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Purple Lilly in a pond in Waikkal- North Western Province, Sri Lanka [humanityashore.org]

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# Monsoon Journal

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## What's Inside Monsoon



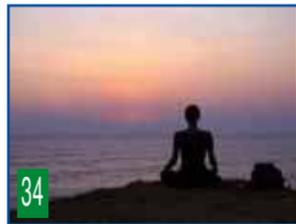
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## "Promoting religious freedom is an essential building block for peace and stability here and throughout the world" Prime Minister Stephen Harper



Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the opening of Baitun Nur Ahmadiyya mosque in Calgary - Details in Pages 21 & 22

## Colombo in High Security Alert for SAARC Summit

By Siva Sivapragasam

The capital city of Colombo in Sri Lanka will be placed on a high security alert for the forthcoming SAARC conference to be held between 29TH July and 3rd August.

Heads of States from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan and Afghanistan are expected to attend the Conference to be held in the capital. There was an earlier proposal to hold the conference in the hill city of Kandy but security concerns moved the conference to Colombo.

The conference in Sri Lanka this time assumes a more strategic importance due to the expected presence of the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. This is against the background of the current ethnic issue in Sri Lanka and the important role that is expected of India in seeking a solution to the problem. A high powered delegation consisting of the Indian National Security Advisor M.K.Narayan, Foreign Secretary Shiv Shanker Menon and Defense Secretary Vijay Singh made a sudden unscheduled flying visit to Colombo last month to discuss and assess the security situation in Colombo for the Indian Prime Minister's participation at the SAARC summit. According to Media reports, in the event of the Indian Prime Minister attending the conference a security contingent with crack Indian commandos from the Special Protection Group backed by helicopter ships may accompany Manmohan Singh to provide additional protection to him along with Sri Lankan security forces.

The 2008 SAARC meeting will be the fifteenth annual sessions held since it's inauguration. Regional Economic co-operation and elimination of poverty are some of the major issues that maybe taken up for discussion at the summit.

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# Canada Newsline

## British Columbia University to launch programme on Indian culture

A 30 credit one-year certificate programme will be launched this September by the University of Fraser Valley (UFV) in British Columbia through its Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies. The University will launch a one-year certificate programme to familiarise non-Indians and Indian diaspora of the country with India's culture and history.

The programme includes courses in history, geography, religious studies, anthropology and the Punjabi language.

The students will also tour India, which will allow them to engage in a cross-cultural study of social, institutional and family networks.

"We designed the programme so as to make it attractive for all students - those of Indian heritage and those who are non-Indian," Satwinder Bains, Director of the centre and a UFV professor of Social Work and Human Services said.

The new certificate is another



addition to the many activities UFV is working on to nurture its connections with India.

"Students with a familiarity with Indian culture, history, economics, Indian languages, are enjoying a competitive advantage once they hit the workforce. These courses expose them to knowledge and ideas about a cultural community that has a great impact on our daily work and lives here in the Fraser Valley," Bains said.

The Indo-Canadian community has flourished in the Fraser Valley for over 100 years. It seems only fitting that one of the first regions to welcome Indian immigrants to Canada should also be the first to offer a uniquely designed programme of study about it, Bains added.

[PTI]

## Margarett Best, MPP for Scarborough Guildwood- Hosts Ontario Senior's Month Event

Margarett Best, MPP for Scarborough-Guildwood hosted a Safe Meds for Heart Seminar at Cedarbrook Community Centre in Scarborough on June 21, 2008.

Heart disease is one of the leading causes of death in Canada. The seminar delivered by the Ontario Pharmacist Association educated participants on the proper use of medication to avoid costly visits to the emergency room and hospitalization.

The Journal of the American Medical Association recently published a study by researchers from McMaster University that found people from South Asian countries can die from heart disease five to ten years earlier in comparison to other ethnic groups.

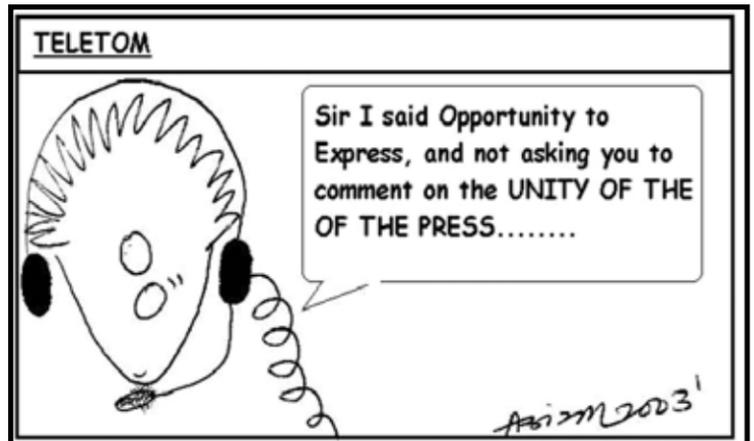
June is Seniors' Month, an opportunity for all Ontarians to recognize and value the contributions made by seniors every day in communities across the province. This year's theme was "Discover the Possibilities".

"I am proud that our government is working with health care partners like the Ontario

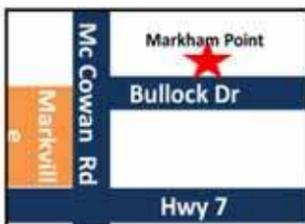
Pharmacist Association, to educate seniors and others about safe and effective drug use," MPP Best said.

"Our government is committed to helping seniors stay healthy and independent as long as possible and ensuring appropriate drug use is part of this".

Seniors account for approximately 13 per cent of Ontario's current population. Seniors' Month events include award ceremonies, recognition events, socials and seniors' information fairs.



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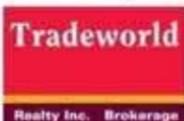
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All lands home, all men kin.

**"Don't give up perseverance" -  
Avvaiyar  
(Sangam Era Tamil Poetess)**

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## From the Publisher's Desk ... Thank you Canada

It's our home, our country and we celebrate everyday what Canada gives us, to be joyous of the privileges and opportunities showered upon us all people.

Festive mood is what Tuesday July 1st is to us all Canadians, and this year - celebrating Canada's 141st birthday - time to reflect on those things that make Canada and Canadians special in the world.

Canada Day brings the enjoyment of the summer weather, to spend time with family and friends and to reflect on what Canada means to us all.

One of Canada's greatest contributions to the world is championing of the role of peacekeepers in international conflicts. This is well known and appreciated by

everyone, especially in conflict ridden countries around the world. Before arriving and beginning our new life in Canada, this is what that stood out in the minds when talking about Canada.

In this month of the Canada Day, The Monsoon Journal pays tribute to the 164 Canadian peacekeepers who have lost their lives over the years while keeping the peace around the world in over 66 nations.

Also, the Monsoon Journal joins in taking pride in Canadian national pride, multiculturalism and experiencing the bliss of living here in this mosaic shared by all Canadians.

As far as countries go, Canada is pretty young. France is 219 years old, Australia is 220, and

the United States celebrates 232 years this year.

Countries like Italy, England, and China are far older.

But for such a young country — and such a beautifully diverse one — Canada does pretty well.

The Canadian democratic parliamentary system works through representation and compromises and works well. The health care system in Canada is envied around the world.

Canada today is a true cultural mosaic, made up of people from many places across the world. The mosaic is woven vividly, as Canada continue to open doors to many people around the world at critical junctures in world history.

The welcoming of Sri Lanka

Tamils to Canada is one of them. This year marks the 25th anniversary of Tamils from Sri Lanka arriving to Canada in large numbers, in the aftermath of the July 1983 pogrom.

Canada and Canada Day means a lot of things to a lot of people. And opening the doors in Canada to re-start a new life, means everything here - opportunities, prosperity, peace and happiness.

And the enduring national pride of Canada the world over, has lead us to path on its shining spirit of volunteerism as well, to contribute to the well being of others.

For this and all, The Monsoon Journals joins everyone to say, "Thank you Canada"

## Letters to the Editor & Opinions

### Baby Steps Walkathon Fundraising - 2008

**Info: Bala Balasundaram**  
The amount raised through the Baby Steps Walkathon for the year 2007 was \$ 60,000. There was an error in the amount given in last month's "Monsoon Journal" issue as \$100,000. The total raised so far from the Baby

Steps Walkathon now stands at \$ 75,000. The funds raised through these Walkathons will be utilized for the building of the new Birthing and Newborn Centre at the Centenary Hospital, Scarborough.

### India duty bound to 'Indian Tamils' in Sri Lanka

By S. Thambyrajah

Its principal purpose no doubt

One of the greatest, noblest and most distinguished sons of India, Jawaharlal Nehru visited Ceylon in 1939. He drafted and prepared a document dated 25.7.1939 and his untiring efforts organised the Ceylon Indian Congress (CIC), the forerunner to the Ceylon Workers Congress (CWC). The CIC had 4 important aims and objects well worth reproducing.

They are:

- \* The attainment of "Puma Swaraj" for the people of India,
- \* The attainment of "Puma Swaraj" for the people of Ceylon,
- \* To promote and safeguard the interests of Indians in Ceylon,
- \* To promote amity and closer relations between India and Ceylon and co-operation of the people of India and Ceylon in the attainment of common ideals.

was to organise the humbler classes of the Indian population, particularly the Indian immigrant workers.

Today, fifty years later, there are in Sri Lanka 15 lakh or more of "Indian Tamils", (as opposed to "Ceylon Tamils" who are claiming the North and East as their traditional homeland.) The civil war which has lasted over a quarter century, arising from the claim of the traditional homeland is causing misery, fear and disastrous consequences to the "Indian Tamils" in Sri Lanka.

Therefore the Indian Government is duty bound to intervene. It is moral and obligatory and cannot by any stretch of logic be construed as "interference in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka."

### Montreal Newspaper calls Tamil Organization shut down 'hasty'

The Montreal Gazette in an editorial on June 19th, says The Mounties may have enough documentary evidence - but listing the Tamil Canadian Volunteer Organization, World Tamil Movement (WTM) as a terrorist organization, is a decision taken in haste. The newspaper adds that a recent 'major raid on the movement's headquarters last spring has resulted in no charges so far.'

Full Text of the Editorial as follows:

Tamil listing is a little hasty Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day appears, to us at least, to have been just a little too hasty in adding the World Tamil Movement to Canada's official list of banned terrorist organizations, along with Hamas and Al-Qa'ida.

It's quite possible that the WTM is, as Day said this week, a leading front for the Tamil Tiger

insurgents back home in Sri Lanka. But so far the evidence against the group is pretty thin. No WTM member has ever been prosecuted for a crime, let alone convicted. And a major raid on the movement's headquarters last spring has resulted in no charges so far.

The Mounties have certainly presented enough documentary evidence to make a reasonable person suspect that the WTM might well be doing more than just lobbying governments and raising money for Sri Lankan charities. And until those suspicions are laid to rest, the government should certainly keep a close eye on the group's activities.

But until they're confirmed, government suspicions alone should never be enough to shut down a voluntary organization of Canadians.

### Need to streamline private schools

By: Rajah

There is a grave need to streamline some private schools operating in Toronto. Some of them started as day care centers and gradually blossomed as elementary and junior or high schools. They lack proper facilities like a play-ground, class room space as well assembly hall. Students are crowded together without ample space to move about. In some of them there is not even proper furniture. I wonder whether they have sufficient qualified teachers. In one school I found the principal sitting at her desk looking after her grand-daughter and

doting on her. I need not emphasise the role of a principal in a school. She must continually have an eye on what is going on in the school implementing the curriculum and providing all the facilities for its success. He or she should supervise the teachers and see to it that the students are given the best guidance. The TDSB must inspect the private schools too and see that the national or provincial targets are well met. Flying squads of inspectorate teams should be introduced in the interests of good education. Schools should never be allowed to be commercial enterprises.

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# Canada Newslines

## The Beauty of Giving Blood

Summer is in full swing with picnics, cultural - outdoor events, carnivals, parades and family traditions.

This summer, let it also be a time to begin or continue with a life-saving tradition and help meet the need by making an appointment to donate blood. Here is why and when - where to donate in and around Toronto:

### Why should we give blood?

A single donor can save someone's life

No substitute for human blood  
Blood has a shelf life of 5 days  
Only 3.8% of the Asians donate blood where as 85% of the Caucasian donate every year

South Asians are prone to heart disease and we use up more blood than we give

It only takes half an hour to donate blood

New blood is created instantly in your body when you give blood

You can only donate 1 unit of blood at a time

What are the eligibility criteria for donating blood?

Must be between 17 and 61 years of age

In general good health, feeling well

Weigh over 50kg (110Lbs)  
Never had Malaria  
Not travelled within one year to a Country/place where Malaria is prevalent

You can donate blood every 56 days

What do I have to do before I donate Blood?

You must not over indulge in alcohol prior to donating blood

You must not have visited the dentist 3 days prior to donating blood

You must not have had tattoos or piercing 6 month prior to donating blood

Eat 3 good meals before donating blood the day of and day before.

Drink lots of water

### What is blood used for?

Blood is used for emergency surgeries and medical treatments to save lives. Sometimes it takes more than one person to save someone's life. 1 unit = 1 pint = 450 ml

Abdominal Surgery - 4 units  
Heart bypasses surgery - 8 units  
Car accident - 50 units  
Hip or knee surgery - 4 units  
Brain surgery - 10 units  
Organ transplantation - 10 units  
Kidney transplantation - 100 units

Cancer treatment - 8 units per treatment per week

### How do I donate Blood?

Step 1: Register before you go at [www.blood.ca/partnersforlife](http://www.blood.ca/partnersforlife)

Click on "Join Partners for Life". Then click on "Member"

Click on "Sign me up to donate with my team!"

Fill out the secure form and click

"Submit"

Partner ID: CANA009345

Step 2: Find a clinic close to you and make an appointment by calling Canadian Tamil Congress at (416) 240 0078

### North York:

Tue July 2nd - 4588 Bathurst St - Jewish Community Ctr - 4-8pm

Wed July 9th - 900 Bufferin st - Dufferin Mall - 2-7pm

Sat July 12th - 1300 Leslie st - St. Bonaventure church - 12-3pm

### Etobicoke:

Fri July 4th - 500 Rexdale Blvd - Woodbine Centre - 4-8pm

Fri July 11th - 250 The East Mall - Cloverdale Mall - 3-8pm

Fri July 25th - 1530 Albion Rd - Albion Centre - 3-7pm

### Brampton:

Tue July 1st - 125 McLaughlin Rd N - Chris Gibson Rec Ctr - 10-2pm

Sat July 5th - 499 Main St - Shoppers World - 10-3pm

Sat July 19th - 995 Peter Robertson Blvd - Chinguacousy Wellness Ctr - 10-2pm

Sat July 26th - 7205 Gore Rd - Westwood Mall - 12-4pm

### Mississauga:

Sat July 12th - 5100 Erin Mills Pkwy - Erin Mills Town Ctr - 11-4pm

Fri July 25th - 2150 Burnamthorpe Rd. W - South Common Mall - 2-6pm

### Pickering & Ajax:

Fri July 4th - 1867 Valley Farm Rd - Pickering Rec Complex - 2-8pm

Thur July 10th - 1355 Kingston Rd - Pickering Town Centre - 3-7:30pm

Mon July 14th - 21 Bayly st. E - St. Bernadette Church - 1:30-7:30pm

### Thornhill:

Tue July 15th - 300 Steeles Ave E - Bayview Glen - 4-8pm

### Unionville:

Wed July 16th - 3898 Highway 7 E - St. Justin Martyr church - 3-7pm

### Scarborough:

Fri July 11th - 63 Pharmacy Ave - Oakridge community ctr - 3-7pm

Sat July 19th - 69 Nightstar Rd - Thomas Wells P.S - 10-2pm

Wed July 23rd - 1571 Sandhurst Circle - Woodside Sq - 2-7pm

Sun July 27th - Scar Centennial Rec Centre - Markham/Ellesmere - 10-2pm

Wed July 30th - 300 Borough dr - Scarborough Town Centre - 2-8pm

### Permanent Every day Clinics:

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55 Bay St. W. - Manulife Ctr: Mon 10-2 Tue 12-7 Thur 12-6 Fri 10-4 Sat 9:30-2

163 King Street West: Mon - Fri: 7:30 - 2:30pm

67 College St: Tue 7:30-2 Wed 12-6 Thur 12-7 Fri 7:30-1

### Mississauga: Square One

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**Richmond Hill:** 9350 Younge Street



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What happens at the Blood Donation clinic?

Step 1: Registration  
Proof of identity ( Please take one piece of ID with you)

Read pamphlet  
Step 2: Screening  
Hemoglobin, blood pressure, temperature

Donor questionnaire  
Private interview with screening nurse

Step 3: Donation  
Disinfecting  
Safe to donate  
Step 4: Recovery  
Refreshment area

For more information call Canadian Blood Services at 1 888 2 DONATE

**"Blood it's in you to give"**

## Cricket wins 'official recognition' in Canada



Propelled by the enthusiasm of hundreds of thousands of recent immigrants, cricket has finally come of age in Canada -- about 150 years after it was once regarded as the country's national sport.

The federal government announced on June 20th that it was officially recognising the game, elevating its formal stature and making it eligible for much needed public funding, Toronto Star has reported.

"It's a tremendous day for cricket," said Ben Sennik, president of Cricket Canada, the umbrella organisation that speaks for the sport and is responsible for the Canadian national team.

The recognition, which follows a decade of lobbying, means an immediate grant of \$77,000 for 2007-2008. While it's a modest sum, Sennik could barely contain his delight.

"We need every dollar, the way we are developing. In the past, we have been scraping through," he said.

Canada is no stranger to the pastime, with reports of games played here as far back as the mid-18th century.

The country's first Prime Minister, Sir John A MacDonal, declared it Canada's national sport in 1867 and Cricket Canada itself was established in 1892. However, the game was quickly overtaken by baseball in importance.

In recent years, interest has risen to a new level with the influx of immigrants from cricket-crazy areas such as Pakistan, India and the Caribbean, as well as from other Commonwealth countries such as Australia, South Africa and the UK.

[PTI]



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# Monsoon Newsline

## Asia's Oceans Threatened by Over-Fishing

By Claudia Blume

Communities and marine organizations around the world celebrated World Ocean Day on June 8 to raise awareness about the importance of the seas.

But Most Asian fishermen are not in a celebratory mood, however. Fish stocks are declining, climate change is creating havoc in the seas and the livelihood of poor fishing communities is under threat.

"Too Many Fish in the Sea" was a popular American song in the 1960's.

If written today, the lyrics might be "Too Few Fish in the Sea". In all of the world's oceans, fish stocks have declined dramatically. In Asia, they have gone down by up to 30 percent in the past 25 years. Fishermen have to go farther out to sea than they used to and they return with fewer, smaller fish in their nets.

Stephen Hall, head of the WorldFish Center, a Malaysian research institute, says the main reason for the decline is over-fishing, which he calls the biggest threat to Asia's oceans.

"The main reason for over-fishing is quite simple, really," he said. "There are simply far too many boats and far too many people trying to make a living from the resource."

The effects of declining fish stocks on the region are enormous. Asia is not only the world's biggest producer of fish products, Asians also consume more seafood than anyone else in the

world. It is an important part of most people's diets and accounts for about half of the protein intake in the region.

As people in Asia have become more affluent, the demand for fish has grown, and prices have gone up. Poor Asians find it harder and harder to afford fish. And individual fishermen find it increasingly difficult to make a living. Stephen Hall says many in the region live on less than a dollar a day.

"Even in Malaysia, which is a relatively wealthy country in the region, the average wage is only \$34 a month per fisherman," he said. "So there is a real issue of providing alternative opportunity for fishers so that they can exit the fishery and reduce the pressure on fish stocks and ensure that those who do remain in the fishery have healthy fish stocks to harvest and supply to people who need them."

Some fishermen think that if fish stocks in their area are depleted, they can just go to the waters of another country. That does not work, however, as stocks are collapsing everywhere. Andy Cornish, director of conservation at the Hong Kong office of the WWF conservation group, predicts that the competition for seafood will lead to increasing conflict in the region.

"This is already happening with Indonesian boats sneaking down into northern Australian waters and even into the Great Barrier Reef to poach sharks," he said. "This has caused real friction



between the Indonesian government and the Australian government."

Cornish says poor marine management is one reason for the decline of fish stocks in the region - for example in Hong Kong.

"There are no controls on fishing at the moment. You don't need a license to own a boat," added Cornish. "There are no catch limits, you can catch any species - any size. It's just a disaster out there."

The waters around Hong Kong are almost empty and 90 percent of the seafood consumed here is imported. People in this affluent city have a taste for rare - and expensive - delicacies. In Hong Kong's restaurants, many fish tanks are filled with live reef fish, which sell for as much as \$200 a kilogram. Cornish says many have been caught on reefs in Southeast

Asia, in countries that do not have sustainable fisheries management.

"Really this live reef food fish trade, which transports these fish to Hong Kong by sea and air, it really has been like a vacuum cleaner going through the reefs of the Asia Pacific," he said. "They move into a new area, within a few years they have cleaned out all these live, valuable fish, then they move on to another area."

Pollution in waters near the region's urban centers also hurts fish stocks. Another threat is climate change. Ocean waters are becoming warmer and more acidic, and sea levels are rising. All these changes threaten life in the oceans.

Over-fishing, pollution, climate change - will people in the region be able to eat fish in the future?

Stephen Hall thinks they probably will, but he says the fish will

increasingly come from aquaculture - fish farms in the sea, lakes or ponds.

"The powerhouse of aquaculture in the world is Asia - Southeast Asia and China in particular. And over the coming years we will see that development grow further - there is no doubt about that in my mind," said Hall. "But the challenge is of course to do it in a way that is environmentally sustainable."

One bit of good news is that governments in the region are trying to address over-fishing. Hall says all over Asia, there are efforts to reduce the number of fishing boats. In the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, for example, mechanized boats and trawlers are banned from fishing for 45 days in coastal waters every year. Hall says the challenge is to help people who stop fishing find new livelihoods.

[VOA]

### How often have you come across a \$100,000 silk saree?

Chennai Silks of Chennai, a textile unit has come up with one of its kind and it is seeking an unmistakable entry into the Guinness Book of World Records for being the most unique and expensive saree.

The exceptionally stunning saree is meticulously woven with 12 precious stones and metals to depict 11 of Raja Ravi Verma's popular paintings. Explicitly projected is 'Lady Musicians', one of the painter's very famous works that displays women belonging to diverse cultural backgrounds.

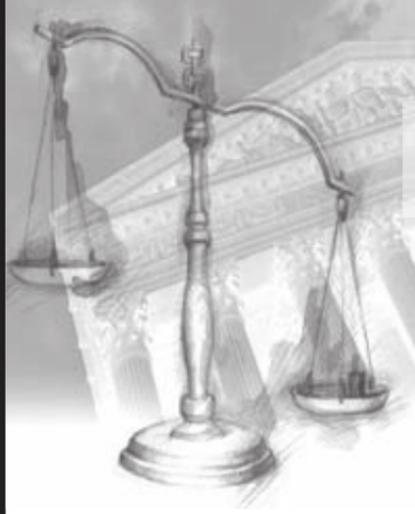
Besides, the border of the saree pictures ten other paintings of the artist that pays tribute to 20th century artist.

The best part of the saree being that the women in the paintings are intricately hand-woven and beautified with jewels of gold, diamond, platinum, silver, ruby, emerald, yellow sapphire, sapphire, cat's eye, topaz, pearl and corals.

Already in the Limca Book of



Records, this 40 lakh saree will be the first silk saree that required the use of 7,440 jacquard hooks and 66,794 cards during the weaving process. Moreover, a group of consummate workers took nearly 4,680 hours.



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# Monsoon Newsline

## India's Domestic Wine Industry Booms

By Anjana Pasricha

A decade-old domestic wine industry in India is expanding rapidly as Indians acquire a taste for wine. But high import duties continue to remain a barrier for foreign wine producers in the Indian market.

When corporate executives threw parties ten years ago, they only stocked whiskey, vodka and beer. But as a growing economy and increasing affluence changes tastes, middle and upper class Indians make sure they have wine to offer when friends come over.

And those who do not know enough about wine are thronging to wine appreciation seminars and events to master the intricacies of which wines to serve with what.

Many of these events are organized by the Indian Wine Academy. Its head, Subhash Arora says:

"The growth has been slightly faster in the last three, four, five years, because there has been a lot of wine promotion, and people have been trying to create awareness, wine education and things like that, and so the culture is expanding and its increasing regularly," he said.

The boom in wine drinking has helped the Indian wine industry become one of the fastest growing in the world. The industry took root barely a decade ago, but it now accounts for nearly three quarters of the wine sold in



the country.

Rajeev Samant, who began Sula Vineyards in the Western Maharashtra state, says the quality of domestic wine is improving in his words "slowly and steadily" as knowledge of winemaking increases.

"When we started no one had ever planted wine grapes in our area, no one had ever made wine, none one had ever tasted wine, so of course these are pretty big barriers to overcome, but what we have found is that the climate in Maharashtra is fantastic for wine growing," said Samant. "The knowledge is increasing day by day, and today we make a pretty decent bottle of wine. I would say that probably the best bottle of wine that is made in India today would compare easily with a \$30 bottle of wine that is produced abroad whereas five years ago it might have been just a \$12 bottle."

But not everyone is happy. High import duties make foreign wines very expensive, keeping them out of reach of all except the most affluent. Taxes were lowered last year after complaints from the European Union to the World Trade Organization, but they continue to be prohibitive at about 150 percent.

However, the government is under pressure to further slash duties on imported wines, and foreign wine producers are hoping to benefit from the boom in the Indian wine market if that happens.

Indeed, there is still huge potential for growth, because India's wine consumption, although increasing, is still tiny compared to Western countries. India sells about one million cases of wine a year - that is expected to double by 2011.

[VOA]

## Inflation is Enemy # 1 For Growing Number of Countries

Officials in countries from the United States to India say soaring fuel and food prices are causing inflation around the globe.

The chief executive officer of the U.S. chemical giant DuPont says in the Financial Times "inflation is here big time" and many companies must now raise prices.

Those price hikes alarm the International Monetary Fund, which says the worldwide inflation rate is 5.5 percent. IMF officials call that a threat to economic stability.

IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn urged Latin American finance ministers at a meeting in Cancun, Mexico Tuesday to "act decisively" to control inflation.

Top economic officials in Asia and Europe are also speaking out on the need to curb inflationary pressures.

The Asian Development Bank has raised its 2008 inflation forecast to more than five percent for the region. And ADB officials say inflation already appears to be chipping away at the region's growth.

Inflation has also spurred India's central bank to take action, raising benchmark interest rates after the official inflation rate surged above 11 percent recently.

Some economists say inflation



in Asian countries is a particular concern because of the number of goods and commodities the region exports to the rest of the world.

Inflation is also a top concern at the European Central Bank where officials warn they are in a heightened state of alert.

Inflation in euro-zone countries has risen at an annual rate of close to four percent. ECB President Jean-Claude Trichet said Wednesday there is an "acute" danger of an inflationary spiral, where wages and prices continually push each other higher, fueling speculation the bank will raise key interest rates to rein in inflation pressures.

In Russia, where the annual inflation rate hit 15 percent in May, President Dmitri Medvedev has made fighting inflation one of his top priorities.

He tells the Reuters news agency the state will take "tough, precise" action that includes cutting what he called excessive state expenditures.

[VOA]

## Nissan to make new generation compact cars in India

Japanese auto major Nissan Motor Co on June 3rd said it has identified India as one of the five low cost countries to manufacture its new generation compact cars, including the Micra.

"Nissan will compete in the entry-car market with a dedicated new A platform that will be used for at least three models, including the next generation of Micra, and will be built in five Leading Competitive Countries (LCCs)," the company said in a statement.

The company said production sites for the new family of compact cars would include the new plant in Chennai being constructed by the Renault-Nissan Alliance.

The development of a competitive A platform is one of several business breakthroughs announced as part of Nissan GT 2012, the company's new five-year business plan, it added.

When contacted a Nissan Motors India spokesperson said the company has not yet finalised on which vehicle would be manufactured in India out of the three



models planned on the new platform.

The company today said that it would manufacture an all-new compact car at its plant at Sunderland in the UK in addition to the current Nissan range.

The company would end production of the current Micra range in 2010 at the Sunderland plant.

Nissan and Renault had earlier this year announced that they would invest Rs 4,000 crore in setting up a plant in Chennai to roll out 400,000 vehicles a year under both the brand names after Indian partner Mahindra & Mahindra pulled out of a tripartite joint venture initially planned.

[PTI]

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# Canada Newslines

## Launch of CIBC YMCA Access to Opportunity

A new partnership between CIBC and the YMCA of Greater Toronto will help newcomers to Toronto overcome many of the challenges they face settling in Canada. The CIBC YMCA Access to Opportunity™ initiative will give newcomers meaningful information about day-to-day banking, starting a business and most importantly, getting financial advice to help them plan their future in their new country. As well, qualified foreign-trained newcomers will get assistance finding a job in their field in the financial services sector.

"Toronto is the most diverse city in the world," said Bahadur Madhani, Chair of the YMCA. "According to the 2006 census, immigrants account for 45.7% of Toronto's total population. That's more than 2.3 million people. Most immigrants come to Ontario because they're looking for opportunity - opportunity to succeed in this new country they now call home.

"The YMCA is building on its strong history of connecting with newcomers and has partnered with CIBC to deliver a unique program that will provide insight to newcomers about the financial landscape in Canada. This partnership will open doors for newcomers by providing them with information through a series of financial literacy seminars delivered by YMCA facilitators and CIBC employees."

"More than 250,000 newcomers come to Canada each year, and becoming comfortable with banking

and getting a job are just two of the many challenges of starting a new life here," said Christina Kramer, Executive Vice-President, CIBC Retail Markets.

"CIBC YMCA Access to Opportunity consists of two key parts," Kramer explained. "The first is a series of information seminars called Facts & Finance, which will build on the Y's existing offering to newcomers and help give them the information needed to establish credit, save for their families' future, or perhaps start a business.

"Informing newcomers about banking in Canada shortly after their arrival will help them get housing, achieve self-sufficiency more quickly, integrate into their new communities more successfully, and to ultimately access the opportunities Canada has to offer.

"The second aspect of the program is a job readiness training program called CIBC Connection to Employment. One of the most important steps to getting started in Canada is finding a job. For many newcomers, it is difficult to find employment in their field. That is why we are very excited to partner with the Y to connect qualified newcomers to jobs in financial services. CIBC Connection to Employment will run for six weeks starting in September of this year. The program is free to qualified newcomers, and we hope to hire the majority of graduates, starting them off in careers at CIBC," Kramer said.



*Nasirul Shefar Islam speaking of his personal experience as a newcomer to Canada at the launch of CIBC YMCA Access to Opportunity. From Bangladesh, Islam received permanent resident status last fall and was reunited with his wife and two teenage daughters in Toronto in January. He said he is looking forward to participating in this promising initiative that may land him employment in the financial services sector where he can put to use his post-graduate education in Accounting, majoring in Accounting, Costing and Economics.*

Nasirul Islam of Bangladesh is one example of a newcomer to Canada who left his home and his family in 2000 in search of new opportunities in business and finance here.

"With a post-graduate education in Accounting, majoring in Accounting, Costing and Economics, I'm trying to secure a good job that uses my education and experience," Islam said at the launch. "But so far,



*(l-r) Laura Palmer Korn, YMCA of Greater Toronto's Senior Vice President Employment & Community; Katarina Canic, Manager, Newcomer Settlement Programs; Scott Haldane, president and CEO, YMCA of Greater Toronto; Bahadur Madhani, Chair of YMCA of Greater Toronto; Christina Kramer, Executive Vice-President, CIBC Retail Markets; Muntafia Rintee; Nasirul Islam; Mubasherow Shorno.*

my foreign credentials and lack of Canadian work experience in my professional field has not opened any doors to my desired career. CIBC YMCA Access to Opportunity is very exciting and will definitely help many newcomers who have chosen Canada to make a new start. This is a promising program and I look forward to learning more about how I can apply to the CIBC Connection to Employment in order to secure employment in my professional field."

Islam is now reunited with his wife and two teenage daughters in Toronto since January after receiving permanent resident status last fall. All

four are actively involved with the Y.

"My eldest daughter, Shorno, joined the YMCA's Newcomer Youth Leadership Development program and is very excited about making new friends and learning about her community," said Islam. "My wife and I have attended the YMCA's newcomer parent workshops which have helped us understand the Canadian teenage experience. And now I am volunteering with the YMCA Newcomer Centre to help other newcomers and to gain Canadian experience and connections.

"I am a positive person," added Islam. "I know there will be opportunities for me and my family."

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# Monsoon Health



## Putting Pains

Tiger Woods may be one of the greatest golfers ever, but when it comes to his knees, he is mere mortal like one of us. While we avidly watch soccer and hockey, we are used to body chucks, grimaces and the multitude of injuries that follow. They are certainly contact sports. Golf however, has a much slower pace, doesn't involve bodily contact and is not generally associated with injuries. In actual fact, its form and technique can place significant strain on your body. Approximately 80% of amateur golfers play with a golf injury.

Golf injuries can be divided into two categories: those that are acute, that occur traumatically or immediately and those that occur over time. These are repetitive or overuse injuries. The most common golf injuries occur in the lower back, elbows, shoulders, hands and wrists.

The golf swing and the hunched over putting stance can place excessive strain on the low back. It is probably the most common injury that can occur in golfers. In addition shoulder and elbow tendonitis or strains can commonly occur. Caused by a

By Mithura Anandarajah, PT

combination or poor posture, weakness or injury, the cumulative effects of these injuries impact not only the game but also activities off the golf green.

Understanding the mechanics of the game and the golf swing is probably the most important factor in injury prevention. Maintaining proper posture and avoiding hunching over will limit the neck and back injuries that can result. During the golf swing, it is important to maintain a smooth swing, with the force of the swing to be equally transferred through the muscle groups. Emphasizing the use of the wrist or elbow can result in the respective repetitive use injury. Stabilizing the low back and pelvis also adds power to the swing, while preventing a low back strain. Taking lessons and learning the proper mechanics of a swing could improve your game, while having the advantage of preventing injuries.

While on the golf course, like any sport, it is important to warm up and stretch slowly. Jog, walk

or practice your golf swing. This gets the circulation going, warms up the muscle groups in order to effectively swing. If you are an avid golfer, it is important to maintain your aerobic fitness. This will improve your stamina and endurance to last the whole day. Maintaining your flexibility and regular stretches improves your range of motion and results in a more fluid swing. Muscle strengthening further adds the power behind the swing, while protecting your joints. It can add to the primary muscle groups, like the shoulder complex, responsible for the swing. Also, strengthening can further enhance stabilization of your muscle core, which includes your low back and abdominal musculature.

Another factor to consider when playing golf is the use of appropriate equipment. If you have had a leg or foot injury, wear running shoes or golf shoes with short cleats. Long cleats dig into the sod and plant your feet as you swing, increasing the stresses on your knee. Consider the grip han-



dles on your clubs. Some have cushioning or an ergonomic design that can reduce the stress on the wrist joint.

Discuss with a professional your pre-existing injuries and how to prevent further injury. Consult

with a physiotherapist/kinesiologist and take golf lessons with a professional. Correctly learning posture, form and technique will improve your golf game and allow you to enjoy it for much longer.

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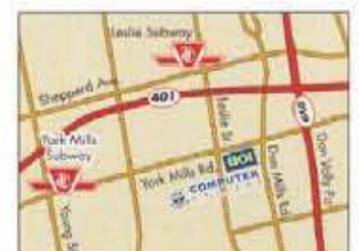
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# Monsoon Living



Hussein Chalayan is one of only a few designers whose clothes are both concept-driven (i.e. originating from an idea or desire which extends beyond purely pleasing the eye) and wearable although one of his less practical and more avant-garde creations was a bondage outfit without sleeves or armholes.

Chalayan graduated from London's Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in 1993. Immediately he sold his graduate collection to Browns Focus, a small store specialising in cutting-edge designs. Such was the interest in his talent that he was quickly offered contracts with knitwear brand TSE and British high street chain Top Shop.

He has stated his interest in the way clothes define that we are and the way we behave. His softly tailored clothes include representations of mathematics in beads on the matt jersey evening dresses that have become his signature style, and structural quirks, such as a shift dress with a back panel that billows from the body. He also challenges the ethos of fashion and accepted ideas of beauty. In his Autumn/ Winter 1998 show, the models wore bright red sticking plasters over their mouths and wooden cones on their heads.

## How To Plan A Perfect Date

Over the years, man has resorted to many desperate measures when trying to snag the girl of his dreams. Some chaps are taken to shoving notes bearing messages such as, "When I look into the deep blue infinity of your eyes, I see my dreams unfurling like bluebells" into ladies' hands. Others think that burping chat-up lines such as, "get your coat luv', you've pulled", followed by the promise of a tryst at the King's Head will be a fast-track way to unfastening her bra strap. Then there are some who tackily get



the object of their affections' name tattooed on their left thigh, in a bid to impress her. They're just weird.

There are few conundrums more perplexing than unravelling the secret that is pulling lady-folk. However, lucky for you, I am here to provide you with a guide to ease your way into the dating firmament. Mooch around this microsite and we'll hold your hand through every step of the dating process; from telling you the best pulling venues to dispensing tips on how to flirt like a king. Read on and get set to banish sad-boy singleton loneliness from your life forever more...

### Approaching A Girl

Scholarly advice so you're not left saddling up to her in a bar and slurring lines like, "Um... can I, um... sit next to you for a bit?"

How to approach her when she's...

### ...WITH HER GIRL FRIENDS

Brenda Della Casa: "Walking up to a pack of girls is like walking into a war zone. Wait until you see her or one of her friends at the bar. If they're having trouble getting served, get in there and help out, especially if you're taller than them."

### ...WITH A MIXED GROUP OF FRIENDS

Brenda Della Casa: "Pay attention to the guys' body language. If you convinced that none of her male friends are her boyfriend, approach one of them and say, 'I've just noticed your

## Designer Profile

### HUSSEIN CHALAYAN

Founder: Hussein Chalayan

Born: 1970, Nicosia, Cyprus



friend. Is she here with somebody? You've got nothing to lose..."

### ...ALONE

Jean Smith: "She is usually waiting for somebody else in this scenario, so make it seem like she is doing you a favour by talking to you. Commenting on a book she's reading or asking her to keep your friends company is a good way of breaking the ice."

### First Date Do's and Don'ts

Amazingly, she's agreed to meet you for a date. Here are some pointers from Brenda Della Casa to stop her running away before you've even ordered the first course...

### DO...

" Take her for 'finger food'

Don't take her to a steakhouse or an expensive restaurant where you take your clients. Instead, take her out for tapas, sushi or dim sum - something sexy that includes things you could share, which increases the sensual tactile element.

" Think of quirky dating venues. You might think every woman needs four-star restaurant dinners on the first date, but the truth is day dates are a secret weapon when it comes to wooing women. Take your girl for a walk around the city with an ice cream cone or visit a local exhibition. Trust me, she'll be impressed.

" Act like a gentleman. We live in a disrespectful society that enjoys watching the disintegration of Britney Spears. On the first date, step aside from that, and be a bit more Cary Grant-



like. Be chivalrous and do old school gentleman things while still maintaining an air of masculinity.

### DON'T...

" Ask her for a second date by text. It's lazy. Plus, to the girl it comes across as if she's not worth the effort - a bit like taking her to Burger King. Instead, ring her up and re-confirm the date the night before - she'll appreciate it.

" Take her to the cinema. The worst place for a first date. To the woman, it will seem as if you're focusing on the movie, and not her. Plus, being stuck watching a movie for two hours doesn't give you a chance to get to know each other.

" Boasting about your job. Whatever you do, don't impress her with bravado. Bragging about your job or how much better you are than other men will only bore her. The key is to refrain from showing too much of your personal life.

### Netting A Date

The weird, weird world of online courtship...

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St. Bridget's Convent P.P.A. held their annual summer picnic in Midland at Little Lake Park. Children and adults participated in games such as soccer, lime & spoon, three-legged race and pop the balloon and had a wonderful time! There was a scrumptious lunch where everyone was able to feed on everything from chicken curry to cheeseburgers. The picnic ended with a sing-song and the ladies hope to see even more people at the picnic next year!



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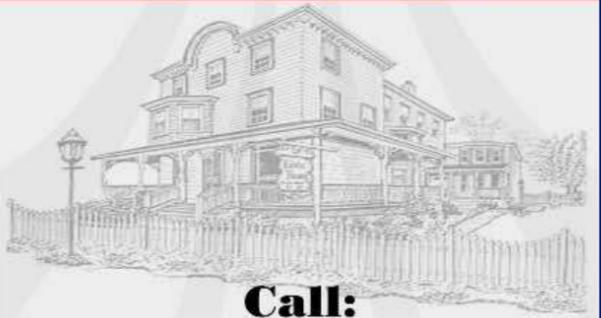
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# Monsoon Arts



## Asian Heritage Education Roundtable

On May 5, Gauri Guha performed at the Munk Centre for International Studies, U of T. Vivian and David Campbell Conference is a wonderful facility. It was an extremely well organized program. Much of the credit goes to Dr. Kay Li, President of the Asian Heritage Month Festival. The following performers performed:

Canadian Modern Dance and Music - Andrea Nann & Andrew Cash

Sundanese/Indonesian - Canadian Fusion - Andrew Timer & Sunda Duo

Chinese Folk Dance - Dhi-Ping Dance Group

Chinese Chamber Music - Dunhuang Chamber Ensemble  
Philippine Popular Singing -

Maricel Legard-Perez

Hindustani Classical/Light Classical Music - Gauri Guha & Harpal Singh Kalla (tabla)

On the spur of the moment, Gauri Guha decided to perform together with Chinese Chamber Music. It was a surprise and very well accepted.

Later, was held the Education Roundtable. The topic of discussion was: Inclusive Education Through the Asian Arts.

### Greetings:

Zul Kassamali, Vice President (External), Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc.

### Welcoming Remarks:

The Honourable Vivienne Poy Senate of Canada, and Patron

of Asian Heritage Month

### Keynote Address:

Martha J. Durdin, Chair, Ontario Arts Council

### Roundtable Discussions:

**Chair:** Professor Jennifer Purtle, Dept. Arts, U of T

### Panellists:

Andrew Timar, Composer and Educator

**Gauri Guha:** Renowned Asian Singer

Kirk Mark, Toronto Catholic District School Board

Meeta Sharma, General Mercer Junior P.S

Eliana Busheikin, The Dominion Institute, Passages to Canada

### Vote of Thanks:

Dr. Keith Lowe



## 11th Sri Rama Gnanamirtham Isai Velvi (Festival of Music) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka

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The 11th Sri Rama Gnanamirtham Isai Velvi (Festival of Music) was organised by the Colombo Kamban Kazhagam, which was held from March 15th-22nd 2008, at Ramakrishna Mission hall. Thyagaraja Aradhana was performed by the participating musicians and artistes on March 12th 2008, before the mega Festival of Music began on March 15th 2008. Local musicians decorated the Isai Arnagu at dusk, while the Indian musicians decorated the Isai Per Arangu in the nights. The hall was packed with the Carnatic music lovers.

Members of Kamban Kazhagam got displaced from Jaffna in 1995, and relocated themselves in Colombo. The activities of the Kamban Kazhagam began soon after the relocation in Colombo.



Indian vocalist O.S.Arun decorates the Isai Per Arangu on the second day of the Sri Rama Gnanamirtham Isai Velvi 2008



The Managing Director of Express Newspapers (Ceylon) Limited Kumar Nadesan lights the oil lamp, and inaugurates the events for the third day of the Festival of Music



P.Kumaresan decorates the Isai Arangu on the second day of the Sri Rama Gnanamirtham Isai Velvi 2008 along with his accompanists S.Jalatharan (Violin), Y.Venilan (Miruthangam), and C.Gajananth (Morsing). P.Kumaresan is a son of famous Nathaswara artiste Panchamoorthy from Jaffna. The twin brothers Ganamoorthy and Panchamoorthy are very popular among the Nathaswara lovers. P.Kumaresan can also play Nathaswaram very well.



Musician Sutha Ragunathan decorates the Isai Per Arangu on the first day of the Festival of Music



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# Watermelon May Have Viagra-Effect



**Dr. Bhimu Patil, director of Texas A&M's Fruit and Vegetable Improvement Center, says watermelon may have Viagra-like effects. (Texas AgriLife Research photo by Kathleen Phillips)**

A cold slice of watermelon has long been quenching thirst during the summer. According to recent studies, the juicy fruit may be more beneficial.

That's because scientists say watermelon has ingredients that deliver Viagra-like effects to the body's blood vessels and may even increase libido.

"The more we study watermelons, the more we realize just how amazing a fruit it is in providing natural enhancers to the human body," said Dr. Bhimu Patil, director of Texas A&M's Fruit and Vegetable Improvement Center in College Station.

"We've always known that watermelon is good for you, but the list of its very important healthful benefits grows longer with each study."

Beneficial ingredients in watermelon and other fruits and vegetables are known as phyto-nutrients, naturally occurring compounds that are bioactive, or able to react with the human body to trigger healthy reactions, Patil said.

In watermelons, these include lycopene, beta carotene and the rising star among its phyto-nutrients - citrulline - whose beneficial functions are now being unraveled. Among them is the ability to relax blood vessels, much like Viagra does.

Scientists know that when watermelon is consumed, citrulline is converted to arginine through certain enzymes. Arginine is an amino acid that works wonders on the heart and circulation system and maintains a good immune system, Patil said.

"The citrulline-arginine relationship helps heart health, the immune system and may prove to be very helpful for those who suffer from obesity and type 2 diabetes," said Patil. "Arginine boosts nitric oxide, which relaxes blood vessels, the same basic effect that Viagra has, to treat erectile dysfunction and maybe even prevent it."

While there are many psychological and physiological problems that can cause impotence, extra nitric oxide could help those who need increased blood flow, which would also help treat angina, high blood pressure and other cardiovascular problems.

"Watermelon may not be as organ specific as Viagra," Patil said, "but it's a great way to relax blood vessels without any drug

side-effects."

The benefits of watermelon don't end there, he said. Arginine also helps the urea cycle by removing ammonia and other toxic compounds from our bodies.

Citrulline, the precursor to arginine, is found in higher concentrations in the rind of watermelons than the flesh. As the rind is not commonly eaten, two of Patil's fellow scientists, drs. Steve King and Hae Jeen Bang, are working to breed new varieties with higher concentrations in the flesh.

In addition to the research by Texas A&M, watermelon's phyto-nutrients are being studied by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service in Lane, Oklahoma.

As an added bonus, these studies have also shown that deep red varieties of watermelon have displaced the tomato as the lycopene king, Patil said. Almost 92 percent of watermelon is water, but the remaining 8 percent is loaded with lycopene, an antioxidant that protects the human heart, prostate and skin health.

"Lycopene, which is also found in red grapefruit, was historically thought to exist only in tomatoes," he said. "But now we know that it's found in higher concentrations in red watermelon varieties."

Lycopene, however, is fat-soluble, meaning that it needs certain fats in the blood for better absorption by the body, Patil said.

"Previous tests have shown that lycopene is much better absorbed from tomatoes when mixed in a salad with oily vegetables like avocado or spinach," Patil said. "That would also apply to the lycopene from watermelon, but I realize mixing watermelon with spinach or avocado is a very hard sell."

No studies have been conducted to determine the timing of the consumption of oily vegetables to improve lycopene absorption, he said.

"One final bit of advice for those watermelons you buy," Patil said. "They store much better uncut if you leave them at room temperature. Lycopene levels can be maintained even as it sits on your kitchen floor. But once you cut it, refrigerate. And enjoy."



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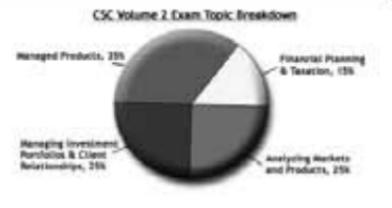
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# Monsoon Newslines

## At 25% Sri Lanka has highest inflation in Asia

Sri Lanka's inflation of 25 per cent during April is the highest rate of price rise in Asia, the Financial Times has reported quoting a study by a leading international bank.

Sri Lanka has the highest annual inflation in Asia with April figures touching 25 per cent while Vietnam at 21.4 per cent has the second highest inflation rate in the region during the month, London-based HSBC Bank said in a study.

HSBC's Global Research in a report 'Sri Lanka Inflation: How High will it Go?' says even by its own history, inflation in Sri Lanka is on the high side.

A steep rise in prices of essential commodities and other items have pushed inflation in Sri Lanka to 25 per cent.

Going by the New Colombo Consumers Price Index (CCPIN), the study says, the country has a history of high inflation, averaging around 11 per cent year-on-year since 1990.

It also said policy management has not been consistently successful in controlling price pressures on economy.

The report said since Sri Lanka is a net importer of food and



imports its entire petroleum requirement, a large part of the increase in inflation can be explained by surging international food, commodity and oil prices.

However, it is strong demand at home that has allowed retailers to pass the cost increases on to the consumer, the Financial Times reported quoting the study.

"From a longer term perspective, we believe steps should be taken to boost the potential growth rate of the economy so that Sri Lanka can maintain a 7 per cent rate of real economic expansion without fanning inflationary pressures," the report said.

[PTI]

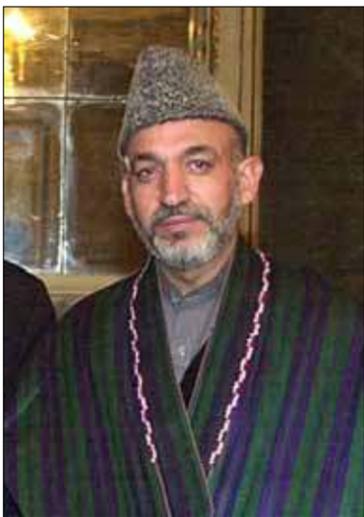
## India, Afghanistan leaders to bring own security while in Sri Lanka



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka during the last week of this month (July), has decided to rely on his very own specialised Indian security for protection during his stay in the island, reports the Colombo weekend newspaper 'The Nation'.

The newspaper quotes highly-placed sources that the 'Indian Black Cats' would provide the necessary protection to the Indian Premier during his visit here to participate at the forthcoming SAARC Summit.

India's concern for the Prime Minister's security stems from the July 1987 assault on Prime



Minister Rajiv Gandhi by a Sri Lankan navy soldier while he was in Colombo to sign the Indo-Lanka Accord with then President J.R. Jayewardene.

Meanwhile, speculation is rife that Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai, who is also scheduled to attend the regional Summit, would be relying on his own security as well, according to the 'Nation'.

On June 25th, the Afghan government for the first time publicly accused the Pakistani intelligence service of organizing the failed plot to assassinate President Hamid Karzai at a parade in Kabul in April 2008.

## Promoting reading, among children in Sri Lanka plantations



Children in Dambattenne tea plantation, highlands, Sri Lanka

By N.Karunakaran  
[Children Programme Coordinator, PREDO]

PREDO has introduced mobile libraries to distribute books among children's clubs in plantations

No one would dispute the fact that the plantation people are the most underdeveloped people, be it in education, economy or in politics. The disenfranchisement of this group of people in the 1948s which resulted in their political isolation deprived them of the enjoyment of their fundamental rights. For these and other historical reasons, 'education' has never been the part of the culture of these people. The same applies to their reading habits. The best indicator of the low standard of education of these people is that the children who gain university entrance from this sector lie far below 1%. On the other hand, no facilities are available or was provided even in this developed era for children in the plantations to help them to improve their reading habits which is adversely affecting their education. After the people in the plantations started showing interest in education, some plantation political parties and trade unions constructed library building in the plantations, but did not provide sufficient books or train people to maintain them. Consequently, the buildings are either idling or being used for other purposes. In addition these people who were without electricity until recent times were provided with electrical power without being properly educating in its proper use. This has led to other complications. People and children spend most of their time viewing or listening to TV and other electronic media which has taken the reading habit complete-

ly away from them.

Although it is said, "Reading makes a full man," the plantation people and their children were never given this chance of becoming 'complete men.' In this backdrop, the Plantation Rural Education and Development Organization (PREDO) introduced mobile libraries to distribute books among the children's clubs established in the plantations. Presently PREDO runs about 125 children's clubs mobile libraries. PREDO provides books to these mobile libraries within its means and it is evident that the children now show interest in reading. The children make covers for the books to preserve them. They also have made bags to carry them from one place to another making them available to children in other plantations. Children have now developed the habit of asking their parents to buy books for their birthdays out of the money that would be spent otherwise and donate the books bought to the mobile libraries. Some children's clubs also have negotiated with the estate management directly and were successful in getting buildings to establish libraries. Recently such a building obtained from the management of Kotiyagala Estate and at St. Wiggins Estate in the Bogawantalawa area were opened after they were renovated by the children club members with the assistance of their parents. Since the children had insufficient books for the library, the parents were requested to donate used books and they were able to collect about 85 books.

When children finish reading the books they ask for new ones. These plantation children who do not have the means or the facility to attend supplementary or tuition

classes in the urban areas, are pleading with PREDO to give them supplementary study books to help to improve their educational standards. It is beyond the reach of PREDO to supply books to 125 clubs.

The change of attitude among the plantation parents who were thought to be totally lethargic about the education of the children coming forward to donate books towards the children's libraries has inspired PREDO to launch a campaign to collect books for the children's libraries mainly depending on the goodwill of the people.

In view of the 'Literacy Day' on 8th September, and the 'Month of Reading' in October, PREDO had declared five months from June to October as the "Library book collection campaign period." Every children's club is targeting to collect 50 used or new books from parents and well wishers during the campaign period. In order to encourage the children, PREDO on its part has agreed to supplement their collection with ten new books for every 50 books so collected.

There is a saying, "Be ashamed to ask for favours from others but not books." For one who knows the plight of the plantation children, helping them to further their education and reading habits would be seen not as a mere favour but a meritorious act.

PREDO seeks the support of well wishers who have the desire to support and encourage these plantation children's clubs to donate used or new book by contacting PREDO at No: 30, Pushapdana Mawatha, Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Telephone 081-236746  
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# Monsoon Newsline

## Former Sri Lanka President fears for her life, 'though not from LTTE'

At an event celebrating her 63rd birthday, the former President of Sri Lanka Chandrika Kumaratunga said that she fears regarding her personal safety and was afraid to travel as she was liable to be attacked by people quite unconnected with the (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) LTTE, reports the Colombo daily The Daily Mirror.

She said, "I am afraid to travel because there is a threat to my life from certain people, though not from (LTTE leader) Prabhakaran," Mrs. Kumaratunga said, at a function held in Nittambuwa celebrating her birthday - June 29th.

The Daily Mirror further says - The former president said that she had already set up a foundation to help poor people, and it had been registered internationally. From this fund, a project had been initiated in India. There were many plans to help the poor in Sri Lanka. "But I am a bit afraid to start it because those people I referred to would attack me," she said.

She claimed that during her tenure as president she had spoken only the truth and had not robbed even five cents or murdered anyone or done any wrong thing. She asked whether this was what some saw as a "crime".

Mrs. Kumaratunga also claimed that she would continue to serve the people of Attanagalla, whether in Parliament or out of it. "Some are threatening to kill me and also threatening to do many nasty things to me. Whenever I return to the country after a trip overseas, I find my security detail has been reduced," the former president said, "Now they are going to court with trumped-up charges against me. But no one can stop me from serving the people of Attanagalla."

The family of the former Sri Lankan President has historically represented the electorate of Attanagalla in the Sri Lanka parliament. Attanagalla is in Gampaha District, situated in the Western Province of Sri Lanka.

## IFJ deplures continued detention of journalist in Sri Lanka

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has deplured a decision by a Sri Lanka court on June 30 to continue the detention without charge of journalist J.S. Tissainayagam and to reject his appeal to be transferred from the supervision of the Terrorist Investigation Division (TID) into fiscal custody.

Tissainayagam, editor of the OutreachSL.com news website, and a columnist of a weekend newspaper in Sri Lanka has been held by TID without charge for 116 days. He was arrested on March 7 while visiting N. Jesiharan, owner of E-Kwality Printers, and his partner Valamarthi, who were detained by TID officers on March 6. The couple also remain in TID custody.

In court on June 23, Tissainayagam's lawyer, Subandiran, argued that under Sections 19 and 21 of the Emergency Regulations Act, detainees must be transferred to fiscal custody (that is, removed from TID special detention into general detention) upon completion of a 90-day detention order.



[L to R, Jesiharan and Journalist J.S. Tissainayagam hand cuffed at the Colombo courts, June 23, 2008 ]

The Free Media Movement (FMM), a Sri Lanka media group - an IFJ affiliate, reports that the magistrate's ruling in Colombo's Court that Tissainayagam should be kept in police custody while an investigation continues means that TID is permitted to detain the senior Tamil journalist until September 5.

While the magistrate reportedly ruled that Tissainayagam should be granted medical attention for a worsening eye condition, an appeal for bail was rejected.

"The IFJ is extremely concerned that any division of the Sri Lankan Police can be granted the power to arrest and detain a jour-

nalist, or anyone else, without being required to provide evidence," said IFJ Asia-Pacific.

IFJ added, "Tissainayagam must be granted the right to a fair hearing, in keeping with international human rights principles. More than 100 days of detention without the presentation of evidence of alleged wrong-doing is not just."

The International Federation of Journalists is the world's largest organisation of journalists. First established in 1926, it was relaunched in 1946 and again, in its present form, in 1952. Today the Federation represents around 600,000 members in more than 100 countries.



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# Canada Newslines

## Research Findings Show Accent Reduction is of Top Priority for the Success of Immigrants in their Professions and Social Lives

Current research by Catalyst sponsored by IBM, Royal Bank and Deloitte Touche concluded that speaking with an accent, certain mannerisms and incorrect language were barriers to professional advancement and building rapport in social networking.

Bonnie Gross, Speech Language Pathologist and president of SpeechScience Inc. expresses, "It is my experience that the latest research findings that people are now acknowledging that accents, poor English language skills and presentation skills are truly holding them back from achieving their goals in Canada."

The research release publicized last week highlighted that Toronto's population is the most diverse in the world - and the one thing they all have in common - is the need to speak English clearly and confidently. Minorities believe that in order to succeed and be accepted in business and socially - they need to "Canadianize" - and this includes losing the accent, picking up mannerisms and idiomatic expressions of the "mainstream" Canadian. Speaking with an accent was seen as a barrier to advancement, especially if their jobs required them to speak to their colleagues or to the public. The ability to share a conversation---including knowledge of Canadian culture- was seen as important in establishing rapport with colleagues, and to share in networking. Visible minorities, such as South Asians, perceived that visible minorities in their organizations who looked, behaved and dressed, and SPOKE like their white colleagues, were more likely to be successful. According to the 2006 consensus, 1 in 5 Canadians was born outside the country-and 2/3 of those speak a language at home outside of French or English.

It is common that many employers or managers feel it is "politically incorrect" to tell someone that they don't understand them, because of their accent or incorrect language habits --- so they just say nothing --- but they hire or promote someone else with a clear Canadian accent.

Bonnie reflects, "One of the interesting things about the current society we all live in, is that although we often depend on email, texting and voice mail to communicate, and business depends on these for quick communication, when we do use our voice and tone to speak for con-



ference calls all over the world, at meetings, in interviews and for presentations - --the way we speak has become even MORE IMPORTANT - because a this is the way we are judged! Clear or unclear speech will create a positive or negative FIRST IMPRESSION and it is hard to change a first impression --- so it better be good!"

People who improve their accents, idiomatic English, confident conversation skills and Public Speaking skills -are more often hired for the jobs or chosen for the promotions they deserve. And vice versa, professional immigrants who are dedicated and have passion for their career development , will choose employers who have targeted employee training programs specifically on "Accent Reduction" for more effective communications.

The SpeechScience method which is based on Speech Pathology techniques - can make the accent changes permanent. It takes 3 months to a year to learn to speak without an accent - and it is never too late to improve. Everyone can learn to improve an accent - it takes some longer than others - but everyone can do it. The SpeechScience method is not an ESL program. It is a solution for accent reduction. It is a method which will reduce your accent without losing or diluting

your first language or the multicultural heritage which we treasure in Canada.

Bonnie Gross shares her tips (more information on [www.speechscience.com](http://www.speechscience.com)):

- ✍ Pronounce consonants accurately - pay attention to the tongue and lip movements
- ✍ Link the words of a phrase with your voice
- ✍ Stress the words of a sentence that carry your meaning
- ✍ Pause in a sentence to emphasize your point
- ✍ Breathe out when speaking
- ✍ Speak with enthusiasm

Quoted from a RBC Manager, Client Insight & Business Analytics, Kenny Yeung shares his heartfelt thoughts, "My presentation at RBC quarterly meeting was so well received and my senior VP said, 'You seem to have the natural capability'. Actually, the program I took from using the speech science method helps me to put energy, rhythm and pause at the right time. It is probably the most important program I had since my university education."

From Bonnie Gross' experience of working with cultural/ethnic Canadians for over 20 years, Bonnie concludes, "People who learn to speak with a North American accent become happier with a higher self-esteem and have greater feelings of 'belonging'. They naturally attract more business and social opportunities.

## New assessment centre to cut wait times for joint replacement surgery in Scarborough, Durham and beyond

### Program: A new Central East LHI N partnership between The Scarborough Hospital and Rouge Valley Health System

After five years in search of an answer, it took less than one hour at the Central East Musculoskeletal Assessment Centre (CEMAC) for Eleanor Mooney to learn why her left knee was increasingly painful. Thanks to the new assessment program, Mooney is going to receive the treatment she needs within a matter of weeks, not years.

CEMAC, a Central East Local Health Integration Network (CE LHIN) initiative, is a partnership between TSH and Rouge Valley Health System (RVHS). It recently opened its doors as a single access point for orthopaedic and musculoskeletal care for patients from Scarborough, Durham and beyond. The CEMAC team, which currently consists of two advanced practice physiotherapists and is recruiting a Nurse Practitioner, will spend four days at the Grace campus of TSH and one day at the Ajax site of RVHS.

"Decreasing wait times for patients is important to Rouge Valley so we're delighted to be active partners in this initiative," says Natalie Bubela, RVHS Vice-President, Programs. "Partnerships like this point the way to the future of healthcare delivery in Ontario."

Wendy Abbas, Patient Care Manager, Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation at TSH, says faster access to care is "probably the biggest benefit for patients."

"Patients normally wait up to six months to see an orthopaedic surgeon who may or may not recommend joint replacement. But CEMAC cuts down total wait time from referral to seeing an orthopaedic surgeon to eight weeks," Abbas says.

Physician referral forms are downloaded from [www.tsh.to/cemac.aspx](http://www.tsh.to/cemac.aspx) and faxed to central intake. An appointment is booked within two weeks of receiving the physician's referral. A "comprehensive assessment" by the CEMAC team determines whether the patient requires a consult with a surgeon or a rheumatologist, or needs other care such as an exercise routine or nutrition counselling.

If surgery is the recommended course of action, the patient is referred to one of four orthopaedic surgeons at TSH and

RVHS. More surgeons will be added to the roster as the program grows.

"We will book an appointment with the surgeon within six weeks," Abbas says. "We're one-stop shopping for patients needing joint replacement surgery. Central intake is located at the Grace campus, where we will manage all the data."

The program also benefits the surgeons since only those patients who need surgery are sent over.

"Our target is 80 per cent of patients we send to the surgeons truly require surgery," Abbas adds. "With 1,400 joint replacement surgeries performed this year at TSH alone, it will cut wait times dramatically and save resources."

Meantime, Mooney is the first of what CEMAC anticipates will be at least 3,000 patients a year seeking their assessment services. And for the 74-year-old retired teacher, the trip to CEMAC is proving to be a life-changing experience.

"I have arthritis in my knee, which causes a lot of pain and affects my mobility," Mooney explains. "I'm used to being active, and this just holds me back."

"I got the answer I have been looking for and it only took an hour. It's wonderful. I'm so thrilled!"

As Mooney is assisted by physiotherapist Janet Law back to the front desk, she learns CEMAC has already booked an appointment for a surgeon consult in three weeks' time.

"I can't believe it," Mooney says with a smile. "And until now, no one believed that I was in pain."

For more information:

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David Brazeau, Director, Public Affairs and Community Relations, Rouge Valley Health System (416) 284-8131 ext. 4010, [dbrazeau@rougevalley.ca](mailto:dbrazeau@rougevalley.ca)

Katie Cronin-Wood, Communications Lead, Central East Local Health Integration Network

(905) 427-5497 ext. 218, [Katie.CroninWood@LHINS.ON.CA](mailto:Katie.CroninWood@LHINS.ON.CA)

## US 'concerned' over Sri Lanka rights, attacks on media

The United States, on Thursday July 3rd said it had "strong concerns" about Sri Lanka's deteriorating human rights record and escalating attacks on the local media.

Deputy assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asian affairs Evan Feigenbaum expressed US concerns to Sri Lankan authorities during his four-day visit which ended July 3rd.

"We continue to have strong concerns about human rights and pressures on the media," Feigenbaum said.

He noted, however, the formation of a ministerial committee to address concerns raised by journalists over their safety and

independence. But Sri Lanka has a poor record of following up recommendations by such committees for betterment of the lives of the public.

Since August 2005, 12 media workers have been killed in Sri Lanka. Eleven of them died in government-controlled areas, and no one has been brought to justice in connection with the killings.

Sri Lanka's bitter ethnic war, which has left tens of thousands of people dead, has escalated sharply since January, when the government unilaterally pulled out of a Norwegian-brokered truce with the Tamil Tigers.



**LADIES FIRST:** Wives of G8 leaders and European Union, from left, Laura of the U.S. President George W. Bush, Sarah of British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Laureen of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Svetlana of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, Margarida Sousa Uva of European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and Kiyoko of Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, attend a social event in Toyoko on Monday. — AP

## Sri Lanka Air Force bombings create large craters in paddy field

Aerial bombardment by the Sri Lanka Air Force has caused extensive damage to the agricultural lands in the 5th canal, in Kugnchup-paranthan - on Tuesday Jul 8th morning. The road was also damaged in the attack. The SLAF bombers came again at 1:20 p.m. and attacked the same area with deep bombs leaving large craters.



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- Parkinson Disease
- Paralysis
- Major Burns
- Occupational Injury HIV
- Benign Brain Tumour
- Pathology of Motor Neuron
- Loss of Independent Existence

\* Some Conditions Apply



# Monsoon Features

## Opening of Balachandran Law Office

A new Law Office "Balachandran Law Office" was officially opened on 4th July at 2401, Eglinton Ave East, Suite 300 in Scarborough. Mr. Muthaiah Balachandran, L.L.B, Barrister, Solicitor & Notary Public will be practicing Corporate Law, Family Law Real Estate Law (Residential/Commercial), Immigration, Estates Law, Last Wills, Probates, Affidavits etc. in the new office. Back in Sri Lanka Mr. Balachandran practiced as junior to Mr. K. Kanag Iswaran, President's

Counsel and well known Attorney-At Law. Mr. Balachandran was also associated with the Media in Sri Lanka when he worked for the Virakesari, the premier Tamil Daily in Sri Lanka. He is an old boy of Hartley College, Point-Pedro. His wife Raji Satkunasingham, L.L.B. who is also an Attorney at Law (Sri Lanka) will be the Legal Assistant helping her husband in his practice.

Seen here are pictures taken at the opening:



Lawyer T. Siripathy with Bala



Mr & Mrs Balachandran



Mr. Vivek, Lawyer Jude Anthonipillai & Mr & Mrs. Bala

## Gowri Shankar Somasundaram, newly elected President of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), Sri Lanka branch

Profession first will be the theme for my year which will be dedicated to enhance and enrich the profession of Management Accountancy, said Gowri Shankar Somasundaram the new President of the CIMA Sri Lanka Division.

Ms Somasundaram who was elected the 36th president is the second woman to head the premier institution in Sri Lanka and the third woman President of the global fraternity.

"CIMA's focus is on creating value for businesses. We will advocate thought leadership through technical fora where new ideas will be encouraged," she said.

Driving leadership and professionalism in the public sector will be a prime concern where CIMA will play a major role.

The assistance of professionals from the UK body will be sought to share their experiences.

The new president said that she will be committed to develop Islamic Finance which is growing rapidly in many countries. Islamic finance will be included in the course.

"Business today demands intelligent and insightful professionals with a strategic vision.



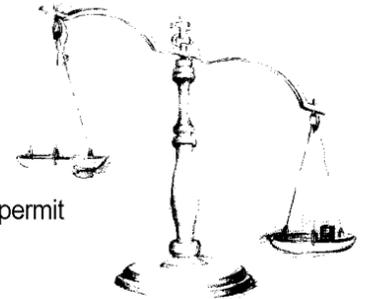
Student development will be our concern to meet the needs of more professionals to the business community," she said.

CIMA - The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, of The United Kingdom - is a leading membership body that offers an internationally recognised professional qualification in management accounting, which focuses on accounting for business.

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# Canada Newslite

## Largest Mosque in Canada Opens in Calgary



**Masjid Baitun Nur Calgary**

A Stunning Architectural Landmark, Symbol of Peace

Canada's largest mosque was officially dedicated Saturday July 5, by an estimated crowd of 5,000 people that included religious leaders, Canada's two top politicians and throngs of faithful.

A steady stream of worshippers walked underneath the Baitun Nur mosque's shining steel dome and minaret tower and flowed to large white tents to witness the unveiling. The mosque, which covers 4,300 square metres is the spiritual home of Calgary's Ahmadiyya Muslim community, which numbers between 2,000 and 3,000.

The global spiritual leader of the Ahmadi Muslims, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, arrived in Calgary last Wednesday to lead the first prayers in the new facility and was on hand Saturday for the building's public celebration

Prime Minister Stephen Harper told the crowd that the Ahmadiyya Muslim community knows the importance of tolerance and peace because it has been the target of persecution itself since its founding in the late 19th century.

"In this mosque, we see the love and benevolent faith of Islam," Harper said. "Ahmadis embrace Canada and Canada has embraced you."

Opposition Leader Stephane Dion said the success of the Ahmadi community in Canada, as captured by the sacrifices made to build the Calgary mosque, is at the essence of what makes the country great.

"Canada will show the world that Muslim communities can flourish in a secular state like ours," Dion added.

He praised the Ahmadiyya community for teaching its followers that loyalty to their new homeland of Canada is an integral part of their faith.

Calgary Mayor Dave Bronconnier reminded the crowd of the cold, rainy June day in 2005 when the mosque's cornerstone was laid.

"What we see today is a testament to your faith and commitment to the community. Your mosque is a proud new landmark on Calgary's skyline," the mayor said.

Roman Catholic Bishop Fred Henry said Calgary Muslims and Christians share a common spiritual journey in their worship of God.

"My Muslim brothers and sisters, we also have a common concern for promoting moral values and addressing ethical concerns in our city through our ongoing dialogue and our work together," said Henry.

## Government of Canada announces consultations on immigration priorities

The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, recently released details of consultations on Canada's immigration priorities, following the passage of changes to Canada's immigration legislation under Budget Bill C-50.

The new immigration law gives the Minister the authority to issue instructions on which categories of applications are prioritized, returned with a refund or held for future consideration.

The new law is intended to stop the growth of the backlog of applicants so that, ultimately, people who want to come to Canada receive a decision within 6 to 12 months instead of the 6 years it can take now. The new law also more closely aligns Canada's immigration system with labour shortages so that immigrants who come to Canada will have more opportunities to find employment in their chosen fields.

The consultations will focus on identifying critical occupational shortages, the role of immigration in responding to them, and any barriers to foreign credential accreditation.

They will help develop instructions to immigration officers on

which applications are identified for priority processing, particularly in the federal skilled worker category.

"The changes to Canada's immigration law allow us to bring to Canada more quickly those immigrants with the skills that match Canada's labour market needs," said Minister Finley. "We are now consulting to make sure we accurately define those needs. This will help our economy and help newcomers better support their families."

Following consultations, the instructions will be published in the Canada Gazette and available on the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) website at [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca).

Beginning July 7th, the Department will consult with all provinces and territories, as well as key stakeholders, through a series of face-to-face meetings and videoconferences. A consultation schedule is available on [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca). Representatives from business, labour, and academic and non-government organizations will be invited to these sessions.

The Minister will also consult national stakeholders at a roundtable in August. Other organiza-



**Honourable Diane Finley**

tions or interested individuals who wish to provide input can submit their feedback online at [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca) until the end of July.

Some critics say that under the new law, skilled categories will get preference, not family reunifications. They fear this will force their relatives back home to wait much longer to come here. Under the old rules, it takes just months for a spouse or child or a parent to join his or her family in Canada, but skilled applicants wait for up to five to six years to come to this country.

**Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the opening of Baitun Nur Ahmadiyya mosque in Calgary**



For members of the local Ahmadiyya community, it was a day of unbridled pride.

"I hardly slept at all last night," said Dr. Safeer Khan. "Our hearts are full of love for Canada."

"The first night we were in the mosque for prayers, I looked around and I couldn't really believe that we did this."

The mosque also houses classrooms, office space, a children's area, a kitchen and a community centre.

The community's financial

sacrifices have been remarkable. Homes have been remortgaged or sold, women have contributed treasured jewelry and children have broken into their piggy banks to help pay the bills.

With carpenters and painters wrapping up their work, Ahmadiyya volunteers moved into the mosque last week. One group worked around the clock for four days to assemble the thousands of small pieces of a massive, 400-kilogram chandelier now hanging within the dome above the prayer

hall.

Others with electronics expertise are completing wiring for the mosque's state-of-the-art audio-visual systems.

"The fact that this is being broadcast all over the world is a huge source of pride," said 17-year-old Ramzah Khan.

"I saw people in tears. I think people are honoured to have this in Calgary."

[[www.canada.com/calgary-herald](http://www.canada.com/calgary-herald)]

# Monsoon Newsline

## Prime Minister Stephen Harper: "Promoting religious freedom is an essential building block for peace and stability here and throughout the world"

Canada's largest mosque, built by the country's Ahmadiyya Muslims, was opened in the city of Calgary by Prime Minister Stephen Harper on July 5th, described it as a representation of the "true and benevolent face of Islam".

Calling the mosque an "architectural treasure," Harper said, "promoting religious freedom is an essential building block for peace and stability here and throughout the world."

A massive steel dome and a steel-capped minaret tower are the main structural features of the mosque, which cost nearly USD 15 million to build, with USD 8 million coming from local Calgarians. Ahmadiyyas from all over Canada also contributed significantly.

"It's a day of joy for us, tremendous joy, for the whole community," Safeer Kahn, a spokesman for Calgary's Ahmadiyya community said, adding the mosque complex will be open to everyone, whether they belong to the sect or not.

Members of the Ahmadiyya faith, which started in India, and has millions of followers worldwide.

Thousands of followers of the sect protested against a government ban on their community in Indonesia last month.

Full Text of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper:

First of all, my warmest greetings to his Holiness the Kalifa. Welcome back to Canada .

I have fond memories of our first meeting in Toronto in 2005. It's wonderful that you're here during the worldwide celebrations of the centenary of the Kaliphate Ahmadiyya. Greetings as well to my colleagues from the Parliament of Canada, Art Hanger, the Member of Parliament for this riding. I know Rahim Jaffer is here, Deepak Obhrai, Senator Bert Brown. I see Alexa



McDonough, Stéphane Dion is also here, the leader of the opposition. Greetings to members of the various provincial legislatures. I know Minister Stevens is here representing the government of Alberta . Greetings to Mayor Bronconnier, to Alderman Colley-Urquhart and to other members of municipal council and of course to all distinguished guests.

Fellow Canadians, I want to begin by thanking his Holiness for inviting me to be part of the opening of this magnificent house of faith. It is Canada 's largest mosque complex, and a spectacular addition to Calgary 's growing collection of architectural treasures.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim community deserves to be applauded, not only for this splendid mosque here in Calgary , but for its contribution to peace, tolerance and harmony, in this country and throughout the world.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim community here in Calgary and across Canada is to be congratulated, for though the community is small and includes many newcomers to our country, the success of this project demonstrates the deep faith and solidarity of Ahmadi in Canada . Indeed, I understand other mosque projects are already underway in Saskatoon ,



Brampton and Vancouver . Clearly the community is flourishing here in Canada .

But this should, ladies and gentlemen, come as a surprise to no one who knows this community. Ahmadi are renowned throughout the world for their devotion to peace, universal brotherhood and the will of God, the core principles of true Islam.

Ahmadi are also renowned for working to serve the greater good, through social, health and educational initiatives, as well as mosque projects like this one. Wherever Ahmadi live in the world, you are renowned for enthusiastically participating in the larger community and peacefully living alongside people of all faiths, languages and cultures. These characteristics place Ahmadiyya Muslims squarely in the mainstream of Canadian society, an excellent illustration of what our Government means when we talk about pluralism. It's not just about acknowledging our differences, but about interacting and learning from each other, about building together a strong and united Canada . We are proud to live in a country that embraces the many cultures and religions of the world. Our Government considers diversity one of this country's greatest assets, and we are committed to strengthening both our pluralism

and our national unity. This community knows firsthand what it is to experience persecution and discrimination based on your religious beliefs, so you understand at a profound level that promoting religious freedom is an essential building block for peace and stability here and throughout the world. Our Government is a resolute defender of that freedom, and we condemn any attempt to violate the right of people to worship and to live freely according to their faith. In this we are allied with his Holiness, a courageous champion of religious freedom and of peace. We especially applaud the Kalifa for denouncing those who pervert faith by claiming it as a justification for violence. However we define God, it is wrong to kill in his name. All Calgarians, Albertans and Canadians can see in this mosque the true and benevolent face of Islam and those who worship in its name. They will also see your love for Canada and your patriotism. Ahmadi have embraced Canada and Canada has embraced you.

This glorious Baitun Nur Mosque announces that you have built a thriving community in this dynamic city and that you have taken your rightful place in our great country. Congratulations, God bless.

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# Canada Trust Celebrating Multi Cultural Week...

## Sheppard & Aragon Branch

June and July are months for organizations to celebrate Multi-Cultural events. Against this background, TD Canada Trust Sheppard & Aragon Branch is associating itself with the Multi Cultural events with day long celebrations at the Branch office situated near Sheppard & Aragon. The celebrations are also co-inciding with their Customer Appreciation Week where they are offering prizes to lucky customers.

The Multi-cultural celebrations at the Branch reflect the varied ethnic community base at the Branch with the staff dressed up in different attire to reflect the cultural diversity. Variety is also displayed in the different foods displayed at the Branch to entice customer palate.

The Sheppard & Aragon Branch which is in existence for more than five years now, is centrally located with easy access from the Highway. The Bank offers both Retail and Business services with a friendly staff of about forty in number speaking different lan-

guages to serve the customers better. (Polish, Italian, Indian, Tamil, Greek, Macedonian, Chinese etc. to name a few). The Branch also offers its customers a 24 hour drive-through bank machine. It is the biggest branch of TD in the North-East area.

The Manager of the Branch Mr. Chris Cheng and Ms. Shamala Kumar, Small Business Advisor are enthusiastic about the progress of Branch activity over the past five year period. They commented that the friendly staff speaking different languages reflect cultural diversity and are an added advantage to the customers at the Branch who come from different ethnicities. The Branch is also fully geared to meet all requirements of the Business sector and is equipped with two Business counters to serve their needs.

The Branch is open on all week days until late hours to serve customer needs and also on Saturdays till 4.00 p.m.



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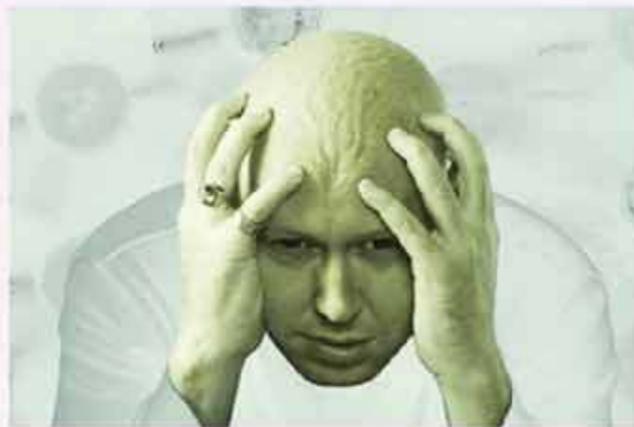
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# Monsoon Features

## Janet Ecker named board chair

Former cabinet minister committed to hospital quality

The new chair of Rouge Valley Health System (RVHS) Janet Ecker says the board of directors will continue to focus the hospital on quality improvement during the next two years.

"Changes are beginning at Rouge Valley's two hospital campuses targeting excellence and top-quartile health care," says Ecker, an Ajax resident who brings her senior provincial cabinet experience to the helm of the Board.

"Continued physician engagement in leadership decisions and a growing focus on community outreach and communication will also be among the areas the board will focus Rouge Valley on," she says.

Ecker represented the Ajax-Pickering communities as an MPP for eight years during the 1990s and 2000s. During that time, she held several high-profile leadership portfolios, having served as Ontario minister of finance, minister of education, minister of community and social services and government house leader. Before she was elected, she was the policy director for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, the regulatory body for the province's doctors. For the last two years she was the vice-chair of the RVHS Board of Directors. Ecker was named chair of the RVHS Board of Directors following the hospital's 10th Annual General Meeting of Members, at the Ajax Convention Centre on Tuesday.

"We're delighted that Janet will continue to serve on our board and in our community in her new leadership role. At Rouge Valley, our focus is to provide the very best in quality health care, and we look forward to Janet's leadership in advancing that commitment," says outgoing board chair Tom Atkins, who has completed his two-year term.

Ecker says Rouge Valley's



future is a bright one thanks to a renewed emphasis on offering the best quality care.

"I thank Tom Atkins, my fellow board members and the management, staff, physicians, volunteers and auxiliary for setting the platform for positive change at Rouge Valley during the last two years. I look forward to leading RVHS with my board colleagues through a positive transformative period, improving our quality of care to top-quartile targets. In short, Rouge Valley is moving itself from the middle of the pack to the top by putting its patients and family members first."

Ecker thanks outgoing board members Neil Williamson, Enza Ronaldi, Kim Kinder and community representative Linda Napier for their years of service. "Serving on a hospital board is a tremendous commitment of volunteer time and leadership and we truly appreciate the work of our outgoing and current members."

Ecker also welcomes three new board members, who were selected following advertising in local and national newspapers in recent months. The new members were selected on a skills-based set of criteria, which has become the model at many hospital corporations including Rouge Valley. The new members are: David Barlow, who recently retired from CIBC as senior vice-president of corporate risk and



insurance services; Patrick McNeil, former RVHS Foundation board chair and senior vice president of nuclear generation development at OPG; and Lynda Mungall, president of the Mungall Consulting Group.

Jay Kaufman has been appointed vice-chair. A member of the board since 2001, he has held leadership positions for the past six years. Kaufman, who is president of KTA Inc., is a former Ontario government deputy minister of finance, secretary to treasury board and assistant deputy minister of health.

- Rouge Valley Health System  
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RVHS is an innovative leader in quality family centred care, with programs including 24/7/365 emergency, cardiac care, mental health and paediatrics. Rouge Valley consists of several health sites, including two community hospital campuses: Rouge Valley Centenary in east Toronto; Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering in the west Durham Region. Together a team of physicians including 224 general practitioners and 325 specialists, 1,000 nurses and many other professionals, care for a broad spectrum of health conditions. In consultation and partnership with community members, other hospitals, healthcare organizations, the Central East Local Health Integration Network and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Rouge Valley continues to improve its programs catering to the needs of the growing communities of east Toronto, Ajax, Pickering and Whitby.

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

For more information, please contact: David Brazeau, Director, Public Affairs and Community Relations, Rouge Valley Health System, 647-294-8885,

[dbrazeau@rougevalley.ca](mailto:dbrazeau@rougevalley.ca),

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

## Quality of hospital care, patient safety are top priorities for Scarborough residents

When The Scarborough Hospital's new Board of Directors sits down to work later this year, Scarborough residents want quality of care and patient safety to be their top priorities, according to a recent public opinion survey.

The survey, which was conducted by Pollara in May, asked 500 randomly selected Scarborough residents for their opinions on a variety of topics related to The Scarborough Hospital.

"The one message that came through loud and clear is that people are concerned about the quality of care in their community. They want to see action on issues like patient safety and emergency wait times," explains Rob Devitt, The Scarborough Hospital's Supervisor.

"This sends a very strong message to the new Board to focus on the fundamentals," explains Devitt. "That's what people care about."

The Pollara study of the hospital's primary catchment area residents was conducted as part of a larger community consultation undertaken by Devitt as part of a governance renewal strategy.

In July 2007, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care appointed a Supervisor for The Scarborough Hospital following a series of court challenges involving the Board and members of the community. The Supervisor's mandate included a governance renewal process designed to ensure that the hospital is on the most stable footing possible.

The governance renewal process began with a review of Board best practices in Canada and around the world. This helped provide clarity around accountabilities and responsibilities, and led to the development of a comprehensive role description for a skills-based Board.

Concurrently, an extensive community consultation process was initiated to gather input prior to the drafting of the new bylaws. This process, the most extensive ever undertaken by a Supervisor in this province, involved hundreds of key stakeholders. The results of this process will be used to provide guidance as the new bylaws are drafted and will identify key governance priorities for the new Board. The final report on the consultation

process will be available in July and will be posted on the hospital's website.

When residents were asked to indicate the level of priority that the new Board of Directors should apply to five possible policy projects, strong majorities said that improving the quality of hospital care (80%) and improving patient safety (75%) should be a major priority, followed by a clear but slimmer majority who felt that creating a strategic plan (57%) should be a major priority. Although not rated unimportant, increasing transparency (39%) and improving community engagement (33%) were deemed major priorities for the Board by no more than four-in-ten residents.

Those polled also expressed a desire for increased communication; specifically informing the public about key decisions and plans.

"I am going to hard-wire a community engagement strategy, including increased communication, right into the bylaws," says Devitt. "It's what this community wants and deserves, and I believe it's best practice for a hospital."

When asked specifically about Board composition, survey respondents clearly identified skills (41%) and experience (33%) as the most important characteristics. Strong ties to the community, while important, took third place at 20%.

"Hospitals are extremely complex, and governing in this kind of environment is no easy task," says Devitt. "The public clearly recognizes that. In recruiting the new Board, we are looking for people who have the right skills and experience first and foremost, but we also want strong ties to the community."

The Board selection process is well underway, and the new members should be announced later this summer. The new Board bylaws are expected to be released August 25th.

Telephone surveys were conducted with adult residents in The Scarborough Hospital's primary catchment area between April 29th and May 1st, 2008. In total, 508 interviews were completed, resulting in an overall margin of error of 4.3%, 19 times out of 20.

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## RBC EXPANDS CLIENT APPRECIATION PROGRAM WITH ASUS EEE PCs

RBC has announced that it is welcoming new clients who sign up for a Signature No Limit Banking account with a free Asus Eee PC. This offer is the latest addition to the bank's reward program.

"Our research shows that Canadians want their bank to show appreciation for their business, and this has been our guiding principle ever since we revamped our personal deposit account line up and included rewards such as gift cards and rebates," said Chris Barber, director, Personal Banking Accounts. "We're delighted to see more clients join RBC, and we want that growth to continue."

The Asus Eee PC was selected because it offers the convenience of online banking and internet access anywhere, anytime. "We think the Eee PC is a natural fit for people who crave convenience, bank online, and have the RBC Signature No Limit Banking account," said Mr. Barber.

To qualify for an Eee PC, individuals have from May 1, 2008 until September 12, 2008 to switch their non-RBC personal chequing account to an RBC Signature No Limit Banking account using RBC's Custom Switch service. The account must be their main transaction account with one automatic payroll or pension deposit and two pre-authorized debits. RBC is also



looking to encourage paper conservation, as customers making the account switch will also become an RBC online banking client, and pay at least one household bill online and receive electronic statements for their account records.

The RBC Signature No Limit Banking, at \$13.95 a month, offers features and benefits that were only previously available with premium accounts.

In 2007, RBC introduced major changes to its personal deposit account line up to create more value for customers and express appreciation for their business. RBC changed the majority of its transaction accounts into unlimited accounts offering unlimited monthly debit transactions; added a high interest eSavings account; introduced monthly rebates to help clients reduce or eliminate their monthly account fee; and offered gift cards to thank clients for moving their accounts to RBC.

## RBC Royal Bank Morningside & Milner Branch rated No. 1 among new Branches across Canada

RBC Royal Bank's Morningside & Milner Branch which opened last year and completed its first Anniversary last month has been rated as number one among the new RBC Branches across Canada.

The Branch celebrated its first Anniversary of excellence on 14th June at the branch premises with all day activities. Ms. Lisa Gallacher, Vice-President of the Bank for the Scarborough Markets region paid a tribute to the Branch Manager Mr. Mohan Sundaramohan and his staff for the success of the Branch within its first year of operations. She also thanked the customers and the guests for the support and their presence at the Celebrations.

Ms. Jennifer Tory, Regional President of Greater Toronto Region, in her message of wishes thanked the community for welcoming the Bank in their neighbourhood so warmly and was proud that the Bank was able to serve the financial needs of the community.

Visitors for the Celebration event were entertained with lots of free fun for the whole family. Three National Cricket Team Players participated at the function. Children who turned up witnessed a magic show, face painting and balloon art, and were presented with Olympic coin holders.



Guests were served with refreshments and a colorful Souvenir was distributed to mark the Anniver-

sary event. Seen here are some pictures taken at the event.

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# Monsoon Features

## Ontario's Financial Instability and Premier Dalton McGuinty's Challenge

**Arun Senathirajah**

### Financial Instability

Is Ontario moving towards a recession? Latest statistics show that Canada's Economic engine - Ontario's Economy has shrank in the first quarter of this year. Main manufacturing sector faced job losses, Dollar appreciation, soaring oil prices etc contributed to economic output falling of 0.3 percent in the first quarter of 2008. This is the first quarterly contraction of the economy since 2006. Significant run-down in business inventory, lower business investment and weakness in exports are the reason for this trend. Employment and retail sales figures show positively, but inflation is up by 1.3% from April to May 2008. Current annual inflation rate of 1.8% does not include the impact of oil prices. Housing and manufacturing sector sales are down 9.3% and 9% respectively compared to last year.

Finance Minister Dwight Duncan maintains that the decline was anticipated and other sectors - financial services and public services are doing well. John Tory Progressive conservative leader alerts its time for Premier McGuinty and Duncan to take urgent actions. There was also a suggestion to use Ontario's Reserve Fund of \$750 million to revive the economy. Over the last four years manufacturing sector has lost approximately 200,000 jobs. The government has done nothing to remedy the situation, the critics say. Oncoming loss of 2,000 jobs at Oshawa GM plant signifies the impact of U S economic downturn on Canada, particularly, on Ontario. Toyota's new plant and a northern Ontario diamond operation may ease these job losses, Duncan adds, 'housing starts are up, employment levels are up so, there are variety of contradictory signals.'

TD bank economist Derek Burleton says 'it was pretty clear Ontario would underperform the nation.' The shrink is about 4 times the Canada-wide decline. The minister expects 1.1% increase in GDP despite this slow down. But economists expect only .6% increase. Auto manufacturing sector is now a concern for manufacturing output. Ontario's demand for the auto products mainly come from the U.S. But, the already slumping U S economy from the subprime mortgage crisis is expected to slow further.

That mean it will give more hurt to the demands for Ontario goods. Continuing oil price increase and Canadian dollar appreciation in the recent past, all has contributed to the slow down and still a further challenge to Ontario's Economy. Finance Minister Duncan accepts, 'I think we're in some challenging times...and I think those challenges continue.' BMO economist Michael Gregory sees, 'There are rough times ahead.'

### Equalization Payments - Is it really equal?

Another news broke up about Ontario might become a 'have-not-province' and a recipient of Equalization Payment in the near future. TD Bank chief economist Don Drummond and the bank's director of economic studies, Derek Burleton say 'We calculate that the province stands to collect as much as \$400 million in fiscal 2010-11 and \$1.3 billion in fiscal 2011-12'. According to most recent 2005 data, they say Ontario residents contributed \$21 billion more to Ottawa than they got back in federal spending.

Differential treatment of provinces has been built in from the beginning. During the economic depression of the 1930s, the federal government paid "reliefgrants" to the economically weaker provinces. After the Second World War, as the "welfare state" was put in place, these differential grants were replaced by 'equalization payments'. Equalization payments from the federal to provincial governments were proposed by U S Economist James Buchanan in 1948. Canada's Equalization Payments was created in 1957 with the simple idea of giving poor provinces the same per capita income as wealthy Ontario and British Columbia. It involves every tax payers, but not well aware or understood by them. Equalization's guiding principle is to give citizens of every province similar levels of service for similar levels of taxation.

Subsection 36(2) Constitution Act of 1982 states: 'Parliament and the government of Canada are committed to the principle of making equalization payments to ensure that provincial governments have sufficient resources to provide for reasonably comparable levels of public service at reasonably comparable levels of taxation.' Equalization entitlements are determined by measuring provinces' ability to raise revenues - known as 'fiscal capacity'.

A province's Equalization entitlement is equal to the difference between its fiscal capacity of all provinces - known as '10 province standard'. Provinces whose fiscal capacity is above the standard do not receive Equalization payments. Fiscal capacity is the amount of money that provinces can raise from five aggregated tax bases - personal income, business income, consumption, natural resources (50%) and property taxes/miscellaneous - if they tax those bases at national average tax rates. The province's fiscal capacity, on a per-capita basis, is added up across all those sources and compared to a 10 province average standard. If the result is a shortfall, the province receives an equalization grant to bring it up to the common standard. Three year weighted moving average and a two lag period are necessary for his calculations. The weights are being 25%, 25% and 50% for those three years. For e.g. the amount of each qualifying province will receive in fiscal 2008-09 is based on 25% weighting in 2004/05, another 25% weighting in 2005/06 and 50% in 2006/07. A fiscal capacity cap is in place to make sure that Equalization payments do not raise a province's total capacity above that of a non-receiving province. The formula for making these payments and their level has changed over the half century of their existence. In 1982 Equalization payments were 1.3% of Canadian GDP. In 2000 was 1.0% of Canadian GDP. For 2008-09, six provinces will receive over \$13.6 billion in Equalization payments.

Ontario is projected to become a recipient in 2010/11. The Federal Department of Finance has made available its fiscal capacity calculations by province for fiscal 2008/09. Using these economic figures TD Bank Economists comment ' In light of Ontario's continuous under economic performance, we expect to witness a further erosion in the province's relative financial capacity across the five taxation areas, but especially in business income taxes where capacity is likely to fall below the national average. Ontario's business profit not only feels a particular squeeze from a softening economic performance, but the impact of the credit crunch on the financial sector bottom lines. In addition, the momentum in commodity markets will help to keep western profit well supported.'



### Ontario - A Victim of Equalization?

Considering deteriorating economic prospects in the province, Ontario stands to receive equalization payments. Viewing broader context of economic performance in the rest of the country and the recent changes to the equalization formula decides the eligibility, not the economic condition alone.

The analysts add, 'Soaring energy prices from 1973 put enormous pressure on the cost of equalization and placed Ontario as a recipient province from 1977-82. In 1973 and 1974 some ad hoc measures were taken to dampen the impact of energy on equalization. Then in 1977 only 50 per cent of resource revenues were made eligible. But still Ontario qualified. Ontario's economy was extremely hard hit by the recession of the early 1980s brought on in good part in the wake of the energy price boom. Ontario was only retroactively excluded from receiving payments through the "personal income override" whereby no province could be eligible if its per-capita income exceeded the national average. Then in 1982 the formula was changed from the 10-province standard to a 5-province standard (Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia). With the exclusion of Alberta and its huge energy revenues Ontario no longer qualified. Until now that is.'

There have been different opinions about the prospect of Ontario receiving equalization payments. There is much more at play here than just Ontario's economy. A closer look reveals that the relative decline is not so much a story of Ontario weakness as it is of booming economic strength in Canada's commodity-

based economies. In fact, despite its manufacturing woes, Ontario's GDP per capita grew by 3% per year during the 2002-07 period - a healthy rate taken on its own, but one that paled in comparison to the sizzling 5-8% annual advances turned in by the four westernmost provinces. Incidentally, Newfoundland & Labrador managed to take top prize among Canada's provinces, as rising offshore oil activity fuelled a double-digit annual increase in GDP per capita over the six-year period. Assessing differences in GDP per capita is a useful exercise. However, the discussion of Ontario's potential slippage into recipient status has revolved around the likelihood of the province qualifying for entitlements under the federal equalization formula, which is a more complex calculation after the changes announced to the equalization formula in Budget 2007 - based on recommendations made in the O'Brien report.

The federal Department of Finance has made available its fiscal capacity calculations by province for fiscal 2008-09. The fact that Ontario is not collecting equalization this year sends a strong signal that the province's fiscal capacity has kept above the national average, at least during the three years (i.e., 2004-05 to 2006-07) that were used to compute the numbers based on the two-year lag. Economic weakness hitting Ontario especially hard and an equalization cap- are all working against Ontario? In brief, the same inputs, the same model and the same result that Ontario qualifies. Current obvious question is whether the equalization program will be changed again?

*Continued in Page 31*

# Monsoon Features

## WORDS OF PEACE

### A Reason to Celebrate

Why is it that happiness always seems to be just around the corner? Why are people constantly looking for something they don't have to bring them fulfillment in life?

Maharaji, whose efforts to bring peace to every individual have taken him to more than 50 countries, suggests that it's because people don't know what they really want.

When people are young, he says, they want to be older. Then they want to leave home to have their own place to live.

"When they get their own place," Maharaji says, "they realize that it only gives them some freedom from their parents."

Many young people, he says, believe it's a matter of owning their own car.

When that doesn't do it, "Off they go to get a job to secure their future. They think they should be happy by now. They think they should have peace in life. They think they should be feeling free. Instead, they feel like a slave. They have to work for someone who bosses them around all day. Even their colleagues boss them around. They're working for freedom, but it feels like slavery."

Before he even began formal schooling in India, where he grew up, Maharaji spoke publicly about peace as an individual experience. Since arriving in the West in his early teens, he has presented the possibility of fulfillment to more than 10 million people worldwide.

"Many people think if they get married they'll be at peace and have freedom," Maharaji says. "So they find a mate. Are they free? Have they now found freedom? Maybe they think so, until it becomes, 'Honey, where's my breakfast?' and 'Why is the living

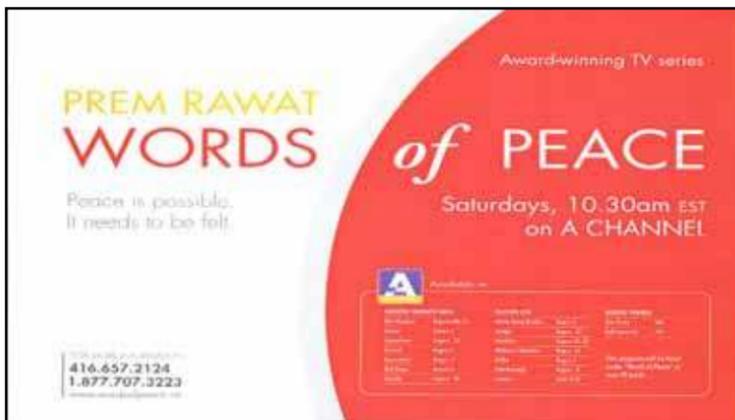
room such a mess? Who made this mess? They found their freedom, alright. It becomes a matter of, 'Clean up after yourself.' 'Be back by this time.' 'No, you may not.'"

Next, Maharaji says, comes the idea that a baby is what's missing to make life complete.

"Then the baby is born. On the first night, the parents have had a long day-especially the mother. They would like some rest. The baby, of course, doesn't

pretend that it will make you happy, because if you do, you'll be the most disappointed person on the face of this earth. That's what can happen--and that's what often does happen."

True happiness and fulfillment, Maharaji says, comes from an experience within, not anything that happens on the outside. When someone experiences that fulfillment, there's no need to wait for special occasions to celebrate.



have a clock or watch. It just wails."

Since many people believe money will bring peace and freedom, Maharaji says, the next idea is that a better job or a promotion will bring that elusive sense of fulfillment.

"The promotion comes, but inflation has been so high that by the time they get it, they've actually been demoted financially. They're in more debt than ever."

None of this, Maharaji says, brings contentment or gives anyone a reason to celebrate life.

"Don't mistake me," he says. "I'm not against people getting a job or having babies and a family. I'm just asking you to put it in perspective for yourself. Why do you want a family? Why do you want a job? Why did you want to move out of your parent's house? Don't do any of it under the false

"The celebration of life is a celebration that can happen every single day," he says. "The celebration of life is about how beautiful you can make this life."

"There is an amazing grace in the life of every single human being. Don't look at your life and see in it what isn't. I want you to see in your life what is."

"My message does not change: What you are looking for is inside of you, and if you want to know it, I can help."

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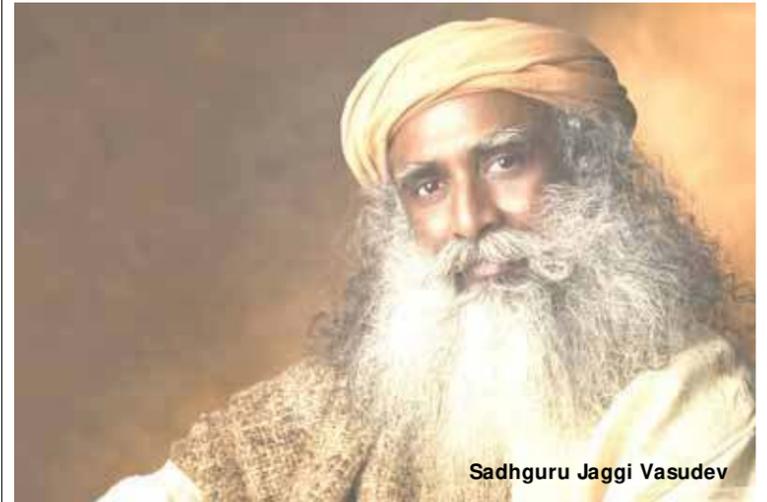
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### Be Both Blissful And Socially Compatible

You can think about God, liberation, spirituality, but the thought itself can never be spiritual; it is a psychological process. Mind, body and emotion are different dimensions of life. There is nothing right or wrong about them. It all depends on how you use them but they cannot be spir-

socially incompatible.

If these four dimensions are handled in even balance, you can attain the height of experience and yet be socially compatible. If you have to go beyond the barriers of what is considered normal and still be socially compatible, it is important that your body,



Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev

itual.

Spirituality does not belong to the physical realm. It is a dimension beyond the integrated mechanism of body, mind, emotion and physical energy. A human being is just the play of the five elements: water, earth, air, fire and space. But this play is so beautifully constructed that it is complete by itself. Though this and the rest of existence are of the same material, because of its integrity, it looks absolutely individual right now.

Creation is so perfect within itself, you could forget the Creator, and still it would go on. Creation does not need to draw from anything. The problem is, once you realize the perfection of what this is, you will forget God and will lean on something else. If you do not lean on anything else, if you do not need anything from the outside, either a relationship, psychological or emotional help, nothing, you become like the Creator. A piece of creation naturally transforms itself into the Creator itself.

If you just want to cross the limitations of your existence, if you just want to enjoy the freedom and bliss of it, all it takes is an intense focus towards any one thing. This is not possible for people who are doing too many things at the same time. If you want to get somewhere, you have to stick to one thing.

There are four dimensions of yoga: gnana, bhakti, karma and kriya. People who are highly intellectual, who are totally up there, are socially incompatible.

Those who are absolutely devoted, they are also socially incompatible. People who are totally in service, they are socially incompatible. Those who are too much on energy, they are also

mind, emotion and energy are evenly cultivated. Only then you can be utterly blissful and still be efficient and capable in everything that you do.

Once this is achieved, there is tremendous freedom to create anything that you want around you or within you or anywhere in the world because the very fundamentals of life are in your hands. Suddenly, there is no more limitation of time and space. If this capability has to come, the first things is to get into ecstatic states, absolutely mindless ecstasy.

Those who are not willing to work to achieve ecstasy choose alcohol or drugs. If people create some sense of freedom chemically or by other external means, you will notice when they don't have that support, they become utterly miserable. If people just escape by chance, if they have not built their own ladder to climb at will, they get psychologically broken.

Enlightenment is beyond logic. There is nothing, so you cannot ruin it. When there is nothing, then everything flows through you. Whatever has to happen in this Existence, it has to flow through you, you become the gateway. If you have the inclination, Existence is within your grasp. You can explore almost everything.

Sadhguru Jaggi 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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# Monsoon Features

Continued from Page 29

Ontario's per-capita fiscal capacity relative to the Canadian average is expected to decline further over the next three years, but not swing into negative territory until 2010-11. This, as we have noted, is due to the lagged nature of the formula. Data changes could certainly bring Ontario into recipient status in 2009-10, however. Based on these projected fiscal capacities, Ontario is projected to qualify for payments of \$400 million in fiscal 2010-11 and \$1.3 billion in fiscal 2011-12. These payments will provide an offset, but only a partial one, to the negative impact on Ontario finances directly resulting from the current economic slowdown, which is likely to last until the mid-point of 2009. Although the federal government will not be required to make equalization payments to the three westernmost provinces over the next few years, the money provided to Ontario will represent a further squeeze on federal finances, since it will drive up the overall cost of the program. One of the cost containers embedded in the new equalization program will lose its teeth with Ontario in recipient status. No province can receive equalization if its fiscal capacity is above a non-receiving province. This cap has tended to be thought of as the Ontario ceiling – i.e. no province would receive equalization if its fiscal capacity were above Ontario's. But with Ontario as a recipient, the cap would shift up to the province with the next lowest capacity. That would be British Columbia. But its fiscal capacity is much higher than Ontario's so any cost containment through the cap would be greatly diminished. With Ontario's addition to the list, 70% of Canada's population will be in receiving provinces.

Related to that last point, Ontario's projected move into equalization-recipient – at least temporarily – would suggest to many Canadians that the province is no longer a net contributor to federal coffers. However, this is not the case. Unfortunately, the most up-to-date figures on the net federal take in Ontario are for 2005. That year, Ontario residents contributed a hefty \$21 billion more to federal coffers than what was returned to the province in federal spending. Even if one takes into account (a) the fact that some of that excess reflects Ontario's share of the federal budget surplus, (b) changes announced in the 2007 federal budget, such as a move to per-capita federal funding of health and education and (c) Ontario's sub-par economic growth over the next few years, it is highly unlikely that this surplus will be eliminated. In actuality then, Ontario residents will, in effect, be paying the equalization tab with their own money.

## Asymmetrical Federalism

Symmetrical federalism would entail different payments based on a common formula. All are treated according to the same formula. Asymmetrical federalism means different payments and different formulas. Here we distinguish between different payments to different provinces and asymmetrical federalism. With asymmetrical federalism what was a settled procedure becomes a matter of political pressure and individual bargaining. For example Nova Scotia and New Foundland and Labrador maintain the benefits of the Atlantic Accord. Premier McGuinty said, 'offshore energy deal between Ottawa and Nova Scotia and New Foundland and Labrador has changed the country's fiscal arrangement and has shortchanged Ontario.' He questioned why Ontario tax payers to continue to supplement the two provinces that rake in oil and gas royalties while continuing to pocket federal equalization payments. Under the Atlantic Accord, Ottawa will pay these provinces billions of dollars in oil revenues over the next eight years. His argument is that while Ontario struggling to whittle down a multi-billion budget deficit is by essentially subsidizing the Atlantic Accord. We need money to put into our health care system. "What is essentially means is that through our contributions to equalization, we're going to end up providing funding to the people of Nova Scotia and New Foundland that will enable them to exceed their wealth on a per capita basis, beyond that of Ontarians.' He added.

## Fiscal Imbalance

Equalization payments are unconditional – receiving provinces are free to spend the funds according to their own priorities. Suppose the receiving provinces mismanage the tax payers money there is no way to monitor this issue. Rich provinces still have to contribute to the Equalization payments. Those provinces can continue to mismanage the funds and adopt an irresponsible fiscal management. Those provinces can enjoy luxuries, beyond their means. Property tax is levied by the respective municipalities to give better service to their residential population in their city. Now this is part of the tax base resource for Equalization payments. If the respective city residents are not given that service for which they paid the property tax, they should be refunded to them and/or their tax rate should be reduced appropriately. Why should you pay exorbitant property tax to look after the service of resident in another city even in your province or another province? While at the same time most the home owners have mortgages outstanding and even pay this property tax by means of other credit system. Same story is applied

to Gasoline taxes and some other levies too. Their tax payments are not directly beneficial for them 100%.



## Objection from other provinces

Shortly after signing new Atlantic Accord Agreements with Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador, Martin's government partially disconnected equalization from the fiscal capacity measurements. As a result, payments are now made from a fixed pot of money that grows by 3.5 per cent every year. Transfer payments are based partially on fiscal capacity and a per capita basis. Against the backdrop of these changes a debate between provinces and the federal government is brewing. British Columbia is not willing to share its energy revenue. But at the same time Saskatchewan wants a new agreement on resource revenues. Ontario's position is, it has excessive contributed over a period to equalization when it was thriving, but now still contributing and at the same time having billion dollar gaps in provincial budgets annually. Is this a justified system to run the Economy of Canada and of Provinces?

## Constitutional Validity of Equalization Payments

In a Fraser Institute book 'Questioning the Legality of Equalization' challenges the long-standing equalization program – federal government provide money to 'have-not' provinces may not be legally enforceable and could contravene Canada's constitution. Co-author of the book Sylvia Le Roy argues 'although the principle of equalization is included in the Constitution Act, the provincial and federal government representatives that signed the Act believed the detail of equalization is open for negotiation. There is absolutely no legally-binding language in the Act that commits the government to fund a certain levels of transfers'. Equalization may fall beyond the

scope of the powers of federal government as defined in the British North American Act 1867, Canada's original constitution. Equalization

involves the federal government transferring tax revenue to provincial governments to be spent in the areas of provincial jurisdiction. But, that clearly conflicts with the section of the BNA Act that delineates the powers of the federal and provincial governments.

## What Ontario Government holds for Ontarians?

Is there a political bias in dealing with Premier McGuinty since he is a liberal politician. Or do Ontario lacks bargaining power? Within couple of decades Ontario will probably hold half of Canada's population. What is in the plan ahead to manage the economy of the province? Will it maintain its 'Canada's Economic Engine' status and a good standard of living for Ontarians?

## Premier McGuinty's Challenge

Dalton McGuinty would like to blame the combination of a stronger Canadian currency a slowing U.S. economy, higher energy prices and increased competition from emerging markets yet Ontario's economic performance is in direct contrast to national trends generally. Second longest period of economic expansion in Canadian history yet Ontario's share of national nominal GDP has gone down from 41.4% in 2002 to 38.6% in 2006. Business investment in Canada has expanded for a twelfth consecutive year yet Ontario's economic growth has been below the national average in recent years due to weaker growth in exports and business investment.

Under the McGuinty government, Ontario has become one of the slowest growing provinces in Canada and has reported growth below the national average since 2005—the longest string of under-performance in three decades. Ontario's growth in 2007 was the slowest in the country. All five major banks rank Ontario nine out of ten

provinces for economic growth in 2008. For the first time in 30 years, Ontario's unemployment rate exceeded the national average, rising to 6.5% in December 2007. Talented workers leaving in record number: Ontario reported a net loss of over 36,000 people to other provinces in 2007 with a record loss of 14,720 people in the third quarter alone—the biggest out-migration in Ontario's history. Since 2003 Ontario has lost a total of 71,804 people to other provinces and recorded consistently negative net interprovincial migration. The capital tax is widely acknowledged to be among the most inefficient forms of taxation and acts as a significant barrier to investment, when it is clear we should strive to encourage more capital investment. Even after the capital tax is finally eliminated, Ontario will still have the highest effective tax rate on capital. Liberal government increased Ontario's corporate income tax rate significantly to 14%; and, Froze the Small Business Income Tax Rate at 5.5% and cancelled the scheduled rate reduction to 4%. This is not a political issue. It is an economic one.

## What Ontario Needs

The fiscal policy approach of this government appears to have been focused largely on increasing revenues in order to fund government spending. In light of the current economic outlook this policy approach looks increasingly risky and economically harmful. Total program spending has increased by \$25.2 billion or 43% since 2003. Since 2003 program spending has been climbing at alarming rates averaging 7.6% per year outpacing the annual growth rate of GDP and inflation, 4.3% and 1.8% respectively. Not only is spending growing, but the government is spending beyond even what it budgets from year to year. High taxes, uncompetitive energy prices and red tape have left Ontario increasingly vulnerable to global economic uncertainties. The following actions are recommended to meet the economic challenges ahead.

\* Reduce the corporate income tax rate to a competitive level and reduce the tax burden for small business.

\* Set and commit to real targets to reduce the regulatory burden on all businesses.

\* Negotiate serious talks with Ottawa on the subject of tax reform.

\* Address the looming energy crisis with a responsible plan to replace dirty coal power that will make use of all available new technologies and not compromise our future energy supply.

\* Agricultural sectors may be the new focus, in addition to the traditional financial service sector.

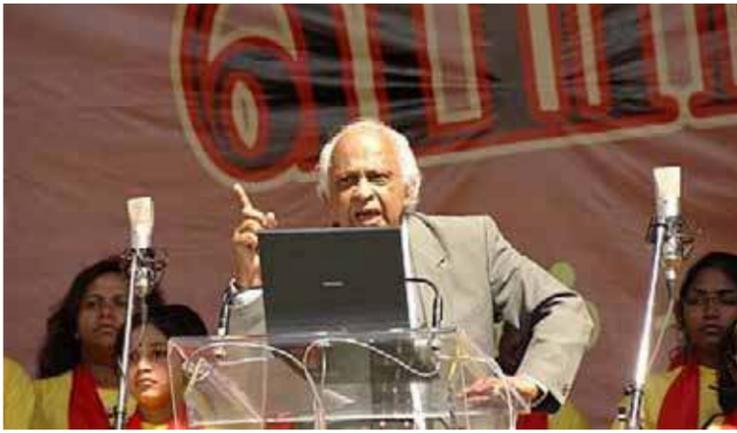
\* Further Ontario should create more positive investment climate.

# Pongu Tamil awakening held in Toronto

'Pongu Tamil' took place on July 5, 2008, at Downs View Park in Toronto on July 5th. Over 75 000 people gathered in the Pongu Tamil - awakening event.

The event started at 3:00 P.M. The key speaker was Dr. Brain Seneviratne, Physician now based in Australia.

Photo Courtesy: KOKULAN



Dr. Brain Seneviratne, at 'Pongu Tamil '



# Benjamin Moore Paints New Show Room in Scarborough

Benjamin Moore, a household name among paints opened a new show room, "Serendip Paints & Décor" at 4900 Sheppard Ave East between McCowan & Markham Road recently. Below are pictures showing products on display and an Interior Design Consultant with customers.

Photo Courtesy: Ken Photo



Customer being shown paint types



Designer with customers



Paints display

# Kathi Selvakumar's "Ithuvarai" Album release in Toronto

Kathi selvakumar, a popular TV announcer and all rounder Artist recently released a DVD album containing his past collections. This was produced by Vethagiri Visvalingam. The function was held on June 14th at Canada Kanthasamy Temple Hall. Pictures show presentation of the DVD album and awards to different personalities.

Photo Courtesy: Gnane



# Waterloo News



## City of Kitchener salutes to Seniors

The City of Kitchener celebrated the outstanding contributions of local citizens for the benefit of adults 50 years and better in the Kitchener community. It recognized the accomplishments and important role seniors played in the city.

The celebration took place at the City of Kitchener Rotunda hosted by the Mayor of Kitchener, His worship Carl Zehr. A close to 30 seniors were recognised for their volunteerism and the contri-

butions to the betterment of the society. Mrs. Mrinalini Ramachandran, a member of the Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region was one of the recipient. She has been an inspiration to the Tamil community and has been volunteering in various places - Doon Groundwater Festival, Spelling Bee of Canada, Waterloo Public Library, Tamil Cultural Nite festival, Victoria Community Centre.



## Canada Day Picnic - Keeping spirits alive

Fergus, Ontario: The 8th annual Canada Day Picnic of the Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region took place at Belwood Lake Conservation Area, Fergus, Ontario. A large number of Tamil community members and non-Tamils from the region and Toronto attended this annual get together day. Boat riding, Ski-doo, Cricket, Water gun fight, swimming, Net ball were some of the few fun events guests enjoyed.



## Meditation

a path towards utter freedom

**Saran Ghai**

In our last month's article we talked about two different ways in order to know our inner-self to find out the answer of the question - Who am I? During the meditation sessions, one of my disciples asked, "Is knowing ourselves the only objective of Meditation?" "Does meditation not help us in any other way?" I replied, "Meditation is a great activity which can convert us from a common human being to a super human."

Meditation is a tool which brings in us a sense of fullness and completion. To me, meditation is a permanent source of tranquility available to the mankind. I would like to add, if a meditative state is the natural outcome of yoga, the spiritual benefit of meditation is supreme bliss or enlightenment. Mr. J. Krishnamurthy said, "Meditation brings order and that order is the order of the universe." Meditation is an adventure of self-discovery.

Besides spiritual benefits of meditation, it also helps in the worldly ways like helping us improve our health - physically and mentally. As a matter of fact, many healthy people use meditation as a way to relax the body and reduce stress. Meditation is useful in a number of medical diseases or ailing conditions, especially those, which may be worsened by stress. Even the scientists with moderate thinking consider meditation beneficial in allergies, anxiety, arthritis, asthma, cancer, chronic pain, depression, high blood pressure or hypertension, and heart disease. Here it is important to mention that before starting meditation in order to cure any of the above mentioned states of health, it is always advisable to see your doctor. Keep in mind - meditation is not a replacement for traditional medical treatments but of course it is useful and helpful to fasten and giving permanent cure to the ailment.

How meditation works: In the process of curing or healing a number of medical disorders, the meditation gurus teach how the patient concentrates all his power to a single ailing point and it is seen that when our mind focuses on a particular part of the body, the blood flow to that part increases and cells receive more oxygen and other nutrients in abundance. Many of the athletes, sports professionals, fashion models, film stars and even the corporate professionals use meditation methods regularly to keep their body fit and mind strongly focused to their respective profession. It is a proven fact that meditation strengthens the mind and there is a direct correlation between concentration and performance level. Meditational exercises are a powerful tool to

# Benefits of Meditation

improve concentration and improve our mental health. That is the reason if on one side meditation is recognized as a spiritual practice, on the other side it also has a big number of health benefits.

As a matter of fact yoga and meditation are such practices if they are worked on regular bases, they overhaul the entire body and fill in us a new life, a life which is full of strength and vigour, full of youthfulness and potential, full of cheers and joy and a life on which anyone can be proud of.

A few of the commonly known benefits of meditation: Meditation helps in decreasing respiratory rate, increasing blood flow and slowing down heart rate, leading to a deeper level of relaxation, and increasing exercise tolerance among heart patients. Meditation is very good exercise for the patients of High Blood Pressure as it helps bringing the BP normal. If a person is suffering from muscle pain caused due to tensions, meditation helps a lot in his efforts to reduce tension which ultimately helps in getting relieved from pain. Meditation is said to be reducing anxiety attacks by lowering the levels of blood lactate. The greatest benefit of meditation is that it builds self-confidence. Besides all the benefits just mentioned, meditation also helps students who lack concentration: resultantly do not get good grades in their examinations. Meditation helps a student be a good sports person, good writer, good performer and a good achiever as it develops in him an all-round personality. A student, who meditates should never fail during his studies or in his life.

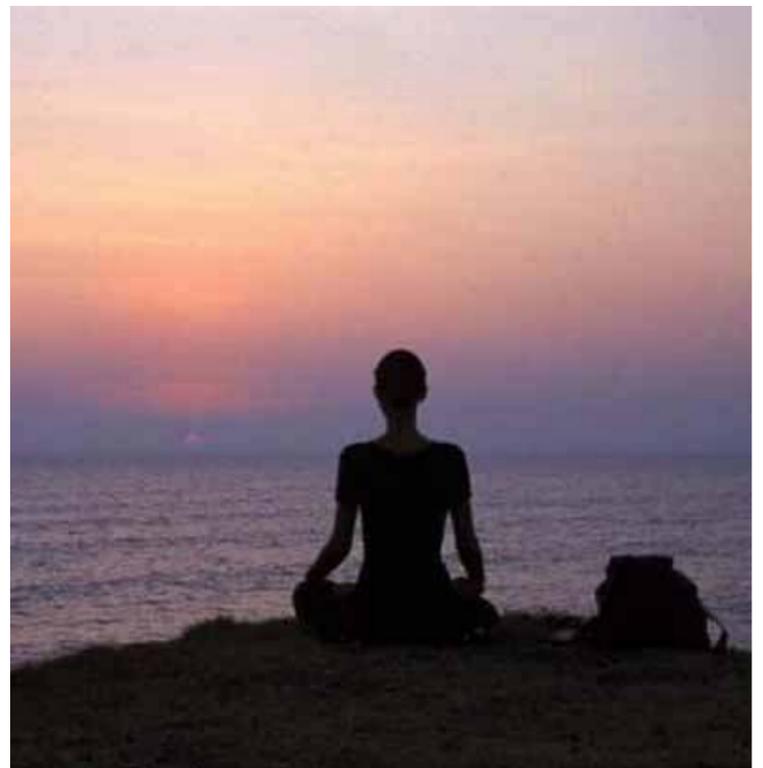
Meditation for Common People: Meditation has a proven success and is hundred percent helpful in one way or the other to every individual. Meditation increases working efficiency which is the prime requirement to lead a successful life. In the current mechanical life style, stresses and tensions are very common problems and need to be taken care of. More work and less time is another factor which causes stress. Every second of our life is scheduled. We are bonded to our timetables. Late by a second can ruin our career. Sometimes one second lost results in one opportunity lost. It has become very difficult to manage time. The only way to manage our routine is to fix our preferences. When we get up in the morning, if not more at least a few minutes we should give to ourselves to concentrate and focus our mind to fix our timetable for the day. If 80% of the scheduled timetable could be followed, believe me, the day will be among the days which you consider - cool. That's why we can say that meditation is the most appropriate tool to cool

down and shed stresses from our daily life.

Meditation for Students: Meditation is a boon for students. Concentration of mind is the prime necessity for students and meditation is one hundred percent reliable activity to help them out. Students who are serious about their studies keep themselves busy day and night in learning their course material and remain lost in the books. Study of books is nothing but a process of storing knowledge in one's mind. They keep on storing the knowledge but do not give time to their brain to streamline the gathered information. It is as good as keep on filling the memory of your computer and not giving it time to store the fed data at proper location. In case of computer, the result is a crash and in case of mind, the result is everything lost. It very commonly happens that some students work very hard the whole year for their examination, burn midnight candles, reading, reading becomes their lone target but when they reach the examination hall, they find whatever they studied, has vanished. They find that they know all the answers of the questions in question paper but can't write a single word. It happens only because they did not give time to their brain to rest and streamline the stored knowledge. In such cases and also as a common practice, it is advisable that students should practice meditation for a few minutes at least to help their mind relax and get prepared for further storage.

Meditation for Patients: It is said that half of the agonies of the patients can be rectified by meditation. It is very important to write down here that meditation is not a replacement of the medical treatment being given by a doctor to his patient nevertheless meditation is a boon for the early recovery of the patient's ailing conditions. For example, if someone slipped on the road and broke his/her bone. Rejoining the bone is totally a medical concern but to get relief from pain sooner if medication is supported by meditation, it reduces the time of relief to half. Meditation also gives a patient strength to fight with the disease which ultimately results in early recovery.

Meditation for Pregnant Women: Women begin their life as someone's daughter. Next stage of their life is being someone's sweetheart/wife. Ultimately she becomes a mother. Every stage of her life brings changes in her body. Every change in her body disturbs her mentally. Some women who are guided properly by their mother, elderly women in the family or a physician, cope with the changes in their body and remain successful avoiding unnecessary stresses. Those who are not guided properly remain



stressed and find themselves surrounded with one or the physical/mental discomfort. That's why a woman needs to understand her body side by side when changes occur in her but she also needs to connect these changes essentially to complete her journey from her girlhood to her womanhood. She has to realize her true self, which is an identity beyond everyday change - beyond gender, beyond fluctuation of hormones, beyond family expectations and different kinds of superimposed personality patterns. Discovering this true self is not easy. A first time pregnant woman is during the whole course of pregnancy lives under a fobia. Because of this state of fobia she keeps on contemplating about changes taking place in her body. She starts living in stress. Her hypertension increases. This abnormality is very much normal and can be controlled up to a very good extent by means of meditation. Meditation can help to resolve the deepest of neuroses, fears and conflicts which play their part in causing stress and ill health. Not only during pregnancy but also after delivery meditation should be practiced regularly. A new mother does get beautiful relaxed moments while breastfeeding and if along with the pious task of breastfeeding she also starts doing meditation, believe me, that milk which is going from mother's breasts to the child's belly will carry with it not only the love of his/her mother but also will work as nectar. If breastfeeding is connected with meditation sprouts many new thoughts and feelings and she can re-live those precious moments when she was bringing a new life on this earth and her experiences of new motherhood.

Meditation for Sex and Love: Sex is the first activity that took place in the process of evolution of living species on this earth. Human beings, animals, birds, reptiles and plants, all exist only

because a sexual activity took place somewhere sometime between a male and a female. Also we came into existence because our parents had sex. It is assumed that young people are stronger than the old and have more strength and can enjoy better quality sex. Over time, as and as the age increases, sexual power decreases. In order to keep the power of sex stable, meditation is helpful up to a very large extent. If it is said that power of sex decreases as per the age that does not mean that the young people are hundred percent perfect and are always satisfied with their sexual power. No matter what age group we are in, young or old, when we are having sex, all of a sudden we find that we are done and constrained to end the act most unsatisfied. If we meditate, we can control our sex organs and have the pleasure till both the partners achieve the state of satisfaction.

Same is the case with love. A concentrated person can be a better lover and can enjoy love life better than a puzzled person. Love seeks personal attention and a disturbed mind can not give personal attention. Meditation teaches us to be focused. To sum up meditation can help each one of us to be comparatively successful than other in our life.

Continued.

(Prof. Saran Ghai is an author, editor and publisher of a number of books, magazines and newspapers. He is also a palm reader and a numerologist. Readers of Monsoon Journal can contact Prof. Ghai at (416) 816-5559 or e-mail: [muktipath@muktipathmeditation.com](mailto:muktipath@muktipathmeditation.com) or visit his web site: [www.muktipathmeditation.com](http://www.muktipathmeditation.com). Prof. Ghai is organizing 3 day sessions for students and people under depression from August 8-10, 2008. Contact for free registration referring Monsoon Journal.)

# Monsoon Photo Journal



## Kokkattichchola Sivan Temple, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka

by **Dushiyanthini Kanagasabapathipillai**

Lord Shiva is the destroyer or transformer. He is viewed as the supreme deity in Hinduism.

There are five famous Eashwarams-Sivan temples in Sri Lanka.

They are Thirukoneswaram in Trincomalee, Thiruketheeswaram in Mannar, Naguleswaram in Jaffna, Munneswaram in Chilaw, and in Batticaloa.

The temple in Kokkattichchola is a "Thaanrhondreeswarar". It means a Sivalingam 'sprung up by itself' and a

temple was built later by the villagers in the vicinity over the course of time. The Sivalingam which sprung up by itself is called "Suyambulingam" as well. The Hindus believe that the Sivalingam is more than 10,000 years old. Devotees from various parts of the country travel to the renowned Kokkattichchola temple, during special holy days. They join devotees of lord Murugan pilgrimaging to Kathirgamam during the season by foot, taking jungle paths, crossing rivers and mountains.

There is a legend surrounding the temple according to the villagers in Kokkattichchola. In the time long

past, Kokkattichchola was a forest. Some hunters roaming Kokkattichchola, saw honey on top of a Kokkatti tree. Being charmingly delighted to reap the honey, they began to cut the tree with axe; but the tree began to bleed. The hunters were terrified and realized the presence of a divine deity in the tree, and they left the place immediately. A woman came to the spot and dressed up the wound carefully. Afterwards a small Sivalingam budded from the wound of the tree. The risen Sivalingam was discovered by a man who was sitting by the tree in penance.

[humanityashore.org]



Devotees observe fast and gather at temple to pray before breaking the fast



Camphor is lit at the main entrance of the temple



"Moolasthaanam" of the temple



Thavil and Nathaswaram are being played during the main pooja



School children visit the temple on special days being played during the main pooja



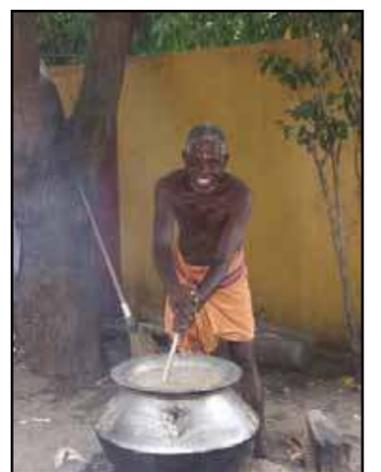
The chief priest blesses the devotees



These drums are called "Parai", which are beaten at temples in Batticaloa district



Devotees squeeze coconut to make curries



Meal for the devotees is being prepared



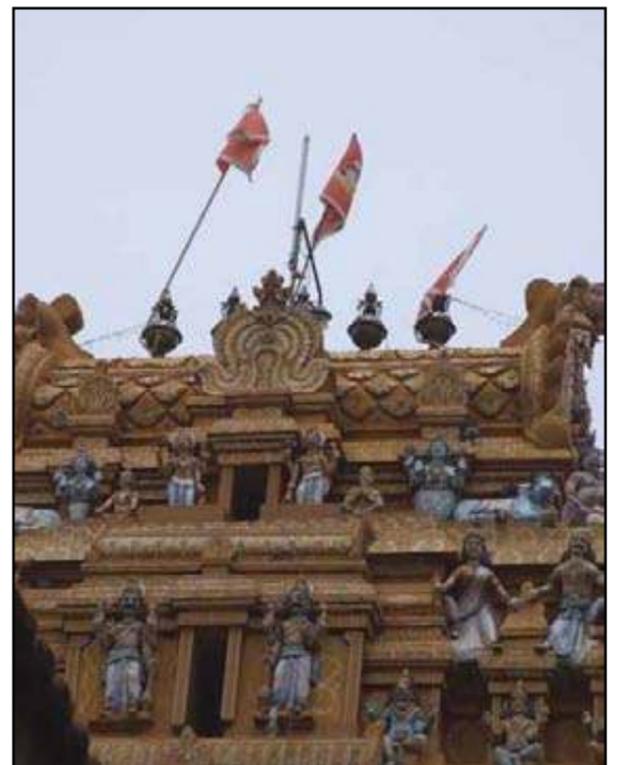
Main entrance of the temple



Savoury shops during the festive time



Devotees take rest under a Kokkatti tree



Another view of the "Kopuram" from inside the temple

# REMEMBERING SILENCED VOICES

VIGIL

EXHIBIT

ESSAY & SHORT STORY

YOUTH CONFERENCE

BLOOD DONATION

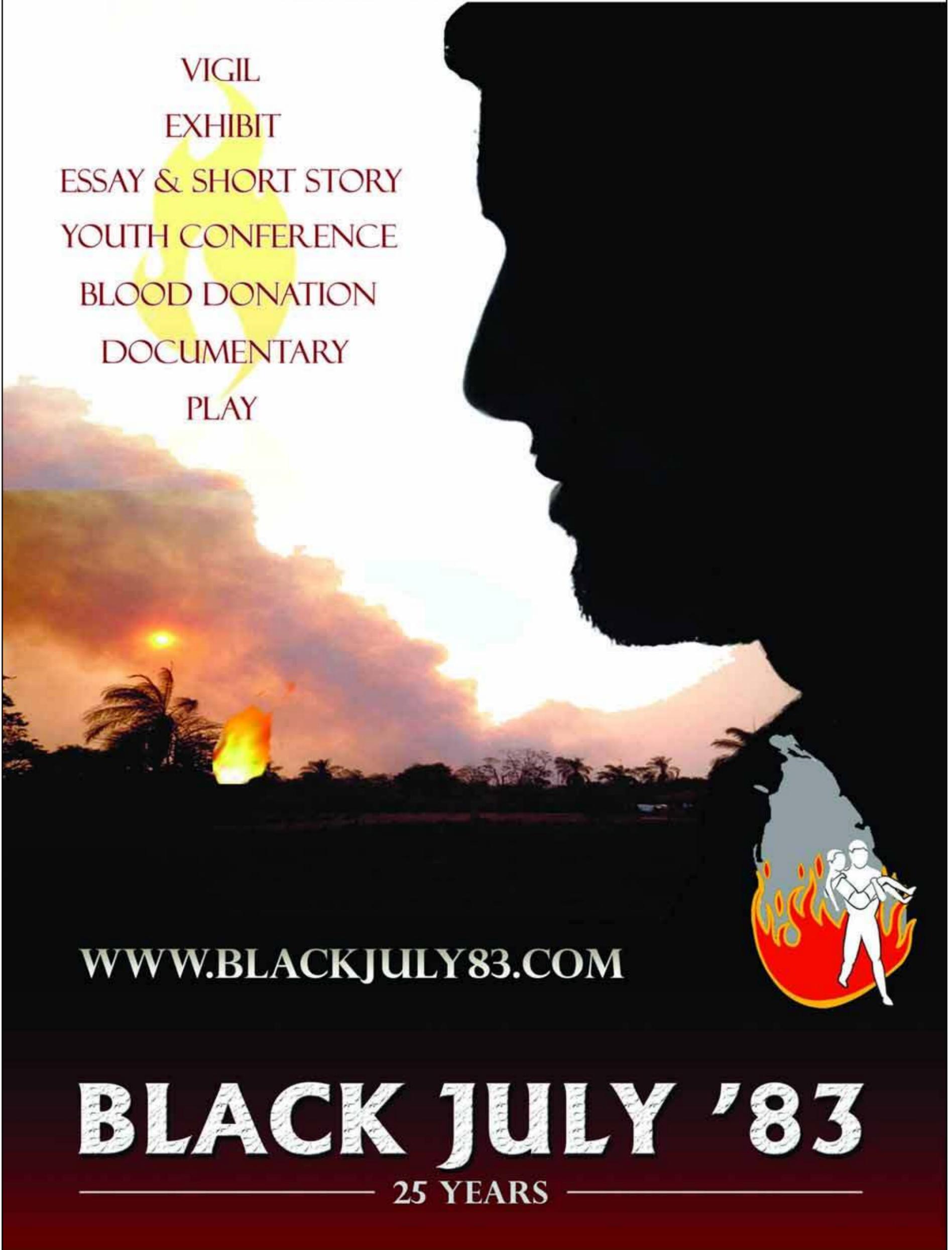
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# Business Succession Planning: Elements of a Plan

Succession planning does not take place in isolation from the larger issue of your overall financial security. An effective succession plan will examine all aspects of your financial situation. This includes:

## A) Distribution of Ownership

If transferring ownership of your business, a shareholder agreement is a key tool that should be considered.

## B) Selecting and Grooming Your Successor

Identifying the right person to take over when you leave is a process that requires thought and planning.

## C) Business Maximization Strategies

There are many strategies you should consider prior to the sale or transfer of ownership.

## D) The Role of Key Employees

Key employees are vital to the success of ownership transition, and can help in the planning process.

## E) Business Valuation

While you may have a good idea of what your business is worth, you should still consult with a professional business valuator to confirm or determine this crucial figure.

## F) Financing and the Mechanics of Sale

Financing the change of ownership should be a

key part of your succession plan.

## G) Taxation and Legal Considerations

It is important that you consult with your tax and legal advisors early in the process to make sure that your plan achieves your objectives.

## H) Retirement and Estate Considerations

Since your investment in your business is probably your most significant asset, there are a number of important retirement and estate planning issues that should be addressed.

## I) Timetable

Ensure there is a clear timetable so those involved know what will be expected of them, and when.

## J) Monitoring

Process Be sure to update plan as necessary when there are changes to your business and/or personal situation.

## K) Contingency

Considerations and Risk Management If you were suddenly unavailable to manage the business, who would take over your responsibilities?

Drawing on expertise from across the Scotiabank Group and working with your professional advisors we can ensure that your business succession plan and personal financial plan are aligned to create a superior, overall plan.



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# 2008 Asian Heritage Month Celebration - Revenue Canada



The Director of Revenue Canada (Toronto East) awarding the Best Martial Arts Performance to Rajguru

Recently Revenue Canada celebrated the 2008 Asian heritage Month Celebration Day, at the Albert Camble Auditorium, Toronto.

On this Occasion, They Invited Rajaguru Martial Arts Academy to perform a Karate Demonstration, which was conducted by its Founder & Grand Master, So Shihan, Rajaguru T. Ravindran along with his Senior Most Student & International Chief Instructor Shihan Sriram

Rangan & his students.

Deborá Danis, Director, Toronto East Tax services Office. Ontario praised Grand Master, So Shihan, Rajaguru T Ravindran for teaching Woman Self Defense Techniques and taking part and performing a Karate Demonstration at the Asian Heritage Day and issued him an appreciation certificate.

Sriram Rangan  
Secretary General  
India / Canada / USA

# 15 YEAR VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Lion C.T. Devaraja who is a member of the Senior Tamils Centre from 1994 and Membership Director of the Wishing Well Lions Club of Scarborough was awarded the 15 year Ontario Volunteer Award 2008 by the Honourable Linda Jeffrey, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Citizenship & Immigration, Ontario on Wednesday 18th June 2008 at the Arcadian Court, 8th Floor, Toronto. Devaraja, popularly known as "C.T." was Secretary, Lions Club of Kotahena West, Sri Lanka in 1992/93 and on migration to Canada in 1994, was President of the Scarborough Wishing Well Lions Club in

1997/98 and now its Membership Director for the last 5 years. He is also presently Director of the Toronto Housing Association of the Tenants as well as a Member of the Senior Strategic Steering Committee of the Toronto Community Housing Corporation, being the first Asian to serve in this committee. He has also served as Director, Metro Tenants Legal Services, Toronto 1996/97, Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, Ontario Division 1996/97, Representative, Centenary Hospital Foundation, Ontario 1998/2001 Council Member, St. Benedict's College Alumni Association Canada, 1994/96 & 2002/2004, and Director, Mens



Ministry, Tamil Christian Church of Canada 1999/2001 & 2003/2004 and General Secretary, Srilanka Irrigation Officers' Association of Canada 2001/2003 & 2005/2007.

# Toyota May Add Solar Panels to Hybrid Car

A Japanese business daily says automaker Toyota may add solar panels to the roof of some of its hybrid cars to help power the vehicle's air conditioner. Solar panels convert sunlight to electricity.

Toyota has not confirmed the story, which says the panels may be offered on a redesigned Prius model sometime next year.

Hybrids go farther than conventional vehicles on a liter of gasoline because they use a combination of electric motors, a large



battery, and a gasoline engine. The car runs on electricity from the battery, which is recharged by the gasoline engine. The car is also able to gather some of the energy that other vehicles lose in

the braking process.

Toyota has sold one million hybrids since introducing them a decade ago. The company hopes to eventually boost sales to one million per year. [VOA]



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# Monsoon Features

## New Immigrants Bring New Blood and New Energy to Canada Part III

by Samy Appadurai

It was a pleasant weekday morning about 7.30 a.m. I drove from my home in Scarborough to Kennedy Station, where there is free parking for those who hold a monthly Metropass. Whenever possible, I prefer to travel by public transportation as doing so is good for the environment, saves gas and affords me ample time to work on my books and newspaper articles without being disturbed. A major portion of my forthcoming book *The Global Nomad* in Canada and the whole of this article were written on the train.

After parking and reaching the platform, I joined the throng of rush-hour passengers boarding the train. Many people, although they were obviously in a hurry, still stopped to pick up a copy of the *Metro*, a free newspaper. Indeed, it was an amazing scene, a world in miniature. Most of my fellow travelers were dressed in typical urban business clothes. However, I could not help but see into their backgrounds as I rode the train; wherever I looked, faces from all over the world looked back at me.

I could not help but wonder where those people, or their ancestors, came from; what languages they spoke; what religions they believed in; what forms of cultural and social values they held; what kinds of food they ate and so on. I wondered how they integrated Canadian values with the heritage values they had imbibed with their mothers' milk. At the same time, my mind also turned to Canada's first moment, which occurred with the establishment, on July 1, 1867, of this new country. As the train rumbled on, the moment died, but the ideas of that morning have remained with me.

Canada's demographic pattern has continued to change ever since the founding fathers signed the charter establishing the new country in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, on that fateful day. Our demography has profound effects on many aspects of Canadian life: It affects our foreign policy, our economic ups and downs, the lives of established Canadian families and the newcomers who flock to our shores, and the very heart of our cities, towns and rural areas. The constant flow of new immigrants increases the natural growth of population and discourages emigration from Canada while enrich-

ing the social fabric of this country.

The age demographic of new immigrants is, in many ways, different from the established pattern here. In the developing countries, the bulk of population is in the age cohort of 20 and under and forms a bell shape when demography is represented on a graph. In that shape, youth and seniors form a relatively low percentage of the population, and most people are found in the middle, where people are in their middle years. In Canada, however, right now, seniors account for almost 13% of the population. Why is this so? This unusually large group of seniors is known as the so-called baby boomers (a baby boomer is part of an unusually large age cohort born within a given period.)

A large percentage of the new immigrants, irrespective of their countries of origin, are in early middle age and are more numerous than is the case with those long-established in Canada. It is they who are swelling the middle of the bell-shaped curve. That being said, the number of children being born to both groups is relatively low. Nevertheless, many new immigrants are having children, and, in the future, these children will take their places alongside the children of those who for whom Canada is the only home their parents have ever known. They will hold hands as they build a new society together.

Older people generally prefer not to be uprooted from their countries of origin unless and the political and economic conditions there are extremely pressing. Naturally, they are very much accustomed to the environment where they were born and brought up. Such people often hold good positions, are well to do and lead successful lives. It is normal for them to want to remain in their respective homelands and face whatever hardships may arise like clouds that soon will pass.

This reminds me an interesting incident that happened to a friend of mine who came from Sri Lanka and was working as doctor at the district of Ado-Ekit, in Ondo State, Nigeria. He had a medical assistant working with him in the health clinic. In his spare time, my friend offered to teach his assistant some basic medical theory even though the helper had barely completed high school. Surprisingly, the assistant

declined the offer. News of this shocked me, for if I had been in his shoes, I would gladly have taken the doctor's willingness to help me as a great gift.

Secretly, the assistant told me why he did not accept the offer. He said, "The best doctors would not leave their countries and work on contract in a foreign country. I do not want to learn from a second-class doctor."

I could read his mind well, but his assumption was not necessarily true-not by a long shot. Various other punishing forces are often behind such a move. Most skilled immigrants are pulled while refugees are pushed from their countries of origin. In Canada, immigrants of the independent class are warmly welcomed, family-class immigrants are taken for what they are and refugees are accepted on humanitarian grounds. Finally, all become equal members of the same family.

In the early days, most new immigrants left their homelands due to unpleasant situations that they felt they could not bear. Some well-known examples are the crop failure in Ireland in the middle of the 19th century, the drought in Ethiopia, the war in Sri Lanka, the interminable anarchy in Somalia, the massacres in Bosnia, the multitude of human rights' violations in parts of Eastern Europe and racial segregation in South Africa. Those who found themselves in the thick of these horrendous situations naturally wanted to escape them. For them and countless others, Canada has been and continues to be a safe haven. Many of these refugees would not be alive today had they remained in their countries of origin.

As well, overpopulation and high unemployment rates likely negatively affected those who now call Canada home, especially among the educated classes. Brain drain is a common phenomenon shared by both the developed and the developing nations. Many educated people also leave their homelands to seek higher salaries, a higher standard of living and more educational opportunities for their children. This is seen even in Ontario, where many doctors go south, while one million Ontarians do not have the privilege of having a family doctor.

As I have written before, Canada needs new immigrants to add to our population and to enrich this country's socio-economic life. Nevertheless, there



are advantages and disadvantages to having new immigrants from all over the world settle here; it is not all rosy. The first disadvantage, in the eyes of the newcomers, is that Canada is able to benefit from their knowledge and expertise without having made any investment in their education or training. In some the developing countries, this education and training might not have cost as much as it would have in Canada because, in those countries, the cost of living is comparatively low.

There is another long-term advantage to Canada in bringing new immigrants here. As mentioned above, most newcomers today are middle aged, and are having children. Those children will be future human capital for Canada. The advantage to Canada is that, while the "sending" countries have invested in building up human capital, we get the "fruit" of their investment at no cost to us. Right now Canada is in the position of being able to choose the best and the brightest from abroad.

Having positive relationships with other nations certainly helps Canada. It helps us ease international tensions, supports stronger economic ties, promotes Canada's reputation abroad and will help us attract more high quality human capital in the future.

Upon arriving in Canada, however, many professional immigrants get a real shock. They had been expecting to enter their respective fields almost immediately, often having been given no information to the contrary at the embassies or consulates where they applied that this would not be the case. I have heard bitter stories around this issue from many, many people who believe they were deliberately misled as to what would be required of them if they wanted to practise their profession in Canada. Almost everyone in this country is aware that many immigrants, at the initial stage, do the jobs that local people do not want. Such

jobs are usually the dangerous, dirty or high-pressured ones that are low paid and physically demanding. Seasonal farm jobs, for example, fall into this category. All-too-many highly skilled new immigrants are doing unskilled or semi-skilled jobs. Everybody knows about the doctor who is driving a taxi or the chemistry professor who is delivering pizza. They are the rule rather than the exception, unfortunately, but this is another discussion for another day.

The global village has taken over. The pace of urban life is unrelenting, and those who come here must be able to swim, or they will sink. Most learn to swim fairly quickly, but, unfortunately, there are those who fall by the wayside in that they find it incredibly difficult to adapt to a foreign culture and unfamiliar ways of living. It is hard to gain control over one's life in a new place where the language and social mores are different. The struggle to earn a livelihood and become established leads to stress and can also lead to inter-generational clashes as the young wish to become "Canadianized" while their parents want to enforce a code of behaviour in their offspring that is rooted in their home country.

In addition to these are the pressures of one's cultural or religious community. How does one's community exert control over the ways in which the immigrant family conducts its life in Canada? What significance does it have? And, how do the search for economic stability and, let's face it, wealth, play out in the real world? Why do some people get rich while others can barely mete out an existence after coming here? And, are the riches "clean?" Are they made unjustly on the backs of others, often of the same ethnicity?

The answers here, as "back home," remain unknown to us on many, many levels. The Machiavellian theory of the end justifying the means has been interpreted convincingly in some

# Monsoon Features

people's minds by justifying the unorthodox methods by which they accumulate their wealth. Despite the relative poverty of many newcomers, some immigrants appear to strike it rich very, very fast. Many established Canadians who have worked hard all their lives bitterly resent this.

Over time, whether rich or poor, most people become inured to the realities and the mechanics of daily life. At times when I get stressed out, I feel that most of us are somehow enslaved by the system, no matter how big or small a position we hold in it. The average person decorates his wallet with a bunch of credit cards. His mailbox is filled with advertising offers and flyers, most of which are of little value and litter our environment. We are worried about layoffs, writing sales reports, meeting sales' quotas, thrilled with long weekends, emotionally elevated and energetic on the weekends and often return to work on Monday morning with mixed feelings. This is particularly true for those who work in service industries.

New energy and innovation, and the new skills and talents contributed by our immigrants, add additional flavour to the soup. Their contribution brings economic vitality to our country and provides a more interesting social fabric as well.

On the negative side, whenever there is an economic recession or turndown, many fingers are pointed at new immigrants who, collectively, are a convenient scapegoat. This also allows those assigning them blame an easy escape from reality. At such times, some people whisper openly and not so openly that many immigrants and refugees depend too much on welfare, that they import criminal undertakings from their countries of origin, that they are the primary cause of increasing violence and so on. It cannot be overstated that the Government of Canada does not hold this view and completely abhors it. Nevertheless, the feelings of new immigrants are deeply hurt when such talk begins to circulate. In truth, people who talk like this are engaging in psychological warfare that can intimidate newcomers to the point where some of them lose their confidence and seek refuge in unproductive, retaliatory activities. When this happens, it adversely affects not only those directly involved, but the entire nation.

The settlement of newcomers costs Canadian taxpayers and Immigration Canada quite a lot. It includes language instruction, assistance in finding housing and jobs and addressing the complex issues of social integration.

Retraining, when indicated, also increases settlement costs. Many long-established Canadian families do not feel that this money is well spent. And, when the clothing and customs of new Canadians are not in harmony with the norm, resentment often builds even further.

However, for individual immigrant families, the personal advantages, at least in the long run, appear very attractive. Canada's high standard of living is a great "pull" factor. So is the low rate of inflation coupled with the low interest rate as compared with those in other jurisdictions.

Canada is one of the largest countries in the world. On a recent visit here, the president of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, declared, "Canadians should not underestimate the importance of the role their country can play in consolidating democracy and development in the Americas." The truth is that Canada has the potential to play a far more influential role on the global scene than has been the case up to now.

A word here on immigrants' earning power in Canada: Although, in many instances, new immigrants earn less, at least in the beginning, than their Canadian counterparts, in most cases they earn significantly more than their counterparts in their countries of origin. It must be faced, however, that when it comes to hiring practices, a Canadian applicant will often win out over a new immigrant. Government statistics have borne this out time and again, and a recent government poll demonstrated that this type of thinking is still very prevalent. To a Canadian employer, a person who shares his background and culture is like a comfortable old shoe. In some cases, however, a new immigrant is hired to communicate with those of his minority culture rather than a person from the mainstream. In a similar manner, some new immigrant employers prefer to employ mainstream Canadians when targeting their product or service to the mainstream.

Unfortunately, discrimination is rampant in recruitment, wage differentials and promotion when it comes to the new immigrant. And, when layoffs come, quite often the new immigrant is among the first to receive a pink slip. This has even resulted in certain new immigrants having to leave Canada, although this practice is blatantly illegal. The government has been trying its best to wipe out it, but doing so takes time. When it comes to such things, there are no miracles.

The disruption of family life is another casualty that is often met with on the road to immigrants'

becoming established in Canada. Most often, especially among those of middle age, the male of the family migrates first. Then, after he is settled, he sponsors the rest of the family. In the early days, things were different. Then people came by boat, not by air. At that time, most of those setting out for the New World were single men. Sometimes it took months or even years for them to reach foreign shores. Many of these young men married local women and created new races, such as the Métis of Canada, the Anglo-Indians of India, the Nonya of Malaysia, the Burghers of Sri Lanka, and the cacophony of mixed races that exists throughout Latin America.

Today, in many of the "sending" countries, the emigration of

my and to replace those workers, largely in the baby-boom cohort, who are now retiring. Considering all these factors, Canada is now accepting a minimum of 1% of its population from abroad every year. And, as the population increases, the rate of acceptance of more new immigrants also increases. That being said, the exact number of immigrants who are coming in does not really matter; however, the suitability of those immigrants is a matter of great importance. This does not necessarily mean that Canada is seeking only highly skilled or professional workers in all categories. There are areas where many semi-skilled workers are in demand, whereas people holding doctorates in certain fields are surplus to the economy.



some citizens is viewed as a blessing in disguise. Unemployment rates decrease, and there is often a reduction in the crime rate as disaffected youth leave for better opportunities elsewhere. In some countries the level of poverty is so acute that those in a vast international diaspora contribute a great deal to the Gross Domestic Product by way of remittances to their country of origin. For example, the Philippines is one of the world's largest exporters of human resources, and many Filipinos reside in Canada. Incredibly, almost 20% of the GDP of the Philippines now comes from remittances sent from abroad.

Lack of manpower in the service industries provides a foothold for many newcomers although, as discussed above, this situation causes a lot of hardship for educated workers. In this country service workers are not considered burdens or liabilities; rather, they are considered assets to the economy. Sometimes Canada needs them more than they need Canada. This is also true, of course, even more true, of the educated classes-but not when they first arrive here, unfortunately.

The need for human capital at all levels is crucial here. We need more people to grow the econo-

my. Could this be why, for some years, the former government brought in exotic dancers, mainly from Eastern Europe? Perhaps the demand for such dancers changes from time to time based on the local supply and the demand for this type of entertainment. There used to be a very high demand for computer-science specialists in the 1990s, when the local supply was low, whereas today the demand has gone down. At the present time, Canada does not require any more unskilled labourers or seasonal workers. The skill sets that Canada needs today are more important than the regional, racial or social backgrounds of would-be new immigrants. This fact has opened the gate wider to the rest of the world because the Government of Canada recognizes that human capital is the best capital.

The historic patterns of immigration to this country are very interesting. The British Loyalists, of course, were those citizens of the thirteen American colonies who wished to remain loyal to the British throne. On account of this, they immigrated to British-owned lands during and after the American Revolution of 1775-83. Sixty thousand of them migrated to Canada, five thousand went to Britain and the rest settled in the West Indies.

The recorded population of Canadian from 1851 to 1861 was just over three million, whereas today's population surpasses 33 million. In those days Canada was not yet well known throughout the world. Its territories lay in the hands of the two world superpowers of the day, the British and the French. The gates of Canada were not widely open, and Canada, in fact, was not yet a nation. Those newcomers who braved the journey from across the sea did not penetrate deep into the heartland. Most of the country remained virgin, with an abundance of untouched forest and grasslands. In the absence of an industrialized economy, most people followed an agrarian lifestyle, one in which additional manpower was not needed.

The lives of the Canadian pioneers were hard and lonely. The ladies of the day had to press their own apples for juice and cider, make their own wine and bake their daily bread. The men had to split huge logs for firewood, and sow and reap the crops the family needed to survive. In the dark of the winter, the forest animals moved closer to the settlements, and sometimes the wolves actually entered the houses, opening the wooden doors with their snouts. People had to make their own clothes and prepare soap from animal and vegetable fats. Life in the territories that would eventually become Canada was scary and problematic. Nevertheless, it had its beautiful side, too: Family members remained close, and all the families of a given settlement worked together for the common good. Everyone shared happy times such as the birth of babies and the celebration of weddings, and they shared one another's sorrows when tragedy struck. I had the wonderful opportunity of observing how people lived long ago when I visited Pioneer Village in Toronto. In many ways, despite the hardships that people faced during those years, they really were the good old days.

In the absence of electric heat, many people, especially from warmer countries, could not even begin to entertain the idea of living in Canada's cold climate. Although in geographic and climatic terms, Canada is deemed a temperate zone, this is truly not the case. Particularly in the middle of the country, the summers are blazing hot while the winters are freezing and seem interminable. The spring and fall of the year are beautiful, but those are the only seasons that can truly be called temperate.

Continue on Page 45

# Monsoon Appreciations

## India's best-known soldier Sam H.F.J. Manekshaw Dies at 94; Key to India's Victory in 1971 War

By Haresh Pandya

Field Marshal Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw, India's best-known soldier and the architect of the country's victory in the 1971 war with Pakistan that gave birth to Bangladesh, died in Wellington, India, on Friday. He was 94.

The cause was pneumonia, India's Defense Ministry said in a statement.

Field Marshal Manekshaw first

night, the sprain had turned into a fracture.

He instilled a sense of duty, efficiency and professionalism in the Indian Army, and he taught officers to stand up to political masters and bureaucratic interference. His wit, sometimes bordering on sarcasm, did not go over well with many in power.

In 1961, he had a falling out with the defense minister, V. K. Krishna Menon. But by then a general, he was vindicated late



drew notice as a captain in the British Indian Army during World War II. He was severely wounded on Feb. 22, 1942, in a counteroffensive against the Japanese on the Sittong River in Burma, now known as Myanmar. But he kept exhorting his soldiers, and he continued fighting until he collapsed.

Fearing the worst, the English commander, Maj. Gen. D. T. Cowan, pinned his own Military Cross on Captain Manekshaw and was quoted as saying, "A dead person can't be awarded a Military Cross."

But the young officer survived, and a storied military career began. He not only recovered from his wounds but went back to Burma later in the war and was wounded again.

In 1947, as colonel in charge of operations, he oversaw Indian forces in fighting that broke out between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, the territory claimed by both new nations.

With a military mustache guarding a genial face, he was known as a stern disciplinarian with a common touch. He once insisted on doing folk dances with his troops even though he had a sprained ankle. By the end of the

the next year when Indian troops were overrun by Chinese forces that swept down from the Himalayas. Mr. Menon resigned and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who had been close to Mr. Menon, rushed General Manekshaw to the front. There he rallied the retreating Indian forces until a cease-fire was declared.

He became the eighth chief of the Indian Army in 1969, and in 1971 led India's forces in the war with Pakistan that ended with the creation of Bangladesh from East Pakistan. According to articles published in Indian newspapers after his death, General Manekshaw firmly resisted demands by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the spring of 1971 for an immediate invasion of East Pakistan in support of rebels there. He insisted that a campaign be put off until after the monsoon season ended and the armed forces were better prepared.

Just before the conflict began that December, the prime minister asked him, "General, are you ready for the war?" He replied, "I'm always ready, sweetie." Less than three weeks later, Pakistan was defeated.

General Manekshaw became a

## Thangamma Appakkuddi, Veteran religious-cultural personality passes away

Veteran religious and cultural personality of Eezham Tamils, Thangamma Appakkuddi, passed away on Sunday June 15th noon, at the age of 84, after bedridden for a few weeks in a stage of coma at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital. Apart from her religious leadership, Ms. Thangamma Appakkuddi, was a philanthropist and a social worker, caring for the much needed requirements of women and children in a war-torn society. She was an institution by herself.

Born on 7th January, 1925, Ms. Thangamma Appakkuddi, had her early education at Ramanathan College, Chu'n'naakam, and became a trained teacher in 1945. She studied Tamil and Saivism in the trad-

temple dedicated to the martial goddess Durga in her native place Thellippazhai. The temple that existed there before her times was a humble structure with a thatched front.

It was essentially the spirit of Thangamma Appakkuddi, which was behind the upsurge of the cult of Durga and for the temple to become a big and leading religious establishment among Eezham Tamils.

In her later years, she became known Sivath-thamizhch-chelvi (the lady of God Siva's Tamil) and Thurkaa-thuranthari (one who is in the service of Durga). She became a preceptor whom the people were looking upon for religious leadership. For the masses, she was a living embodiment of



**Thangamma Appakkuddi**  
Jan 7 1925 - June 15 2008

larised, transcend beyond the individual person of herself. The relationship between her mission and the under-currents of the society, at the level of the subconscious psyche, is a topic for structural analysis.

There is a deep relationship between the gender issues of the society and the cult she promoted, manifesting into a shade of South Asian modelled feminism.

In a Saiva society, dominated by the cults of Vairavar, Murukan, Pillayar and Siva, the popularity gained by the Durga cult of Thangamma Appakkuddi and its impact were phenomenal. No wonder, the theme attracted the doctoral research of N. Shanmugalingan, the present Vice Chancellor of the University of Jaffna.

Thousands pay their last respects

More than five thousand people gathered together at Thellippazhai Monday June 16th, to pay their last respects to the mortal remains of Thangamma Appakkuddi, the veteran religious and cultural personality of Eezham Tamils, in the homage paying event held around 12:00 p.m. in the Common Hall outside Thellippazhai Thurkkai Amman Koayil, presided by Aaruthirumurkan. Most of the schools in the peninsula were closed before lunch interval while all schools, shops, private and public institutions in Valikaamam north were closed before noon enabling all to attend the funeral.

[TamilNet]



tional schools and became a Pundit in 1952 and a Saiva Pulavar (Madras) in 1958.

She was a popular teacher for 31 years of which the last 12 years were spent at the Union College, Thellippazhai. She retired from government service in 1976.

She became inclined towards Saivism and Tamil at a much earlier age, remained a spinster and devoted her entire life for the cause of her ideals.

Known as Pandithai Thangamma Appakkuddi, she was gracing the temples of Jaffna as early as 1950's and 60's, by unique lectures in her deep and resonant voice, captivating the masses.

Early 70's marked a big transition in her life. She became involved in the construction of a

national hero and a household name after this triumph, and in 1973, two weeks before his retirement, he became India's first field marshal. He had already received India's highest civilian awards - Padma Bhushan in 1968 and Padma Vibhushan in 1972.

He was born into a Parsi family, his father a doctor, in Amritsar in Punjab on April 3, 1914.

He briefly pursued a degree in medicine and studied at Sherwood College, in Naini Tal, and Hindu Sabha College, in

the goddess herself. But, she remained a rational person with a spiritual and social mission.

Her temple establishment became an epicentre for a multitude of social and cultural activities. The Thurkaapuram Makalir Illam, set up by her for destitute female children was a unique institution by itself. The temple also assisted the sick, elderly and helpless refugees.

She was also a philanthropist in establishing libraries and assisting valuable publications.

Recognising her academic achievements and service to culture and society, the University of Jaffna, bestowed her with an honorary doctorate in 1998.

The life, mission and service of Thangamma Appakkuddi and the cult of the goddess she popu-

Amritsar, before joining the first class of the new Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun in 1934. It had been opened to train Indians for commissioned ranks in the British Indian Army. He was first attached to the Royal Scots regiment. He later joined a Gurkha regiment and wore the Gurkha cap even after becoming the army's chief of staff.

He met Siloo Bode at a gathering in Lahore, in what is now Pakistan, in 1937, and they were married in 1939. She died in

2001. He is survived by his daughters, Maja Daruwala and Sherry Batliwala, and three grandchildren.

Like many officers of his generation, he had an affection for British military traditions. A 1971 article in The New York Times noted that upon waking at 5:30 every morning, he liked drinking a small glass of whiskey, listening to the BBC news and pattering in his garden before going to work.

[courtesy: NY Times.com]

# Monsoon Kids Corner

## Color Me Competition - 5

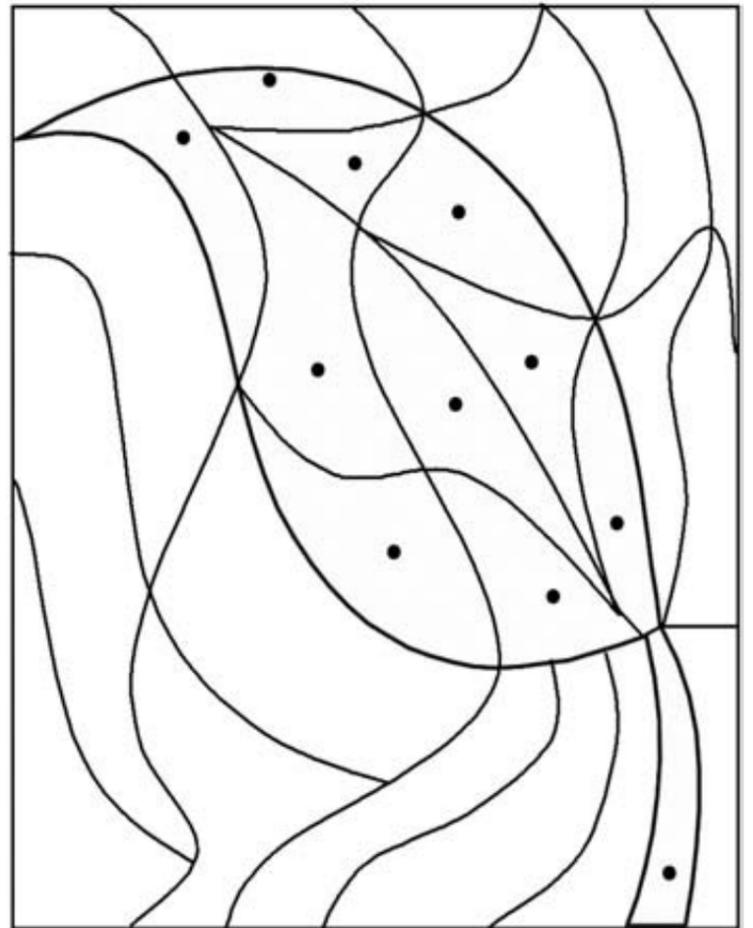
Dead Line for entries:  
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Entries have to be made on original paper, photo copies not accepted.

The Winner will be selected and posted in the August issue.

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Color the areas with dots green and the areas without dots blue.

# THE STORY OF RICE

By Chandrani Warnasuriya

## Did You Know That?

If you call out to our 'Cereal Friends,' Rice, Wheat, Corn, Oats and so on... who are the popular cereals in our diet to run a race, did you know who will win? Rice of course!! A celebrity among cereals, it is the most popular food in our dietary habits round the world and the staple food of more than half the planet.

A popular Chinese Greeting starts with Rice!

Rice is so important in Chinese diet that people in China don't greet each other saying "Good Morning," or "Good Afternoon," instead they say, "Have you had your rice today?" It may sound ridiculous and surprising to children in America but not in China. Flags of East Asian countries such as Korea, Japan and Myanmar have ears of paddy in

Warnasuriya, Chandrani; the emblem of their flag, to honor this grain and their farmers. In China, Japan and Indonesia Rice has its own deity to whom offerings are made at sowing and harvesting times.

Rice has many winning points to its record. It is very nutritious because it is low in fat making it

easy to digest and provides lots of energy. It is a good source of fibre when processed. Some varieties (brown rice) is rich in phosphorous and helps to keep bones and teeth strong. As the staple food Rice has many legends and folktales about it in Asia. Here's one from Sri Lanka....

## The Story of Rice

Once there lived a man and a woman. They had three children.



After sometime the father died and the children took care of the mother.

The children found work with a neighbor who provided them with food, and the children brought some of their food for the mother.

The elder sister was big and brown, with black hair falling scraggy and rugged down her shoulders. She looked somewhat odd, walking crookedly with her

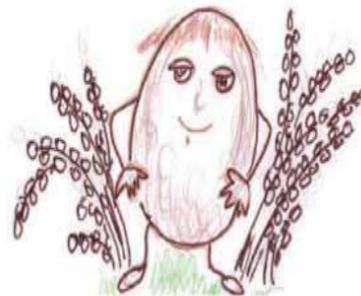
long legs. The elder brother was stiff and short and sticky all over as he licked his hands and wiped them all over himself after eating rice. The younger brother was the right size for his age, pleasant, bright-eyed and attractive. He squinted a caring look over his mother whenever they left for their neighbor's house.

One day, the elder brother and the elder sister having eaten their food came away empty handed, without thinking of the mother. The younger brother being more concerned about the mother thought, "We three have eaten good food, what about our mother? I will take some food for her," he said to himself. He placed a little quantity of cooked rice and a little vegetable curry under the corner of his finger nail and went back home.

The mother waited anxiously for the return of her children. She asked the elder daughter, "Where daughter is the cooked rice and vegetable curry for me?"

The elder daughter bluntly replied, "I ate all my food and couldn't be bothered carrying food for you everyday," she said, quite stiff and haughty as she was in her attitudes.

The mother sighed, and thought about it. Then she said, "



You will be the kind of rice big and brown and long-grained that will be cooked and eaten even in the nether-worlds." The elder daughter then instantly turned into the long-grained rice (Ma-Vi) the big and long variety of paddy said to



be cooked and eaten even in hell!!

The mother next called the elder son and asked, "Where son is cooked rice and vegetable curry for me?"

The elder son short and stout and sticky all over said, "Mother I haven't brought any, having eaten my food I am sticky and grimy all

over and couldn't carry any food for you, so I came empty handed," he said, and Plonk! he sat down on the floor.

The mother shook her head, thought about it, looked wryly at him and said, "Go fly away with the wind to the farthest ends of the earth, you will be the kind of rice, short-grained and puny and stout and some will turn you into sticky rice." She said. So the elder son flew away with the wind and was instantly turned into the short-grained rice.

Calling the younger son she asked, "Where son is food for me?"

The younger son then said, "Mother bring me a pot."

The woman quickly brought him a pot.

The younger son then splendidly stretched out his hand and stuck down his finger nail into the pot, and the pot got instantly filled up to the top and over flowed.

The mother was very happy and she ate all the food. She called the younger son and said, "My son you will be the kind of rice fine grained that will grow under the sun and the moon in luscious spreading fields of paddy where refreshing winds blow," and the younger son immediately turned into the very fine varieties of rice that when cooked is delicious to eat.

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Gods Own Children Canada Chapter

Mr. S. Sathananthan (Satha) Tel: (905) 495 - 2809 Email: ssatha@hotmail.com

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### The Ministry of Education has launched a Pilot Project for the Canadian Tamils to assess their homeland educational credentials through PLAR - Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition

Tamils who have moved to Canada, do not have to wait for too long to get the Canadian recognition for the educational credentials from their home country. The Ministry of education in Canada has launched a new Pilot Project called PLAR- Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for the Tamils in Toronto who are over 18 years of age with G.C.E.O/L or equivalent certificates, to give credits for Tamil language through TDSB/TCDSB by means of an interview and a written test with the assistance of COSTI Immigration services. This program will help Tamil Community to get the recognition within a short period of time and help them to go for higher education and find better jobs.

For additional information:-

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Improved heart treatment for the Northern Province residents by establishing a Cardiac Catheterization Unit at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital

### Project Requested by the Jaffna Hospital Development Association

Project launch Meeting

Friday July 11th 2008 at 6:30 PM

For invited guests & donors

Guest Speaker:

**Dr. S. Raviraj MBBS, MS**

Consultant Surgeon / Senior lecturer, Jaffna Teaching Hospital

Venue:

Sheraton Parkway Hotel @ HWY 7 & Leslie

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A project in collaboration with other diaspora Medical Organizations

CANADIAN MEDICAL DENTAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (CMDDA) presents

### Community Health Forum in Tamil

Date: Sunday, July 13, 2008

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Venue: Markham Civic Centre

(Council Chambers)

101 Town Centre Blvd.

Markham, ON L3R 9W3

(Hwy 7 & Town Centre Blvd.)

Topics:

Session I 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Consequences of Untreated Mental Illness

Vascular and Renal Protection

Why is Your Child Not Paying Attention in School  
Question Period and Break

Session II 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

CMDDA /MIFT Activities overview

Healthcare Status in Jaffna - Update

"Save a heart project campaign"

Question Period and Break

Session III 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Cancer Prevention / Treatment Overview

Dental Care Update

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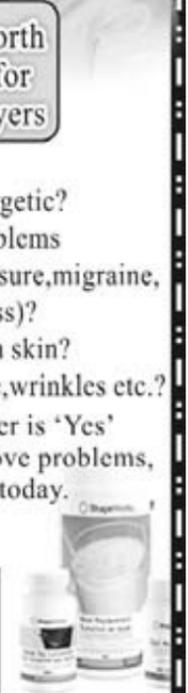
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# Monsoon Features

Continued from Page 41

Even today, with modern heating facilities, many immigrants, especially those from warm climates, remain in Canada only long enough to earn a substantial amount of money before returning to their country of origin to settle down. Although many such people really like it here, they find the winters too difficult to deal with.

Other skilled immigrants come to Canada for a couple of years, work hard and attain their primary goal: to become naturalized citizens of this country. Once they attain this status, they often leave for their country of origin and resume the lives they interrupted abroad, often, in the case of seniors, drawing Canadian pensions.

It should be noted that this type of immigrant is often deeply resented by the Canadian people. Many believe that those who come here only to attain naturalization and then leave are taking advantage of Canada's generosity. The 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah, in Lebanon, was an example of this. No fewer than 50,000 naturalized Canadian citizens of Lebanese origin who were living in Lebanon at the time petitioned the Government of Canada to bring them "home." Because Canada is duty-bound to protect its citizens abroad, and, specifically, bring them back from war zones, Canada was forced, at great expense to the taxpayer, to bring all these people to Canada by boat and by plane. Most of those "repatriated" hadn't set foot on these shores for years.

Let us now take a look at immigration throughout Canada's history. A high rate of immigration existed between 1896 and 1905 because the government offered free crown land to newcomers. At that time most of the land was either owned or claimed by the government while a portion of it lay in the hands of the First Nations' peoples. Land, of course, is the prime element in mining and agriculture. In order for economic growth to take place, there are four essential factors: land, capital, labour and entrepreneurship. Land, which, in both geographic and economic terms, technically includes a country's waters as well as its underground resources, is supernal. Although agriculture, like mining and the fishery, is based on "land," agri-

culture today accounts for just one quarter of Canada's economic output.

Fortunately, while today there is virtually no dispute regarding provincial boundaries (although this was not the case some years ago when conflict arose regarding the Quebec border and the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador), First Nations' land claims remain a cause of deep conflict among our Aboriginal peoples, mainstream Canadians and the Government of Canada, which is doing its utmost to settle these claims for once and for all.

It is interesting to note that although Canada is the second-largest country in terms of area (9,984,670 sq km) next to the countries that made up the former Soviet Union before it broke up (17, 075, 400 sq km), the land area that is suitable for settlement is relatively small. After valuable minerals such as crude oil, natural gas and diamonds were discovered in the Far North, the importance of those lands skyrocketed. Despite the tremendous growth in the Far North, 90% of the Canadian live within 320 km of our southern border with USA. In other words, most of us live within only 11% of Canada's total land mass.

In geographic terms, Canada is an ancient land. Carbon dating determines it to be approximately 3.8 billion years old. The first inhabitants appeared here almost 30,000 years ago. As is well known, the first European settlement was established almost 500 years ago. Canada was born as a nation 140 years ago, and Newfoundland joined as our tenth province 59 years ago. Recently a new territory, Nunavut, was carved out of the Northwest Territories, and now many First Nations' peoples, primarily the Inuit, are proud members of the Government of Nunavut.

Before Canada attained its independence, it was a British colony. This was determined during the 18th century, when General Wolfe's British troops defeated the French troops of General Montcalm on Quebec's Plains of Abraham. Canada was not born after a war of independence like a cesarean birth. It evolved as a nation over time.

During and after the First World War, many immigrants, most of them European, made their way here. During the years

1921 to 1931, Canada's population grew to over ten million. Mass construction was undertaken during this period, and this time was also marked by the reintegration into our society of those who had served overseas during the war. By 1971, Canada's population stood at 20 million.

In the 1950s a wave of immigrants came from certain European nations, as follows:

- a) The United Kingdom and France
- b) Southern European countries, including Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece
- c) Eastern Europe, including Poland, Ukraine, Romania, Hungary, Russia, Serbia, Kosovo, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia
- d) Scandinavian countries, including Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark
- e) Western European nations, including Germany, Switzerland and Luxembourg

In 1956 and 1957 Canada welcomed more than 37,500 Hungarian refugees as a result of the Hungarian Revolution. And, the Immigration Act of 1962 opened our doors to many groups who had not had a significant presence in Canada before that, including quite a number of people of colour. During this period Canada's need for greater numbers was recognized, and the demand for semi-skilled and skilled workers rose. The point system of immigration was introduced in 1967 and remains in force, with some variances, today.

In 1968 and 1969 another 11,000 refugees were accepted from the former Czechoslovakia. By then large numbers of Africans, Asians and Central and South Americans were also living here. Another wave of refugees arrived from South America. In 1972, during the brutal regime of Idi Amin, in Uganda, 6,175 Asian Ugandans were accepted here. Some of them held British passports. In addition, more than 6,000 Chilean refugees settled in Canada. The Indonesian and Vietnamese so-called "boat people," refugees from the conflicts in Southeast Asia, arrived in the 1970s. In 1979 and 1980 alone, more than 60,000 Vietnamese refugees were accepted. Beginning in the 1980s and continuing until today, many Sri Lankan and Somali refugees have found safe haven in Canada.

Canada's view of what consti-



tutes a quality immigrant has grown as society has evolved and matured. Canadian policy has had to dance with numerous national and international challenges. These included the abolition of the slave trade, discrimination against certain ethnic groups, efforts to maintain the identity of the mainstream, the Cold War between the former Soviet Union and the USA, human rights' violations and the philosophy of immigration, political concepts, cultural concerns, demographic patterns, population distribution, economic factors, and, in recent years, the exponential growth of global terrorism.

Added to all of the above are issues of national security, public opinion and rivalry between the so-called Two Solitudes-English and French Canada-and the balancing of humanitarian and economic needs. Regarding the French-English divide, this is becoming more and more of a non-issue as Canada is now made up of an additional significant population sector: those from other countries whose first language is other than English or French; these people and their children are known as allophones. And, finally, the Quebecois are now "maitres chez eux-masters in their own house." French is the official language of the province, and francophones control the National Assembly, the legislative house of the Province of Quebec.

Issues of ethnicity aside,

Canada has had to grow up as a nation and squarely face its mistakes of the past. Certain things that were once considered beneficial have turned out, in the wisdom of hindsight, to be wrong and shameful. What we consider today as having been barbaric, uncivilized or even genocidal was, at the time, regarded as benevolent. In those days, the worldview of mainstream Canadians and the Canadian government was not measured by today's yardstick. Nowadays our government is doing its utmost to reach out to those who suffered under the misguided policies of certain governments of the past, particularly with regard to First Nations' peoples and Asian Canadians.

These days, Canada is a mosaic of different cultures and different peoples working together to create a harmonious whole. Unlike the United States, we are not a melting pot where attempts are made to assimilate newcomers into the stew. Canada's multicultural policy ensures people's rights to remain proud members of their ethnic and cultural communities while becoming committed Canadians. And, without a doubt, all of us are the better and the richer for it.

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

# Kollywood Film Review



by Anand. J

## Dasavatharam

Dasavatharam, which was under production for almost two years, has finally hit the marquee and in style. Kamal and the marvel of technology rule this venture of Aascar Films directed by K S



Ravikumar who has packaged Kamal's dream with aplomb. Kamal Hassan's die-hard fans will love him in his 10 different avatars. But for many others, Dasavatharam will fall short of the huge expectation and hype it had generated. So what went wrong? It had absolutely no story to speak of, and the twists and turns were predictable. In the end, it turned out to be a routine film rendered more aggravating by its incessant near-miss plot structure. You desperately want to like the film for its maddeningly zany characters played out by Kamal Hassan. Alas! There's only so much life an actor can pump into a moribund script. It once again proves the old theory that, without a proper story and script, no film, however big the actors are, can succeed

One striking feature that hits you in the face once you have watched 'Dasavatharam' is Kamal Haasan's passion for filmmaking. All the ten roles he has essayed have been meticulously planned right from the body language to dialogue delivery. Be it the American president George Bush, the Vaishnavite priest of the 12th century or Fletcher, the American baddie. The eyes are considered the most effective tools in creating the right kind of attitude for any actor and Kamal Haasan is a master at that. There are many a time in the film when the audience would have to force themselves to believe that it is the same actor who is the good guy

as well as the bad guy.

It would be an uphill task in understanding Dasavatharam if one does not pay adequate attention to the opening stadium scene where Kamal as scientist Govinda Ramasamy, renders an acceptance speech for all the praise he receives. The ensuing 12th century sequences will not fall into place if one does not concentrate on this scene.

Kamal as Rangarajan Nambi, in a gravity-defying movement, flies from the bottom of the statue and thrashes the baddies who are involved in removing the Lord Ranganathar idol. Napoleon plays Kulothunga Chozhan who is an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva. He agrees to pardon Kamal if he just chants Om Nama Shivayah but the latter meets his watery grave by saying Om Namō Narayanaya along with the idol.

Sharpness of dialogues exchanged between Kamal's family and Napoleon in this scene is commendable and a testimony to the clashes between Saivism and



Vaishnavism that persisted in those earlier times. Napoleon, albeit in a small role, dazzles in his performance as the Saivite King. His arrogant countenance and 'mightier than thou' body language reiterate the experience of this veteran star in filmdom.

Cut to the present time again: Govinda Ramasamy (Kamal) is a scientist working in America, researching the components of biological warfare which are potent enough to wipe out the human race. The story that follows shows Kamal in a race to save mankind from the hands of his superior who purloins this dangerous chemical. His struggle begins in America and ends in Chennai on the 26th of December 2004 - during the Tsunami.

Out of the ten Kamals, the

first one who walks away with plaudits is Indian RAW agent Balram Naidu who is presented with little make up. His Telugu dialogues are enjoyable and remind us of the SPB of Guna. Next is Boovaraghan with his Nellai Tamil. His body language is exemplary. The Japanese kung fu exponent comes third in this avatar race with limited dialogues and moderate make-up. The remaining Kamals fail to make an impression

The theatre broke into raptures when the American Kamal



asks the Japanese Kamal if he remembers Hiroshima to which the Japanese Kamal counters with, 'Do you remember Pearl Harbor?' Dialogue writing in the movie needs to be singled out.

The filmmakers ought to have done a better job of the poorly conceived Mallika Sherawat song sequence. The lady has disappointed her fans. Asin has done her job as best as she could, given her hysterical character. M. S. Bhaskar tries to make us laugh. When it comes to action and stunt scenes, 'Dasavatharam' is head and shoulders above most Indian films.

Cinematographer Ravi Varman has worked in sync with the story line and his camera movements are commendable. He has used artificial lighting well, especially with the lengthy shots where more than two Kamals appear on screen. Himesh shines in the Kallai mattum kandal and Mukunda numbers, while Devi Sri Prasad has done a good job with re-recording.

The usual filmi gimmicks such as grandma-Kamal walking on the shoulders of people, and Bush-Kamal trying to act hip could have been avoided.

In short, with unexpected twists and turns missing in the



film, Dasavatharam is a make-up magic show that disappoints as drama and satisfies as a technical showpiece. Kamal Haasan has stuck to his favorite subject of the 'no God' debate in this film too and has glorified himself probably for the first time on screen with a

## Dasavatharam and Dasavatharam

Kamal Haasan played ten different roles in Dasavatharam. Interestingly in Hindu mythology, Dasavatharam signifies the ten avatars of Lord Vishnu.

An avid-fan of Kamal Haasan, has found an intriguing connection between the 10 avatars of Lord Narayana and the film Dasavatharam, published in The Chennai Newspaper NewsToday:

Lord Krishna: Kamal Haasan plays a dark-skinned Vincent Poovaraghavan, a Dalit, who fights for a cause. Lord Krishna is actually a dalit, he is dark-skinned (Shyamalan). He saved Draupadi when she was being insulted by Duryodhana.

Lord Krishna died after an arrow struck his lower leg. Vincent appears when Asin is about to be molested and saves her. Vincent is the Dalit diplomat, fights for land issue and dies when a metal rod strikes his leg.

Lord Balarama: Kamal Haasan essays the role of Lord Balarama Naidu, an official with RAW. As the name suggests and the role personifies, one can easily see the connection.

Lord Mathsya: Rangaraja Nambi is thrown into the sea along with the idol of Lord Narayana.

Lord Varaha: Kamal Haasan plays Krishnaveni Paatti and during the mukunda mukunda song, she depicts Varaha avatar through shadow puppetry.

The frame freezes on it for a second. there is the clue.

Lord Vamana: Kalifulla Khan, the tall Muslim youth, played by Kamal

dialogue directed at him as being the 'Ulaga Nayagan'. Atheist Kamal seems to be indirectly affirming the existence of God here. This is a movie that has highlighted a highly talented and passionate actor in his entire splendor. At the end of the film one tends to ask...has Kamal Haasan been so spectacular that he has overshadowed the script and story this time?

**WATCH DASAVADHARAM FOR KAMAL'S EFFORTS.**

[cine@monsoonjournal.com](mailto:cine@monsoonjournal.com)

Haasan reminds one of Vamana avatar. Lord Vishnu assumes a giant form in the avatar.

Lord Parasurama: Fletcher reminds one of Lord Parasurama, who goes on a killing spree, and slayed 21 generations of a particular kshatriya vamsa. Fletcher goes around with a gun killing everyone around.

Lord Narasimha: The Japanese martial artist Shingen Narahashi. Doesn't the name Shingen Narahashi sound similar to Singam Narasimha? The words singam (meaning lion in Tamil) and Narasimha (the avatar being symbolised). Lord Narasimha uses his hands to destroy Hiranyakashipu.

If we look for a connection, even martial arts exponents fight with bare hands.

Lord Rama: Avatar Singh. Lord Rama stands for the one man, one woman maxim, kind of symbolising true love. Here Avatar Singh portrays that spirit by saying that he loves his woman more than anything and wants to live for her.

Lord Kalki: Govindaraj Ramasamy, the main hero of the story which happens in the present Yuga. As everyone knows, the saviour in Kaliyug can be none other than the Kalki avatar.

Lord Koorma: Obviously George Bush. This is the most loose adaptation. But if one looks at the koorma avatar, the Lord is the turtle that helps in stirring the ksheera sagara and bringing out the amruth. This essentially creates war among the devas and asuras.

*Intha Punnagai Enna Vilai?*

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