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# Monsoon Journal

A parfait media publication

VOL 4 ISSUE 05 October 2009

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## Prime Minister Stephen Harper celebrates Diwali

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has highlighted the Indo-Canadian community's contributions to Canada during a Diwali celebration held on Oct 8th on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

"Diwali, or the 'Festival of Lights,' illuminates the universal hope of all people for the renewal of life and the triumph of good over evil," said the Prime Minister. "This is a journey that resonates with all Canadians and binds us together in our faith, dreams and aspirations for the future."

The Prime Minister noted that the "growing Indo-Canadian community is at the forefront of Canada's quest to build an even better country for generations to come. From coast to coast our country has been and continues to be immeasur-

ably enriched by your contributions."

"Just as the Indo-Canadian community is growing ever larger, Canada's relationship with India is growing ever stronger," said the Prime Minister. "Since our Government came to office nearly four years ago, we've been working tirelessly to build stronger, better relations with India."

Canada and India have been working together on a number of agreements to enhance trade and investment. The Harper Government has opened new trade offices in Hyderabad, Calcutta and Ahmedabad in addition to its Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Chandigarh and New Delhi offices.



## Tamil Nadu born Dr Venkatraman Ramakrishnan Wins 2009 Nobel Prize For Chemistry

Dr Venkatraman Ramakrishnan of the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology has won the 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for studies of the structure and function of the ribosome. Dr Ramakrishnan shares the prize with Thomas A. Steitz of Yale University and Ada E. Yonath of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel.

Commenting after the award being announced, Dr Ramakrishnan said:

"I have to say that I am deeply indebted to all of the brilliant associates, students and post docs who worked in my lab as science is a highly collaborative enterprise. The MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology and the University of Utah supported this work and the collegiate atmosphere there made it all possible. The idea of supporting long term basic research like that at LMB does lead to break-



throughs, the ribosome is already starting to show its medical importance."

Venkatraman Ramakrishnan was born to C.V. Ramakrishnan and Rajalakshmi in Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu, India in 1952.

Dr Ramakrishnan earned his B.Sc.

## Obama 'Humbled' by Winning Nobel Peace Prize

U.S. President Barack Obama has won the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize, less than nine months into his presidency. Even the administration was surprised by the news.

Mr. Obama says he is both surprised and deeply humbled by the decision of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

Nobel Committee chairman Thorbjorn Jagland says, Mr. Obama has captured the world's attention and given its people hope for a better future. Jagland also credits Mr. Obama with creating "a new climate in international politics," by emphasizing multilateral diplomacy.

"His diplomacy is founded in the

concept that those who are to lead the world must do so on the basis of values and attitudes that are shared by the majority of the world's population," he said.

Around the world, messages of congratulations began to pour in - from Nobel Laureates Mikhail Gorbachev and Wangari Mathai, who've both won the Peace Prize.

Critics of this year's announcement say it appears Mr. Obama won the Nobel Prize more for his rhetorical aspirations than concrete achievements.

**(Some information for this report was provided by VOA news)**

Ramakrishnan will be awarded the Nobel Prize along with one-third of the total prize money of 10 million Swedish kronor (\$1.4 million), in a ceremony in Stockholm on December 10. Thus, he became the seventh Indian or person of Indian origin to win the Nobel Prize.

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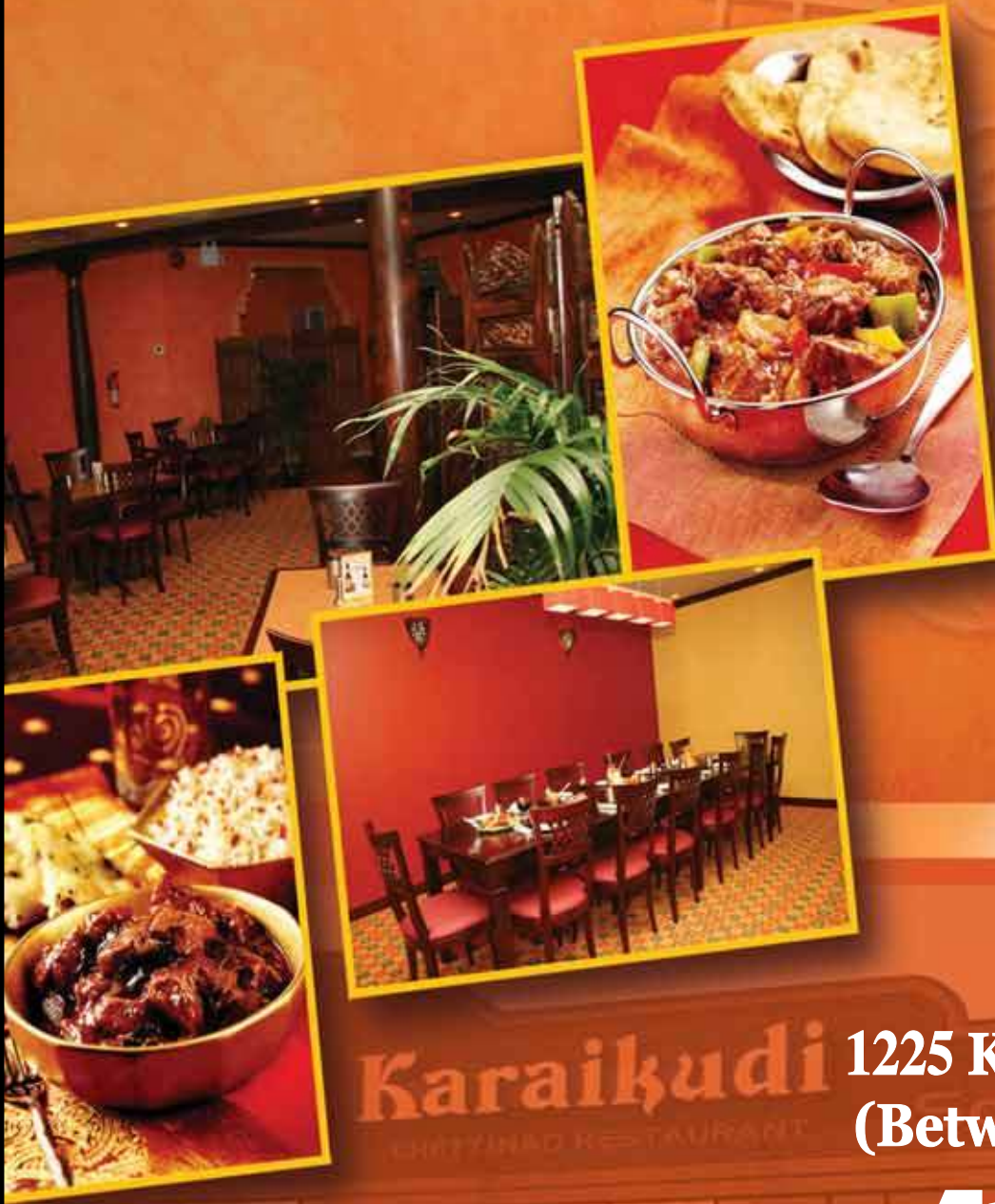
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# Members of the Tamil-Canadian Community Meet with Conservative Ministers and MP's

(Toronto, ON) - Conservative Ministers, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, the Hon. Jason Kenney, Minister of International Cooperation, the Hon. Bev Oda, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Americas, the Hon. Peter Kent and Oak Ridges-Markham Member of Parliament, Paul Calandra, met with members of the Tamil-Canadian community at a roundtable during early part of September.

This roundtable was held to facilitate an open dialogue between Tamil-Canadians and their federal representatives, regarding the recent situation in Sri Lanka, and its aftermath.

During the meeting, Minister Oda discussed her recent summer visit to Sri Lanka to meet with Sri Lankan Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Finance, and to visit internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. Minister Oda observed that the living conditions in the camps were poor, and that there was a general lack of sensitivity towards the people living in them. However, she also

observed a genuine effort from management within the camps, as well as the distribution of basic necessities, such as food and water. After reviewing the lists of the internally displaced people living in the camps, Minister Oda stated that she was satisfied, as there was evidence that some of the families were leaving the camps and being resettled. Minister Oda requested that this process be carried out expeditiously, given the fast approaching monsoon season.

Minister Kent discussed the 'opening of gates' for more political involvement, but also stressed that the realities of these challenges are enormous because the Sri Lankan government does not wish to be criticized. Minister Kent also noted that Canada's aid to the Red Cross has increased to \$22 million dollars.

Compared to 2008, the federal government has accepted and accelerated more family reunification applications for Tamils in Sri Lanka. This is because the Ministry has placed more officials



in Colombo to process these applications. "We are processing 25% more this year than last year in terms of issuing visas," said Minister Kenney. "There are logistical problems for people travelling from the North to the embassy and the Ministry is aware of this, and it is the hope that soon the officials will be able to conduct interviews in the North."

The Government of Canada

acknowledges that the events which have unfolded this past year were extremely tragic. However, the Canadian government has admitted that dealing with the often stubborn, Colombo government, has not been an easy task.

"Our Conservative government is focusing on delivering real results; all the Liberals can do is issue 'feel good' statements," said Kenney. "We are committed



to speeding up family reunification for Tamils with family in Canada, have delivered aid to help the Tamil people and have spoken up to ensure the respect of freedoms and human rights in Sri Lanka".

MP Calandra has been working tirelessly with the Tamil-Canadian community and should be commended for his leadership in engaging members of this group during such difficult times. MP Calandra is positive that this dialogue will continue, and will be the government of Canada's lead on issues of concern for this community.

This roundtable represented a continuation of steps towards re-engaging dialogue with Tamil-Canadians and listening to their individual concerns. A possible Tamil Canadian Town-Hall meeting will be held regarding these issues in the future, and a Tamil lobby day on the Hill is currently under consideration.

## REALIZING SAVINGS IS ALL ABOUT KNOWING YOU ARE IN CONTROL

With many Canadians feeling more optimistic about the economic outlook, many recognize the importance of having the security of savings or a nest egg. Whether it be for a particular purchase or in case of an emergency, having a savings plan, even if starting out small, can provide peace of mind.

Knowing where to start is the key. According to Max Thompson, head of GICs & Savings at RBC, you will be amazed at what you can accomplish with the right motivation and advice.

A great place to start, and also an important part of saving, is knowing your spending habits. It's important to identify all of your expenses, and assess how much you're actually spending. There are lots of moving parts, and it can seem overwhelming, but you have choices. You are the one in control of your spending, and in many areas you have discretion about whether, when and how much you spend.

While some expenses are fixed such as a mortgage or rent payment, daycare or car loan, we all have freedom over many other expenses like coffee, lunches, entertainment and clothes. It's important to take control of the spending that we do have control over. Finally, understanding your spending habits leads to a better understanding of how to live within your means. It makes you realize where your income is going and enables you to start making smart decisions that suit your

needs and wants.

Some may think that saving means making sacrifices and foregoing of any entertainment or joy. But this is not the case. It's about making choices. You'll be surprised how much those daily coffees or frequent dinners out can add up.

One way to ensure that you make a wise financial choice in good and volatile times is to pay for a purchase with money you have set aside specifically for that reason. Some of us may be saving for a special item such as a vacation, the latest electronics gadget or a car, or you may just want to have an emergency fund. No matter what your goal may be, it's important to have a plan.

"It's not that difficult to save money, it just takes discipline and determining what works for you," said Thompson. "If you've got a savings plan to help you focus, you're well on your way."

Thompson offers six simple tips to save wisely:

### 1. Set a goal.

You will be more likely to save consistently if you have something to save for.

### 2. Have to plan to save.

A step-by-step plan will provide financial milestones to strive for, and make you more likely to continue saving if the going gets rough. Decide what you want and commit to it. Whether it's for a vacation or an emergency fund, setting goals helps you save for what's important to you.

### 3. Make savings a habit.

Set up automatic online transfers to your savings account, to help you save a portion of each paycheque. This way you don't have to think about it and you can control how much and how often a transfer is made.

### 4. Know yourself.

Figure out what you actually spend by keeping track of how much you pay for little things like coffee and lunches away from home. A simple tactic such as cutting out one cup of coffee per day can save you a lot of money over time. Even a small amount of money grows over time.

### 5. Do some research.

Find out when sales are happening or do some comparison shopping to ensure you get what you want at a price that is right for you.

### 6. Pay yourself first.

This is the golden rule of saving. Get in the good savings habit of setting aside some money from each paycheque.

More on these tips and additional advice on establishing your savings goals as well as steps to help you get there are available at The Savings Spot, a website created by RBC, visit [www.rbc.com/savingspot](http://www.rbc.com/savingspot).

Where to put your savings is also important. For some, stashing it under the mattress or in a jar may be just fine but why not accumulate some interest while you work to achieve your goal? The RBC High Interest eSavings® account is a great solution. This online account requires no mini-



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With a savings plan in place, setting up automatic online transfers to your savings account can help you get started and stay on track. You choose how much and how often. For instance, \$25 every week for a year will give you \$1,300 in a year. And for those of us looking to save some U.S. dollars, check out the RBC US High Interest eSavings™ account.

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## From the Publisher's Desk ... Happy Deepavali - Diwali

**By: Krishni Loganathan,  
BA (Hons)**

Deepavali or Diwali is celebrated as the festival of lights, usually celebrated in the month of October or November, this year many people celebrate on October 17, 2009.

Diwali bears significance in the Hindu culture as well as among millions of people, particularly of South Asian heritage including Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains, the only part that differs are the legends connected to the festival for each of the religions.

The way to identify when Diwali begins is when the moon does not rise and there is darkness all around. The symbolism of light brings hope and positive energy and the victory of good over evil. Light is spread in every corner to try to destroy the reign of darkness, on the night of Diwali.

Diwali's meaning for the festival is revealed in the name as lighting the diyas in many South Asian cultures, which are small clay pots filled with oil which also signifies "the festival of lights", as people illuminate their

home and premises with diyas and colourful lights.

During the celebrations people of all age groups put on new clothing and participate in various activities such as attending religious events, lighting crackers, and social gatherings to exchange greetings and sharing sweets with loved ones.

Like the celebration of Thanksgiving, people are thankful for their blessings and join with family and friends in this joyous occasion marked with fireworks and light displays; presentation of flowers; sharing of sweets; wearing of new clothes; and, worship.

Deepavali/Diwali is predominantly a festival filled with spiritualism and religious activities, such as worship of Goddess Lakshmi, Lord Ganesh, Lord Chitragupta and Govardhan Parvat, and many other dainties.

Diwali is a time when the faithful light diyas, signify victory of good over the evil within an individual. While the story behind Diwali varies, its essence is the same, to rejoice in the inner

light, the underlying reality of all things.

Many people recognize the celebration of Diwali as festivals are held all over the world.

In a statement by the Honourable Jim Karygiannis, M.P., Scarborough-Agincourt he offers his best wishes to those of the Hindu, Sikh and Jain faiths as they celebrate Diwali - the Festival of Lights.

In a greetings message marking the occasion, Prime Minister of

Canada Hon. Stephen Harper says,

"Diwali, or the 'Festival of Lights,' illuminates the universal hope of all people for the renewal of life and the triumph of good over evil; this is a journey that resonates with all Canadians and binds us together in our faith, dreams and aspirations for the future."

The Monsoon Journal joins in wishing everyone a Happy Deepavali - Diwali.

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## Sri Lankan Accountants Association - Pioneer Forum

Pioneer Forum held on September 26th 2009 at Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Markham, Ontario. This event was attended by over 160 Accounting professionals & business leaders.



Rajan Tharmarajah CGA, President SAAC - addressing the Pioneer Forum participants at Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Markham, Ontario. This event was attended by over 160 Accounting professionals & business leaders.



Ram Thirugnanam CGA, Past President SAAC, introducing Irv Handler MBA, who spoke on Networking Skills at the Pioneer Forum



Some of the CRA employees who attended the SAAC forum with Toronto North TSO Director Deborah Danis

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# Pat McNeil wins 2009 Howard Sokolowski Award

Local community hospital supporter honoured at signature golf tournament

The Rouge Valley Health System Foundation is pleased to announce that Pat McNeil has been awarded the 2009 Howard Sokolowski Award for his years of work supporting healthcare in the community. The award is presented annually at the Mayors' Charity Golf Classic to recognize an individual, group or company within the business community who has devoted their time, resources and leadership to benefit Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering hospital campus, as well as embracing the goal of improving healthcare in west Durham and acting as an advocate in order to further this goal.

Pat is Senior Vice President, Generation Development at Ontario Power Generation, responsible for overseeing and integrating generation development activities across OPG's nuclear, hydroelectric and fossil generation business units. Recently retired from the Foundation's board of directors, he held the position of Chair from 2005 until 2007. He is now beginning a second year of service on the board of the hospital.

"Through his leadership on the Vital Signs Campaign, he helped to secure corporate and individual donations to fund the new Emergency Department and other redevelopment at Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering," said John Wiersma, Foundation Chair, at this year's Mayors' Charity Golf Classic held on September 10.

Created in 2001, this award honours Howard Sokolowski, former CEO of Tribute Communities, and his long and distinguished history of volunteer service for Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering. Each year, Edward Falkenberg, a local Durham artist, creates a unique work of art for the Award, and this year's piece was called "Kaboom."

This year's Mayors' Charity Golf Classic tournament raised \$181,663, bringing the 14-year total to over \$2 million. Proceeds will support the massive Redevelopment project at Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering hospital campus, which includes a brand new Emergency Department opening later this year.

Rouge Valley Health System Foundation - Enhancing care in



winner Pat McNeil (left) with artist Edward Falkenberg

the community

The Rouge Valley Health System Foundation's mission is to partner with the community to invest in superior healthcare at Rouge Valley Health System. The Foundation raises funds to support the purchase of leading-edge medical equipment and support major capital expansion projects.

# Toronto Film Opens Canada Images Program at Vancouver International Film Festival

The Canadian Tamil Congress congratulates the crew and cast of 1999 for being selected to open the Vancouver International Film Festival's Canada

Images Program. The film will debut at VIFF on Oct. 14 and Oct. 15. The premiere will mark the first time a film made by Tamil Canadians has been shown at an international film festival.

"The selection of 1999 into VIFF represents a milestone for Tamil Canadians, we are thrilled the crew and cast made a movie that tells a rare and powerful story," said David Poopalapillai, National Spokesperson for the Canadian Tamil Congress.

1999 was directed by Toronto filmmaker Lenin M. Sivam and featured a local crew of actors. It offers a rarely seen look at the violence which had once affected Toronto's Tamil community and made countless headlines during the 1990s. The Toronto release date will be announced shortly.

"It's a testament to Lenin M.



Lenin M. Sivam

Sivam's talent and passion for moviemaking that this movie, with its bare-bones budget and its group of volunteer actors, has made it all the way into an international film festival," said Poopalapillai. "We strongly believe there are many more success stories that are yet to come out from our Tamil Canadian artistic community."

For more information, please contact the Canadian Tamil Congress at 416.240.0078 or info@canadiantamilcongress.ca.

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(Ottawa) Deepak Obhrai, M.P. for Calgary East and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, today made the following statement in the House of Commons:

## Government giving Canada a strong principled voice on international stage, Obhrai tells Parliament

"Last week our Minister of Foreign Affairs led Canada at the United Nations General Assembly and proudly spoke on important issues for Canadians.

The minister strongly asserted Canada's foreign policy priorities: economic recovery, UN reform, human rights, climate change and terrorism. Our focus was clear and

our priorities continue to project our values, Canadian values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Leading by example our government stands up for those unjustly detained in the world's most oppressive regimes. Leading by example our government stands up for Canadians.

This government is finally giving Canada a strong principled voice on the international stage.

This government will continue

to be a leader in principled foreign policy as we prepare to host the G20 next year.

At home and abroad, Canadians know that they can count on this government."

For more information, contact Ashley McArthur at (613) 947-4566

# Tamil Community hosts Education Expo

Education Expo in the Canadian Tamil Community is to be held in Markham on Oct 30th and 31st. The Expo titled "Katka Kasadara" will be bringing educators and community members together to create awareness about education issues, to share useful information and to celebrate excellence in education in Tamil community.

With the support of many community organizations and activists, the Education Expo for the Tamil community in the GTA is being organized, said Neethan Shan, Trustee for York Region Board of Education. The Expo will be for Tamil students and their

parents of students in JK to Grade 12. It will have information on Education such as course selection, safe schools, ESL, special needs, university/college admissions, EQAO, opportunities in the education field, assessment and evaluation, services available through social services etc. Its expected to attract about 1000 people (including both parents and students) attend the Expo.

In the evening of Oct 30th, there will be a 3 hour program where about 10 people/organization who have contributed to the field of Education within the Canadian Tamil community will be honoured. The evening program

also will feature speeches and performances. It will be a celebration of Canadian Tamils' success in education.

The next day, on Saturday, Oct 31st, there will be an expo of information booths, seminars, panels etc. on over 20 topics related to education of students from JK to 12.

Various Tamil social services and community organizations have already joined as partners including Markham Tamil Organization, Canadian Tamil Alumni Association, Tamil Academy of Culture and Technology and Tamil Canadian Graduates Association.

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## Deepak Obhrai hosts Iftar dinner in Ottawa

"Canadians of Muslim faith have played and continue to play an integral role in the development of our country on social, political and economic fronts."

Deepak Obhrai, M.P. and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs recently hosted a Iftar dinner at the Department of Foreign Affairs marking the Islamic Holy Month of Ramadan.

The annual event, held in Ottawa on September 15th was attended by members of the diplomatic corps and senior officials of the government.

In his speech to the distinguished gathering, Parliamentary Secretary Obhrai said:

"Tonight's special evening comes before the month of October, which Canada's parliament has proclaimed Islamic History Month. This month will celebrate the many important contributions that Muslims have made to global society in general,

as well as the specific contributions of Muslim Canadians to Canada.

The daily fast during Ramadan exemplifies the many values that are shared by Canadians of all faiths, such as the importance of sharing our resources and caring for those in need.

Promoting these shared values involves all of us working in partnership, which is why I am delighted we are able to come together, with our local Muslim community, as well as Muslim communities worldwide, during this holy month.

On this note, Canadians of Muslim faith have played and continue to play an integral role in the development of our country on social, political and economic fronts. Newcomers from Muslim countries continue to make Canada their home, with Pakistan and Iran being within the top ten source countries of newcomers to Canada.

As countries and people around the world become increasingly connected, inter-cultural and inter-religious cooperation become even more important.

We look forward to continuing our work with other countries including those whose representatives have joined us here today, as well as academics, journalists, and other civil society representatives to explore further possibilities to promote cooperation and understanding between cultures and faiths.

In this vein, this month Canada is co-sponsoring (with Italy, the alliance of civilizations, and the international organization for migration) a meeting entitled "the inter-ethnic city: management and policies for a better integration of migrants," on the sidelines of the united nations general assembly in New York.

As you may know, our department's Muslim communities work-



sions," Obhrai said.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper sent greetings to the gathering, which was read out by Parliamentary Secretary Obhrai. The Prime Minister said:

"This annual event, hosted by Deepak Obhrai, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the contributions of Muslims to both the global community and Canadian society.

As we prepare to celebrate Islamic History Month in Canada this October, this holy time reminds us of the cultural vitality of our vast and beautiful nation. Canada is a model to the world of a pluralistic and harmonious society. We draw strength from our rich cultural legacy and are unified in a spirit of respect and mutual understanding. Eid ul Fitr is a joyous time of thanksgiving for Muslims around the world and we are proud in Canada to recognize this remarkable celebration of Muslim faith and traditions."

## Canadian Wins Nobel Prize in Physics

### STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued the following statement on October 6th on the announcement that the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physics will be awarded to Willard S. Boyle, a Canadian, and his colleagues George E. Smith and Charles Kao:

"On behalf of the Government of Canada and Canadians across this country, I congratulate Willard Boyle and his colleagues George Smith and Charles Kao on receiving the Nobel Prize. Their discoveries have helped shape today's networked society and revolutionize photography.

"Dr. Boyle's work led to the invention of digital imaging.



This achievement has made the processing and distribution of images easier and continues to provide new possibilities in scientific exploration.

"This is a remarkable accomplishment. Thanks to the work of Dr. Boyle, people in Canada and around the world benefit in their everyday lives and the boundaries of science have been expanded."



OAKVILLE, ONTARIO - Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Finance Minister Jim Flaherty order double-doubles in celebration of Tim Hortons return to Canada .

PMO photo by Jason Ransom

# Gandhi appears as a Google doodle



Gandhi's 140th Birthday celebrated with a Google logo

The internet search engine Google decorated its home page - seen by millions of people every day as they go there to search the web - with a sketch of Mahatma Gandhi, who was born 140 years ago.

His face was used in place of the initial letter "G" of the website's onscreen name on October 2, 2009, making him one of a small number of people who have been given such prominence on the site's search page.

Gandhi's birthday, October 2, is marked as a national holiday in India. Born in 1869, Gandhi insisted that non-violent civil disobedience was the best way to achieve

change, and led nationwide campaigns in India - then under British rule - to achieve independence. He was assassinated at the age of 78 by a Hindu extremist.

Previous people featured in Google's doodle include Albert Einstein, Leonardo da Vinci, Confucius, Luciano Pavarotti, Dr Seuss, Andy Warhol, Claude Money, Louis Braille, Pablo Picasso, Vincent van Gogh - and, posthumously, Michael Jackson.

According to The Guardian.co.uk, the doodles are overseen by Dennis Hwang, who joined the company in 2000 and has gradually been using the logo to remind people of particular dates or events.

## " Let Our People Free" : Joint Statement of Tamil and Muslim Parties in Sri Lanka

### Full Text of Statement

The Tamil speaking peoples of Sri Lanka have suffered great hardships for many decades since Independence. They have faced discrimination and had to suffer ethnic riots, pogroms and ethnic cleansing; in the pogrom in 1983 sections of the state were involved. In the last thirty four years Sri Lanka was consumed by an ethnic civil war in which the Tamil and Muslim people and others in the North and East and elsewhere were victims.

The Tamils in particular bore the brunt of the suffering. During the last stages of the war the people of the Vanni suffered traumatic pain which, despite the conclusive end of the war, has still not abated. While we are deeply concerned about the human rights violations everywhere in our island such as death threats, the killing of civilians, and the disappearance of journalists and others, we feel the need to prioritise in this communiqué such collective and unbearable pain of large numbers of our population as compels immediate intervention.

We the undersigned affirm the following and call for an immediate end to these intolerable conditions, and in particular:

o We state that the forcible detention of hundreds of thousands of Tamil citizens of Sri Lanka in camps for Internally Displaced Persons is illegal, without basis in the Constitution and in gross violation

of international human rights norms.

o These people should be released immediately to return to their homes and permitted to resume without hindrance their traditional livelihood activities such as farming and fishing, or to take up residence with friends and relatives, or to exercise their lawful right to abode elsewhere at their discretion. Those likely to face criminal charges should be produced in a court of law without further delay.

o We strongly urge that the camps, for so long as they exist, should be open to relatives, religious functionaries, parliamentarians, provincial councillors, civil society, UN agencies, journalists, and national and international aid and humanitarian organisations.

o We urge that immediate arrangements be made to allow the Muslim people who were evicted from the North and have suffered acute hardships for nearly two decades to return to their homes and to resume their economic and social activities without hindrance.

o Similar arrangements must be made to re-settle in their original homes all those in the East, who remain displaced and continue to suffer greatly.

o The restrictions on movement in and out of the Northern Province and some

locations in the East should be lifted and the need for permits to enter or leave should be rescinded forthwith. In particular, any

# Rio named host of 2016 Olympics

By: Raymond Rajabalan

**RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil** - Finally, South America gets an Olympics. The 2016 Games are going to Rio de Janeiro.

In a vote of high drama, the bustling Brazilian carnival city of beaches, mountains and samba beat surprise finalist Madrid, which got a big helping hand from a very influential friend.

Chicago was knocked out in the first round - in one of the most shocking defeats ever handed down by the International Olympic Committee. Even Tokyo, which had trailed throughout the race, did better - eliminated after Chicago in the second round.

Rio spoke to IOC members' consciences: the city argued that it was simply unfair that South America has never hosted the Games, while Europe, Asia and North America have done so repeatedly. "It is a time to address this imbalance," Brazil's charismatic president, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, told the IOC's members before they voted. "It is time to light the Olympic cauldron in a tropical country."

The bearded former union leader disappeared into a huge group hug with the joyous Rio team after IOC president Jacques Rogge announced that the city won. Soccer great Pele had tears in his eyes.

Madrid's surprising success in reaching the final round came after former IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch made an unusual appeal for the Spanish capital, reminding the IOC's mem-



Brazilians Celebrating

bers as he asked for their vote that, at age 89, "I am very near the end of my time." Samaranch ran the IOC for 21 years before Rogge took over in 2001.

Chicago had long been seen as a front-runner and got the highest possible level of support - from U.S. President Barack Obama himself. But he only spent a few hours in the Danish capital where the vote was held and left before the result was announced. Former IOC member Kai Holm said that the brevity of his appearance may have counted against him. The short stopover was "too business-like," Holm said. "It can be that some IOC members see it as a lack of respect."


Now, Chicago can only rue what might have been. And Obama's gamble of expending his own political capital on the bid backfired. The last U.S. city to bid for the Summer Games, New York, did scarcely better. It was ousted in the second round in the 2005 vote that gave the 2012

Games to London.

Tokyo did better than many expected by reaching the second round. It had offered reassurances of financial security, with \$4 billion already banked for the Games.

But the fact that the Olympics were held only last year in Asia, in Beijing, handicapped the Japanese capital's bid. Its plans for a highly compact Games, sparing athletes tiring travel by holding all but the shooting within eight kilometres of the city centre, were technically appealing. But the bid failed to generate real enthusiasm, even in Japan. Tokyo had the lowest public backing in IOC polls, with 55 per cent of residents supporting the bid and 7.8 per cent strongly opposed.

Tokyo's final presentation Friday to the IOC, while smooth and heartfelt, lacked the buzz that the Obamas and Rio generated. In short, Tokyo was simply overshadowed, failing to convince IOC members that it really wanted or needed the Games.



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form of quarantine of the Northern Province is a violation of basic rights and should be lifted.

o The curfew and other restrictions on normality in many parts of the Northern Province and elsewhere are unjustified and we demand that normality be returned without delay. People in

certain parts of the country live in fear, avoid even essential travel, and are inhibited in employment related and social activities.

o We call for an end to military administration and restrictions placed on civilians, and we urge the restoration of full civilian administration to facilitate return

to economic and social normality.

**V. Anandasangaree**, Leader, TULF, **Mano Ganesan**, M.P., Leader, DPF, **Rauff Hakeem**, M.P., Leader, SLMC, **Dr. K. Vigneswaran**, Leader, AITUF, **R. Sampanthan**, M.P., Leader, ITAK, **Leader, TNA**



Prime Minister Stephen Harper today announced the recipients of the 2009 Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence and Excellence in Early Childhood Education. The Awards were presented at a ceremony in Ottawa on the occasion of World Teachers' Day.

"A good teacher inspires a thirst for learning that lasts a lifetime," said Prime Minister Harper. "The outstanding teachers honoured today are an inspiration to us all. They play an invaluable role in our children's development and in the future success of our country."

This year 84 Prime Minister's Awards were presented to educators from across Canada. The awards include Certificates of Excellence and Certificates of Achievement for teaching excel-

## Prime Minister Stephen Harper honours outstanding teachers for their contribution to Canada's future

lence at all grade levels, from pre-school through to secondary school. All have been recognized by parents and fellow educators as leaders who have been innovative in helping students excel.

"As a parent, I know the difference an outstanding teacher can make in a child's life," said Prime Minister Harper. "As Prime Minister, I am grateful for the contributions of all Canadian teachers, and especially this year's Prime Minister's Award recipients, whose dedication and skills are enriching the lives of young Canadians across the country."

For the first time this year, awards were presented to give specific recognition for excellence among Aboriginal teachers working at schools on-reserve.

Of special note, from Ontario, the following teachers received the 2009 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence and the

2009 Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Early Childhood Education:

Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence

### Certificates of Achievement:

" Ms. Adrienne Chong, Markville Secondary School - Markham, ON

" Mr. Rob Cotey, Markville Secondary School - Markham, ON

" Mr. Mark Melnyk, Markville Secondary School - Markham, ON

Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Early Childhood Education

### Certificates of Excellence:

" Mrs. Susan Watson, Erindale Nursery School - Mississauga, ON

Certificates of Achievement:

" Ms. Ava Gomes, Blue Wave Child Care Centre - Don Mills, ON



OTTAWA - Prime Minister Stephen Harper poses with the recipients of the 2009 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. PMO photo by Jason Ransom



OTTAWA - Prime Minister Stephen Harper poses with recipients of the 2009 Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Early Childhood Education. PMO photo by Jason Ransom

## Canadian Prime Minister's other Career???



Prime Minister Stephen Harper performs "With A Little Help From My Friends" at the 2009 National Arts Centre Gala. PMO photo by Deb Ransom



Cellist Yo-Yo Ma and Prime Minister Stephen Harper rehearse for their performance at the 2009 National Arts Centre Gala. PMO photo by Deb Ransom



OAKVILLE, ONTARIO - Prime Minister Stephen Harper celebrates the return of Tim Hortons to Canada by with store staff. PMO photo by Jason Ransom

## Minister Matthews To Focus On Wait Times, Access To Primary Care

Following the report of the Auditor General on problems at eHealth and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Premier Dalton McGuinty today accepted the resignation of David Caplan as Minister of Health.

Deb Matthews becomes the new Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. Her mandate will be to achieve lower wait times in emergency rooms for Ontarians, improve care for diabetics and get more Ontario families access to a doctor, nurse or nurse practitioner.

Laurel Broten becomes Ontario's Minister of Children and Youth Services. Minister Broten is tasked with improving the lives of children and youth by reducing child poverty and getting all children off to the best start in life.

Since June of this year, the

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, eHealth Ontario and all ministries and agencies have been living with new, stronger rules and oversight. Under the new rules, if a ministry or an agency needs to hire a consultant, there must be a competitive process to ensure that taxpayers' interests are protected.

Minister Matthews will ensure that procurement rules in the ministry and its agencies are followed, and that taxpayer dollars are protected.

"We have ended the practice that has carried on for decades under governments of all political stripes. Together, our package of reforms will protect taxpayers and bring an end to untendered contracts for consulting services." - Dalton McGuinty, Premier.



# Oops I did it again...

By Mithura Anandarajah, PT  
Registered Physiotherapist

Every year more than one third of our elderly population will experience a fall. Among older adults, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, falls contribute to the leading cause of death. They can cause traumatic brain injuries or more commonly result in fractures in the spine, hip, pelvis, ankle or upper arm. This further limits mobility and/or independent living, which therefore compromises mortality. One may think that falling is an inevitable result of aging. However, this is not the case. By limiting risk factors one can actually limit or minimize the incidence of accidents occurring.



There are two major factors that influence the risk of falls in the elderly. The environment is a major contributing factor that can have a direct impact on safety. If this topic impacts you or your loved one, first assess the surroundings. There may be dim lighting or lots of clutter that can cause someone to trip or lose their balance. The rugs on the floor may add color to the room, but can be dangerous if they contribute to slipping or tripping. Outdoors, one has to consider the lighting and walking surface. Uneven floors can contribute to a loss of balance. The other major

risk factor is the physical state of the particular individual. With older adults, there are physical changes that will compromise safety and mobility. Vision is an important sense that tells us where we are in space. It significantly contributes to maintaining balance when standing or walking. If it is impaired, it will affect safety. Also, with the frail elderly, their mobility and ambulation is compromised. Their lower extremity strength and walking pattern may be altered, slower or unsteady. This will contribute to the incidence of falls. The medical history of the individual must

also be considered. If there are fluctuations in blood sugar levels or blood pressure, there could be a sudden loss of balance which could result in a fall.

The best way to prevent falls is to minimize the risk factors mentioned above. First, take stock of the immediate environment. Remove the clutter and minimize the obstacles. Either remove the pretty rugs or ensure that they have an anti-skid backing. Add handrails where necessary, especially where there are steps or in the bathtub. Beware of the tiny precious pets that might get under one's feet. Be

conscious of where they are in the surroundings. When outdoors, ensure that areas of construction or uneven surfaces are avoided. As the weather changes and we get more rain and eventual snow, ensure that proper anti-skid footwear is worn. Evaluate the need for the proper assistive device that will maintain safety. Use of a cane or a walker will improve balance, safety and mobility.

Besides the environment, assessing the physical factors is just as important. Maintaining the flexibility and strength of the elderly is crucial in preventing injuries or falls. Incorporate a daily exercise routine to maintain strength, balance and flexibility. If necessary, the senior could be assessed by a physiotherapist who could then recommend the appropriate assistive device and design a program that would be specific to the individual. The individual should routinely get



their vision examined and wear the glasses that are recommended. The medical status should be monitored regularly, whether it is taking blood pressure medication or assessing sugar levels. A routine medication examination would also be beneficial.

It is normal for everyone to lose their balance at some point. We all do trip and fall. However, when it occurs frequently, especially for the elderly, it is a key indicator that safety and mobility may be compromised. By taking the time to evaluate the environmental and physical factors, and making the appropriate changes, one can significantly impact the quality of life.



**Mithura Anandarajah, PT, CAFCI**  
Clinical Director / Physiotherapist

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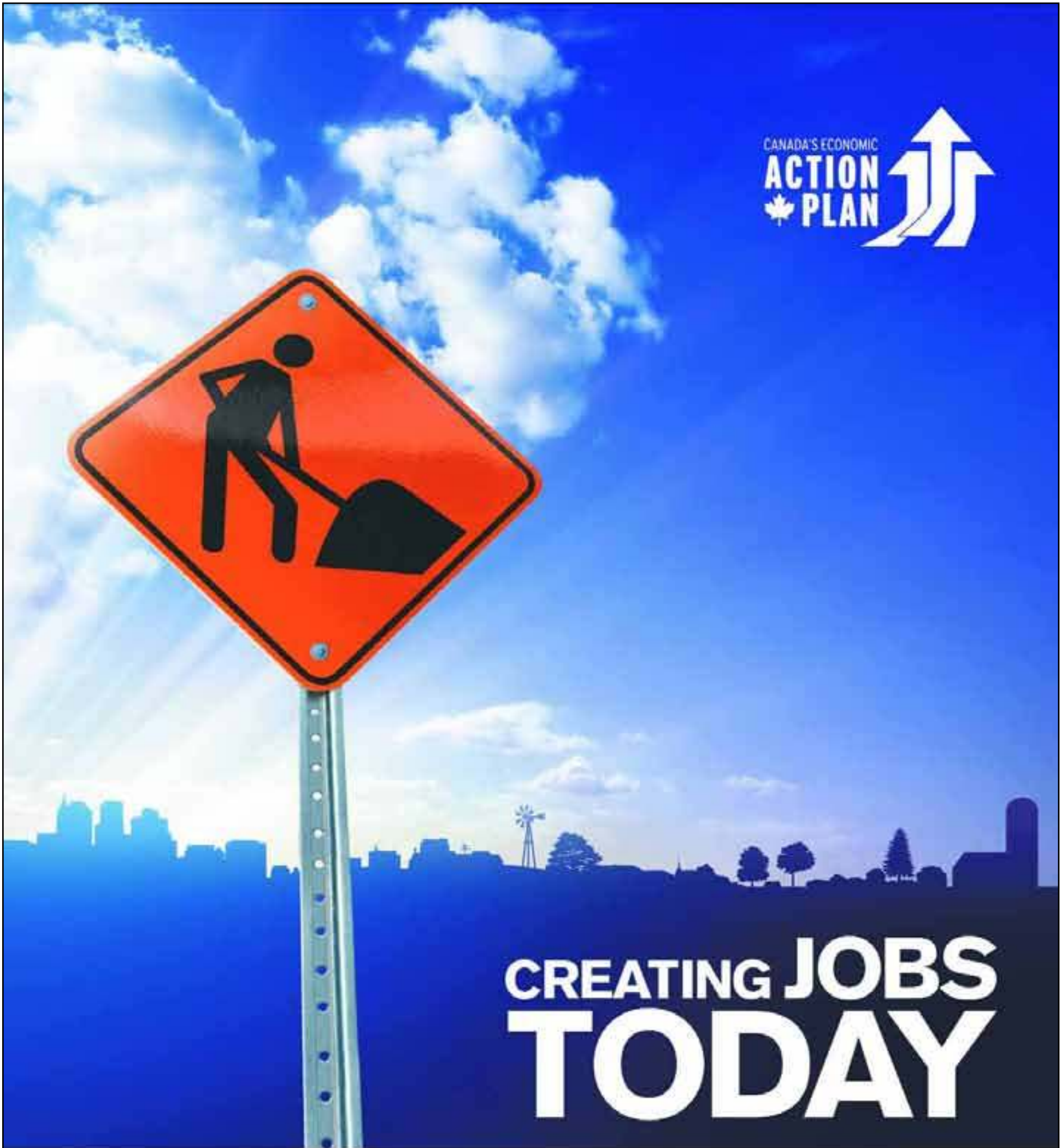
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# Meleni David's law office celebrates first anniversary of grand office expansion



Meleni David Barrister/Solicitor with the members of her staff.



Meleni cutting the cake.



Meleni receiving flowers from her mother.



Meleni with her mother Rajakesary, Srimal, Ranjit, Logendralingam and Suhan.



Meleni with female members of her staff.



Meleni with her mother Rajakesary.



Meleni with the event organizers.



Office administrator Ranjit Chrysostom addressing.



Meleni with her staff members Rani and Esther.



Srimal Abeyewardene, Editor of the Sri Lanka Reporter addressing.



Event organizers Dushi, Dilo and Salini.



Uthyan Editor R. Logendralingam addressing



Meleni with associate Sharla and her staff members Lydia and Dilo.



Guests at the reception.



Staff members Lydia, Insun and Anusha.

Courtesy: The Sri Lanka Reporter

**APPRECIATION**

# First Tamil Christian Pastor in Toronto breathes his last

Rev. Bobby Mather who served the Anglican Church of Canada succumbed to his heart ailments last Friday. He was the first Sri Lankan Tamil pastor to migrate to Canada where he touched the lives of many Tamil immigrants. Moreover, he identified himself with the Tamil Christian Church of Canada of which he served as its first pastor in the mid-eighties. He took keen interest in organizing Carol services and alumni meetings to bring the Sri Lankan communities together. He officiated in wedding ceremonies, funeral services and all functions pertaining to the Christian Tamil community.

His funeral service was held at the St. Paul's Anglican Church at Scarborough. There were large gathering of people at the funeral which included members of other communities too. The tributes were paid to him by Messrs. Arudchuthan, a friend and Edwin Fitch, a close relative. He proved to be a keen servant of the Lord with numerous activities to his credit. He had a special interest in Tamil singing and proved his passion by compiling a hymn book in Tamil. While celebrating the Eucharistic service, he used to enrich it with his effective 'thevarams' which captivated the members of his congregation. In addition Bobby was a


social worker who strived to help the poor and the needy when he was ministering at the Downtown Anglican Church. He was an adept in organizing services and has helped many pastors to prepare and print program sheets at various occasions.

The late Rev. Mather was an asset to the pastor at the Tamil Christian Church of Canada where he volunteered as an assistant as well as a member of the choir. Rajan Kadirgamar, former principal of Jaffna College, speaking at one of the viewing sessions at the Highland Funeral Home said, "Bobby came from a family of businessmen (Mathers) and philanthropists (Sabapathys) and he always strived to keep up to the family norms." He further added that one of his grand uncles was the first indigenous bishop (Rev. S. Kulendran) of the JDCSI and another of his uncles, (Sam Sabapathy) was a mayor of the Jaffna Municipality.

He leaves behind his beloved wife Lala, son Nisho and two daughters Debbie and Rakshy to mourn his loss. A significantly large number of friends and relatives were present at his funeral function which is an indelible testimony of his untiring labours in His Lord's vineyard.

By: jja

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### Arun Senathirajah

The European Commission will convene on October 15, 2009 to discuss the extension of the Generalized System of Preferences Plus (GSP Plus) trade concession to Sri Lanka and submit it for voting by the EU Council. As per GSP Plus, exports from Sri Lanka do not attract any import duties in its exports to the countries of the European Union. GSP Plus gives Sri Lanka the right to export more than 7,200 products duty-free to the EU countries. These exports to the EU accounted for 36% of Sri Lanka's US \$8.1 billion total exports last year. In 2008, Sri Lanka's garment and textile industry earned \$3.5 billion in total, 43 percent of which came from EU markets.

### EU's Report on Sri Lanka

The Implementation of Certain Human Rights Conventions in Sri Lanka by Francoise Hampton, Leif Seven and Ramon Wieruszewski is the report handed over to Sri Lanka for explanation. The key conventions covered in the report are the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in the country. EU requested explanations for these conventions, out of the 27 conventions that need to be ratified as a prerequisite to receive the GSP Plus preferential treatment. But the government however said it will not respond to the GSP+ investigation EU experts' report, but will instead continue to engage on the issues of concern with the European Commission. It is an indication of the Sri Lankan government is not in a position accept the truths and facts. Even up to now the government has not made any response to the comments and concerns raised in the EU report.

### Total Cover-up on Human Rights Violations Against Tamils

Countries receiving GSP Plus must have ratified and implemented 27 international conventions on human rights, labour, development and good governance. Sri Lanka says totally ignoring the human rights topic, 'the conditions such as labour laws, child protection laws and the freedom for trade union activities are contained in their statute books. Sri Lanka does not mention anything on human rights violations against Tamils. Sri Lanka says, 'it does not tolerate child labour and trade unions have greater freedom to engage in their lawful activities.' Sri Lanka does not tolerate child labour, but it employs Tamil children as paramilitary cadres through its Tamil paramilitary groups in the North and Eastern Sri Lanka. Any violations related to Tamils are justified in Sri

# Decision on the Extension of GSP Plus to Sri Lanka and the Minority Tamils Plight

Lanka's view and the international funding bodies and economic communities are well prepared to take the same stand in ignoring Tamils plights even they are massacred, aerielly bombed, fired by artilleries, bulldozed alive, forcibly imprisoned, abducted, raped or buried alive.

### EU Rejection of Tamil Livelihood

In the last paragraph the writer mentioned in the May 2008 issue of Monsoon Journal, prior to the renewal for 2008/09 GSP Plus approval as: 'Current big question is whether the claims of human rights and labour rights violations could be taken seriously enough by the EU to disqualify Sri Lanka from the GSP Plus scheme. So far, EU did not comment on whether accusations of human rights violations would be seen as violations of the international conventions that are the basis of the GSP Plus scheme. We do not know as happened in the past G7 countries over and over relying on the false promises given by the Sri Lankan government, EC would also fall into the same pit of peril. If that happens, it would be an indirect ratification for ethnic cleansing of Tamils in their homelands.' Since then we have seen how openly and shamelessly Sri Lanka government with the open support of many international countries including members of the same EU and the Co-chairs massacred and imprisoned Tamils. Why should we rely on ineffective statement released by the EU on the GSP Plus issue for Sri Lanka? Even for the EU Sinhalese are the only citizens of Sri Lanka whose livelihood should not be affected, but Tamils can be imprisoned by the 'Democratic' 'Sovereign' country and be rejected for their livelihood. They should be kept as beggars in the UN fenced and Sinhala forces administered open imprisons. Does the EU expect worse than the more than 50,000 massacre of Tamils and 300,000 in detention to happen to Tamils by Sinhala regime in order to expect a justifiable decision from the EU on the GSP Plus concession to Sri Lanka. EU is still happy to allow their citizens to wear the Tamil blood tainted garments from Sri Lanka, by extending for another term imposing some conditions as IMF laid down for the \$2.6 billion lending, which Sri Lanka never bothered about whatever put or said by the Westerners, they only want the funds unquestionably.

### In case the GSP Plus in not extended

Mahinda Rajapakse has fired its Export Development and International Trade Secretary, S. Ranugge in September 2009, for his negative prediction on the GSP Plus Tariff Preferences and appointed a four-minister team to lobby the EU. Losing the concessions would mean Sri Lanka has to compete with other countries like Bangladesh, China, India and Vietnam. It is expected losing the scheme would force big job cuts for workforce of mainly

Sinhalese. But Tamils have no freedom even to go out of the camps that are guarded at gun points. Withdrawal of this concession, according to some estimates, will result in the directly a loss of about 100,000 jobs in the garment industry and many more indirectly in the related sectors.

### Sri Lanka's Attitude Never Changes

UN General Secretary Bai-Ki Moon's 'Asian Diplomacy' cast doubt as to whether it means to keep silence for 'Tiananmen' style massacres, massacre of Tamils using heavy weapons and keeping 300,000 as FDDPs (Forcibly Displaced and Detained Persons)", as described by Mangala Samaraweera, the leader of the dissident group of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) now opponent of Mahinda Rajapakse. Bai-Ki Moon is raising little murmuring about the UN sponsored camp detainees inevitably in response to concerned activists making their voices louder, even after long friendly chat with 'No more minorities in Sri Lanka' claiming Mahinda Rajapakse and lengthy meeting with 'Tamils needs no political solutions' declaring Sri Lanka's UN permanent representative Palitha Kohona.

EU's report calls a "novel form of unacknowledged detention" of Tamils by Sri Lankan government about the UN fenced camps. As pointed out in the 1st October edition of The Economist, 'Evi-dence of reconciliation between Tamils and the Sinhalese-dominated government, which the president has promised, is hard to find.... Such failings suggest that it sees them all as potential enemies..... Encouraged by the government, thousands of Sinhalese are meanwhile flocking to the east to reclaim land from which the LTTE chased them or their parents. This risks causing conflict with Tamils and Muslims now farming the land-and reinforces the Tamil belief that the government means to "Sinhalese" the north and east.....This is worrying. So long as Tamils feel abused by a racist Sinhalese state, the conflict may resume. Economic development of their shattered regions, which the government is planning, is unlikely to change that. Hence the government's continued war-footing-but this is in turn also reinforcing Tamil grievances....Foreign criticism is not going to make the government change.'

### Settling Sinhala Convicts in Tamil Stronghold Lands

False propoganda the government citing two reasons that Tigers are among the IDPs and mined areas of the north are unsafe for locals to return to their homes. These excuses are to gain time to bring Sinhalese to the detained people's homes and boosting to the agitating countries that Tamil have been resettled. Sri Lanka's real motive is to settle Sinhalese in Tamil lands and moving IDPs from camp



to camp and gradually annihilate them over period of time. Mahinda Rajapakse is very keen in settling Sinhalese in Tamil stronghold lands of Mullativu, Kilinochchi and Mannar. In September 2009, Commander-in- Chief and President of the country Mahinda Rajapakse has granted public amnesty to 25,000 army deserters. The deserters could be the new settlers in the Tamil homes of who are detained in the camps in the name resettling IDPs. This is how the convicts in the past from various prisons including the 1983 Tamil prisoners massacre Welikada famous prison, were released on conditions to be settled in Tamil lands in the past in the name of irrigation projects in the East north of Batticaloa and in Trincomalle areas. The Sri Lanka government needs fund and trade concessions in order to undertake similar sinister projects and to maintain the even expanding already over-sized armed forces. The purposeful delay in letting camped Tamils to go back their home is to identify prospective Sinhala thugs, criminals and convicts to seize Tamil properties and villages. Mahinda Rajapakse has appointed his brother Basil Rajapakse to scheme out such settlement schemes. He has already pioneered such schemes in the Eastern province.

Sri Lankan President proclaims that defeating the LTTE to be appreciated by the EU countries, the USA and the UN as a defeat of an International Terrorism therefore, any human right violations on Tamils should not be regarded as a big issue because countries internationally have benefited from the defeat of the LTTE. Therefore all the countries should generously fund them, grant concessions like GSP Plus preferences for the 'development' and 'resettlement'. Here the development means developing Sinhalese areas and building up armed forces and 'resettlement' means settling Sinhalese in Tamil lands.

### EU Would Follow Suit as IMF Approved Lending

Amidst Tamils expectations and deliberations world over that subsequent to mass massacre of Tamils

and forcibly detained 300,000 Tamils against all the human rights norms and laws, and forfeiting their livelihood at least EU would show some justice by not renewing the GSP Plus concession would make a pressure on Sri Lanka government is not going to happen. It is a terrible mistake to expect any justice from these war supporters against Tamils by Sinhala chauvinistic regime. The EU may follow the precedent laid by the UN Secretary General 'Asian Diplomacy' inventor and silent observer on Tamil massacre and provider of barbed wires to Sri Lanka government to forcibly to keep Tamils in the open prison. Sri Lanka government refused to cooperate with the probe or let the EU-contracted investigators enter the country, and said doing so was tantamount to betraying its sovereignty. Further the EU would follow suit as IMF did not open mouth about any human right violation of Sri Lanka and approved lending facility more than what Sri Lanka requested for. The European Union is likely to let Sri Lanka keep a trade concession crucial to its apparel industry, while recommending it may be revoked if the country does not improve its human rights record, diplomats said. Worst human rights violation on Tamils have already been committed by Sinhala racist regime by massacring more than 50,000 and still openly continuing by keeping 300,000 people in 'interment' camps sponsored by the UN. Giving further opportunity to improve is an outright recognition of what have already happened. In spite of all these clear picture on the Sri Lanka government's attitude, although the EU has produced a harsh report on the eligibility for GSP Plus by Sri Lanka government, analysts strongly believe that Western powers are finally give up to Sri Lanka, with some eye-wash conditions to cheat the human rights activist, as they were united in granting \$2.6 billion Stand-by Credit, even more than \$1.9 billion facility requested by Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka regime knows that well, ultimately EU is going to extend the GSP Plus trade concessions.



# Unique program launched at Providence Healthcare

Providence Healthcare officially opened its revitalized and relocated Adult Day Program in a modern, 8,000-square-foot facility on September 29th. The ADP serves those who suffer from moderate to severe dementia, and their families, and is believed to be the only facility of its kind in Canada that provides a program of activities on a round-the-clock basis Monday through Friday, and during the day on Saturday.

The ADP, which has existed in an older wing of Providence since its inception in 1995, currently serves more than 500 clients and, in conjunction with other services at Providence, supports more than 3,000 caregivers a year. About 45 per cent of the ADP's clients have working caregivers.

"The ADP is an innovative model that serves people and their families within their community, and provides the support that people need to stay at home safely for as long as they can," said Neil McEvoy, President and CEO of Providence Healthcare. "As our population ages, more and more people will face dementia and other age-related conditions. At the same time, people expect different health care options that better meet their needs, like Providence's Adult Day Program," said Matthew Anderson, CEO, Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network.

The new ADP was made possible with \$2.5 million in private donations and ongoing government funding to support operations. The new features include:

- o The RBC Veranda with skylights, a telescope for astronomy buffs, and activity programming for those who like gardening
  - o The Scotiabank Learning Centre with resources serving people and families who need information and support for diabetes, stroke, heart disease, arthritis, and Parkinson's
  - o The Nick Villani Activity Room with computers, iPods and docking stations, and other e-type activities
  - o The St. George's Society of Toronto Healing Gardens
  - o The Whimsical Garden, generously donated in honour of the Ashlynn (Jones) Porter Family
  - o Six modern overnight suites equipped with PCs and Internet access
  - o Therapeutic activities (baking, video games, dancing, horticulture).
- Donations were also provided for other ADP facilities:
- o Staff Workroom, donated in honour of Dr. H. Colin Kilty
  - o Living Room, generously donated by George Macri
  - o An overnight Suite, donated by the Rotary Club of East York
  - o Den, donated by the



Canadian Medical Dental Development Association

- o Dining Room, generously donated by CIBC
- o The Sensory Suite, donated by the Bedolfe Foundation.

The Alzheimer Society says that of the 500,000 Canadians diagnosed with Alzheimer's and other dementias, 71,000 are under age 65. This number will increase exponentially as the 'baby boom' generation ages. Studies indicate that the number of Canadians who could be facing Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia could increase by 50 per cent in the next five years.

"The ADP is a wonderful place," said caregiver Terri Bradshaw at the opening ceremony. Her mother had been suffering from Alzheimer's and her father was the prime caregiver. When he passed away, her mother came to live with her, and then she encouraged her mother to try the ADP. "Something almost magical happens here. They tug at the memories that may be just below the surface when they sing songs, bake cookies and reminisce. Friendships are encouraged if only for the day. The staff smile and talk to the clients with an expectation that it is going to be a good day."

The ADP has a staff of 22 with professional qualifications in health care. Members of the staff can serve clients and caregivers in such languages as Italian, Spanish, Filipino and Mandarin. Staff and clients welcomed 'Monty,' a labradoodle dog, in 2008. Contact with animals has been found to promote relaxation, reduce anxiety, and help with feeling of depression and loneliness, which is especially beneficial to those with dementia.

Two gardens are available for safe wandering and fresh air. The St. George's Society of Toronto Healing Garden is an outdoor healing garden with wide paths for safe wheelchair access and an oversized chess set board. The Whimsical Garden has raised garden beds, a deck, fencing and a clothesline to simulate a backyard for meaningful and fun activities. The Scotiabank Learning Centre, which provides on-site support for caregivers, opened in the spring of 2008 with a \$250,000 gift from Scotiabank Group and is adjacent to the ADP. It serves individuals and families who need information and support with diabetes, stroke, heart disease, arthritis and Parkinson's.

The ADP offers three shifts over a 24-hour period, Monday through Friday, and during the day on Saturday, each providing meal service and therapeutic social/recreational activities. Caregivers are encouraged to choose a combination of shifts to best suit their needs. The program accommodates the unique needs of the club members. The 'dinner club' is open from 3 p.m.-11 p.m. and the 'breakfast



club' runs overnight from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Hot meals and snacks are included, and the cost is only \$15 per visit. Clients may attend up to three times a week, and flexible hours can be arranged.

### About Providence Healthcare

Providence Healthcare is a leading Toronto health care facility, specializing in rehabilitation for patients who have experienced strokes, orthopaedic surgery, or lower limb amputation, or who require specialized geriatric rehabilitation, assessment and treatment. We also provide complex continuing care, long-term care and community outreach with a particular focus on addressing the medical, physical, spiritual and emotional needs of individuals with geriatric conditions.

Programs and services are provided through three Integrated Care Divisions: Providence Hospital, one of Ontario's largest rehabilitation and complex continuing care facilities; the Cardinal Ambrozic Houses of Providence, a long-term care home for 288 residents; and Providence Community Centre, specializing in community clinics, caregiver support, education and neighbourhood outreach programs, such as the nationally acclaimed Adult Day Program and the innovative Tamil Caregiver Project.

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**My dear Brothers and Sisters!**

**by Justice**

**C.V. Wigneswaran**

Let me thank the Marga Institute for giving me this opportunity to participate in this Workshop dealing with the process of post war Reconciliation and Co-existence in Sri Lanka. Emphasis has been placed by the organizers on identifying the core issues and gaps in our knowledge and understanding.

The word "core" appears highly relevant to our deliberations. On one side we are to ascertain the core issues that have sparked off social tension in this Country. On the other hand, we are asked to delve deep into our respective religions, by-passing the peripheral differences, to identify common core values which could respond to the tense situation that has arisen and usher in a framework of harmony and understanding and, ultimately, help to foster a Sri Lankan identity despite differences among the denizens of this Country.

Therefore, our first task today is to ascertain the core issues that contributed to the tension.

In the Vedas there is a story which has been used in a different context, but seems appropriate to our deliberations today. A man walks down a path early morning. He sees something across the centre of the road. He identifies it as a snake crawling across the road. He is tensed. He cries out for help. Someone comes and gets closer to the object only to identify the object in the centre of the road as a dried twig lying across the path. The illusion of the snake vanishes in the mind of the first man and the actuality of a twig is then realized. The context in which this story was referred to in the Vedas applied to our accepting the world perceived by our senses as true and real. Beyond the apparent world was the truth referred to by the Vedas.

It is my contention that a few important illusions, if I may say so, have taken control of the minds of a large section of our people, which in turn have led to the present impasse.

#### What are they?

Firstly, that the Sinhala speaking and the Tamil speaking people of this Country belong to different ethnic groups.

Secondly, that the Sinhala language and those speaking it are Aryans who came from North India and the Tamil language and those who speak it are Dravidians who came from South India.

Thirdly, that the Sinhalese were the original inhabitants of this Country and the Tamils were later immigrants at various stages

# Sri Lanka: Minority grievances are real but so-called majority grievances are imaginary

of our history who forcibly occupied certain areas of this Country.

Fourthly, as a corollary to the above third contention that the Sinhalese occupied the Northern and Eastern regions of the Country from time immemorial until such immigrants took charge of those areas, flows the next expectation that those lands must be retrieved even by force.

Fifthly, that the Sri Lankan Tamils are a minority in this Country asking for rights and privileges far beyond their eligibility.

It is curious to note that despite excavations, finding of inscriptions and the use of modern scientific instruments and consequent discoveries pointing towards contrary views, history in recent times is being perverted to maintain the above said five erroneous contentions or illusions, hoping to instill such erroneous concepts in the minds of a large mass of humanity living in this Country. Such perversions no doubt lead to adverse consequences in the Island.

Professor Sudarshan Seneviratne has referred to historians in Sri Lanka (being)"in the process of subverting the study of history for personal ends and political expediency" (Vide Preface, "Situation History and the Historian's Craft" (Book Review in The Island, Colombo - 04/08/2001)).

The politicization and polarization of the academicians today has thrown up a breed of pseudo-historians who are seriously undermining proper research done so far by impartial and erudite historians.

An impartial study of history would point out and may be confirm

1. that the Sinhalese and the Tamil speaking people of this Country have a common origin (vide Professor Senarath Paranavitana -University of Ceylon History of Ceylon Volume 1 Pages 1: 96-97),

2. that the impact of Prakrit and other languages from India on the existing Mesolithic indigenous languages, which certainly were not North Indian in origin, led to the formation and development of the Sinhalese language,

3. that there is no historical confirmation of any large scale influx of persons either from the North or South of India but that from pre-historic times the two way traffic between the South of India and Sri Lanka had been confirmed by recent excavations and other scientific evidence,

4. that there was a time when the Tamils of the North and East were Buddhists and therefore account for the Buddhist remains in those two areas,

5. that while the Tamil speaking people have lived on this Island from pre-historic times,



**People who are living in the Settikulam Internally Displaced People (IDP) camp in northern Sri Lanka wait to meet their relatives, August 15, 2009-Reuters pic.**

even before the formation of the Sinhala language, there had been influx of other Tamil speaking people subsequently also, making up the occupants of the North and East of the Island and, finally

6. that the Tamil speaking people have always been the overwhelming majority in the North and East until those two regions for administrative reasons were amalgamated to the rest of the Island.

The Census statistics pertaining to the North and East during the British period when compared with the Census particulars obtained after Independence would confirm the contention that the Tamil speaking people were the overwhelming majority in the North and East at least until Independence. In the early part of the last century, in 1926, when the late Mr.S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike spoke of federalism for Ceylon, it was the Tamils who opposed it. Due to the arid nature and adverse weather conditions of the North and East and the consequent hardships experienced in their living conditions, many Tamil speaking people preferred to live in other areas in the South in amity with the other communities and therefore were not in favour of any regional autonomy of any sort.

It was the "Sinhala Only" Act of 1956 which opened their eyes to the hidden agenda among the politicians of the majority community. The successive incidents that took place until now overtly or covertly with State support have confirmed their suspicions. These included initially the determination on the part of the politicians among the majority community to drive out the Tamil speaking people from the Southern areas to the North or to foreign climes by State organized pogroms and riots, take control of areas they had occupied for centuries by

State colonization and in recent times by military intrusions and thereby thin out the population of Tamil speaking people in the Southern areas initially and then the Northern and Eastern areas to make them an insignificant minority in those areas as well as elsewhere. The idea appears to be forcible integration of an entire community with the governing community after destroying the former's individuality.

This short note regarding ancient history and modern happenings is referred to here with a view to setting out the background to enumerate the grievances of the ethnic groups which speak Tamil.

Unless the grievances are identified, reconciliation and co-existence become a farce. No amount of peripheral adjustments in the form of conciliatory Camps, unity songs, well intentioned Workshops and uttering of pious platitudes could bring about reconciliation and co-existence unless the underlying grievances are unearthed and solutions found for them. Reconciliation is not possible between a man fallen into a well having been pushed into the well by a person standing outside the well and that very same person so standing outside. What might appear to be a reconciliatory process would only be the foisting of the will of the person standing free outside the well on the person fallen in. We must pull up the fallen person to stand on terra firma able to communicate on equal terms with the other person to ensure reconciliation and co-existence.

Again, we are speaking about reconciliation and co-existence without taking into account the views of the man standing outside the well. Why should he conciliate with a man fallen into the well? Even if he is pressurized by external factors, would he want to gen-

uinely alleviate the grievances of the man fallen into the well or would he prefer to throw, very casually, a few crumbs with disdain at him only to ease his pressure for the moment?

Maybe he might not consent to all expectations of the affected person, but would he even consider what by International standards are considered reasonable and appropriate? Maybe a desire to install stability might change him. But it would still be what he condescends to give. Not what the affected would reasonably expect on the basis of their grievances as an equal standing outside the well.

Grievances could be of two types - real and imaginary. Much of the grievances of the minorities in Sri Lanka today are positively real while the so-called grievances of the majority community are, I dare say, imaginary.

Grievances of those minorities affected centre around language, religion, land, education, economy, development, employment and so on. The grievances of the majority community harps back on certain wrongs said to have been perpetrated on them by the British before Independence which according to them need to be corrected. Having said that and having enjoyed political power and authority for over sixty years, which effectively decimated any hold real or imaginary that the minorities may have had in public service, businesses, trade and commerce, the refrain has now changed to historical wrongs perpetrated on them which needs to be corrected by measures, including retrieval of lands in the hands of minorities displacing them from their areas of habitation and foisting of their will and authority on these minorities, subjugating them in the name of their religion with the help of the authority of the State fallen into

their hands. Hence the question - "Are we really interested in reconciliation and co-existence?" Here the word "we" means those in the echelons of power belonging mainly to the Sinhala Buddhist community.

When the majority among the All Party Representatives' Conference came up with a workable solution to the problems of those affected around the year 2006, their efforts were scuttled. The highest in the land refused to allow the report of the majority to be debated and considered. On the other hand steps were taken to maximize the State's efforts towards the war. Now that the war has been concluded in the State's favour, why do powers that be not want to go back to the majority report of the All Party Representatives' Conference and consider same favourably?

If the State and its governing elite have hidden racial or ethnic or even political bias, reconciliation becomes a problem even if large sections of the people are in fact in favour of reconciliation and co-existence. Further, it would be difficult for the victims and those affected to step out of their conditioned state of mind which believes that the State is an organ of repression and aggression bent on looking after the interests of a section of the people and not wanting to alleviate the sufferings and grievances of sections of citizens other than those favoured.

The sense of frustration and hopelessness would per force go underground, so to say. It would be embedded in the hearts of the victims awaiting a chance to burst out violently. That was what took place earlier which had been cruelly destroyed.

But no amount of brutal wiping out of human species would douse the flame of freedom and justice from the hearts of Men. The Jews in millions were wiped out. But they still remain the most powerful group of human beings in this world. So long as decimating and wiping out of human beings fighting for causes perceived by them as legitimate and moral, continues to be a policy of a governing elite, Hinduism believes, the Law of Karma would take its effect. The saying that those who flourish by the sword would perish by the sword, though trite, does not lack credibility.

No doubt those who took up to violence found that greater violence brought about their exit. But how long would it take for those who resorted to such greater and more sophisticated brutal violence, especially against innocent human beings, to learn this same lesson? We have seen this happening quite often in the past. All religions have said that we reap what we sow. An understanding of this law of retribution coupled with possibly the urgent need for political stability in the Country might hold the key to reconciliation and co-existence. If we realize that we pay for the wrongs we do to others in the

long run, maybe a sense of grave responsibility might overtake us. We might realize that the politics of continuing violence, politics of distrust of the past which culminated in the revocation of agreements and failure to honour promises had led us to an abyss of unrest and chaos so far and unless a positive turning back from such violence and distrust is attempted, the cycle of violence would again have its toll on us. For this, a change of heart is essential. The victor, like King Asoka, must realize the futility of war and violence. If the Buddha's message could have kindled a sensitive string in the heart of King Asoka after the bloody Kalinga War, why cannot the same message move the hearts of the modern professed followers of the Buddha?

Hinduism teaches that if we had acted violently or foolishly so far we could change our ways radically to usher in a better future, a peaceful future, an intelligent future. Thus, the ill effects of all wrongs done to the minorities by the governing elite so far could be washed away by taking corrective action presently.

What are these corrective measures? According to Hinduism, following the Ideal of Dharma is the important corrective measure to be undertaken. The virtues that spring from the Ideal of Dharma are all based on a fundamental sense of obligation towards fellow beings and are branches from the root of Dutifulness. Even though rights and duties, being co-relatives, are two sides of the same coin, the attitudes of those claiming rights and those insisting on doing their duties are different. When we ask for our rights we are aggressive, combative and separative. Those who prefer to do their duties are yielding, peaceful and unifying.

An important result that flows from the Ideal of Duty is that the failure of one of two parties in a relationship to do his duty does not excuse the other from doing his. While there should be reciprocity to make a relationship perfect, yet duty must be done even to the undutiful. Duty must be fully discharged no matter what may be the unworthiness of the other party to the relationship. Why this should be so stems from the realization that the other will have to answer to Karma for his breaches of the law.

Importing this idea to our present predicament, we should note that performing our duties dispassionately, having acted hitherto in a selfish manner, would entail a change of heart on our part, which is essential if we are to move forward towards peace, reconciliation and co-existence. Conforming to the ideal of Dharma brings out some of the core values stressed by the Hindu religion viz.

- 1. Understanding of the working of the Law of Karma;
- 2. Realisation of the unity of creation and the interdependency of all beings and the inter-

connectedness of all activities going on in the Universe;

-3. The realization of the need to share resources, power and love among communities and

-4. The realization of the need to build up trust among communities by each community performing its duties for the betterment of the entire Sri Lankan society.

-If Truth and Reconciliation Committees in South Africa in conformity with noble Christian ideals stressed the importance of regret and atonement, we in Sri Lanka could set up a Movement which would in conformity with the ideals of Hinduism and Buddhism take us back to Dharma (Dhamma), where every person high or low, powerful or ordinary, intellectual or unlettered, belonging to a major community or minor community comes forward to perform his or her duty. There is no need to regret. Having realized our mistakes of the past, we collectively shoulder our responsibility to take forward our country towards peace and prosperity by performing our duties. We are fortunate that our Constitution has already enumerated Principles of State Policy and (Citizen's) Fundamental Duties in its Chapter VI in Articles 27 and 28. Establishment of a just and free society, full realization of rights and freedoms of all persons, equitable distribution of the resources of the Country, establishment of a just social order, strengthening of the democratic structure of government and the democratic rights of the People by decentralizing the administration ensuring People's participation in national life and in governance, elimination of discrimination on grounds of race, religion and language, equality of opportunity to all citizens, fostering respect for international law and treaty obligations in dealings among nations are some of the Principles of State Policy enumerated in Article 27(2) of the Constitution.

Unfortunately these are termed "Directive" principles, which means they are not justiciable in terms of the provisions of Article 29. Article 28 enumerates fundamental duties of Citizens. Thus, our laws are not devoid of the structure which recognizes the need to strengthen Dutifulness as a principle of administration, governance and social order. It is time we gave teeth to this principle of dutifulness which is the foundation of Dharma.

Conforming to the Dharma would identify the needs of the society for the present as well as for the future and the determination of all concerned to shoulder the responsibilities for the present and future. Performance of duties by all and the recognition of the principle of performing our duties towards those whom we had hitherto been at war or conflict is also part of Dharma.

Let me finally enumerate shortly some of the practical

methods that may be considered by powers that be in order to bring solace to those suffering hitherto.

a. Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons in their original areas of habitation.

b. Rebuilding houses destroyed or damaged by the War.

c. Paying compensation to those who had suffered by the War.

d. Immediate steps to fully implement the provisions of the 13th and 16th Amendments to the Constitution, especially with regard to Language.

e. Initiating training programmes for Parliamentarians on Reconciliation and Co-existence and the need to conform to the Dharma which means the stressing of their duties.

f. To discourage at the highest levels the condonation of the building of religious idols as instruments of victory symbols and aggression.

g. To fully implement the use of all three Languages in name boards in Government Departments, Road Signs, buses and other means of conveyance and transport etc., giving equal recognition to all three languages.

h. To desist from making the Military as an instrument of repression and discrimination.

i. To initiate programmes in schools which would teach children the benefits of sharing and respecting the other person's humanity and doing their duties towards all and sundry.

j. To formulate a social structure which would emphasise the need to conform to the list of duties enumerated in the Constitution.

k. All religious dignitaries to come forward voluntarily to participate in this Movement to restore the Dharma.

The word "Dharma" should not be misunderstood as something indigenous to Hinduism and Buddhism only. It is the Ideal of Duty, the ideal of social responsibility and social responsiveness. Such an ideal had been taught by all religious leaders, be it Lord Jesus Christ or the Prophet (Peace be unto Him). We have to use our ingenuity to formulate a social instrument which would overshadow the culture of Rights with a culture of Duties. Here lies the contribution of Religions to social weal and well being.

I thank you for the patient hearing.

*(Retired Supreme court judge, Justice C.V.Wigneswaran delivered this address at a MARGA Institute workshop held in Colombo on September 15th 2009*



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Toronto cardiologist Dr Vivian Rambihar and University of Toronto medical student Vanessa Rambihar warn that the tremendous economic success of India and the South Asian diaspora is at risk if we do not address urgent health concerns now. They issued this caution as invited speakers at the 20th Anniversary Convention of GOPIO, Global Organization of People of Indian Origin, held in New York from August 20-23, 2009, responding to the optimism of "India Rising" at the Business part of the diaspora conference.

They showed evidence of high and rising rates of diabetes and premature heart disease in India and across the South Asian diaspora, related mostly to stress, diet and lifestyle changes, which are preventable. They advance this as a challenge and an opportunity for change, reflecting the theme of the convention. Their warning comes on the 50th Anniversary of the first report of excess and premature deaths of Indians settling abroad, which has gotten worse all across the diaspora since.

They showed World Health Organization predictions of most of the world's heart disease and diabetes in India by 2015, affecting young people in the prime of their lives. This will cause 237 billion US dollars in lost productivity in India over the next ten years, proportionately similar across the South Asian diaspora. Risk factors increase on urbanization and migration, causing more illness and deaths at an earlier decade than other communities. Increasing obesity will make this worse, with problems starting younger and at lower blood sugar levels and waist size in people of Indian origin, requiring earlier and more intense screening, prevention and treatment.

Economic success has changed people's diet and lifestyle, producing the health problems that threaten further economic success. India and the diaspora have a double problem, with varying degrees of poverty, deprivation and reduced access causing illness and disability as well. They warn that continued economic growth of India and the diaspora requires addressing these issues now, and invite GOPIO and the Indian Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to consider this the next great challenge facing the diaspora.

As an urgent matter threatening the success of nations and communities, this should become a priority. Novel approaches are now required, including an integrated approach, engaging the entire community, including social, business and cultural agencies as part of the solution.

## 50th Anniv of first report of increased heart disease in People of Indian Origin. Presented at GOPIO 20th Anniversary Convention New York, August 21-22, 2009

# Health threatens economic future of India and the SA diaspora: Warning at GOPIO 20th Anniversary Conference

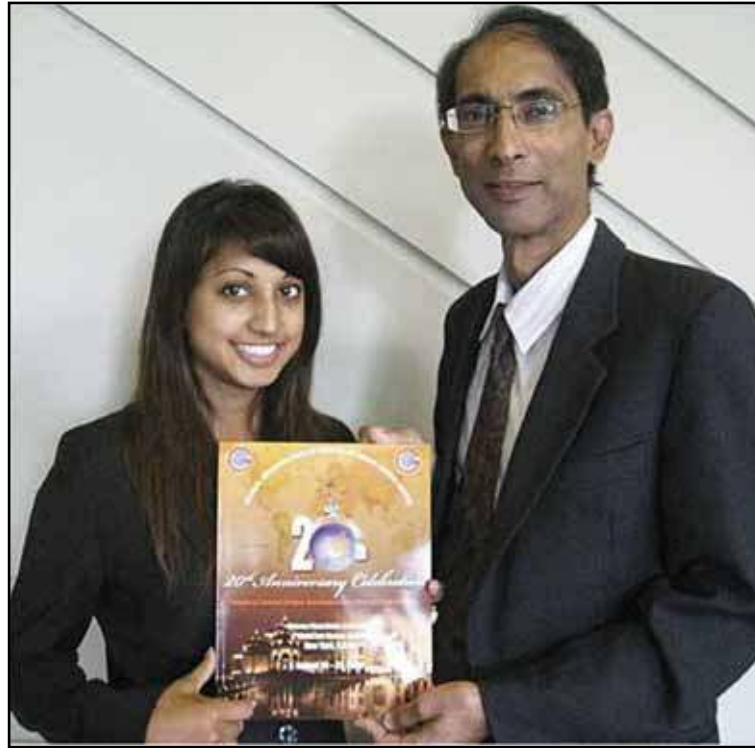
The challenge and solutions are complex, sometimes called a "wicked" problem, the issues and solutions changing when addressed, requiring newer approaches.

This warning was specifically made at the GOPIO 20th Anniversary Convention, to reach global leaders and delegates from across the Indian diaspora attending. GOPIO was formed in 1989 to network and bring the global Indian community together, with its inaugural convention attended by 3000 delegates including Dr Cheddie Jagan, President of Guyana, and Basdeo Panday Former President of Trinidad and Tobago. Founding President of GOPIO, Thomas Abraham says that the organization promotes awareness and understanding as well as lobbies on issues of concern to people of Indian origin globally, while providing a platform for dialogue and discussion across the diaspora.

GOPIO has been successful in coordinating a collective response to concerns facing Indians globally. Major issues addressed were human rights violations in Guyana, Trinidad, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom and the USA and from 2000 in Fiji. Achievements include restoring human rights to Indians globally, helping to get Indian communities involved in mainstream politics, successful campaigning for a Person of Indian Origin card (2002), a separate Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (2004), and inspiring the formation of the annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Government of India conference for overseas Indians, from 2003.

GOPIO reports its more recent actions as Peace Marches in Germany against attacks on eight Indians, Protest Rally at the UN against Justice Sharma being forced from office in Trinidad and Tobago, redesign of the Trinity Award in Trinidad and Tobago and campaign against the attacks on Indian students in Australia. GOPIO also recently organized its annual conference with the PBD in India and mobilized Indian Americans to support the important US-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement.

The 20th Anniversary Conference this year with the theme "The Indian Diaspora: Challenges and Opportunities in the New Millennium" was an



Dr Vivian Rambihar and Vanessa Rambihar at GOPIO 20th Anniversary Convention

opportunity to reflect and look forward. The Honourable Vayalar Ravi, Government of India Minister for Overseas Indians sent greetings, stressing the need for issues and concerns to be represented and redressed by such organizations. The Honourable Bharrat Jagdeo, President of Guyana also sent greetings, mentioning that GOPIO has made remarkable progress representing the interests of over 25 million persons of Indian origin globally, noting with pride his attendance as the Chief Guest at its 10th Anniversary Event.

Other leaders sending congratulations were the Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, the Honourable Mahendra Chaudhury, Former Prime Minister of Fiji, and Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York city. Guyanese born Ashook Ramsarran, residing in the USA, was the Convention Convenor and Secretary General of GOPIO, and many presentations on various topics were made by IndoCaribbeans. Mike Singh,

Guyanese born telecoms entrepreneur residing in the US, spoke passionately about his love of India and his confidence in its future.

The Friday conference focused on "India and the Indian diaspora in the context of global economic challenges and development." Eminent leaders from across the world spoke, including the Honourable Basdeo Panday and Yesu Persaud, prominent Guyanese businessman and philanthropist and Lord Diljit Rana, incoming President of GOPIO. There was optimism for the future, with a general consensus of India rising, having weathered the current economic crisis well. The Saturday conference on "The India Diaspora, Challenges and Opportunities" included sessions by youth and by elders, with discussions on inter-ethnic relations, energizing the diaspora, refocusing GOPIO at 20 years and health concerns like HIV/AIDS and chronic diseases like diabetes and heart disease.

Dr Rambihar and Vanessa

Rambihar proposed health as the next big challenge for GOPIO and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. They suggest that it become a general not a health discussion. They wish to raise awareness and invite collaborative for change from everyone, especially business and economic sections, with their future at risk. Action plans for individuals and communities, and for policy change across the world should be promoted, with everyone becoming the change they wish to see across the diaspora. They advocate "Making your best health to make a healthy diaspora," starting now, marking the 20th Anniversary of GOPIO and the 50th Anniversary of the first report of excess and premature heart disease in Indians abroad.

Put simply, we need to eat more healthy, eat less if overweight, exercise more, reduce stress, keep as flat an abdomen as possible, and start early to check and reduce our risks, which are often underestimated. It's much more complex, however, with everyone and each community different, with unique and changing challenges and barriers to health. Now is the time to learn more, start a discussion with your family, friends and community and help each other to better health. By making your best health, you become part of making a better world, a better India and a better diaspora.

For specific things you can do personally or as a community, please search the following web sites: South Asian Health Project, healthy\_India.org, South Asian Heart Center, South Asian Health Foundation, AAPI web page, page 137 in Tsunami Chaos Global Heart for a section on South Asian Heart. For more on GOPIO and the 20th Anniversary Conference please look at the GOPIO website. For more on making a better world search globalhearthour.com

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# "Chinthana Lanka" Under "Maha Rajathuma" is Like the "1984" Novel of George Orwell



by Mangala Samaraweera

In 1949, the English author, George Orwell published "1984", a novel destined to become the classic dystopian novel of the 20th century. The story set in a future England, was according to the author "intended as a show-up of the perversions which have already been partly realized in Communism and Fascism" as experienced in Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia. Orwell also described his novel as a warning to the British that totalitarianism, if not fought against, could triumph anywhere.

Had Orwell been alive today, he would have been relieved and happy that most of the world has moved away from fascist/communist forms of government to firmly entrenched forms of democratic governance - including Germany and Russia. However I am sure he would have been shocked to see the little island paradise called Ceylon which gained Independence from the British Empire in 1948, only a year before he released his novel, would become the setting for a true to life Orwellian nightmare 59 years later.

In "1984", the pictures of the dictator "Big Brother" is everywhere like the giant cutouts of our own indigenous version - "Maha Rajathuma" today. As the London Guardian wrote on 14th September "Colombo's streets are littered with so many pictures of President Mahinda Rajapakse and his brothers that the incipient personality cult would shame a Chinese Communist".

Actually, the giant cut outs of the President and his brothers in every possible nook and corner of our island. would have even shamed Hitler and Stalin, and to be fair on the Chinese, the modern Chinese leadership, thankfully, does not indulge in this display of hubris anymore.

However, what is distinctly and disturbingly "Orwellian" today is the "newspeak" of the Rajapakse regime, which deliberately twists language to say the opposite of what it truly means.

In "1984" the "Ministry of Peace" actually deals with war and the "Ministry of Love" actually tortures people. In Chintana Lanka today of Maharajathuma, the Peace Secretariat actually became the chief apologist for the atrocities and human rights violations committed in the name of fighting terrorism such as the murder of Members of Parliament and journalists, extra judicial killings and white van abductions etc. during the last two years; today barbed wire internment camps are euphemistically called "Welfare Camps" and the 280,000 + people incarcerated there are called IDPs (Internally



Mangala Samaraweera

Displaced Persons) while in actual fact these people should be called FDDPs. (Forcibly Displaced and Detained Persons.)

Nearly 300,000 people were uprooted and displaced from the conflict zone and 4 months after the government officially announced the defeat of the LTTE, over 280,000 persons are held in closed camps in one of the most serious human rights crises in 21st century Asia. The only 'crime' these unfortunate persons have committed is to have been born in an area, which was under LTTE control for nearly two decades.

Previously they suffered under the brutal and tyrannical rule of the tigers and today they continue to suffer untold hardships and humiliations under their own government who promised them 'liberation' after the LTTE was defeated. Facing the proverbial 'frying pan into the fire' situation, the people in these camps have been denied their most basic human rights; freedom of movement, of speech and assembly, of livelihood and grievance redressed. There are also allegations that 30-40 people disappear daily from these camps and according to District Secretary of Killinochchi over 10,000 people have gone missing since these camps were established.

Like the conflict, which preceded this crises - 'the war without witnesses', the local and international organizations have limited access to these camps and local and international media are selectively taken to some of the showcase areas of the camp. Members from this august assembly are also barred from visiting these camps.

Because of the limited time given to me I will not take your time to talk about the atrocious conditions of these barbed wire prisons. Many of my fellow members have done so and will be doing so during the course of this debate.

However, Sri Lankans as well as our friends abroad must realize that the people held in these camps are not refugees in the normal sense of the word. The majority of the detainees have their own homes to go back to or have kith and kin in different parts of the country who are willing to put them up. They are not economic refugees either as

many of them have some form of livelihood as teachers, government servants, farmers and land owners etc. Many have kinsfolk abroad who are remitting money to them.

According to a news report in the "Daily News" of 15th August 2009, the Deputy General Manager of Bank of Ceylon - I.D.Weerawansa was quoted as saying that 500 million rupees had been deposited by the IDPs over the last 4 - 5 months. ATM facilities have been opened in the camps with 21000 new account holders. Unlike the Tsunami victims of 2004 the FDDPs do not need the handouts of the well meaning people elsewhere and if they are allowed to go home they do not need the large amounts of humanitarian aid collected on their behalf by the government and other agencies. If given the freedom to choose where they want to live, the government would not need to pass this supplementary estimate for their upkeep either.

"LET US GO HOME" That is their only request at the moment. The President must recognize the right to return of the people and the people must be allowed to go to their original place or the place of their choice. The resettlement must start immediately and it must be done under the supervision of an all-party committee of Parliament. This is especially important in the face of allegations that the government is merely relocating people from these camps in similar camps elsewhere to stave off mounting local and international pressure.

In response the government says that they cannot be allowed to do so until the areas are cleared of land mines. Of course, many respond by saying that they have been living with land mines for many years but if the presence of civilians can obstruct the de mining operations, most people have kinsfolk with whom they could live with until the areas are cleared.

The defence authorities also repeat ad nauseum their other standard excuse of having 20,000 LTTE suspects yet to be identified amongst the 280,000 FDDPs. This often repeated excuse raises two interesting questions.

Firstly, it raises the question of the credibility and veracity of figures released by top defence officials. On 10th February 2008 the Army Commander said that LTTE has around 5000 fighters remaining and on 12th September 2008 the Commander said, "11000 tigers killed since July 2006. Only 4000 remain." Having decimated the LTTE in May this year, it would be interesting to find out how the LTTE even in defeat has increased its numbers to 20000 in such a short period of time! It is obvious that the number of LTTE cadres fluctuate according to the whims and fancies of the Defence Ministry.

Secondly, it also raises a question on the legality of incarcerating 280,000 persons because of the inability of the authorities to identify 20,000 LTTE suspects; this form of collective punishment for the misdeeds of a few, is illegal and totally unacceptable in a democracy.

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The Dixie and Highway 7 branch, CIBC's second location in Brampton to offer seven-day banking along with its Bovaird and Airport Drive location, was selected to offer Sunday banking hours because of its proximity to where busy CIBC clients live, work and shop. The branch also offers clients service in a variety of languages including English, Italian, Hindi and Portuguese.

"We're thrilled to be expanding our full-service Sunday hours to another location in Brampton," said Larry Tomei, Senior Vice-President, CIBC Retail Markets, Central Ontario. "We hear time and again from our clients how

much they enjoy the flexibility Sunday banking lends to their schedules. Not everyone can make it to a branch during the week and our employees tell us that Sunday is often the perfect time to meet with busy clients and have meaningful financial discussions."

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CIBC's Dixie and Highway 7 branch is located at 16 Lisa Street in Brampton.

Offering Sunday hours and adding Saturday and evening hours at branches across the country is one more way CIBC is giving its clients more banking options. CIBC also has a five-year strategic plan to build, relocate and expand over 70 new branches across the country by 2011.

With 1063 branches, CIBC clients already have access to one of the largest branch net-

In fact when an ageing father was taken into custody in lieu of his son suspected of DJVP activity in the South in 1991 - this is how my friend and joint conveynor of Mother's Front, Hon. Mahinda Rajapakse responded in Parliament; Hansard - 21st May 1991- p427.

"Listen to this, Mr. Deputy Chairman ; the son has done the wrong, the complaint is against the son. They have taken the ageing father from home and keeping him at the Police in lieu of the son. Which devil's law is this? What is this law? What is the result of this? Is this democracy? Are these human rights? Is this the five star democracy you are talking about? Is this the dhamma we hear on the radio daily? Is this the sermon preached on Saturdays?"

18 years later, when 280,000 people are being held captive in a similar manner, in lieu of 20000 terrorist suspects, we too are compelled to ask who the devil is behind this great human tragedy. The devil in question, certainly does not wear Prada but a maroon "satakaya"!

And to the devil I repeat the words of Hon. Mahinda Rajapakse from the Hansard of 21st May 1991.

"Resign in the name of god in order to protect democracy in our country and the human rights of our people."

*(The speech made in Parliament on 22nd September 2009 by Mangala Samaraweera MP).*

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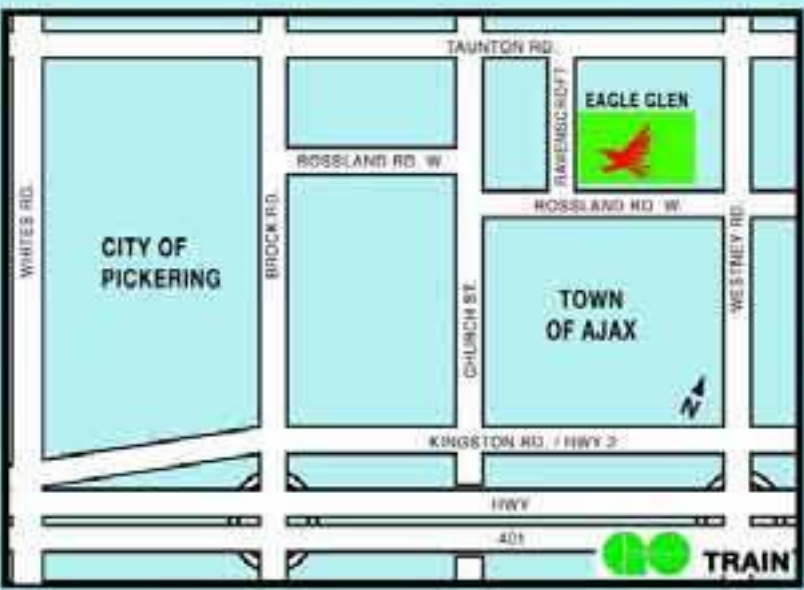
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**MONSOON  
FEATURE**

# EAGLE GLEN

A FAMILY COMMUNITY BY JOHN BODDY HOMES

John Boddy Homes has been nominated for 'Best Builder' in Ajax/Pickering for the thirteenth year in a row for this year's Readers' Choice Awards and will be releasing its final phase later this year 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, bungalows, and future semi-detached and townhomes. Homes start at 1,701 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 limited selection of wide shallow lots and pond lots. 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 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 homebuyer's to make upgrade selections on site, enabling them to conveniently personalize their home. In fact John Boddy Homes has been the proud recipient of "Best New Home Builder" in the annual Reader's Choice Awards for Ajax/Pickering for the past twelve years in a row!

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 an upgrade master ensuite with separate shower and upgrade tub plus \$7,500 in free upgrades. Also currently available is 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 Highways 401 and 407. Located just north of a host of shopping and recreation centres, 'Eagle Glen' allows residents all the amenities of the urban lifestyle while providing the beauty and tranquility of the neighbouring countryside.

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

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

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

Rendering of Model  
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WORDS OF PEACE

# Lost and Found

Sometimes the hardest thing for people to accept is that they already have the peace and joy they are looking for, says Maharaji, who travels the world to speak about the possibility of finding real peace within.

"There are degrees of finding," he says. "If I'm looking for a handkerchief and I know that in my suitcase I have handkerchiefs, I can go in my closet, open up my suitcase, and there, sure enough, is a handkerchief. I found it, but I didn't get excited.

"If you are a wife whose husband has misplaced his watch, and everybody is looking for this watch, you're hoping you will find it. You love your husband, and you're hoping you will find the watch.

"Now suppose it's your child that is lost. You don't care who finds the child, as long as that child walks back into the house. The attention isn't the method. The goal is finding the child, not how."

So, Maharaji asks, how precious is peace to us? Are we focused on getting it through a particular method, or is it the experience of being fulfilled that we want, no matter how we find it?

"There are people who have established methods: 'This is how peace will happen,'" he says. "On the one hand, there are desires, expectations, and aspirations based on what we're told to do. On the other, there is the possibility of being fulfilled."

The idea that peace is a feeling within the heart is an old, old story, Maharaji says. As children, human beings are completely dedicated to feeling good. "I have nothing new to say. My story is so old that it's been talked about since a very long time ago," he says. "You already know everything I say. I'm not here to give more definitions. I'm not here to give out more ideas or new ideas.

"What I do is travel the world to tell people about what they have-not what they need to



asks. "There is a reality, and this reality is that you are alive. It's the most beautiful reality, and it does not change.

"The reality is that within you the blessing of breath is coming and going. What does that mean? We judge ourselves by what we have accomplished. We judge by what we think the world is about. Everybody is proud of something, but we do not actually revolve around those things. The fact of the matter is that the only thing we revolve around is breath. When that stops, all our revolving is finished."

To those who are inspired by his words, Maharaji says he can help with experiencing that reality firsthand.

achieve, not what they need to create. I tell them that what they already have is the most beautiful thing; that because you exist, you've been given something so precious."

The problem, he says, is in not recognizing what we have. "Doesn't each of us know that peace and joy cannot take place anywhere else except within? I know you know that. It's obvious, isn't it? All I do is point out the obvious. Your joy cannot take place in the person next to you. Your peace, your joy, has to manifest within--and the inner beauty is the most enjoyable. It's supremely and divinely enjoyable."

Maharaji says his message is simply to focus on what's real in this life.

"What do you really want?" he

"What I talk about is not just words," he says. "The scene does not need to be rearranged. The window doesn't need to be changed. It's only that the dirt needs to be removed. When it is, the beauty is all there, just as it always was--and as it always will be."

Do whatever is necessary to find peace in your life and be content. Look for peace, find peace, and enjoy peace. If you can't, I can help. It's as simple as that.

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Meditation as a way of manufacturing what we call as ojas. When we eat food, digestion manufactures the body in a certain way. This is important for our physical existence, but the body by itself does not serve any purpose. The body can be a means of great suffering. The body is capable of pleasure also but its limitations will be unfulfilling over a period of time.

In meditation, we are using energy to manufacture something much subtler than the physical body. Now the process of shifting the life forces into a different level

## Ojas

of manufacture, where instead of manufacturing physical body cells,



his, which will be everybody's around him.

Your meditation is not only about yourself. If twenty-five people in this hall become truly meditative, the whole town, without knowing why, will become peaceful. Without having any idea about what is happening to them, there will be a certain sense of settling. The deeper one goes into it, the more of a device he becomes for everybody's well being. It is not by blabbering good things that true peace and well being will come. Only when



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)

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it begins to manufacture subtler energies, which we call as ojas, is known as meditation.

The quality, the intensity and the volume of ojas makes the difference between one human being and another. Why one human being's presence seems to be so strong and transforming, and another's weak is simply because the ojas he carries with him. A meditator is someone who has set up an industry of ojas. Right now, it is quite limiting and frustrating not to allow people to go into higher states of energy and ojas simply because people don't have the necessary balance, preparedness, discipline or are still unable to understand the priorities they need to allocate to different dimensions of their life. There are so many things that you can do to dissipate and to destroy the growth of ojas in you. Various types of mental activity can do that.

Certain types of physical activity, excessive sexuality, excessive indulgence in food, too much of stimulants and being in contaminated atmospheres can also do that. Spirituality means, going into processes that can enhance one's ojas and change the very fundamentals of their life; to take a person to a completely different experience, joy within himself and a blissfulness which is not only

people carry the right kind of energy around them, only when their ojas is such that a hundred people can sit under their shadow, and experience it, only then well being will truly happen.

Quite a few people are experientially open and definitely capable of generating higher possibilities of energy. But modern life has made people absolutely fickle. You're simply shifting all the time, from this to that, whether it comes to jobs, priorities, education or th relationships. In this shifting, your energy also becomes unstable.

If all we want to teach is a simple technique of meditation, or something for your health and well being, I can train people to do that in two to three weeks time, maybe four weeks. We can train teachers to go on imparting meditation, kriyas and whatever, little things that are necessary for one's physical well being and mental well being. Out of a thousand people who come, you may find a dozen people who are capable of higher possibilities. Only if one makes himself available to higher and higher possibilities, it's only then that grace can descend and do something that you yourself could never do. Only then this can become a very fulfilling process for an individual.



Executive Producer Sabesan Jeyarajasingam of Khatpanalaya Production is pleased to announce the drama, 1999, has been selected to open the Canadian Images Program of the Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF). Directed by Toronto filmmaker Lenin M. Sivam, the movie will make its world premiere at VIFF on Oct. 14 and Oct. 15.

A deadly gang shooting in Toronto on a seemingly ordinary Saturday sets into motion a chain of unpredictable events that change the lives of three young men forever. Anpu is an impressionable isolated underachiever who lives with his widowed father in Scarborough and finds salvation with a local gang. Kumar is a gang leader with no family except for a younger brother. Far removed from them is an ambitious university student, Ahilan, who helps people in need. The

# "1999" TO MAKE WORLD DEBUT AT VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

## Will Open VIFF's Canada Images Program

three are tied together by the experience of Sri Lanka's devastating civil war and the unintended consequences of that fateful Saturday.

Based on interviews with former gang members and youth workers, 1999 provides a behind-the-scenes look at the violence that affected Toronto's Tamil community and made countless headlines during the 1990s. Emotional, moving and eye-opening, the movie also delves into the challenges faced by these youth as they tried to adjust to life in Canada while trying to put the bitter memories of Sri Lanka's civil war behind them. Technically brilliant and fast moving, the movie is a montage of seamlessly woven overlapping segments from the main characters' perspectives.

1999 is the full feature directorial debut of Mr. Sivam. "We couldn't be happier and honored that VIFF has chosen to premiere

1999," said Mr. Sivam. "The invitation is an endorsement of our vision and the relevancy of the subject matter. It is important to note that 1999 was completed with a very small budget. Everyone who worked on the project volunteered their time. They were all very passionate about telling a story that was worth telling."

Mr. Sivam was born in Jaffna, Sri Lanka and raised in Toronto, Canada. He has worked on a number of short films, including the critically acclaimed short film, Uruthy (2007). With a well-researched script, he tackled the stigma attached to mental illness. The story is about a clinically depressed young man who finally finds the strength to get help for his debilitating illness. Mr. Sivam often explores subject matters that are relevant and controversial.

1999 also features an original

score by Rajkumar Thillaiyampalam. The soundtrack includes songs by Lyrically Strapped and S.P. Balasubramaniam and spans some of the best in Indian, Canadian, and Sri Lankan independent music.

Khatpanalaya Production, a Toronto-based independent production company established five years ago by three filmmakers, presents 1999 in association with Bagavan Productions. Bagavan Productions is an independent production company with a number of short films to its credit.

The VIFF is among the largest film festivals in North America and is one of the largest cultural events in Canada. A fall fixture on the international film festival calendar, this outstanding festival is a microcosm of its home city: cosmopolitan, innovative, friendly, culturally complex and very accessible. From October 1-16, 2009, more than 145,000 people are expected to attend approximately 575 screenings of 350



films from 70 countries. Founded in 1982, the festival's mandate is to encourage the understanding of other nations through the art of cinema, to foster the art of cinema, to facilitate the meeting in British Columbia of cinema professionals from around the world, and to stimulate the motion picture industry in British Columbia and Canada.

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For inquiries pertaining to VIFF, please contact Ellie O'Day, Canadian Images publicist: 604.646.4770, ellie@viff.org

## The Scarborough Hospital shows remarkable improvement in C. difficile cases

The Scarborough Hospital shows remarkable improvement in C. difficile cases

A hospital-wide initiative to improve patient safety has resulted in a 94 percent decline in the number of C. difficile cases at The Scarborough Hospital, General campus.

"Before public reporting began, we recognized that we had a problem. So we hired an expert to assess our situation at the General campus and give us recommendations," says Dr. John Wright, President and CEO of The Scarborough Hospital. "We took his advice, implementing all of his recommendations. I am proud of the incredible improvement we have made."

Today the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care released the numbers and rates of C. difficile cases in hospitals throughout the province, reporting an overall decline of 30 percent since public reporting began a year ago. Last year, The Scarborough Hospital's General campus was among the worst, reporting 17 cases in August 2008. The Birchmount campus (formerly the Grace campus) reported zero cases.

One year later, the General campus is down to just one case and is continuing efforts to reach its goal of zero.

With recommendations from Dr. Michael Gardam, the province's Director of Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, The Scarborough Hospital imple-

mented new cleaning practices, changed its cleaning products and hired additional cleaners to do a surge cleaning, explains Ester Lipnicki, Executive Director of Patient Services and Quality Care at The Scarborough Hospital.

"We also did an inventory of furniture and threw out anything that was cracked or ripped. We increased education for all staff and introduced Vernacares, a better system for disposing of waste," says Ester. "We know, for whatever reason, we have a higher number of patients who come in with C. difficile. We've improved our screening process so we can take immediate precautions to reduce the chance of spreading the bacteria."

The hospital also increased awareness and put greater emphasis on proper hand washing technique. In fact, earlier this year, The Scarborough Hospital topped the list in the province's first-ever public reporting of hand hygiene compliance. The Scarborough Hospital's overall compliance rate was 97 percent, well above the provincial average of 61 percent.

"We didn't take last year's results lightly and we didn't come up with excuses. We recognized the need for significant change and we worked very hard to tackle this problem. We continue to work very hard to ensure we don't see those high rates again at The Scarborough Hospital."

## Canadian Lawyer presents case on Human Rights issue in Geneva

Full text of oral statement made by Gary Aanadasangaree of Lawyers Rights Watch Canada and a member of Canadian Tamil Congress during September.

Oral presentation of Lawyers Rights Watch Canada to the 12th Session of the Human Rights

Mr. President,

Lawyers Rights Watch Canada aligns itself with the statements made by the International Commission of Jurists and the Asian Legal Resource Centre with respect to Sri Lanka.

At the 11th Special Session of the Human Rights Council, the Sri Lankan government committed to returning the bulk of the IDP to their homes within 180 days.

We are now approaching the 120-day mark of that pledge and so far, the Sri Lankan government has failed to live up to its commitments to the international community. Over 280,000 Tamil civilians, including seniors, women and children, are still being held against their will in "open prisons" and their freedom of movement restricted. Clean water, sanitation, food, medicine and the basic necessities of life are in dire need. The monsoon season has exacerbated conditions, flooding some camps and causing water supplies to be contaminated with sewage.

The Sri Lankan government's claim that they have to clear land mines prior to releasing the IDPs is unacceptable. There are 21 mil-

lion people living in areas where land mines are not a significant problem within the island of Sri Lanka. While landmines may hinder long term settlement for some IDPs, it should not be a barrier to release. If the IDPs so choose, they ought to have rights as citizens to move around anywhere in the island. The Sri Lankan government does not appear to have the will to release the IDPs and is using Landmines as an excuse; landmines that in many cases were placed by its military.

In addition, the Sri Lankan government has failed to allow independent observers access to the camps. Those who report the facts about the camps like UNICEF spokesperson, James Elder, are expelled from the country.

On the heels of the ruthless murder of the Sunday Leader Editor Lasantha Wickrematunga and the arbitrary arrest, detention and release of Uthayan Newspaper Editor Vithyatharan, and the attacks on countless newsrooms, Sri Lanka's state apparatus sentenced T.S. Tissanayagam to 20 years in jail for simply doing his job as a journalist. Apart from the chills it has sent throughout newsrooms in Sri Lanka, the involvement of the judicial system in sentencing Mr. Tissanayagam is cause for concern as it seriously puts into question the independence of the judiciary in Sri Lanka. We call for



the release of Mr. Tissanayagam.

Those who defend the rule of law are increasingly under attack in Sri Lanka. This July, Sri Lanka's Prime Minister labeled 5 lawyers "traitors" for defending the Sunday Leader newspaper against a defamation action commenced by the President's brother. Recent death threats made against Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) is an alarming sign of how those who defend human rights are at grave risk.

Mr. President, the deteriorating situation in Sri Lanka desperately requires the attention of this Council. The international community must demand the unconditional release of the civilians within the 180-day timeline proposed by the government of Sri Lanka and supported by a majority of council members.

# Proud as a peacock at East Asian Festival



By Mirko Petricevic, Record staff

Standing onstage as proud as a peacock, Tina Li held her hands high and swirled them gracefully to accompanying oriental music.

Dressed in a floor-length azure blue skirt and matching tank top, Li performed a traditional dance from one of the many ethnic groups in China.

The choreography was designed to imitate the bird with a resplendent fan of tail feathers.

"The peacock is a proud animal," Li said after her performance.

But great pride also prompted Li, who immigrated to Canada from China several years ago, to mount the stage at Renison University College in Waterloo on Saturday and perform several traditional dances.

"I'm very proud of China," said the 18-year-old Wilfrid Laurier University student. "I love China, but I also love Canada."

Li was among dozens of performers who presented many facets of culture during Renison's 15 annual East Asian Festival.

The Waterloo school, which is affiliated with the University of Waterloo, specializes in teaching

courses on the languages and cultures from China, Japan and Korea.

The annual event is partly meant to raise money for academic programs and for scholarships to help students travel to work and study in the Pacific Rim, said Tracey Antonio, co-ordinator of the festival.

"This gives insight into what various cultures do," Antonio said of all the attractions featured at the festival.

More than 100 people circulated through the mid-day event. As they munched on spring rolls and stir fries spectators listened to oriental music and watched dance performances and martial arts demonstrations.

"You don't have to be a specific race, you don't have to be a specific age to enjoy what these various cultures do," she said.

And people who aren't from East Asia also helped present some of the oriental cultures.

For example, a choir of non-Chinese students sang a selection of Chinese songs.

And Steve Higgins, a local insurance broker, led a martial arts demonstration of graceful T'ai Chi routines.

Higgins, chief instructor for Cold Mountain Internal Arts, said he has been studying and teach-



ing martial arts for 25 years or more.

"It's the most wonderful way in the world to put mind and body together," he said.

In between performances curious festival goers visited various information booths displaying brochures on Renison's academic programs and various martial arts clubs. Glossy brochures beckoning tourists to visit South Korea blanketed several tables.

Their photographs can convey only some of the beauty of the ancient temples and gorgeous landscapes.

Words failed Li, the proud student who performed the peacock dance, when she tried to describe

the reasons she loves her homeland so much.

"So many things," she said. "If you would travel to China, you would know why."

mpetricevic@therecord.com

## Invitation from President Prakash Venkataraman for Tamil Cultural Nite 2009

In order to further develop traditional Tamil Arts and Culture and promote its exchange, the 9th annual Tamil Cultural nite, performing arts Festival, organised by the Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region, will be held on Saturday, October 17 at the Humanities Theater, University of Waterloo, Waterloo. The festival will commence at 5:30pm.

There will be colourful South Indian classical Dances, Music and other events. In the spirit of enhancing our cultural ties with other cultural communities, a guest appearance by the local Chinese school senior dance team will perform "Jasmine

Flower Dance". Delicious Indian and Sri Lankan food will be on sale during the intermission.

We sincerely invite all the members and friends of the association, and other Arts and cultural community around the Waterloo region and City of Toronto to attend the event. We open our arms and are looking forward to welcoming you to this one and only Waterloo Tamil performing arts festival. This is an admission free event. Please, pass this message to all your friends.

President can be reached at 226-218-1910 for further assistance.

# Indian culture thrives in the region

Kitchener: September 12th, city of Kitchener, Rotunda was packed with the South Asian community. The weather was warm and sunny and "Mela" celebrations was held outside this year. It was like a city within a city. The Indian bazaar was colourful and

brought rhythmic music to the town. People were walking around to the vendors, watched the opening ceremony, dance, music and then a fashion show. Butter chicken and rice counter on one side complimenting the sitar music. Pani puri,

which is a typical street food snack was offered too. Main attractions were the dance programs given by the local Punjabi and Tamil community artists.

Indo-Canada Mela is an annual event supported by local South Asian community.



# India Becoming Production Hub for Compact Cars

By Anjana Pasricha

India's exports of automobiles have surged as global automakers turn the country into a production hub for compact cars. A host of com-

panies such as Suzuki, Ford and Toyota plan to spend millions of dollars in the coming years to build auto plants in India.

When exports of automobiles crossed a quarter of a million in the first seven months of the

year, India's auto industry had two reasons to cheer.

Although India exported fewer cars compared to other Asian countries such as Thailand and South Korea, it saw a rise in exports, whereas these countries witnessed a drop. Also, for the first time, India exported more cars than China.

All the cars exported from India were compact cars produced by global automakers such as Suzuki and Hyundai.

The surge in exports comes as India turns into a production hub for cheap, fuel efficient cars.

Yogendra Pratap, editor of Auto Bild India, says automakers first began making compact cars in India to cater to a booming domestic market, where three out of four cars sold are small cars. But as worldwide demand for compact cars began growing due to rising fuel costs and stricter controls on emissions, manufacturers began to export cars from India.

"Companies like Hyundai and Suzuki are basing production of some of their models only in India, which gives them volumes, so helps reduce cost for domestic sales and exports as well," Pratap said. "We give them a huge market here, and on top of that if cars can be exported,

there are great economies of scale, something that could not be achieved in Thailand for example where the domestic market is really small."

European countries such as Britain and Germany are popular destinations for small cars made in India.

American automaker Ford is the latest to announce plans to launch a compact car in India next year. Ford will double capacity at its car plant in southern India to make the "Figo," which it also plans to export. Ford has said small cars represent the future for automakers, and expects sales of these cars to double over the next decade.

Other companies such as Suzuki, Nissan, Toyota, and Honda have already announced plans to spend about \$5 billion to make small cars in India or increase production at their existing plants over the next three years.

Their entry is not surprising. India is home to the world's cheapest car, the \$2,055 Tata Nano, a car which auto analysts say showed the world that India had the engineering skills and low cost facilities needed to make a small, contemporary car.

[voa news]



## India Hails Role Played by its Space Mission in Gathering Evidence of Water on Moon



Left- Dr G Madhavan Nair, Chairman, ISRO

By Anjana Pasricha

India is triumphant at the role played by its inaugural moon mission in helping gather evidence that there is water on the moon. Indian scientists hope the latest discovery will bring international recognition to its space program.

The announcement that there is evidence of water on the moon has been made by the U.S.

space agency, NASA, after data from their instruments on board an Indian satellite and two other satellites was analyzed.

The unmanned Indian spacecraft, Chandrayan, was launched to orbit the moon last October by the Indian space agency, but the mission was terminated last month after scientists lost communication with the satellite.

However, data gathered before the Chandrayan mission was aborted has shown that very fine films of water particles coat the particles that make up the lunar surface. Scientists say it is not enough moisture for homegrown life on the moon but if it were to be processed in mass quantities it might provide drinking water for future moon-dwellers.

The head of India's space agency, G. Madhavan Nair, called it a "path breaking find" and said that Indians should be proud of the fact that Chandrayan played a role in the discovery.

"I am proud to announce that our Chandrayan I has confirmed presence of water molecules on the surface of the moon," he said.

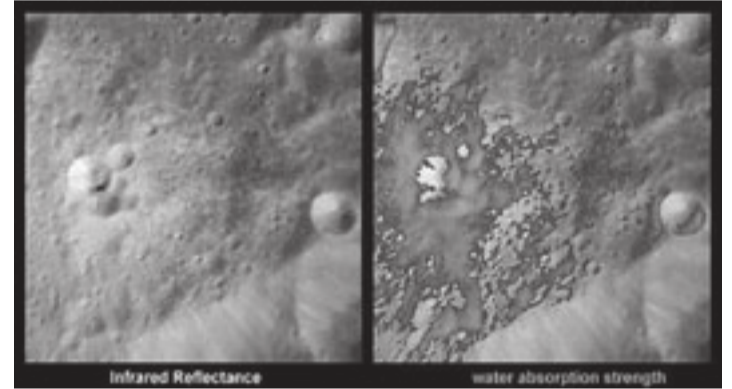
"One of the main objectives of Chandrayan was to look for water on the lunar surface. The instruments, especially the mineral mapping instrument of NASA has caught the signature very clearly."

Nair said the Indian satellite had helped point the NASA-made instrument to the right location and the right spot.

Indian scientists say the latest discovery shows that the country's inaugural moon mission was a huge success and not a failure even though it was prematurely terminated.

Indian newspapers also greeted India's role in the find. The leading daily Times of India called it a "One Big Step for India, Giant Leap for Mankind."

Finding evidence of water on the moon is seen by scientists as a key step in enabling mankind to set up bases on the moon for fur-



ther probes. Until now they had advanced the theory that the moon is dry.

Scientists say further studies will be needed to establish the quantity and quality of water on the moon.

India has been scaling up its space program in recent years, wanting to join other major space faring nations like USA, Russia and China. And the role it has played in establishing the presence of water on the moon is seen as a significant advance for its space program

[voa news]

## 'Dreaming in Hindi' Author Explores Linguistic Culture Shock

By Adam Phillips

In her new memoir, *Dreaming in Hindi*, New York writer Katherine Russell Rich recounts her journey to the north-west Indian state of Rajasthan, where she undertook an ambitious challenge to learn the Hindi language and tune in to the region's unique culture.

Many factors led to Rich's decision to go to India. She had

lost her job as a magazine editor and had few immediate job prospects; she had fallen in love with what she calls "the swirl" of India while on a freelance writing assignment for The New York Times; and, she had begun taking Hindi lessons in New York. But mostly, Rich wanted to shake up her life.

At home in a close-knit community

Rich moved to Udaipur, a highly traditional Rajasthani city to live for a year with a local family and study Hindi at a graduate institute. Six months into her adventure, a new Indian friend named Ruby convinced Rich to enter a singing contest for foreigners. Rich said, "the whole town [then] got in on the act and they were all coaching me." Rich won the contest and a stay at a fancy local resort.

But the bigger prize was becoming part of a close-knit com-

munity. "I came to love the Indian closeness," Rich said. "I come from a pretty 'WASPY' Anglo background, so it was incredibly shocking to me."

She got her first taste of that closeness soon after her arrival, when her host family came into her room and started rifling through her possessions. "To Americans," Rich said, "that is, like, not done. But they were just being friendly. They just wanted to see my stuff!"

Rich learned that the Hindi language has no verb for "to own." Instead, one says something is "in one's direction." That phrase, said Rich, "shows that objects are always transitory, which is true, of course. And I found that after using that construction, I began to feel like I had too much stuff and it began to bother me."

Language communicates a view of the world

Along with learning the language, Rich absorbed a sense of Hinduism's hierarchical world-view. "If somebody is older than you, for example, you attach an honorific - 'ji' - to their name. So someone younger than I am would call me 'Kathy-ji,' and I would call my teachers 'Swami-ji' [or] 'Vidhu-ji.'" Rich said that the honorific add-on, expresses the concept of "dharm," meaning one's "spiritual duty."

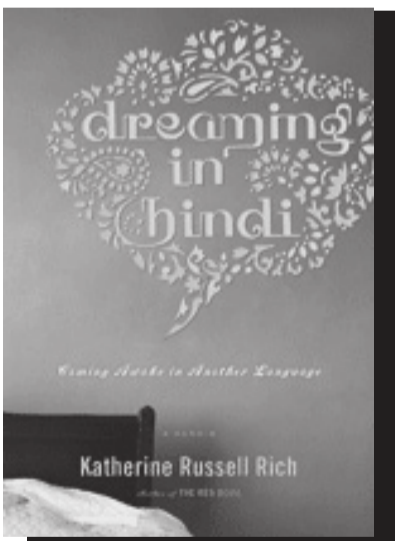
Dharm means spiritual duty

When Rich learned that people don't say 'thank you' in India, she thought it rude until she understood the custom. "I would say 'thank you' to a waiter who had just brought something and he would say 'No madam. It is my dharm.' You don't need to thank somebody because it is their spiritual duty to do what they just did."

In India, the most important place to express dharm is in honoring one's parents, said Rich. "And at the time, my dad he had a kind of dementia, and all I wanted to do was take this idea of 'dharm' and go home and look after my dad."

Unfortunately, ten days after Rich returned to New York, her father died. "I will always regret that I couldn't have tried some of that Indian sweetness [with him] which I think stays with me," she said. She added that, like the title of her book, she plans to keep, "dreaming in Hindi."

[voa news]



Courtesy Katherine Russell Rich

Rich, on right, at an event at the palace of Udaipur, with fellow student Helaena, and Piers, an expatriate friend

# Breast Cancer Patients Access Full Spectrum of Care at The Scarborough Hospital

By Cindy Woods

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which means over the next few weeks, you will be bombarded with many statistics. The key is to recognize that behind these statistics are the faces of women who are fighting the disease.

The good news is these women are not fighting alone. A multidisciplinary team of health-care providers at The Scarborough Hospital (TSH) is providing patients with the tools to help fight - and win - the battle.

"Patients diagnosed with breast cancer require expedient care delivered with empathy and compassion," says Dr. Nadine Norman, a surgeon at TSH. "Our team at The Scarborough Hospital works closely together to make sure our patients receive state-of-the-art testing and treatment options.

"We are proud to be able to deliver this quality and timely care of our patients close to their home. We provide easy accessibility of physicians for any of our

patients who require extra time and information for decision-making, or any problems they encounter at any time during or after their treatment."

It all starts in TSH's Diagnostic Imaging department, which annually performs about 6,000 screening mammography cases and more than 6,300 diagnostic mammography cases. There are two streams of entry: as the Scarborough site of the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP), mammograms are available to all women aged 50 to 69 with or without a referral; or you can be referred by your physician.

"Our Diagnostic Imaging department provides a comprehensive range of diagnostic services to the women of our community," says Tom Jackson, Patient Care Manager for DI. "Our specially trained technologists and radiologists provide expert care to our patients. When more extensive follow-up investigation is needed, a full range of diagnostic services are available, including ultrasound, MRI, biopsy and surgical consultation."



Dr. Sarah Wong, plastic surgeon at The Scarborough Hospital, speaks with her patient, Juanita Nelson, several months after Juanita opted for breast reconstruction surgery following a mastectomy

For Scarborough resident Juanita Nelson, a breast cancer survivor and a nurse, TSH provided the timely treatment she needed. Diagnosed in 2007, she was referred to Dr. Norman at TSH for a mastectomy. That was followed up with chemotherapy at TSH's oncology clinic. And Ms. Nelson later opted for breast reconstruction.

"After breast cancer surgery, it was very hard to look at myself in the mirror with only one breast. It really felt off-balance," she says, adding that while the breast reconstruction method she chose (tissue transfer) was a lengthier process than a breast implant, "I am very happy with the proce-

sure. I feel better, more natural and back to my old self."

TSH Plastic Surgeon Dr. Sarah Wong describes Ms. Nelson as "a very brave patient and survived her cancer treatments with courage."

"She is a person who went through the same emotions and struggles that all cancer patients face," Dr. Wong adds. "I hope others will see her as an inspiration that there is life after cancer which can be happy and fulfilling."

There are three types of breast reconstruction available at TSH: implants; transferring your own body tissue to rebuild the breast; or a combination of both.



The tissue transfer results in a longer surgery and hospital stay, but there is no risk of rejection and the breast looks more natural.

"About 80 per cent of my patients have some type of reconstruction done after breast cancer surgery," Dr. Wong explains. "There is more awareness of breast reconstruction as an option that's paid by OHIP, but also, there are more breast cancer survivors these days."

With TSH boasting the largest number of plastic surgeons in Canada, it also offers a culturally diverse environment for patients.

"We are fluent in seven different languages, including Hindi, Arabic and Cantonese," Dr. Wong says. "Women can access excellent cancer care at TSH while staying close to home with the support of their family and friends nearby."

As a nurse and a patient, Ms. Nelson describes her experience at TSH as "positive."

"I want to focus on oncology nursing, and I would like to work at The Scarborough Hospital," she says.

# MOST EXPENSIVE CROWN FOR VENKATACHALAPATHI

A Crown fit for the Celestial!

TIRUPATI: Karnataka tourism minister and Bellary mine baron Gali Janardhan Reddy will probably be better known for something else: with an offering of a diamond-studded crown worth Rs 45 crore, he became the biggest donor to Lord Venkateswara at Tirupati since the Vijayanagara

seva on Friday morning. It was earlier kept in the Vaibhavotsava Mandapam in Tirumala and special pujas were performed. After a ritual called Sahasra Deepalankara seva, it was taken around on a procession along with the deity, Lord Malayappa Swamy. Around 7pm, the crown was taken inside the sanctum sanctorum.

Keertilal Jewellers of Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu took nine



precious crown has been added to the jewel treasury of Lord which holds over 11 tonnes of gold ornaments and vessels.

"I am in this position only with the blessings of Lord Venkateswara. This is only a small offering to the Lord. I believe in Madhava seva (service to the Lord)," said Gali, who owns several iron ore mines.

The minister said his Brahmani Steels, once it starts operation, would employ 25,000 people. "This I consider as manava seva (service to mankind)," he said. Andhra Pradesh chief minister YSR Reddy's son Jagan has a large stake in Brahmani Steel that is coming up in the Andhra chief minister's home district.



kings 400 years ago.

The 20-kg stunner was a "thanksgiving" gesture, the minister said. Sources added that 32kg of 'aparanji (pure)' gold went into its making, besides 70,000 diamonds weighing 4,000 carats. The 2.5-ft crown has a huge 890-carat emerald from Africa engraved in the centre which alone costs around Rs 10 crore.

The crown will be placed the Lord's idol during Abhishekam

months to fashion the crown.

There are no records of more expensive donations to the temple and Gali's donation is considered as the costliest gift offered to the Lord after the Vijayanagara kings in the 16th century. The Vijayanagara kings ruled from Hampi not far from modern day Bellary ...

With this offering, the total number of crowns placed with the Lord has gone up to seven. This



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by D.B.S. Jeyaraj

It was only a few months ago that the world witnessed the military defeat of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) at the hands of Sri Lanka's armed forces. The LTTE popularly known as tigers posed a threat to the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka.

The tigers or LTTE espoused the creation of a separate state-Tamil Eelam-comprising the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka and launched an armed struggle to achieve this goal. For several decades the LTTE maintained territorial control over parts of the North and east and ran a parallel administration.

The military debacle of the LTTE is being viewed as the military defeat of Tamil separatism in Sri Lanka. There is an increasing tendency to perceive the rise and fall of the LTTE as a "terrorist" phenomenon alone and turn a blind eye to the underlying political causes which led to the evolution and growth of separatism among the Tamils of Sri Lanka.

Against this backdrop it would be interesting and illuminating into the rise and fall of a related development in neighbouring India. The years immediately before and after Independence from the British saw a Tamil separatist movement emerging in India too.

Unlike in Sri Lanka Tamil separatism in India did not result in organized armed violence against the state. It was basically non-violent and was confined within the parameters of democratic dissent.

Indian Tamil secessionism also did not reach the levels to which its counterpart in Sri Lanka did. The Indian central and state government writ ran at all times in all parts of lands inhabited by Tamils. Also unlike in Sri Lanka very little force and repression was used in India to suppress Tamil secessionism.

More importantly, the roots of Tamil secessionism in India and Sri Lanka were different. In India, the seeds of separatism were sown when a majority hemmed in by a minority sought to empower itself. In Sri Lanka, separatism grew gradually as a minority found itself being restricted and oppressed by a majority.

#### ANNI VERSARI ES

This column will therefore delve briefly into the decline and fall of Tamil secessionism in India. It would also be appropriate at this juncture as recent days marked three significant anniversaries in the Tamil politics of India.

# Roots of Tamil Nadu secessionism in India

September 15th is the birth centenary of C N Annadurai or Anna the founder of Tamil Nadu's leading political party the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) or Dravidian progressive Association. September 17th is the 60th anniversary of the DMK.

September 17th is also the 130th birth anniversary of E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker or Eevera the founder of Dravida Kazhagam (DK) or Dravidian Association. The DMK was an offshoot of the DK. It was the DK that pioneered secessionism in South India. The DMK followed in DK footsteps thereafter.

Arguably both modern India and Ceylon/Sri Lanka are colonial constructs. It was the British who unified their territorial conquests into a cohesive unit for administrative convenience. But the British also fostered divisions within their conquered subjects to facilitate governance.

Interestingly this unification and division paved the way for both greater and lesser identities. While an all-embracing "Indian" nationalism and identity began evolving a number of sub-nationalisms and multiple-identities also began flourishing.

India itself was an "idea" albeit a superior one but there were other competing ideas. Thus there emerged in South India the concept of an alternative, "Dravidian" identity. A short re-run of history is essential to understand this development.

#### GENESIS

This is of crucial importance as there can be no proper understanding of Tamil secessionism in India without analyzing its genesis. The roots of Tamil Nadu secessionism lie in the vibrant anti-Brahmin movement of the 20th century. This in turn led to the rise of a Dravidian ideology leading to a demand for a Dravidian state. Thereafter it metamorphosed into a demand for a separate Tamil state. It is necessary therefore to focus on events leading to direct Tamil secessionism.

In ancient times the Tamil country in India was ruled by the three great Chera, Chola and Pandya dynasties and to some extent the Pallava dynasty. There were also periodic conquests by the Hoysala, Rashtrakooda and Chalukya kings. Tiny principalities and vassal states under the suzerainty of powerful rulers also existed.

When European countries like England, France, Portugal, Holland and Denmark began setting foot in South India the older Tamil dynasties were no more. Three other powers namely the Mughals, Mahrattas and Vijayanagara Nayakkars had made their mark and as a result there was a proliferation of feudal



rulers.

South India was under a mixed bag of rulers reigning over both big as well as small states. They ranged from powerful kings like the Nizam of Hyderabad to the insignificant Rajah of Pudukkottai. The British assiduously practiced their divide and rule approach to acquire most South Indian Territory through conquest and compromise.

#### MADRASI

To this day many people of North India refer to South Indians as "Madras" or from Madras. This reference was not due to the city of Madras (Now Chennai) but originated as a result of what was once the province of Madras encompassing the greater part of South India.

The Madras province of British India known officially as the Presidency of Fort St. George (in Madras city) included at its heyday much of South India. The present day Tamil Nadu state, the Malabar region of Kerala state, the coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions of Andhra Pradesh state, the Tulu Nadu region and Bellary districts of Karnataka state, the Brahmapur and Ganjam districts of Orissa state and the Lakshadweep Islands comprised the Madras presidency.

Speakers of Tamil were the single-largest linguistic group in the Madras province. Telugu speakers were a close second. Together Tamils and Telugus formed 78 % of what was then the Madras presidency. Malayalee, Kannada, Tulu, Urdu and Oriya speakers comprised the rest.

With English being the official language linguistic tensions were virtually absent. The great divide was in terms of caste. The Brahmin caste was upper-most due to cultural, social, economic and religious factors.

The Hindu religion's "Varnashrama dharma" caste concept afforded a privileged position to Brahmins. The Brahmin monopoly on Sanskrit language used for Hindu worship enhanced their position further. Under the British they learnt English and were miles ahead of other castes in English literacy.

#### BRAHMINS

With a penchant for learning

the Brahmins took to education under the British in a big way. Brahmins began filling up official positions and teaching jobs under the British rule. They took to law, medicine and accounts. Brahmins also served the feudal rulers well and obtained grants of lands to administer. There was also Brahminic control of assets bestowed to temples.

Thus the numerically tiny Brahmins (around 4%) were entrenched as a privileged minority in the Madras presidency. They dominated most government jobs, professions and teaching, owned lands and estates and managed properties of temples. They also had much influence over media and the arts.

While the oppressed castes at the bottom rungs of Hindu society continued to languish the other castes regarded as forward also began climbing the socio-economic mobility ladder under the British. These included the Tamil speaking Vellalas and Mudaliyars, Chetties, Nadars, the Malayalee Nayars, Nambiyars and Krupps and Telugu speaking Reddys and Khammas etc.

In a bid to counter Brahmin domination the upper crust leaders of these castes began grouping together. Since these groups came from different ethnicities a non-linguistic identity was sought. Their resentment of Brahmin domination and common interest brought about an overarching non-Brahmin group identity.

A non-Brahmin or anti-Brahmin consciousness evolved. This was transformed into a "Dravidian" consciousness and articulated as such. Dravidian was fundamentally a linguistic term revived by the western scholar Robert Caldwell.

#### DRAVIDA

Dravida itself was derived from Sanskrit. A Sanskrit scholar Kumarila had used the term "Dravidabhasa" (Dravidian languages) in 8th century AD to denote the Tamil and Telugu languages. The term Dravida was used in Sanskrit literature to describe the lands south of the Vindhyas (South India) and inhabitants.

Caldwell's revival of the term was in reference to the principal languages of South India-Tamil,

Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and Tulu. They were considered as "springing from a common origin and as forming a distinct family of tongues".

This term was most suitable for the emerging non-Brahmin, South Indian elite to identify themselves. A movement for social reform was formed as Madras Dravidian Association (Different to DK) in 1912. This opened the floodgates. Several "Dravidian associations" followed in its wake illustrating the yearning and despair among non-Brahmin communities for progress and emancipation.

The growing Dravidian consciousness saw some respected Non-Brahmins form an association called South Indian Peoples Association as an advocacy group. This in turn formed a political party called South Indian Liberal Federation. Membership was open to all non-Brahmins.

An English newspaper "Justice" was started. Eventually this led to the organization being known as the Justice party. The nationalist Congress party was leading the struggle for Independence from the British. Many of the Congress leaders were educated Brahmins.

The Justice party on the other hand did not want independence from the British until social justice prevailed. In other words the Justice party wanted independence to be delayed until social reform displaced Brahmin dominance. It depicted the Congress as a Brahmin party.

#### JUSTICE

As a result the Justice party participated in the limited governance provided by the British and ran several administrations in the Madras province from 1921. This co-operation has stigmatized the Justice party as collaborators of colonialism.

Gradually it became obvious that the non-Tamil linguistic groups were becoming less enamoured of "Dravidian nationalism". Comparatively the Tamil speaking on-Brahmin elite was better off than others. This led to some heartburn and non-Tamil associations were formed to promote non-Tamil interests.

The Tamils were also at the forefront of Dravidianism as their language was the oldest and most developed of the Dravidian languages. Some regarded the other Dravidian languages as being derived from Tamil. Sundarampillai sang of them as "children" from the Tamil mothers "womb." This also caused resentment.

More importantly this led to a situation where the non-Tamil groups began moving away from the Dravidian consciousness. Dravidian was now being seen as co-terminous with Tamil. Thus the non-Tamils were reluctant to be



identified as Dravidians though Scholars accepted the Dravidian linguistic label.

In that respect one must note that the "official" reference to Tamil in Sinhala is Dravida. The Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) is called Eksath Dravida Vimukthi Peramuna. Tamil as "Demala" is regarded as being somewhat colloquial.

**INVASION**

If the South Indian languages were Dravidian most North Indian languages were classified as Aryan or Indo-Aryan. Sanskrit was regarded as the mother of Indo-Aryan languages. Sanskrit unlike Tamil had gone out of usage but had spawned several numerically preponderant linguistic groups like Hindi.

The anthropological and archaeological wisdom propounded by the Dravidian school of thought at that time was that a pre-Aryan Dravidian civilization had existed in India before Aryan invasion (This theory is strongly disputed now).

The Dravidian construct was that the Dravidians had a glorious civilization before being overrun by the Aryans. With the Brahmins retaining exclusive "ownership" of Sanskrit they were seen as Aryan "aliens" who were interlopers into Dravidian country.

Citing the classical "Sangam" literature where people were classified in terms of territory (Anbinainthinai) rather than occupation it was argued that casteism did not exist among Tamils until the Aryans invaded. They had introduced caste with the Brahmins (Aryan) at the top and reduced the original inhabitants to inferior "Shudra" status. The vehicle for this was Hinduism.

**PERIYAR**

It was around this time that one of the greatest progressives and original thinkers of India made his impact on the South Indian political scene. This was "Eevera" or EV Ramswamy Naicker whose 130th birthday was on September 17th. "Periyar" (great person) Eevera as he was called by his followers was originally a Congress party stalwart who organized the successful satyagraha at Vaikom in present day Kerala.

Disgruntled at casteism practiced by some Brahmin Congressmen, Periyar broke ranks and left the party. He also began enunciating radical thoughts dislodging Brahmin dominance, rationalism, atheism, North Indian hegemony, Caste oppression, equality of sexes etc.

Periyar himself was not Tamil though hailing from Erode in the Salem district of Tamil Nadu. Though fluent in Tamil Ramaswamy belonged to a Kannada speaking Naicker family.

In 1925 Periyar formed the "Suyamariyadhai Iyakkam" or Self-respect movement. Arguing that the Hindu religion provided

the basis for Brahmin superiority and that it kept the Dravidians in bondage to the Aryans, Periyar called for Atheism on the basis of rationalism or "pahutharivu".

"Kadavul Illai. Kadavulai vanangubavan Muttaal" (There is no God. Those who worship God are fools)the outspoken Periyar would assert. He denied God saying-If there was no God there could be no religion. If there was no (Hindu) religion there could not be caste oppression.

Periyar condemned Brahmin Caste superiority as an affront to the self-respect and dignity of non-Brahmins and so formed the self-respect movement.

Subsequently Periyar joined the Justice party and became one of its prominent leaders. A large number of non-Brahmin Tamils began gathering around Periyar over the years.

They were called "suyamariyathaikkaran" (self - respect adherent)or "Pahutharivaalan" (rationalist) and subscribed to Periyar's views. The most educated of these at that time was CN Annadurai an MA Graduate. Annadurai known as Anna was born on September 15th 1909. He became Periyar's disciple in 1935.

By the late thirties/early forties of the previous century both Periyar and Anna took up the stance that the Madras presidency should not form part of India and that it should be a separate state called Dravidastan. Being a part of "Hindu" India would only lead to permanent entronement of Aryanism, Brahminism and North Indian hegemony it was argued.

Prior to this both Guru and Sishya had wanted a Tamil state on the basis of the "Tamil Nadu for Tamils" demand. Within a short time they changed position and wanted a Dravida state on the basis of the "Dravida Nadu for Dravidians" demand.

**HINDI**

Two factors brought about this political change for Periyar and Anna. One was the attempt to impose Hindi upon non-Hindi students by making the learning of Hindi a compulsory subject for all students. The other was the demand by Mohammed Ali Jinna for a theocratic state of Pakistan.

In 1937 the Congress party extended limited cooperation to the British and contested local elections. The Congress formed the administration in Madras presidency and Chakravarthy. Rajagopalachariyar or Rajaji became chief minister. In 1938 Rajaji introduced legislation to make Hindi a compulsory language. It was argued that India needed a single language to unite all its people.

This was resented by the non-Hindi people of Madras province. The Tamil people are very proud and fond of their language elevating it to the status of a mother (Thamil Thai) It is a highly emo-

tive issue and any attempt to belittle or demean Tamil was to be opposed. Hindi compulsion was an affront. It was described as a "victory" of Sanskrit over Tamil, Aryan over Dravidian and Brahmin over non-Brahmin.

An anti-Hindi agitation was launched. Widespread protest demonstrations took place particularly in the Tamil speaking places of the presidency.. There was police firing and two Tamils Thalamuthu and Nadarajan were killed. There were attempts of self-immolation also. Around 1200 persons were brought to court and sentenced to jail. Among these were Periyar and Anna.

**PAKI STAN**

In 1939 the Congress withdrew from office and the Hindi imposition issue went away. But Periyar and Anna felt that a separate country was required to protect Dravidian languages in general and Tamil in particular. The danger of Hindi being imposed in an Independent India was there.

Subsequent events in post-Independence India proved that these fears were not liars. The anti-Hindi agitation also made many Tamils including the present Tamil Nadu chief minister Muttuvel Karunanidhi (who was fourteen years old then) more conscious of their language and heritage.

The second factor was the demonstration effect of the Muslim League and its demand for the creation of an Independent Islamic state of Pakistan. Periyar supported Jinna's demand for a territorially non-contiguous state of Pakistan comprising Muslim majority regions in the east and west of India.

Periyar then embarked on a tour of north India and met Jinna in person. Anna did the interpreting. He argued for a Dravida state on the lines of an Islamic state. Jinna was assured that the 7% Muslims in the envisaged state would enjoy full rights.

As a result Jinna began referring to a Pakistan for Muslims, a Hindustan for Aryans, a Dravidastan for Dravidians and a Bengalistan for Bengalis. Whenever he spoke of Pakistan Jinna also referred briefly to Dravidastan during the second world war.

After the war when the prospect of partition became a possibility Jinna abandoned support for Dravidastan. It was only a two-nation theory-Hindu and Islam-thereafter.

The initial support by Jinna however boosted Periyar's thoughts on a separate state. The envisaged Dravidian state was referred to as both Dravidastan (Jinna inspired) and Dravida Nadu in Tamil.

The support for a Dravida state was predominantly extended by Tamils alone. Apart from brief mention in English media the

non-Tamil South Indians were lukewarm, to this concept.

**PRESIDENT**

Shortly after the anti-Hindi agitation, Periyar was elected president of the Justice Party. With this the anti-Brahmin self-respect movement and anti-Brahmin Justice party or South Indian Liberal Federation, experienced some form of fusion in practice.

By this time the Justice party was practically a Tamil party with most non-Tamils dropping out. There were however a few well-known non-Tamil leaders in the party but practically no support from the Telugu, Malayalee, Kannada masses.

Interestingly Periyar and Anna toyed briefly with Tamil secessionism and called for a Tamil State , before opting formally for greater Dravidian separatism and a Dravidian state. The reasons for this interlude is rather intriguing.

The growing anti-Hindi consciousness among non-Brahmin Tamils was manifesting itself in many ways.

In August 1938 a prominent Justice party leader TP Vedachalam from Trichy formed the Tamil Thesa Viduthalai Sangam (Tamil Nation Liberation Society) and began demanding the creation of a separate state for the Tamils.

At the second session of the Ramnad District Tamilians Conference at Karaikudi it was resolved " to work for the formation of a separate Tamil province, exclusively for Tamilians, and the use of Tamil as the administrative language".

A series of small meetings were held at various places in Tamil Nadu. These were attended by nondescript Tamils and presided over by little known personalities.

**OPINION**

But almost all these meetings passed resolutions calling for a separate Tamil state. "Thamizh Nadu Thamizharukke" (Tamil Nadu is for Tamils) was the catchy slogan

This groundswell of opinion was something that Periyar and Anna could not ignore. The growing sentiments of Tamils in Madras state had to be addressed. So both adopted the "Tamil State" cry instead of the "dravida state" demand briefly.

At a meeting held at Salem in October 1938 Periyar for the first time called for a Tamil state. He said that" if the Congress permitted the exploitation of Tamils by Brahmins and Northern Indians, the best way to preserve the liberty of Tamils was to agitate for separation from the rest of India and the proposed All-India Federation, just as Ceylon and Burma had chosen to stand aloof from India", and " urged the need for the 'Tamil Nadu for the Tamils' campaign to be fought to the finish."



Annadurai followed suit by speaking at several "Tamil Nadu for the Tamils" meetings where he eloquently appealed for the creation of a separate state for the Tamils of India.

The "Tamil Nadu for Tamils" demand began to gather momentum slowly . The imposition of Hindi as compulsory in schools and consequent protests enhanced support for this demand.

The need for an autonomous Tamil state under British rule as well as an Independent Tamil Country in the future was discussed and debated at local levels.

The "Tamil Nadu for Tamils" demand was suspended before it could capture popular imagination. This was because Periyar and Anna did a volte-face and re-activated the Dravida Nadu state demand.

**POLICY**

In a speech made on December 17th 1939 Periyar who earlier raised the demand "Tamil Nadu for Tamils" amended his stance to that of "Dravida Nadu for Dravidians". This heralded the shift in policy but there was much confusion. The ensuing months saw people advocating both a Tamil state and a Dravidian state. To many Tamils there was no difference in both.

Finally the Justice party of which Periyar was president held its state conference at Thiruvaaroor on August 24th 1940 and formally adopted a resolution. The resolution stated that in order to protect Dravidian culture, arts and economy, the Dravidian homeland of Madras province should be separated from the rest of the Indian Sub-continent and ruled as a separate unit until the British left. Thereafter the Madras province would be an Independent country.

With the wisdom of hindsight it appears that to both Periyar and Anna the demand for a Dravidian state and Tamil state was synonymous. The core of both demands was the existing Madras province. It also appears that most advocates of South Indian secessionism also failed to draw a distinction between both demands.

In any event the short flirtation with a Tamil Nadu secession demand was over. The focus now was on greater Dravidian nationalism. The "Tamil Nadu for Tamils" demand had been subsumed by the "Dravida Nadu for Dravidians" political demand. It was doomed for several reasons.

[dbsjeyaraj.com]

# Concerns growing over Sri Lanka's pace of IDP resettlement



The international community is increasingly worried about the pace of resettling more than 260,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from closed camps in Sri Lanka, a senior UN representative warns.

"There is a growing concern from the international community that the pace of progress is simply too slow," Walter Kaelin, Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, told IRIN News, a project of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

"There is an urgent need to restore the freedom of movement for the displaced. They should be allowed to return to their homes, and where this is not possible, to stay with host families or in open relief centres," he said in a telephone interview from Geneva on 30 September.

Kaelin completed a three-day visit to Sri Lanka on 26 September, having met government ministers and officials to discuss the treatment of the IDPs, who are in state-run

camps in the north of the country.

The Sri Lankan government says it is trying to expedite the resettlement of the IDPs, and has set a target of 70 to 80 percent to be released by year-end.

It has defended the resettlement pace, saying it must screen the IDPs for rebels from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), against whom it fought a bitter 26-year war.

But the IDPs have been languishing in the congested camps since the end of the war in May without the freedom to leave, and Kaelin said their prolonged internment in the camps - not designed for long-term stays - was a concern.

"Certainly people do get food, they do get medical assistance, and there is education in the camps. So from that perspective, the government and international community have done a lot," he said.

"Our concern is that the screening process is going too slowly, and we also have concerns about the nature of the screening process."

## Transparency issues

Under international humanitarian law, legitimate security concerns may justify the internment of civilians at the height of a conflict, but not longer than is absolutely necessary. Individuals must also be told why they have not been released.

Kaelin said there was a lack of transparency in the screening pro-

cess, and that people were also not being informed on an individual basis why they were being held.

"Unless there is very substantial progress in the very near future with the release of people, concerns about the violation of international humanitarian law will become a serious issue," he said.

Top UN officials issued repeated calls this month for the IDPs to be resettled more quickly as worries mount over conditions in the camps ahead of upcoming monsoon rains.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned earlier this week in talks with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremanayake that a failure to rapidly resettle IDPs would lead to growing bitterness.

And Kaelin's visit to Sri Lanka followed on the heels of Lynn Pascoe, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, who called on the government to speed up the screening and release of IDPs.

"What was positive is that government has agreed that a substantial number of people should be released in the near future. But it remains to be seen to what extent this will be implemented," said Kaelin.

The government announced earlier this month it would release IDPs into the custody of their relatives.

It has repeatedly said it is committed to resettling the IDPs, but first it has to clear some 1.5 million landmines and unexploded ordnance from former combat areas. It also says there is a lack of adequate housing and infrastructure in those areas to service the IDPs, and that reconstruction must take place first.

## Rally Held in Front of the UN: 'Unlock the Concentration Camps in Sri Lanka'



Placards held at the rally

Tamil Americans rallied in front of the UN on September 22, 2009 to protest the UN's inaction over the killings of more than 20,000 Tamil civilians by Sri Lankan forces in the last few weeks of the civil war and UN's impotence on the forcible confinement of nearly 300,000 Tamil civilians in internment camps.

Press release from USTPAC, organizers of the rally as follows:

Human rights advocates rallied in front of the UN to bring attention to the 282,000 Tamils held in concentration camps in Sri Lanka.

Joe Ratnam, a spokesman for the US Tamil Political Action Council (USTPAC) said, "USTPAC endorses and supports this rally by the activists concerned about human rights. Sri Lanka is attempting to destroy the Tamil community on the island and this crime is NOT being effectively challenged by the United Nations."

Other sources support Mr. Ratnam's numbers. For instance, in May 2009, the Sri Lankan armed forces killed over 20,000 Tamil civilians with indiscriminate attacks, The Times of London said.

Ratnam continued "Over 125,000 Tamils have been killed in total by shelling, disappearances, extrajudicial executions, and anti-Tamil pogroms in an effort to destroy the Tamil community in Sri Lanka. Currently 282,000 Tamil civilians are being held indefinitely in military-controlled internment camps in unsanitary conditions without adequate food and water.

Human Rights Watch reports tend to back up these high casualty figures.

Ratnam decried the conditions in the camps as 'pathetic'. "Humanitarian

nised internationally with an award is beneficial to media freedom."

President of the Editor's Guild, Manik De Silva, said "I was happy that award was made at a time when a most excessive jail term was imposed. In that sense, I'm pleased that (Tissainayagam) received this award, which focused attention on his plight."

De Silva hoped that appeals that have been made on Tissainayagam's behalf by various journalists and other organisations will be heeded, noting that Tissainayagam had been in custody for one and a half years and is in indifferent health. "All of us hope this matter will be looked at in a humane manner with all relevant circumstances taken into account," he said.

US President Barack Obama referred to Tissainayagam as an "emblematic exam-

workers recently criticized "persistent water shortages," he said. "Inhumane health conditions get even worse when heavy rain sends rivers of sewage cascading through tents and tin sheds."

"Malnutrition-related complications have resulted in increased deaths," Ratnam explained. "Doctors in the camps have warned of 'impending disaster if conditions do not improve.'"

The Times of London said on July 10, "About 1,400 people are dying every week at the giant Manik Farm internment camp set up in Sri Lanka to detain Tamil refugees" - a number similar to the total number of people killed in Darfur and the Congo combined for the whole of this year.

Another USTPAC activist said "While Western nations call for an investigation of war crimes, the Sri Lankan

Jeyakumar Aiyathurai, a Tamil from Sri Lanka, protest as world leaders meet nearby at the United Nations, New York, Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009. Protesters called on the U.N. to investigate the holding of Tamils in concentration camps in Sri Lanka by the country's majority Sinhalese population following years of civil war. AP pic.

government continues to deny independent investigators and journalists' access to war-torn areas. They recently sentenced a Tamil journalist J. S. Tissainayagam to 20 years of hard labor. The Sri Lankan government continues to expel aid workers who dare to speak up, including a UNICEF spokesperson, James Elder, earlier this month."

The USTPAC spokesman recalled an event when UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was taken to the internment camps on a conducted tour last May "where Ban Ki-moon said, 'I was so sad, and so humbled by what I have seen. I have traveled all around the world and visited similar places, but this is by far the most appalling scene I have seen'".

The spokesman said "Yet the UN, under the leadership of Ban Ki-moon, has done precious little to unlock the internment camps and hold the Sri Lankan government accountable for its war crimes.

"The situation has gotten even more appalling now," said Ratnam, "with no effective response from the UN." "The UN is unable to free its own staff members from the camp," the spokesman added.

"Protesters are calling for the UN to reclaim its Responsibility to Protect," Ratnam went on, referring to the "R2P" obligation, "and intervene immediately to save the innocent Tamil civilians locked up in the internment camps, and return them to their homes."

ple," of an unjustly persecuted journalist recently. Amnesty International criticised the court decision, and religious leaders Anglican Bishop Duleep de Chickera and Buddhist monk Ven. Samitha Thera clamoured for his release. Yet many members of the general public see Tissainayagam as a terrorist, or a journalist who went a few steps too far and thus had to pay the price.

Despite this, on November 24, Tissainayagam will be honoured in a New York ceremony, along with Mustafa Abdinur (Somalia), Naziha Regiba (Tunisia) and Eynulla Fatullayev (Azerbaijan).

"The pen is mightier than the sword," goes the popular aphorism. It could be argued that journalists have the power to influence public opinion. So at what point does a written opinion become treasonous? At what point does exercising one's right to freedom of speech cross over into creating communal disharmony? Did Tissainayagam cross that line? The High Court says he did. The CPJ, it seems, begs to differ.

[thesundayleader.lk]

## Tissainayagam honoured with Peter Mackler Award

By Raisa Wickrematunge

On Friday, October 2, J.S. Tissainayagam received the first Peter Mackler Award for courageous and ethical journalism, as announced by the Global Media Forum and the US branch of Reporters Without Borders.

Ronatte Asirwatham, Tissainayagam's wife spoke at the ceremony, held in Washington D.C.

In her speech, Asirwatham said she was "honoured and humbled," to be receiving the award on behalf of her husband.

"Today my husband is continuing to teach me courage and grace in difficult times," Asirwatham said.

### A gentle man

She described her husband as, "a gentle man. A man who has never hurt or intended to hurt anyone. And I miss him." Asirwatham added that her husband always strove to treat fellow human beings with kindness and dignity.

She bemoaned the fact that her husband had been incarcerated for half of their three years of marriage.

Asirwatham appealed to the President to free her husband. "I hope he will be released and we will be reunited soon," Asirwatham concluded.

The Peter Mackler Award is given to those journalists who fight courageously and ethically to report the news.

Tissainayagam was sentenced to 20 years rigorous imprisonment, on August 31 for 'creating communal disharmony' as a result of certain articles in the magazine North Eastern Monthly.

On September 25, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) announced that Tissainayagam would receive an International Press Freedom Award.

Jayaprakash Sittampalam Tissainayagam is a name that has saturated the news lately. Some applauded the sentence passed by the High Courts on August 31. Others, hearing of the landmark judgment, saw it as a death-knell to freedom of speech.

### Peter Mackler Award

Tissainayagam was therefore alternately viewed as a terrorist, or a man trying to do his job to the best of his ability.

Not long after Tissainayagam's sentence, the Global Media Forum and the US branch of Reporters Without Borders announced that he was the winner of the Peter Mackler Award, for Courageous and Ethical Journalism.

On September 25, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) announced that Tissainayagam would

be the recipient of an International Press Freedom Award. CPJ Executive Director Joel Simon, speaking of the award recipients, said, "These journalists are being honored not only because they embody what CPJ stands for, but because they have fought against injustice to uphold the values of press freedom.

Imprisonment, harassment, and threat of death cannot deter these extraordinary journalists from continuing their work."

High praise indeed. For obvious reasons, Tissainayagam will not be able to personally receive his award.

But the question must be asked. Is this flood of media attention and international awards warranted? After all, it must be remembered, Tissainayagam was sentenced to 20 years rigorous imprisonment, and one can hardly question a judgement in a court of law.

Tissainayagam as we all know was arrested for inciting racial disharmony as a result of certain articles published in the magazine, North Eastern Monthly. The articles contained a couple of sentences condemning the Government's treatment of Tamil civilians. He was additionally accused of LTTE funding.

### Opinion varies

So were those articles mere terrorist propaganda? Opinion varies according to who you ask.

Take Sunil Jayasekara, Secretary to the Free Media Movement. He said, "Tissainayagam was jailed for writing two letters in a monthly magazine. People have completely forgotten how he wrote articles on behalf of the Sinhalese in 1988 and 89. It's very sad that for such a small issue, he was given a sentence of 20 years rigorous imprisonment. But the fact that he was recog-



# Tamils Raise Funds for Canadian Charities



Fund raising for charitable causes are carried out in many ways, organizing benefit shows and events, selling gifts, cash or campaigning for gift donations, Radiothon, TVthon, Walkathon, Bowlathon and Runathon, etc.

Tamil Community in Toronto is continuing to actively organize several events to raise funds for Canadian charitable causes and institutions that serve all Canadians. Many Walkathons have been held by Tamil Community organizations during the past several years and many more are continuously being arranged passionately throughout the year by Tamil Associations.

Particularly, Tamil Community Associations have organized several Walkathons. Raising funds by way of Walkathon notably brings out many people to participate in healthy walk and also bring wider awareness to the causes.

In 1999, Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce (CTCC) inaugurated the Walkathon and raised funds for Scarborough Hospital by Walkathons and still continuing. So far CTCC has raised over \$100,000 and in recognition, Scarborough Hospital New Emergency Wing has named an ICU Unit as "**Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce.**"

Canadian Tamils Chamber of Commerce also holds the pride in initiating on record as being the first Tamil Community Organization to host a Walkathon with wider participation in the communities towards raising funds for a Canadian charitable institution.

Peel Region Senior Tamils raised funds for Trillium Health since 2004 by Walkathons and still continuing.

Tamil Canadians have raised

funds for Rouge River Health System about 2 years ago by Walkathons. Over \$100,000 was raised and in recognition, Centenary Hospital has named an annex in the new birthing centre to "**The Canadian Tamil Community.**"

Past Students Association based in Toronto from a leading school in Sri Lanka's Northern Province, Central College, Jaffna raised funds for Sick Kids by a Walkathon about five years ago.

Now, Canadian Tamils Congress too has joined the fray and held their first Walkathon recently and wants to host a fund raising event of this nature annually. Community members are also suggesting that Tamil Associations should work towards organizing one mega walk instead of several over the warmer weather months and raise substantial amount for local charities

in the coming years.

Local charity is important as the whole community uses the many facilities on a daily basis.

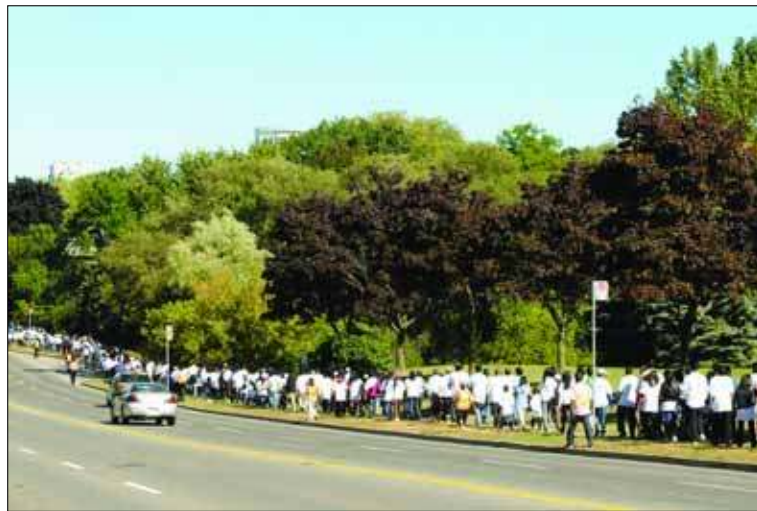
**In a press release marking the First Annual Tamil Canadian Walk, Canadian Tamil Congress says,**

More than 1,000 walkers and participants gathered at Thomson Memorial Park for the first Tamil Canadian Walk. The Canadian Tamil Congress organized this year's event to raise money for the SickKids Foundation. About \$40,000 was raised with the help of the Tamil Canadian community organizations, members and the greater Canadian public. SickKids is renowned for helping nearly 100,000 patients every year and its pioneering research. Participants walked from Thomson Memorial Park to Albert Campbell Square, where they took in songs, dances and speeches. Children

were able to enjoy face painting, coloring and carnival games. A photo booth was also set up for participants.

Rob Oliphant, MP for Don Valley West, Brad Duguid, MPP and Ontario Provincial Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Renrick Ashby, Councillor for Ajax, spoke at the Walk-A-Thon. Nades Palaniar, a scientist at SickKids, also delivered remarks.

The Canadian Tamil Congress is still collecting money to reach its year-end goal of raising \$50,000 for the SickKids Foundation and encourages you to help us meet our goal. Visit [www.canadantamilcongress.ca/sickkids/](http://www.canadantamilcongress.ca/sickkids/) for more information.



# South Asian Trade Festival 2009

Human Endeavour is a not-for-profit organization working for the social and economic uplift of the South Asian community. New Horizon project of Human Endeavour is designed to help South Asian newcomers and their families improve their economic condition by promoting self-reliance and exploring small and home based business opportunities.

Human Endeavour through this project has held trade festivals for the last three years. The event consists of stalls from small and home based business owners and organizations working for helping the immigrant community. In these trade festivals Human Endeavour recognizes the individuals who took charge and established small businesses and those

organizations that help the newcomers in exploring entrepreneurial options by providing workshops, information sessions and advice.

This year Human Endeavour focused on individuals and the awards were given to three women entrepreneurs who started on a small scale but became successful entrepreneurs and shared their success with the community.

**2009 Entrepreneur award recipients:**

Ms. Maninder Kaur who used to work in a company dealing in sanitizing services of plastic containers and through her hard work and entrepreneurial skills eventually became the owner of the company. ([www.boxsys.ca](http://www.boxsys.ca))

Ms. Indrani Nagenthiram from

the Tamil community who combined passion, compassion and cause in developing seniors care enterprise.

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

Ms. Sujun Chen from the Chinese community who has developed a successful Hot Yoga Studio enterprise. ([www.mokshayogavaughan.com](http://www.mokshayogavaughan.com))



# Marking "Sani Peyarchchi",

## TRANSIT OF SATURN TO VIRGO-SEP 26

By Dushiyanthini  
Kanagasabapathipillai  
dushi.pillai@gmail.com  
courtesy: humanityAshore.org

There is an old saying in Tamil "Saniyai pol kodupaarum illai; Saniyai pol kedupaarum illai" (there is nobody who will give at the same time obstruct like Saneeswaran).

Once a curious woman asked Ramakrishna Paramahamsar "Is it possible for the priests to pray and make offerings to the planets and change the unfavourable influences into favourable ones?"

Ramakrishna Paramahamsar responded to the woman, "The planets are not so mean that, without reason they should change course and create problems. They are also not so fickle that they can be content or discontent with simple rituals. Priests are not their representatives that they should dance to their tune for a price".

The leader of the nine planets is Sun. He has two wives-Sayadevi and Ushadevi respectively. Lord Saneeswaran, is also known as Sayaputhran, (son of Saya). Saturn is the

seventh of nine planets.

The Saturn (Saneeswaran) moves his house every thirty months. He moved from Simma Rasi (Leo) to Kanni Rasi (Virgo) on September 26th 2009 at 12.03 AM according to Vaakkiya Panchaangam (Almanac). Transition of Saturn took place on September 9th 2009 according to Thirukanitha Panchchaangam (Almanac)

Special poojas and Yagams (vedic fire) have been organised on the eve of the "Sani Peyarchchi". A festival of Sani Peyarchchi was celebrated on September 26th 2009. Since the transition took place during Navaraththri, certain devotees who are fasting refrained from participating in the Yagam. It is also believed that, it is not proper to light sesame lamps during Navaraththri festival.

A special Yagam was organized at the Naattukottai Nagaraththaar New Kathiresan temple in Bambalapitty on September 26th 2009. As the countdown started for the transit of Saturn from Simma Rasi (Leo) to Kanni Rasi (Virgo) to the 'Simma Rasi', Naattukottai Nagaraththaar New Kathiresan temple in Bam-

balapitty, in capital of Sri Lanka was brimming with devotees.

Hundreds of devotees thronged the temple to worship and take part in Yagam. The devotees were allowed to go near the "Omakundam" (Place to set fire) to perform the religious rituals. They were given sesame seeds on betel leaves along with banana, flowers and a ring of "Thettpai" (a ring made out of straw). It's worn around the ring finger while performing the religious rituals.

Men, women and children flocked the temple in large numbers. Festive atmosphere was created. An "Abishekam" (a shower with milk, honey, fruits, curd, king coconut water, saffron, holy ash, sandalwood, Kumkumam and water) was performed to Saneeswaran.

Bells began to toll, devotees lit sesame lamps, some sang devotional songs, priests chanted the Sanskrit Mandras and the Vedic fire were set. Coins, betel leaves, ghee, sesame seeds, nutmeg, cardamoms, cinnamon, were offered along with other holy items.



Saturn is decorated for the special day



Devotees flocked the temple in the morning



The chief priest of Naattukottai Nagaraththaar (New Kathiresan) temple Nagarajah Kurrukkal performs the appropriate religious rituals on the day of the transition of Saturn



Fire clears the air, spreads fragrance and purifies the atmosphere



Saturn is responsible for happiness and sorrow



Sesame seeds are offered to Saturn



Colour for the Saturn in Blue

Saturn has four arms. He carries a bow and a trident in his two left hands, and an arrow in one of his right hands, and blesses with his devotees with the other hand.



Rice and vegetarian curries are offered to crown on Saturday



It is said that whoever offers oblations to the fire is blessed with wisdom, wealth and prosperity



The fire is ceremoniously lit. An individual attains purification of self, spiritual progress, physical, mental and internal peace and protection of sickness through sacred fire



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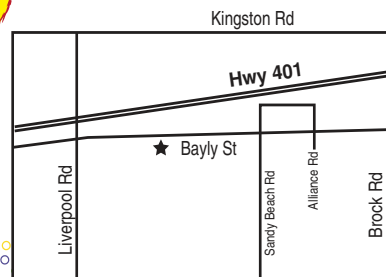
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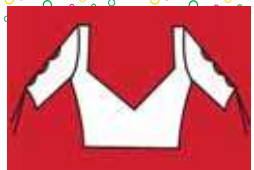
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### Unnaipoloruvan

Tamil-Unnaipoloruvan. Taut thriller-common man vs terrorism. Mohanlal & Kamal shine. Shruti Hassan music rocks. Remake of Hindi-A Wednesday.



Two-hour documentary "Kaadhal Mannan" (King of Romance) on departed Tamil actor Gemini Ganesh produced by daughter Dr.Kamala selvaraj



Cine Tweets

## SIVAJI THE BOSS

Eight years have gone by since Thespian Sivaji Ganesan left for his heavenly abode but his name continues to fascinate film-buffs. The fans of the actor who had gathered in their hundreds to celebrate his 81st birth anniversary at a function in Chennai on Thursday Oct 1st just reaffirmed this fact.

Organised by Sivaji - Prabhu Charities, the event witnessed the honouring of legends in playback singing



- P Suseela, P B Sreenivas and S P Balasubramaniam and veteran makeup man Muthappa. They were presented with Sivaji Awards, a citation and an amount of Rs 50,000. On

the occasion, a special postal day cover on music composer K V Mahadevan was also released by the Postal Department.

Songs and scenes from the films featuring Sivaji Ganesan screened on the occasion received thunderous applause from the audience.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramkumar and Prabhu, sons of Sivaji Ganesan, recalled the legacy of their father to the Tamil film industry as they heaped laurels on the recipients of

the annual award named after him. A book comprising articles on Sivaji Ganesan's journey in filmdom titled Vettaikku Vandha Singam penned by Muthu Manickam was also released at the function. P S Raman, Advocate - general, Tamilnadu presided over the celebrations. Also present on the occasion were filmmakers S P Muthuraman, P Vasu, actors Sivakumar, Vijayakumar, Thiyaagu, Rajesh, Sivaji Fans Association president Bhoominathan, producers K Balu and Chitra Lakshmanan.

[newstodaynet.com]

## Credible and clear



pleasing music and visuals Kannukkulle

It is a love story. And, as usual, there are ups and downs in the tale. Director Lena Movender uses flashback for the narrative with clarity. SS Pictures' Kannukkulle has some credible moments as the director has seasoned actors such as Sarath Babu, Yugendran and Shanmugarajan to help him keep the story moving. Their experience and hard work show in the frames. Aparna has done her role creditably. Ilaiyaraaja's music is the film's backbone.

Unfortunately, newcomers Mithun and Anu reveal their inexperience as they struggle to cope with the screenplay, which is by the director.

The storyline is woven around the theme of friendship between two school boys. One of them loses his sight in an accident while playing together. Years later, he regains his sight, thanks to his friend who donates his eyes.

Now, a new complication surfaces. Able to see again, his perception changes. He does not want to marry his friend's sister as he cannot imagine her as his wife.

Mithun, as the hero, has very little dialogue, and so is convincing. But as his wife, Aparna does most of the talking. She is not only bold, but her body language perfectly suits her part. The couple's baby steals hearts with her looks and speech.

The comedy works in bits and pieces with 'Crane' Manohar, Muthukalai and Alva Vasu. S.A. Rajkumar and Shankar-Ganesh appear in a cameo as music directors. The camera, handled by Nagasaravanan,

follows the script faithfully and the visuals are pleasing.

Cast: Mithun, Aparna, Anu, Sarathbabu, Ugendran, Shanmugarajan, Singa Muthu, Ceasar Manohar, 'Crane' Manohar, Muthukalai, S.A.Rajkumar, Shankar Ganesh and Nithya.

Storyline: Two school boys are playing and disaster strikes. One ends up losing his vision, restored years later by his friend's gesture.

Bottomline: Told in flashback, it sustains the interest of the audience to some extent.

[hindu.com]

## TELLING IMPACT

By Malathi Rangarajan

### Unnaipol Oruvan

Genre: Drama

Director: Chakri Toleti

Cast: Kamal Haasan, Mohanlal, Lakshmi

Storyline: A sedate common man plants explosives in various parts of the city holding it to ransom.

Bottomline: Kamal, the Commendable!

No remake can avoid a comparison with the original and the dictum holds good for Kamal Haasan's version of A Wednesday. Well-crafted, at times it makes you forget the original. The director is Chakri Toleti, yet it is Kamal's hand that pervades the screen.

With Unnaipol Oruvan (U/A), a story that happens in a day, Kamal should be on a hat-trick after Vaettaiyaadu Vilaiyaadu and Dasavathaaram. Told in flashback mode, the climax and the sequence that precedes it leave you awestruck (that is, if you haven't watched the original!)

Life and career turn topsy-turvy in a matter of hours for IG of Police Raghavan Maraar (Mohanlal), thanks to an anonymous call that informs him of bombs planted at vital spots in the city. They would explode by evening if the four terrorists who have been imprisoned aren't released immediately.

The caller (Kamal Haasan) takes on the law-keepers single-handed. After his ultimatum they swing into action.

Probably for the first time in his Tamil film career Kamal doesn't have a heroine. The novelty doesn't end there — the linear narrative is wrapped up in less than two hours! Knowing the taste of the Tamil audience, the actor hasn't stuck to the completely underplayed performance of Naseeruddin Shah. Kamal's is original and it is appealing. Very cleverly, the dialogue (Era Murugan) establishes the essential connect between the North and the South of the country. The witticisms in the exchanges among the various characters are typi-



well-crafted Unnaipol Oruvan

Michael Madhana Kama Rajan.

cally Kamal. Giving the name Karamchand to a terrorist is another astute move. The use of a voice resembling the CM's lends authenticity, and the conversation with the wife over telephone make Kamal's common man role credible. The scene where the chief secretary (Lakshmi) leaves the premises of the Chief Minister in a hurry has been shot right at the gate of the CM's Gopalapuram residence. A commendable choice of location that makes it all so real!

Mohanlal's prowess gives the sheen his role warrants — he goes all out for the kill. Lakshmi looks imposing but the actor goes slightly overboard in her obsequiousness in her first telephonic conversation with the CM. Anuja is Tamil's answer to Deepal Shaw, the TV reporter of A Wednesday. As it is a one-day event, almost everyone has been made to sport just one costume throughout the film.

Ganesh Venkatraman who looked a little wooden in Abhiyum Naanum returns as the hot-headed policeman, Arif Khan, in Unnai ... and makes quite an impression. His well-toned physique is an aiding factor. Calm, composed and commanding, Bharath Reddy who plays the other efficient cop Sethuraman, puts up an admirable show. Santhanabharathy, a Kamal camp constant, is Karamchand, an arms supplier to terrorists. His fear and anxiety that sprinkle humour on a serious sequence remind you of the

Composer Shruti Haasan lives up to the hype and hoopla that surrounded her music for Unnai ... Her use of percussion in the re-recording enhances the impact and so does the hum-worthy 'Allah Jaane' number soulfully sung by Kamal. The varying range and subtle brigas are noteworthy. The alluring base voices of the 'Nilai Varuma ...' piece touch the right chord.

Manoj Soni's unobtrusive camera that is in sync with the narration deserves to be complimented. And so does the slick editing of Rameshwar Bhagat.

The thought cropped up even when you watched A Wednesday — What was the logic behind the protagonist's surreptitious act of going around with different black bags and planting them around the city? Was it to buy time or make matters dramatic?

Neeraj Pandey's screenplay was undoubtedly etched well. All the same the intelligence of Unnaipol Oruvan reminds you of Sujatha's

'Nirvana Nagaram' — a novella in the Ganesh-Vasanth detective franchise, where an ordinary man exposes the vulnerability of the city and the system. Also, if the title, Unnaipol Oruvan, is the same as Jayakanthan's film (based on his novel) which won the President's Award some decades ago, it is probably because the two inimitable litterateurs have been a great influence on Kamal Haasan —

## Rap song from Vairamuthu's son



Vairamuthu's son Madhan Gorky has penned a rap song in chaste Tamil set to tunes by Vidyasagar for "Ilamai Idho Idho".

The movie directed by P Raja, a former associate of Puri Jaganath features Avithey and Trinath in lead roles. Mumbai models Vaishnavi and Parvathi play prominent roles.

Says the director, 'the story about four friends is a romantic entertainer. A group of boys and girls are college friends. The boys fall in love with the girls.

But there problem is how to confess their love without hurting

their friendship. Do the heroes win the heroines over or do they just part as friends is what the climax will tell you.

The highlight of the movie is Vidyasagar's music for Madhan Gorky's lyrics. Says the lyricist, 'I have penned three songs. The highlight is a rap song that is in chaste Tamil.'

We shot a song in Phuket Islands in Thailand and one in Malaysia. Thanking his star cast for giving their best, director Raja says, 'though it is about romance between friends, there is no vulgarity or glamour. People of

every age-group will be able to enjoy the movie.'

The director also heaped laurels on Vivek, who plays a politician in the film. Vivek's costumes are similar to those donned by Amitabh Bachchan in the Hindi hit "Sarkar", he informed.

Produced by G Dhanalakshmi, the movie has dialogues by Rajkannan, cinematography by Akash Ashok Kumar and editing by V T Vijayan.

The movie is being simultaneously made in Tamil and Telugu.

[newstodaynet.com]

The movie 1999 is a sinuously provocative, edge-of-your-seat tale of friendship, betrayal and courage. Set against the city of Toronto in the year 1999, director Lenin M. Sivam chronicles the trials and tribulations of three young Tamil men. They have treaded very different paths in their lives yet their fates become inexorably tied to each other. A bright underachiever, the impressionable 23-year old Anpu lives with his ailing father, who is a no-nonsense disciplinarian. Trapped

# Movie 1999

## 1999 SYNOPSIS

in a self-perpetuating cycle of isolation, Anpu finds salvation with a local gang. The charismatic gang leader Kumar who maintains a strong sense of comradely and a code of honour. Gang life is not something he enjoys nor some-

thing he chose, but circumstances forced him into it and he is waiting for the right moment to quit. And, far removed from them is an ambitious student Ahilan, who has managed to surmount enormous challenges in life through his positive outlook and determination. Former classmates and friends, Ahilan and Anpu happen

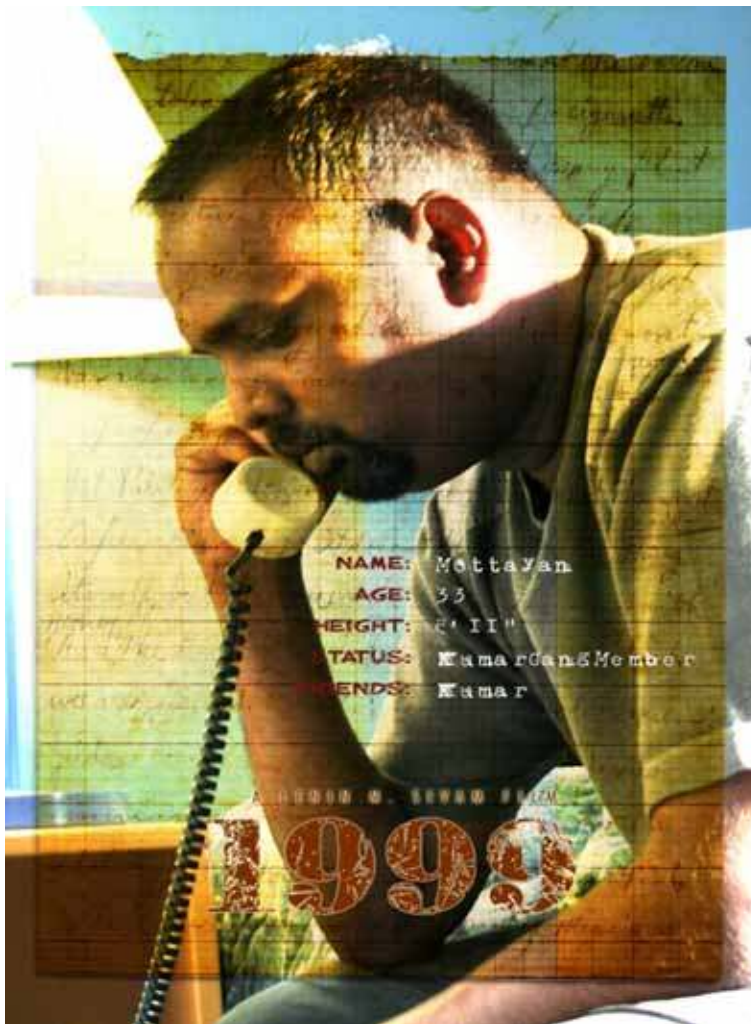
to like the same girl. These young men's stories couldn't be more different, yet the one thread that links them all is that they all are victims of the brutal civil war in Sri Lanka. That fateful bright Saturday starts like any other, and no one could have predicted the chain of events that are about to quickly unfold that will change their lives forever.

### Biography of the director

Lenin M. Sivam was born in Jaffna, Sri Lanka and raised in Toronto, Canada. He has a degree in computer science from University of Waterloo and he presently works in Toronto as a



software architect. He has taken courses in movie making from Ryerson University. Besides spending time with his wife and three young children, his passion is making movies. He enjoys learning, experimenting and researching different techniques of moviemaking. He is an uncanny storyteller who writes and directs most of his movies. He has a number of films to his credit including Iniyavarkal, Uruthy, The Next Door and 1999. The subject matter he picks in his work is very diverse and, often, controversial. His work is well respected in the community and his debut film, Iniyavarkal (2006), about marriage and relationships earned him the Best Feature Film of the Year award from the Independent Art Film Society. With a well-researched script, he tackles the stigma attached to mental illness heads-on in his next short film Uruthy (2007). This is a story about a clinically depressed young man who finally finds the strength to get much needed help for his debilitating illness. Uruthy wins Mr. Sivam critical acclaim from the viewers and the medical community. In thriller The Next Door (2008), he realistically portrays an unlikely serial killer who preys on his victims by exploiting their weaknesses. His latest creation, 1999 (2009), is a well-researched full-feature film that peers into youth violence and gangs.



## You are not equal, you are Unique!

A monastery is not an ashram. In a monastery there is hierarchy; there is order; there are rules, regulations, and how much work each person has to do.

In an ashram, there are no man made rules and regulations. No one measures how much one does and how much another does. There is chaos, outwardly. There is no equality on terms of responsibility or duties in an ashram; but there is uniqueness. Each person in an ashram does what he or she is best suited for.

In an ashram, an inmate does not work out of fear, greed, motivation or necessity. An ashramite, a resident of an ashram, works out of gratitude. Once people start measuring what they are doing and what others are doing in comparison, you create a political organization, not a spiritual organization.

People mostly work out of fear and greed; all organizations control people out of fear and greed. A few graduate out of fear and greed and then get caught in the need for attention, or jealousy and comparison to prove that they are some way superior to others. Even those who shed all



these negativities retain their ego, need for an identity. When all these are shed, one moves up in surrender, working out of sheer gratitude.

A cook in a monastery cooked in the monastery for thirty years. He never bothered to be around the master, rarely attended the master's discourses. When it was time for the master to leave the planet earth, he called every one to announce who would be the next heir to his seat in that monastery. All of them were expecting one of the disciples very close to the master would succeed him as the master. The

master, however, appointed the cook as his successor. He said to his disciples, you have been listening to my discourses all these years, but this cook just lived my teachings. Just with these words, the master made the cook enlightened and capable of being his true successor.

People are not equal. Each one comes with one's karma and with different attitude. As long as the Master is around, He will take care of every thing. When Master is not there, the whole thing will become dharma, set procedures. When the Master is there every

thing will become moksha, liberation. That is the difference between dharma and moksha. Work for moksha. That is the difference between an ashram and a monastery.

Nithyananda, [www.nithyananda.org](http://www.nithyananda.org), <http://www.youtube.com/lifeblissfoundation>

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## Durham District School Board Tamil classes are starting in October 2009

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**Whitby:** Wednesdays 6-8.30 PM from October 7 at Anderson CVI in Whitby.

**DDSB Tel no: 905-436-3211. Website: www.dce.ca**

There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$25.00. There is no tuition fee for the classes. Durham Tamil Association does not run the classes; our role is to assist the Durham District School Board by informing Tamils in Durham to enroll their children in Tamil Classes run by the School board.

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

# SIVAJI, THE BOSS OF TAMIL CINEMA

## REMEMBERED ON HIS BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

**A**s everybody is aware, NT's birthday falls on 1st October and Sivaji-Prabhu Charities Trust celebrate this on a grand scale every year by honouring the veterans of Tamil cinema by conferring the Sivaji virudhu on them. They with the active co-ordination of Indian Postal Department bring out a special day cover on film luminaries. Well, this year the awards were musically oriented. While play back singers P.Suseela, P.B.Sreenivas and S.P.Balasubramanian were conferred the Sivaji virudhu, a special day cover was brought out on the yesteryear Music Director K.V.Mahadevan, Now over to the function.

This year being a musical tribute, it was planned to have Lata Mangeshkar as the chief guest and she readily agreed. But Lataji who celebrated her birthday just days back is not keeping good health and she informed the family well in advance. So Mr. Bharathram, the Advocate General of Tamilnadu and younger brother of Artist Mohanram took over the mantle.

The function itself started on a novel note. Mohanram was the anchor of the show and when he announced Irai Vanakkam, everybody stood up. But to everyone's pleasant surprise, the lights went off and the big screens that were kept on both sides came live. Nadigar Thilagam himself came on screen with the Pithha Piraisudi song from Tiruvarutselvar getting screened. Mohanram started the proceedings by reading out a prose-poetry format. While one half dealt about the qualities of Sivaji, the second part listed out the names of artists who were honoured by the Trust so far. This was prepared by Mr.Ganesan, an ardent fan of NT.

Ramkumar took over the mike and began his welcome speech. He traced the history of the functions that are held every year by the trust. Though the postal covers cum stamps on yesteryear greats was started when Nadigar Thilagam was alive, the subsequent activities were inspired by Lataji, Ram disclosed. Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhonsale were very much attached to their father Mr.Hridayanath Mangeshkar and



when he passed away, they started a trust and began honouring film personalities on their father's birthday. While disclosing this to Ram and Prabhu, Lata asked them to do something on similar lines and that's how this idea was born, said Ramkumar. He welcomed everyone and said that this activities would continue to grow.

The next programme was the conferring the titles on the personalities. The first one [though he was not a music man] was Mr. Muthhappa, a makeup artist. The unique distinction of Muthhappa was he was the one who applied the makeup on NT's face when NT came for Parasakthi screen test. There started a friendship which is nearly 6 decades old now. From the intro given by Mohanram, it was clear that people who would like to do business with NT would always approach Muthhappa first because he had so much freedom with NT. Clippings from Parasakthi [NT singing Nanadavanthil Or Aandi was shown] and Andha Naal [NT speaking to the other woman] were shown. Then the award was conferred on him.

Then it was the turn of Suseela to be felicitated. Mohanram narrated an interesting anecdote of how

once Sivaji challenged [ofcourse in a lighter vein] Lata and Asha to sing like Suseela did in Athhaan! Ennathhaan from Paava Mannippu. The clipping was also shown. Then Kandhan KARunai [Solla solla inikkudhada] and Paasa Malar [Malarndhum malaraadha] were shown and Suseela was honoured.

Next was PBS. He had sung only two songs for NT and both from Naan Sollum Ragasiyam and Punar Jenmam were shown. After this PBS was given the award. The last but not the least was Paadum Nila Baalu. The famous songs of SPB for NT like Pottu Vaittho Mugamo and Irandil Ondru [Raja] and Sandhippu movie songs were screened. It is needless to say that the capacity audience reacted with thunderous cheers.

The next item on the agenda was the release of a book authored by NT's long term friend and Sammandhi Mr. Muthumaanikam of Vettaikkaaran Pudhur. Apty titled as "Vettaiku Vandha Singam", this book traces NT's hunting expeditions he undertook in the fifties and sixties. The first copy was accepted by the chief guest Mr.Bharathram. Mr. Muthumaanikam in his brief speech recalled the friendship he had with NT which started in 1954 and lasted till the demise of the thespian. He said that it was NT's idea that their respective families should align for ever for which NT's brother's son got married to Muthumaanikam's brother's daughter though they belonged to different castes.

Before the next item unfolded, audience were treated to some musical variety clippings from films churned out by KV Mahadevan which had NT on the screen. Song clippings from Makkalai Petra Maharaasi, Engal Thanga Raaja, Padikkaadha Medhai, Vasantha Maaligai, Iruvar Ullam, Kungumam, Saraswathy Sabatham, Iraththa Thilagam, Thiruvilayaadal, Navarathiri and Thiruvarutselvar were

Anna had for NT during Veera Pandiya Kattabomman drama and also talked about how Sivaji made Karunanidhi's dialogues become popular. He fondly remembered the confrontation scene between NT and Savithiri in Annaiyin Aana. It was a good speech laced with humour done in pure Tamil.

The chief guest of the evening Mr.Bharath Ram spoke next. He recalled the phonecall he received from Ramkumar and said that he was wondering when Ram had called up and said that he was coming to meet him. When he learnt that he was to preside over the function and that too in the place of Lataji, he was taken aback. He recalled the long standing relationship his father Mr.V.P.Raman had with NT and fondly remembered the interactions his father had with NT. The entire family of Ramans were deeply moved when NT choose to stay the whole day at their house when their father Mr.V.P.Raman passed away, he said in an emotional tone. He concluded saying that the relationship would continue to remain strong and he was very much pleased with today's function.

On behalf of the award winners, PBS spoke and read out a poem he had written about NT. He also sang the same in the tune of Kaalangalil Aval Vasantham.

As a part of their charity activities, the trust every year identifies an educational institution and gives donation for their functioning. This year Focus academy, an institution which trains students for the IAS & IPS entrance exams was given a cash assistance of Rs 2 Lakhs by the trust.

There was a person called Arivoli, a man dressed in Saffron clothes seated on the dias and many were wondering what he has to do with films and NT. He also echoed the same sentiment when he began but once he started speaking, we could understand that here was a man who knows more than something about films and NT. He told that there is a book called "Saithiyam" in Tamil dating back to 1500 B.C, where the navarasas are described. Arivoli said that NT had not read that but if you read the book and check NT's acting for a particular rasa, it would exactly be the same. He recalled the kind words

The function was nearing its end and Prabhu came to the mike to propose a vote of thanks. He was so moved and emotional that it was clear that he was speaking from the heart. He recalled the association his father had with all the honoured persons. He spoke individually about Muthhappa, Suseela, PBS and SPB and he said their trust is honoured to confer this titles on these luminaries. He also spoke glowingly about the unending support that the fans provide to the family even now and thanked them from the bottom of his heart.

With the recital of National Anthem [again with the screen flashing NT holding the national flag taken from Rajapart Rangadurai] the function came to an end.

- Murali  
(Chennai)



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# Amnesty International letter to Tamil Nadu MP delegation visiting Sri Lanka



The well-known human rights watchdog, Amnesty International, wrote a letter to the Tamil Nadu Parliamentary delegation visiting Sri Lanka during the week of Oct 12th. The letter addressed to the delegation's head TR Baalu was sent on the eve of the visit.

The text of letter is as follows:

**Dear Mr T. R. Balu, MP and Leader of the parliamentary delegation to Sri Lanka,**

On the occasion of your upcoming visit to Sri Lanka commencing 10 October 2009, Amnesty International calls on you to urge your Sri Lankan counterparts to act immediately to address serious problems affecting the safety and dignity of some quarter of a million Sri Lankans held in government-run

emphasize the need to respect the rights of all displaced people to liberty and freedom of movement; freedom from arbitrary arrest and incommunicado detention.

These displaced civilians suffered enormous physical danger and material deprivation during the war. Both sides were accused of humanitarian law violations against these civilians, who were forced to remain at risk in the conflict zone by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which used them as human shields against the approaching army. Adults and children were subjected to force conscription.

After the military defeat of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in May 2009, Government of Sri Lanka vowed to resettle the majority of displaced people

## Restrictions on Freedom of Movement

Hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the recent war in north-east Sri Lanka and living in camps are being denied basic human rights including freedom of movement. This vast population is being held in de facto detention camps. The Sri Lankan military manages and controls the camps, severely restricting the residents from leaving the camps, and denies the displaced population basic legal safeguards. Amnesty International recognizes the government's legitimate need to carry out screening to identify potential LTTE members within the camp population. But such a screening process does not justify the detention of civilians including entire families, the elderly and children, for an indefinite period. The Sri Lankan government claims that more than half of all camp residents have now been screened; and yet only a small fraction have actually been allowed to leave. This amounts to the arbitrary detention of hundreds of thousands of people simply because they are Tamil and lived on the wrong side of the front line.

The government has recently claimed to be speeding up its release process but the reality is the pace of releases remains slow and many people have simply been transferred to other camps close to their home areas. Others have returned to highly militarised areas where freedom of movement continues to be seriously obstructed, hampering efforts to rebuild lives.

## Concerns about screening and protection of the displaced

The Sri Lankan government has legitimate security concerns, and there is a need to bring to justice members of both the LTTE and the armed forces who engaged in abuse of civilians. Amnesty International stresses the need to ensure that in all cases, accountability is pursued through proper legal processes. Since the war ended in May 2009, many thousands of people detained in camps have been subjected to 'screening' processes by the security forces in an attempt to root out LTTE members. There is no independent monitoring of this process, which lacks transparency and accountability; and there is no public disclosure of the criteria used for "separation" and detention of persons suspected of links to the LTTE. While screening processes are needed to ensure that civilians are not housed with former combatants, they must not be used as a vehicle for discrimination or collective punishment against civilians originating in areas once controlled by the LTTE.

Separate detention facilities have been established for approximately 10,000 ex-LTTE combatants, many of whom are held incommunicado. Independent monitoring of these facilities is also urgently necessary to ensure against abuse.

Even in Sri Lanka's regular displacement camps in the north and east, displaced people have been prevented from talking to aid workers. With no independent monitors able to freely visit the camps, many people are unprotected and at risk from enforced disappearances, abductions, arbitrary arrest and sexual violence.

## Unrestricted Humanitarian Access

Camp residents now face a humanitarian disaster as monsoon rains threaten to flood camps. The Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

reports that over 60,000 camp residents will be vulnerable to flooding. The government must allow unimpeded access to the camps by both international and domestic humanitarian organisations and other appropriate bodies to give assistance to the displaced.

## Time to act NOW

Your delegation could make a valuable contribution to improving the ultimate outcome for Sri Lanka's war displaced by raising these critical issues with your counterparts in Sri Lanka in the course of your visit and in subsequent communications.

Amnesty International welcomes your delegation's upcoming visit as an important opportunity to address, in particular, these urgent concerns:

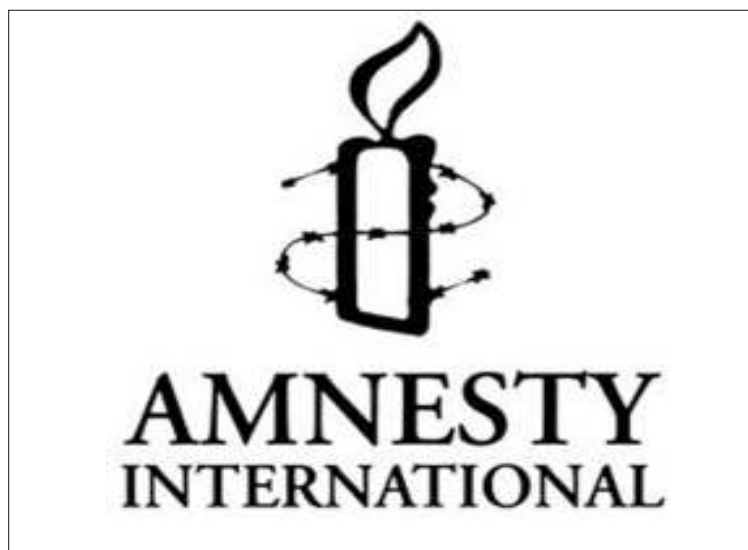
-the need to restore the rights of Sri Lanka's displaced people to liberty and freedom of movement, ensuring

that those held in Sri Lankan displacement camps are there voluntarily;

-the need to ensure independent access to and monitoring of camps housing internally displaced people to protect against human rights abuse and ensure that their humanitarian needs are being met;

-the need to end arbitrary detention; ensuring that all "screening" and detention practices associated with the displaced population are transparent, and are carried out in accordance with legal safeguards and international human rights standards. Individuals affiliated with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) arrested and accused of crimes, should be charged with legitimate offenses, tried and prosecuted in accordance with the law.

-the need to institute a meaningful consultative process with displaced people that allows them to make informed and voluntary decisions about return and resettlement.



camps in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

India has announced generous support to the Sri Lankan government to provide for the humanitarian needs of Sri Lanka's displaced people, and has vowed to provide sustained assistance for rehabilitation, resettlement and reconstruction.

The emphasis of Indian aid has been on de-mining areas to prepare them for resettlement, reconstruction of houses and supply of shelter material, medical assistance, as well as provision and repair of civil infrastructure. These are all critical contributions.

This very constructive relationship could be bolstered by a show of leadership in support of the basic human rights of Sri Lanka's displaced people. In particular, in the course of your interactions with Sri Lankan authorities, Amnesty International urges you to

within 180 days. That deadline is fast approaching and very little progress has been made in this regard. It is clear now that true "resettlement" will take much longer than the Sri Lankan government anticipated. The displaced people have not been allowed to seek alternative accommodations or start the process of rebuilding their lives. The Sri Lankan government continues to confine the displaced to closed camps, in crowded, uncomfortable and sometimes hazardous conditions.

Amnesty International has a global campaign, "Unlock the Camps", (see <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/unlock-camps-sri-lanka-20090807>), calling on the Sri Lanka government to end its policy of forcibly confining people to camps, which amounts to arbitrary detention.

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## Poll: US Most Admired Country Globally

A new survey shows the United States is the most admired country, thanks mostly to the admiration that people around the world have for President Barack Obama.

The New York-based market research company GfK on Monday, Oct 5th released its annual Nation Brands Index, after polling 20,000 people in 20 developed and developing countries. In the poll, the United States rose from 7th last year to number 1 this year.

Index founder and consultant Simon Anholt said the 2009 results show the new U.S. administration has been

well-received abroad. Anholt said he has never before seen such a dramatic change in the poll standing of any nation.

Germany, which topped the 2008 poll, fell to number 3. France remained at number 2. Rounding out the top 10 were Britain, Japan, Italy, Canada, Switzerland and Australia, with Spain and Sweden tied for 10th.

China rose several spots to 22nd. The last two nations in the survey were Angola at number 49 and Iran at number 50. [voa news]



The Statue of Liberty in New York harbor

## PRESIDENT OBAMA ON MAHATMA GANDHI'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Statement by President Obama on Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Anniversary

Anniversary is time to reflect on Gandhi's message of nonviolence



On behalf of the American people, I want to express appreciation for the life and lessons of Mahatma Gandhi on the anniversary of his birth. This is an important moment to reflect on his message of non-violence, which continues to inspire people and political movements across the globe.

We join the people of India in celebrating this great soul who lived a life dedicated to the cause of advancing justice, showing tolerance to all, and creating change through non-violent resistance.

Americans owe an enormous measure of gratitude to the Mahatma. His teachings and ideals, shared with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

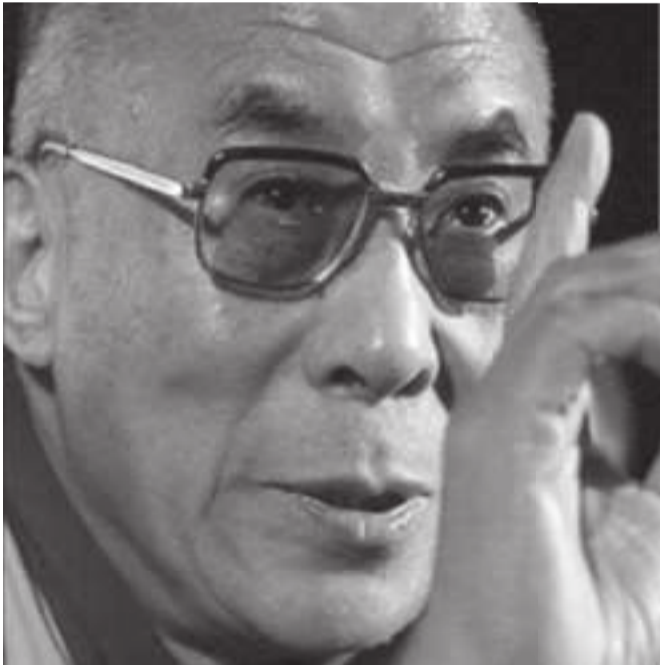
on his 1959 pilgrimage to India, transformed American society through our civil rights movement. The America of today has its roots in the India of Mahatma Gandhi and the nonviolent social action movement for Indian independence which he led.

Tomorrow (Oct 2nd), as we remember the Mahatma on his birthday, we must renew our commitment to live his ideals and to celebrate the dignity of all human beings.

## US Denies Policy Shift in Deferring Dalai Lama Meeting

By David Gollust

The State Department said President Barack Obama's decision to put off a meeting with the Dalai Lama until after he visits China next month does not signal a change in U.S. policy on Tibet.



The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, who is visiting Washington this week, is expected to meet with the State Department's newly named coordinator for Tibet, Maria Otero, as well as members of Congress.

The Dalai Lama has met with every sitting U.S. leader since former President George H.W. Bush in 1991. The decision by President Obama to put off a meeting with him until after his China visit next month is drawing criticism from some human rights advocates and conservative commentators.

State Department Spokesman Ian Kelly told reporters that the department's newly-named Special Coordinator for Tibetan issues, Maria Otero, will meet the Dalai Lama during his Washington visit this week. Kelly confirmed that Mr. Obama does not plan to meet with the Tibetan spiritual leader until later in the year.

"We think - the United States government thinks - that he is a internationally-revered religious and cultural figure," said Ian Kelly. "He's a Nobel Prize laureate. The president has decided that he will meet with the Dalai Lama at a mutually-agreeable time. I think there was an announcement that it would be after his trip to China. As far as further details, I would really have to refer you to the White House."

Asked about a possible policy shift on Tibet, Kelly said he "wouldn't necessarily read anything" into the decision other than the fact that the president will meet with the Dalai Lama, as he put it, "because of our respect for his position".

Kelly said that while the Obama

administration sees China as "an important international player" and wants to engage Beijing, it does not try to downplay disagreements with China over human rights, religious freedom and freedom of expression.

He said human rights "is at the center" of the U.S. relationship with China and that he expects Mr. Obama to raise such issues, among others, when he visits Beijing in mid-November after the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Singapore.

China sees the Dalai Lama as supporting independence for Tibet, despite his stated advocacy only for autonomy for the region. Last month, Beijing said it firmly opposed meetings between foreign leaders and the Dalai Lama, after he met senior Obama aides in India.

The State Department announced last week that Maria Otero, Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs, was being given the additional role of coordinator for Tibetan issues.

A written announcement said she would coordinate government policies and programs on Tibetan issues "within the context" of the U.S. bilateral relationship with Beijing.

It said Otero would seek to foster an environment for substantive discussion between the Dalai Lama's representatives and the Chinese government as well as support initiatives to help safeguard Tibet's "unique culture". [voa news]

## International Monetary Fund Raises Growth Forecast

The International Monetary Fund says the world economy is pulling out of recession faster than previously thought.

The latest World Economic Outlook says the global economy will grow by 3.1 percent in 2010, after contracting about 1 percent in 2009.

That is better than the last update in July - when the report predicted growth of 2.5 percent. The IMF credits efforts such as interest rate cuts and other stimulus programs.

But the IMF's chief economist says the improving numbers do not mean the economic crisis is over. Olivier Blanchard says nations around the world should coordinate policies to keep the recovery on track.

The study says growth in China, India and other Asian countries is driving economic recovery in the developing world. In those nations, growth is expected to reach five percent next year.

The report came out Thursday ahead of the IMF and World Bank annual meetings being held in Istanbul, Turkey.

While the IMF report says Asian economies are leading the recovery, it also says there

is reason for concern.

The IMF says exports from Asia are still down about 30 percent from their peak in 2008 and that exports will continue to be weak because of slow recoveries in the United States and Europe.

Still, the IMF projects China's economy to grow by nine percent in 2010, followed by India at 6.4 percent. The ASEAN-5 - Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam - will grow four percent.

In contrast, Japan - the world's second largest economy - is only projected to grow 1.7 percent. South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore are expected to grow between 3.4 and 4.1 percent.

The report says the U.S. economy is improving more quickly than anticipated, but raised concerns about the impact of high unemployment and consumer debt. It says the U.S. is likely to grow at under a two percent rate for "a considerable time."

The IMF is forecasting sluggish growth for many European economies, warning that many emerging European economies especially those



that depend on foreign investment will continue to struggle. However, Russia, which has also seen a sharp decline in foreign investments, is expected to grow 1.5 percent in 2010.

Latin American countries are forecast to grow almost three percent in 2010 due to improvements in commodity prices. But officials warn countries in the region need to strengthen their fiscal policies and do more to encourage investment.

Stabilizing oil prices are helping the Middle East, which is expected to grow more than four percent in 2010.

African nations are also pulling out of recession, due in part to rising commodity prices, but the IMF says the region's outlook "is subject to significant uncertainty."

[VOA News]

## US RESPONDS TO SRI LANKA PROTEST OVER CLINTON REMARK



The United States, responding to recent protests from Sri Lanka over remarks by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, said it had no recent evidence of women being raped while in Sri Lankan government custody.

In a letter addressed to Sri Lanka's Minister of Foreign Affairs Rohitha Bogollagama, the State Department noted that the US government and international human rights groups over the years had detailed "numerous cases of rape and sexual violence in Sri Lanka, particularly acts committed against women held in detention by

the government."

However, the letter signed by Melanne Verbeke, ambassador at large for global women's issues at the State Department said that "in the most recent phase of the conflict, from 2006 to 2009 ... we have not received reports that rape and sexual abuse were used as tools of war, as they clearly have in other conflict areas around the world."

"We hope that this clarification puts the issue in its proper context," the letter said, adding that Washington remains concerned about extrajudicial killings, disappearances and detainee abuse in Sri Lanka.

"Secretary Clinton believes that Sri Lanka must focus to the future and move forward on the promotion of peace and the protection of human rights," the letter said.

Sri Lanka lodged its protest with the US embassy in Colombo over the remarks made by Clinton last month to the United Nations Security Council.

ity Council.

"We've seen rape used as a tactic of war before in Bosnia, Burma and Sri Lanka and elsewhere," the US secretary of state had said during a resolution calling for an end to sexual violence in armed conflict, according to published reports of Clinton's remarks.

Her comments sparked an outcry across Sri Lanka, where government forces in May crushed Tamil Tiger rebels after decades of fighting.

Colombo faced condemnation for its handling of the final stages of the war against Tiger rebels and managed to stave off a Security Council resolution calling for war crimes investigations thanks to the vetoes of China and Russia.

The United Nations has said that over 7,000 civilians perished in the first four months of intense fighting this year.

Sri Lanka is now facing international pressure to free 250,000 ethnic Tamil civilians who managed to escape the fighting but are now held in internment camps while they are screened to see whether they were rebels.

[courtesy: AFP]

# Parent bursaries available for the Sensory Conference from October 21 – 25th, 2009

If a family is interested in a bursary, please contact Ashley directly at 416-630-2222 ext 228 or by email at ashley@mukibaum.com. There is no question that this conference will provide very valuable education and experience for parents who have children with disabilities such as autism.

Dr. Nehama Baum would like to reach out to families who may be in need of a bursary to attend MukiBaum's 3rd International Come To Your Senses Conference - Creating Supportive Environments to Nurture the Sensory Capital Within from Oct. 21st – 25th, 2009. The conference website is [www.cometoyoursensesconference.com](http://www.cometoyoursensesconference.com) which outlines the schedule of speakers and events.

The Come To Your Senses Conference creates a meeting place for professionals from varied disciplines to present their sensory related research findings. It is also a place where practitioners can present a variety of treatment and educational modalities and their applications in programs provided to people with disabilities. It is a place where parents to children and adults with disabilities are able to share the wisdom they have gained through supporting their kids. And it is a place in which people with disabilities are able to have a voice that expresses their life experiences, challenges and the ways by which they cope with and overcome them.

We would like to offer bursaries to parents and or persons

with disabilities to be able to attend this unique event. Should a family be interested in applying for a bursary, please ask them to send me an email telling me a bit about themselves and their situation. I will be in touch with each family so that we can discuss their needs. As a non-profit ourselves, we are just asking that if a family is able to, they will cover the cost of food and a small portion of registration. However, we realize that each situation is unique and I will treat it as such, says Ashley Grant.

You may also contact Geetha Moorthy at South Asian Autism Awareness Centre (SAAAC), phone 416-824-8847

Refer Ad on Page 37 for Feature Presentation

Born in Eelam, Umanathini started learning vocal classical music from her uncle Pon Sundaralingam at the age of 6. She continued with her music for 5 years in India.

At a tender age of fourteen, the child prodigy in Uma made her way to the Konesh Orchestra band in Canada.

## Upcoming Singer

### releasing Album in

### Toronto Een Ithayathin

### Oosai (Heart Beat)

She is currently the lead singer at the Rhythm Messengers Musical Group.

Since debut performance at the York Univeristy Kalaivilla in the 1990, she had performed in more than 200 stages with a number of leading Indian artists.

During her tenure, numerous recognitions have come her way including the title Canadian Mathura Kural hosted by Abdul Hameed.

Uma is actively involved in the community raising awareness of the suffering of people in her motherland through her gift of music and her trademark smile.



Uma started her journey to the making of "Ithaythin Oosai" with a steadfast ambition and a glorious life long dream of producing her own music album. She quickly realized that no dream was ever realized without good planning and arduous perseverance. Uma started writing and composing her own songs and with god's grace it became second nature to her. With her melodious voice and performing in a number of local and international stages, Uma has built a formidable reputation as a singer among the Canadian Tamils.

Her journey to India to complete the recording was the blessing of family and friends who believed in her talent. She completed her project with some of the conspicuously excellent artist in the Indian Music Industry.

Now, it is time to cherish those moments and thank you all from her heart to yours!!

## Diwali 2009

Mississauga's Ram Mandir and the Hindu Community of Mississauga, are celebrating "Diwali 2009" the festival of lights. The event is scheduled for Sunday, October 11th, 2009 at the Living Arts Centre Park in Mississauga (City Hall). There is no admission ticket and is free to all to witness and enjoy the festivity.

The event will be attended by many dignitaries including Hazel McCallion Mayor of Mississauga and the event will showcase the way Hindus celebrate the Festival of lights- Diwali. This will include cultural and religious presentations on the festival. The highlight of the event will be a grand parade and float that will commence at 5:30 p.m. from (1320 Rathburn Road West, just east of the Credit River near the community of Erindale in Mississauga, west of the Square One area) and shall reach at the Living Arts Centre Park at 6:15 p.m. From 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM we shall have a wide variety of entrainment program to delight every one.

For more information, please contact **Kanayalal Raina, 905-696-8886, 647-286-4310, klsraina@rogers.com**

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and

**THE CANADA TAMIL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION (CTPA)**

In partnership with the

**COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES, YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

Grade 9-12 students and their parents are invited to attend the workshop. Admission is Free.

Where: Middlefield Collegiate Institute,  
525 Highglen Avenue, Markham.  
(Middlefield Road - Highglen Avenue Intersection)

When: Saturday, October 24, 2009, 9:30am to 3:30 pm.  
Complementary Light Lunch will be served for all participants.

Please call one of the following executives of ASGC to register your name in advance:

**Suganja Sinnathamby 905 737 4353 ext 126**

**S. Sivanayagamoorthy 416 267 6712**

**C. Ramanathan 416 949 3157**

# Indian TV stars ready to rock Toronto

Celebrities from all over the globe including India are all set to represent their countries at an event in Toronto on October 10. It is none other than our tele-celebs who will set the stage on fire with their stupendous performance. The entire show will last for 30 hours out of which tele-celebs have been granted 3 hours to put forth their talent.

The show titled 'Heartthrobs' is directed by Roger Nair and will

showcase the performances of most talented celebrities of tinsel town. Kashmera Shah, Krunhna, Aashka, Amit, Hussain, Tina, Aamir, Eijaz, Sanjeeda will exhibit their talent on some Bollywood numbers, whereas our Laughter Challenge king Rajiv Nigam will entertain the Canadian spectators with his rib tickling comedy.

All the dance performances are choreographed by Javed of 'Nach Baliye' fame and the show

will be hosted by Rakshanda Khan. All these super-energetic celebs are all set to fly off to Toronto for this event.

Rogers Centre Toronto Oct 9th and 10th an Indian 30 hour non stop concert the longest ever indoor festival indoors in the world., call the undersigned for more info or interviews with organizers, Stars and performers.

**Jelo Patel, 647 686 2734, www.RogerNairProductions.com,**

**www.HumanRightsCanada.com**

## Shen Yun Performing Arts (SPA) shows in Toronto next month

After touring over 100 cities on five continents, Shen Yun Performing Arts returns to Toronto for another spectacular, original production of Chinese dance and music. Here's your chance to experience the show that has left millions in awe. Discover for yourself the brilliant choreography, gorgeous costumes, and state-of-the-art backdrops that have astounded audiences everywhere.

Epoch Times have been one of the media sponsors of the show since SPA started their world tour 2 years ago. SPA has 3 companies, the one coming to Toronto next month is **SHEN YUN PERFORMING ARTS NEW YORK COMPANY**, with live orchestra.

People from different backgrounds enjoy this show: Visit for more info: <http://torshow.com/>



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# Monsoon Kids Corner

## Color Me Competition - 20

Winner for September 2009

Color Me Competition - 19

**Dharani Niroshan**

Richmond Hill

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will go to the winner.



Dead Line for entries:

October 25, 2009

Entries have to be made on original paper; photo copies not accepted.

The Winner will be selected and posted in the November issue.

Please mail to:

**Monsoon Journal**  
3107 Sheppard Ave East  
Toronto, O.N. M1T 3J7

**Please Note:**

Prize is sponsored by  
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Only one winner will be selected.

## Color me Competition - 20



Entry Form: October 2009

Name: .....

Address: .....

Tel No:.....E-Mail: .....

## The Backpack Check-up

Strapping on a backpack is a daily ritual for students, as they struggle to stuff in the necessities of school. But, is your child's backpack well designed and comfortable? Or is it continually overloaded and awkwardly designed? Consider the following questions to see if your child's backpack is packed light and worn right.

1. Is it positioned below your child's shoulder and above their hipbone?
2. Is it made of lightweight material?
3. Does it have adjustable, padded shoulder straps that are at least two inches wide?
4. Is it made with a padded back for added protection and comfort?
5. Does it have with a hip strap or waist belt, which helps redistribute the weight/contents?
6. Does it have several individual pockets instead of one large compartment?
7. When packed does it weigh less than 15 per cent of your child's body weight (10 per cent for elementary students)?
8. Are heavy, bulky items packed closest to the body?
9. Does your child carry their backpack over both shoulders?
10. Can your child stand upright comfortably while wearing the backpack?

If you answered no to three or more of the above questions, your child's backpack could be improperly designed and over packed. This could place him/her at risk of causing stress and potential irritation and injury to their spine, joints and muscles.

### Backpacks, a pain in the neck...and back

School kids today not only have a lot on their minds, statistics show that they are also carrying a heavy load on their backs. You need only watch how students struggle while they walk with their overloaded backpacks to understand the potential health risks to the



back and spine. Continually hauling heavy backpacks can cause stress to the developing spinal column, neck, arms, joints, and muscles of growing children.

To prevent pain and injury from an overloaded backpack it is important to recognize the correct way to choose, pack, lift, and carry a backpack.

#### Choosing a backpack

Make sure that the backpack is made of lightweight material, has two wide, adjustable shoulder straps, a waist belt, several individual pockets, a padded back and is proportionate to the child's body size. It should not extend beyond a child's shoulders or below the top of their hipbones.

#### Packing a backpack

The load in a backpack should not exceed 10 per cent of an elementary student's bodyweight and 15 per cent for those in secondary school. The contents should be evenly distributed with heavy items packed closely to the body.

#### Lifting and carrying a backpack

When putting the backpack on, a child should place it on a table or chair, bend at the knees and lift with the legs while putting on one shoulder strap at a time. Before your child walks out the door encourage him/her to wear both straps so the bag fits comfortably and is close to the body.

#### Chiropractic. Treatment that stands up

If your child begins to experience back pain, chiropractic treatment may

help. Doctors of Chiropractic are back care specialists, who offer hands-on treatment that targets the source of pain. For more information on back care and safety visit the Ontario Chiropractic Association Web site at [www.chiropractic.on.ca](http://www.chiropractic.on.ca) or call 1877-327-2273.

Courtesy: Dr. George Traitses,  
416-499-5656,  
[www.infinite-health.com](http://www.infinite-health.com)

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# " THE RESPONSIBILITY OF YOUNG "

Convocation Speech @ Aligarh Muslim University on 19 December 1964

## Lal Bahadur Shastri

(October 2, 1904 to 11 January 1966)

He believed in High Thinking & Simple Living.  
He rose to be 2nd Prime Minister of India revolutionizing Indian Agriculture sector & emotionalizing popular slogan, ' Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan ' .  
Let's Practice Simplicity Today, his following speech may interest youngsters around you - ENJOY.

Whatever your station in future life, each one of you should first of all think of yourselves as citizens of the country. This confers on you certain rights, which are guaranteed by the Constitution, but it also subjects you to certain responsibilities, which also have to be clearly understood.

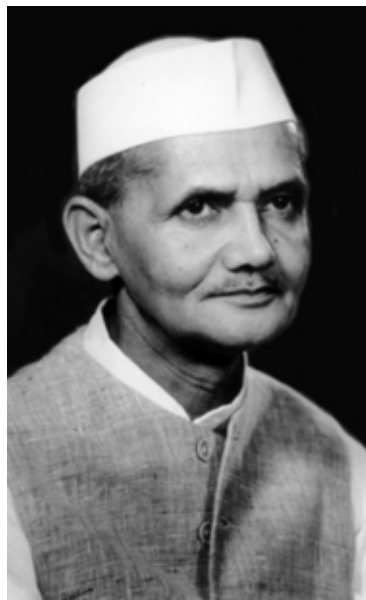
Ours is a democracy, which enjoins freedom to the individual, but this freedom has to be subjected to a number of voluntary restraints in the interests of organized society. And these voluntary restraints have to be exercised and demonstrated in everyday life.

A good citizen is one who obeys the law, whether there is a policeman around or not, and who takes delight in performing his civic duties. In the olden days sense of self-restraint and discipline was inculcated by the combined effort of the family and the teacher. The economic stresses of present-day life unfortunately do not leave enough time to the parents to look after the children.

In the educational institutions

the numbers have grown so large as to take away the benefits, which used to accrue formerly by personal contact between the teacher and the taught. Inevitably, our young students are often left much to their own resources. Often this creates problems, which we all know about. This is an important aspect, which needs thorough examination. The responsibility of our young citizens is great. In my view every station in life is important in itself. Work has its own dignity and there is great satisfaction in doing one's own job to the best of one's ability. Whatever the duties, we should apply ourselves with sincerity and devotion. Such an approach, apart from being good in itself, also has the added advantage of opening avenues for further advancement. We have to see whether we have done our own job well before thinking of criticizing anybody else. All too often, we succumb to the temptation of decrying others without bothering to look to ourselves.

Never forget that loyalty to the country comes ahead of all other loyalties. And this is an absolute loyalty, since one cannot weigh it in terms of what one receives. It is essential to remember that the entire country is one and that any one who fosters or promotes separatism or fissiparous tendencies is not our true friend. What I have said stems from a desire to see that the youth of our country prepares itself in a disciplined and determined manner for the responsibilities of tomorrow. A democratic country is sustained not by the greatness of a few but by the cooperative effort of the many. The



future of the country is in your hands and as the older generations complete their task the new ones come along to take their place. If they are well equipped as individuals and as citizens, the country's future will be bright indeed. At a time when you are at the threshold of a new period in your life I would urge you to play your role with confidence and dignity.

Our position with regard to secularism is known so well that it hardly needs any reiteration. It is embodied in our Constitution, which ensures equal respect for all religions and equal opportunities for all citizens, irrespective of their caste and creed and the faith which they profess. In spite of a seeming diversity, there is a fundamental unity in India, which we all cherish and it has to be our constant endeavor to maintain and strengthen this unity.

The country can progress only if it does away completely with fissiparous tendencies and emerges as an integrated whole.

And it is in the field of education that the seed of secularism has to be sown at the earliest stages, so that the plant can be carefully nurtured as it grows.

The world is at the moment passing through very difficult times. In fact, it would not be wrong to say that never before in the recent past had mankind to grapple with problems of as complex a nature as are confronting it today. It is imperative that satisfactory and, as far as possible, lasting solutions should be found to these problems without undue delay, otherwise there is a danger of the situation getting out of hand. Mutual suspicions, hatred and ill-will between nations and groups of persons have to be removed at all costs and sincere and determined efforts have to be made to ensure that differences and outstanding problems are resolved by mutual discussion in a spirit of understanding, and not by the use of force. Wars and conflicts, as we know to our cost, always create more problems than they succeed in solving. The great advances made by science and technology, particularly in the field of nuclear and thermonuclear energy, have placed an almost unlimited power at the disposal of mankind. This power can be used either for constructive or for destructive purposes and it is up to us to try to derive the fullest possible benefit from it.

We, in India, have our own special problems. No one can deny that some of them are of a serious nature and must be tackled with vigour and determination. Our national objective has been defined clearly and unambiguously. We aim that every citi-



zen should be provided with the basic necessities of life and should have complete freedom to lead the life of his or her own choice. We aim at a democratic society, strong and free, in which every citizen, irrespective of his religious belief, will occupy an equal and honoured place, and will be given full and equal opportunities for growth and service. We aim at the removal of untouchability and the doing away of the prevailing serious inequalities in status and wealth. We are opposed to the concentration of wealth in a few hands. Our rich cultural heritage extending over countless centuries is not the culture of this community or that but the synthesis of the cultures of the great peoples who lived here at various times in the past. The objectives I have mentioned are by no means easy of achievement in their entirety. I know that we have met with only a limited degree of success so far, but we have to persevere until the goal is achieved.

It must be remembered that the vast majority of Indians are extremely poor and it is only a small minority that live in relative comfort and have the benefit of university education and other worthwhile things. It is when we look at the Indian scene in such a perspective that Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Parsecs and others, instead of feeling that they are different, will together begin to put forth a tremendous effort to fight poverty, to eradicate disease and banish illiteracy.

Courtesy: "Ashok Motwani DNN (Mauritius)" <editor@mtmltd.net>

## Book Review

# Canada-The Meat of The World Sandwich

## A Deliciously Good Read

By: Jessica Smith, B.A Philosophy

I was sitting at my desk going through some papers when there came a knock at the door and a copy of "Canada-The Meat of The World Sandwich" was thrust into my hands by a rather sleepy looking Canada Post worker.

I must admit that I did not know what to think. I have read many books about Canada and its history and after a while, they all started to look the same; discuss the history, throw in a nod to the First Nations people and Quebec and don't forget to add a pinch of multiculturalism. I asked myself how this book could be any different. So I prepared myself a large cup of tea and sat down. I began as I always do by looking at the title "Canada-The Meat of The World Sandwich". What on Earth

did this mean? After a few moments I realized that this could be a metaphor for the world; the world is like a sandwich and Canada is the meat-the most delicious part. One thing is certain, the title got my attention.

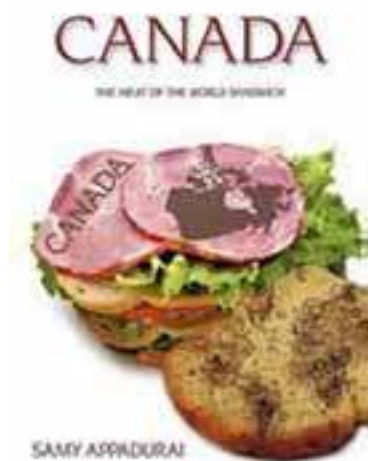
Then I began to read. I was expecting to read chapters about Canadian history that were very bland, boring and academic. However, I was very surprised about the variety of subjects that were discussed. Sure Canadian history was covered, but from a more personal perspective. For example, in one chapter, the author talks about his high school teacher in a tropical country telling the class about the St. Lawrence River and how the author himself wanted to one day walk on this river when it froze. Now as someone who was born

and raised in Southwestern Ontario, I never thought that a frozen St. Lawrence River would be the cause of so much wonder and excitement. But this little detail made me realize that it easy to take such things for granted when they are a part of your cultural landscape. Chapters discussing Canadian foreign policy, women's rights, linguistics, the history of Scarborough and the future of this country clearly show the author's wide range of interests. In fact, one need not read this book from cover to cover; one can easily begin at any chapter. The author's writing style is very distinct, he is witty and sharp without being offensive and intelligent but not condescending; a style that not everyone can pull off. I personally enjoyed reading about the history of Toronto and Scarborough. As someone who did not grow up in the G.T.A, I learned some new things about

the city I now call home.

Though I have read many books dealing with Canada, I have not read any that were written by an immigrant. Though originally from Sri Lanka, Samy Appadurai does not write as a "hyphenated Canadian". His pieces that deal with the difficulties that immigrants to Canada face do strike at the heart but leave the reader feeling more enlightened. Another distinctive feature of this book is that the reader does not have to be overly familiar with Canadian history or politics to enjoy it. The author does not use terms that would leave a non-Canadian reader out of the loop and appeals to all readers on an international scale for the topics go beyond cultural limitations.

This book is recommended to people like me who want to read about Canada and its role in the world without the usual trade-



marks that are typical of such literature. "Canada-The Meat of The World Sandwich" invites discussion and gives the reader lots to think about.

In these difficult economic times, we need books that will inspire us and keep us from focusing on what is going wrong in this country. "Canada-The Meat of The World Sandwich" is a book that can help us look at the positive side of life in Canada-with a twist.



### Prof. Saran Ghai

It is believed that every human being has two types of Karmas which ultimately decide the fate of that individual. One - the stored karmas and second - the active karmas. Some believe that the stored karmas are the actual destiny of the individual

him/her all about your beliefs, faith, religion, cast and creed. I strongly believe that mere wearing a stone is not enough. One also needs to support and strengthen the stone following some religious observances. This way the advisor will understand your state of mind about liking or disliking a particular treatment (may it be a lucky stone treatment too.)

The foundation of one's destiny and dispelling the effects of evil planets lies in the Aastha Chikitsa (Treatment by faith). There is a strong reason behind

expensive but true stones, it is good to suggest him/her less expensive stones. They also work good though not that good as the real stones are. As I wrote in the previous article - stones work on the theory of colour therapy. Unreal stones are also colourful, though not that strong but they do work.

(For more information about lucky stones, readers of Monsoon Journal can contact Prof. Saran Ghai)

(Palm Reader and Meditation Guru Prof. Saran Ghai thoughtfully understands your circum-

## GEMS: Purposes and Influence on Human Life (2)

whereas the active karmas write the destiny of the future birth and the times to come in the current life in future. Some others believe that - both the active karmas as well as the stored karmas together make the destiny. There is another point to be understood about the stored karmas as we do not include only the karmas of the individual from his previous births but also the karmas from his/her ancestors which effect individual's present and future life. One, who is advising you about a particular stone to be worn, should essentially have the knowledge as how to dispel the evil effects of the unfavourable planets. The perfect utility of Astrology and Palmistry lies in the knowledge of the process whereby a human is able to bring changes in his luck by help of shastra-ordained process.

Religion, in 99 percent cases is obtained from the family. This is as like as a family name (last name) obtained from the family. Later, subject to the choice of the individual, one can change his/her religion or as per traditions in very many communities, after marriage, the girl adopts the last name of her husband's family and in most cases, the religion too. Like a Hindu girl marrying a Christian, mostly becomes a Christian and starts following the principles of Christianity. But the matter of fact is that although she adopts Christianity, her true devotion would still be towards the Hindu religion and not the Christian religion.

If an astrologist or a palm reader is advising you to wear a particular stone, to give him a better idea about yourself, tell

this fact. As of a common factor, a Christian may not be comfortable with worshipping Santoshi Mata or a Muslim may not be comfortable going to church to lit candles. A Bodh would prefer going to a shrine to do his prayers than a Jain temple. Practically, religion mixes up in our blood, it controls our mind, it abodes in our heart, its name remains on our tongue every moment. We live for it and protect it to protect us. Under such state when we say that we are for our religion and religion is for us, if an astrologer or a palmist advises a muslim to go to a temple and do certain prayers or advises a Sikh to go to church and lit candles or a Christian to go to a Bodh temple and pray, he will spoil the whole idea of healing through lucky stone treatment. Each person is comfortable with his own religion. At this point the best advice to those who suggest wearing lucky stones is that they must consider the religious sentiments of their clients. Another hidden fact about wearing lucky stones is that they are more effective if are worn with a belief and support of one's religious sentiments.

While suggesting to wear a stone, the advisor should also know the spending capacity of his client. If the client is much poor, how would he buy a diamond? Also, just buying a stone studded ring or necklace and wearing without purifying and empowering that, is also not going to serve the purpose. The stone has to be energized. Only a few do it. Wear only the stones which are energized and suggest by the experts.

In case a client cannot afford



stances, family and financial conditions and advises energized lucky stones accordingly. Readers of 'Monsoon Journal' can join Meditation Sessions with Prof. Saran every Sunday morning 10.30 to 12.

Prof. Saran also publishes a monthly magazine 'Superior Star' on Wellness, Meditation, Yoga and Astrology. You can subscribe 'Superior Star' for just \$20 per year.

If you are a small entrepreneur and want to add to your family income or you are a business person/professional/service provider and want to speak about and share your business/profession/service/product with like-minded audience, join 'Superior Star Business Club' and learn new businesses in workshops held every alternate Sunday 4-6 PM.

For all services contact Prof. Saran Ghai at Ph: (905) 794-4488, (416) 816-5559, E-mail: [superiormonthly@yahoo.ca](mailto:superiormonthly@yahoo.ca), Website: [www.muktupathmeditation.com](http://www.muktupathmeditation.com).

## Superior Star BUSINESS CLUB

49 Maple Valley Street, Brampton ON Canada L6P 2E8, Ph: (905) 794-4488, E-mail: [starbusinessclub@gmail.com](mailto:starbusinessclub@gmail.com)

### Concept

Big businesses can afford any platform/media to promote their business but small businesses (most of them one man enterprises) can neither afford expensive advertising platforms nor the media. They lack audience. If they make phone calls to individuals to get some business, people usually hang up, insult or simulate. If they want to advertise through newspapers, radio or TV, they find it much expensive.

### Result

Their business, their business plans, their concepts die unnoticed.

### What Superior Star BUSINESS CLUB does?

Superior Star BUSINESS CLUB provides an effective platform for such small businessmen/professionals/service providers, where they can speak about and display their products/concepts/business ideas/professions/services. The best part of the concept is that the audience listening about their business/product/service/profession is eager to learn and join their business, upon liking. This concept is 100% tested and result oriented. You don't need a mob of uninterested thousands but interested fifties who want to add extra dollars to their regular income.

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# Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce holds 2nd Annual Golf Classic and donates proceeds to Scarborough Hospital Foundation

**By: Krishni Loganathan, BA (Hons)**

September 16, 2009- NEW-MARKET- The Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce held their 2nd Annual Golf Classic at the beautiful Silver Lakes Golf and Country Club in Newmarket. Despite the windy weather the event was a great success and everyone had a wonderful time.

Many people joined together to enjoy the great day of golf, and skill levels varied from beginners to more experienced golfers. It would have seemed as if business was closed or at least on pause for the day as many Bankers, Lawyers, Doctors, Realtors, Business Owners and many oth-

ers came prepared to play for the 2nd Annual Golf Classic hosted by the CTCC.

Many golfers were up for the challenge of claiming the first place trophy from last year's winners Team NJ, but for the second year in a row none other than Team NJ won, making these talented golfers the undefeated winners, receiving the first place trophy. Team RJ Multi Litho tied for 2nd place but unfortunately for the other team due to a term "retrogradation" (opposite to the usual order) RJ Multi Litho team managed to pull through to claim the title of second place.

As the golfers finished their 18 holes they lined up one by one to

face the Putting Challenge. This was another chance to join the winners circle. There could only be one winner and that was Mike Connell from the team Margosa Credit Union. The trophy for Closest to the Hole was won by Jeyakumar from King Tours, and Neil Rathee from The Co-operators won the title for the Longest Drive and a 4-some prize pack courtesy of Todd Sloan, Tournament Co-ordinator of the Silver Lakes Golf and Country Club.

There were many sponsors and hole sponsors that came out in one form or another to support the CTCC beginning with RBC Royal Bank of Canada,

Scotiabank, TD Canada Trust, The Co-operators, Margosa Credit Union, Santha-Plumbing and Electrical, Rajeef Koneswaran of Re/Max Vision Realty, Eddie Chan of Scotia McLeod, The Law Office of Gary Anandasangaree, Apex, Liland Insurance Inc., and Monsoon Journal.

After the long day of golf, the evening closed with a speech by the new President of the CTCC Mr. Ken Kirupa thanking everyone who joined the CTCC in participating in this year's Golf Classic, and then followed by a speech by the President and CEO of The Scarborough Hospital Foundation (SHF) Mr. Michael Mazza, thanking the CTCC for their support to

the SHF. All of this was then followed by a hearty steak dinner served by the Silver Lakes Golf and Country Club.

All of the proceeds for the golf tournament will go to the Scarborough Hospital Foundation for resources and hospital equipment.

The day was eventful and talks about next years tournament was already in the works, as many of the golfers could be heard of refining their skills before the next tournament.

The CTCC welcomes everyone in participating in the events taken throughout the year including next year's Golf Classic.

**Photos by Ken Photo and Gnan**



Ken Kirupa President, Rajeef Koneswaran and Sriharan Thurairajah



RJ Multi Litho Team-Frank Barbosa, Ameen Rawji, Rajee Muthuraman and Jeff G



Scarborough Hospital Foundation, Tom Jackson, Michael Mazza, Lindsey Crawford and Guy Bonnell Team



Team Kanish and Partners - Al Khan, Kanish Thevarasa, Craig Hubbard and Kulwant Mann



Team Margosa\_Mike Connell, Mohan Perera, Kalyani Nathan, Victor Santhiapillai and Mahen Singarajah



Team RBC-Tony Miller, Imtiaz Seyid, Karim Mamdani and Krish Krishnan



Team RJ Multi Litho receives Runners Up cup from Mano Thillainathan, Scotiabank Branch Manager



Team Scotiabank-Mano Thillainathan, Edward Rajasingham, Gilbert Ching and Nigel Samaroo



The co-operators - Team Senthooan



Winner NJ Team receives cup from RBC Vice President of South Asian Markets, Imtiaz Seyid, President of CTCC, Ken Kirupa on Left



Dr. Giri, Dr. Krishnalingam, Santha Panchalingam and Anton Dharmaseelan



Mortgage Team\_Kuhan Shivananthan, Ragavan Ramanathan, Vince Sinnadurai and Mike Ahilan



Ravi Kanagasabey, Steve, Ruban Ratnasingam and I Kannan



Sam Surendran, Logan Velumailum, Rudy Ruthran and Visu Varatheswaran



Team Innovative Detailing-Ken Kirupa, Michael Michaelidis, Sinnadurai Jeyakumar and Gary Decock



Team Liland Insurance



Victor Santhiapillai, Sam Thiru and from Margosa, Kalyani Nathan & Mike Connell



Volunteers in action, L-R, Ryan, Gopi, Shyanthy, Krishni and Cameron

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 is pleased to announce that free  
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## Budo Martial Arts Academy appoints Chief Instructor for USA

Dhanush Kondoth, was appointed as the chief Instructor of Budo Martial Arts Academy USA. Dhanush who is a senior student of Sensei Sriram from India, who currently resides and conducts Budo Martial Arts Karate classes in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, recently visited Toronto to train under Sensei Sriram.

During his visit sensei Sriram awarded him 3rd degree Black belt along with all of the senior students of Budo Martial Arts Academy Canada.



## Sears Day



New Tang Dynasty TV joined Sears to celebrate the Sears Day, proceeds from selling hot dogs and drinks will go to Kids Cancer Foundation. Photo shows the Chinese traditional lion dance



A kid playing with the lion

Photo Courtesy: Allen Zhou / Epoch Times

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