell the tale

The majority of the Sinhala people were horrified at what happened and were helpless onlookers while a minority of their ethnicity unleashed havoc in the name of their race and country. The mobs on a burning spree went in search of fuel chanting the slogan "Rata Jathiya Bera ganna, Petrol Thel Tikkak dhen-na" (To save the race and country give a little petrol and oil)

It is possible that a section of the people who were non-participants may have been supportive of the anti-Tamil violence and sanctioned it by their silence. But the majority of the Sinhala people were against what happened then. It cannot be forgotten that a large number of Sinhalese protected and saved Tamils often at great personal risk.

The second and more important point to note is that the July 1983 violence was not spontaneous in its entirety. It was basically an organized act. Several persons may have engaged in the violence on their own but there

were core groups at different locations that planned and executed it.

As is the case in mob violence these core groups were joined by others. These groups had absolute impunity and had the protection of important members of the United National Party (UNP) Government then in power.

The mobs had lists of Tamil owned houses and businesses. They also knew the details of ownership. Wherever premises were owned by Sinhalese, only furniture and goods belonging to Tamil tenants were destroyed and set on fire. The buildings were not burnt or damaged.

Many of the mobs were led by functionaries of the UNP trade union Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya (JSS). Several UNP municipal and urban councillors were involved. Many prominent supporters and strong-arm men of cabinet ministers were involved. The Police were ordered by UNP politicians not to arrest the violent elements.

In most instances the large groups of thugs and goondas were transported in Government owned Transport board vehicles or in vehicles owned by semi-govt corporations. Even food parcels and liquor were distributed systematically to these elements.

When some decent UNP leaders like Shelton Ranarajah and Renuka Herath Ranasinghe got goons locked up by the Police in Kandy and Nuwara-Eliya respectively their release was secured by Cyril Mathew and Gamini Dissanayake. The role of Cyril Mathew and his political lackeys

in the violence are well-known. Some of those involved are still in politics and holding high office.

What happened in July 1983 was not a spontaneous riot but a planned pogrom. A "Pogrom" is defined as a form of violent riot, a mob attack, either approved or condoned by government or military authorities, directed against a particular group, whether ethnic, religious, or other, and characterized by killings and destruction of their homes, businesses, property and religious centers.

The word pogrom is of Russian origin and means "to destroy, to wreak havoc, to demolish violently" in the language. Pogrom became commonly used in English after a large-scale wave of anti-Jewish riots swept through south-western Imperial Russia encompassing present-day Ukraine and Poland from 1881-1884. Later more bloodier waves of pogroms broke out from 1903-1906, leaving thousands of Jews dead and wounded.

What happened in July 1983 was that there was a pre-planned conspiracy to launch a widespread attack against Tamil life, limb and property on a massive scale. All it required was a powerful incident to be the provocative pretext to justify such an attack. The Thirunelvely attack by the LTTE killing 13 soldiers provided such an excuse of being the flash-



Tamil youth stripped naked near Borella bus stand

point of tension.

It is also noteworthy that violence against Tamils had preceded July 83 in Vavuniya, Trincomalee and the University at Peradeniya. July 83 in that sense was a grand finale or culmination of an on-going process.

One of the best books that came out in the aftermath of the July 83 violence was "Sri Lanka" The Holocaust and After". It was written by an unknown author L.Piyadasa. It was known that L.Piyadasa was a pseudonym. Who then was L.Piyadasa? I personally thought it was Regi Siriwardene. I asked him about this later but Regi denied he was the author.

The mystery about this remarkable book was cleared up

for me when the well - known writer, reseracher and Social activist C.R.Hensman passed away. I had read some of Hensman's books and had met him in the eighties on a few occasions in Colombo at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Marga Institute and Centre for Society and Religion. It was after his demise that Hensman's daughter Rohini informed me that her father was L.Piyadasa.

I re-read the book recently and was once again impressed by its coherent analysis and well - articulated facts. L.Piyadasa or CR Hensman describes the July 1983 violence as a pogrom and makes a solid case against the JR Jayewardena regime for it. The introductory paragraph in the book encapsulates July 83 perfectly.

Here it is -

Shops, Banks, Offices and Restaurants in the Capital's crowded City Centre and Main Streets being burnt while the Police look on. Thousands of houses ransacked and burnt, sometimes with women and children inside. Goon squads battering passengers to death in trains and on station platforms and, without hindrance, publicly burning men and women to death on the streets! Remand prisoners and political detainees in the country's top prison being massacred. The armed forces joining in and sometimes organizing this pogrom against members of Sri Lanka's two Sri Lankan minority communities. The nation's President and top ranking cabinet members publicly justifying the pogrom!"

It is clear therefore that in spite of the attempts to rationalise the July 1983 anti-Tamil violence as a "Sinhala backlash to 13 Soldiers being killed by Tamil Tigers" evidence uncovered during the past years have proved conclusively that "Black July" 1983 was a definite Pogrom and not a spontaneous reaction of the Sinhalese.

Notwithstanding the efforts of then President Jayawardene to tarnish the Sinhala people as being collectively responsible for this carnage, respected observers such as Paul Sieghart of the International Commission of Jurists exposed the real state of affairs.

As Sieghart himself points out in his report (Sri Lanka: A Mounting Tragedy of Errors) "Clearly this (July 1983 attack) was no spontaneous upsurge of communal hatred among the Sinhala people - nor was it as has been suggested in some quarters, a popular response to the killing of 13 soldiers in an ambush the previous day by Tamil Tigers, which was not even reported in

the newspapers until the riots began. It was a series of deliberate acts, executed in accordance with a concerted plan, conceived and organized well in advance".

Black July 83 saw over 4000 Tamils and a few Muslims mistaken for Tamils being killed. Thousands were injured. Some of the injured were killed in hospitals. There were over 200,000 displaced persons as a result. 130,000 were housed in makeshift refugee camps. More



Displacement in the aftermath of "Black July"

than 2500 business enterprises ranging from factories to petty boutiques were damaged or destroyed. The number of houses and dwellings damaged or destroyed is not fully estimated.

The rationale behind the Tamil homeland demand was demonstrated once again. While it was emphasised that Sri Lanka belongs to all her people and no community could claim exclusive rights to any part of the country, July 1983 resulted in the Tamils being cruelly denied existence in the Southern provinces.

The victimised Tamils were sent to the North and East for safety thus proving the necessity for a safe haven in the North and East. This is what impelled opposition leader Appapillai Amirthalingam to state that the uppermost issues for Tamils then were the "security of our people" and "integrity of our homeland".

The same Amirthalingam was asked by the Ven.Walpola Rahula Thero at the all-party conference what problems were faced by the Tamils in Sri Lanka. Amirthalingam responded sorrowfully "How can you ask this question even after July 1983??

The mass scale deaths, destruction, displacement, deprivation and despair suffered by the Tamils both Sri Lankan and Indian made them characterise those

days in July as a dark period in their life. The extent to which the Tamils were diminished in that month made them call it "Black July". The Tamil people were at a nadir of despondency.

When writing about "Black July" one is conscious of the negative connotations in using the colour "black" to describe something bad and evil and the colour white for pure and good. In this age of "political Correctness" these usages have been chal-

lenged and debunked as insidious vestiges of racism. Wittingly and unwittingly these usages keep promoting racist stereotypes of colour.

Nevertheless it is difficult to adopt such a politically correct stance in the Sri Lankan context as the description "Black July" has pervaded national consciousness. Avoiding such reference would be particularly impossible in writing about the developments of July 1983.

"Black July" also denoted a decisive shift in the politics of the Island. The bulk of the people affected in the violence were Tamils living outside the Northern and Eastern Provinces. With their hopes of living peacefully amidst the Sinhala people being blasted their future seemed bleak.

Two trends started. One group of Tamils started relocating to the North and East. Another group migrated abroad mainly as refugees. As the War escalated, expanded and enveloped the North and East Tamil People started moving out of the Island in even greater numbers.

The July 1983 pogrom saw more than a hundred thousand people fleeing to India as refugees thereby providing that Country with the necessary locus standi to intervene politically in Sri Lankan affairs.

India also encouraged the training and arming of Tamil youths. Thousands of youngsters flocked to the different militant movements.

Thanks to the 6th amendment the Tamil Parliamentarians of the Tamil United Liberation Front also kept away thereby losing their seats.

The political leadership began passing slowly and surely into the militant youth hands. The economy of Sri Lankan was affected badly. The good name of the country was sullied irreparably.

One of the lamentable features of that Pogrom was the abominable response of JRJ and senior ministers on Television. Not even one word was uttered in sympathy for the victims of the violence.

JR indirectly blamed the Sinhala people and said it was a natural reaction. Instead of reaching out to the victimised Tamil people the President announced that legislation would be brought to forbid secessionism

State minister Anandatissa de Alwis spoke about a hidden hand, a foreign hand being responsible. He said there was a conspiracy to provoke clashes between the Sinhalese and Tamils, the Sinhalese and Muslims and Buddhists and Christians.

Lands and Mahaweli development minister warned Tamils that



May 1958: A Tamil passenger was taken out of the vehicle and beaten up ~ Photo courtesy: Victor Ivan

it would require 14 hours for Indian troops to come and rescue them but the Sinhalese could destroy them in 14 minutes if they wanted to.

Trade minister Lalith Athulathmudali was sorry that people had to queue up again for essentials as a result of the violence. Finance minister Ronnie de Mel gave a lecture in history about Sena and Guttiga.

Cyril Mathew the industrious minister of anti - Tamil affairs raised the Indian bogey and saw an alien hand behind the conspiracy that led to the July 83 violence. His cabinet colleague Saumiyamoorthy Thondaman refuted it and said elements inside or close to the govt were responsible.



Black July 83 was a watershed in the contemporary history of the Island. Black July 83 aroused the conscience of many Sinhala people. Indeed it cannot be forgotten that a great deal of Tamils escaped danger only because of the courageous protection extended by their Sinhala friends.

There were well meaning efforts by several persons to make amends and reach out to Tamils. Notable among which were the initiatives taken by the Anglican Bishop of Kurunegala. Rt. Rev. Lakshman Wickremasinghe and Methodist Church President Rev. Soma Perera.

But as time progressed the ruling elite was able to prosecute the war against the Tamils further. Anti-Tamil violence became legitimized and institutionalised as a military effort. The brutalisation of the war as well as some of the reprehensibly inhuman acts by the Tamil militant groups helped reduce the moral superiority of the Tamil cause and predicament.

Gradually the pangs of remorse and guilt felt by Sinhala public opinion about July 83

became lesser and lesser.

Furthermore an insidious campaign resulted in changing and undermining the significance of Black July 83. This campaign was two fold. Firstly the scope as well as the original implication of Black July was altered.

The past years have seen July being depicted as "Black" not for the 1983 anti Tamil Pogrom but for all the "bad" things that happened in July.

The list was endless ranging from the 1987 Indo-Lanka accord to all acts of violence in July. Thus July was made to be "black" because of the large number of violent incidents that occurred in that month.

Contd. in Next Page...



## MONSOON FEATURE

The original significance of it being called "Black July" to mark the horrible pogrom against the Tamils was systematically diluted.

Historical revisionists may even obliterate this "original sin" and substitute some other event as being the cause for July becoming Black. Thereby the long term "guilt" effect of the anti Tamil holocaust of 1983 July on the Sinhala psyche will be alleviated perhaps eradicated in time to come.

The second aspect of this campaign was the demonising of an LTTE threat. The July 1983 violence as well as the phenomenon of Captain Miller, the first Black Tiger, embracing death on July 5th 1987 were used in a cunning roundabout way.

The line trotted out was that the LTTE considered July as "Black" enough to warrant the perpetration of some terrible act of violence as symbolic defiance.

So we saw the media being inundated with stories of how the security forces were geared up to face threats to the nation because the Tigers wanted to take revenge for Black July.

The whole security apparatus is placed on a red alert it was said. Any relatively minor incident of violence by the LTTE in July was attributed to the Black July syndrome.

After July passed, a collective

sigh of relief was released. With the spectre of Black July behind it the nation strode boldly and confidently forward until of course the next evil "black July". Each year saw this comical ritual being enacted faithfully.

This annual "black July" scare helped each year to divert focus away from the remembering of the Black July 1983 pogrom against Tamils. Instead of letting the Nation recall this terrible act with remorse, the spotlight on an imaginary threat from the LTTE and helped reverse roles. The nation at large was perceived as "victims" because they were considered vulnerable to a diabolical LTTE threat because of "black July".

The perception of Black July was distorted. Instead of being portrayed as the month denoting the pogrom against the Tamils "Black July" was now the month where the nation particularly the Sinhala majority was perceived to be cruelly vulnerable to LTTE violence.

The negative result of this campaign was the undermining and distortion of the significance of July 1983. Signs of blaming the victim syndrome were also visible.

The LTTE debacle of May 2009 has now transformed the situation. With the LTTE gone there is no way of whipping up emotions of a "Black July" saying tigers could launch savage attacks on the South or on the Sinhala people. So those who attempted to distort the implications of Black July have no way or need to do so anymore

But then there is always May 2009. The government is trying to



[L to R] ~ Anandatissa de Alwis, Cyril Mathew, Lalith Athulathmudali, Gamini Dissanayake, Ronnie de Mel, Ven. Walpola Rahula Thero

project that month as victory month over the LTTE. But there were thousands of civilians who were killed, injured or disappeared in that month. So to a large number of Tamil people May 2009 is "Black May" like "Black" July 1983.

Under these circumstances there is a possibility that the significance of Black July may decrease gradually.

We are told nowadays that there are no minorities in this country. We are advised to forget the sordid past and look to the future.

Remembering the past is depicted as unwanted and unnecessary in the current climate. The July 1983 anti - Tamil pogrom is fading into distant memory.

The inherent danger in the pogrom of July 1983 being forgotten is that it may very well happen again. As the truism goes

"those who do not remember the lessons of history are condemned to relive it again".

Arguably had the memory of 1958 anti - Tamil violence been frequently re-visited the incidents of 1977 and 1983 may not have recurred.

A major demographic change of vast political significance is the phenomenon of about a million Tamils relocating to the areas outside the North and East in recent times. Politically this was a major obstacle to the Tamil separatist cause. Here were people electing to live in "enemy" areas even as a bitter armed struggle was being launched in the North and East on the rationale that coexistence was not possible.

But this point is lost on the new spectre that is emerging in the South. The ugly head of neo fascism masquerading as patriotism is being raised. The Tamil

people in particular and the minorities in general are being pilloried as "aliens" and "visitors". The old terror of registering Tamils in Colombo has re-commenced despite the defeat of "terrorism".

The purveyors of racial hatred are spreading their evil gospel and irresponsible sections of the media are peddling it regularly. Communalist propaganda in the garb of pseudo nationalism is gaining ground.

The LTTE is no more but the Tamil population remains. They are seen as being relatively well - off or enjoying better standards of living compared to the lumpen elements in urban, semi -urban areas. Also the economic peace dividends expected by the ordinary people are yet to percolate downwards.

Against that backdrop a communal conflagration cannot be ruled out decisively. Neo-fascism and pseudo-nationalism require the discovery of new enemies constantly.

After the Holocaust of the Hitlerian era and its impact on the European Collective psyche few would have expected fascism or neo Nazism to resurface. Yet many European Nations including Germany are experiencing it now.

All people of this land striving for a decent and humane future would hope that the July 1983 pogrom was only an aberration.

But as in the case of eternal vigilance being a prerequisite for maintaining perennial liberty, constant rekindling of the tragic memories of "Black July 1983" is very necessary to prevent repetition. [dbsjeyaraj.com]

## Tamils in Sri Lanka seeking asylum: A need no more or not?

by Rev. John Barr

After UnitingWorld's the Rev. John Barr returned from visiting the war-torn north of Sri Lanka in June, he described his journey as one of the most challenging and confronting trips he has ever experienced. Here is his reflection.

The island of Sri Lanka is likened to a tear drop in the Indian Ocean. This is, perhaps, a most apt image given the country's tumultuous history. In 2009, we all cried and opened our hearts to over 280,000 Tamil civilians that were interned in detention centres run by Sri Lankan security forces. Humanitarian aid was severely restricted and 'unexplainable disappearances' were frequent.

My recent journey to the north of the island gave a chilling insight into the issues that thousands of Tamils continue to face. While much of the conflict is over, it is clear that many people have been unable to access their most

basic needs. My experience left me questioning whether Tamils are truly safe from harm today.

During the one week trip to assess the situation, I visited several holding centres for Tamils who have been released from detention camps and await permission from security forces to return to their homeland.

These holding centres are extremely dire places. Food is scarce and access to basic health care is minimal.

One of my strongest memories is my visit to a centre located in the grounds of the former Killinochchi Central College, where some 335 families reside today.

The top floors of the main building have been blasted by artillery and mortars during the war. The people who live there receive food from the United Nations World Food Programme, but access to basic health care remains extremely limited.

A doctor from the Jaffna

Diocese Green Memorial Hospital in Jaffna visits the centre for a few hours whenever possible to perform medical checkups. During this visit I met Annamma, a young mother of three children. One of her legs had been blown off during the recent war. Her husband was incapacitated due to a bullet lodged in his spine.

Annamma's family were Tamils that had fled Jaffna in 1995 to rebuild their lives in Vanni, an autonomous Tamil region. Their future now remains in serious jeopardy.

Annamma told me she is "sick of being here". She is "sick of waiting... all we do is line up and wait... for food, for water, for a shower...". Thousands of others are in this same situation. There was a depressing sense of hopelessness in this holding centre.

These families are waiting here for land to become available where they can resettle, but much of the land remains riddled

by land mines and is as such uninhabitable.

At another centre, the people were in no better condition.

I met a man who had lost both his legs. Another man suffered shrapnel wounds in his stomach. Then a woman next to me collapsed to the ground and gripped her head tightly, convulsing on the ground. People tell me that this happens to her frequently, a result of shrapnel lodged in her brain.

Today approximately 45,000 people have no choice but to continue to live in these centres scattered throughout the country's north.

Back here in Australia, we hear little more than reports that we war is over and that conditions are improving in Sri Lanka. But my first hand view highlights that the Tamils there continue to experience a real sense of subjugation and humiliation.

Many queue for hours to access to food and health care.

They wait for months on end, uncertain of when they will be able to return to their land and start rebuilding their lives. There are no places for Tamils to mourn, and many do not know what has happened to their loved ones. Trauma is a massive issue, and there is no closure for so many people.

An urgent question in Australia concerns the wellbeing of Tamils from the north and the east of Sri Lanka seeking asylum in Australia. Many are detained in terrible conditions with limited access to their most basic needs.

Are Tamils truly safe in Sri Lanka today? From what I saw the answer is NO.

We have a responsibility to continue opening our hearts to the many thousands of Tamils who face danger in Sri Lanka today.

[John Barr is Associate Director for Church Solidarity (Asia)]



# Ahilan Arulanantham wins prestigious Human Rights award

The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) presented Americal Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Attorney Ahilan Arulanantham with the 2010 Arthur C. Helton Human Rights Award, a media release from AILA said. AILA mentioned Ahilan's "innovative litigation and its enormous benefits for countless vulnerable non-citizens for their rights and dignity," in presenting the award.

Ahilan Arulanantham, is a grandson of Rev. J.T. Arulanantham, Principal of St. Johns College, Jaffna, Sri Lanka during 1940-1957.

"US Tamil Political Action Council (USTPAC) is very pleased with the recognition accorded to Ahilan Arulanantham. Ahilan has been instrumental in helping the underdogs of this country, including many Tamils seeking a just hearing for political asylum, and the Arthur C. Helton Human Rights Award is well deserved for his services," said Dr. Elias Jeyarajah, President of USTPAC in a congratulatory message marking the AILA honour of Ahilan Arulanantham.

Ahilan Arulanantham is a former law clerk to the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, a graduate of Yale



**Ahilan Arulanantham**

Law School, and a graduate of Oxford University, which he attended as a Marshall Scholar.

Full text of the AILA press release follows:

Ahilan Arulanantham NATIONAL HARBOR, MD - The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) awarded Ahilan Arulanantham, Director, Immigrants' Rights and National Security, ACLU of Southern California, the 2010 Arthur C. Helton Human Rights Award for his body of innovative litigation

and its enormous benefits for countless vulnerable non-citizens for their rights and dignity. Arthur Helton was a shining example with a distinguished career as an advocate for refugees and asylum-seekers. Arulanantham exemplifies the qualities of Arthur Helton - compassion, intellect, tenacity, and strategic thinking that are the hallmarks of excellence in the advancement of human rights. He received the award on July 3, 2010 during AILA's Annual Conference held in

National Harbor, MD.

Arulanantham litigates before federal courts, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and immigration courts. Most recently, a team of attorneys led by Arulanantham won a major class certification victory in a class action challenging the detention of noncitizens held in the Central District of California for more than six months without a bond hearing while in immigration proceedings.

Arulanantham has achieved remarkable successes in curbing ICE's use of prolonged and indefinite detention. Arulanantham co-litigated a 2009 action against ICE's derelict "B-18" detention facility in Los Angeles. Arulanantham's suit resulted in a comprehensive settlement regarding a badly overcrowded facility in which there was no soap or drinking water. The settlement not only rectified appalling conditions of detention, but also halted ICE's practice of moving detainees back and forth to local jails in an effort to avoid rules prohibiting long-term detention at B-18.

Arulanantham is also a fine teacher, frequently lecturing in CLE settings and offering a seminar on preventive detention at the University of Chicago Law School.



Arulanantham puts great effort into mentoring his legal interns, allowing them to take on high-level litigation tasks while patiently guiding them and building their confidence.

Prior to joining the ACLU's Southern California office, Arulanantham was an Assistant Federal Public Defender in El Paso, Texas for two years. Before that, he was a fellow at the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project in New York, where he provided legal assistance to dozens of non-citizens detained after the September 11th attacks. Arulanantham is a former law clerk to the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, a graduate of Yale Law School, and a graduate of Oxford University, which he attended as a Marshall Scholar.

(The American Immigration Lawyers Association is the national association of immigration lawyers established to promote justice, advocate for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy, advance the quality of immigration and nationality law and practice, and enhance the professional development of its members.)

## Dr. S. Packiyannathar Athanasiyar October 16, 1917 - July 8, 2010

Dr. Swampillai Packiyannathar Athanasiyar was born on October 16, 1917 in Sillalai, a village called "Little Rome" in the Jaffna diocese to orthodox Catholic parents.

His father was Dr. Swampillai Athanasiyar and his mother Mary Josephine. He had six sisters and one brother of whom three sisters predeceased him after a long life time of service as an eminent physician in Sri Lanka and abroad he passed away peacefully at the age of 93 on July 8, 2010 while in London. Incidentally 25 years ago his beloved mother too died on this same day.

Completing his secondary education in Jaffna, he joined the Ayurvedic College in Colombo to pursue his studies in medicine. He joined his father Dr. S Athanasiyar and acquired more knowledge and experience from



a renowned veteran well known in the field of Ayurvedic treatment in the Peninsula. Dr. Packiyannathar earned the respect and affection of his patients. His kindness and goodness with his specialized ancestral medicine for children and adults reached out to all and he enjoyed a lucrative practice.

Always neatly dressed in white, he was a gentleman par excellence. He was so conscious of his profession that even if disturbed in the dead of the night he would not hesitate to attend to emergency calls.

He was a devout Catholic. He played an active role in the parish activities and served in different capacities with responsibility and honesty. In spite of his heavy schedule, he always found time to participate in all church activities and never failed to attend any functions of rela-



tives and parishioners

Dr. Packiyannathar was married to Perly Swampillai, a caring, loving and a compassionate wife much involved in social work and an ex- Chairperson of the Pandaterruppu Town Council. They were blessed with one daughter and two sons.

Dr. Pakiyannathar's faith in God sustained him in all his trials and triumphs. His demise is an irreparable loss to the Ayurvedic medical profession and to the community at large

As his brother-in-law I will not forget the yeoman services he has rendered to my family.

May he rest in peace.

**S.B. David**  
(Courtesy: Sunday Times)



# JOHN BODDY HOMES PRESENTS 'EAGLE GLEN'



Lynton Semi LR



Mayfair Semi LR



Wyndham Semis LR

John Boddy Homes has been voted 'Best Builder' in Ajax/Pickering for the thirteenth year in a row for this year's Readers' Choice Awards and has now 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 townhouses. Homes start at 1,700 square feet and range up to a spacious 3,858 square feet, some with three car garages. 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 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.

For a limited time only John Boddy Homes is offering an incentive package including \$5,000 in free upgrades and one year of Rogers 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



Townhouses LR

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.

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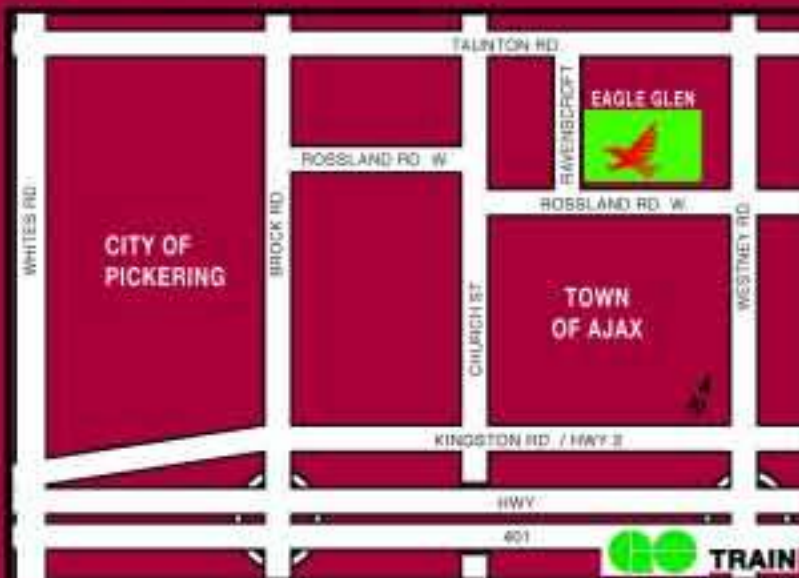
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## REMEMBERING THE CREATOR OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE



“Generations to come will scarce believe that such a man as Gandhi walked this earth.”

— Albert Einstein

**Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi**  
(Also known as The Mahatma or Baabuji)

By Siva Sivapragasam

Fifteenth August 1947 was a day of rejoicing for every Indian - except for one person. Ironically, he was the most important personality responsible for India's Independence on this day.

That person was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, fondly remembered as the Mahatma or Baabuji.

Just as the mid-night hour approached, Jawarhalal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of Independent India was waxing his eloquence with his famous "Tryst with Destiny" speech in Parliament, while Gandhi was fasting and observing 15th August as a day of mourning.

Why did Gandhi not rejoice Independence Day?

The Answer lies in his thinking about the Partitioning?

“IT WAS GANDHI WHO INTRODUCED SATYAGRAHA AS A FORM OF NON-VIOLENT PROTEST AND IT REQUIRED INNER-DISCIPLINE AND TOTAL COMMITMENT TO NON-VIOLENCE, NOT EASY FOR NORMAL MORTALS TO FOLLOW”

The partitioning of India was looming large in the minds of everyone. In an attempt to prevent the fragmentation and fracture of India, Gandhi suggested to Jawarhalal Nehru that Mohamed Ali Jinnah be made the first Prime Minister of Independent India. Nehru refused - Not because he was eyeing the post but because he feared a backlash by the Hindus. Gandhi was perturbed and became a sad man that he had to agree to something he dreaded. He could not convince the leaders of the Indian Congress and the Muslim League against the partitioning of India. He succumbed to the thinking of other Congress leaders and agreed to the partitioning. This left a permanent scar in his mind.

It was Gandhi who introduced Satyagraha as a form of non-violent protest and it required inner-discipline and total commitment to non-violence, not easy for normal mortals to follow. It was in later years that several politicians followed this principle of Satyagraha to win their demands without spilling blood. Gandhi strongly believed that non-violent changes would come about only through risk and sacrifice, by going to jail and offering our lives for peace and justice. He said "Freedom is to be wooed only inside prison walls, but never in council chambers, courts or the school-room" Based on this, he and several other Indian leaders went to jail for non-violent protests. When asked to explain the meaning of Life, he said "Renounce and Enjoy".

Gandhi was admired even by his enemies. Nauram Godse, who killed him, first bent down and prayed at his feet before he fired the shots. He admitted in court that he killed Gandhi not because he loved Gandhi less, but because he loved India more. Nauram Godse was a young Hindu fanatic from Poona who believed that Gandhi was giving in at the expense of the Hindus and decided to move him out of the political scene. When Gandhi was going for his prayers, Godse rushed towards him, folded his hands in Namaste fashion and shot him at point-blank range. Gandhi felled down chanting "Hare Ram".

The whole of India went into darkness hearing his assassination. Nehru, addressing the nation in a choking fashion, stated that "the light in our lives has gone out and there is darkness everywhere. Our beloved leader whom we call Baapu is no more" Nehru who has been with Gandhi all his life wept like a child unashamedly.

When Gandhi mounted the steps of Buckingham Palace in his loin cloth and shawl, the British sneered at him. Undaunted, he sat at the roundtable conference. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill contemptuously referred to him as the "half-naked fakir" and stated that "we are handing over power to men of straw".

Over Sixty years later, Churchill's prophecy had gone wrong. India remains a vibrant democracy even with its flaws, and towers high as a world-power being the envy of all.



August 15, 2010

*Greetings from the Prime Minister*

*It is my distinct pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to the Indo-Canadian community as you mark the 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of India's Independence.*

*On August 15, 1947, India evoked to freedom. This historic day marked the culmination of an epic struggle to regain independence, unleashing the potential of a dynamic and enterprising nation. In the six decades since, India has come into its own as a vibrant democracy and an emerging economic superpower. Today, we have an occasion to reflect on this inspiring story and celebrate the deep bonds of friendship and kinship between our two countries.*

*In recent years, Canada-India relations have moved to a new and transformative stage. Last November, I was honoured to visit India, where I gained a deeper appreciation for the country's diversity, complexity and rising power. I was equally delighted to welcome Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Canada this past June, marking the first visit by a sitting Indian Prime Minister since 1973. Our fruitful meetings resulted in the signing of several key bilateral agreements and laid the groundwork for even stronger relations in the coming years.*

*As we develop this strategic partnership, the contributions of our significant Indo-Canadian community will remain invaluable. On behalf of the Government of Canada, I commend your commitment to honouring India's national heritage and to building bridges between our two countries.*

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada



भारत के लिए संदेश

देशी  
CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA  
TORONTO

**MESSAGE**

I am glad to know that Monsoon Journal is bringing out a special Supplement to mark India's 64<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. I wish to extend my good wishes on this auspicious occasion to all Indians, people of India origin and friends of India in Canada.

India's Independence Day is an occasion for all Indians and persons of Indian origin to rededicate ourselves to the ideals, values and objectives of the founding fathers of our Republic and remember their sacrifice and struggle which continues to inspire and guide us.

India's progress in recent years has made it a major global economy. Our hi-tech sectors like IT and biotech are considered amongst the best and fastest growing in the world. Others seek inspiration from our hi-tech prowess and many want to emulate us. We are a living testimony that democracy and development are mutually supportive and reinforcing. Today, we can look back on our history as an independent, sovereign and democratic nation with a sense of pride and also look forward to the future with optimism and confidence.

India is proud of the achievements of the Indo-Canadians who have excelled in every sphere of Canadian life: in politics, academics, business, industry and professions. They are also making an invaluable contribution to promote India-Canada relations.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Monsoon Journal for promoting and spreading knowledge and information about India and for enthusiastically celebrating India's Independence Day. I also wish your readers happy Independence Day.

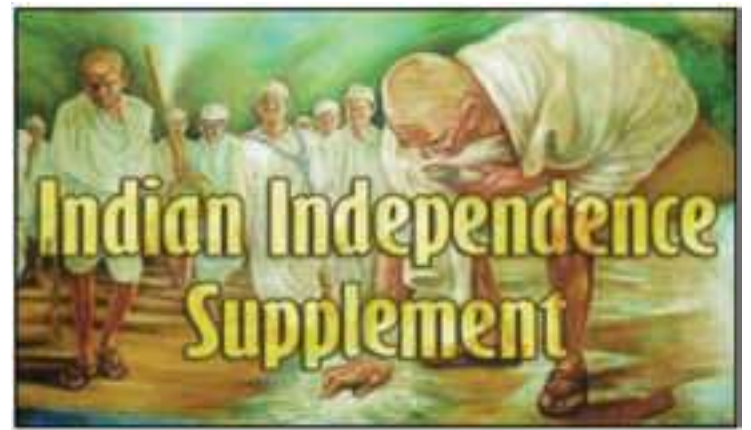
July 13, 2010



(Preeti Saran)

# Quotes on

# INDIA



HISTORIANS, WRITERS, POLITICIANS AND OTHER EMINENT PERSONALITIES ACROSS THE GLOBE HAVE GREATLY APPRECIATED INDIA AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO REST OF THE WORLD. THOUGH THESE REMARKS ARE ONLY A PARTIAL REFLECTION OF THE GREATNESS OF INDIA, THEY CERTAINLY MAKE US FEEL PROUD OF OUR MOTHERLAND.

“We owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made!”

**Albert Einstein**  
(Theoretical Physicist, Germany)



“If there is one place on the face of earth where all the dreams of living men have found a home from the very earliest days when man began the dream of existence, it is India!”

**Romaine Rolland**  
(French scholar)



“She (India) has left indelible imprints on one fourth of the human race in the course of a long succession of centuries. She has the right to reclaim ... her place amongst the great nations summarizing and symbolizing the spirit of humanity. From Persia to the Chinese sea, from the icy regions of Siberia to Islands of Java and Borneo, India has propagated her beliefs, her tales, and her civilization!”

**Sylvia Levi**  
(French Scholar)

“There are some parts of the world that, once visited, get into your heart and won't go. For me, India is such a place. When I first visited, I was stunned by the richness of the land, by its lush beauty and exotic architecture, by its ability to overload the senses with the pure, concentrated intensity of its colors, smells, tastes, and sounds. It was as if all my life I had been seeing the world in black and white and, when brought face-to-face with India, experienced everything re-rendered in brilliant technicolor.”

**Keith Bellows**  
(Editor-in-chief, National Geographic Society)



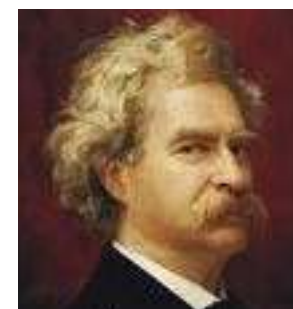
“If I were asked under what sky the human mind has most fully developed some of its choicest gifts, has most deeply pondered on the greatest problems of life, and has found solutions, I should point to India.”

**Max Mueller**  
(German Scholar)

“India conquered and dominated China culturally for 20 centuries without ever having to send a single soldier across her border.”



**Hu Shih**  
(Former Ambassador of China to USA)



“India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grand mother of tradition. Our most valuable and most artistic materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only!”

**Mark Twain**  
(Writer, America)



“Civilizations have arisen in other parts of the world. In ancient and modern times, wonderful ideas have been carried forward from one race

to another...But mark you, my friends, it has been always with the blast of war trumpets and the march of embattled cohorts. Each idea had to be soaked in a deluge of blood..... Each word of power had to be followed by the groans of millions, by the wails of orphans, by the tears of widows. This, many other nations have taught; but India for thousands of years peacefully existed. Here activity prevailed when even Greece did not exist... Even earlier, when history has no record, and tradition dares not peer into the gloom of that intense past, even from until now, ideas after ideas have marched out from her, but every word has been spoken with a blessing behind it and peace before it. We, of all nations of the world, have never been a conquering race, and that blessing is on our head, and therefore we live....!”

**Swami Vivekanand**  
(Indian Philosopher)



India's Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal displays a recently unveiled prototype of a US\$35 basic touch screen tablet aimed at students. AP pic

## India to Offer \$35 Laptop for Students

New computing device will have web browsing, video-conferencing capabilities, ability to run on solar power, says HRD Minister Sibal

India has created a prototype for a \$35 touch-screen laptop that it hopes to make available to thousands of students.

India's Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal says the computing device will have web browsing and video-conferencing capabilities. The iPad-like gadget will also have the ability to run on solar power.

The Linux-based computer, introduced by the Indian Institute of Technology and the Indian Institute of Science, should be available by 2011. Sibal says there are plans for the device to become even cheaper, with the price dropping to \$20 and eventually \$10.

The inexpensive laptop is part of a nationwide Indian education initiative that also includes installing broadband capabilities on the nation's more than 22,000 college campuses.

# MURUGAN TEMPLES IN TAMIL NADU

## INTRODUCTION

The state has many temples dedicated to Lord Muruga and some of these are in rarefied environs. The journey to the Aruppadai Veedu or the Six Houses of Lord Muruga may be arduous but it has its own rewards. The six abodes of Lord Muruga are located in Thiruthani, Swamimalai, Thiruchendur, Pazhamudhir Cholai, Tirupparankundram and Palani. All these places are well connected by road and other means of transport.

Truly a holiday for mind, body and soul!

## Thiruthani

Thiruthani is located 87 kms from Chennai. Situated on a hillock, the Murugan temple is accessed by a winding flight of 365 steps. Each symbolically represents one day of the year. Here, Lord Muruga sits resplendent with his consort Valli whom he married after bringing her from the nearby Vallimalai. The Thiruthani temple is known for the Karthikai festival it celebrates in December every year.

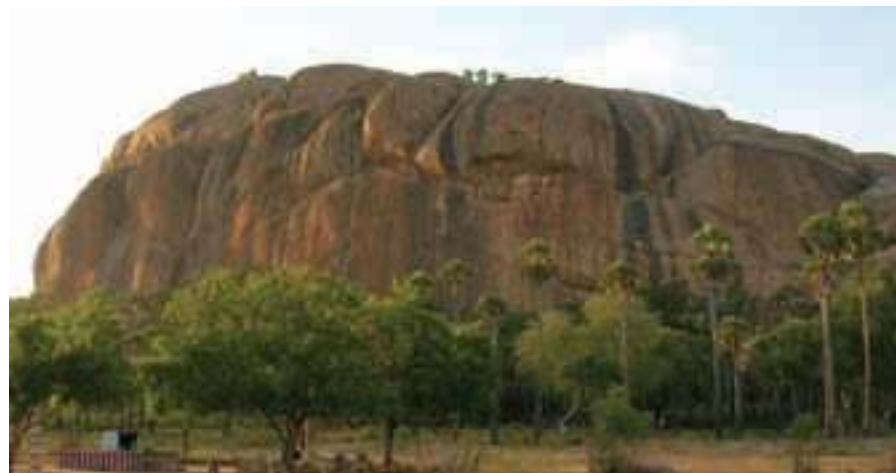


## Pazhamudhir Cholai

Located close to Madurai, this is yet another temple whose origins date back several hundred years. Nakkirar, Arunagirinathar and Avvaiyar are among the several Tamil saints who have made references to this shrine in their hymns and literary work. Legend has it that Lord Muruga appeared before Avvaiyar in a playful form as a young boy, to test her.



## Thirupparankundram



Located 8 kms Madurai, this abode of Lord Muruga is noted for its inner sanctum that is cut out of the hard rock. Lord Muruga together with his consort, Deivayanai gazes benevolently at his devotees. The main temple itself is an early cave shrine, but the rest of the structure dates back to the Nayak period.

## Swamimalai



Another revered shrine to Lord Muruga, it is located 45 kms from Thanjavur. Here, Lord Muruga is said to have taught the meaning of the OM mantra to his father, Lord Shiva! The temple sits on top of a hillock and can be reached by a flight of 60 steps that are said to represent the Hindu cycle of 60 years.

## Palani



Located 120 kms from Madurai, this is one of the most hallowed shrines of Lord Muruga. The name Palani is a later coinage. It was Pazhani, which is said to come from two Tamil words Pazham meaning fruit and Nee meaning you. The statement it conveys is You are the fruit (wisdom). There is a story that Lord Shiva and Parvati described Lord Muruga in these words after he had a row with his brother Lord Ganesha. The temple is on top of a hillock and can be reached by a flight of 690 steps.

## Thiruchendur



Located 48 kms from Thirunelveli, this 2000-year old temple is best known for the annual Kanda shasti festival that is celebrated here. At the festival the devotees re-enact the victory of Lord Muruga over Surapadman. Thiruchendur showcases Lord Muruga in a rare form. He is seen holding a string of rudraksha beads instead of his usual spear. The reason cited for this change is that he is worshipping Lord Shiva at this temple.

## Kodaikanal

Kodaikalal comes from the Tamil words 'Kodai' and 'Kanal' literally means 'relief from heat' and the place never disappoints the traveller. Located 120 kms from Madurai, this hill station is more than 2000 metres above sea level draws tourists to the verdant charms of its spectacular lake, the waterfalls and sholas or forests. Kodaikanal is also home to the Kurinji Andavar temple dedicated to Lord Muruga. It is a spectacular sight to watch the mist clear from the temple by late morning, revealing the full expanse of the valley below.

# BLACKBERRY MAKERS RESIST PRESSURE FROM INDIA AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS

Under pressure from countries like India and UAE to provide access to its customers' messages, the Canadian company which makes BlackBerry on Wednesday Aug 4th made it clear that it will not allow such a thing to happen as it would "imperil the firm's relationship with customers."

"We are not going to compromise that. That is what has made BlackBerry the No 1 solution worldwide," Mike Lazaridis, founder and co chief executive of RIM, told The New York Times. His comments came as Indian security agencies demanded that BlackBerry allow them to monitor its services.

It also comes close on the heels of Saudi Arabia ordering local cellphone providers to halt BlackBerry service, saying it failed to meet regulatory requirements. Dubai will ban some of the BlackBerry services from October 1.

He said allowing governments to monitor messages shuttling across the BlackBerry network could endanger the company's relationships with its customers, which include major companies and law enforcement agencies. Lazaridis denied reports that the



company had already granted special concessions to the governments of countries like India and China, which have large numbers of BlackBerry owners. "That's absolutely ridiculous and patently false," he said.

He said the encryption that was causing alarm among foreign governments was used for many other purposes, including E-commerce transactions, teleconferencing and electronic money transfers.

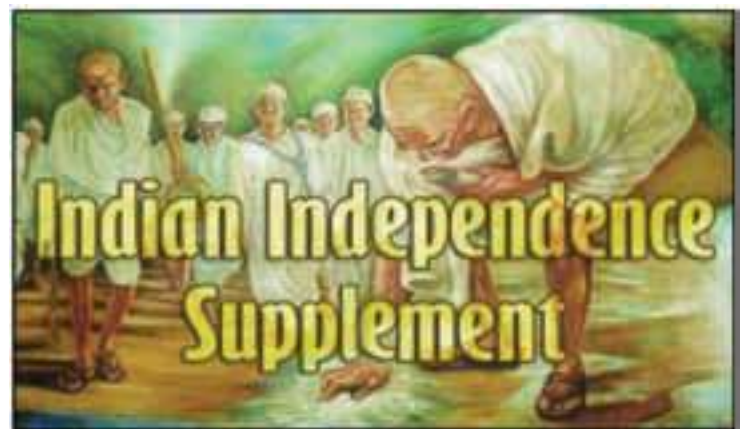
"If you were to ban strong encryption, you would shut down corporations, business, commerce, banking and the Internet," he said.

"Effectively, you'd shut it all down. That's not likely going to happen," he told the Times.

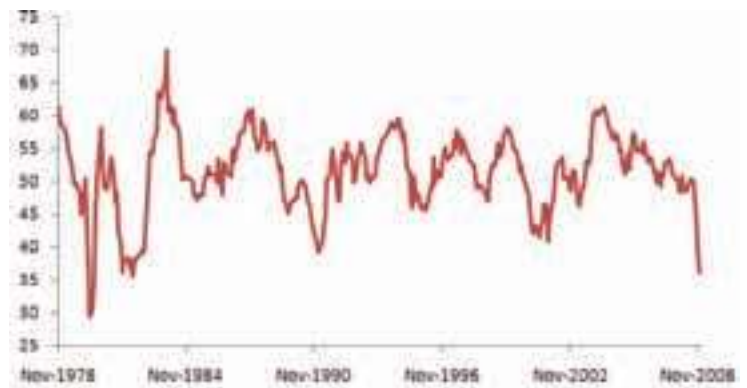
There are about a million users of BlackBerry services in India at present. The security agencies in India apprehended that BlackBerry services in the present format posed a serious security threat.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had warned RIM that it would ban BlackBerry's operations if the security concerns were not addressed.

In view of technical problems involved in accessing the data, the government has been pushing the service provider to set up a BlackBerry server in India so that its services can be easily monitored by security agencies in an emergency. [PTI]



## Manufacturing Cools in US, China; Accelerates in India, Euro-Zone



Global surveys of manufacturers show factory activity has cooled in the United States and China, while growth has accelerated in India and the 16-nation euro-zone.

The U.S. Institute for Supply Management says its manufacturing index fell to 55.5 in July from 56.2 in June. A reading above 50 means factory output is growing, while a sub-50 reading signals contraction.

It is the 12th consecutive month of growth for U.S. manufacturers, but the pace of that growth has declined for the past three months. July's reading beat economists' forecasts of a slowdown to 54.1.

Another survey of manufacturing companies in China found that factory production shrank in July for the first time in 16 months. London-based bank HSBC and financial services company Markit say China's purchasing managers index, or PMI, fell to 49.4 from 50.4 in June.

HSBC and Markit say India's manufacturing sector performed better in July, with faster growth driven by new orders. India's PMI rose to 57.6 from 57.3 in June.

A separate report shows manufacturing growth also accelerated last month in the 16-nation euro-zone, where Germany accounted for most of the increase. The Markit survey said the euro-zone's PMI rose to 56.7 in July from 55.6 in June.

China's government has been trying to cool down industrial production to prevent the economy from overheating. It has tightened companies' access to credit and imposed limits on property speculation and investment in energy-intensive plants.

China's statistics bureau published its own manufacturing index recently, showing a slowdown in growth to 51.2 in July from 52.1 in June. [VOA News]

## Burma, India Sign Defense, Economic Deals

India and Burma have signed several new agreements to build stronger economic and defense ties, during a visit to India by Burma's reclusive military ruler.

Senior General Than Shwe, received a formal welcome on Tuesday, Jul 27th in New Delhi, where he met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and other Indian officials.

The two countries signed five agreements following the talks, including a plan to jointly combat arms smuggling across their shared border. India also agreed to help Burma in a host of projects such as building roads, developing waterways, and a port.

Rights groups have criticized India for engaging with Burma, citing concerns about the Burmese



government's continued repression of its political opponents. Pro-democracy activists have held demonstrations in New Delhi to protest against Than Shwe's five-day visit.

Aside from their shared border, Burma is of important strategic interest to India because of its large natural gas reserves. [VOA News]



## HINDU FEDERATION And City of Mississauga (Co-Sponsor)

The Hindu Federation & City of Mississauga present

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### INDIA HERITAGE FESTIVAL

SUNDAY August 15 2010

Time: 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Presentation of "FloatParade" with colourful displays of Indian Art, Fashion, Music and Dance and other cultural traditions:



LOTS OF VENDORS Cultural program begins at 4:00 pm

#### Location

Living Arts Centre (Park) Mississauga ON Opposite Square One

The event is sponsored by the Members of the Hindu Federation

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- Datta Yoga Centre,
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- Gur Mandir,
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- Radha Krishna Mandir,
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- Vishnu Mandir,
- BAPS - Shree Swami Narayan Mandir,
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- Sanatan Mandir,
- Hindu Heritage Centre

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Vendors selling a variety of Indian style clothing and an assortment of Accessories as well as Indian art and music/ Video etc.

#### FOOD & SNACKS FOR SALE

Lot of delectious and spicy Indian Vegetarian food will also be available plus great sweets and your favourite snacks.

INDIA HERITAGE FESTIVAL For more info. Call 905-670-8439



## Mohammed Rafi symbolised the multicultural resilience



By: Kanayalal S Raina

Last Saturday marked the 30th death anniversary of Mohammed Rafi, India's singing legend who was loved beyond the borders of South Asia. However, he was paired with many playback singers over a career spanning four decades, his more memorable songs were rendered with the iconic female vocalist, Lata Mangeshkar. Rafi was a Punjabi Muslim, Lata a Maharashtrian Hindu. Their love songs still inspire millions.

When we see his voice sit 'pat' on Dilip Kumar and Dev Anand who started out in the '40s through Shammi Kapoor, Dharmendra and Rishi Kapoor and then go perfectly on someone like Govinda in the Farz Ki Jung, we realise that Mohammed Rafi and his effortless vocal magic transcends time. But there is more to Rafi than just his huge musical treasury - he is as relevant today as he was in his lifetime, and has been so for 30 years since he passed away on July 31, 1980

### Rafi lives on...

Why is Mohammed Rafi relevant today? To understand that, we must study and analyse exactly what happened after Rafi passed away, when right at the top. Not only did he deliver multiple chartbusters in 1980 (Karz, Aap To Aise Na The) itself, he also dominated several big-ticket scores in that year (Aasha, Dostana, Ram Balram, The Burning Train, Shaan, Swayamwar, Kali Ghata, Do Premee and Aap Ke Deewane) with or without his good buddy, ardent fan, professional colleague and media-declared "rival" Kishore Kumar.

The Lata-Rafi pairing was not some deliberate shoring up of maudlin secularism in the clichéd Hindu-Muslim mode. Just before them, the duets of Kundan Lal Sehgal and Khursheed Bano were a rage in a self-assured India. After the trauma of 1947, Rafi and Lata, unconsciously and unobtrusively, came to symbolise the multicultural resilience and the feasibility of the experiment called India. And nearly all their duets were similarly — unconsciously and unobtrusively — a musical rejection of the idea of Pakistan, not necessarily the way its founder conceived it, but the way it evolved.

For decades after partition, there were other ways in which India claimed the higher moral ground over Pakistan in the realm of popular and classical cultural motifs. I am privy to an ongoing discussion between worried artists, mostly from Pakistan, about the state of affairs. To back up their thesis they listed several grievances with their country.

Only on Sunday, says Waseem Altaf who seems to have initiated a Web discussion in Pakistan, he was watching a TV programme on the novelist Quratulain Haider. She went to Pakistan in 1949 where she joined the Press Information Department. In 1959 her great novel Aag Ka Darya was published. It raised important questions about partition. It was this more than anything else, feels Altaf, that made it impossible for her to continue

# INDIA'S BOLLYWOOD FILM INDUSTRY TRIES TO PRODUCE CROSSOVER MOVIES

By anjana pasricha

India's popular film industry, known as Bollywood, is trying its hand at producing films which will appeal to a global audience. But the popular Mumbai-based movie industry's efforts to break into the international market have made an uncertain start.

The movie Kites, which released in May in more than 30 countries, is an emotional love story of an Indian and a Mexican immigrant in the United States. Set in Las Vegas, it stars a popular Bollywood actor, Hrithik Roshan and Mexican actress Barbara Mori.

Its producer, Rakesh Roshan, called it "a truly Indian global film." Kites was the first big-budget effort by the Hindi film industry to make a movie which would appeal to mainstream audiences in India and in Western countries.

### Not impressed

However, the film failed to impress people on either side. Indians said they could not identify with the mix of Hindi, English and Spanish dialogues. A shorter version, Kites: The Remix, released in countries like the United States, fared even worse. Edited by Hollywood director Brett Ratner, it was an attempt at a Hollywood-Bollywood crossover.

Mumbai-based film trade analyst and critic Komal Nahata says Bollywood film producers have long been enthusiastic about trying their hand at crossover cinema. But he says their efforts have not met with success, because audiences in India and Western countries are very different.

"I think it is this urge to tap newer markets, to tap newer audiences," says Nahata. "But our filmmakers don't realize it is that what is lacking is cinema which they enjoy. You can't just tweak Bollywood cinema and say that 'I made it for the crossover audience'. Their tastes are completely different, plus their sensibilities are different."

### Successful attempt

Bollywood has a massive fan following, not only in India, but in many Asian countries such as Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Afghanistan. It is also a huge hit with Indians staying in Western countries. About seven percent of the revenues of the \$2 billion industry come from overseas markets.

The desire to woo Western audiences got a boost after the runaway success of the Oscar-winning film Slumdog Millionaire. The film was a British production, which used Bollywood talent and was shot in the slums of Mumbai fueled the desire among Bollywood production houses to make a similar hit.

Of course, a typical Hindi movie is very different to Slumdog. It is usually a predictable, melodramatic story of boy-meets-girl and overcomes all odds to be together. These films are replete with glitzy song and dance numbers.

### Reason for optimism

Many people are optimistic that Bollywood movies



Barbara Mori and Hrithik Roshan in a scene from 'Kites'

Photo: FilmKRAFT

have the potential to make their presence felt beyond the traditional markets in India and Asia. Among them is Mumbai-based film critic Taran Adarsh.

"That is what has attracted a lot of people from the Western world... our colors, our songs, our dances, the Bollywood masala," Adarsh says. "I have had a lot of people coming up to me and telling me that they love Bollywood films. They don't understand the language, but there is something about Bollywood films. They find it very interesting."

In their quest to win international audiences, Indian film producers are trying to break the mold and explore more contemporary themes.

### Bridging the gap

Several movie critics say the success in several countries of a recent Hindi film, My Name is Khan, shows that Bollywood is starting to tap a wider audience. It is the story of an Indian in America who battles the double problems of fighting Asperger's syndrome (a form of autism) and being a Muslim in a post 9/11 world.

However, trade analyst Nahata points out that crossover audiences are still "miniscule." He feels the distance between a Bollywood and a Hollywood movie is too vast to be easily traversed.

"It has to be a completely different film, which risk the Indian filmmakers won't take because then they fear that the Indian audience and the traditional audiences will be lost to that kind of film, notes Nahata. "The amount of crossover audiences which view our films is so small it hardly matters."

Some Bollywood producers are scaling down their ambitions for crossover projects. But others are not giving up. In September, one of India's best known filmmakers, Vidhu Vinod Chopra, will start shooting in the United States for an English language film called Broken Horses, also aimed at global audiences. Like him, many others hope that some day Bollywood -- which produces the most movies in the world -- will manage to make a mark internationally.

[VOA News]

to live in Pakistan. So she returned to India and permanently settled there.

Similarly, Sahir Ludhianvi, a much-loved romantic poet, had settled down in Lahore in 1943, where he worked for a number of Urdu magazines. Everything was going well until his writings, influenced by Communism, appeared in Savera. A warrant for his arrest was put out by the government of Pakistan. In 1949 Sahir fled to India and never looked back.

Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, the magical classical singer, was a Pakistani citizen. He became so disillusioned by the apparent apathy towards him and his art in Pakistan that he applied for and was granted a permanent Indian immigrant visa in 1957-58. He migrated to India where he lived happily till his death. Perhaps all who migrated to India lived a full life and were conferred with awards and affection.

On the other hand, Saadat Hassan Manto, whose acerbically crafted stories of the Partition still evoke and define the tragedy, migrated to Pakistan after 1947 where he was tried thrice for obscenity. Disheartened and financially broke he died at the early age of 42.

Zia Sarhadi, the Marxist filmmaker who made memorable films like Footpath and Humlog, was a celebrity in Bombay when he chose to migrate to Pakistan. Rahguzar, his first movie there, turned out to be the last he ever directed. During Gen. Zia-ul-Haq's martial law he was picked up by the Army and kept in solitary confinement in terrible conditions. The charges against him were sedition and an inclination towards Marxism. On his release he left the country to live in the UK never to come back.

The scholar poet Faiz Ahmad Faiz was arrested in 1951 under the Public Safety Act and charged in the

Rawalpindi Conspiracy case. Later he was jailed for more than four years.

Ustad Daman, the popular Punjabi poet, had a charisma of his own. His radical views landed him in jail on one occasion following the discovery of a bomb planted in his room by his detractors. Pandit Nehru wooed him to take Indian citizenship but he stayed put in Pakistan in spite of the challenges he faced.

It was common to find Pakistanis seeking refuge in India right up to Zia-ul-Haq's martial law regime. Indira Gandhi ensured that the special guests were well looked after. In the 1990s, the tide turned and this is what the excessively nationalist Indian intellectuals fail to accept. They seem to have little idea of how deeply the rise of the Right-wing in India corroded the very idea on which India was founded.

Perhaps it is already too late. The Right-wing rumblings in India, a country many Pakistanis till recently saw as an escape from Zia's bigotry, was beginning to look like a replica of Pakistan. That's how Fehmida Riaz, sensitive to India's Nehruvian trust, not the least because she had found refuge there through much of Zia's military excesses, was moved to speak up. She wrote:

*"Tum bilkul hum jaise nikle*

*Ab tak kahaan chhupe thay bhai*

*Wo ghaamadpan, wo jaahilpan jisme humne  
sadi gawae Ab pahonchi hai dwaar tumhar-  
eyArey badhaae, bahot badhaae"*

The Lata-Rafi fan club is substantially curtailed today. Along with it the era of their multicultural representation of India has all but waned.



# CLASSICAL TAMIL



A woman sells snacks at the venue of the World Classical Tamil conference, June 2010.  
Photo: S.Siva Saravanan/The Hindu

Among the world languages the Classical status was originally given only to Greek and Latin. During 1800 – 1900 A.D., Sanskrit was regarded a Classical language as a result of the English translations of the ancient Sanskrit texts by great savants like William Jones, Max Muller and others.

In the later part of 19th century, Dr. Robert Caldwell established beyond the pale of controversy the reality of Dravidian Family of Languages and the high antiquity of Tamil, which according to him, is the most highly cultivated of all Dravidian idioms, can dispense with its Sanskrit altogether, if need be, and not only stand alone, but flourish without its aid.

His study provided the base for the formation of Pure Tamil Movement, founded by the great Tamil savant Paritimar Kalaingar (V.G. Suryanarayana Sastri), who gave the clarion call to recognise Tamil as a Classical language, which in his high esteem was a high language (உயர்நிலைமொழி), unique language (குறிநிலைமொழி) and Classical language (நிசுநிலைமொழி). His view was further turned by the renowned scholars Maraimalai Adikal and Thvanaya -paavanars opinion that Tamil was the primary classical language of the world.

It is essential to note that even before the advent of Dr. Robert Caldwell, native scholars with erudition in Sanskrit discriminated the unique features of Tamil, independent of Sanskrit. Sivanana Munivar of 18th century A.D. underscored the special aspects of Tamil, in his elaborate commentary on the Payiram (-Prologue) of Tholkappiyam. Its substance is given here below:

“The morpho-phonemic rules, the technical terms, the implied verb, verb compound and other grammatical categories, the classification of words into rational category (-uyartjai) and non-rational category (-arjai), the classification of literary themes into Akam (love) and Puam (warfare and related themes), the behavioural divisions such as Kuinci (union of lovers) and Vetci (cattle lifting) and their related aspects, the prosody of Vepā and other metres – these and other related features are not found in Sanskrit”.

Among the reputed Tamilologists with multi-lingual erudition who voiced for the Classical status of Tamil through their impartial research, let us first quote Kamil V. Zvelebil:

“those of 26,350 lines of (Sangam) poetry promote Tamil to the rank of one of the

greatest Classical languages of the world .... It is only the Tamil Culture that has produced uniquely so in India – an independent, indigenous literary theory of a very high standard including metrics and prosody, poetics and rhetoric. tamil-name Sangam poetry is the expression of a linguistic, prosodic and stylistic perfection; it is a finished, consummate and inimitable literary expression of an entire culture, and of the best in that culture. In this sense, it is truly a classical product, a classical literature”.

A.K. Ramanujan, another scholar of global reputation, endorsed the above view and further added that among the two Classical languages of India, Sanskrit is not in current usage while Tamil continues its existence with a classical past.

Apart from the views of the aforesaid scholars, the historians and archaeologists established the fact that the Indus-Valley Civilization is Pre- Aryan and Proto – Tamilian, indicating that the language of the Indus people was Proto-Tamil, the ancient form of Classical Tamil. The influence of Tamil on the Vedic Sanskrit was identified by Dr. M.B. Emneau and Dr.T. Burrow. Katyayana and Patanjali, the great commentators on the Aadhyaai of Paii exhibited their acquaintance with Tamil while explaining some grammatical rules. The presence of Tamil words in Greek, Hebrew, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Malay and other global languages has been proved beyond doubt by the specialists. The cultural and commercial commingling of the Tamils with the West and East was established through the numismatic, epigraphical and literary evidences.

Thus, the classical status of Tamil and the international contact of the Tamils with the global people become evident.

Though the scholars and linguists unabatedly emphasized for more than a century that Tamil has been a classical language, the credit goes to Dr. Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi, the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, whose sagacious and tenacious efforts prompted the Government of India for the official recognition and declaration of Tamil, as a Classical language on 12.10.2004. It is a memorable day in the annals of the Tamils.

[from World Classical Tamil Conference online - [www.wctc2010.org](http://www.wctc2010.org) ]



## Prime Minister David Cameron urges India to invest in the UK



Press conference with Prime Minister Singh David Cameron listens to a question from a journalist during his press conference with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. 29 July 2010

UK Government ministers and business leaders from India and the UK have taken part in a summit to discuss opportunities for trade and investment between the two countries.

Prime Minister David Cameron, Business Secretary Vince Cable and Chancellor George Osborne and a number of Indian government ministers attended the summit in Delhi, India, on July 29th.

Mr Cameron told delegates that Britain's universities, strong science sector, and expertise in defence and civil nuclear power were among the reasons that other countries should consider investing in the UK.

The PM added:

“I think we bring a lot of those things in terms of expertise that we can share with you, but the one-minute advert for investing back in Britain is we have the English language, we have a time zone between America and Asia, we have access to European markets, we have a highly trained workforce and, as I've said, we're one of the most open and welcoming economies.”

Earlier, the PM had taken part in a ceremonial welcome at the Presidential Palace in Delhi and held a meeting with President Pratibha Patil.

Mr Cameron also laid a wreath at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi and had a series of meetings including with Vice President Ansari and Ratan Tata, chairman of India's largest corporation Tata Group.

Following the summit, the PM visited the Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games Hockey Stadium and had talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, where UK and Indian representatives signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Cooperation.

In a joint press conference following the meeting, Mr Cameron said:

“I believe we have made tremendous progress with this relationship already. I believe there is much, much more to come and, after this visit, I feel even more enthusiastic than I did when I put into our manifesto then into the Queen's Speech how we wanted to build this very special relationship with India. And I, for one, cannot wait to come back again and make further progress in this, an important and winning relationship for both our countries.”

[[www.number10.gov.uk](http://www.number10.gov.uk)]

## MONSOON FEATURE

### A. Brain Drain- Its Nature

Well educated immigrants cause a massive brain drain in the developing countries like Sri Lanka and India. They make use of the best educational resources available in their countries to equip themselves with a good education and leave for affluent countries for a better quality of life for their children and for themselves. George Haddad of UNESCO asserts that 'a global phenomenon is emerging. It is driven by new forms of transport, communication, business and search for economic, educational and scientific opportunity.' Even from African countries the flight of human capital is staggering. Since 1990, at least 20,000 qualified people have left Africa every year. They would have been an asset to their home countries. They are the people who can deliver public services and articulate the cause of democracy and development which are vital for these countries. Resource people also go temporarily for higher education in western countries and most of them stay behind. They had previously used public funds for their first degrees or earlier education. Key destinations include the European Union, North America, Japan and Australia. The United States is still the main pole of attraction. Countries like Canada give all encouragement and facilities to keep them behind.

### B. Problems of Brain Drain

When these trained and well-experienced people leave their countries, the government face insurmountable problems in terms of financial and public welfare to cope up with the deprived situation. In certain African countries, the very existence of health and medical facilities are threatened. They are available to the wealthy but not to the ordinary man. In other spheres, developing countries are also critically lacking in engineers who can design and oversee infra-structure projects. Observers feel that developing countries should give all incentives for their trained personnel to stay behind and help their mother countries. However, a former advisor to the Indian Prime-Minister said that such restrictions may violate the fundamental values of human rights and individual freedom.

### C. Recent Trends-'Drain or Gain'

China, India and Taiwan focus less on remittance than in promoting their very different busi-

# The Diaspora-'brain drain and brain gain'

ness oriented models in seeking diaspora contribution to development. India recently launched diaspora policy is multipronged; pursuing direct investment, technology transfer, market opening and out-sourcing opportunities. The poorer countries are not positioned to take advantage of many kind of business investments but millions of poor people in countries that are more technologically sophisticated might benefit from multiplied effects of diaspora investment. The dense web of ties between diaspora and their country of origin in many cases, the creation of individuals and groups acting in their own initiative, rather than a product of government intervention. Beyond the individual and family level, diaspora organisations include associations of migrants originating from the same locality, ethnic family groups, alumni associations, religious organizations, professional associations, charitable organizations, development NGO's, investment groups, affiliation of political parties, humanitarian relief organizations schools and clubs for the preservation of culture, virtual networks and federation of associations. Many examples are found in the Canadian context itself. The Canadian Tamils have several organizations that connect them with their kith and kin in Sri Lanka. The Tamil Rehabilitation Association of Canada is engaged in funding several development projects in the backward areas. International Movement of Tamil culture helps in promoting cultural activities in Tamil homelands. The Canadian Tamil Chamber of Commerce has engaged in projects that are mutually beneficial to Sri Lanka and Canada. The Thenmaradchy Service Organization is getting the support of the diaspora from a particular village to help in its development. There are several alumni associations operating in Canada helping to provide more resources for their former schools. One can go on and on relating the contribution of the diaspora to the land of their birth.

### D. Diaspora - Positive Contributions

Diaspora of many of the developing countries are now becoming agents of development and rehabilitation for their mother countries. The influence of mobility on economic and social progress has also brought recognition that the circulation of skills and manpower can be positive in accelerating development. Global recession has induced some of the expatriates from countries like India and China to back to their

own countries for better job security. Many expatriates already contribute massively to their national economies through sending remittances to their families. It is said that India earns most of its foreign exchange through the remittances of their nationals working in the Middle - East and other foreign countries. Many expatriates are keen to use their skills, expertise and capital to become real partners in local and national development. This was very true of the recent happenings in the war affected areas of Sri Lanka where the diaspora in various countries like Canada, Australia, U.K and the European countries have shown tremendous interest in the development of their home lands. They have sent medical, educational and engineering teams to help in the north and east of Sri Lanka. They have also invested usefully in rehabilitation schemes to help their kith and kin. The possibility of virtual participation in nation-building is now made easier through interactive technology sharing as well as the conversion of specialized expertise into economic, social and cultural capital. Many religions and nongovernmental organizations are helping with grass root development.

Furthermore, social, religious and humanitarian agencies are devoted in accumulating all the man power and financial resources available in the task of the development of the neglected and the needy.

To sum up it could be asserted that the diaspora had provided



remittances to their families in their home country. They have provided investment and skills transfer specially in the dynamic software industry. It is estimated that 60% of all FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) to China was provided by the Chinese diaspora. Contributions to tourist expenditure by their visiting families and relatives mainly through utilizing restaurants, hotels, entertainment and other services account for another benefit. While remittances have contributed to poverty alleviation, foreign exchange earnings and balance of payments, to date, there is no evidence that they have propelled output growth. Furthermore during times of national calamities like natural disasters or armed conflicts, it is the diaspora that comes to help in a great way as evidenced in Haiti and Sri Lanka.

### E- Sri Lanka and Its Diaspora

The Sri Lankan Tamil immigrants in the western world, large number of them in Canada fol-

lowed by U.K, India, Australia, Germany, New-Zealand, France, US, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Swiss, Netherlands, Ireland and Italy amount to almost 600,000. The well placed Tamils in the western countries have the primary duty to meet the needs of 100,000 children and young people in the war affected areas of Sri Lanka. The government of Sri Lanka may be able to restore the name of their resplendent island by getting the help of their diaspora through finding peace and stability. It should gather the goodwill and cooperation of their diaspora by solving the political problems with prudence and urgency. It has to tap the vast resources it has in the form of their diaspora in several western countries. It is then that Sri Lanka could prove itself and resurrect it as the ' Pearl of the Indian Ocean.'

**J.J. atputharajah**

Formerly- Lecturer-NIE-  
(PGDE Program)

## Villages destroyed, residents driven out to develop tourist sector in Sri Lanka

by Melani Manel Perera

On 17 July, masked men wielding weapons destroyed the homes of residents in Panama and Ragamvila, two coastal villages in northeastern Sri Lanka. Police and troops who now occupy the area have prevented residents from coming back. Locals accuse the government of taking their land to promote tourist development.

Ampara (AsiaNews) - Colombo is confiscating the land of residents of the villages of Ragamvila and Panama, Ampara Province, northeastern Sri Lanka, to give a boost to the local tourist sector, a decision slammed by the residents before the Permanent People's Tribunal (PPT) last Sunday.

PPTs were set up back in July by the Praja Abhilasha Network, a body created by the National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NFSM) to focus on land issues, especially seizures, in order to denounce them to public opinion

and bring them before the courts.

Panama and Ragamvila are coastal villages. The local tourist sector was badly damaged by the civil war between the government and Tamil Tigers that ended in May 2009. Currently, the government in Colombo is taking over land and cutting down forests to build facilities to increase tourism in war-affected areas.

On the night of 17 July, armed men wearing masks attacked the villages. They set houses on fire, destroyed a village temple and drove people out. Police and troops moved in and took over the area and have prevented residents from coming back.

Altogether 35 families, both Tamil and Sinhalese, called the place home. "We condemn this unjust act by police of stealing our land," some residents, who preferred to remain anonymous, said to AsiaNews. "We have lived here for 20 years and tended coconut

and cashew nut trees, our sole source of income. The government does not care about our lives; it only wants to boost tourism."

On 27 July, residents of the two villages protested in the streets. Edision Gunatilake, senior deputy inspector general of the Eastern Province, promised he would meet them. So far, he has not yet set a date for a meeting.

"It is a bad thing that land is being grabbed with police protection," a PPT judge told AsiaNews. "People who live along the coast are in real danger because they can be driven from their land at any time."

"We urge politicians and investors to stop grabbing land and violating the rights of residents," said Herman Kumara, secretary general of the World Forum for Fisher People.

[asianews.it]

# PAPANASAM SIVAN

In the world of Tamil Isai there are many carnatic music composers that have composed varnams, krithis, thirupugal, javali, padhams viruthams, theverum's and thiruvakams songs and the most famous one Thirukurals by Thiruvalluvar, but today you will be exclusively reading about Sangita Kalanidhi Sri Papanasam Sivan was born on September 26, 1890 and lived till his last breath on October 1, 1973. Sri Sivan was a prominent composer of Carnatic music and a singer. A famous composer, Sivan was also known as Tamil Thyagayya. Using Classical South Indian as a base, Sivan created numerous hits popularized by M. K. Thygaraja Bhagavathar and M. S. Subbulakshmi. Sri Sivan has composed over thousand songs even though he had no formal training in Tamil. The Music Academy honors itself by bestowing on Sivan the title "Sangita Kalanidhi" in December 1971. He lost his father when he was six years old, and since the family was afflicted by adversity, Sivan, his mother and elder brother migrated to Trivandrum, the "Dharma Rajya". They found sub-

sistence in the 'Ootpura' of the Maharaja. While at Trivandrum, Sivan came under the influence of eminent musicians like Noorani Mahadeva Bhagavathar, Samba Bhagavathar and Karamanai Neelakanta Dasar. While at Trivandrum, Sivan studied in the Maharaja's Sanskrit college and obtained the title 'Upadhyay'. Beyond this he had no schooling at all.

Sivan's mother, who had a gifted sweet voice for music, had learnt more than 600 songs of the famous composers of the day. Sivan imbibed this talent hereditarily from his mother and his maternal grandfather, who was also a good musician. Sivan led a very simple unshakeable life nature timid and shy to the extent of self-abnegation

Ramaiya (Papanasam Sivan) has a daughter Dr. Rukmani Ramani who is a leading Carnatic Musician in Chennai. Ashok Ramani who is his grandson is also a successful Carnatic Musician. Another daughter by name Nila Ramamurthy also composes Carnatic music. He had a brother Rajagopal Iyer whose daughter V.N. Janaki was an

actress and wife of former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Rajagopal Iyer also had a

Sivan was a recipient of a few titles. In 1950 the Indian Fine Arts Society honored him by conferring him the title 'Sangeetha Sakithya Kala Sikhamani'. At the celebrations of the 60th birthday of Sivan, Kanchi Acharyal blessed him with the titled 'Siva Punya Gaana Mani'. The Tamizh Isai Sangam honored him with the title 'Isai Peraignar'. The Music Academy honored him with the title "Sangeetha Kalanidhi". He was admitted as a 'Fellow' of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi. In 1962 Sivan received the President's Award. Lastly in 1972, at the age of 82, the Indian Government conferred on him 'Padma Bhushan'.

Between 1899 and 1910, Sivan lived with his mother in Tiruvananthapuram, where he was inspired by the composer Nilakanta Sivan. Nilakanta Sivan passed away in 1903. However, Sivan says he had the fortune of attending Nilakanta Sivan's bhajans during the years 1902 and 1903.

This year Sivan Arts Academy



celebrated its fifth anniversary in Toronto on the 10th and the 11th of July 2010 at Athi Parasathi Hindu temple in Scarborough. Papanasam Ashok Ramani is doing this function all around the world. This function is held in almost every country. We rasikas should thank Sri Papanasam Ashok Ramani for caring on the Papanasam Sivan heritage. On the 10th there was a music competition and the options were vocal, violin mridangam and bharatha natyam. On the 11th there were individual singing of Sivan songs, and then they had a prize distribution. But the main point was even if you did not get a prize you can surely get a prize next time, because you will work as twice or as triple times harder and achieve and you will get



encouraged by Shri Papanasam Sivan Ashok Ramani a great singer and vice principal of sivan arts academy. If you get a chance to sing in front of him it is like singing in front of Sangita Kalandhi Shri Papanasam Sivan because it is that great. Sivan's bhajanai tradition is continued even today his daughter Dr. Rukmini Ramani and her son Papanasam Ashok Ramani and even by rasikas around the world.



Article By: Kapilan Sachchithananthan

## Waka Waka The official Song for FIFA 2010

Though Colombia never made it to the World Cup 2010, it is well represented, again, today with the curves and moves of Shakira, the Colombian pop superstar, will be centre stage with the latest song, "Wak Waka" the official song for World Cup 2010, has become the sound that captures the excitement of the most awaited soccer event. Shakira's 'Waka Waka', the official song for World Cup 2010, has become the sound that captures the excitement of the most awaited football event.

The world has enjoyed football as it has been played in South Africa. It has also danced to the tune of Waka Waka. Everybody with an ear for music has hummed it at least once. Colombian singer and musician Shakira (full name: Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripoli) has lent meaning and glamour to the official anthem of the FIFA World Cup 2010. Titled "This Time for Africa" it goes on: "Pick yourself up, and dust yourself off, and back in the saddle, you're on the frontline. Everyone's watching..."

Waka Waka eh eh." Her movements are so graceful and so meticulously she leads her flock in the video (unfortunately we have missed the actual presentation which has been in another continent) that our own sensation Bipasha Basu is enthralled. Bipasha has set the Bollywood sil-



ver screen on fire with "Bidi jalai le" (Omkara) and "ho Billo Rani, kaho to abhi jaan de dun" (Dhan Dhana Dhan ...Goal).

She has now expressed the desire that she wants to learn Shakira's moves. What clicks in a song is always difficult to say. There are many ingredients that go into its making. It seems that catchy tune matters more than anything else. There is definitely a value addition if it is accompanied by steps and gestures of a talented artist.

Waka Waka is a case in point. It hardly matters if we don't know the meaning of the word. With due apologies to Shakespeare we

may twist one of his several meaningful observations for our immediate purpose. He has said: "What's in a name.

That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Waka certainly does not mean Rose. But as of today it is one of the most popular expressions. What is in a word if it does not catch the popular imagination? From all accounts Waka has been lapped up by masses all around. It has become a catchphrase for struggle. Its literal meaning, they say, is "do it" or something which is joyful or full of life. We are among many on this planet who think that it has come

to denote youthful energy. There is some anger in South Africa. It seems to be born of the fact that the song has not been sung by a son or daughter of the soil. Why should they lament? There are several South Africans who have given Shakira a helping hand. There are many more who have enjoyed every moment of it. Why should we confine music to geographical boundaries? Had football been similarly restricted it would not have come to South Africa.

Looked from our perspective Waka Waka is yet another signal that the fast music is the fashion of the day. It is a matter of aca-

ademic interest how our audience would react to K.L. Saigal's "ek bangle bane nyara, rahe kunba jis mein sara." It is one of the best songs of one acclaimed as the first superstar of Hindi cinema. He was born in this city. How would the younger generation react to it? It is an age of nuclear families. One is not sure either of the reaction that "ae malik tere bande hum" (sung by Lata Mangeshkar) may evoke in the present materialistic age. The youth believes in speed and overcoming all challenges. It claims attention as a matter of right as Monali Thakur says in her voice "ah zara zara touch me" in Race in what turned out to be the fourth most played song on Indian radio during the first half of 2008. Waka Waka captures that spirit.

Kanayalal Raina www.businessplans4all.com





# Canada - We Complain, the World Compliments

## Samy Appadurai

I was at the emergency ward at one of the better known hospitals in Toronto at about 7.00 am with a friend of mine who had an emergency health problem. While he was suffering from some sort of respiratory problem, he was shouting loud enough to penetrate all the layers of the atmosphere and hard enough to make a hole in the ozone layer. This scene alerted the attention of other patients who had appeared to be waiting their turn for a couple of hours for treatment. Some of the patients who thought that they had unbearable pain became noticeably more relaxed seeing him in a much worse condition and realized they themselves were in a relatively better state. The reporting formalities were done in short order and while I was seated in a corner, I listened to some of the patients venting their frustrations. One of them said that "It is a horrible health care system and this not at all an emergency ward, how long we are going to wait." Another person said "Never mind waiting for a couple of hours, imagine this, my sister has to wait for kidney surgery for years". Still another person said "Look at these politicians, they swallow our money by saying that they want to transfer our files into e-files and then they did nothing fruitful." These complaints never helped in reducing the pain and suffering of the patients, rather they aggravated it. After listening to all of this I arrived at two conclusions. The first one being that these people are complaining that the glass half empty rather than half full. The second one is the assumed mismanagement or misuse of the tax payer's money by the government.

I do not disagree with Canadians who lobby and protest on reasonable grounds. But complaints regarding issues such as inadequate health services, increasing crime rates, school dropout rates, air quality, environmental issues, abuses in the immigration system, discrimination in many sectors, the cost of security for the G8-20 and so forth are unavoidable and should not be ignored or accepted at face value. Sometimes I wonder if the souls of the forefathers who built this nation get revived and listen to our complaints? If they could speak to us from beyond the grave, they may ask us to look back at their circumstances and at the non availability



of the facilities that we enjoy today. It may serve us well to think about how they survived without pipe born water, without electricity, no modern heating equipment for the cold winters, not having industrial strength equipment for building infrastructure on virgin forested land and having to live at the mercy of the weather. At that time as well, you had to pay for medical treatment and surgery could put your family into debt for years. Quite frankly I think our forefathers would balk at our lack of courage and forbearance.

First of all let's get into an Air Canada plane and go around the world and listen to what the world leaders and citizens of countries in all six continents have to say. A recent survey conducted by a reputable institution revealed that over 54 percent of middle aged people from developed nations such as the United Kingdom, U.S.A, France, India, China, Germany, Japan, Australia, Russia to name a few wanted to migrate to Canada and join us in sharing the fruits of our labour. Their reasoning is because of overall development in Canada which includes better health services, education, transportation, and the peaceful co existence of multi ethnic groups. The survey clearly reveals the internal temperature of the world and tells us that the high quality of life coupled with greater maturity in most of the vital aspects of this nation, people and the governing institutions has placed the image of Canada in a very unique position. I do understand that there are countries in the world that have better strengths in certain aspects but are lacking behind in many others. For example, China is marching forward as a potential world power having a strong economy. This country has come from a "have not" level to the second largest economy in the world worth 3 trillion dollars. But the denial of fundamental freedoms for the people, freedom of the press, freedom of expression etc has brought China down in some

respects. The world nations that condemned China's deprivation of freedom left it isolated until the early 1970s. It was at that time that Dr. Henry Kissinger, former state secretary of President Nixon made a strong political maneuver by recognizing China and establishing a diplomatic relationship. There were a number of reasons for doing this but the most important one was based on the political philosophy of "The enemy of my enemy is my friend". Although both the former Soviet Union and China practiced the Communist ideology in their economy and politics, they were rivals in their circle. By becoming closer and encouraging China in its development, the strength of Soviet Union would be brought down to a certain extent. Another example is India. India is the most populous democratic nation in the world and a spiritual giant, but India does not have very balanced development and is lagging behind in many aspects. Although America is the only super power of the world, American foreign policy is controversial, government debt is in the trillions and that debt itself is more than the GDP of some countries in the world.

Let us now refresh our memory and allow me to capitalize on my years of deep rooted experience on three continents and gauge today's Canada. The unique qualities of Canada certainly supersede its draw backs. The political maturity of the Canadian masses and active politicians are scoring comparatively high marks. It is pretty clear that Canada has a vision and every move of the government and the voters are very much in synch. Canada acknowledges and values the efforts put forward in building this nation. As a nation we are concerned with diminishing the gap between the main stream and minorities and within the minorities that of the visible and non visible. When it comes to integrating minorities, we are very successful. This is somewhat rooted in the idea of intercultural-

Samy Appadurai is a renowned broadcast journalist, author, educator and public speaker who makes his home in Toronto.

ism-the idea that all people of all cultures need to work together to support each other while upholding common values. And unlike America's melting pot policy, Canada does not just "tolerate" or dilute other cultures; rather it encourages new immigrants in the preservation of their culture while getting integrated into Canadian life at the same time. Of course, in the due course of time the third generation of new comers gets absorbed within the main stream culture without any outside help. The only drawback is that many show a strong patriotic connection to their ancestral homeland. It began from the father of Canada, Sir John A McDonald who once said that "I was born as a British subject and live and die as a British subject". It is and will be very important to foster a sense of national pride in new Canadians.

Another excellent example from recent history is that when radical sovereignty members were very active in Quebec and the unity of Canada was at stake, both of the leading Canadian political parties got together, put their party interests aside and brought the national interest to the forefront. They accepted what was the only alternative to safeguard the unity of the nation and that was to strengthen the provincial Liberals of Quebec and create a powerful provincial government, rather than allowing the Parti Quebecois to become more dominant. The national Conservative leader was transferred to the position of provincial party leader of the Liberals and even today, the Premier of Quebec John Charest acknowledged that he will seek a 4th consecutive victory and not at all rejoin federal politics.

At the Winter Olympics, and the G8 and G20 summits of 2010, the members of the opposition parties disagreed on many things including the spending of almost a billion dollars on security. But when the time of hosting those events came, they all forgot their differences and either cooperated or kept silent. Canadians are smart people; they do not make much noise and watch the situation carefully before making any moves. I can cite a recent example of how Canadians waited until the eleventh hour and approved the way the G8-20 was organized and executed. Canadians take

the short term pain for the long term gain. Practicing conservatism in politics brought us away from the Americans. When the thirteen colonies of the new world fought against their colonial ruler the United Kingdom and had the revolution, the Canadians in the north still wanted their independence but without shedding blood or antagonizing their ancestors. The Americans, the sons and daughters of liberty adopted a brand new republic and the presidential system of government, Canada still continues the parliamentary and the constitutional monarchy systems. In spite of practicing conservatism in many aspects of the government, the structure of the senate follows in the footsteps of the House of Lords with some new Senators appointed by the Prime Minister. It is this idea of "Responsible Government" that makes the new comers who have migrated from over 190 countries around the world feel more at home in Canada.

The whole world was very impressed with the operation and the management of the Canadian banking system when all of the developing nations had been struggling to fight against the worst recession since the Depression of the 1930s. Most of those nations entered the recession earlier and have yet to come out of it whereas Canada entered later and began getting out of it earlier. The conservatism policy in controlling and managing the financial institutions brought in a steady capital formation and a strong real estate market. Though the deficit in the government budget is higher compared to the period of the recessions in the 1980s and 1990s, still compared with countries like the United States of America, United Kingdom, and some other developed nations, the Canadian deficit is still relatively small. The unemployment rate never climbed to double digits and began to come down from 8.1% to 7.9% in the month of May 2010. When it was discovered that there were some new mineral deposits in the northern territories and large amounts of oil sand deposits in Alberta and Newfoundland, Canadians did not get overly excited, rather they carried out their normal routines. The attitude of "stay calm and carry on" has served us well.

My commentary would not be complete if I do not narrate the stand of Canada on international terrorism, particularly with the Islamic nations.

**Contd. in page 38**

WORDS OF PEACE

# Knowing

How do people know what they know?

"All our lives," says Maharaji, who travels the world to speak to people about a fundamental kind of knowing, "people have told us things, and we have believed those things. We're trapped by our own ideas. They become chains that hold us back. Each link in the chain is formed by the hearsay and beliefs that we have accumulated in life."

These ideas are not harmless, says Maharaji, who over the years has addressed millions of people in hundreds of cities around the world.

"It's so easy to have concepts - it's this way, it's that way," he says. "The world is full of that. When there's speculation, then there are questions. There are doubts. There are discussions, debates, and interpretations, because the real thing is not there. When the real thing is not there, that's what happens."

"There is a story that perhaps illustrates this," he says. "A traveler heard that there was somebody sitting by a river not far away giving water to people who were thirsty. So he had to see for himself. He went to the river and asked the man sitting there what he did."

"The man said, 'Well, I give water to those who are thirsty.'"

"The traveler looked at the river, looked back at the man, and thought, 'What's the big deal? There's plenty of water in the river. Why is everybody back in that town talking about this man? I don't see what the big deal is.'"

"He thought, 'I'm thirsty; I want some water. I can get the water myself, and I'll go tell everybody in the town that I got water without this man. That'll show them a thing or two.'"

"So the traveler bent over and tried to get to the water. The river bank was a little steeper than he realized, so he bent over a little

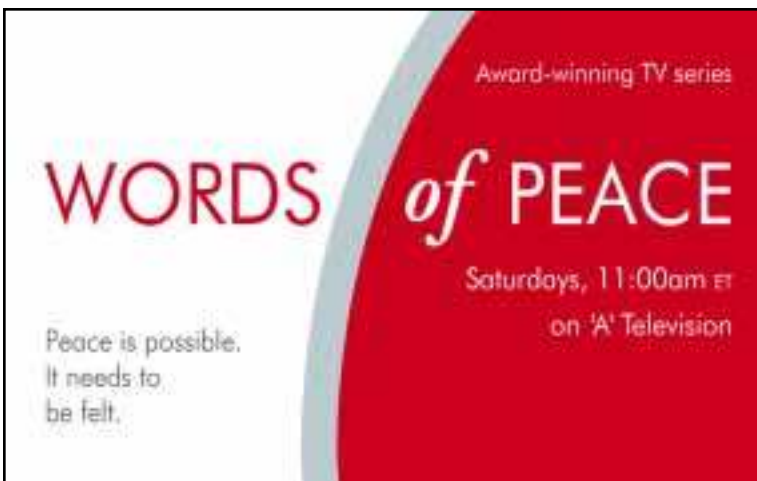


water there."

The traveler's third concept, he says, was that he could get water himself--"I don't need this fellow."

Maharaji endorses knowing rather than believing as the way to experience this life.

"My advice," Maharaji says, "is not to be a believer, but to become a knower. Don't believe. Know. Just that much will change a person for the better. For those who want to know, clarity knocks at the door. For those who only want to believe, clarity stays far away, because it knows it will not be welcomed."



bit more. Before he could stop himself, he fell into the river. As he was being swept away, he yelled for help.

"The man sitting by the river jumped in and dragged the traveler out of the water. 'What were you doing?' he asked. 'I was trying to get water,' the traveler said. 'You don't want to drink that water,' the man said. 'That river is filthy. That's why I'm here. When the thirsty come by and drink that water, they get sick. So I give them water that won't make them sick.'"

"Concept number one," Maharaji says, "was that the traveler thought he had to see this person because the whole town was talking about him. Concept number two was that he thought the man by the river was no big deal because there was plenty of

There's more to what Maharaji talks about than words.

"It's up to you," he says, "to decide whether you like what I say or you don't. Talk about it, think about it-whatever. If you ever decide you want to be a knower, then look me up. That's how it is. Isn't that simple? Isn't it incredibly simple?"

"All you have to do is put on the beautiful glasses of simplicity, and you will see that it truly is good news, beautiful news, that you are alive, and that what you are looking for is within you."

To learn more about Maharaji, visit:

- [www.wopg.org](http://www.wopg.org)
- [www.tprf.org](http://www.tprf.org)
- [www.maharaji.net](http://www.maharaji.net)
- [www.contactinfo.net](http://www.contactinfo.net)

If you make a list of all the things that you consider sin, in let's say, the five major religions of the world; take the top five religions in the world, make a list of all the things that you label as sin, then you will understand, to be alive is a sin. Isn't it?

So, if you don't feel guilty about something you will not go to the temple or church or mosque? Fear and guilt have been two tools with which religion has been running for a long time. If there is no fear in people, there is no guilt in people, very few would go these places. Most of the people are going only because there



always you must be going to the temple or church or mosque and pay the necessary money and respects and works and everything, this is how the whole damn thing has been running. Isn't it so?

What I am telling you is - do whatever you want, but please understand for every action that you perform there is a conse-

# Bring sense in your life



**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)**

is fear, guilt and greed. These are the three forces which are driving you. Look at the prayers, 'Dear God, give me this, give me that, save me, protect me.' What is this? Greed, guilt and fear, isn't it?

They have made the fundamental processes of life as sin, so that you will always feel guilty. So,

quence. If you can bear the consequence joyfully, do whatever you please. If you are the kind who will cry when the consequence comes, right now, you need to calibrate your actions. If you are the kind, no matter what happens to you; if you are going to be hanged tomorrow, you will still go blissfully; do whatever you want. What is the problem?

Every single action: whether physical, mental, emotional or the energy action, whatever you perform, has a consequence to it. Are you ready for the consequence? Being a human being, you must have that much fore-thought, isn't it?

There is no sin. So does it mean everything is punniya? No. No papam, no punniyam. It's all made up by people to keep you under check and control. Your sense is the best control, not guilt. I believe human intelligence is able to control itself. There is no need for some other God to control all of you. If you allow your intelligence to function it will control you, isn't it? It will bring sense to your life.

## Inspiration Driving Institute



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Toronto, ON M3C 1P2, Canada

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ALL ARE WELCOME

Session Info:

Weekday Morning Session \*: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

OR

Weekday Evening Session: 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Saturday 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Sunday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

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Website: [www.ishafoundation.org](http://www.ishafoundation.org)

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Email: [Toronto@ishafoundation.org](mailto:Toronto@ishafoundation.org)



by Col. R. Hariharan

Sri Lanka appears to be following Hindu philosophy's four ways of dealing with people - Sama, Dana, Bheda and Dand - in defusing the Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora's potential to incubate separatist militancy of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) kind.

While Sama uses logical reasoning and common sense to explain one's position, Dana is the classical carrot ploy of offering incentives - as Americans say 'if you can't win them, buy them.' Bheda the third option is the one that politicians indulge all the time - create a split to win over a section. Dand, the last resort is to use force (or the stick, the other half of the proverbial carrot ploy).

The recent high profile public projection of the former LTTE international affairs representative and a high security prisoner Kumaran Pathmanathan (KP) is apparently a part of Sri Lanka's Bheda strategy. It fits in well with the larger Sri Lankan game plan to handle the Tamil Diaspora. Already it seems to have worked as a few known personalities of the Tamil Diaspora (who had supported the LTTE in the past) have agreed to join hands with KP and participate in the reconstruction process in the North.

KP had confirmed this in a series of media interviews recently. According to him his newly formed NGO outfit 'The North-East Rehabilitation and Development Organisation' (NERDO) located in Vavuniya, was preparing to play a key role in the rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement processes. With years of overseas exposure in his LTTE days, KP had built influential Diaspora connections. While all of them may not join KP's efforts, he seems to have thrown a spanner in the works of sections of the Diaspora to rebuild a unified organisation to carry forward the LTTE cause. Of course, hard boiled LTTE acolytes would now find justification to call him a quisling.

Justifying his action to collaborate with the government, KP said it was essential for Tamils to realise the ground realities in a post-LTTE era in the island nation and review its strategy to meet the new challenges. His said he was only "concerned about the welfare of the people, particularly children, though some seek fresh funding to cause mayhem. People are fed up with war and every effort should be made to alleviate their suffering without playing politics with a purely humanitarian motive." This is so true. Logical reasoning with LTTE supporters had never worked successfully in the past when the LTTE's flag was flying high. But words coming from a senior leader like KP in times of adversity would definitely create at least second

# Sri Lanka Using Sama, Dana, Bheda and Dand strategy against Tamil Diaspora

thoughts in their minds.

In his interview, KP comes out as a man of sound common sense and pragmatism. He attributed the defeat of the LTTE to the change in global political leaders' attitude to the LTTE after the 9/11 al Qaeda attack and the US led war on Jihadi terrorism in its wake. Prabhakaran did not realise the urgent need to change the LTTE strategy to suit the new environment. KP's observation "there is a new world order today, which does not tolerate armed campaigns and that is the hard reality," showed a realism much needed by those still voicing LTTE slogans.

The increasing public projection of KP in spite of his detention has caused uneasiness among Tamil politicians who consider it as Rajapaksa's ploy to destabilise them. This fear is probably justified as KP is no ordinary prisoner. Normally as a member of the inner cabinet of Prabhakaran he should be cooling his heels in the Sri Lankan version of the Guantanamo Bay, where his former colleagues are awaiting prosecution. His arrest in Malaysia and rendition was the biggest story of the year after the defeat of the LTTE.

But even before KP completed his first year of imprisonment, rumours are thick that the elusive former chief arms procurer of the LTTE, may rise like the proverbial phoenix from the ashes of Tamil militancy to join the political mainstream. And if the media space he is already hogging, even as a prisoner, is any indication the process for his political anointment has already started. It fits in well with a series of stories that started with his much publicised visit to Vanni in the company of Tamil Diaspora leaders to look at the state of rehabilitation and the formation of a NGO for canalising contributions from the Diaspora thereafter.

KP's candid interviews bearing his views not only on the LTTE's defeat and Tamils suffering but also his favourable comments on the Defence Secretary and the President came as icing on the cake of his publicity blitz. There is no doubt that KP's privileged public access is part of a Sri Lankan game plan. However, his political rehabilitation may come through only after his evidence as a crown witness is fully milked during the prosecution of 737 LTTE hard core cadres in custody. This process could take a year to complete unless special courts are set up. If this surmise is correct, probably KP is slated to occupy a place in the political firmament in 2011.

Even before the war, Sri Lanka had embarked upon an effort to make it difficult for LTTE to retain its foothold in many countries. The President, prime minister, and the foreign minister in the past had stressed this aspect in their international visits and appearances. Apart

from these efforts, Sri Lanka said it was launching with the help of INTERPOL a coordinated effort to dismantle LTTE's international network. These efforts got a big push when Sri Lankan military intelligence recently unearthed highly classified documents and diaries of Castro, former head of the LTTE's international wing, at Viswamadu. These documents have provided details of LTTE international activists engaged in human trafficking, arms smuggling and financial bases in East Asia, Western Europe, Canada and Africa.

In this context it is interesting to note that the Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa touched upon this aspect while addressing the Galle dialogue on maritime security conference over the week end. He said, "no matter how powerful we are individually, so long as we act in isolation, we will be ineffective against threats arising from the trans-national operations of non-state actors."

Can Sri Lanka wean over the Tamil Diaspora from the Eelam cause and support to resurrection of Tamil militancy?

To answer yes to this question would be oversimplifying a complex problem compounded by uneven composition of the Diaspora. And it would also be ignoring the historical realities of how the Tamil Diaspora became the main supporters of Tamil militancy. The Tamil Diaspora is neither uniform nor clearly segmented in their support to the Eelam cause. Basically they act in two planes. One is on the emotional plane based upon their own bitter experience over the years, having lost their kith and kin. Their inability to directly go the aid of their kin when they are still suffering makes them angry now. Swayed by emotions on happenings in Sri Lanka the majority probably belong to this category. The Sri Lankan strategies



Kumaran Pathmanathan (KP)

aided by KP would probably work on this segment, provided political initiatives are also taken in tandem.

The other segment has a much deeper ideological belief in preserving the Tamil identity and creation the Tamil Eelam as the only process to do it. This segment has its origins even before the LTTE was born. This segment is deeply suspicious of majority Sinhalese's political intentions due to historical experience. And it had been the fountainhead of separatism. It would probably be never wholly won over by the reasoning of the type KP dispenses. However, he may make a dent in its system of beliefs.

This segment needs political solutions to disprove their ingrained beliefs. These have not been forthcoming for the last three decades from successive Sri Lankan governments. And even now little has been done, other than talking about implementing even a half way house solution like the 13th amendment to the constitution.

Prof Rohan Gunaratne, Sri Lanka's own high profile terrorism analyst of international repute, touched upon this home truth while speaking on post war challenges of Sri Lanka in Colombo last week. He said "failure of Sri Lankan leaders to govern a multi-ethnic and a multi-

religious society since independence precipitated Sri Lanka's ethnopolitical conflict. Sri Lanka's political masters compromised Sri Lanka's long term national and strategic interests for short term political gain. Unless Sri Lankan politicians build the understanding to never again to play ethnic and religious based politics, poison the ground by radicalizing its youth, and reinforce ethnic and religious divisions, the country is likely to suffer a repetition of its unfortunate past." The Sri Lanka government and the national leadership would do well to heed his words of caution as there is no indication they are attending to this vital aspect of political confidence building.

Unless this is attended to mere Machiavellian strategies in handling the Diaspora would not provide a satisfactory solution.

**(Col R Hariharan, a retired Military Intelligence specialist on South Asia, served with the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka as Head of Intelligence. He is associated with the Chennai Centre for China Studies and the South Asia Analysis Group. E-Mail: colhari@yahoo.com Blog: www.colhariharan.org)**

## Canada - We Complain, the World Compliments

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We should appreciate that Canada has not confronted any particular ethnic, religious, or political groups. In fact, Canada never joined as the confronting fighters in the Iraq or Afghanistan wars. In Afghanistan, we are participating due to our obligations to NATO. Internally Canada never deprives the rights of certain groups of people or relaxes its hate crime regulations. There might some small incidents that might have been instigated by certain individuals, and even in those cases Canada has stood firm in protecting the constitutional rights of the victims

Let us now look at the future of Canada. In the future, there is going to be more of a decentralized economy away from Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec to other provinces. There is a concentration of economic activities that have already moved from Ontario to some other provinces due to more of the pulling and pushing forces. The security and protection of the Canadian North is essential. The exports of raw minerals may have to be turned into finished products more than now. Since North American free trade is not moving as was expected, the exten-

sion, search and exploration of new markets are one of the top most priorities. Last but not least, the baby boomers expected that more babies would replace them, but the decline in the natural increase in population does not give us much hope, therefore, Canadian immigration policies have to meet the challenge of the shortage of man power. I am not worried, we have faced many challenges before and we will do it again.

In closing allow me to say, this is my country. I love it and I love its people. Let us all be proud to be Canadians.

# Sirimavo Bandaranaike: 50th anniversary of world's first woman Prime Minister



by Gopalakrishna Gandhi  
 Month of July this year marked 50 years since the world beheld its first woman prime minister. I was about 14 and knew but little of Ceylon when I read the banner story 'Bandaranaike shot'. 'Will he live?' was the first question that crossed my teenage mind gripped by the description of the outrage and of the stricken prime minister rushing in from the verandah of his home, calling out "Sirima, Sirima!"

That must have been the first time the world outside of the island really heard of her. India had seen her visiting with her husband. Prime Minister Nehru, ever the one to take a watchful host's interest in the families of visiting heads of government and State, must have warmed to this traditional Kandyan woman and her three children, beside the westernised prime minister of Ceylon.

Speaking in chiselled English, Solomon West Ridgeway Dias Bandaranaike ('SWRD') soared with his words and ideas. In contrast, she was very much on and off the ground. When reports from Colombo suggested that the sudden vacuum created by SWRD's succumbing to the attack may get to be filled by none other than the demure 44-year-old Sirimavo Bandaranaike, there was surprise. How would she manage? At that stage in her life Sirimavo was what wives of prime ministers are taken to be - non-persons to be greeted and spoken to in thought-free courtesy and then, duty done, forgotten. But soon, a patronising appreciation replaced the earlier surprised scepticism.

The new PM was conducting herself at discussions with ease, if also with modesty; her English was plain but effective, her thinking sharp, her grasp of 'hard' issues sharper, and she was 'growing into her office' remarkably well and fast. Sirimavo discovered the prime minister in herself and invented herself in the prime minister. Where she made an early and acknowledged mark was in her clear realisation that in governance, in diplomacy and in the many dimensions of political leadership, the surest guide is one's own instinct.

To Sirimavo Bandaranaike also belongs the credit of consolidating something that had been 'started' earlier by Dudley Senanayake, namely, the principle of a next of kin succeeding a leader in political office. Outside of monarchic arrangements, a

leadership vacuum being filled by a next of kin amid acclaim, and then legitimised in free and fair elections, is and will remain a Sirimavo accomplishment and a Sirimavo contribution to the dynamics of political succession in South Asia.

Few could have anticipated Sirimavo's role in the Asia of 1962 and in the non-aligned world. After China announced a ceasefire on the Sino-Indian border, a settlement of the border question could have been expected to come; it did not. Indeed, it could not, given the circumstances. Sirimavo, just over two years' old in prime ministership, invited the governments of five other non-aligned countries - Burma, Cambodia, Ghana, Indonesia and the United Arab Republic - for a discussion on the situation. A set of 'Colombo Proposals' emerged, which India accepted, establishing the PM of Ceylon on the Asian stage, with intercontinental salience.

Bilaterally, India saw Sirimavo take up with verve the question of Ceylon's 'Stateless' Tamils of Indian origin. The issue pertaining to these hard-working men and women on the island's tea and rubber plantations had defied solution for years, with Nehru saying that they "are or should be citizens of Ceylon".

In 1964, discussions between Sirimavo and India's new PM Lal Bahadur Shastri led to a policy change culminating in the Sirimavo-Shastri Agreement. This agreement divided that population between the (smaller) number that Ceylon would accept and the (larger) number that would be repatriated to India, the fate of the balance to be decided on a later date. Who stays and who leaves was to be determined by choice - in theory, a voluntary exercise.

But with the 'quotas' determined and the stayers' quota quickly over-subscribed, the agreement lost its voluntarism and became a fait accompli for the plantation workers, with the stayers feeling relieved and the leavers bewildered by the abyss of uncertainty ahead.

The Sirimavo-Shastri Agreement was compounded the following decade by a Sirimavo-Indira Agreement in which the 'residuaries' were shared half-and-half between India and Sri Lanka, in another diplomatic accomplishment for Sirimavo. These two agreements, and the decisions on the islet of Kachchativu, showed the world's



Sirimavo Bandaranaike

first woman PM handling negotiations with her Indian counterparts (both newer than her in prime ministership) with the confidence of a 'senior' PM albeit of the 'smaller' neighbour. Size is one thing, strength another.

Sirimavo Bandaranaike lost office around the same time as Indira Gandhi did in 1977, in a democratic corrective to Emergency Rule. Sirimavo then had her civil rights taken away by President Jayewardene, seen by many as Prime Minister Morarji Desai's Lankan equivalent. But the very populace that had voted Sirimavo out, disapproved of that extreme 'punishment' and returned her to power.

Which reminds me that Sirimavo had a striking head and a strikingly broad forehead. And her face, prime ministerial or not, one could not pass by without feeling, 'What an unusual person'. Shortly after assuming duties as High Commissioner for India in September 2000,

I called on her in her Rosmead Place residence, the same house SWRD had been assassinated in. She was physically weak. But the stroke she had suffered hadn't got the better of her mind. Her forehead glowed, her voice though soft, had a resonance to it. "How is Delhi?" she asked. The question could have meant many things. And then turning to the Indian High Commissioner's house in Colombo - India House - she said, "Large house, lovely garden." I asked her to visit. "Will be glad to do so," she said. But that was not to be.

On October 10, less than a month after my calling on her, she was gone. It was a polling day. She was returning home after casting her vote in Horagolla when she took ill and was given treatment in a small medical centre that happened to be on the way. But it was too late. I reached the house as the lifeless form was being brought in. It was significant (I told the family) that a person whose voting rights had been taken away should have ended her career as a democratically-elected leader, just after casting her vote. "With voters' ink fresh on her finger," Sunethra, her eld-



Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike with Soviet Union Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin, Tissa Wijeyeratne and Anura Bandaranaike

est-born, added poignantly. "She was no ordinary woman," said the younger daughter, President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga.

Sirimavo's and SWRD's only son, Anura, came straight from electioneering, crushed.

Sirimavo had, barely a few hours earlier voted in the constituency he was contesting from, but from a party's that was not hers. Such is democracy. Sirimavo

Bandaranaike was no ordinary woman. But this wasn't just because she was the world's first woman prime minister.

(Gopalakrishna Gandhi was Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka from 2000 to 2002. This is a revised version of an essay in a volume being issued in Sri Lanka to mark 50 years of Sirimavo Bandaranaike becoming prime minister. The views expressed by the author are personal)

## Ten-Year Infrastructure Plan Will Support Economic Growth

### McGuinty Government Seeks Public Input on Long-Term Plan

Ontario is developing a new, 10-year plan for infrastructure that will support the Open Ontario Plan to create jobs and new opportunities for growth.

The McGuinty government is asking to hear Ontarians' perspectives to help create the new 10-year Infrastructure Plan. The plan will identify key trends, issues, and priorities to help modernize and expand public infrastructure over the next 10 years. This will help boost productivity, support economic growth, improve public services and enhance our quality of life.

Ontarians are invited to provide their input on infrastructure priorities in their communities and across Ontario, and can visit the ministry's website for more information.

Building on recent short-term infrastructure investments and the successful \$30-billion ReNew Ontario plan, the province is developing a new long-term infrastructure plan to meet Ontario's future needs. The final plan is expected to be released next year.

You can e-mail your submission to infrastructure.submissions@ontario.ca, fax it to 416-325-8851 or send by mail to: The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, c/o Infrastructure Policy and Planning Division,

Frost South, 6th Floor, Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7.

"The McGuinty government's new 10-year Infrastructure Plan will build on our record of modernizing and renewing our schools, hospitals and other public infrastructure. Since 2003 our investments have helped create future economic growth and with input from Ontarians during these consultations we will continue to support the vital infrastructure that make our communities stronger - and make Ontario a better place to live, work and play."

- Brad Duguid  
 Minister of Energy and Infrastructure

### QUICK FACTS

Total infrastructure investment by the province this year and in the past five years totals approximately \$60 billion.

Construction is underway or completed at more than 100 major hospital projects and more than 13,000 school renewal projects across Ontario.

The \$30-billion ReNew Ontario investment plan helped tackle Ontario's infrastructure deficit and was completed in 2008-09, a full year ahead of schedule.

Ontario is providing record infrastructure investments in 2009-10 and 2010-11 that will create and support more than 300,000 jobs in Ontario over two years.



The Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham (TCASD) participated in the celebration of Canada's 143rd birthday at the Kinsmen Park in Pickering and Rotary Park in Ajax. Celebrating multi-culturalism, It was a great opportunity for TCASD to showcase the Tamil cul-

# Canada Day Celebrations

ture at the Canada Day celebrations with the Town of Ajax and the City of Pickering.

At the Rotary Park TCASD conducted Cultural Fashion Flair, modeling a variety of sarees, lenghas and punjabi suits, emceed by Robert Gruber Manager of Community & Cultural Development with Town of Ajax and Raveena Rajasingham President of TCASD.

At the Kinsmen Park TCASD youth performed dances. At both

parks, TCASD booth was filled with children and adults lined up to get anything ranging from dragons and maple leaves to traditional henna designs drawn on their hands.

This year TCASD introduced a new activity to have the people's name written in Tamil.

Overall it was a great success! TCASD is grateful to both cities for the opportunity to share their Canada day festivities with the residents of Ajax and Pickering.



Sigogini Sivarajah modelling in Punjabi suit at the Town of Ajax Canada Day celebration



Laurina Mahendran Modelling in an elegant saree at the Town of Ajax Canada Day celebration Pickering Canada Day celebration



TCASD youth doing henna designs at the City of Pickering Canada Day celebration

## Our Lady of Madhu

The feast of Our lady of Madhu will be celebrated at Marylake on Saturday, August 14th



11.30 a.m.: Holy Rosary followed by Holy Mass  
3.30 p.m. Benediction

For more info: 416-300-7026



Some children had their name written in Tamil at the City of Pickering Canada Day celebration

### Mark Your Calendars:

#### 10th annual BBQ on Saturday, August 14th

DTA's 10th Annual BBQ & Sports Activity at Paulynn Park on Ravenscroft north of Rosland in Ajax. 11.00AM to Dusk Saturday August 14th

All are welcome, fun filled activities planned for toddlers to seniors with BBQ, traditional Kottu Rotti (yes! freshly made to order by our famous chefs) More details

905.428.7007. [www.durhamtamils.com](http://www.durhamtamils.com)

#### 9th annual Youth Festival in September 2010

Coming soon in September 2010: Durham Tamil Youth present our 9th annual Youth Festival, showcasing the Talents of all Durham Tamil Youth! everyone's welcome to participate. It will be a Red Carpet Premiere event, Be Part of it! .

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT TCASD

### TCASD Outing and Fun Fair

Date: Aug 14th, 2010

You are invited to join us for fun fair activities at a special destination. Special activities are planned for children and seniors and adults. Please call 905-576-9937 for more information

### Competitions

August 28th, 2010

Math, English, Tamil & General Knowledge

For more information call 416-857-0846 or visit us at [www.tamilociety.ca](http://www.tamilociety.ca)  
Everyone Welcome!

### Believe in You 2010

Date: September 25th, 2010

Venue: J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate

Time: 6 PM

This is talent show showcasing the talents of children and youth from ages 3 year old and up. If you live in Durham and not yet registered to participate in this spectacular show please call 416-857-0846. We welcome everyone!

Call before August 20th.



# Community Picnic, an event with joy ...

Cambridge, Ont.: Waterloo region and Guelph Tamil community held its annual Canada Day picnic at the Christie Lake Conservation area, Hamilton. A large number of members and their friends attended this event. Cricket, Volleyball, Swimming and Fishing were the main highlights of the day. Mr. Nada Logan organized "Charcoal BBQ" to raise funds. Plenty of food was distributed among the attendees. It was another successful event organized by the Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region.



*Bharathanatya Arangetram*

Bryanka Pirubakaran  
Disciple of "Adal Arasi"  
Smt. Senthilselvi Sureswaran

Saturday August 14th 2010  
at 5:30 pm  
Chinese Cultural Center  
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Durham Tamil Association  
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# HARMONY 2010

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# Caribana 2010



The Caribana Parade is the largest Caribana Festival event in North America and this year it celebrated its 43 anniversary. This event is made up of a series of Bands that compete for best costumes in this annual parade. The Caribana Parade consists of over a million participants including steel pan bands, live soca, calypso, reggae and salsa performers as well as elaborate masqueraders in costume. **Photos by: Jadhu**





# "Delma Exchange which is backed by a prestigious Bank is a safe and sure way to send money remittances to Sri Lanka", says Rajendra Theagarajah, Hatton National Bank Chief

## Delma Exchange Money Transfer Service completes one year of successful operations

**By Siva Sivapragasam**

Completing one year of successful money transfer services, Delma Exchange which is a division of the prestigious Hatton National Bank hosted a cocktail reception to it's well-wishers recently at the Markham Holiday Inn Hotel.

Present at the function was Mr. Rajendra Theagarajah, Managing Director and CEO of Hatton National Bank in Sri Lanka. Hatton National Bank has been judged as the best commercial

Bank in Sri Lanka by Euromoney in 2009. Hatton National Bank has won several prestigious awards during the stewardship of Mr.Theagarajah. He is currently the President of the Sri Lanka Banks Association and holds Directorships in several other institutions.

Several leading members of the Sri Lankan community representing Business organizations, community services, Bankers, former staff of HNB and the Media were present at the reception.

Mr. Rajendra Theagarajah, the Managing Director and CEO of Hatton National Bank who was personally present at the function spoke on the advantages of sending money remittances through Delma Exchange which is backed by HNB.

He outlined the setting up of Delma Exchange last year and also traced the major activities of the Hatton National Bank with special reference to the prestigious awards the Bank has received for it's activities.

Ms.Tharini Mahesan, President of Delma Exchange welcomed the guests and thanked the customers for the support extended to Delma Exchange over the past year.

She remarked that sending money through Delma Exchange is a sure and safe way as it is backed by a leading Bank in Sri Lanka and recipients will find it easy to obtain the money in Sri Lanka as the Bank operates several branches throughout the country.

Mr. Herath, Senior Trade Commissioner and Deputy Consul-General of the Consulate of Sri Lanka in Toronto also spoke and encouraged Sri Lankans to utilize the services of Delma Exchange as a safe way to send money remittances to their loved ones in Sri Lanka. Also present at the event was Hatton National Bank's Wellawatte Branch Senior Manager Mr. Sreeharan.

Seen here are pictures taken at the function **by Gnane**



Mr. Rajendra Theagarajah - M.D. and CEO of HNB lighting the traditional oil lamp before the commencement of the function



Left to Right - Tharini Mahesan-President, Delma Exchange, Mr. Sreedharan - Senior Manager -Wellawatte Branch, HNB, Mr. Theagarajah - M.D and CEO of HNB and Mr. Rohan - HNB.



Ms.Tharini Mahesan, President of Delma Exchange lighting the traditional Oil Lamp



Picture taken after the lighting of the traditional Lamp



Tharini Mahesan - President, Delma Exchange welcoming the guests.



Keynote Speaker Mr. Rajendra Theagarajah - M.D. and CEO of Hatton National Bank addressing the audience



Former staff of HNB now in Canada



A section of the guests at the function

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# Tamil Literary Garden Awards - 2010



The Tamil Literary Garden which was established in 2001 is a Toronto based organization committed towards promoting the development of Tamil Literature internationally. The mandate includes the presentation of Awards on an annual basis to those creative persons who have made significant contributions towards the development of the

Tamil Language. The Annual Awards function was held last month in Toronto.

The Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards this year were presented in Chennai to two of the most outstanding scholars. Noted epigraphist Iravatham Mahadevan received the award for his research in ancient Tamil scripts and the other recipient

was Kovai Gnani, a long time researcher and writer who brought Tamilology and Marxism together.

In addition to the Lifetime Achievement Awards, the following awards were also presented at a ceremony held in Seeley Hall, University of Toronto on 17th July 2010:

Fiction award was presented

to Jeyamohan for his novel 'Kotravai.' while Non-fiction awards were given to two writers, Dr N. Subramanian and A. Sivasubramanian.

Poetry award was given to Sukumaran for his collection of poems and the Information Technology in Tamil Award to Tamil Linux KDE Group.

The student essay award was

presented to Kirubhalini Giruparajah. The award ceremony concluded with a talk from Dr Sascha Ebeling, Professor, University of Chicago, USA.

Seen here are some pictures taken at the Awards function.



Award given by Balamurugan and Bama



Non-fiction award given by Lalitha, Jayaraman and Rabendrarvarman. Received by Dr N. Subramanian



Non-fiction award given by Jesudasan and Sakuntala Ganesh. Dilip Kumar receiving award on behalf of recipient



Poetry Award given by Mr. Nandakumar and Joe Edirmanasinghe. Also in the picture is Mrs. Rajalakshmi Nandakumar.



Student essay award. given by Bahir Vivekanand and Mrs Subramaniam., received by Kirubhalini Giruparajah.



Special award given to Dr Sascha Ebeling by Dr M. Sanjayan.

## GLOBALMEDIC FOR PAKISTAN FLOODS

Pakistan is currently suffering the worst floods to hit the country since 1929. The flooding has affected over 12 million people, with more than 1,600 people dead. In response to this disaster, GlobalMedic has deployed its Rapid Response Team to Swat, Nowshera and Charsadda, three of the worst affected districts in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Province, along with the following water purification assets;

- 1.5 million Aquatabs - producing 1.5 million litres of purified drinking water
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- 23,040 sachets of Pur - providing 230,400 litres of purified drinking water
- 1 Nomad Water Purification Unit - producing 100 litres of water per minute
- 3 Trekker Water Purification Units - producing 12 litres of water per minute

With these supplies, the GlobalMedic Rapid Response Team will be able to provide clean drinking water to over

85,000 people per day. Updates and images from the field will be released as frequently as possible. GlobalMedic's Matt Capobianco is leading the Rapid Response Team in Pakistan. The media are invited to contact Matt for interviews while he is in the field.

Media contact:  
 Matt Capobianco  
 Phone: 011 92 336 989 5249  
 Email: mcapobianco@glob-almedic.ca  
 Website: www.globalmedic.ca  
 Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/pages/GlobalMedic/40657997157  
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### About GlobalMedic

GlobalMedic is the operational arm of the David McAntony Gibson Foundation (DMGF), a registered Canadian charity that runs capacity building programs in post conflict nations and provides disaster relief services to large scale catastrophes around the world.



The team is staffed by professional rescuers specifically paramedics, police officers, and firefighters who volunteer their time and skills. Together, they form a Rescue Unit designed to save victims of structural collapse; a Water Purification Unit designed to provide clean drinking water to victims; and an Emergency Medical Unit that uses inflatable hospitals to restore medical infrastructure. GlobalMedic has deployed over 50 times in the past four years. Disaster responses have included tsunamis in Sri Lanka and the Solomon Islands, earthquakes in Indonesia, Pakistan and China; Hurricanes in Guatemala and Haiti; Typhoons in the Philippines and Myanmar and floods in Bangladesh, Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

## Indian Bank to open branch in Jaffna to channel Delhi's rehabilitation aid

The Chennai-based, state-run Indian Bank is planning to open a branch in Jaffna, and to facilitate an Indian government loan to Sri Lanka of US\$ 200 million for the rehabilitation of internally displaced Tamils, media reports said. "Talks [with Sri Lanka] are in an advanced stage at the moment," chairman and managing director Mr. TM Bhasin told The Times of India earlier this week. Indian Bank has at present over 1,700 branches, the majority in Tamil Nadu (757) and Andhra Pradesh (230).

Asked about Indian Bank's plans in Sri Lanka, Mr. T.M. Bhasin, Chairman of Indian Bank told the Economic Times the Indian government has decided to lend Sri Lanka Rs.1,000 crore (USD 200m) as assistance towards rehabilitation of internally displaced Tamils there and "in

order to channel the assistance through our bank we are opening a branch in Jaffna".

"There is also good business potential in Kandy," he added.

A couple of months ago, the bank had sent representatives to Jaffna to evaluate the possibility of setting up a branch, the Times of India said meanwhile.

Indian Bank already has a branch in Colombo and is also looking at the possibility of opening a branch in Kandy, as well as a representative office in Jakarta in Indonesia, the Times of India said.

Indian Bank had once had a branch in Jaffna, but it was closed some 14-15 years ago due to a resumption of Sri Lanka's armed conflict, Mr. Bhasin told The Economic Times in April.

Courtesy: TamilNet

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"Every One Counts" is the theme of World Population Day 2010, which falls on 11th of July. This is an annual event, which seeks to raise awareness about global population issues. This year's theme is about encouraging people to participate in their official census and other methods of collecting data on populations. The event, established by the United Nations Development Programme in 1989, seeks an increased public awareness of population issues like importance of family planning, gender equality, poverty, maternal health, sexual and reproductive health, and human rights which have a serious impact on the world's development and environment.

#### World - India

The World population is estimated to be around 6.8 billion by end of June 2010 as against 5 billion in July 1987. At the current rate of growth in population, the number of people in the world is likely to reach 7 billion by October 2012, according to analysts.

The population in India has increased more than three times from 350 million in 1947 to 1.15 billion in 2010. As per Report of the Working Group on Population Stabilization - 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012), Indian population is expected to overtake that of China by the year 2030 and the country will be the largest in the world with an estimated population of around 1.53 billion. The annual growth rate of population in India has fallen from 2.14 during the decade (1981-1991) to 1.93 during the decade (1991-2001), according to the population census data released by the Registrar General of India. (Population projections upto the year 2026 were done by a Technical Group constituted by the National Commission on Population and according to these estimates, the population of India in 2026 is expected to be around 1.40 billion.)

#### National Population Policy 2000

The Government has adopted a National Population Policy in February 2000, which provides for holistic approach for achieving population stabilization in the country. It affirms the commitment of the Government towards voluntary and informed choice and consent of citizens while availing of reproductive health care services and continuation of

# World Population likely to reach 7 Billion by 2012

the target-free approach in administering family planning services.

#### Initiatives To Check Population Growth

In pursuance of the National Population Policy, the Government had set up "National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)" and "Jansankya Sthirata Kosh (JSK)" to check the growth of population. The aims and objectives include encouragement of Fixed day, Fixed Place Family Planning Services round the year through 24X7 Primary Health Centres and other facilities under the Health Mission, increasing the basket of choice by systematically and carefully introducing new and effective contraceptives in the programme, increase in the compensation package for sterilization. To support this, a National Family Planning Insurance Scheme was also started since November 2005 to compensate the sterilization acceptors for failures, complications and deaths. With a view to achieve good health for people, especially the poor and the underprivileged, the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012) aims at reducing the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) to one per one thousand live births, Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) to 28 per one thousand live births and the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to 2.1.

#### Infant Mortality

India's infant mortality per 1000 live births is 53 in 2009 as against 46 across the world. The total fertility rate in the same year is 2.68 as against world's 2.54. The 11th five year plan aims at raising public health spending to at least 2 per cent of GDP as against the present 1.45 (as per 2009-2010 budget estimates.) In this direction, the allocation for the Rural Health Mission and a number of other programmes has also been enhanced substantially in the first four year of the Plan period. As per the Sample Registration System of Registrar General of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the infant mortality rate is estimated to be 53 per thousand lives for the year 2008. As per a report published by UNICEF, India is ranked 49 with 143 countries having a lower Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) than India. Another UNICEF report in 2010 said India ranked at 49th out of 193 countries in descending order of the Under Five Mortality Rate (U5MR). The government has launched a new training pro-



gramme called "Navajit Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram" for providing care to the new born at birth to reduce the neo-natal deaths. The programme takes care of the main components of care at birth like resuscitation, management of hypothermia, infection prevention and promotion of early initiation of breastfeeding. The new programme will complement the existing programme and will be of help in reducing Infant Mortality Rate (IMR). Several states are also setting up Sick New Born Care Units (SNCUs), Child Stabilization Units and New Born Care Corners under the National Rural Health Mission.

#### Sex Ratio and Girl Child

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the scheme of "Dhanalakshmi" as a pilot programme to provide a set of staggered financial incentives for families to encourage them to retain the girl child. The Government has also declared 24th of January every year as a "National Child Day" to bring to centre-stage the problems faced by the girl child and create national awareness. The Government has also taken several measures to improve the sex ratio at birth in the country. During the 1991 Census, sex ratio in the country was 927 females per one thousand males, which increased to 933 females per 1000 males during the 2001 census. The Government has enacted the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selections) Act, 1994 under which stringent punishments have been prescribed for using pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic techniques to illegally determine sex of the foetus.

#### Life Expectancy At Birth

The average global life expectancy at birth reported in

the "Human Development Report" 2009 is 67.5 years whereas the average life expectancy at birth for India is 63.4 years.

#### U.N. Millennium

##### Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG)-5 mandates a reduction in the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015. The targets set by India under the Rural Health Mission (2005-2012) are in line with the MDG goals and aim to reduce MMR to less than 100 per one lakh live births by the year 2012. As per the recent survey report released in 2009 by the Registrar General of India, the MMR has declined from 301 per one lakh live births during the period 2001-03 to 254 per one lakh live births during the period 2004-05. The Government has taken several steps to reduce maternal mortality. They included "Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)", a cash benefit scheme to promote institutional delivery with a special focus on pregnant women belonging to below poverty line and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

#### National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)

The Government has launched the flagship programme of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to improve primary health care system and to provide medical facilities to citizens with special focus on 18 states. Population stabilization is one of its objectives.

The Mission provides a thrust for reduction of child and maternal mortality and reduction of the fertility rates. The main aim of the Mission, launched in April 2005, is to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary healthcare facilities, especially to the poor and vulner-

able sections of the population. It also seeks to strengthen the public health delivery services at all levels. The initiatives launched by the Health Mission aim to reduce mortality and morbidity so that the life expectancy of the people will improve. The Mission also includes, the second phase of Reproductive and Child Health Programmes (RCH-II), which intends to improve the performance of family welfare by reducing total fertility rate, maternal and infant morbidity and mortality and unwanted pregnancies. It provides assistance to state governments for strengthening the public health system by way of improving health infrastructure, augmentation of human resources and community involvement in delivery services. One of the Goals of the Mission is to achieve the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1 by 2012. TFR in India, which was 2.9 in 2005 has reduced to 2.6 in 2008. So far, under the Health Mission, 7.49 lakh "Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs)" have been selected and 5.65 lakh trained. Around 18,776 doctors and 87,973 para-medical personnel have been engaged on contract basis.

#### Health Expenditure

The Government has raised the plan outlay for the health sector to Rs.72,731 crore in the first four years of the 11th Plan (2007-2011) from an actual expenditure of Rs.36,079 crore in the 10th five year plan (2002-03 to 2006-07). The World Bank has committed to extend an assistance of 360 Million US Dollars for RCH-II programme during the period from August 2006 to September 2010.

#### Women Empowerment And Youth

The Government has been implementing several projects since long to contain population growth on its own and also in collaboration with several external agencies. Realizing that women empowerment is key to success, the Government had already launched several schemes to ensure good health, quality education and reduce poverty among the people. All out efforts are also being made to focus on country's youth population. The country has nearly 315 million young people aged 10-24 years who are needed to be educated about sexual and reproductive health choices.

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by S.Skandakumar

When that great bard, William Shakespeare wrote the lines, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players", he could not have envisaged an off spinning genius from Sri Lanka entering that arena almost four and a half centuries later.

As the curtain comes down on a truly memorable theatrical which has held the undivided attention of the cricketing world for almost two decades, that spinning genius will soon take his final bow before a world audience that will rise as one, to repeated encores. In a career studded with intrigue, challenges, and phenomenal achievements, Muthiah Muralitharan, will shortly leave the Test arena with life's most precious assets, Humility and Integrity, securely intact.

In 1991, when a shy young schoolboy from St Anthony's College, Katugastota entered the playing field of Sri Lanka's finest cricket venue, the Colombo Oval, to pursue a professional career, the talent was plain to see. So it

# Murali: A Legend of Cricket Retires

came as no surprise when he caught the eye of the Cricket Board's spinners coach then, that amiable Australian Bruce Yardley, when he wheeled down nearly 50 overs for as many runs taking 7 wickets against Hugh Morris' visiting England A team the same year.

'That guy is going to rock world cricket before long' were Bruce's prophetic words as we reflected on the match over a pint of beer. In the ensuing years Murali did more than that as he set out to put the nation's cricket squarely on the world map, along with his ever loyal skipper Arjuna, team mates Aravinda Sanath, Mahanama, Tillekeratne, Vaas, Gurusinghe, Kaluwitarana, Dharmasena, and Pramodya in particular, the warriors who brought home the prestigious world cup in 1996.

In August 1998, in the traditional one off test that the English Cricket Board was accustomed to grudgingly grant Sri Lanka in those days, Sanath's batting heroics and Murali's spinning wizardry brought our nation her first ever test match win on England's soil, appropriately on their own Oval; a match that will be remembered

for a sensational collapse of the hosts on the final day. With both sides crossing 400 runs in their first innings one could not have blamed the pundits for predicting a certain draw at the end of the fourth day's play.

John Crawley's wicket on the stroke of lunch on the final day and Darren Gough's dismissal, bowled round his legs to seal victory, sent ripples through the media that the maestro had produced yet another variation to his spinning repertoire as he finished with 16 wickets in that historic win. Murali's triumphant return to the Island led to celebrations at his cricketing home the Tamil Union, where he was felicitated for securing 200 test wickets. Even before the champagne glasses could dry, Murali was on to 300, then 400, 500... a speed that led to envy and deplorable efforts to distract and downgrade his achievements. Instead they only succeeded in strengthening the genius' mental resolve as he added another 592 wickets in the years following that initial felicitation in 1998.

In his manager Kushil Gunasekera, he found the all perfect gentleman who recounts with



**800 and out: Muthiah Muralitharan celebrates his landmark achievement Photo: AFP**

humour that in their 8 year relationship, he has often been left to wonder as to who was managing whom !! The Foundation of Goodness, a truly humanitarian project that Murali and Kushil initiated post -tsunami, has attracted some of the finest names in the sporting world as partners and co- sponsors.

When Murali focused on his target for those rendered homeless by that tragedy at 1000, an astonished Kushil inquired if he was talking about his tally of wickets !! The final count to that commitment was 1024 houses and Murali achieved what he set out to do, a reflection of his great-

ness. The encores will reverberate long after the curtain has descended as the cricketing world continues to recall the life and achievements of a cricketing icon and a remarkable human being who never lost the common touch nor the precious values of his upbringing.

Thank You My Friend, and Bless You, ... a fresh challenge now awaits you in the rebuilding of our beautiful nation, and the reconciliation of its wonderful people.

(S.Skandakumar, is a Former Hon. Secretary, Sri Lanka Cricket)

## Annual WALK A THON 2010 by STSP

The Senior Tamils Society of Peel (S.T.S.P) is a community oriented, not for profit organization since 1999.

The Society has a membership of over 700 and it has so far organized seven (7) Walk A Thons since 2003 and will be conducting the eighth (8th) on Saturday, August 28, 2010.

From the funds raised in the last seven Walk A Thons, and have donated over \$ 65,000 to the hospitals in the Peel region and about \$ 10,000 to charity.

The major part of the funds raised will be donated to the hospitals in the Peel region and a portion to the people affected by Human Rights Violations.

**Date & Time:**  
**Saturday 28, August 2010.**  
**From 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.**

Route: Start from Equity Plaza 3085 Hurontario St. (Kirwin & Highway 10) Mississauga.

End at Yarl Co-op Building, 2584 Rugby Road  
(Dundas & Confederation)  
Mississauga.

**"We walk for health and help"**

## Murali should have been made captain of Sri Lankan cricket team



by Durand Appuhamy

No matter what exacting standards the Selectors set for the captaincy of a Test side, Murali would have passed them all summa cum laude. Therefore he merited to be made the captain a long time ago.

Somehow the Selectors ignored him as they did Chaminda Vaas. They appear to be thoroughly prejudiced against bowlers becoming captains of our side. There was no excuse this time, given the fact that the Selectors were privy to Murali's retirement from Test Cricket. They should have made him the captain so that he could have retired as one of the great captains of our cricketing side.

It is not clear whether he will play in the next two Test matches. If he is expected to participate, I

hope the Selectors will consider him and appoint him captain. He has been a match-winner on many occasions in the past. Captaincy would give him enormous satisfaction and a fitting reward for his services to Sri Lankan cricket more than mere verbal encomiums. As captain, if he also manages to win the matches against Dhoni who "stole" the ICC trophy from us, it would really be a glorious retirement.

I would also urge the Kandy Municipal Council to bestow on Murali the Freedom of the City. As someone suggested in The Island newspaper he is really an icon for unifying our divided society. May his example on and off the field be a rallying call to all of us to project our Sri Lankaness first in our lives.

# Nehru Trophy in Brampton



The second Nehru trophy boat race competition held at heart lake by Brampton malayalee samajam was won by jalakeshari boat rowed by new york boat club with philip madathil manager and kunjumali capatin. They defeated Toronto malayalee samjam's eduathu chundan (manager Tomy vallukaran and capatin sam samuel) in photo finishing competition. Nss Canada's youth team rowed boat bharathkesari came up in third place. The best performance award was given to kalladayar boat (manager Titus Vaidhyan).The spectacular event was fun and thrilling for the spectators and for the competitions. The event was watched by many vistiors in the banks of heat lake. The winners received \$1000 and beautifully crafted Nehru trophy sponsored by Manoj karatha.

Courtesy: Harikumar Mannar [freelance journalist]





# Barack as Anti-Christ: End times theology in the age of Obama

By Amarnath  
Amarasingam

Kenneth Alex Randolph is a fifty-six year old former lawyer living in Seattle. When Barack Obama announced his presidential aspirations in 2008, Randolph got to work on a blog that soon attracted some attention, and was later featured on CNN.

The blog presented several pages of evidence - some numerical, some astrological, some Biblical - for his overall argument: Barack Obama was the Antichrist. It is not really known how many people in the United States believe this, but what remains evident is that apocalypticism - and right-wing populism more broadly - is alive and well in the United States.

One of the individuals who first put apocalypticism on the bestseller lists in the United States was a charismatic preacher named Hal Lindsey. His book, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, was published in 1970 and has sold over 35 million copies to date. Apocalyptic thinking entered American politics on the back of an individual deeply inspired by Lindsey's book.

Ronald Reagan was so influenced by Lindsey's book, that he wanted his military leaders to fully understand its significance. With Reagan's blessing, Lindsey was invited to brief the Pentagon on the "divine implications" of their hostilities with the Soviet Union. No other president in recent history has allied apocalypticism and national security with such ease.

Speculation about the identity of the Antichrist has also been a constant presence in the United States. In the early 1960s, President John F. Kennedy was suspected by some writers. After his death, a few waited for Kennedy to rise from his coffin, pointing to the Book of Revelation, which states that the Beast would survive a head wound.

In the 1970s, Henry Kissinger was a suspect, as well as Ayatollah Khomeini (during the hostage crisis), Saddam Hussein (during the Gulf War), and Osama bin Laden (after 9/11). Beginning during the 2008 election cycle, the Internet began teeming with speculation about Obama. Emails circulated widely and amateur videos were posted on YouTube proclaiming strange personality and numerical resemblances between Obama and Biblical statements about the Antichrist.

One of the most popular videos propounding that Obama is the Antichrist is entitled, "Did Jesus Give Us the Name of the Antichrist?" The narrator of the video points to Luke 10:18, which states, "And he said unto them, I saw Satan as lightning falling



from the heights." The video notes that Jesus probably spoke Aramaic, and since Aramaic is the "most ancient form of Hebrew" (which is false) it holds that we can translate the key terms in this verse into Hebrew to see what they really mean. The narrator says that, according to the Strong Hebrew Dictionary, the word for lightning is 'baraq'. Similarly, the word for heights is 'bamah'. The narrator then points out that the sixth letter of the Hebrew alphabet, waw, is often transliterated as a 'u' or 'o' and is mostly used as a conjunction. Thus, "I saw Satan as lightening falling from the heights" would, in Hebrew, be: "I saw Satan as baraq o'bamah". For a thorough treatment and debunking of this popular viral video, see Michael Heiser's PaleoBabble blog.

Another viral video, one which Randolph also takes as strong evidence, argues that Obama's name actually adds up to 666. It approaches the issue through the use of numerology and Gematria (the Hebrew system of assigning numerical value to words and phrases). According to the video, Barack in Arabic means 'blessed', Hussein in Arabic means 'handsome', and Obama is an African word meaning 'leaning'. The video notes that when the Gematria values of blessed (246), handsome (268), and leaning (152) are added together, the sum is 666.

In addition to such obvious contributions by religious tenets, the internet must be seen as one of the main driving forces behind the persistence of apocalyptic thinking and right-wing populism more generally.

This can be understood in two ways. First, the ease with which blogs, forums, and websites are created has given rise to an alternative media, existing outside traditional sources of information, and varying in size and reliability. The internet becomes hugely important for right-wing populists who nurse a deep sense that the individual is under attack, and express a fundamental distrust of those who produce knowledge and sanction truth.

On the internet, any individual

regardless of education or expertise can create websites, dialogue with others in forums or message boards, and produce viral video clips that may be viewed by millions of people.

Second, the internet fosters an environment in which individuals more easily interact with people who think like them. "Instead of getting together with people who are close to us physically, now we can get together with people who are close to us ideologically, psychically, emotionally,




aesthetically," says Farhad Manjoo in his book *True Enough*. In other words, the internet has the potential to create ghettos or enclaves where alternative viewpoints dare not enter. These enclaves only reinforce a belief among right-wing populists and apocalyptic writers that they are privy to certain kinds of knowledge that the rest of society is unable or unwilling to see. They are the embattled vanguards of a fight that the rest of the world does not even realize is taking place.

It is uncertain the extent to which online communities and enclaves, which exist only on the web, have an impact on actual politics. The internet is most powerful - as seen in the Tea Party movement - when it adds to the mobilization already taking place on the ground.



When I asked Randolph whether he planned to take his views to the streets, he argued that the streets of the twenty-first century are on the internet. "If done properly and if the circumstances are just right," he says, "it's clearly possible to reach hundreds of millions of people on those 'streets'. In terms of cost-effectiveness, time consumption, over-coming language and cultural and national barriers, there are no better 'streets' to be active on." Randolph is optimistic, but it remains to be seen whether the rallying cries and slogans of socio-religious movements can be heard when shouted solely, or even primarily, from within the dark alleys of cyberspace.

(Amarnath Amarasingam is a doctoral candidate in the Laurier-Waterloo PhD in Religious Studies in Ontario, Canada, and is the editor of *Religion and the New Atheism: A Critical Appraisal*. This Article appeared in the *Guest Voices* section of *Washington Post*)


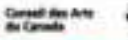
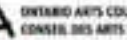



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# Sri Lanka Govt must ensure there is no discriminatory targeting of Tamils

by National Peace Council of Sri Lanka

The re-commencement of the practices of registering Tamils with the police and of conducting search operations that target them have been widely reported in the Tamil media in particular and have created a renewed sense of insecurity and injustice amongst the larger Tamil population that is detrimental to national reconciliation.

The practice of registering of Tamils and security search operations of private residences even late at night was carried out during the period of war and terrorism. But today more than 14 months have elapsed since the war ended, and there have been no acts of militancy or terrorism in this period that would necessitate a revival of the harsh measures of the past. Two months ago Parliament approved the repeal of a large number of emergency laws which was projected world-



Tamils singled out and asked to register themselves at Police Station again since July 2010

wide as a sign that normalcy had returned to the country.

On the ground however the situation has deteriorated where normal life for Tamil people is concerned. Democratic People's Front Leader Mano Ganesan has requested President Mahinda Rajapaksa to intervene to halt the police registration of Tamils in the Wellawatte Police division in Colombo as discriminatory and against the spirit of reconciliation.

The Government is expected

to uphold the Constitution which affirms that everybody will be treated equally irrespective of race or creed. The President himself has frequently proclaimed that there is only a single nation in this country. However, Tamils living in Wellawatte had been singled out and asked to register themselves at the Wellawatte Police Station last week. There are reports of Tamils in other parts of Colombo also being asked to register themselves.

Responding to a query from the media last week the Police spokesman said that action was taken under the Police Ordinance in this respect. The Police Ordinance gives power in respect of detection and prevention of crime. It cannot be applied in an ethnically discriminatory fashion. The Colombo head of police, Deputy Inspector General H.N.B. Herath is reported to have said they were instructed by higher authorities to register all people - including Tamils. All right thinking people will acknowledge that democracy is governance according to law and not according to the wishes of the rulers. The rulers are equally subject to the law and must abide by the Constitution.

The National Peace Council calls on the government to ensure that there is no discriminatory targeting of Tamils, or any section of the Sri Lankan people, as this is root of conflict. While we recog-

## LETTERS & OPINIONS

nise that security measures may need to be taken we are opposed to the singling out of any one community for such targeted actions on the basis of democratic values.

The positive actions of the government, such as its appointment of a Commission on Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation, and with which the government has challenged the credibility of international human rights critics, must not be undermined by its discriminatory and heavy handed actions in other areas. NPC calls upon the government to repeal the obnoxious Prevention of Terrorism Act and Emergency Regulations under which the police are acting. We only stating the obvious when we assert that security does not come through suspicion but only through trust and confidence born out of reconciliation.

# Census Information Vital for Immigrant Success

By: Dr. Eric Hoskins

Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

As Ontario's Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, I am deeply concerned that the Federal Government has unilaterally decided to abandon the mandatory long-form census.

Ontario benefits from being home to one of the most diverse populations in the world. Nearly half of all immigrants to Canada choose Ontario as their home and our government wants to ensure that newcomers find success when they arrive in Ontario. By ending the mandatory long-form census, Ontario will no longer have access to valuable and reliable information that is critical when developing programs to help our newcomers.

This issue is about more than statistics. It is about people - understanding their needs, their challenges and their potential.

In the coming years, immigrants will play an even more critical role in the prosperity of Ontario. As the Conference Board of Canada has noted, the continued strength of Ontario's labour force relies on immigration. Ontario's success will depend in no small part on the success of our newcomers. Immigrants to Ontario come from many countries, speak many different languages, and possess a range of experiences and talents. Having access to accurate, reliable information is key to ensuring we can

offer the types of programs that help newcomers succeed.

We need an accurate picture of the immigrants we serve when developing programs to help them. We need to know where Ontario's newcomers originate and the languages they speak so we can communicate with them. Knowledge of their age and education level also helps us determine the programmes that can help them thrive and succeed in Ontario.

The census provides us with the information to answer these vital questions, information that is not available through other sources.

As Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, I have the privilege of working with community agencies, not-for-profit organizations and businesses in the delivery of programs and services to Ontario's newcomers. Along with our partner agencies, our government relies on the accuracy of the information that is provided by the Government of Canada's long-form census. For example, the information from the long-form census assists Ontario in targeting investments of \$175 million to more than 200 occupation-specific bridge training programs, helping thousands of newcomers overcome barriers and find jobs in their field of expertise.

Many agencies also rely on this information to identify trends and to develop services to meet the needs of Ontario's newcom-

ers. This is why agencies such as the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC) and the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI) have voiced their opposition to the elimination of the mandatory long-form census, and to the loss of important information that would result.

At a time when the federal and provincial governments are negotiating a new Canada Ontario Immigration Agreement, the federal government's decision to reduce access to reliable newcomer information will make it more difficult to deliver targeted and effective programs to ensure the success of our newcomers. This fact, in turn, reinforces our view that we need a new and better federal-provincial partnership for the delivery of newcomer services and programs - one that gives Ontario a greater ability to meet the needs of our newcomers.

The replacement of the mandatory long-form census with a voluntary questionnaire will yield far less reliable results with under representation from our newcomer communities. The current long-form census is an essential and reliable tool that aids our newcomers. As the 2011 census nears, I urge the federal government to reverse its decision to abandon the mandatory long-form census.



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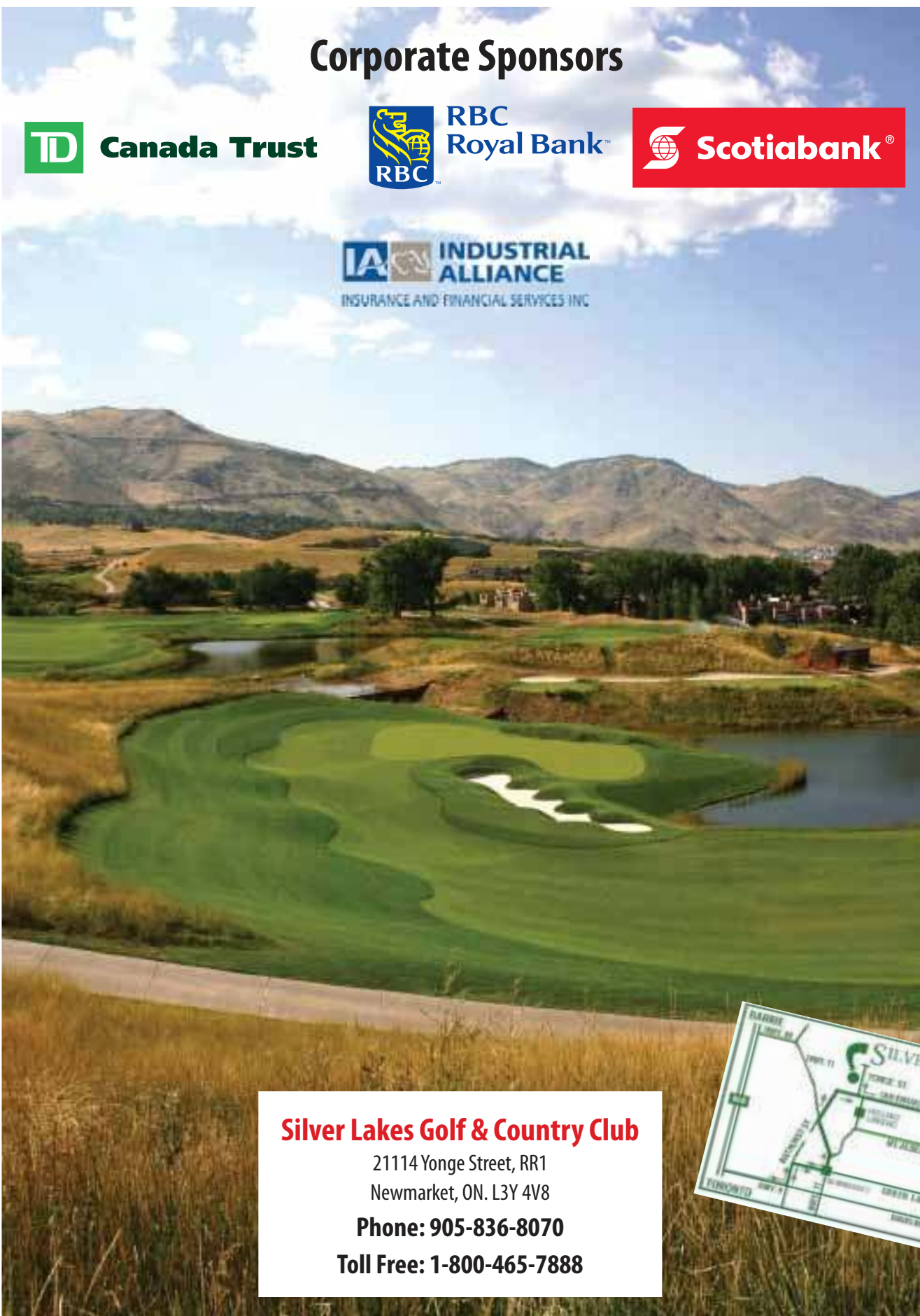
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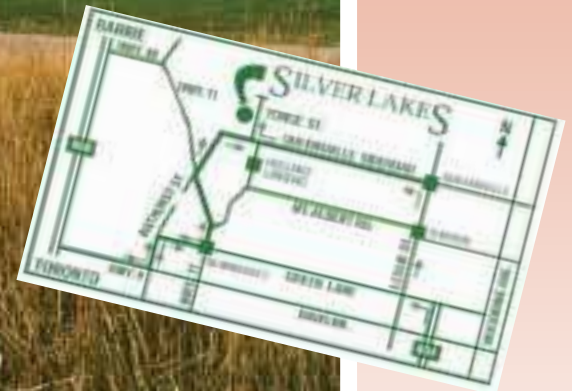


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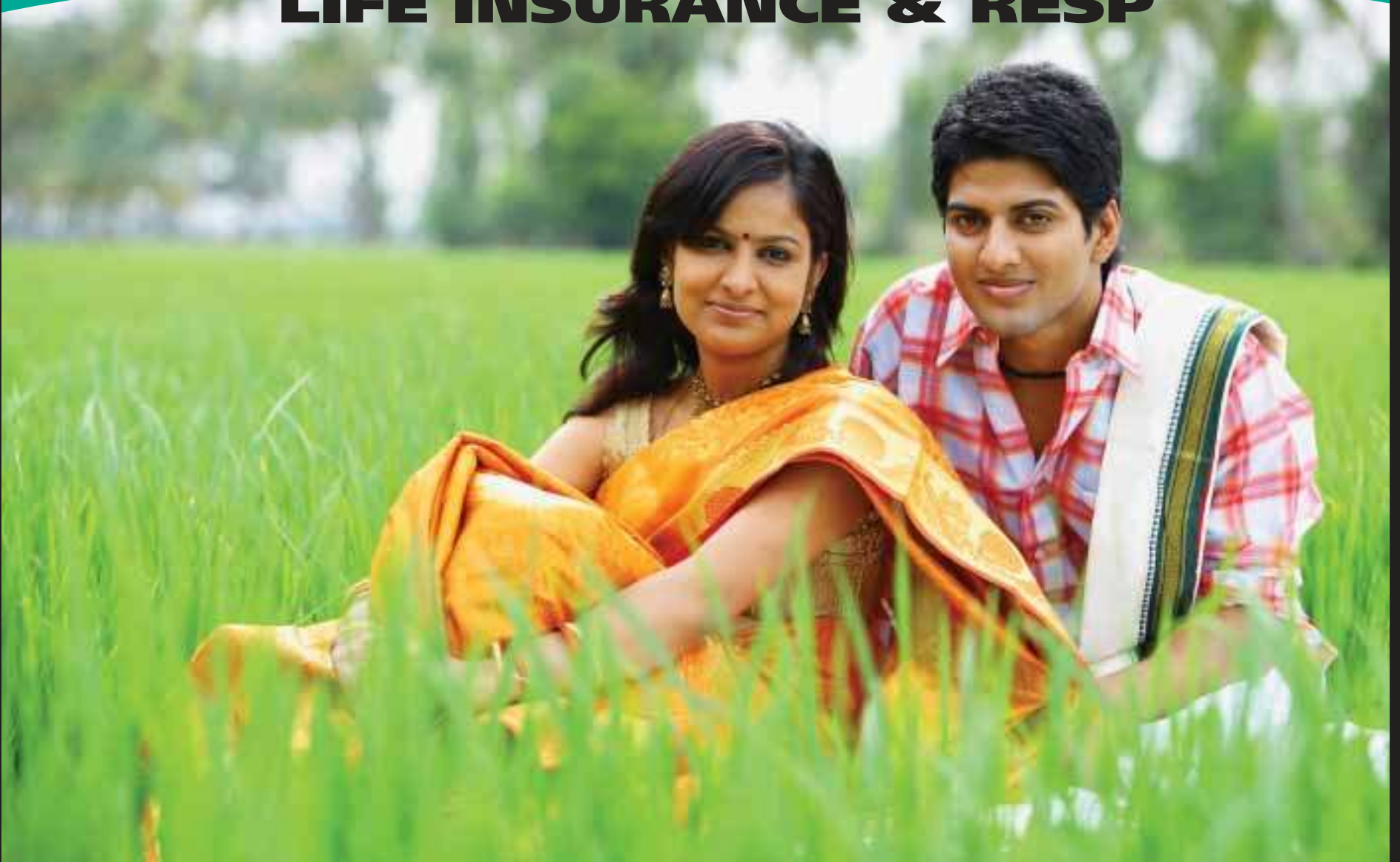


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