

# Monsoon Journal

■ SURFCAST 1 ■ LINEUP 8 ■ JANUARY 2007  
A PARFAIT MEDIA PUBLICATION



to our readers and advertisers from  
**Monsoon Journal**

Thai Pongal Coverage on Page 3 by Kumar Punithavel

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It's all about Jobs & Careers

Page 41

GTA  
**JOBS**  
&  
CAREERS



Pages 35, 36  
& 37

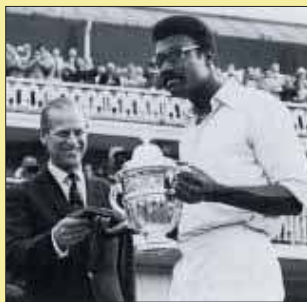


Pillaiyar idol is kept on roadside  
in Rambe- Kurunegala district  
[humanityashore.org]

"Love is the only force  
capable of transforming an  
enemy into friend" -  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
(Jan 15, 1929-Mar 4, 1968)

**World Cup of Cricket**  
Details on Page 40

**ENGLAND 1975**  
Clive Lloyd  
receives the  
trophy from the  
Duke of Edinburgh  
as the West Indies  
defeated Australia  
in the first World  
Cup.



On The Second Anniversary of the  
Indian Ocean Tsunami  
**Between the devil and  
the big blue sea**

By Tony Seed with  
late V. Dhuruvasangary

Exclusive for Monsoon Journal  
Pages 6, 7, 8 & 9



## Ontario government responding to needs of today's seniors

At events around the province over the past year, I have enjoyed meeting and talking with Ontario senior citizens. Again and again, I have found that today's seniors are reshaping what it means to be a senior.

By the year 2028, Ontario's seniors population is expected to more than double to 3.2 million. The McGuinty government is planning ahead and making investments to help meet the needs of seniors today and tomorrow. Looking back on 2006, we have made solid progress in preparing for the aging of the baby boomers.

By the year 2028, Ontario's seniors population is expected to more than double to 3.2 million. The McGuinty government is planning ahead and making investments to help meet the needs of seniors today and tomorrow. Looking back on 2006, we have made solid progress in preparing for the aging of the baby boomers.

Across the province there are many programs and services for seniors - so many, in fact, that finding what you need can be a bewildering experience. But this is changing with



[Hon. **Jim Bradley MPP** is Ontario's  
Minister Responsible for Seniors]

the arrival of SeniorsInfo.ca - a new website that takes advantage of the fact that seniors are the fastest-growing group of Internet users.

Continued on Page 13.....



Former Miss. World and Bollywood Heart-throb Aishwarya Rai and actor Abhishek, son of Veteran Actor Amitab Bachchan were greeted in Toronto during the World Premiere Event at the famous Elgin Theatre in Downtown Toronto on Thursday, Jan 11, 2007. This marks history for the moviemaker Mani Ratnam as his movie Guru was screened by a Canadian owned company.

Photo courtesy: mahiram.com

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**PONGAL** is an ancient festival of the Tamils living in South India and Sri Lanka. It is not known exactly when the Tamils began celebrating the festival, but some historians identify it with the Thai Niradal, believed to have been celebrated during the Sangam Age (200 B.C. to 300 A.D). Pongal, a traditional Tamilian food item that has found a place on the menu of Indian restaurants across the globe, is perhaps the only dish to have lent its name to a festival and got eternal fame!

As part of the festivities, maidens of the Sangam era observed penance (*Pavai nonbu*) during the Tamil month of *Margazhi* (December-January). Throughout the month, they avoided milk and milk products. They would not oil their hair and refrained from using harsh words while speaking.

On the day of Pongal, the women have their ceremonial baths early in the morning. The bath will be followed by worship of the image of Goddess Kalayani, which is carved out of sand. They end their penance on the first day of the month of Thai (January-February). This penance was performed in order to bring abundant rains and agricultural prosperity for the country.

Thai Niradal was a major festival during the reign of the Pallavas (4th to 8th Century A.D.). Andal's *Tiruppavai* and Manickavachakar's *Tiruvembavai* vividly describe the

festival. According to an inscription found in the Veeraraghava temple at Tiruvallur, the Chola king Kulottunga had made gift of lands to the temple especially for the Pongal celebrations.

Pongal or Thai Pongal is also called Makara Sankaranthi, since it is celebrated on the first day of Thai when the Sun enters the *Makara Rasi* (Capricornus). This signals the end of winter and the onset of spring throughout the Northern Hemisphere. For the next six months, the days are longer and warmer.

This period of six months is called as *Uttarayna Punyakalam* and is considered auspicious. Legend has it that the Devas wake up after a six-month long slumber during this period. So it is believed that those who die during *Uttarayana* attain salvation. In fact, Bheeshma in the Mahabaratha is believed to have waited for the dawn of *Uttarayana* before he gave up his life.

Pongal is a four-day affair. The Bhogi is celebrated on the last day of the month of *Margazhi*. On this day, people decorate their homes. New vessels are bought and old and unwanted things burnt. Of late, environmentalists have



pointed out that these bonfires pollute the atmosphere. And often, flights in and out of Chennai are delayed due to poor visibility because of the smog created by the bonfires.

Scholars have often compared Bhogi to the *Indra Vizha* celebrated by the Chola kings at Kaveripattinam, also known as Poompuhar. *Indra Vizha* was celebrated in honor of Lord Indra, also called Bhogi, the God of thunder and rain. It is believed that on this day, Lord Krishna lifted the Govardhan Mountain on his little finger to shelter his people and save them from being washed away by the rains and floods.

It is also compared to Bhogali Bihu, the harvest festival of Assam, celebrated in January. Assamese build thatched pavilions where they have grand feasts. The pavilions are burnt down the following day as part of the festivities.

The second day is Perum Pongal, the most important one. It is also called Suryan Pongal because people worship Surya, the Sun God and

his consorts, Chaya and Samgnya. Women decorate the central courtyard of their homes with beautiful kolams, done with rice flour and bordered with red clay. The kolam also bore sociological significance and even today is religiously performed as a threshold ceremony before dawn in traditional households. The idea of Kolam is that insects will feed on it, and bless the household for the food. The Tamilian sense of charity did not fail to remember the insects!

Traditional Kolam

Plantain leaves are placed on the kolam on which vegetables and other farm products such as sugarcane, turmeric bulbs and coconuts are arranged. The offerings (*padayals*) are usually five in number, one each for Ganesha, Surya, Indra, Agni and the sacred lamp. A tiny idol of Ganesha, made of turmeric paste, is also placed near these offerings.

The pongal dish is cooked exactly at the moment when the new month is born. Traditionally, it was cooked on a hearth specially built for the occasion. Of course, these days, the hearth has been replaced by the gas/electric stove in the west where Tamilian has migrated. The pot in which the food item is prepared is adorned with flowers, turmeric roots and leaves.

There are several legends associated with Perum Pongal. A sage named Hema is said to have prayed to Lord Vishnu on the banks of the Pottramarai tank in Kumbakonam. On Perum Pongal day, the lord is believed to have taken the form of Sarangapani and blessed the sage. Yet another legend has it that Lord Shiva performed a miracle on this auspicious day by causing a stone image of an elephant to eat a piece of sugarcane!

The third day is Mattu Pongal, celebrated to glorify the cattle that

help farmers in a myriad of ways. On this day, the cows are bathed and adorned with vermilion and garlands. In certain villages in southern Tamil Nadu, a bullfight called *manji-virattu* is held in the evening. Bags of coins are tied to the sharpened horns of ferocious bulls that are let loose in an open ground.

Manji-viratu

The young men of the village vie with each other to subdue the bull and grab the bags tied to the horns. In fact, in ancient Tamil literature, men had to subdue the bull in order to win the hand of a fair maiden and even Lord Krishna is believed to have defeated seven bulls before marrying Nappinnai. Unlike in Spanish bullfights, in *manji-virattu*, the bull is never killed.

Mattu Pongal has little significance to city folks. In most urban homes, the day is celebrated as Kannu Pongal. Special prayers are offered by women for the well-being of their brothers. The Tamils also remember their great poet Tiruvalluvar on this day and call it the Valluvar Thinam. On this day in honor of this great sage who was the law giver of the Tamilian race many seminars and debates are held in public forum.

The last day is Kaanum Pongal. During this part of the festival families used to gather on the riverbanks and have a sumptuous meal (*kootanchoru*). Even to this day when children get together and cook, it is called Kootanchoru! It is also time for traditional dances such as *kummi* and *kolattam etc.*

Kolattam Kummi

In recent years, this day has been celebrated as *Uzhavar Tirunal* meaning farmers day in honor of farmers who are the back bone of an agrarian society.

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Thai Pongal marks the beginning of a year of prosperity and plenty to the Tamil community. This is a harvest festival - the Tamil equivalent of Thanksgiving. It is held to honor the Sun, for a bountiful harvest. Families gather to rejoice and share their joy and their harvests with others. The Sun is offered a "Pongal" of rice and milk.

People look forward for the beginning of January to begin anything new in their life. The festival is traditionally a festival of the farmers who celebrate the success of their harvests and others thank them for the food provided by them. Today, the festival is looked upon as a national festival for Tamils all over the world.

On Thai Pongal Day, Hindu Temples conduct special Poojas and the Hindu community makes offerings to their deities. I take this occasion to wish all devotees of the Richmond Hill Ganesha Temple and members of the Tamil community a Happy and prosperous Thai Pongal and send them my greetings of behalf of the Hindu community.

**Sampath Voora**  
President  
Richmond Hill Ganesha Temple



I am pleased to send a message of best wishes and greetings to the Tamil community through the medium of "Monsoon Journal" on the occasion of the Thai pongal Festival.

Thai Pongal is essentially a festival looked upon by our community representing prosperity and goodwill throughout the year. Love and Peace are the central themes of the Festival. It is considered as a national festival for the Tamil community and celebrated all over the world by members of the Tamil community.

The Business sector and the Traders specially welcome this festival to start anything new in their business ventures. As the saying goes "Thai Piranthaal Vali Pirakkum" it marks the beginning of success in their endeavours. As an entrepreneur, and on behalf of the business community, I extend our best wishes to all in our community on this happy occasion

**Rajee Muthuraman**  
Entrepreneur and  
Partner, RJ Multi Litho Inc



January 14, 2007

Dear Friends:

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family Happy Pongal. As you gather together to honour the centuries-old traditions of this festival, may health and prosperity be yours in the coming year.

May Pongal bring a great and bountiful harvest to all.  
Sincerely,

**The Hon. Jim Karygiannis, M.P.**  
Scarborough-Agincourt



Thai Pongal Vaazhthu

Thai Pongal has been widely celebrated among Tamils since ancient times. It is in essence a thanks-giving ceremony to the Sun as it provides light and rain for the cultivators. After the harvesting season, people celebrate the Thai Pongal as a thanks-giving ceremony.

It is evident from Sangam classical literature, that in Tamil Nadu people decorated their houses and other common places and celebrated with great feast, dance, music, and games. This great tradition is continued even now among the Tamils around the world.

The Thai Pongal day was declared to be the day of the Tamil New year by the Tamil scholars of Tamil Nadu in 1971. In this auspicious day I wish the Tamils, specially in Sri Lanka a peaceful and prosperous life.

**Dr. E. Balasundaram**  
Former Professor  
University of Jaffna



**Monsoon Journal**

Printing the Winds of Change around us

*All lands home, all men kin.*

"Howe'er they roam, the world must follow still the plougher's team; Though toilsome, culture of the ground as noblest toil esteem." -

Thirukkural # 1031

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**From the Publisher's Desk .....****“What are you doing for others?”**

As 2006 fades away forever, New Year 'resolutions' are around looking forward to a better year ahead and wishing that many good things become reality in 2007. Pursuing the year afresh in prudent ways that will bring about positive changes for all is foremost in the minds of everyone.

The New Year also ushers us to the "Pongal" day in the following weeks, the Tamil equivalent of Thanksgiving. It is held to honor the Sun, for a bountiful harvest. *Thai* (January in Tamil calendar), the post-harvest month is also an important marriage season. The saying "Thai piranthal vazhi pirakkum" (with the coming of the thai – January- month a way will be open) says how the month of January illuminates the spirits.

This overflow of traditions inspires the promises of the December-January festive season and we work in earnest to ensure



that the times ahead are better.

*The Monsoon Journal* is joining millions of humanity in adding one more celebration at the dawn of the New Year.

January 15<sup>th</sup>, the birth anniversary of Civil Rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

King was born on 15 January 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. His father was a Baptist minister, his mother a school teacher.

Always interested in civil rights, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was heavily

influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's policy of non violence. Many historians say that the ideals of Dr. King's activism and organization came from Christianity, but the method of non violence from Gandhi. In 1957 King was active in the organization of the Southern Leadership Christian Conference (SCLC), formed to co-ordinate protests against discrimination. He advocated non-violent direct action based on the methods of Gandhi, who led protests against British rule in India culminating in India's independence in 1947.

One way of paying tribute to him is to savor and live by the words of Dr. King.

His "I have a dream" speech is the best known.

He raised the consciousness of humanity to love and serve the fellow human beings. "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" is his wisdom that we could take upon in the new year. A commitment to the betterment of the lives of everyone. At home – national or global in scope, Dr. King's words and methods – "Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it", will stand firm and prove right in the test of time and territory.

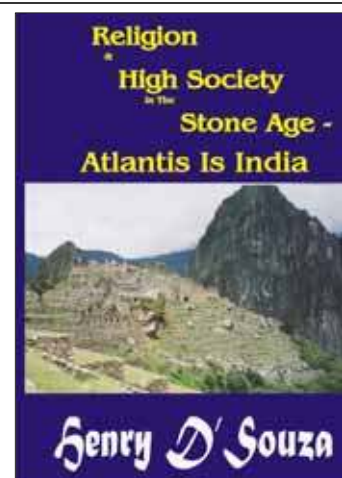
**Scotia Bank Seminar on Housing Loans on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2007**

Scotia Bank will be conducting a seminar on the subject of obtaining Housing Loans on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2007 at their Cedarbrae Branch located at 3475, Lawrence Avenue.

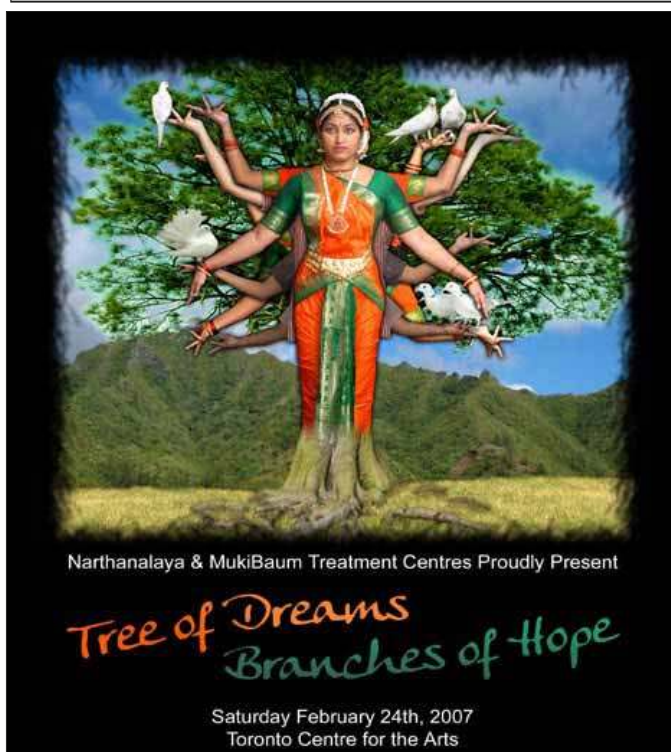
The theme for the seminar will center around how to obtain the loans and from where to obtain the loans. The seminar will be conducted in Tamil and admission will be free. A special feature will be a question and answer session. A panel of knowledgeable persons in related fields will answer the questions from the audience.

The presentation will be made by Mr. Perry Muthuraman - Senior Personal Banker, Scotia Bank. Other participants in the seminar will be Mr. Mike Connell - Branch Manager, Ms. Fatima Wakefield-Manager, Personal Banking, Mr. Raja Mahendran-Real Estate Broker and Mr. Gary Anandasangaree-Barrister and Solicitor.

Seating will be limited and those interested in attending the seminar should contact Mr. Perry Muthuraman of Scotia Bank at 416 439 3040-Ext.2008.



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**Coming in February Issue****Monsoon Journal proudly presents Our Black History Month Supplement for the information of our readers, their families**

The Origins of Racism by Prof Isaac Saney \* Timeline: 400 Years of A People's History \* Segregated Schools in Canada \* Racial Profiling in Toronto \* Discovering Zimbabwe \* The 200th anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in Britain \* Languages of the Caribbean \* Discrimination is racist and wrong no matter who does it by Dr Mohamed Elmasry \*

Illustrated with maps

In an exclusive partnership with Shunpiking Magazine of Halifax. The supplement is the initiative of Black Nova Scotian and Ontario historians, activists and artists, representing a unified response to the new awakening of interest in Canadian identity and providing the rights of all with a guarantee. The Supplement has achieved an international reputation. George Elliott Clarke, professor of world literature at the University of Toronto and recipient, Governor General's Award, says "It is perhaps the very best published in Canada and one of the best published in North America."



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YEAR 2006-FLASHBACK—YEAR 2006—FLASHBACK

Compiled by: Shiyam Loganathan



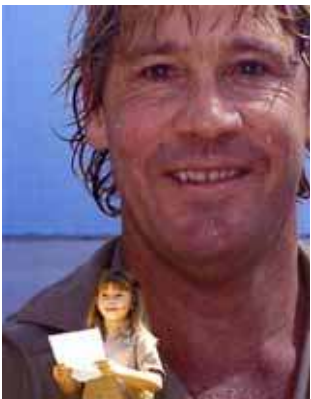
An Israeli ultranationalist protester jumps out of a window of a house slated for demolition as an Israeli police officer watches during clashes in the unauthorised West Bank outpost of Amona Feb 1, 2006.



Miami Heat center Shaquille O'Neal watches his shot against the Detroit Pistons during the second half in Game 1 of the NBA Eastern Conference Finals in Auburn Hills, Michigan May 23, 2006. Miami Heat beat the Dallas Mavericks for the NBA title.



Tiger Woods (R) of the U.S. celebrates winning the British Open Championship with his caddy Steve Williams of New Zealand at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake July 23, 2006.



Sept. 20, 2006: Bindi Irwin, daughter of environmentalist personality Steve Irwin, reads out a speech about her father at a memorial service at Australia Zoo in Beerwah, Australia.



A burning Danish flag held by a Palestinian in front of the Church of Nativity in the West Bank city of Bethlehem February 6, 2006. Fresh protests erupted across Asia and the Middle East over cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad, despite calls by world leaders for calm after Danish diplomatic missions were set ablaze in Lebanon & Syria.



A dead swan is recovered from the river Mur at a hydroelectric power plant in Mellach in Austria's southern province of Styria February 15, 2006. Two swans found dead on this very spot on February 12 were infected with the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus, an official at the government Agency for Health and Food Safety said.



U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair leave the East Room of the White House after speaking to reporters about Iraq in Washington May 25, 2006. British Prime Minister Tony Blair said on Thursday it was the duty of the entire international community, as well as Britain and the United States, to support the new Iraqi government.



Floyd Landis of the U.S celebrates his victory with his team mates as he takes his lap of honor around the Champs Elysees in Paris, July 23, 2006. Soon after he is caught for taking banned substances and his victory is disqualified.



Sept. 20, 2006: President Hugo Chavez holds Hegemony or Survival: America's Quest for Global Dominance by Noam Chomsky while addressing the 61st session of the U.N. General Assembly.



Aug. 13, 2006: Fidel Castro and Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez hold hands as Castro recuperates from surgery in Havana, Cuba.



A North Korean soldier guards an army installation on the banks of the Yalu River at the North Korean town of Sinuiju, opposite the Chinese border city of Dandong, October 10, 2006. With world leaders roundly condemning North Korea's announcement it had carried out a nuclear test, U.N. Security Council members weighed an arms embargo and financial sanctions on Pyongyang.



A man throws a trash bag holder as cars burn at the end of a student demonstration in Paris March 23, 2006. Rampaging French youths set fire to cars and looted shops in Paris on Thursday, marring protests against a youth jobs law, also known as the CPE, that Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, in a conciliatory move, agreed to discuss with unions.



Italy's Fabio Cannavaro lifts the World Cup Trophy after the World Cup 2006 final soccer match between Italy and France in Berlin July 9, 2006.



Israeli soldiers stand behind a mobile artillery piece firing from the Zaura area across the Lebanese frontier July 13, 2006.



TRO emergency relief workers transporting injured children to hospital after the SLAF bombing of an orphanage on August 14, 2006. The Sri Lanka Air Force bombing killed 61 schoolchildren and wounded more than 129. "The area is well known by all parties: the Government of Sri Lanka, the Government Agent, ICRC, UNICEF and all those who work in the Vanni," the organization said urging the international community to condemn the bombing.



Nov. 5, 2006: Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein yells at the court as he is found guilty of crimes against humanity and sentenced to die by hanging.



Nepali riot policemen beat pro-democracy activists after they were fired upon with tear gas for defying a curfew in Nepal's capital Kathmandu, April 22, 2006. Riot police clubbed and threw tear gas at tens of thousands of protesters as they shouted anti-monarch slogans while attempting to march towards the royal palace in protest of King Gyanendra.



July 14, 2006: Smoke rises from a bridge as it is targeted by an Israeli air raid, in the Zahrani region, Lebanon.



Andre Agassi of the U.S. blows a kiss to the crowd after his loss against Germany's Benjamin Becker at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, September 3 in his last match ever.



Tom Cruise holds his daughter Suri as he arrives with his fiancée Katie Holmes (L) to a restaurant in Rome November 16, 2006.



On The Second Anniversary of the Indian Ocean Tsunami

# Between the devil and the big blue sea

Canada's role in undermining Sri Lanka

By Tony Seed with Veerasingam Dhuruvasangary

The Tsunami caused by the Indian Ocean earthquake of 26 December 2004 was a natural disaster. Nature unleashed the violence and destruction of the sea, devastating the coasts and cannibalizing the land of Sri Lanka, India and other Asian and African nations with a monstrous wall of water. Three hundred thousand lives faded away in broad daylight as the world watched. The number of fishing boats at sea when it hit will never be known. Boats named by fishers after their gods crashed into their homes. The Tsunami was followed by the flooding, the fires, the ashes and the mud wherever one turned, the torrential rain of the 2005 North-East Monsoon – and war. As in all natural disasters, the victims were the poorest, their children victimized above all. This time there was something different.

Playing on the humanitarian sentiment of the people and their consciousness for the need for human solidarity, the lords of the earth, those who think to ordain human destiny, remained with faith seemingly unshaken – in their powerful naval-military forces, omnipotent media, and self-serving international humanitarian “aid” beyond borders which they presented to humanity as benign. For them, the Tsunami was a godsend from Buddha.

There is no innocence in the politics of humanitarian assistance,” Jayadeva Uyangoda, head of the department of political science at Colombo University, told Reuters.

Speaking of Washington's decision to send as many as 1,500 US Marines and an amphibious assault ship to Sri Lanka, Prof. Uyangoda said it was seen in New Delhi as not “merely humanitarian”.

“It is a symbolic intrusion into India's sphere of influence,” he added. (1)

The map of militarised aid shows it was executed with the precise aims of hegemony. Indian, American, Japanese and Australian forces descended on the strategic lanes and ports, from the Malacca Straits to the port of Trincomalee – one of the world's biggest natural harbours, that “controls” the sealanes of the Indian Ocean, the birthplace of maritime civilization, linking three continents. 60% of the world's energy resources emanate from the Persian Gulf and transit through so-called “choke points” at Hormuz, Bab el Mandab, Malacca and the Sunda Straits. Indonesia's Aceh Province astride the 800-km long Malacca Straits and Sri Lanka, long known as the “pearl of the Indian Ocean”, with four commercial sea ports, were at the centre of this manoeuvring.

Both Prime Minister Paul Martin and President George W. Bush made a big push for private aid to finance their relief effort. The media went into action, publicizing a \$10,000 private donation by Bush and showering tremendous accolades on a rich Toronto family for donating \$5-million to relief.

But their international charity and government aid became a broad promotion of militarism; an attack on the national



(Top) Photo of traditional fisherman on the southwest coast of Sri Lanka. More than 7,500 fishermen perished, and over 14,000 boats were lost. (Below) Scenes of devastation in Trincomalee town on the northeast coast

sovereignty of Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia, an attempt by the big powers to fish in troubled waters. Former Secretary of State Colin Powell declared that US relief to the tsunami-affected region would assist the war against terror and introduce “American values to the region.” NGOs clamoured against India, demanding access to the Andaman and Nicobar islands, with its sensitive military installations.

Faraway Canada had been deploying its navy to the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean since the anti-imperialist revolution of the Iranian people in 1979. It too participated in the militarization of aid with massive publicity over the sending of Canada's military Disaster Assistance Relief Team (DART) to Amparai on the southeast coast of Sri Lanka.

The Canadian media and the state CBC with Peter Mansbridge's broadcasts from the desolated beaches rhapsodized about Canada's “unprecedented humanitarian aid.” The media breathlessly depicted the “visit” of Mr Martin with “poignant” solitary moments with his wife on a beach staring out to sea. It generated confusion about the internal strife in Sri Lanka, creating a feeling amongst Canadians that Sri Lanka amongst others is a “failed state” that requires colonial aid and interference.

“Why did you let go of his hand?” one journalist pathologically asked a Lankan mother, whose child was swept out to sea, as if, incapable of love, she was to blame.

According to the disinformation about Sri Lanka, the sole issue was so-called “ethnic conflict” and to what extent the Tamil Rehabilitation Organization, associated with the Liberation Tigers of Eelam, is a “terrorist” organization to be or not to be recognized by Canada as a medium through which its disinterested aid would be distributed.

At Kalmunai in Amparai, Mr Martin's photo op included consoling Tsunami

victims, applauding hard-working members of the DART, and taking a drink of water from its water purification station. Clean water, the blue gold – a well spring of hope and affirmation of “Canadian values.”

Mr Martin and officials proclaimed as much magnanimously as for domestic consumption: “Aid would be distributed equitably.” Canada is, after all, also the home of the largest population in the Tamil diaspora.

But why Sri Lanka and not Thailand, Indonesia or India? No one asked.

By what “assessment” was the DART despatched to this hotly-contested Muslim area, a district of approximately 600,000 people mainly of Tamil origin on the southeast coast, where the battle lines were not yet clearly drawn? No one asked.

Nor, as anger replaced grief, did the media inform Canadians of the massive demonstrations staged by Muslims throughout Amparai against aid discrimination: “Only 27 tents for 15,000 families?” “Only 17 food packets for 1,500 families?” their placards asked.

Canada's role is benign. Think about this for a minute. We are to believe that Canada had just alighted on the god-forsaken isle as Lord Buddha or Vishnu on Adam's Peak.

From his vantage point in Kalmunai, perhaps Mr Martin was thinking more profane thoughts – of the 200 ships which sail by the beach each day between Europe and SE Asia, about 36,000 annually. Where would they berth and refuel?

Perhaps Mr Martin, whose family

Then prime minister Paul Martin shares a joke with Jacques Lamarre, president of SNC Lavalin

owns the 32-ocean-going Canada Shipping Lines, was meditating about whether or not he could pull the chestnuts out of the fire for his friends with SNC Lavalin International Inc. That's the multinational based in Montreal, the largest engineering corporation in Canada, one of the ten biggest corporations in Canada, and one of the largest engineering monopolies in the world, with offices in thirty countries including Sri Lanka.

Just over a year before, SNC Lavalin had submitted a “feasibility” study to the Sri Lanka Ports Authority financed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for building a brand new mega, international deep-water sea port in Hambantota – an initiative which can only be in the service of US geostrategic aims in the Indian Ocean.

By October 2000 the construction of the Hambantota Port was one of the chief election pledges of the UNF Government, “three times bigger than the Mahaweli Development project.” Hambantota is a remote base for the militarization of Sri Lanka: In August 2002 a team from the US Navy special forces, the SEALs, began annual combat training exercises in combat and sniper firing for SL Navy commandos there.

Now, in 2005, after a bitter struggle within the Lankan government, the port contract was suddenly going to China. Hambantota, no doubt by mere coincidence, is located just a few kilometres southwest of the site where Mr. Martin and his entourage drank from the well newly-purified by the DART.

The lords of the earth created the conditions for the extent of the ocean's violence and destruction. And some of those lords were from Canada.

Disasters, however severe, are generally localised. But what happened was a national catastrophe. After Indonesia, Sri Lanka was the second worst affected country. More than 35,000 people perished, around 120,000 houses, and 516,150 people displaced.

What we see is the failure of the nation-building project of the Anglo-American imperialists in Sri Lanka to solve the problems faced by the people, to enrich themselves at their benefit.

Indeed, thousands perished less as a result of a tidal wave than from the consequences of internal dispossession: forcible colonization plans organized from the highest levels of the Sri Lankan state in concert with Washington, Ottawa and Westminster; the transformation of fishing waters supplying food for the people into naval battle fields; the privatization of the tea and rubber estates; neo-liberal adjustment policies maximizing the economic burden borne by the poorest; of poorly, even criminally-constructed and -placed homes, schools and villages; environmental destruction of the coastal eco-system through unregulated exploitation and destruction of natural resources; a precarious dependence on the seafaring tourism industry's “informal” labour sector; and other factors. Many who might have been saved died in the rubble for want of the warnings dispatched by the US to its military base in Diego Garcia but not to Sri





USS Blue Ridge, command ship, US 7th Fleet, in Colombo in February 2005. 1,500 US marines and the navy deployed to southwest Sri Lanka. As part of Lanka's participation in the "war on terrorism", it had been strengthening military ties with the US to facilitate the growing US presence in the Middle East and Asia, especially to allow US warships and aircraft to use its vital port facilities for refuelling and other services.



(Left) Photo of demonstration in Kalmunai four days before the "visit" of Paul Martin. (Right) Thousands of Muslims staged a massive demonstration at Kalmunai on 17 August 2005 against the displacement of civilians from Muttur and the killing of 17 aid workers. Photo shows hundreds of three-wheeler drivers among others taking part in the protest.



Lanka, or from want of rescue equipment. The central issue is man's naked vulnerability to nature, caused by the Anglo-American lords and their servants who hold in their hands the power of life and death.

Canada's role in Sri Lanka, and its "humanitarian aid" program, is a case in point. The "aid" for hydro-electric development since the Colombo Plan, e.g., the Mahaweli Ganga project, the Gal Oya dam, the Allai-Kantali project, etc., played a major role in creating the conditions by which tens of thousands of dispossessed Tamils along the north-eastern and eastern coasts were herded into "refugee" camps in their own land sited within metres of the ocean's edge.

They were caught between the devil and the deep blue sea.

In April 1999 I visited the northeastern district of Trincomalee during the height of the civil war as part of a delegation from Nova Scotia's *shunpiking* magazine.

Throughout this region the poor and coastal fishermen live within thirty to one hundred metres of the edge of what was then an incredibly blue, warm and inviting ocean. At its edge, some 1,300 families – "internal refugees" – at the AllesGarden refugee camp north of Trinco, eked out an existence due to resettlement. In the rural village of Thambalakamam, we saw a roadside mass grave of defenceless Tamil youth, one just 12-years-old, murdered by SL Home Guards under the orders of the district SL Superintendent. I discovered that all these people and families had been forcibly relocated by the government and the military to this area as a direct consequence of the Kantalai river "irrigation" project financed by CIDA, which I will discuss below.

The Tsunami displaced another 60,280 families in the three eastern districts of Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Amparai.

Thousands of these families have been again displaced by the war. Now, two years later, 43,382 people are still in temporary shelters. In the northern Jaffna, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi districts, 16,433 families were displaced and 11,641 are still living in temporary camps.

As we left Trinco town we came across a snug, red brick building on College Street belonging to a Canadian NGO, which had a \$6.25 million, five-year CIDA grant "to help displaced persons in conflict-affected areas of Sri Lanka." Here is exemplified the double standards of Canadian "aid"; as in Palestine, the Canadian government participates in and defends the process of "displacing" a people by state terrorism, then provides "humanitarian aid" to the very same people "displaced" to the "refugee" camps.

Another example. While enroute to meet tea plantation workers in UpCountry Sri Lanka (the central, mountainous area), our driver stopped the car, asking us to get out. He pointed up the side of the terraced mountain to its mid-level, where some new construction was under way.

"There", he said, "are new homes being built by a Christian fundamentalist NGO from Canada. But here is the catch. To be eligible, you must join their church."

The Tamil workers reside in small row homes in villages – like company houses in feudal mining towns – rented from the plantations, many of them now owned by big Indian capital. The tea market is booming, yet the tea workers are paid less than \$1.50 a day.

"It is the old British policy all over again," he said: "divide and rule. These NGOs come with their 'aid' and 'charity' as a carrot to split our collective." Some 400 of these alleged non-governmental organizations that have no respect for the sovereignty of the people currently operate in Sri Lanka.

Why were tens of thousands of Tamils living in "refugee" camps metres from the ocean's edge? Why did these families "decide" to live 20 to 30 metres from the ocean? How did they get there? Who were they? Why are masses of equally poor peasants and fishermen of Sinhalese origin now occupying ancestral Tamil lands and villages?

The facile explanations are "poverty", "underdevelopment", "communalism", and "civil war."

Yet there is another, more ghostly, culprit: the enduring disaster of the dams of Sri Lanka, above all the Mahaweli Ganga Project financed, in part, by the World Bank, the

Asian Bank, and CIDA, and implemented through the politics of terror, provocation, assassination, destruction, and unjust war. This politics aimed to ensure that the peoples of Sri Lanka, be of Sinhala, Tamil or Muslim origin, could not solve a single problem in a peaceful manner on the basis of the rule of law.

The surface drainage of Sri Lanka is made up of about 103 "rivers", most of which are mere wet-season rivulets. Twelve major rivers account for about 75% of the mean annual river discharge of the country, with those that flow entirely through the Wet Zone (the highlands and the southwestern part of the country) carrying about half the total discharge. At one time rich in tropical forests, much of Sri Lanka's land has been degraded by the rapid deforestation resulting from the industrial plantation agriculture (estates) introduced by British in the 19th century. It has continued to date, placing a heavy burden on the poor, those most immediately affected by water-loss, soil erosion and fuel shortage. Today, only 28% of the total land area of Sri Lanka is forested. Decertification is spreading and becoming an acute problem. Today, there are more drought-prone areas and more flood-prone areas than there were in 1949 at the time of "independence".

The Mahaweli River or Ganga flows out of the Central Highlands in the wet zone in the southwest of the country through much of the dry zone, emptying into the Indian Ocean south of Trincomalee. Sri Lanka's largest (at 322 km) and most important river, it has also become the most important source of hydropower development of the Sri Lankan Government, and irrigation water for new settlements and agricultural development. The Mahaweli Water Development Authority involves a series of five dams built successively throughout the 1980s to the present day. At its peak the 5-dam scheme absorbed 6% of Sri Lanka's GDP, 17% of total public expenditure, and 44% of public investment expenditure. Funding was provided by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank – a US\$53-billion agency based in Manila and bankrolled partly by Canada – and bilateral aid agencies such as CIDA. A World Bank-commissioned report concludes, "once the initial investment boom faltered, the country was faced by renewed balance of payments and debt problems without having created the conditions for sustained growth." (2) But definite interests benefited, as we were to learn.

Such massive dam projects are, of course, not unique to Sri Lanka. India is a case in point.

In the same period, the 50+ years since that country's "independence", after Nehru's famous "Dams are the Temples of Modern India" speech, some 3,600 big dams have been built by India, the world's third-largest dam builder, with another 1,000 under construction. Collectively they displaced anywhere from 30 to 50 million people, some 60% of whom are Tribals (Adivasis) and Dalits (whereas Tribals are about 8% and Dalits are about 15% of the population). Yet today one-fifth of India's population – 200 million people – does not have safe drinking water and two-thirds – 600 million – lack basic sanitation. (3)

In the mid-1980s, CIDA's South Asia Branch thought so much of its investment that it produced a glossy report extolling Canada's contribution to the Mahaweli dam project.

Here is something interesting. The report's exotic cover featured two members of Sri Lanka's Sasana – prominent Sinhalese Buddhist monks in saffron robes, posed amid the ruins of Anuradhapura, the 12th century Sinhalese Buddhist kingdom excavated in tandem with the larger irrigation project, and now a UNESCO world heritage site.

The downfall of that ancient capital, according to these same Buddhist chauvinists raising the ethnic cry, was the culmination of centuries of imagined subjugation under invading Hindu Tamil kingdoms, and the archeological unearthing of Anuradhapura provided symbolic justification for Sinhalese territorial re-colonization of the region. Mahaweli dam-building was equated with modern nation-building embodying the glory of the Sinhalese race and civilization above all others. Apart from the historical reality that conquered peoples were not only permitted but

also encouraged to continue their own religions and cultures, this lie is designed to overwhelm the profound thought-material that gave rise to the ancient Sinhala and Tamil nation-building projects in the first place.

We visited this technological wonder where the water flows uphill through its ingeniously-designed, ancient arterial system, and discovered a truth carefully suppressed by the CIDA report. When the Canadian engineers were figuring out the best place to build the sluice for the Maduru Oya Reservoir, they uncovered, to their utter disbelief, the original sluice gate built by engineers of the fifth century. Under the reign of King Dhatu-sena, his engineers had chosen the same spot as the Canadians, 1550 years ago, to build the sluice gate. This original sluice gate had been built around 470 AD. Now, 1550 years later, and a vassal state, Sri Lanka was relying on imperialist capital and foreign expertise from Canada to do a much smaller-scale project. Such is its modern nation-building project.

The Mahaweli Project was a continuation of a number of smaller hydro-electric projects and a deliberate colonization scheme – the instrument of population engineering of the northern and eastern dry region of the island, an area with few rivers and dams, where the people relied on rare coastal rains and the monsoons to irrigate their land and grow crops. 60% of these coastal areas were inhabited by the historically indigenous Tamil people.

Sri Lanka was originally colonised by the Portuguese, Dutch and the British who took power in 1796 and attained control over the entire island in 1815. Through the Colebrook-Cameron reformation of 1 October 1833, the British colonialists divided the entire island into five provinces on the basis of the European nation state. In the Eurocentric concept, distinct nations and peoples with their own thought material do not exist, only "ethnic" groups; thus, while they set about strengthening its colonial state, the British set about splitting the people along sectarian lines and, by ignoring ancestral homeland, sowed the conditions for sectarian conflict; Sinhalese areas such as Anuradhapura were annexed to the Tamil capital Yaalpanam, now called Jaffna, of the Northern Province. Thampankadawai was a Tamil area but in 1873 it was taken away from the Eastern Province whose capital was Mattakalupu (anglicized Batticaloa [lit: shallow points in the sea/river] south of Trincomalee) and added to the newly-created North Central Province, largely carved out of the Eastern Province. All nine provinces were ruled from Colombo, a Sinhalese city.

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka was a nation state modelled on the outmoded 19th century European nation state. This is the origin of the problem. It also became very much a theocracy, whereby religious and sectarian considerations were institutionalized to divide the polity of the country on "ethnic" lines – as in Ireland, Canada, India and Palestine – within which the Sasana division of Buddhism was declared the state religion. Internally, Colombo started implementing new legislation on the basis of British colonial law to expropriate land, resettle the Sinhala population, and disenfranchise and dispossess the polity. In 1948 through the *Ceylon Citizenship Act No. 18* and the 1949 enactment of *Ceylon (Parliamentary Elections) Amendment Act No. 48* – an amendment to Britain's 1946 Orders in Council on franchise – one million UpCountry Tamils of Indian Origin, who had returned seven Members to Parliament at the general elections held in 1947 – were rendered both stateless and voteless by a stroke of the pen.

## Hydro-electric battering rams

My query over Canada's role was inadvertently answered by one of the island's esteemed realist painters on an UpCountry plantation. There, over dinner, seven thousand feet high in these acrylic-green mountains, he brought out the canvas of his first painting; incredibly, it was the back of a flour canvas sack from Canada. It had come to Sri Lanka, then known as Ceylon, as part of the Colombo Plan, an initiative long forgotten in Canada but remembered in South Asia.



After nominal independence from Britain in 1949, when Westminster was forced to give up its colonial domination of the South Asian continent, as more and more colonies became independent, and movements of liberation were developing, a race began among the world's developed capitalist countries to gain political and economic influence and domination in the newly emerging independent countries. The foundations of a neo-colonial order were being laid. In the name of "aid", foreign investments began to flow into South Asia.

The Colombo Plan was initiated in 1951 by Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand together with India, Pakistan and Ceylon. Taking its name from the capital of Ceylon where the founding meeting was held, it had a threefold aim: to block private investment from other capitalist countries; to impose neo-colonial institutions onto the oppressed nations of South Asia to facilitate the negation of the will of the people and their *right to be*; and to facilitate the theft of their resources and labour by international finance capital through these new states. Often called the Asian equivalent of the Marshall Plan, it was an instrument of political, economic and cultural imperialism. Through military power, occupation and agreements, the United States also entered the race for control over South Asia. By the end of the 1950s it managed to elbow out the Colombo Plan principals and leave them far behind in this race, with Britain and Canada eventually dropping out.

The elite of Sri Lanka put into place schemes financed under the Colombo Plan – through which, until 1958, all Canadian "aid" was directed – to reduce the land of the indigenous Tamil. Along with political gerrymandering on an ethnic basis, hydro-electric dams were its battering ram.

According to declassified federal cabinet documents, one of the exports of the government of Canada (paid for by taxpayer's dollars) to Colombo was flour; hence the painter's canvas. The flour was then resold by Colombo with a stipulation: revenues be used to purchase and import heavy equipment from Canadian multinationals.

A memorandum from Sydney Smith, the Secretary of State for External Affairs under the Diefenbaker government, to Cabinet, 27 November 1957, sets out the *modus operandi* of this "aid" as follows:

This was brought to Cabinet attention and Cabinet gave authority for provision of such flour on October 4. Under the terms of the Colombo Plan Vote, the funds resulting from the sale by Ceylon of this flour will have to be used for development projects. To this end, the Ceylonese Government has voluntarily undertaken to purchase two diesel locomotives worth \$370,000, one Cobalt beam therapy unit valued at \$50,000 and certain port equipment from Canada. \$100,000 of the funds to be generated by the sale of flour would be allocated to meet the local costs of building a technical institute to which Canada has already given support, and the balance would be spend on port equipment from the UK.

The beneficiaries of the "aid", the Canadian multinationals, were in the main British and American corporations based in Canada but owned by Anglo-American finance capital. The diesel locomotives cited in the Sydney Smith memo were manufactured by the US-owned MLW Worthington plant in Montreal. These agreements were integrated with other deals providing rails, railway ties, and railway box cars supplied by British-owned Hawker-Siddeley in Trenton and Sydney,

Nova Scotia. One such railway went from Colombo to Galle on the southwestern coast, famously crushed by the Tsunami. Similar "aid" packages were provided to Central American countries.

The sale of flour, along with an additional \$100,000, was to be invested in purchasing equipment for a new Technical Institute, which "when completed, "will be virtually an entirely Canadian project, and a monument to Canadian support for technical education in the Colombo Plan area .... about 40% of which will have to be spent offshore; **however, about 80% of the total equipment being provided will have come from Canadian suppliers.**" (*Emphasis added*)

How many times was monopoly capital skinning the ox? Through the export of heavy equipment guaranteed by the Canadian state. As a donor country lending capital to Sri Lanka finance their purchase. Through the subversion of the education system to promote reliance on Western expertise and technology and negate the thought material of the Lankan peoples – as the example of Anuradhapura aptly illustrates. Nearly 10,000 Sri Lankan professionals were trained abroad over the first 50 years of the Colombo Plan.

The "Mighty" Gal Oya dam

Sri Lanka's first neo-colonial project was the building of the multi-purpose reservoir "mighty" Gal Oya dam (1949-1952) across the Pattipola River (then renamed Gal Oya, a Sinhalese name) which "transformed" the Eastern province – fortuitously, the same district where the militarized DART team was deployed 55 years later in 2005 in the name of relief. Mr Martin's hosts undoubtedly flew him over the dam, enroute to Colombo.

Creating the largest water reservoir (tank) then built on the island, the Gal Oya Development Board spent a then-staggering US\$67.2 million dollars to build the infrastructure and expropriate the land. A Tamil Report records the method:

[The] Gal Oya scheme covered 120,000 acres and a total of 40 colonies were established each consisting of 150 families. A single family was given 3 acres of paddy land and 2 acres of highland with a dwelling house. In the first phase of the scheme 20,000 Sinhalese were settled in these colonies. Although 6 colonies were allocated to Tamils, they were driven out during the communal riots that broke out on June 5, 1956. Several Tamils were killed or maimed by marauding Sinhalese thugs. Those Tamils who returned to their homes were again attacked during the 1958 racial riots. Today the allotments in these 6 colonies are occupied by the Sinhalese.

Canadian "aid" was integral to the project. According to the cabinet documents, Canada was still providing continuous annual funding to the Gal Oya project in 1957:

\$200,000. This is the third stage in the provision of an electric power transmission system for the multi-purpose river development scheme in eastern Ceylon. Last year \$400,000 was made available to connect an irrigation system distribution station and other units with the existing lines. Further extensions of the transmission system are now proposed. **The work is under the immediate direction of a Canadian engineering company and Canadian supplies are used almost exclusively.** The additional sum here proposed would enable the distribution system in the Gal Oya Valley to be connected with the steam power plant at the paper mill at Valaichenai. (*Emphasis added*)



Although farmers were not initially displaced, marginally-integrated Tamils were subsequently driven out of their villages and Sinhalese brought to "resettle" the newly-irrigated land. It was claimed that these schemes were meant to provide lands to landless Sinhalese peasants in the south, but not a single UpCountry Tamil was given any land in the north and east at any time.

By 1963 a new state district called Amparai (beautiful rock), the sole district in Sri Lanka with a Muslim (Moor) majority, was carved out. The demographic change is evident from the following table:

**Tamil and Sinhala population in Amparai district**

Table is shown language basis (Amparai district was created in 1963)

	Tamil	Sinhala
1963	70.22%	29.34%
1971	69.47%	30.18%
1981	62.03%	37.64%

Out of a total area of 4,318 sq. kms, 3,391 sq. kms belonged to Sinhalese AGAs divisions. That represented 78% of the land area which had now become Sinhalese majority areas in the Amparai District alone.

The same Cabinet documents reveal that Canadian "aid" was increasingly tailored according to the precepts of U.S. imperialism, which was by this time dominating Canada. One such project involved an aerial photographic survey as well as (beginning in 1957-58) "a geophysical programme to investigate land and water resource." The data was deemed crucial for colonisation: "A good deal of Ceylon's development programme rests on the development of more accurate information as to land use and distribution of resources which can be most cheaply provided by aerial survey techniques." (4)

The Allai-Kantalai Project

In 1952 similar "development" plans were launched further north. One result: settling Sinhalese in the district of Trincomalee. The most noteworthy was the Allai-Kantalai (Kanthalai) Project. It was followed by the Morawewa scheme in the 1960s and the Mahadiulwewa colonisation in the early 1980s (European Union).

We visited this area too. What was once a barren landscape is now dotted with concrete houses and swaying paddy fields. Here a new village called Gamonopura had come into being. Enroute to the Kantalai area, just south of Trinco town, it houses 150 families in a three-square-mile area. Not one family is Tamil. The examples are endless. When we contacted officials from the ministry of land or the ministry of ethnic affairs and national integration, they could offer no explanation.

The facts remain: under the Allai-Kantalai scheme, some 13,000 acres were put under cultivation. Only five per cent of the new land was distributed among Tamils while 95% went to the Sinhalese community. It is estimated that about 40,000 of the present Sinhalese population of 86,000, about 46%, in the Trincomalee district came in as a result of the Kantalai colonization scheme.

Mahaweli Ganga Project

The granddaddy of all "aid" projects, however, is the above-mentioned Mahaweli Ganga Development Project. It displaced 60,000 Tamils and totally changed the demographic nature of a once-populous Tamil area.

Its outlines were originally sketched during the 1970s but it was shelved until the terrain was prepared by Colombo in the early 1980s for its implementation. These conditions were the successive state-organized pogroms carried out with unprecedented ferocity against Tamils in 1981 and 23 July 1983, events that shamed a nation.

In the 'Black Friday' riots of 1983 at least 600 Tamils were massacred by state-organized Sinhalese "mobs". State terrorism during the 1980s and 1990s became the preferred instrument to destabilish the people's political movement in Tamil Elaam, in the UpCountry and amongst the Sinhalese.

The US Regan administration, fearing the possibility of the loss of Subic Bay in the Philippines, once the largest American naval base in the Pacific (which finally occurred in 1992), desperately tried to lease Trincomalee for a naval base. Kfir jets and fighter planes and Dvorak attack boats from Israel started arriving to be used



against the Tamil population. And everybody knows who stands behind Israel. Those who enabled the Israeli interest section to be opened in the US embassy in Colombo in 1984. In turn, high officials also visited Israel's "security-based settlements" in the Palestinian territories occupied in the 1967 war by the Zionists.

Since 1983, according to the World Bank, 65,000 people have been killed and 800,000 internally displaced while another 700,000 have fled or left the country. Economists estimate that more than 600 billion rupees (about US 6 billion dollars) has been spent since then on internal military campaigns.

All available evidence shows that these pogroms, far from being inter-ethnic conflict, were carefully planned and executed acts with definite political objectives in mind. Instigated by US imperialism, Colombo aimed to wreck the political movement of the people and destroy any sense of people uniting as one to sort out problems. The negation of human rights, the inciting of sectarian tensions, the fake encounters, political assassinations, murders in police custody, the disappeared – all were political components to carry out the imperialist policy to "divide and rule", debase politics, criminalize dissent, and terrorize the masses.

It is within this objective historical context that the Mahaweli Ganga development – and Canadian "aid" – must be viewed.

In September 1983 Sinhalese colonialists were illegally settled in Mahaweli System B (Maduru Oya), despite objections by the Indian government. The almost total dispossession of Tamils from the Mahaweli area began.

"State-aided systematic colonization" included the Sri Lankan Army (SLA) simply expropriating entire rural communities in the name of "security." The settlement program in the Manil Aru region, north of Trinco, is an example. It involved expelling Tamils by force, while hiding the true extent of expulsions, forced evictions and even killings from any external observers.

In Trincomalee, numerical figures supplied by the divisional secretariat illustrate the devastation. The numbers are staggering.

In 1827 Tamils comprised 75.65% of the population in the Eastern province.

Forty years ago, Tamils constituted nearly 70% of the population.

According to the 1991 census, 65% of the 250,000-strong population in Trinco now belong to the Sinhalese and Muslim communities, while less than a third are Tamils.

According to survey records, in the Eastern Province as a whole, two-thirds of former Tamil land has passed into the hands of Sinhala capitalists. Whole communities have been made into internal refugees – "displaced" – and forced into UNHCR refugee camps euphemistically called "resettlement" areas.

“My role was that of an executor”

Writing in the *Sunday Times* on 26 August 1990 Herman Gunaratne, a Mahaweli Development Ministry official, spelled out the preconceived nature of the program:

All wars are fought for land ... The plan for settlement in Yan Oya and Malwathu Oya basins were worked out before the communal riots of 1983. Indeed the keenest minds in the Mahaweli, some of whom are holding top international positions, were the architects of this plan. My role was that of an executor.

We conceived and implemented a plan which we thought would secure the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka for a long time. We moved a large group of 45,000 land hungry (Sinhala) peasants into the Batticaloa and Polonnaruwa Districts of Maduru Oya delta. The second step was to make a similar number of people, opposed to Eelam, on the bank settlement in the Yan Oya basin. The third step was going to be a settlement of the Malwathu Oya.

The second step was to make a similar human settlement in the Yan Oya basin. The third step was going to be a settlement of a number of people, opposed to Eelam, on the banks of the Malwathu Oya.

By settling the (Sinhala) people in the Maduru Oya we were seeking to have in the Batticaloa zone a mass of persons opposed to a separate state...Yan Oya if settled by non-separatists (Sinhala people) would have increased the population by about another 50,000. It would completely secure Trincomalee from the rebels...

The "land hungry peasants" included "ex-convicts brought straight from prisons", comprising the majority of the 3,364 families colonizing Manul Aru between 1988 and 1989.

Another 35,000 persons comprising 5,925 families were also settled in the same scheme.

One military analyst commented that "the government's choice of military unit assigned to Manal Aru isn't accidental. The consistently high calibre of troops deployed in Manal Aru reflects the strategic premium Colombo places on the region." They included the elite 53 Division, established under the guidance of the US Special Forces and reportedly operating under the latter's tutelage, which has spearheaded all the army's major operations in the north-east over the past six years. Soldiers

An inadvertent confession

Papers authored by Canadian officials obtained by *shunpiking* magazine openly admit that Canadian "aid" directly contributed to the displacement and repression of the Tamil population by the Sri Lankan government. They reveal that Canadian officials were fully aware of the consequences of its "aid", as a constituent part of the strategy to undermine the society.

Joe William is an advisor attached to the Canadian High Commission and CIDA in Sri Lanka, and a founding member of the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka, and a member of the Peace Support Group – a local think tank set up to support the "peace process". In a 2002 paper he let the cat among the pigeons when he wrote:

The land colonization policy of successive Sri Lankan governments has caused much resentment. It has been Sinhalese policy to establish "colonies" of Sinhalese settlers (mostly farmers) in the eastern province especially, an area traditionally viewed by Tamil nationalists as theirs. **The role of foreign aid was instrumental in this, particularly through their support of the Mahaweli and Galoya irrigation schemes.** The government explained that these were to populate uninhabited areas and relieve overpopulation in more crowded areas of the island. Tamils say that the real objective is to dominate, and change, the ethnic demography of Tamil areas. Views differ over the importance religion has played in the conflict, and some say that historically there was not 'religious' conflict *per se*. (Emphasis added) (5)

Throughout the Trinco district, as of June 2004, some 4,000 persons from 650 displaced families languished in ten refugee camps and welfare centres. Many lie at the ocean's edge, one of which is AllesGarden,

north of Trinco town.

We visited it too, in 2000; most residents had lived there for more than a decade.

We saw 12 families housed in each 50-year-old-quantset hut, left over from the British occupation, and designed for four families. Inhabited by 1,665 persons of 437 displaced families, AllesGarden was established by the UNHCR in 1990 to house refugees returning from India; it is now administered by the SL authorities as a "welfare centre" for the internally displaced.

It was comprised of airy, fragile clustered quantset huts, about 30 metres from the shore of the Ocean. Those immediately facing the ocean side had woven fibre fences around the back. There was but one washing area, divided into two: one for males, the other for females.

Flooding in December 2002 and again in November 2004 guaranteed their devastation when the waters of the Indian Ocean rose above the level beach in 2006. Vulnerable from resettlement, many were swept out to sea. Thousands of these families have been displaced again by post-Tsunami repression and war.

Canada's role is the story of dams ushered in as god of neo-liberal and neo-colonial development where the people of Sri Lanka paid the bill many times over.

Canada's role is complicity with the politics of state terrorism to dam and block the people of Sri Lanka from solving their problems. It should be held accountable.

With its "aid", "democracy building", "conflict resolution" and promotion of the federal parliamentary state as the model for Sri Lanka, Canada attempts to give a veneer of "nation-building" and "promoting human rights" to its interventionist aims. Paul Martin and now Stephen Harper talk of Canada leading the way in providing "blueprints" for rebuilding countries like Haiti, Afghanistan, and even Palestine. Keeping in mind the Bush doctrine of imposing "freedom" on the world, this is the "aid" of outdated nation-wreckers and 19th century empire-builders. They, not the people, are also behind the sectarian violence of all kinds.

Only the valiant peoples of Sri Lanka can provide the vision on which their society can move forward and overcome the wounds caused by the old visions of the past. They have fertilized the soil, the mountains, and the sea with their blood for too long.

Tony Seed is editor and publisher of *Shunpiking*, Magazine ([www.shunpiking.com](http://www.shunpiking.com)) and the recipient of the 2006 National Media Award of Excellence from the Canadian Islamic Congress. Veerasingam Dhuruvasangary, an acclaimed scientist who worked with the SL Dept. of Agriculture in the early 1980s, passed away on 2 Dec 2006.

Endnotes

- 1. "Sri Lanka tsunami aid becomes geopolitical game", *Chattanya Kallang*, 3 January 2005.
- 2. "In the early 1980s CIDA provided funds to support and assist with all aspects of formation and development of the Water Management Societies" – "assistance" provided by such Canadian corporations as Acres International Ltd. of Oakville, ON, a rival of SNC-Lavalin, and recently convicted of bribing officials in Lesotho to secure a World Bank contract in a \$9512 billion mega project.
- 3. In the energy sector in India, where CIDA was to invest heavily over the next four decades, aid commenced with the construction of two small hydro projects: the Mayamohini in West Bengal and Bihar, which is still called the "Canada Dam" and the Untari in Assam. Amidst the promises of a bright future from hydroelectricity and irrigation, not a single assessment was made of how the dispossessed fared. The total cited is but an estimate: an statistic was kept.
- 4. "The American aid programme in Ceylon is in part now premised on the possibility that Canada will continue its aerial survey programme: the Americans elaborating the details of development programmes for the Walana Ganga and the Mahaweli Ganga basins on the assumption that certain detailed information will be made available by a Canadian survey programme. It is estimated that at current prices about \$750,000 would be required to complete the Canadian operation of the programme. It is suggested that \$640,000 might be set aside this year and the balance next year."
- 5. With Nick Lover, "Sri Lanka: Finding a Negotiated End to Twenty-Five Years of Violence," published in *Searching for Peace in Central and South Asia* (2003).



Tamil and Sinhalese fishermen demonstrate against aid exploitation in Trincomalee

For the Sri Lankan state, the Tsunami was a godsend from Buddha, enabling it to declare a "safety zone" to consolidate the decimation of the coastal communities. It had been planning for some time to clear the foreshore for political, strategic and economic-commercial purposes, including tourist resorts, the monopolization of the artisanal fisheries, and colonization of the Tamil coastline.

In the name of "nation building", President Chandrika banned on 30 December 2004 the building of houses within 100m of the sea for the South and West coasts and 200m for the North and East coasts. The state then promised to resettle survivors in "model towns" away from the coast if they would go along peacefully. The SLA was the means of enforcing this 'aid', being put in charge of "relief" on 3 January 2005: the next day the government secretly promulgated emergency regulations in 14 of the island's 25 districts. The SLA moved to occupy AllesGarden and other Tamil centres. The measures included broad powers for the police and army to suppress political opposition, having nothing to do with the post-tsunami situation. They had been in force since 4 January, but were only made public on 25 January.

In an official message in December 2006, President Rajapakse piously called for "unity among the diverse community in order to face the challenges and build a safer nation", proclaiming December 26 as Sri Lanka's "National Safety Day".

In the 2005 election, Rajapakse promised to solve severe housing shortages created by the tsunami "within six months." He also pledged to create a permanent peace, despite signing an election agreement with the JVP that included a more aggressive stance against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Two years later, the Institute of Policy Studies reports only 18 of the schools that were destroyed have been rebuilt. Only 38 of the 255 partially-damaged schools have been repaired. About 30% of the children of a people that has revered education have no schools. An education official told the *Daily Mirror* recently that the rebuilding of 25 schools in Jaffna and Mullaitivu and 13 schools in Trincomalee has been put on hold due to the "security situation." Reconstruction and repair had only been completed on 33 medical clinics and hospitals. Work on 69 more was still in progress, but had not even started on the remaining 189.

A study by economist Muttukrishna Sarvananthan reveals that over the past two years, the level of poverty among tsunami survivors in the North, East and South has increased from 64% to 80%. The government has ended its limited financial assistance to survivors, claiming they now have employment. But the study shows that the jobless level among the victims has increased from 37% to 54%. The top 10% of the population receives 39% of the national income while the bottom 10% receives only 1.1%. More than 40% of people live below the poverty line, on incomes of \$1 a day.

For the Sri Lankan state, labour, land, shorefront, and ports are bargaining chips in an intensifying rivalry of the big powers. Having so destabilized the country, all the main foreign actors now operate freely within it through their agencies. The ruling elite, regardless of religion, nationality or faction, have long given up any illusions about independent development. A neocolonial state is sinking deeper into crisis; to save itself it turns against the peaceful solution of politics. Since 2005 Colombo has boosted the military budget by 45%. There is no clearer indictment.



# Vaharai displaced unsure what future holds

By Dushiyanthini Kanagasabapathipillai

Civilians in Vaharai are displaced in several refugee camps in Batticaloa district due to the escalating violence recently. There are 2,304 persons- 713 families are living in Vinayagapuram refugee camp in Valaichchenai. Among them are 1,096 males and 1,208 females living here.

Most of them are fishing folks from Vaharai. They were affected by the Boxing Day Tsunami in 2004, and are still in the midst of rebuilding their lives, and livelihoods



“I am eight month pregnant. I am expecting my first baby. I do not know where I am going to deliver my baby. Although I am excited to be pregnant, but I do not know what the future holds for me” says Thaventhini Thavendran (21) of Vaharai



People were unable to bring all their belongings with them from Vaharai



“I am a fisherman. I was affected by Tsunami in 2004. I lost my fishing boat, fishing net and house. I am displaced again from my house. I don't have any income to take care of my family” says Ramasamy Gunasekaram (42) from Ooriyankattu



Pavalarani Arumugam (50) makes Rotty for lunch for her family under a makeshift shelter in a refugee camp



Civilians have fled from vaharai in thousands, and reached Batticaloa town by foot or by boat.



“I had to cross Thattimunai river by foot.It took one hour for me to cross the river in heavy rain. The water level of the river was up to to my neck.Thereafter I have walked through the jungle for almost two days.As the journey was difficult I left all my belongings. I did not bring anything, except the cloth I wore” says Thangammah Thambipillai (50) of Puliyankandal



Children at Vinayagapuram refugee camp in Valaichchenai-Batticaloa district



Men say that, they don't have any income due to displacement



Women say that, there is no privacy in the refugee camp as they are sharing the space with a lot of people

Internally Displaced Persons are taking a rest under Margosa trees in Vinayagapuram



[humanityashore.org]

## Recovering From Tragedy, Lessons of Tsunami Reconstruction After Two Years

By Bill Clinton  
Washington Post



President Clinton in Polwathumodera, Sri Lanka in February 2005 where USAID launched a program called “Cash for work”:

Second, we should pursue recovery practices that promote equity and help break patterns of underdevelopment. In the Cuddalore District of India, for example, officials have worked with nongovernmental organizations to expand their post-tsunami housing program to include new homes for Dalits and members of other disadvantaged communities. Many of these people did not lose assets in the tsunami but had been living in substandard conditions. Authorities in Aceh are considering similar solutions for former squatters and renters who did not own the housing they lost in the tsunami. Such efforts should be strongly encouraged.

Third, we must recognize that peace is critical to any recovery process. In Aceh, long-conflicted groups put aside entrenched differences and created an environment conducive to reconstruction. Tragically, the tsunami has not had a similar impact on reconciliation in Sri Lanka, where the recovery will be continue to be hampered until the parties resume a serious dialogue and reestablish the cease-fire. I hope they will choose to work for peace; all of Sri Lanka, especially the tsunami victims, will continue to suffer until they do.

Finally, we must do more to harness the talents of local entrepreneurs and established businesses, domestic and foreign, in relaunching economies. Corporations in the United States and around the world contributed generously to the tsunami response, but we need to do more to turn philanthropists into investors, and providers of access to new markets.

Two years ago, millions around the world responded generously to a tragedy of historic proportions. The challenge that remains is to sustain the recovery effort, use the lessons we are learning to continually improve our response, and apply those lessons to mitigate and respond to future disasters. This will be the most fitting way to honor the memory of the hundreds of thousands who died in the tsunami and to support the millions who survived and are rebuilding their lives.

[clintonfoundation.org]

December 26, 2006, Today marks two years since the 2004 tsunami unleashed untold suffering and devastation upon Indian Ocean coastal communities. The tragic toll still resonates: more than 200,000 dead; 2 million people displaced; 370,000 homes destroyed or damaged; some 5,000 miles of coastline devastated; and 2,000 miles of roads ruined.

The tsunami was also unprecedented in the magnitude of the response by donors, the affected governments and their everyday citizens. The homeless received shelter, the hungry were fed, disease was prevented and substantial recovery has been achieved over the past 22 months. Nearly 150,000 homes have been rebuilt or repaired and 80,000 more are being reconstructed. More than 1,600 schools and health centers have been rebuilt or are under construction, tourists are returning to the region in large numbers, and economic growth rates have improved substantially.

At the same time, the tasks ahead are significant in scope and cost. Some 200,000 homes must still be rebuilt or repaired, and in Aceh in particular the challenges of rehabilitating infrastructure and promoting economic development remain daunting. In light of the work to be done, it is encouraging that so many donors have sustained their focus, thus far translating some \$13 billion in pledges into roughly \$11 billion in firm commitments to critical projects.

I have just completed my third and final trip to the affected region as the U.N. secretary general's special envoy for tsunami recovery. In India, Thailand and Indonesia, I saw once again the resilience of the human spirit and the determination to build a better tomorrow.

At year's end, the mandate entrusted to me by the secretary general will conclude and my responsibilities will be transferred to the United Nations, the World Bank and other established institutions. As this important work continues, I believe four key lessons learned from the tsunami reconstruction effort will contribute to further and faster progress, as well as to dealing with future natural disasters.

First, we must get better at managing risk. Climate change and patterns of human behavior ensure that more devastating natural disasters will occur in the future. The good news is that officials in the countries affected by the tsunami have made progress on a regional early-warning system, natural disaster prevention legislation, training of rapid-response personnel and public education. However, funding for prevention is much harder to come by than funding for relief after a disaster. Donors and governments of at-risk nations must invest much more money to ensure that early-warning systems reach coastal communities, that safe building codes are developed and enforced, and that evacuations are practiced.



# Report on “Vaharai” by UNHCR

20,000 displaced face tough time after fleeing fighting in eastern Sri Lanka  
By Clare Graham

More than 20,000 people have fled fighting and harsh conditions in the eastern Sri Lankan coastal strip of Vaharai in the past three weeks, but despite reaching relative safety they still face many problems and an uncertain future.

"Everyone we have spoken to has said their route out of Vaharai was extremely difficult," said Yoko Akasaka, head of the UNHCR field office in the town of Batticaloa. Press reports have cited people crossing frontlines, fording swollen rivers and braving crossfire to escape the rebel-controlled area.

"But there are still many struggles ahead," Akasaka noted. "Sites are hosting people at twice their actual capacity, the district is facing a potential food shortage and many families have been separated in flight or during transport to emergency sites."

Most of the displaced were put up in schools when they arrived in government-controlled Batticaloa district, which lies to the south of Vaharai. But the new term has begun and the pressure to vacate public buildings is increasing.

UNHCR and partner agencies are preparing nearly 30 longer-term sites to accommodate up to 5,000 families and the process of

moving people to the new government-proposed sites should be completed by the end of the month.

But this will only partially solve the problem. "Even if all the sites proposed so far are suitable, they will provide less than two thirds of the space we need," Akasaka said. "People tell us many more will be arriving. We are concerned about the condition of some 15,000 civilians remaining in Vaharai, who have endured months of fighting and limited humanitarian access."

UNHCR continues to receive reports of people escaping from the Vaharai region via jungle paths or along coastal routes. Most bring few belongings and nobody is carrying food – two months of heavy fighting has prevented vital supplies from entering Vaharai.

UNHCR and other agencies are able to address some basic immediate needs, including clothing, bedding and cooking utensils. The refugee agency has distributed more than 8,000 sarongs and saris as well as basic household kits – comprising mosquito net, bed sheet and mats, pots, pans, towels and soap – to more than 90 percent of the displaced.

"The humanitarian community

can give basic relief, can help people find their families again, but there are bigger questions that also need to be addressed: the trauma people have gone through, the livelihoods and property they have left behind, and their fears for the future," Akasaka said.

"Many people first fled to Vaharai because of violence elsewhere and they are worried about whether it will be safe to go back. They simply don't know where they will be safe. Even here, there are reports of abductions from displacement sites."

UNHCR has offered the authorities assistance in organising so-called "go and see" visits so community leaders and other volunteers can visit their former homes, many further north of Vaharai in Trincomalee district, and decide whether return would be safe and sustainable.

As fighting continues to erupt across Sri Lanka's north and east, the future is uncertain for Vaharai's internally displaced people (IDP) – just as it is for most of Sri Lanka's 465,000 IDPs, including some 216,000 people forced from their homes by last year's violence. [UNHCR.org]

## Tharoor spoiled my UN chances: Dhanapala

Jayantha Dhanapala, the Sri Lankan candidate who withdrew from the contest for the post of UN Secretary-General after finishing near the bottom in straw polls, has said that India's fielding of Shashi Tharoor acted as "spoiler" to his chances.

"The fact that they (Indians) waited until quite late in the process to announce Tharoor's candidature was unfortunate and it was certainly seen as spoiler to my own candidature," he told Lanka Monthly Digest (LMD) in an interview.

Replying to a question, he said Sri Lanka received considerable adverse international publicity at the time because of ongoing conflict with the Tami Tigers.

It was "disproportionate and not commensurate" with the situation in other parts of the world, he said.

"There was, for example, continuing haemorrhaging in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kashmir and other parts of India experiencing Naxalite movements," he claimed.

"Sri Lanka, sadly, continues to attract a lot of publicity and I think that also was a negative factor," he added.

But he also admitted that Western countries did not "appear" to have voted for him and gave his posture on nuclear disarmament as the reason for their decision.

"I have adopted a very honest position on nuclear disarmament and I have no regrets whatsoever, on that.

The countries that voted to discourage me came from NATO and they must have feared I would take an activist position on nuclear disarmament, had I become Secretary-General.

They didn't realise that, as Secretary-General, I would have had to divorce my personal views from those of the UN," he said.

Another reason he gave for his defeat was that lack of Sri

Lanka's economic muscle where the South Koreans scored.

"It was always rumoured that Shashi Tharoor had harboured the ambition and intention of running for the post. I believe that was one of the factors preventing the Indians from endorsing me.

It could have been awkward if Tharoor had sought the sponsorship of another country," he said.

"Many countries had asked us directly, at an early stage, what India's attitude was to my candidature. We were unable to produce the endorsement that the Thais had from ASEAN in respect of their candidate.

If we had a South Asian consensus on my candidature, or on anyone else's candidature, I think that would have helped the region.

South-East Asia had already been represented in this post through what was then Burma and it would have been logical for us to claim that it was South Asia's turn," he added.

But he rejected the suggestions that his age was a factor in his defeat, describing it as a "red herring," and cited the case of Boutros Boutros Ghali who had assumed the office when he was older than him.

"As far as the Western group was concerned, it could also be that Sri Lanka is not a big investor internationally or a huge market for products.

In this globalised world - in the same way that China was influenced to acquiesce vis-à-vis a Korean candidate - many Western candidates were more enticed by economic benefits than by the individual merits of a candidate.

Nor did they consider his potential to lift the UN from its present state of ineffectiveness and the bad reputation it has acquired," he added.

## Vaharai IDPs pray for permanent peace, want to return to their homes

By Dushiyanthini Kanagasabapathipillai

Civilians from Vaharai have displaced due to escalating violence, and sought refuge in schools in Batticaloa district. There are 735 persons-205 families are living in Zahira College welfare camp in Thiruchenthur -Batticaloa district. Among them are 417 males, and 318 females living here. The Internally Displaced Persons



The internally displaced persons complain that, there is no privacy for them in the welfare camps



Packiyarajah Pushparajah (27) got injured on his foot, while walking through shrub in the jungle



"Women are faced with numerous short comings in the welfare camps. Especially our sanitary needs are not completely met" says Parameswary Sellathurai (40) of Kilivetti, who is in a welfare camp in Thiruchenthur



"I dropped my son to attend a tuition class. And I went to my sister's house, I heard shelling noise on the way. I immediately returned to pick up my son, but I found my son was injured. He died on the way to the hospital" says Rajendran (45)



They share the space with a lot internally displaced persons



Arumaithurai Santhirasekaram

"I lost my wife in 1987 due to war. I do not have anybody to look after me. I feel lonely, and left alone" says

## Vaharai IDPs pray.....



"I used to work as a fisherman in Vaharai. Now I neither have any work nor income. I have to find a job soon to take care of my family" says Anthonipillai Gnanasekeran (30)

[Humanityashore.org]



The internally displaced persons stay outside during the day time, because it's hot. And it rains in the nights



The Internally Displaced Persons say that, their children are not attending school due to displacement



Women say that, they have to find job to support their families

[Humanityashore.org]



# Indian Foreign Minister asks Lanka to rehabilitate war refugees

Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Jan 9<sup>th</sup> asked Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa to see that the Armed Forces did not inflict casualties on civilians and take quick steps to rehabilitate civilians displaced by the war.

Speaking to Indian newsmen after a one-to-one meeting with President Rajapaksa, and discussions with Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wikramanayake and Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera, Mukherjee said that war was no way of settling the ethnic conflict and urged them to re-start the process of negotiations.

In Colombo primarily to invite President Rajapaksa to

participate in the summit of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to be held in New Delhi in early April, Mukherjee spoke about the impact of civilian casualties and civilian displacement on Tamil Nadu and India.

He explained to the Sri Lankan side that New Delhi's concern did not stem from the compulsions of coalition politics (meaning undue pressure from the DMK which is also ruling Tamil Nadu), but from a genuine humanitarian standpoint.

The concern was all-India, cutting across political divisions, he stressed.

Over 250,000 civilians, mostly Tamils, had been displaced and

3,500 killed in 2006 alone. 15,000 had fled to India by boat.

Mukherjee raised the issue of constitutional reform and said that this should be settled through negotiations.

The Sri Lankan side told him that within two months, a comprehensive political package would be worked out after hearing from all political parties.

On the de-merger of the northeast, Mukherjee was aware that it had to be done because of a Supreme Court ruling declaring the merger as unlawful. He said that it was for the Sri Lankan government to take steps to take up the issue legally. [hindustantimes.com]

# First shipment of Indian food arrives in Jaffna

JAFFNA: A vessel carrying essential food items from India arrived in Point Pedro port yesterday. This is the first stage of the programme to solve the shortage of food and other essential items in the Jaffna peninsula.

The shipment includes sugar, lentils, dry chillies, jaggery

and spices which will be distributed in the peninsula through multipurpose co-operative societies.

This arrangement has been made following a visit by a Government delegation to India. Food items are directly purchased from India and transported to Jaffna.

# Canada to Extend Off-Campus Work Program to More International Students

Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration has announced that Canada's Government will begin discussions with interested provinces and territories to expand the Off-Campus Work Permit program to include private institutions on a pilot basis.

As a result of the pilot, foreign students studying at approximately 75 additional institutions could be eligible to apply for off-campus work permits. The program, which allows international students at post-secondary institutions to work off-campus, is currently available only to students at publicly funded universities and colleges.

To ensure appropriate controls, the pilot project will apply only to programs and institutions

recognized or authorized by the provinces and territories to confer degrees. Provinces and territories interested in participating in the pilot project will need to negotiate memoranda of understanding with the private schools in their jurisdiction and monitor the implementation of the program.

After a series of successful provincial pilot projects at public institutions, the ministry launched the Off-Campus Work Permit program nationally on April 27, 2006. Over 8,300 international students have already benefited from the initiative. Prior to the introduction of this program, these students were restricted to holding jobs on the campus of the educational institution at which they were studying.

# Narthanalaya & MukiBaum Treatment Centres Proudly Present Tree of Dreams, Branches of Hope

**Saturday,  
February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
6:00 pm –8:30 pm  
Toronto Centre for the Arts, Main Stage,  
5040 Yonge St.  
Tickets: \$30.00, \$50.00 and \$100.00  
www.ticketmaster.ca  
416-872-1111  
Toronto Centre for the Arts Box Office**

Srimathi Geetha Yogendran, Founder and guru of Narthanalaya, the Canadian Centre for South Asian Dances, is delighted to be partnered with MukiBaum Treatment Centres, for children and adults with complex disabilities, to host a magical theatrical dance production fundraiser on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Tickets are available at: www.ticketmaster.ca, by calling 416 872 1111 or through the Toronto Centre for the Arts Box Office at 5040 Yonge Street.

Written, choreographed and performed by Narthanalaya, exclusively for MukiBaum, Tree of Dreams, Branches of Hope is a dance which follows the trials and tribulations of two twins whose lives are characterized by the typical stages of life. It illustrates the hopes and dreams of the twins, who suffer hardships of separation as they reach adolescence. It is not until adulthood that the twins' paths cross again, when the actions composing their individual lives lead them home to each other.

Dr. Nehama Baum, Founder and Executive Director of MukiBaum Treatment Centres explains, "Whether wheelchair bound or developmentally limited, people with disabilities, when given the opportunity, respond to music and rhythm

in the universal way of communicating their being via dance and movement." All of the proceeds from Tree of Dreams, Branches of Hope will go towards MukiBaum establishing a permanent dance program. Dance provides individuals with complex disabilities with a vehicle, through which they can express their emotions, create awareness of their bodies in space and learn to relate to themselves and the world around them. One of the people served a MukiBaum was recently interviewed about the importance of having the chance to participate in the arts program and he said, "It feels like I'm giving other people a chance to see my personality and it helps me deal better with my emotions."

Autistic Spectrum Disorders and various combinations of developmental and emotional / psychiatric disorders affect thousands of families each and every year. In fact, there are 85,000 children and adults living in Ontario with dual diagnosis. Although there are many agencies serving those with developmental disabilities, MukiBaum Treatment Centres is one of the only organizations specialized to provide individualized services to people living with dual diagnosis.

As the fastest growing community in Toronto, it is imperative that such awareness is brought to the South Asian Community in particular, so that families who have children with complex disabilities realize that help does exist and they are not alone.

**Narthanalaya**  
Founded in 1985, Narthanalaya has been at the forefront of developing young dancers to learn and perform

Bharatha Natyam and Kuchipudi, classical dance styles of South India. Dancers of all ages, cultures, and skill level are encouraged to go beyond the expected; to bridge the cultures of east and west, to instill and practice the discipline embodied by art form and to become artists in their own right. For more information, visit

**www.narthanalaya.com**

**MukiBaum Treatment Centres**

Since its inception in 1979, MukiBaum Treatment Centres have been providing children, adolescents and adults, who have complex disabilities with innovative treatment and nurturing environments to discover their talents and abilities, actualize their potential and become contributing members of society. Individuals with disabilities are one of the most vulnerable groups in society. They often fall between the cracks and are in desperate need of individualized care to meet their needs. For more information, visit **www.mukibaum.com**

**Both Narthanalaya and MukiBaum are thrilled to be working together in order to raise crucial funds and awareness that will ultimately improve the quality of life for so many in Toronto.**

**Media / Sponsorship**

**Contact: Ashley Grant**

**416-630-2222 ext 228  
ashley@mukibaum.com**

**Group Ticket Inquires:**

**Geetha Yogendran  
416-824-8847  
geetha1900@yahoo.ca**

# Provincial Progressive Conservative Party leader met a prominent member from South-Asian community



**Hon Frank Klees, MPP Oak Ridges, Her Worship Phyllis Morris, Mayor of Aurora Hon. John Tory with Qamar (Kam) Sadiq.**

On Dec 21, 2006 a Dinner gathering was held at the Aurora residence of Qamar (Kam) Sadiq. Prominent guests included Hon. John Tory-leader of Provincial PC party, Hon Frank Klees-MPP Oak Ridges, Her Worship Phyllis Morris-Mayor Aurora, Blair McCreadie, President-PC Party, Consul General of Pakistan Mr Iqbal Ghalib, Consul General of Sri Lanka Mr.C.S. Poolokasingham, Warren Kanagaratnam-longtime political activist, Sri Vallipurathanar, Madani Bahudur, Chantal Desloges, Partner Law Firm Green & Spiegel and other dignatories.

Hon. John Tory addressed the gathering and indicated that we need to build a better and a stronger Ontario and met with all the guests who were present there. PC is looking at Kam Sadiq as a possible candidate in the next provincial elections for the party.

Kam Sadiq is a Certified General Accountant in public practice over 10 years after serving Revenue Canada Taxation for 26 years. He is also a renowned Immigration Consultant and a member of Canadian Society Immigration Consultants. He is a well respected community leader, Chair of Canadian Trade Council of South Asia, Chair of Multicultural Society of Pakistani Canadians, Consultative Committee member of Toronto Police and Member of the Audit Committee of CSIC. Kam has been involved in politics for over 25 years and is highly influential, well respected and well connected in political circle. Kam is a good friend of Sri Lankan community and has often been invited as a guest at seminars held by the Sri- Lankan Chamber of Commerce in Canada.



# Letters helpful in developing policies, says NDP leader

In a reply to a recent petition by Tamil Canadians concerning the deteriorating situation in Sri Lanka, Jack Layton MP, Leader of the New Democratic Party says that correspondence from the public helps in the formulation and improvement of NDP policies. In a wide ranging letter touting the efforts of the party in Fall 2006, the leader is assuring to work for the good of ‘everyday Canadians’ in the new year.

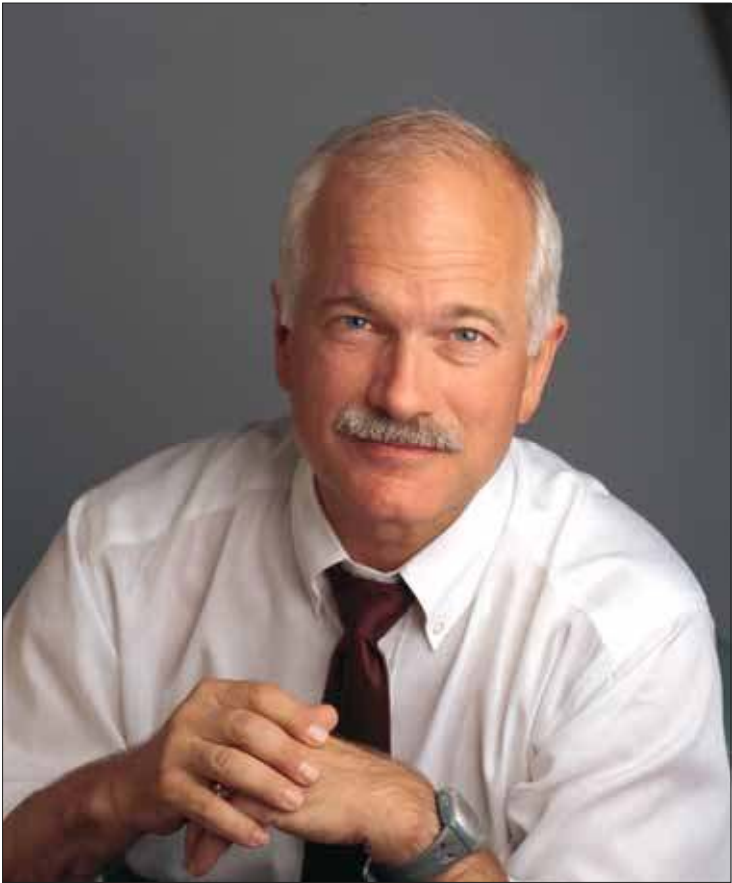
This letter is the reply to a Petition sent by a group of Tamil Canadians to Jack Layton MP, in the aftermath of the killing of Jaffna MP Nadarajah Raviraj in broad daylight in Colombo.

## Full text of NDP leader’s letter:

We are writing to acknowledge your previous email. Comments and questions from everyday Canadians like you are helpful in our efforts to develop and improve federal NDP policies relating to international issues and human rights.

We would also like to take the opportunity to highlight some of the work by NDP MP’s during the past fall session. Our Party’s efforts to stand up for human rights and a Made-in-Canada foreign policy that reflects Canadian values include:

- securing a Parliamentary debate and vote on Afghanistan, and asking the hard questions about an increasingly unpopular mission in southern Afghanistan, while supporting our troops and urging money to be focused on Afghanistan’s reconstruction rather than a U.S.-driven invasion
- fighting to get HIV/AIDS pills to Africa (an unfulfilled program/promise during the last three governments)
- advocating for Canada to take a more balanced approach to the crisis in the Middle East
- gaining support for a special emergency session on Darfur
- tabling a private members bill that supports the UN Declaration of The Rights of Indigenous Peoples and rejects the Conservative government’s



Hon. Jack Layton, MP  
Leader, Canada’s New Democrats

abandonment of it

- demanding that the government provide a formal apology and financial compensation to Maher Arar

- introducing a motion for the elimination of refugee fees for those fleeing domestic violence

- pushing the Conservative government to take immediate action to ratify the United Nations’ Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT)

- continuing to fight against the use of security certificates

- urging immediate cessation of hostilities in Sri Lanka and encouraging negotiation

- proposing that Canada lead the way in the abolition of the death penalty worldwide

- insisting that the Burmese government end its violations of human rights and international law and promoting targeted sanctions against Burma

- remaining steadfast against the use and proliferation of nuclear weapons by denouncing the reckless actions of North

Korea regarding nuclear weapons

- speaking out against the use of depleted uranium (DU) on weapons.

Looking forward to 2007, we will be making every effort to get Canada on the right track to tackle climate change. We’re also working hard on legislation for a national childcare program, re instating the federal minimum wage, and reducing costs for education and training.

In the coming weeks we will introduce legislation aimed at protecting the pocketbooks of everyday Canadians by placing restrictions on bank fees and credit card interest rates.

Again, thank you for writing. Please accept our best wishes for a happy and healthy 2007!

Sincerely,

Office of Jack Layton, MP  
(Toronto-Danforth)

Leader, Canada’s New Democrats

# “Tamil is our language. Is it wrong to speak it?” - Sri Lankan student Mohamed Aknas

By Buddhika Weerasinghe

Lying in a hospital bed, his neck bandaged and tears in his eyes, Sri Lankan student Mohamed Aknas is not only afraid of suspected Tamil Tiger bombers -- but also his ethnic Sinhalese neighbors.

The 19-year-old was heading to a tutorial on Saturday to prepare for school exams when a blast tore through his bus on the island’s southern coastal road, killing 11 people and wounding dozens. It was the second deadly bus attack in as many days.

As he and other survivors scrambled away from the wreckage of the blast -- initially suspected to be a suicide attack but since ruled out -- the Tamil-speaking Muslim and his friends were encircled by angry majority Sinhalese and punched.

"After the bomb attack myself and my friends ran ahead. At that time we were talking in Tamil. Then Sinhalese village people surrounded us and hit me and my friends," Aknas told Reuters from his hospital bed in the historic southern port town of Galle. "They blamed us and called us Tamil terrorists.

"We said we are Muslim and speak the Sinhala language, but they damaged my note books and punched me," he added. "I am afraid ... Tamil is our language. Is it wrong to speak it?"

Police have detained 24 people for questioning over Friday’s attack and 9 people over Saturday’s, but no one has yet been charged.

Sri Lanka’s government accuses the Tigers of trying to foment an ethnic backlash between minority Tamils and Sinhalese in the south as a new chapter in a two-decade civil war deepens, and has called for public restraint.

The island’s Muslims, who make up about 8 percent of the population, say they are caught in the middle.

The Tigers deny any hand in the attacks, but the military dismisses the denial as routine and analysts say the blasts bear

all the hallmarks of the rebels.

## Tourism Setback

The military ruled out a suicide bombing in the second attack after 29-year-old port authority worker Sumith Rathnayake identified the remains of his badly mutilated grandmother.

"I’d like to join the army and support the war against terrorism," Rathnayake said. "So many civilians are being killed ... We are talking peace but every day Sinhalese people are being killed. It is enough."

On Friday, a bomb placed beneath a passenger seat blew up a bus north of the capital, killing six civilians.

Analysts fear rebel attacks, which have largely been confined to military and political targets during a new episode in the island’s two-decade civil war, may now increasingly target civilians as in earlier stages of a conflict that has killed more than 67,000 people since 1983.

The bus attacks are another setback for the island’s tourism sector, still struggling to recover from the 2004 tsunami and the impact of renewed conflict.

"After this kind of bomb attack I am fearful even fewer tourists will visit the south," said Thilak Chandrala, who manages the Sun Shine Inn in the popular southern beach resort of Unawatuna. "Even we are afraid to travel by bus.

"Without permanent peace, no one will want to come here," he added. "We don’t know how to keep the hotel open. Our income is falling by the day. The government needs to find a permanent solution to this conflict."

More than 3,000 troops, civilians and rebel fighters were killed in a spree of ambushes, suicide bombings, air raids, naval clashes and land battles last year despite a 2002 ceasefire, and diplomats fear the violence will worsen this year. [Reuters-news.yahoo.com]

# Ontario government responding to needs of today's seniors

Continued from Page 1.....

SeniorsInfo.ca provides seniors, their families and care-givers access to information about programs and services for seniors offered by the federal, provincial and municipal governments and local community agencies – all through a single online window. It started in Brockville and is now operating in 22 Ontario communities.

Through the SeniorsInfo.ca website, users can choose a topic of interest (such as pensions, travel, or health) and quickly and conveniently find relevant information.

The province has just launched a series of Falls Prevention Seminars conducted

across the province by public health staff, Osteoporosis Society representatives and senior volunteers. These one-hour sessions inform seniors on ways to prevent falls, especially at home or on winter ice, and maintain their well-being and independence.

It is a tragic fact that some seniors, who contribute so much to our communities, are victims of abuse. According to experts, elder abuse has many forms - financial abuse is the most common - and can take place in the home, in a residential setting or in the community.

Elder abuse simply will not be tolerated in Ontario. That is why our government provided \$459,000 earlier this year to 61

organizations working to address this problem at the community level. These local organizations are working with the Ontario Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse to implement the government’s Strategy to Combat Elder Abuse.

December 12, 2006 was an historic day for Ontario seniors, as mandatory retirement came to an end. Mandatory retirement makes no sense when more people are living longer, healthier lives. Ontario workers now have the freedom to choose when to retire, based on their personal circumstances and priorities. This change in the law means seniors can shape their own futures.

The Ontario government is on the side of seniors. That is why we have increased funding to Long-Term Care Homes, bringing the overall annual budget to \$2.8 billion and have increased the property tax credit for seniors by 25 per cent from \$500 to \$625. In the past year we have also committed \$115 million over three years to improve end-of-life care services for 6,000 Ontarians. Much has been accomplished in 2006 to improve the quality of life of Ontario seniors, who have built our wonderful province. In the year ahead, seniors and their families can count on the Ontario government to continue to meet the challenges and opportunities posed by our aging society.

[Jim Bradley MPP is Ontario’s Minister Responsible for Seniors]



# “Saddam Hussein wrapped himself in Islam when it suited him”

US envoy in Sri Lanka comments on former Iraqi leader’s execution

**US** Ambassador Robert Blake told media in Colombo executed former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was no brother of Muslims.

His response came a day after a Sri Lankan multi-party group held a news conference in Colombo condemning the execution as a US warning to other countries and charged that the United States was after the oil resources in Iraq. “The United States never sought oil in Iraq. One of the first priorities for the Coalition Provisional Authority in 2003 was to re-build Iraq’s oil and gas infrastructure and transfer responsibility for managing Iraq’s oil wealth to the new Iraqi government for the benefit of the Iraqi people,” Ambassador Blake said.

Granting that everyone was entitled to his/her opinion on this issue, the ambassador



US Ambassador Robert Blake

however quoted American statesman Bernard Baruch as saying that ‘Everyman has a right to his opinion, but no man has a right to be wrong in his facts.’

Insisting that Saddam Hussein was ‘a devout secularist who wrapped himself in Islam when it suited him,’ he recalled how tens of thousands of Shia Iraqis and Kurds were killed by the former Iraqi leader.

On the charges of the legality of the death sentence for Saddam Hussein, the ambassador said that although Iraq’s death penalty was abolished in June 2004 under the Coalition Provisional Authority, it was re-instated by the Iraqi interim government and affirmed by the duly elected Iraqi government.

“The United States did not select the date, timing or method of Saddam Hussein’s execution, the Government of Iraq did” he said.

Hundreds of Muslims marched in Colombo on January 5<sup>th</sup> to protest the execution of the former Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein.

The protesters marched towards the US embassy in Colombo from Maradana Jumma Mosque to protest the US support for the execution.

Former Deputy Mayor of Colombo, Azaath Sally, warned that the United States’ support to the Iraqi government is threatening the whole Islam world. [Source: Daily Mirror, Sandeshaya]



Hundreds of protesters marched towards American embassy in Colombo [Photo: Sandeshaya]

## Lanka village mourns Saddam death

**I**m ever grateful to the former President” an elderly woman weeps as she watches the footage of the former Saddam Hussein being hanged in Baghdad.

Residents of Sadam Hussein village in Eravur, Batticaloa strongly protest the killing of the former Iraqi President.

Condemning the hanging on a day that Islam devotees celebrated Hajj festival, they said it was a disgrace to the whole Muslim world.

### Devastating cyclone

The former dictator has provided financial assistance to rebuild the village after a devastating cyclone that destroyed many properties the east on 21 November 1978.

“He was the one who helped us when we didn’t have even a cent to buy cajan let alone any shelter,” Seeni Mohamadu Sivalathumma, 51, told journalist Shanthi Salvadorai who visited the village.

Hajara Mohamed Abdul Cados said she couldn’t watch the footage of the former President taken to the gallows to be hanged.

### Double standard

“He was not a normal human being but a god. I felt as if I lost my breath”.

Villagers and the religious leaders condemned the “double standards” of the world leaders who supported the death sentence.

Moulavi UL Navas questioned as to what punishment the western leaders, who have killed tens of thousands in Iraq, would get if Sadam, who killed 148 sentenced to death.

“We would like to ask the International Court as to what step they are taking against George Bush who killed thousands”.

The punishment was a threat against the whole Muslim community in the world, villagers said. [BBCSinhala.com]

# Dugongs endangered by Sethu Project

By Risidra Mendis

**T**he proposed Sethusamudran canal project will destroy the remaining population of dugongs in the area. Environmentalists have stated that the dugong, an endangered marine species and other marine life will be seriously affected by the project.

Despite many protests by environmentalists the Sri Lankan government signed an agreement with the Indian government for India to dig a canal through the Palk Strait, the narrow strip of sea that runs between the southern coast of India and the northern coast of Sri Lanka.

The foundation stone for the project was laid by Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on July 2, 2006. The canal will allow large ships to navigate through this strait rather than going around Sri Lanka.

Speaking to The Sunday Leader Nature Conservation Group’s Prasanna Werakkody said the deep canal cutting will result in the dugong population been separated to two sides. “Dugongs are found only in the area from Mannar to the South Indian shores. No recent survey

was done on the remaining population of dugongs in the country. Due to terrorist activities the government has not conducted any conservation programmes on this species,” Weerakkody said.

According to Weerakkody dugongs are shallow water animals. “A small dugong population remains, as there are reports that at least one dugong is caught per day in Puttalam and Mannar. A survey done in the 1970s says a group of 200 dugongs were reported. “People eat the flesh of the dugong and the species is now included in the endangered list,” explained Weerakkody.

For many years, the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka has called for the declaration of both the Dutch and Portugal Bays as marine sanctuaries for the dugong. These areas provide ideal conditions for the management of dugongs, as long as fishing is controlled, and the dynamiting of fish is prohibited. The Puttalam lagoon is another suitable marine sanctuary for the dugong. [theSundayleader.lk]

# Air force targeted civilian areas says Mannar Bishop

**T**he Mannar Bishop Rt. Rev. Rayappu Joseph has said it was evident that the air force had targeted civilian areas, as there were no military bases to indicate the presence of the LTTE in the area.

In a letter to Sri Lanka’s President Mahinda Rajapakse, the Bishop stated that around 35 Catholic families were living in the area at the time of the attack.

“They are from very poor families and depend on income through fishing,” he stated.

He also said the area, which came under attack was 100 meters away from the coast.

“The attack was carried out within the range of 100 meters from the coast where these families live. There is a Catholic church in the area, which can be seen clearly and everyone knows the priests who work in the churches around the area. There are no persons belonging to the LTTE in the area. And

there are no bunkers or military bases that indicate their presence,” he added.

He also in his letter stated that many of those injured were females and children and the condition of many was critical.

He said the injured were being treated at the Mulangavil hospital and added that those



who were seriously injured were transferred to Kilinochchi.

“Twenty-five patients, whose condition was critical were taken to the Kilinochchi hospital for further treatment,” the Bishop in his letter added.

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# OPRAH WINFREY OPENS SCHOOL IN SOUTH AFRICA

Written by BBC News Profiles Unit's Nick Serpell



**This week a new school opened in South Africa. In a country where a serious skills shortage is hampering economic growth any boost to the education system is welcome. However, two things are special about the Leadership Academy for Girls near Johannesburg.**

Firstly, it has been set up to give an education to girls from poor families and, secondly, it has been founded and funded by the American TV star Oprah Winfrey whose own start in life mirrored that of the pupils she is now trying to help.

Winfrey is now a household name, host of a programme that has become the highest rated talk show in television history where public confession has become a form of therapy.

Her success as TV star and actress has brought her great wealth and influence. According to Forbes magazine she was the richest African American of the 20th Century and is one of the only black billionaire on the planet.

Her opinions can create market swings and influence public behaviour. An off-the-cuff remark about a burger during the BSE crisis led to her being sued by the Texas cattle industry for depressing the sales of beef. She won the resulting court case

Behind all the wealth and fame was a childhood of poverty and abuse. Born in rural Mississippi to two unmarried teenage parents, her early years were spent with her grandmother, a devout Baptist, who did not hesitate to use a switch on the young Oprah if she misbehaved. By the age of six she was back with her mother where, according to her own story, she was subjected to sexual abuse by members of her own family.

She rebelled in her teens and admitted to a number of promiscuous relationships, one

of which resulted in a pregnancy at the age of 14. The child subsequently died.

## Former beauty queen

The turning point in her life was the decision to return her to her father, Vernon, in Tennessee. He insisted she go back to school where she thrived, becoming an honours student and winning a scholarship to the State University where she studied communications and got her first media job at a local radio station. She appeared to have a clear idea of where she wanted her life to go.

An early boyfriend is quoted as saying that Oprah "knew what she wanted very early in life. She said she wanted to be a movie star. She wanted to be an actress, worked hard at it, and when her ship started to sail, she got aboard."

It was not surprising that she quickly got snapped up by television. She was clever, witty and, as a former winner of the Miss Black Tennessee beauty pageant, she looked good on screen.

After hosting shows on local TV she moved to Chicago in 1983 to take over an ailing mid-morning chat show. Within months it was extended to a full hour and renamed the Oprah Winfrey Show.

In 1986 it was broadcast across the United States. Time magazine later attempted to discover the reason for this success. "In a field dominated by white males, she is a black female of ample bulk," it said. "What she lacks in journalistic toughness, she makes up for in plainspoken curiosity, robust humour and, above all empathy"

## Hands on involvement

In 1998 Winfrey set up a

charity to encourage help for the disadvantaged around the world. On a 2004 visit to South Africa she donated equipment, and clothing to poor and Aids-affected children in the townships. Nelson Mandela asked her if she would provide support for children whose parents were too poor to afford education and the result was the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls.

Winfrey did not just fund the school, she became personally involved in the planning and design and even interviewed some of the applicants for



places. "I really became frustrated with the fact that all I did was write check after check to this or that charity without really feeling like it was a part of me," she told Newsweek magazine.

Poverty in Africa brings out a variety of responses. For another megastar, Madonna, help meant plucking one child from a village in Malawi and giving it all the advantages of a wealthy upbringing in the West.

Some have argued this has done nothing for the thousands of children left behind. Winfrey takes a different point of view driven by her own childhood experiences and the belief that, given the opportunity, anyone can make a success of their life. In her own words, "It doesn't matter who you are, where you come from. The ability to triumph begins with you - always."

# Muhammad Ali's 65th Birthday on January 17, 2007



## "Old age is just a record of one's whole life"

Muhammad Ali, who once said, "Old age is just a record of one's whole life," will be turning 65 years young on January 17.

Born Cassius Marcellus Clay in 1942, Ali's story is one of inspiration: champion athlete, media icon, societal symbol, United Nations Messenger of Peace, and a beacon of hope to people around the globe for over four decades. Now the public has a golden opportunity to express to Muhammad some of the motivation, joy, and magic he has afforded them over the years.

As a boxer, Ali brought unprecedented speed and grace to his sport, while his charm and wit changed forever what the public expected a champion to be. His accomplishments in the ring were legendary. But over the years Muhammad transcended from a boxing champion to a champion of humanity.

He has hand-delivered food and medical supplies to the Harapan Kita Hospital for Children in Jakarta, Indonesia, the street children of Morocco, and an embargoed Cuba. He has participated in goodwill missions in Afghanistan and North Korea, helped secure the release of 15 US hostages in Iraq, was special envoy to Africa, and sought the truth on POWs and MIAs in Vietnam.



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# Jayasuriya hits most sixes in the world



Seasoned Sri Lankan campaigner Sanath Jayasuriya has now established a world record for most career sixes during his superb half century knock against New Zealand in their fourth one-day international cricket match held in Auckland on Jan 6th.

The 37-year-old Jayasuriya sent five deliveries beyond the fence during his 44 ball 70 to take his tally to 222 sixes, overtaking Pakistani all-rounder Shahid

Afridi's figure of 217.

Jayasuriya also helped the visitors level the five-match series two-all with the decider to be played at Hamilton on Tuesday.

Another world record, which virtually went unnoticed was that six New Zealanders were dismissed leg before wicket (lbw) in a one-dayer.

Their abject batting display also saw the Kiwis register their second lowest ever score in the shorter version, their lowest being 64 against Pakistan at Sharjah.

New Zealand's paltry reply of 73 was their lowest in New Zealand -- their previous lowest playing at home was 74 against arch-rivals Australia at Wellington in 1982.

Continuing on the lines of record being created, the emphatic 189-run triumph recorded by Sri Lanka is the biggest victory margin in terms of runs recorded in New Zealand.

It eclipsed New Zealand's 155-run win over England at Wellington five years back. [PTI]



Quest for Talent, Ideas and Enterprise

Over \$150,000 in prizes and the opportunity of up to \$1 million investment from sponsoring funds

Hon. Minister Harinder Takhar, Minister of Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Government of Ontario, launched TiEQuest 2007 on December 11, 2006. Founded in 2005, TiEQuest has become a premier business venture competition. A brochure describing the competition in detail and containing the competition entry form, is enclosed.

TiEQuest 2007 expects to attract 200+ current and aspiring entrepreneurs. The competition is open to all contestants from North America. Potential contestants include entrepreneurs, patent holders/ applicants besides university students and alumni, as well as referrals from banks, accounting firms, legal firms and industry associations. The competition is being promoted at campuses of various universities, entrepreneurial assistance programs of Board of Trade, Business Development Corporation, Export Development Canada and innovation centres of the Ministry of Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Winners of TiEQuest 2007 will receive:

- (a) An “Expression of Interest” for up to \$1.0 million investment from sponsoring funds,
- (b) \$75,000 in cash investment and/or prizes

TiEQuest 2007—Business Venture Competition

(c) Over \$75,000 worth of professional and other services including legal, accounting, branding, strategic advisory, use of facilities and access to market intelligence.

In addition to the above, winners will also receive:

Opportunity to speak a future TiE event

Invitation to TiEQuest Awards Dinner

Recognition with qualified entrepreneurs

Ability to source various business

services from organizations sponsoring TiE

Opportunity of continued financing

Contestants will receive other benefits, including:

Expense Reimbursement as per rules of the competition

Membership of TiE: TiE is a global organization comprising of 14,000 members with 44 chapters and is dedicated to promotion of entrepreneurship (one-year membership for 2 team members)

Networking Opportunities with leading entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and senior business leaders

Recognition with investment, legal and



accounting firms

Profile on www.tiequest.org

Opportunity to practice the process of pitching new venture to investors

To improve chances of winning the competition and creating a successful business, it is recommended that contestants work with an advisor. TiE Toronto has an advisory panel which will be available to advise contestants on a volunteer basis.

The panel of judges includes venture capitalists, fund managers and successful entrepreneurs. The primary criterion the judges will use in evaluating business venture is

the real world question: “Would you invest in this company?”

TiEQuest has adopted a Confidentiality Statement as shown in the brochure. Due care will be made to protect the confidentiality of the business ventures submitted. After registration, the contestants will be given an opportunity to discuss this matter with legal counsel.

Last Date for Entry is January 31, 2007

Entry Fee is \$100 per team of up to 5 persons.

Please feel free to forward this email to anyone you think may be interested in contesting.

The organizer of TiEQuest, The Indus Entrepreneurs, is a global not-for-profit network of entrepreneurs and professionals dedicated to the advancement of entrepreneurship. TiE was founded in 1992 in the Silicon Valley and today has over 14,000 members across 44

chapters in 9 countries. The Toronto Chapter of TiE includes 34 charter members, who are leading entrepreneurs in Canada, venture capitalists, private equity investors, investment professionals and senior professionals in the field of Law, Accounting, Corporate Finance, IT, etc. TiE Toronto has over 100 regular and student members who are aspiring entrepreneurs and professionals.

TiE Quest is supported by Joseph L. Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto

For additional information, please visit www.tiequest.org

Or contact:

Suresh Madan, Chair, TiEQuest Committee,

Tel: 416 929 7642, Email: tiequest@tietoronto.org

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A.Y.S. Gnanam The death of a Leading Industrialist and “Virakesari” Newspaper Group Chairman

A.Y.S. Gnanam, a leading industrialist and Chairman of Express Newspapers (Ceylon) Ltd. which publishes the premier Tamil Daily in Sri Lanka “Virakesari” passed away about two weeks ago at the ripe age of eighty-four.

Arulanandam Yesuvadian Samuel Gnanam was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth. His story is that of rags to riches. He arrived in Sri Lanka from South India with his parents and siblings almost empty handed. He started life in Sri Lanka by selling scrap-iron during world-war two. The war and the shortage of scrap material in India helped him to expand this business. Gradually he went around buying scrap material and exporting it to India. When the war ended there was a shortage and he cashed on this. From selling scrap material he ventured out into the hardware business and set-up St. Anthonys Hardware stores and started dealing in hardware products.

From this point onwards it was going up the ladder in business for Gnanam. It is said that he won the Agency for the prestigious Grundig radios competing with leaders in electronic products. The import restrictions during Sirimavo Bandaranaike’s period of regime helped him to set up new industries to manufacture Hardware and Plastic products. His next line of business was Textiles



- An Appreciation - By: Siva Sivapragasam

and he started the manufacture of synthetic textiles like sarees, suitings, etc. under the name of Cyntex. It was during this time that he secured a loan from the World Bank for his Textile industry. It is said that he was the first private sector entrepreneur to obtain a World Bank loan. He also ventured into the manufacture of Cement with collaboration with the famous Japanese Mitsui firm. His final entry was into Newspaper business when he took over the “Virakesari” Newspaper group as it’s Chairman.

Samuel Gnanam was a man of deeds and not of words. He had a Midas touch in whatever he did. He never took “no” for an answer. He was never disappointed or frustrated over defeats. When all his factories were burnt down during the 1983 ethnic riots in Sri Lanka many of his friends

advised him to migrate to India. He declined promising to re-build his Business Empire. This he did within a short time.

Gnanam had a knack to turn around less profitable businesses. During the 1970s due to import restrictions and a crippling of Government Advertising, the Virakesari Group of Newspapers had a hard time. Other Directors were pessimistic about it’s future. He told the writer who worked there as an executive and another colleague “my fellow Directors want to run away. But I have persuaded them to carry on. Please do your best to run this place profitably”. Time passed and the Newspaper was on the rails running smoothly. Although his business interests brought him into close contact with the top people running the Government he never allowed the independence of the Newspaper to suffer and he rarely interfered with the running of the Newspaper. Thus, the Virakesari was looked upon by the Tamil people as an independent, non-political Media working for the interest of the Tamil community.

The death of Gnanam creates a void in the generation of successful entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka and ends the list of Businessmen of the Tamil community of his age.

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# V. Navaratnam

## A man ahead of his time

A Tribute - by S. Raymond Rajabalan

V. Navaratnam, former Member of Parliament for Kayts passed away in Montreal on Dec.22<sup>nd</sup> at the age of 97, creating a void in the midst of Eelam Tamils at this hour of need.

Navaratnam born in Karampon in the island of Kayts on 18 October, 1910 was educated at Ananda College, Colombo and Ceylon Law College. He was a successful civil lawyer for more than fifty years. He was the only living founder member of Federal Party (Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi) which provided political leadership for Tamils for over thirty years after independence.

A man with a prophetic vision, in 1949 Navaratnam along with some other members of the Tamil Congress opposed the **Ceylon (Elections) Amendment Act** which deprived the voting rights of Plantation Tamils. This resulted in the formation of **Federal Party** under the leadership of S.J.V. Chelvanayagam.

A political activist and writer with a sharp intellect and strategic thinking, he was the brain behind Federal Party's peaceful campaigns. His loss coming hard on the heels of the recent demise of Anton Balasingham has dealt a double blow to the Tamil speaking community. In 1956 when the government of S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike enacted the **Sinhala Only Act**, Navaratnam was the brain behind the planning of the Satyagraha (peaceful protest) campaign at Galle Face protesting the passage of this act.

He was a parliamentarian who refused to compromise the rights and interest of his people for political expediency. Hoping to win the rights by peaceful means he participated on behalf of the Federal Party for more than a decade. However he was disillusioned by repeated failures of each and every talk.

When the government led by Srimavo Bandaranaike declared in 1960 that Buddhism was to be elevated as the state religion followed by legislation making Sinhala to be the language of the courts, Late Navaratnam spearheaded the civil disobedience campaign in North and East. He was also the brain behind running a parallel postal service during this campaign, a unique event which made him to become a legend in the annals of the history of the freedom struggle of Eelam Tamils.

Navaratnam, contesting in the Kayts electorate during the 1963 August bye-election, resulting from the death of V.A.Kandiah, won by more than 9000 votes. He again won the subsequent election in 1965.

Soon after the 1965 elections when Dudley Senanayake formed a "National Government", the Federal party as well as the Tamil Congress extended their support. When the

**Shrima-Shastri Pact** (1964) and the bill associated with the implementation of the **Indo-Ceylon Agreement** was introduced by Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake, Navaratnam decided to defy the government Whip and speak and vote against it. However on the request of his leader S.J.V.Chelvanayagam, he agreed not to express his opposition on the floor of the parliament. However Navaratnam's opposition to the **Indo Ceylon Act** was a matter of public knowledge.

In 1967, the government in power introduced an Act relating to the **Registrations of Persons Resident in Ceylon**. The Act proposed a law under which every person in the island, 18 years of age and over was required to register himself with the Department of Persons and obtain a photo identity card. This was the proverbial last straw to break the



V. Navaratnam  
[18.10.1910 - 22.12.2006]

camel's back.

In 1968 when the White Paper for the establishment of District Council (DC) was submitted in the parliament he vigorously opposed it and made a clarion call to the Tamil youth to come forward to reach the ideals of achieving Tamil Eelam. When even this worthless DC bill was dropped due to anti-Tamil riots organized by Srimavo Bandaranaike, the Federal party quit the government. Navaratnam was once again proved right. This was how a soft spoken politician changed his way of thinking when every peaceful means ended up as failure.

In 1969, his patience worn out thin, Navaratnam finally decided to have his own way and quit the party in 1969. He was a man ahead of his time and at that time because of the dominating influence of the Federal party among Tamils, Navaratnam's voice was drowned and was swept away as a voice in the wilderness. **He was a Moses denied of the opportunity to lead the Tamil speaking minorities, though he never aimed for fame or power.**

Having realized the uncertainty of finding a political solution through long years of experience gained by short-lived meeting with Sinhala leadership, on Aug.1969, he launched his own party -Tamil Self Rule Party (Tamilis Suyaadchchi Kazahagam).

**In fact he was the man who planted the seeds of freedom struggle which took a different dimension in late seventies.**

After losing the 1970 elections he faded away from politics but continued to keep himself informed about the developments in the country. His views however were sought by politicians as well by newspaper editors.

Events of the past three decades have proved beyond doubt that he was a man with a vision and far sight. From time immemorial, the value of many are realized long after they are gone, a case in point being late Mr.Navaratnam, a soft spoken peace – loving man who after numerous dialogues with many Sinhala leaders realized very early the folly of

# EROS Tribute to Comrade Ratnasabapathy

By: Kuhan

It is perhaps easy to compose an epitaph or a farewell note for a person who has been ill for the past six years, detached from the struggle he really lived for, but more difficult when the person is the one whose ideas and passion had gripped several generations of his people, driving them to an onward march for the restoration of their full democratic rights.

Comrade Ratna (23.11.1938 – 12.12.2006) was man of many talents. First and foremost he was an intellect and a visionary with an audacity to match. It was not through traditional education he reached such lofty heights, but by his sheer ability to combine his insights with raw experience. If there is an example of a man from an ordinary walk of life rising to perform extra ordinary feats, then Comrade Ratna was definitely among them.

His first intellectual feat was to correctly identify the Sinhala-chauvinist state and not the Sinhala working masses as the true enemy, of the all three Tamil communities, the Tamils of the Northeast, Muslims and the Plantation people; the state oppression and a common language are the link that have helped to evolve the cultures of these peoples who have more in common than differences. He then followed this line of reasoning and courageously stated that it is only when these three communities strive to fight together for a collective existence, as one people, endeavouring to belong to one nation, a modern nation based on an empowered people, individual communities can be fulfil their own aspirations.

He called this collective Eelam and the community members Eelavar. At the same instant when such an empowered people are born, he said the Sinhala masses will be set free from the bondages of their past and the inherent chauvinism of the ruling classes. To achieve these ends he founded EROS. Acronym of EROS stands for Eelam Revolutionary Organisers, which is associated in Greek mythology as a 'Unifying Force'.

His second feat was to accept and become the strongest proponent of the ideology that proposed the toiling Tamil masses as the vanguard of this collective struggle, a strand of thinking at variance with his Federal Party traditions. Only a versatile and of courageous minds could accept new



ideas or concepts and assimilate them into a whole system; Comrade Ratna could easily do that. The upshot of all these mental process was to use his creative abilities to coin simple phrases to express vibrant ideas that still echo in the minds of the masses even today.

The phrase, "A rigorous Saivar or an orthodox Christian of any tradition, religiously pious Muslim or unyielding Hindu, we are all Eelavar" is a unifying call, in his poetic Tamil is more of a command for all of us that argues well for that collectiveness, especially today.

For all his talents and skills, and his powers of reasoning and wit, he was neither able to establish EROS as a permanent organisation on the ground nor the meaning of the last letter 'S' in EROS among the political pundits. The institution Comrade Ratna wanted to establish may not be there, but its concepts still remain in the air, lingering on to find the right time to materialise.

However, he did achieve one of his aims, through the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord. Participating in the Thimbu talks, Butan, as part of the Tamil delegation, as the only group to champion the Plantation Tamils' cause, without any others representing that section of the Tamil speaking people on the table, EROS and in particular Ratna was successful in establishing one of their goals as the fourth point in the Thimbu Proclamations. He did not live to see the fate of all the points in the Thimbu Proclamations. However, at his death Comrade Ratna is at least entitled to carry to his grave the satisfaction of championing the plight of the Plantation Tamils and the subsequent enfranchisement of them all.

**We are Eelavar! Our language is Tamil! Our land is Eelam!**

continuing peace talks.

A man of honesty, who initially believed that peaceful means will bring an end to the political inequality, was reluctantly compelled finally to advocate alternate means.

The majority of Sri Lankans have expressed their hope for peace and an end to the hostilities, as proved by a number of opinion polls. There is a saying "More flies

are caught by honey than by vinegar". There is yet another saying "Hope is the basis of life". Let us all hope that sanity will prevail in Sri Lanka and the parties involved in the ethnic conflict will come to an amicable agreement sooner than later, so that there will be peace, prosperity and happiness - dreamt by Navaratnam - in the not too distant future.

May his soul rest in peace.

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# Appreciation: “Mr. Noodle earned an eternal place in the pantheon of human progress”

By Lawrence Downes

The news last Friday Jan 5<sup>th</sup> - of the death of the ramen noodle guy surprised those of us who had never suspected that there was such an individual. It was easy to assume that instant noodle soup was a team invention, one of those depersonalized corporate miracles, like the Honda Civic, the Sony Walkman and Hello Kitty, that sprang from that ingenious consumer-product collective known as postwar Japan .

But no. Momofuku Ando, who died in Ikeda, near Osaka , at 96, was looking for cheap, decent food for the working class when he invented ramen noodles all by himself in 1958. His product — fried, dried and sold in little plastic-wrapped bricks or foam cups — turned the company he founded, Nissin Foods, into a global giant. According to the company’s Web site, instant



ramen satisfies more than 100 million people a day. Aggregate servings of the company’s signature brand, Cup Noodles, reached 25 billion worldwide in 2006.

There are other versions of fast noodles. There is spaghetti in a can. It is sweetish and gloppy and a first cousin of dog food. Macaroni and cheese in a box is a convenience product requiring several inconvenient steps. You have to boil the macaroni, stir it to prevent sticking and determine through some previously obtained expertise when it is “done.” You must separate water from noodles using a specialized tool, a colander, and to complete the dish — such an insult — you have to measure and add the fatty deliciousness yourself, in the form of butter and milk that Kraft assumes you already have



Founder Mr.Momofuku Ando

on hand. All that effort, plus the cleanup, is hardly worth it.

Ramen noodles, by contrast, are a dish of effortless purity. Like the egg, or tea, they attain a state of grace through a marriage with nothing but hot water. After three minutes in a yellow bath, the noodles soften. The pebbly peas and carrot chips turn practically lifelike. A near-weightless assemblage of plastic and foam is transformed into something any college student will recognize as food, for as little as 20 cents a serving.

There are some imperfections. The fragile cellophane around the ramen brick tends to open in a rush, spilling broken noodle bits around. The silver seasoning packet does not always tear open evenly, and bits of sodium essence can be trapped in the foil hollows, leaving you always to wonder whether the broth, rich and salty as it is, is as rich and salty as it could have been. The aggressively kinked noodles form an aesthetically pleasing nest in cup or bowl, but when slurped, their sharp bends spray droplets of broth that settle uncomfortably about the lips and leave dots on your computer screen.

But those are minor quibbles. Ramen noodles have earned Mr. Ando an eternal place in the pantheon of human progress. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime. Give him ramen noodles, and you don’t have to teach him anything. [Courtesy: www.nytimes.com]

# 2007 to be ' warmest on record'

The world is likely to experience the warmest year on record in 2007, the UK’s Met Office says.

An extended warming period, resulting from an El Nino weather event in the Pacific Ocean, will probably push up global temperatures, experts forecast.

They say there is a 60% chance that the average surface temperature will match or exceed the current record from 1998.

The scientists also revealed that 2006 saw the highest average temperature in the UK since records began in 1914.

The global surface temperature is projected to be 0.54C (0.97F) above the long-term average of 14C (57F), beating the current record of 0.52C (0.94F), which was set in 1998.

The annual projection was compiled by the UK Met Office’s Hadley Centre, in conjunction with the University of East Anglia.

## El Nino effect

Chris Folland, head of the Hadley Centre’s climate variability research, said the forecast was primarily based on two factors.

The first was greenhouse gas emissions from human activity, he said.

"This is a statistical method; it is a number that represents the heating of the atmosphere.

"Greenhouse gases cause heating, while aerosols cause cooling," Professor Folland told BBC News.

"The other factor which allows us to make a forecast that whether one year is significantly different from the next is the effect of the El Nino."

El Nino events are marked by the arrival of unusually warm waters off the north-western coast of South America, and are described as the largest influence on the year-to-year variability of the Earth’s climate.



This year’s potential to be a record breaker is linked to a moderate strength El Nino already established in the Pacific Ocean.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said that it was expected to continue into the first quarter of this year, which would have a knock-on effect.

"There is a big lag between the El Nino and the warming of global temperatures - it takes about four months or perhaps a bit longer," Professor Folland explained.

"We have two methods of forecasting the effect of the El

Nino. One is a statistical method based on two patterns of sea surface temperatures in the El Nino region, and the other is a complex mathematical model."

He said that the forecast was then fine-tuned by looking back over data from the previous 50 years.

"We have actually run this forecast three times, updating it every month... and it is completely stable."

The 60% probability that 2007 would set a new record meant that it "was more likely than not", he concluded.

The Hadley Centre has been issuing the annual forecast for the past seven years and says it has just a 0.06C margin of error.

In December, the WMO released provisional data on the global average surface temperature for 2006. It estimated that last year was 0.42C (0.75F) above the 1961-1990 average, making it the sixth warmest on record.

However, the UK experienced the warmest year on record in 2006, according to Met Office figures released alongside the global forecast.

The meteorologists said the mean temperature for the year was 9.7C (49.5F), 1.1C (2F) above the long-term average, based on the period between 1971-2000. [bbcnews.com]

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# A Worthy Program by Tamil Canadians for a School for the Deaf and Blind

### History

**About the Kaithady Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind**

Kaithady Nuffield School is designed for students who are Deaf and Visually impaired. Present funding for this school is insufficient and given their special needs, these children require great financial support.

Every cent of the proceeds collected from this charity dance program will be sent directly to the School Principal, for him to Purchase new uniforms, books and food for the children. This funds will improve the living and education standards of these children,

So that they will become more self reliant in the Future. My hearty congratulations to the team who worked so hard for the last three months and with the generous sponsors they managed to collect little over Twenty Thousand dollars to be

sent to Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind, Kaithady, Jaffna .

It was nice to see that Siva Kalabavanam, managed to find a past pupil of Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind, Kaithady, Jaffna to give a speech to start the program. She explained how the school give the students confidants to lead a life on there own.

Mrs. Jothy Bhrapakaran is a past pupil of Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind, Kaithady, Jaffna . She is the mother of three kids, holds a general degree in arts from Jaffna University and is involved in several social activities. She is considered to be one of the leading community workers in Canada . Her husband Bhrapa is also a visually impaired individual who worked for the Sri Lankan administration services back home and is currently working at the Scotiabank



## What a performance!

### Preamble

Saturday, January 06, 2007 will remain etched in the chronicles of Tamil culture in Canada.

Children born and raised in Toronto - a dozen 'girls', with much higher priorities than entertaining some concocted gathering – mesmerized a dazzled audience for a full two hours, staging a dance-drama of Silappathikaram, the earliest 'Sanga' epic. Their solid performance reinforced the intrinsic greatness of the much professed piece of Tamil literature.

Silappathikaram dissects the socio-economic complexities and the cultural conscience of the period, - 6th century A.D.

The literature of the times was solely devoted to either glorifying the Gods or praising the Kings. In electing a composition portraying the lives of an ordinary family poet Ilanko Adikal pioneered modern literature. Unlike in the other pieces of literature of the era that were largely comedies Adikal opted for a story of intense tragedy. In short Ilanko revolutionized Tamil literature.

### The Story

'Silappathikaram' – the story of an anklet - evolves around Kannaki the obedient and devoted wife - 'paththini' - of an affluent grain merchant Kovalan. Succumbing to the allurement of Madhavi, a danseuse of deifying beauty, Kovalan strays. In the process he loses his wealth – though not through any mischief of his mistress.

A lost and lonely Kovalan, retuns to Kannaki, repenting his insensitivity and regretting his guilt. Kannaki, the devoted wife that she was, welcomes Kovalan with open arms, forgetting her misery and forgiving her

husband.

Kannaki offers one of her two golden anklets to Kovalan for him to sell it, to generate capital for a new beginning. But, it turns out to be the beginning of fresh woes for both of them.

The goldsmith whom Kovalan approaches in the adjoining Kingdom – (There were three - Chera, Chola and Pandya) - to assess the value of the anklet, turns out to be the very rogue who had earlier stolen the Queen's. The wily goldsmith thrilled at chancing upon a scapegoat, in the pretence of finding a prospective buyer for Kovalan, approaches the King and incriminates Kovalan for the theft of Queen's anklet.

The King, in a moment of rage, orders the execution of Kovalan.

Kannaki, on hearing of the injustice meted out to her innocent husband, confronts the King with her other anklet as evidence of miscarriage of justice. She dashes her anklet in front of him. The anklet gets scattered and pearls roll over in front of the King. The stark proof, of pearls as against the rubies of the Queen's anklets, was so shocking the King falls dead, on the spot, at the enormity of his injustice.

The fury of Kannaki's chastity burns the City down!

### The Performance

Siva Kalabavanam should be congratulated for its courageous effort to present a dance-drama of Silappathikaram. The intricacy of the story apart, the mere fact that Chilappathikaram is one of the five epics of Tamil literature is bound to draw critiques on any performance based on it.

I admire the mental fortitude of Jayanthi Shanmugalingam for undertaking such a demanding task. Her choreography was

flawless

If the performance of the evening left anything to be desired it was not for want of the skills of Jayanthi, or for any lack of devotion of her disciples.

The attitude of the young dancers only entrenched the amazing talent of their beloved guru. They enacted their parts with enthusiasm and emotion. It was evident in their eyes!

Even though Jayanthi was troubled by her limited resources and a measly budget – the performance was a fund raiser – she succeeded in presenting a show of incredible artistic content and merit.

It was an evening of great rejoicing, thanks to a team of dedicated and supportive 'parents'.

### Review

The culture of their times was largely contributory to the disappointments of 'Kannaki', 'Kovan', and 'Madhavi'. It would be beneficial for the young dancers to keep that link in mind.

Silappathikaram is not merely a story; it is a portrayal of our 'history'. Our culture and heritage is intertwined in it. We can be rest assured that our children will get to know it better with every recital.

At the conclusion of the programme there was palpable euphoria in the auditorium. There was standing ovation for a full two minutes.

Hi, lively 'girls': You kept the evening going. There was never a dull moment. You did your 'guru' proud. You deserve a hearty congratulations.

I am certain that the word for those who couldn't make it would be, ' Hey, You have missed it!'



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# The Tamil Christian Church of Canada



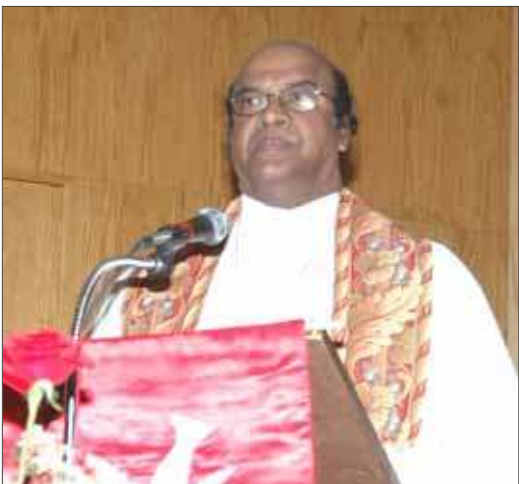
The Tamil Christian Church of Canada celebrated its 20Th year on the 19th of November 2006. They had a service to celebrate the occasion at 4 p.m at 2300. Bridletowne Circle followed by a dinner at the Princess Banquet Hall, Scarborough. Two decades of growth and development in the service of the Lord is a great event to be celebrated. The Tamil Christian Church had its small beginnings at a basement in 1973 and gradually grew up into a congregation at Ellesmere United Church. It then shifted to its current location at 2300. Bridletowne Circle, Agincourt. The church started to flourish in numbers with the influx of refugees from Sri Lanka in 1983 and it acquired legal status when it was recognized as a charity organization in 1984. The Rev. Bobby Mather (1986-89), Rev. Nesamany Lysander (1989-1999) and Rev. Isaac Selvaratnam (the incumbent) are the pastors who were in charge. Rev. Selvaratnam who knew the traditions and cultural susceptibilities of the immigrant Tamil Christian community fitted well into the church and the numbers



increased. The church committee seriously considered the need to build or buy Church and started to raise funds. The church organizes Sunday worship, bible studies, anniversary celebrations and other similar activities to serve its members. Moreover it is engaged in evangelism through TV and holding additional services in Brampton in the interests of people in the western part of the city. The main attractions of the church are its well organized choir, active participation of the members in its devotional activities, focus on kids /youths, cultural festivals( like traditional dances, plays and play lets) and dedicated pastoral leadership. Rev. Selvaratnam who took over the ministry in 2000 came with a lot of experience

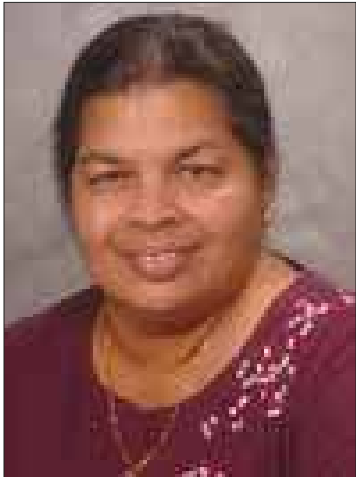
and dedication with him. His CSI-Ashram-Anglican background equips him to cater to the needs of those who are enthusiastic about Tamil traditions and values. His personality, tone and ease of presentation makes his messages memorable. Besides, he also knows the art of approaching new Tamil immigrants from diverse backgrounds. Earlier Rev. Joshua Ratnam and after him Mr. Joel Joseph were brought in to help the youngsters to realize the need for God's guidance in their lives. Mr. Joseph with his musical talents and immense faith in God is bound to blossom as a well-accomplished youth pastor. The Tamil Christian church has a special role to play in multicultural Canada. The Christian Tamils are particularly happy that they are able to practice the same type of worship they are used to in their homelands in Sri Lanka. May the good Lord guide our church to grow according to the biblical purposes of the church through fellowship, discipleship, worship, ministry and evangelism.

jja



Photos by: Gnane Gnanendran

# Parvathy Kanthasamy Awarded Constance E. Hamilton Award on the Status of Women - 2006



Throughout her life, Parvathy Kanthasamy has combined her career in linguistics and a love of theatre with her volunteer work on behalf of immigrant women, immigrant seniors, and women's physical and mental health. Beginning in the Tamil community, she has become an advocate for marginalized and traumatized women of all cultures. At the Clark Institute (now part of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health), she advocated for institutional change as a member of the Ethnoracial Services Committee; at Mount Sinai Hospital, she helped create the Assertive Community Treatment Team to integrate ethnoracial considerations into case management work. She has worked primarily with the Sri Lankan Tamil community, but her efforts have benefited so many others. To raise awareness of social issues in the Tamil community, she has written and staged plays and films. Topics have ranged from depression, to women abuse, senior abuse and conflict resolution for teenagers. She has written information booklets for the Tamil community on depression, how abused women can find shelter, heart attacks, alcoholism, sexuality and AIDS. Perhaps all these accomplishments were only preparation for her work as one of the founders of Vasantham - A Tamil Seniors Wellness Centre that has groups across Toronto. Begun in 1998, the centre tends to the mental well-being of an aging population in a changing world.

Most recently, Parvathy's skill and energy have been directed towards fundraising and providing psychological counselling to victims of the December 26, 2004 tsunami that devastated northeast Sri Lanka. In 1979 Toronto City Council established this award, named after its first woman member, Constance E. Hamilton, who was elected in 1920. The award commemorates the Privy Council decision of 1929, which requires the federal government to recognize women as "persons" according to the terms of the Constitution Act, 1867 and recognizes Persons Day, October 18, the date that the judgement was handed down. To qualify, a recipient must be a resident of Toronto whose actions have had a significant impact on securing equitable treatment for women in Toronto, either socially, economically or culturally. The women members of Toronto City Council select the recipient(s) of the Constance E. Hamilton Award. [Toronto.ca]



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I am deeply honoured and mightily pleased to be in the midst of such an august gathering of leaders of Japan's business and industry. I take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all of you who have found time to be present here today.

I have many cherished memories from my long association with Japan, not least the helping hand



# India's Journey into remarkable Growth

Prime Minister's address at Business luncheon hosted by Japanese Apex Business Chambers in association with Indian Apex Business Chambers and Ibef in Tokyo, 15 December 2006

extended by Japan to India during our very severe balance of payments crisis of 1991. Japan was truly a friend in deed, to an India sorely in need. Those early days of India's economic reforms process now appear distant. It is important to remember that despite several changes of government in these past 15 years, India has remained on the path of economic reforms and liberalization we started in 1991.

The Indian economy is now on a new path of accelerated growth. For two decades our economy grew at around 6.0 per cent per annum. But in the past four years we have recorded 8.0 per cent annual growth. In the first half of the current fiscal year the growth rate recorded a new high of 9.1%. The manufacturing sector is fast catching up with the services sector. These two sectors account for almost 80 per cent of our national income.



This remarkable growth is being led by an investment rate of 31 per cent of GDP, financed almost entirely by a matching savings rate of over 29 per cent. India's stable macro – economic indicators lead me to believe that we have the potential to achieve double digit growth in the coming years.

Our challenge, however, is not only to sustain high growth rates, but to make this process inclusive of the demands of equity and environmental sustainability. Growth has already helped millions of our citizens to emerge from abject poverty, which is reflected in the decline of the poverty ratio from above 50% in the seventies to below 20% today. This has added large numbers to our booming consumer markets.

In this journey of unleashing the creativity and enterprise of the Indian people, and seeking growth with equity, we want Japan to be our active partner.

We are deeply appreciative of the assistance Japan has made available over the years, through its official development assistance programme. Delhi Metro is already a visible symbol of India-Japan collaboration and we look forward to more such

projects that can make a tangible difference to the daily lives of our citizens.

In the years ahead we wish to focus on building a much deeper and wider relationship with Japan's business and industry. Our economic relations presently fall far short of the potential. I have been surprised to see Japan lose ground in India during the 1990s to other East Asian and South-east Asian economies, both in terms of foreign investment flows and trade flows.

It is a fact that South Korean consumer brands have moved aggressively into India and their brands have very high recognition value among our consumers. On the trade front, India's trade with both China and South Korea is booming and grew last year at around 40% with both countries. China's trade with India is nearly three times India's trade with Japan and Korea's trade with India is almost equal to Japan's trade with India.

The time has come for Japanese companies to reverse this situation. Japan must regain its historic status as our most important business partner in Asia. We cannot forget the critical role Japanese companies have played in the development of India's automobile and other industries in India. The challenge is before all of us is obvious. I invite Japanese Business Community to take full advantage of opportunities that present themselves in my country.

I am happy that there are indications that the trend is already beginning to change. Since the end of 2004, over \$ 5 billion have been invested from Japan in India's capital markets. This is a ringing endorsement of the potential and profitability of investing in India and will, I hope, set the tone for greater direct investment as well. I am also told that the number of Japanese companies in India have grown by 50% in the last three years.

I do hope that you have noted the results of a JETRO survey conducted in 2005, which concluded that the profit prospects of Japanese manufacturing companies was the best in India as compared to all ASEAN countries. As a consequence, more than 90% of such companies in India were planning to expand their operations in the next couple of years. I urge you to weigh the initial problems of entry against the long-term profitability and stability of doing business in India.

An economically resurgent India today offers a variety of investment opportunities, both in traditional and new sectors, in labour-intensive and knowledge-based industries. In bio-technology, nano-technology, information technology, automobiles and aerospace, textiles and leather, marine products and in many other areas Japan and India can come together.

I am of course aware of the concerns Japanese investors have about doing business in India. Our government will address all legitimate concerns of investors. We are committed to improving our infrastructure, simplifying our taxation regime, reducing further our tariffs and eliminating bureaucratic delays. We have made substantial progress in each of these areas, but I am aware that there is more to be done. We will do our very best.

The focus of our government has been to create world class infrastructure in India. I am personally monitoring all the major infrastructure projects every quarter as head of the Committee on Infrastructure. We have estimated that India's investment needs in area of infrastructure will be at least \$320 billion in the next five years in infrastructure alone. We have estimated that our total investment requirement would be closer to US\$ 500 billion. This requires public and private, domestic and

(Continued on page 32)



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## MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA , SHRI NIRAI SRIVASTAVA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA, 26TH JANUARY, 2007

On the auspicious occasion of the 58th Republic of Day of India on 26th January, 2007, it gives me great pleasure to extend my good wishes to the readers of *Monsoon Journal*. On this day in 1950 the Constitution of India was formally adopted by the Parliament and India became a republic. This day reminds us of India's commitment to democracy, freedom, secularism, equality and the rule of law. These values, that are enshrined in the constitution, have guided our great country for many years, and will continue to do so in the future.

In the last few years many important developments have taken place in India's economy, society, politics and foreign policy. Our country is emerging as a major economic power, which is playing an important role in regional and global affairs. Increasingly, India today is seen as a force for peace, stability, and moderation in a world wracked by extremism, terrorism and violence.

The Indo-Canadian Community has played a vital role in Canada's economy, society and politics—a role of which India is proud. It is also a bridge between the two countries. I am confident that the Community will continue to strengthen the bonds between India and Canada—two countries which share many fundamental values—and bring them even closer in the years to come.

  
(Niraj Srivastava)  
Acting High Commissioner

Website: <http://www.hciottawa.ca>



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Greetings to the  
Government of  
India and its  
people on its  
Republic Day

Your Pharmacist Velu  
Page 26



Wishing all of you my best wishes for the Season and the New Year 2007  
and Happy Thai Pongal

## RRSPs versus Non-Registered Accounts

By: Bobby Siva

Winter is here and it is Holiday Season. Most of us will be indulged in festive moods and will be overlooking a major issue when it comes to personal finance.

In recent years, reductions in the capital gains inclusion rate have resulted in non-registered accounts becoming an attractive option for investors. Investors are now asking when they should invest in RRSPs and when they should invest in non-registered accounts. The following highlights the advantages and disadvantages of both.

The advantages of investing in RRSPs and RRIFs offer unlimited tax deferral until funds are withdrawn. When withdrawn, funds are treated as income and taxed at the full marginal rate at the time of withdrawal. In addition, any withdrawals are taxed as straight income notwithstanding the fact that they may have been the result of Canadian dividends or capital gains earned inside the registered account.

With RRSPs and RRIFs, the annuitant can choose to rebalance his or her portfolio as appropriate. If gains have been realized on some of the investments inside the registered plan, they remain tax sheltered as assets are reallocated from one asset class (e.g., equities) to another (e.g., bonds).

With a non-registered equity investment, generally, no tax is payable until the investment is sold. However, not many investors buy and hold an individual security or mutual fund in a non-registered account for 20 or 30 years. Also, an investor may be reluctant to dispose of a property that has gone up tremendously in value because of the potential for large capital gains tax on such rebalancing. This may have the added effect of discouraging a reallocation of the investment mix where such a reallocation may be the appropriate

choice for the investor as he or she approaches retirement age.

Most importantly, RRSPs offer a tax deduction in respect of contributions made. For example, a \$16,500 RRSP contribution would result in a tax savings for an individual with a marginal tax rate of 45 per cent. The tax refund received from making a contribution can be invested into a non-registered account. Let's see what happens over 15, 25 and 35 years if the investor consistently reinvests the refund into a non-registered account, assuming 8 per cent annual returns.

Over time, the combined after-tax value of the registered and non-registered accounts with reinvested tax refunds will generally surpass the after-tax value of a non-registered account alone, even though income from the registered accounts is fully taxable. Even if not reinvested, the money would at the very least contribute to a better quality of life at some level, whether the investor pays off debts or buys something new with it.

Finally, the RRSP offers many Canadians a psychological motivation to invest for their retirement on a regular basis. If someone invests the legal maximum RRSP contribution limit (18 per cent of their prior year's earned income - generally employment income, etc - up to a maximum of \$16,500 less any pension adjustment), then they will be going a long way towards a financially healthy and secure retirement.

### The advantages of investing in a non-registered account

Now, let's assume that instead of contribution funds to an RRSP each year, the investor deposits the same amount in a non-registered account that holds a mix of equity investments. Upon ultimate disposition, any profits earned on

these investments will result in capital gains to the investor, taxable at only 50 per cent of the investor's marginal tax rate.

There are a few, more specific situations where ceasing to make RRSP contributions makes the most sense. This may be the case for investors who:

Have already accumulated a significant amount of assets inside their registered plans

Are approaching the age at which they will begin withdrawing from the plan

Expect to be in a higher tax bracket when withdrawing the funds than they were when the RRSP deduction was taken.

It's important that investors review their personal situations to determine how much of their assets should be in registered plans and what portion should be in non-registered accounts. The appropriate allocation will depend to a large extent on the factors discussed above.

### Next Step

The preceding is a general overview of some of the issues that need to be considered when choosing between registered and non-registered accounts. All cases should be dealt with on an individual basis and investors should review their portfolio with their financial advisor and/or professional tax specialist when dealing with specific situations.

### Finally Things To Remember

"RRSPs and RRIFs offer unlimited tax deferral until the funds are withdrawn"

"With RRSPs and RRIFs, the annuitant can choose to rebalance his or her portfolio as appropriate."



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When Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister of India in 1966 she was described as a "Dumb Doll" obviously referring to her inability then to tackle India's domestic and international issues. But barely four years later she was hailed as an invincible goddess when India won her war against Pakistan.

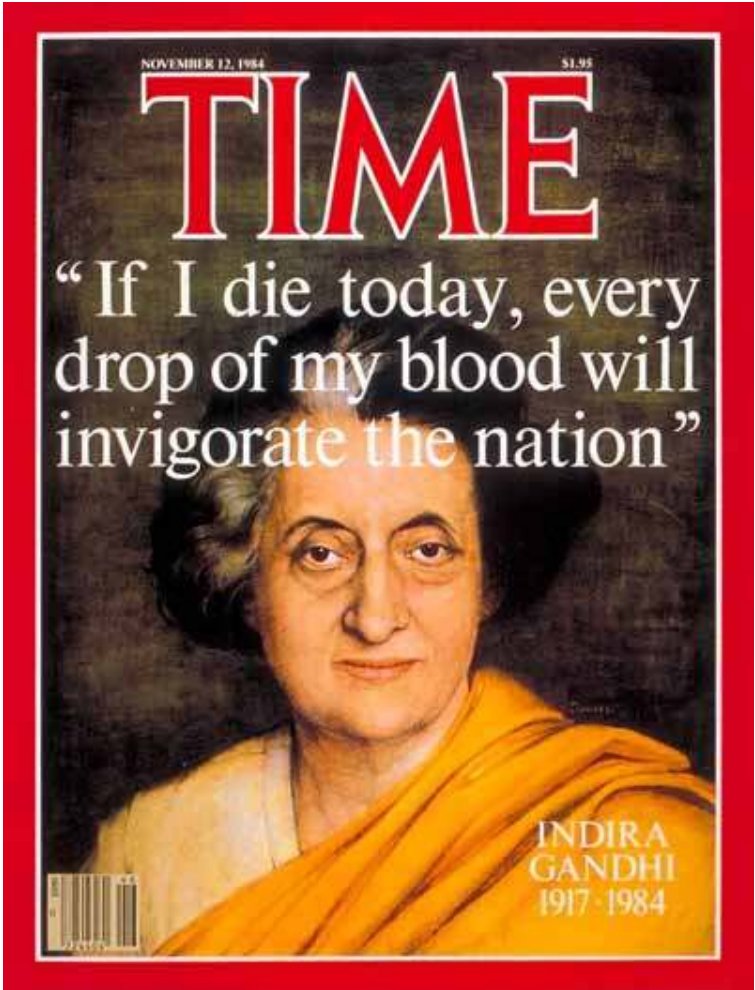
This writer had the opportunity of interviewing her father the First Prime Minister of India - the Late Pandit Jawarhalal Nehru somewhere around the 1960s when he visited Sri Lanka for the Non-Aligned Conference at the height of the Indo-China war. One of the questions put to him by the writer was about his successor and whether he was grooming his daughter to succeed him. With a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face Nehru said 'this is a not a matter for me to decide but a decision the people of India have to take.' The people of India did decide on her later when they made her the Prime Minister of the World's largest Democracy.

Diverse Personality

Indira Gandhi was certainly a person with a diverse personality when she took decisions for her country. From the Olympian heights of victory after the Pakistan war she plummeted down into the abyss of electoral defeat. The last Prime Minister of India Atal Behari Vajpayee even referred to her as a person who has been 'consigned to the dustbin of history'. But he was wrong. Within two years the Indian people brought her back with pride to lead their

Indira Gandhi  
The Legacy Of A Leader

Siva Sivapragasam



“If I die today, every drop of my blood will invigorate the nation” Indira Gandhi during an interview with TIME magazine, before her assassination

country and the Janatha party became history. But unfortunately the decisions she took for her country were mixed and thereby created a sense of bitterness among sections of her people. Even today people remember her as



Indira with her eldest son Sanjay who died in an air crash

a person who introduced nineteen months of nightmarish emergency in the country. Such acts clouded the benefits she bequeathed to her country. Sometimes referred to as the 'man in the Cabinet' she took bold decisions in the interest of her country. When she ordered Lieutenant Colonel Sunderji of the Southern Command to invade the Golden Temple in Punjab she did this not because she loved the Sikhs less but because she loved India more. For this act of her's she made the supreme sacrifice with her life when she was gunned down by her own trusted Sikh body - guards. In later life her son Rajiv too had to lay down his life for politics.

Concentration of Power

Critics of Indira always dub her as a person who wishes to have an iron grip with concentration of power in her hands. Some say that this was due to the large influence that her play boyish younger son Sanjay had on the mother and perhaps her love to ensure

dynastic succession. But unfortunately she could not achieve this due to the untimely death of Sanjay who died in a helicopter crash.

Her pride of achievements was of course the liberation of Bangla Desh in 1971 and Indians are so proud of this that she was looked upon as an incarnation of Shakthi, the Goddess of Power. Her interest for the Tamils in Sri Lanka was no less. During the July 1983 riots when Tamils in the country specially those of Indian origin were being burnt, massacred and their belongings looted there was an uproar in the Indian Parliament. Members were questioning her as to why India was silent. It is said that she walked out of the Lok Sabha proceedings, went into her room , telephoned the Sri Lankan President Jayawardene and told him that if the rioting is not controlled within the next 48 hours Indian troops will fly down to Sri Lanka to stop it. It was also rumoured that she had ordered the War Book be opened to invade Sri Lanka if the necessity arose. Jayawardene knew the seriousness of it and assured her that the rioting will stop. Both he and his Prime Minister immediately took steps to curb the violence. Gandhi also flew her Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao to Sri Lanka to ensure that Jayawardene kept his word. Thus another Bangla Dsh type invasion of Sri Lanka was averted. She did not end her interest in the Tamils with this. When Appapillai Amirthalingam, the leader of the Tamil United Front was in exile in India

soon after the July riots she called him to New Delhi from Madras to attend India's Independence Day celebrations and introduced him for international exposure to the top-notch diplomats from all over the world as the Elected Leader of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. In fact she had requested Amirthalingam to purposely come a little late for the function so that he would be the cynosure of all eyes present.

A secular country

If History is to analyze the merits and demerits of Indira Gandhi both her faults and flaws may be long but at the same time her achievements and victories are even longer and impressive. The poison that was embedded in the form of the Emergency rule is now a thing of the past and the present younger generation knows little about this and cares little about it. In an irony of fate and paradox it has done some good to the Indians to realize that India has to be a secular country with its multi ethnic, diverse nationalities and has to be governed democratically.

India's rise under Indira was dazzling and in a way the meteoric rise had even surpassed that of her predecessors including that of her father who was a man of great vision and wisdom. Her sudden and tragic removal from the scene of politics like Shakespeare's Julius Caesar was indeed a great loss to the Indians and was perhaps a greater loss to the Tamils in Sri Lanka.



Indira with her father Pandit Jawarhalal Nehru,first Prime Minister of the Indian Republic

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# An interview with a Heart Specialist Save Your Life from Heart Attacks

There was a chat with Dr.Devi Shetty, Narayana Hrudayalaya (Heart Specialist). The transcript of the chat is given below.  
Dr Devi Shetty:  
Qn: What are the five thumb rules for a layman to take care of his heart?  
Ans:  
1. Diet - Less of carbohydrate, more of protein, less oil  
2. Exercise - Half an hour's walk, at least five days a week; avoid lifts and avoid sitting for a longtime  
3. Quit smoking  
4. Control weight  
5. Con trol blood pressure and sugar  
Qn: Is eating non-veg food (fish) good for the heart?  
Ans: No  
Qn: It's still a grave shock to hear that some apparently healthy person gets a cardiac arrest. How do we understand it in perspective?  
Ans: This is called silent attack; that is why we recommend everyone past the age of 30 to undergo routine health checkups.  
Qn: Are heart diseases hereditary?  
Ans: Yes  
Qn: What are the ways in which the heart is stressed? What practices do you suggest to de-stress?  
Ans: Change your attitude towards life. Do not look for perfection in everything in life.  
Qn: Is walking better than jogging or is more intensive exercise required to keep a healthy heart?  
Ans: Walking is better than jogging since jogging leads to early fatigue and injury to joints  
Qn: You have done so much for the poor and needy. What has inspired you to do so?  
Ans: Mother Theresa, who was my

patient.  
Qn: Can people with low blood pressure suffer heart diseases?  
Ans: Extremely rare  
Qn: Does cholesterol accumulates right from an early age (I'm currently only 22) or do you have to worry about it only after you are above 30 years of age?  
Ans: Cholesterol accumulates from childhood.  
Qn: How do irregular eating habits affect the heart?  
Ans: You tend to eat junk food when the habits are irregular and your body's enzyme release for digestion gets confused.  
Qn: How can I control cholesterol content without using medicines?  
Ans: Control diet, walk and eat walnut.  
Qn: Can yoga prevent heart ailments?  
Ans: Yoga helps.  
Qn: Which is the best and worst food for the heart?  
Ans: Best food is fruits worst are oil.  
Qn: Which oil is better - gingili, groundnut, sunflower, saffola, olive?  
Ans: All oils are bad; the so-called best oil company has the largest marketing budget.  
Qn: What is the routine checkup one should go through? Is there any specific test?  
Ans: Routine blood test to ensure sugar, cholesterol is ok. Check BP, Treadmill test after an echo.  
Qn: How different was it in treating Noor Fatima, the little kid from Pakistan?  
Ans: It was extremely difficult, Because of the media attention. As far as the medical treatment is concerned, she is like any other child with a complex heart problem.

Qn: What are the first aid steps to be taken on a heart attack?  
Ans: Help the person into a sleeping position, put an aspirin tablet under the tongue with a sorbitrate tablet if available, and rush him to a coronary care unit since the maximum casualty takes place within the first hour.  
Qn: How do you differentiate between pain caused by a heart attack and that caused due to gastric trouble?  
Ans: Extremely difficult without ECG.  
Qn: What is the main cause of a steep increase in heart problems amongst youngsters? I see people of about 30-40 yrs of age having heart attacks and serious heart problems.  
Ans: Increased awareness has increased incidents. Also, edentary lifestyles, smoking,junk food, lack of exercise in a country where people are genetically three times more vulnerable for heart attacks than Europeans and Americans.  
Qn: Is it possible for a person to have BP outside the normal range of 120/80 and yet be perfectly healthy?  
Ans: Yes.  
Qn: Marriages within close relatives can lead to heart problems for the child. Is it true?  
Ans : Yes, co-sanguinity leads to congenital abnormalities and you may not have a software engineer as a child  
Qn: Many of us have an irregular daily routine and many a times we have to stay late nights in office. Does this affect our heart? What precautions would you recommend?  
Ans : When you are young, nature protects you against all these irregularities. However, as you grow older, respect the biological clock.

Qn: Will taking anti-hypertensive drugs cause some other complications (short / long term)?  
Ans : Yes, most drugs have some side effects. However, modern anti-hypertensive drugs are extremely safe.  
Qn: Will consuming more coffee/tea lead to heart attacks?  
Ans : No.  
Qn: Are asthma patients more prone to heart disease?  
Ans : No.  
Qn: How would you define junk food?  
Ans : Fried food like Kentucky, McDonalds, samosas, and even masala dosas.  
Qn: You mentioned that Indians are three times more vulnerable. What is the reason for this, as Europeans and Americans also eat a lot of junk food?  
Ans : Every race is vulnerable to some disease and unfortunately, Indians are vulnerable for the most expensive disease.  
Qn: Does consuming bananas help reduce hypertension?  
Ans : No.  
Qn: Can a person help himself during a heart attack (Because we see a lot of forwarded emails on this)?  
Ans : Yes. Lie down comfortably and put an aspirin tablet of any description under the tongue and ask someone to take you to the nearest coronary care unit without any delay and do not wait for the ambulance since most of the time, the ambulance does not turn up.  
Qn: Do, in any way, low white blood cells and low hemoglobin count lead to heart problems?  
Ans : No. But it is ideal to have normal hemoglobin level to increase your exercise capacity.

Qn: Sometimes, due to the hectic schedule we are not able to exercise. So, does walking while doing daily chores at home or climbing the stairs in the house, work as a substitute for exercise?  
Ans : Certainly. Avoid sitting continuously for more than half an hour and even the act of getting out of the chair and going to another chair and sitting helps a lot.  
Qn: Is there a relation between heart problems and blood sugar?  
Ans : Yes. A strong relationship since diabetics are more vulnerable to heart attacks than non-diabetics.  
Qn: What are the things one needs to take care of after a heart operation?  
Ans : Diet, exercise, drugs on time. Control cholesterol, BP, weight.  
Qn: Are people working on night shifts more vulnerable to heart disease when compared to day shift workers?  
Ans : No.  
Qn: What are the modern anti-hypertensive drugs?  
Ans : There are hundreds of drugs and your doctor will chose the right combination for your problem, but my suggestion is to avoid the drugs and go for natural ways of controlling blood pressure by walk, diet to reduce weight and changing attitudes towards lifestyles.  
Qn: Does dispirin or similar headache pills increase the risk of heart attacks?  
Ans : No.  
Qn: Why is the rate of heart attacks more in men than in women?  
Ans : Nature protects women till the age of 45.  
Qn: How can one keep the heart in a good condition?  
Ans : Eat a healthy diet, avoid junk food, exercise everyday, do not smoke and, go for a health checkup if you are past the age of 30 for at least once in two yrs. And work very hard and Enjoy your Life...

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# India: Emerging as Eastern or Western Power?

## India can follow in the footsteps of Japan or China – or even forge its own path

By Kishore Mahbubani

Pundits agree: India will be the third great Asian power to emerge, after Japan and China. Japan emerged self-consciously as a Western power. China has made no pretensions in that direction. What will be India's path?

Figuring India's direction is not easy. What is the nature of era we are living in, Eastern or Western? Also what is the nature of Indian civilization itself?

A century ago, we lived in the Western era of human history. Japan emerged as a Western power because there seemed to be no alternative to Western power in 1868. Japanese Meiji reformer Yukichi Fukuzawa said: "Our immediate policy, therefore, should be to lose no time in waiting for the enlightenment of our neighbouring countries in order to join them in developing Asia, but rather to depart from their ranks and cast our lot with the civilized countries of the West.<sup>1</sup> Sun Yat Sen also acknowledged superiority of the West: "We, the modern people of China, are all useless, but if in the future we use Western civilization as a model, we can easily turn weakness into strength, and the old into the new.<sup>2</sup>

Similarly, India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru said: "The search for the sources of India's strength and for her deterioration and decay is long and intricate. Yet the recent causes of that decay are obvious enough. She fell behind in the march of technique, and Europe, which had long been backward in many matters, took the lead in technical progress.<sup>3</sup> Would these Asian statesmen, if alive

today, readily acknowledge the superiority of the West?

Many in the West have never felt so insecure, both in their daily lives and sense of future. Remarkably, one man sitting in a cave in Afghanistan has unleashed much of this insecurity. A few young English Muslims aggravated it further. Lou Dobbs has convinced many Americans that outsourcing to Asia is the next big threat to America. Europeans, by contrast, feel threatened when a British citizen of Indian ancestry, Lakshmi Mittal, tries to buy a European steel company, all the while playing by European rules. All these are examples of insecurity.

If the Goldman Sachs BRICs study is accurate, three of the four largest economies in the year 2050 will be Asian: China, USA, Indian and Japan. It is hard to engage in Western triumph if this triumph does not rest on a conviction of perpetually superior economic performance.

Something equally important has occurred in the moral dimension. If anyone had suggested 15 years ago that Western countries would allow the use of torture, he would have been dismissed out of hand. But this has happened. In 2005, Irene Khan, the head of the Amnesty International, said: "Guantanamo is the gulag of our times." If her statement was untrue, there should have been a rush of denials from the West. If her statement was true, an equally strong chorus of voices would have demanded that this had to stop. Apart from a few flutters of regret, nothing really happened. The gulag continued.



A confident India stands up and doesn't follow anybody's model

This silence of the West has resulted in a profound shift in how leading Asian minds view the West. Instead of seeing the West as a paragon of virtue, they now see an emperor with no moral clothing.

The good news here is that many of these "Western" values may not be uniquely Western, and other custodians could emerge.

The West believes that it alone

West will continue to lose the magical place it has enjoyed in the global imagination. Part of this is will be a result of relative economic performance. There was a time when many Asians believed that Westerners were inherently superior. Today, the cultural confidence of Asians is immense. Most people in the West have not noticed this because cultural confidence is intangible. But Asians are fully aware, no



championed "freedom" and "tolerance." But Amartya Sen points to the Indian emperor Ashoka, "who during the third century BCE covered the country with inscriptions on stone tablets about good behaviour and wise governance, including a demand for basic freedoms for all – indeed, he did not exclude women and slaves as Aristotle did.<sup>4</sup>

Sen's point is that the great divide between the East and West may be artificial, that the values of freedom and tolerance, reason and logic, may not be uniquely Western.

Against this backdrop, let me offer concrete predictions about how India will emerge:

My first prediction is that Indians, unlike the Japanese, are going to wear less rather than more Western clothing. Clothing helps define one's identity. Try to imagine another Mahatma Gandhi or Jawaharlal Nehru without their trademark Indian garb.

Second, India will gradually drift away from the West. The

inherited from the West: Democracy, a respect for human rights and respect for the rule of law. But increasingly, Indians will claim these traditions as their own, just as Western philosophers happily accepted the work of Islamic rationalists and claimed their ideas as their own.

My third prediction is that, with the growing detachment between the West and the rest, India will once again resume its natural role as the meeting point for the great civilizations. At a time when many in the West are convinced that the West cannot co-exist in peace with the Islamic world, they will increasingly marvel at how India has accommodated many civilizations – including the Hindu, Buddhist, Islamic and Christian civilizations – and how most live in peace with one another most of the time.

A spirit of inclusiveness pervades Indian political and social culture. While the West often tries to discuss the world in black-and-white terms, the Indian mind sees the nuances.

Take Iran as a case study. The West cannot see beyond the relatively new and brief theocratic rule of Iran. Indians however see a rich and deep Persian civilization that has contributed so much to the development of both Asian and Indian cultures. Hence, while the West insists on cutting itself off from Iran, Indians naturally believe in engagement, even though the Indian government disapproves of the Iranian nuclear program.

This capacity for engaging other cultures may well mean that India could play a bridging role between the West and the East. Or, it could play a bigger role of convincing leading Western minds that they should stop seeing themselves as guardians of one leading civilization. A great crusade is needed to convince the West that it is essentially no different from the rest. India may well play a leading role in this crusade. [© 2006 Yale Center for the Study of Globalization - <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu>]

(Kishore Mahbubani is the dean and practice professor of public policy at the LKY School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, and author of "Can Asians Think" and "Beyond the Age of Innocence: Rebuilding Trust between America and the World." This article is adapted from remarks delivered by Professor Mahbubani at the annual lecture of the Center for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania, in New York City on November 9, 2006.)

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Friendly banter with any Indian friend would invariably veer towards a favorite topic – Food



Food is an integral part of India's culture, with cuisines differing according to community, region, and state. Indian cuisine is characterized by a great variety of foods, spices, and cooking techniques.

Furthermore, each religion, region, and caste has left its own influence on Indian food. Many recipes first emerged from Hinduism and can be traced back to Vedic ages. Later, many invader left their mark on Indian cuisine - Mughals, [Christians](#), [British](#), [Buddhists](#), [Portuguese](#), and the list goes on.

Just as Japanese sushi relies on the freshness of the meat and Chinese food relies on the various sauces to impart the right flavor and taste, Indian food relies on the spices in which it is cooked. Spices have always been considered to be India's prime commodity. It is interesting to see an Indian cook at work, with a palette of spices, gratuitously sprinkling these powders in exact pinches into the dish in front of him/her.

Many of ancient Hindu kings and rulers – Emperor Ashoka (who later on went on to become a staunch Buddhist) being a prominent one – propagated Vegetarianism. Many of the religious festivals and rituals have also influenced Indian cuisine.

### History of Indian cuisine:

Use of spices and cultivated vegetables dates back to 6000 BC (Indus Valley Civilization). By 3000 BC many common spices such as Black Pepper, Cardamom and mustard were being cultivated and regularly used. In Vedic times, a normal diet consisted of fruit, vegetables, grain, meat, fish and dairy products.

According to the traditional Indian medical system Ayurveda, food is either [satvic](#), [rajasic](#) or [tamasic](#) depending on its character and effect upon the body and the mind. Food types were classified based on division of labor and different sections of society had dietary guidelines according to the kind of the work they did. Brahmins or priests were prescribed vegetarian diet, while Kshatriyas or warriors could eat meat to give them strength and stamina to wage battles.

As mentioned earlier, over the centuries Indian cuisine has been influenced by many foreign cultures and cuisines. [Islamic rule](#) introduced rich gravies, [pilafs](#) and non-vegetarian fare such as [kebabs](#), known today as [Mughlai cuisine](#) ([Mughal](#) in origin), as well as such fruits as apricots, melons, peaches and plums. The Mughals were great patrons of cooking. Lavish dishes were prepared during the reigns of [Jahangir](#) and [Shah Jahan](#). The [Nizams](#) of Hyderabad state meanwhile developed and perfected their own style of cooking with the most notable dish being the [Biryani](#), often

# Indian Cuisine

By: Nate V & Harish G

considered by many connoisseurs to be the finest of the main dishes in India.

During this period the [Portuguese](#) introduced foods from the [New World](#) such as potatoes, tomatoes, squash and chilies.

In modern days, though Brahmins are strict vegetarians usually, those who reside in West Bengal and Konkan coast consume a lot of fish. Southern Indians generally speaking, have been orthodox in their tastes, probably because eating meat when it is hot all year round can be difficult. In the North, the weather varies from a scorching heat to a nail-biting cold, with a sprinkling of showers in between. So, the food here is quite rich and heavy, which is facilitated by a cooperative climate where a variety of fruits and vegetables can easily be grown throughout the year.

### Regional Indian Cuisine

Indian cooking is known for its diversity. Though Indian cooking has become very popular around the globe, only very little of its rich culinary heritage has been exposed to the world. When people think of Indian food, they always think of Butter Chicken, Tandoori Chicken, Chicken Tikka Masala, Naan or Dosa. There is much more to Indian cooking than these popular dishes.

Though it does not do complete justice to the variety and depth, Indian cuisine can be largely classified based on 4 geographical regions.

### North India cuisine (including Mughlai and Tandoori cuisine)

Mughlai food known for its Kababs and rich gravies has a deep influence on World food today. An everyday meal of a Punjabi farmer would be centered around bread, corn bread, greens and buttermilk ('Lassi'). Buttermilk is whipped yogurt, and can be had sweetened or with salt and is usually very thick. Wheat is the staple food in Northern India. Shredded vegetables mixed with spices and stuffed into the dough, which is then rolled and roasted to make the delicious stuffed breads or "Paranthas" (the influence of Indian bread can be found in Malay and Indonesian cooking e.g: "Roti-Canai" ). Some Punjabis also eat meat dishes, and Indian cottage cheese called "Paneer". North Indian rice preparation, commonly referred to as Pulav (Pilaf) has its origins in Arab/Persian cuisine and is garnished with fried onions and roasted nuts like cashew and topped with silver leaf and rose petals. Tandoori' food, a favorite with many foreigners is a gift from the Punjab. Various meats are marinated with spices, ginger and garlic pastes and curd and roasted over a clay-oven (Tandoor) with a wood-fire burning underneath. The special wheat bread cooked over the

Tandoor is called 'Naan'. In the beautiful and rich valley of Kashmir, all dishes are built around the main course of rice. Fresh fish found in the many lakes and streams here are also consumed with relish. Lamb and poultry are cooked in the Mughlai style. In the North Indian state of Uttar Pradesh (city of Lucknow), there are varieties of Kababs (Galouti) that are said to melt in the mouth due to the marinating and brilliant use of spices. In the arid deserts of Rajasthan, a great variety of dals (lentils) and pickles (achars) are used to substitute the lack of fresh vegetables and fruits.

### Western Indian cuisine

(including Konkan and Malwani cuisine)

Maharashtra (Bombay - Mumbai) has some of the little known but amazing variety of food. Both rice and wheat are included in their diets. A lot of fish is available along the long coastline. Bombil (a type of fish), Pomfret and Bombay Duck (a fried fish dish) preparations are delicious. Further down south along the coast, in Goa, the Portuguese influence is evident in dishes like the sweet and sour Vindaloo, duck bafad, sorpotel and Xacuti. The vegetarian cuisine is equally vast too with use of Coconut, lentils, greens, garlic and red chilies. Dishes such as Gassi, Patroda etc. are unique to the Konkani cuisine. Malwani cuisine is known for its spicy and tasty sea food preparations. Paav Bhaji, Vada Paav and Bhel Puri are Mumbai's answer to fast food. Widely sold in the streets of Mumbai often serves the busy Mumbai-ite as "Grab and Go" snacks.

Gujarati food is known for its richness and its complexity. Extensive use of lentils, clarified butter, sugar and milk give the Gujarati food a distinct flavor. A Gujarati "Thaali" (a complete assemble of various dishes, gravies, rice, bread and sweets) is delicious and very heavy! Shrikand – a sweet dish prepared from Milk and sugar is very popular. Khakdas or the light, thin and crispy snack is had often with milky, sweet tea during tea time.

### South Indian cuisine (Including Hyderabad cuisine)

South Indian states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh all have distinct flavors of their own. Southern Indian cooking has the least amount of external influence barring for Muslim/ Arab cuisine in Hyderabad and Kerala (Malabar) cuisine.



Contributed by  
Nate V & Harish G



Tamilian food uses a lot of tamarind to impart sourness to a dish, whereas Andhra food can be really spicy and hot. Brahmins of Southern India are largely Vegetarian. Iyer and Iyengar communities of Tamil Nadu have their distinct delicacies. Even common gravy-based dishes such as Sambar or Rasam is made differently in different communities and regions of South India. Brahmin cuisines includes vegetables and fruits but, in many cases does not include onions, garlic, root vegetables and mushrooms. Breakfast preparations such as Idli, Dosa and Vadai have become universal hits and can be found in any part of the world today. While Tamilian cuisine is largely vegetarian, Central and Southern Tamil Nadu has fantastic Non-Vegetarian cooking. Largely known as Chettinad cuisine, Karaikudi, Madurai and Tirunalveli regions are known for its range of spicy and sweet dishes.

Kerala cuisine is known for its simplicity and moderate use of spices. Some of the better known Kerala vegetarian dishes include Avial, Puttu, Appam and Payasam (sweet dish). Malabar Muslim cooking is a little known secret that only many Keralites know. Malabar Biriyani, Pathiri and Fish Curry are simply out of this world. Use of Fish, Coconut (both oil and grated coconut) and curry leaves is a distinct feature of Kerala cuisine. Kerala cuisine has very close resemblance is presentation and taste to Sri Lankan Tamil cooking, which again uses a lot of Coconut.

Andhra known for its spicy Chicken and Meat preparations uses a lot of Red Chillies in its cooking. Hyderabad, the capital city, is the home of the Muslim Nawabs (rulers) and is famous for its superb Biriyani, grilled Kababs, Kormas and rich desserts (made with apricots).

Karnataka cuisine is largely vegetarian. The practice of *naivedya*, or ritual offerings, to at Krishna temple in [Udupi](#), has led to the Udupi style of vegetarian cooking. The variety of dishes which must be offered to Lord Krishna forced the cooks of the temple to innovate. Traditional cooking in Udupi Ashtamatha is characterized by the use of local seasonal ingredients. Rice, Saaru (thin

gravy similar to Rasam) and Palya (Sautéed Veggies) form the staple diet to a Kannadiga (many people of Karnataka speak Kannada). Sheera (sweet dish made of Vermicelli, sugar and Clarified Butter) is an all time favorite for them.

### Eastern Indian cooking:

Eastern India and the North-East consists of many states – prominent ones are West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur.

Calcutta is the capital city of West Bengal. With its numerable eateries, road side vendors and a huge spread of cuisine, Calcutta is a 'foodie's' paradise. Bengalis eat a lot of fish and it is said that a Bengali meal is not complete without fish. One of the delicacies is a fish called the 'hilsa' is spiced and wrapped in pumpkin leaf and cooked. Another unusual ingredient used in Bengali cooking is the bamboo shoot. "Machor Jhol" or fish curry is eaten with Rice. Machor Bhaj or Fish Fry is very popular too. Milk sweets from this region like the Roshgolla, Sandesh, Cham-cham are world famous. A large immigrant Chinese community is present in Calcutta and they serve some of authentic Chinese food. Over a period of time, the Indian influence and flavor has crept onto their cuisine and you can now find "Indian-Chinese" restaurants in many parts of country (Vancouver and Toronto in Canada has a few of them).

### Beverages

[Tea](#) ([Hindi](#): [chai](#)) is a staple beverage throughout India; India is one of the largest producers of Tea in the world and some of the finest varieties are grown in [Darjeeling](#) and [Assam](#). It is generally prepared as *masala chai*, a boiled mixture of milk and spices. The less popular [coffee](#) is largely confined to South India. One of the finest varieties of Coffee is grown around [Mysore](#), [Karnataka](#). Other beverages include [nimbu pani](#) (lemonade), [lassi](#), and Tender Coconut water. India also has many indigenous [alcoholic beverages](#), including [palm wine](#) (toddy), [fenny](#) (Goan Wine made from Cashew fruit), and [Indian beer](#).

Continued on Page 31



Indian Cuisine...

Continued from Page 30

Etiquette

Several customs are associated with the manner of food consumption in India. Traditionally, meals are eaten while seated either on the floor or on very low stools or cushions. Food is most often eaten using the fingers of the right hand instead using cutlery. Eating out of a common plate or container is considered unhygienic in many Indian communities. In many Indian families it is tradition to have the head of the family eat along with the children, followed by women. In many parts of South India, food is eaten out of a large Banana Leaf .

A ‘thaali’ (a metal plate or banana leaf) is quite common in most parts of India. Both the North Indian and South Indian thali contain small bowls arranged inside the rim of the plate (or leaf), each filled with a different sort of spiced vegetarian food, curd and sweet. At the center of the thali you would find a heap of rice, some puris (wheat bread rolled into small circular shapes and deep-fried in hot oil) or chapathis (wheat bread rolled out into large circular shapes and shallow-fried over a hot ‘tava’).

‘Paan’ or “Paakku” is served as a digestive and mouth freshner after some meals. The dark-green leaf of the betel-pepper plant is smeared with a little bit of lime and wrapped around a combination of spices like crushed betelnuts, cardamom, aniseed, sugar and grated coconut. It is an astringent and is believed to help in clearing the system. Mumbai is known to be a good place for connoisseurs of paan.

Indian cuisine – capturing the world market

After the Immigration Act of 1965, South Asian immigration to the United States increased, and with it the prevalence of Indian cuisine, especially in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, neighborhoods of New York city and New Jersey. In many Indian restaurants in the U.S., all-you-can-eat buffets with several standard dishes have become the norm. UK in general and London in particular has many Indian restaurants.

Curry has become synonymous with spicy gravy preparation. Basmati rice, the fragrant Indian rice used in cooking Pulav and Biryani recently became a controversial trademark debate.

Indian restaurants are common in the larger cities of Canada, particularly in Toronto and Vancouver where large numbers of Indian nationals have settled since 1970. A number of the more adventurous restaurants have transformed their offerings into so-called Indian "fusion" menus, combining fresh local ingredients with traditional Indian cooking techniques. Indian restaurants can also be found in many European and Australian cities, particularly Paris, London, and Istanbul.

Due to the large Indian community in South Africa, the cuisine of South Africa includes several Indian-origin dishes; some have evolved to become unique to South Africa, such as the bunny chow. Many others are modified with local spices.

One thing is for sure – just a like a visit to India is a life changing experience, a taste of Indian cuisine is bound to change your palate preferences for life!



Flavor for Life

Contributed by  
Nate V & Harish G

Chicken Vindaloo



Chicken Vindaloo  
4 to 6 Servings

- ½ Chicken Thigh Meats
- Butter
- 4 Garlic Cloves, peeled and minced
- 3 tsp Ginger, peeled and minced
- 2 cups Yellow Onions, Medium Diced
- 2 tsp Lemon Juice
- 2 tsp Distilled white vinegar
- 2 tsp Cumin powder
- 2 tsp Coriander powder
- 2 tsp Cayenne powder
- 2 tsp Salt
- 2 cups Water
- 2 tsp Tomato paste
- 1 tsp Cinnamon powder
- 1 tsp Ground gloves
- 2 tsp Dried Tamarind (discard the seeds
- 5 Potatoes cut into cubes
- 3 each green chilies
- 1 tsp Coriander leaves
- 1 tsp Peppercorn
- 2 tsp Coconut milk

Method:

For Paste:

Combine garlic and ginger with rest of the ground spices in blender or food processor. Add 3 ounces water to make a fine paste.

For Marinade:

Ginger, garlic , lemon, vinegar and Crush peppercorns with mortar & pestle. Wash, stem & deseed chiles. Combine crushed peppercorns and chiles with rest of ingredients.

For Vindaloo:

Chicken cut into 1-inch cubes. Combine Chicken cubes with marinade and let sit 1 hour.

Peel and medium diced onions. Set aside. Wash, peel and cut potatoes into cubes. Deep fry potatoes in butter over medium heat until golden brown.

Heat butter in large saucepan over medium heat. Add onions and cook until golden brown. Add paste and cook until fat is melted. At this time, add marinated chicken, along with marinade, stirring 4 minutes. Add approximately 2 cups water, tamarind, and coconut milk and tomato paste, bring to boil, then cover and simmer until Chicken is tender. Now add the potatoes and cook until potatoes are soft.

Garnished with coriander leaves.

Mulligatawny Soup



(Anglo-Indian Invention)  
Serving for 6 people

Ingredients:

- 1 tsp Chopped Garlic
- 1 tsp Chopped Ginger
- ½ tsp Ground Gloves
- 5 tsp Curry powder
- ¼ lb Butter
- ½ lb Small diced chicken
- 2 stalks celery, small diced
- 2 large onions, small diced
- 2 large carrots, small diced
- 1 leek, thinly sliced, (white part only)
- 3 tsp fresh lemon juice
- 7 cups chicken stock
- 1 cup rice

- 2 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup small dice apple (peeled and cored)
- Salt and pepper
- 1 tsp Chopped cilantro

Sauté the garlic, ginger, chicken, celery, carrots and onion in the butter at a low heat until the onion is translucent. Stir in the curry powder and ground gloves to blend and cook for a minute. Pour in the stock, add the rice and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes.

While the soup is simmering, then add apples and heavy cream.

When the soup is done, add leeks, season to taste with the lemon juice, salt and pepper. Garnished with chopped cilantro.

This Indian Republic Supplement issue is blended with some popular Recipes by Nate V & Harish G

Avial



Avial

Serving for 6 to 8 people

Ingredients

- 3 cups of cubed boiled vegetables:
- Potatoes
- Green Beans
- Carrots
- Drumsticks
- Plantain
- Pumpkin
- Cauliflower
- 6 each Curry Leaves
- 1 tsp Chopped Coriander Leaves
- 1 tsp Mustard Seeds
- 1 tsp Ghee

Blend to a smooth paste

- 5 each green chilies
- 16 oz plain yogurt
- 3 tsp shredded coconut
- 2 tsp chopped ginger
- 1 tsp Tamarind paste
- ½ tsp Ground Turmeric
- 1 tsp Ground Cumin
- 1 tsp Ground Coriander
- 1 tsp Ground Hing

Boil the vegetables in 2 cups of water. Add the paste. In a sauté pan melt the ghee and sizzle the curry leaves and mustard seeds for a minute or so. Add to the pot and simmer for a couple of minutes. Combine and serve.  
Garnished with Coriander leaves.



# His Job: Make the Train System Expand on Time

By William Neuman

From his office on the eighth floor of 2 Broadway, near the southern tip of Manhattan, Mysore L. Nagaraja can look out over New York Harbor to the Statue of Liberty. But don't let the view fool you. Mr. Nagaraja's thoughts these days are mostly underground.

Take that big hole beneath Mr. Nagaraja's window — the immense excavation in Battery Park where workers are creating a new South Ferry subway station. As president of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Capital Construction Company, Mr. Nagaraja knows everything that goes on inside that hole: how many cubic yards of debris were removed, how thick the concrete slabs will be and above all how to get the work done while the trains keep running. Under his direction, the city's transit system is getting its most ambitious expansion in decades.

His projects include the South Ferry station, which will replace an antiquated station too small for today's subway trains; a new transit hub at Fulton Street and Broadway; the first phase of a long-awaited new subway line beneath Second Avenue; a Long Island Rail Road link to Grand Central Terminal that will give the railroad's commuters direct access to the East Side of Manhattan; and the extension of the No. 7 subway line to the Far West Side of Manhattan.

In the transportation authority's parlance, these are known as the mega-projects, and they have a combined budget of more than \$13 billion over the next seven years. "Mega," however, is not a



Mysore L. Nagaraja, president of the New York City - Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Capital Construction Company.

term that would normally come to mind in describing Mr. Nagaraja. A slight, deliberate, gentle-seeming man, he looks younger than his 65 years. That would seem to make him the antithesis of another mega-builder, the burly, brash Robert Moses.

But he is no less certain than Moses of the significance of what he is doing.

"I think it's going to change the landscape of the city," he said. Once he is finished, the transit system will carry riders farther out to the east and west sides of Manhattan. And his Fulton and South Ferry projects will go a long way toward reviving downtown after the terror attack of Sept. 11, 2001. "It's going to be a beautiful thing to get to Lower Manhattan," he said. He is also in charge of a major effort to make the transit system more secure.

"That is the satisfaction I get out of what I'm doing," he said.

Mr. Nagaraja wears monogrammed shirts, bright ties and, frequently, steel-toed boots. These days his preoccupations include some of the biggest digging machines in the world.

Once work advances over the next year or two, the Second Avenue project, the No. 7 extension and the Long Island Rail Road connection will employ five tunnel-boring machines, immense contraptions that slowly grind their way through soil or solid rock. Two machines for use on the Long Island connector are already being assembled in Queens. Tunnel boring for the two subway projects will begin in 2008.

Mr. Nagaraja was born in India, the youngest of 11 siblings, in the city he was named after. His father, a lawyer active in the Indian movement to win

independence from British rule, knew Mahatma Gandhi. In 1967, when he was in his 20s, Mr. Nagaraja came to the United States on a scholarship to study engineering at Brigham Young University, in Utah. Two years later, he got a job at an engineering firm in New York City. The office was at 150 Broadway, a few blocks north of his office today.

In the mid-1980s, Mr. Nagaraja took a job with the transportation authority, and by September 2001, he was the chief engineer for New York City Transit. When the twin towers came down, he was given the job of rebuilding more than 1,000 feet of crushed subway tunnel. Service resumed on the No. 1 and 9 lines in Lower Manhattan just after the first anniversary of the attack, far ahead of initial expectations.

Mr. Nagaraja is hard to ruffle, though if anything seems to bother him it is speculation that

he will not be able to complete his big projects without going wildly over budget. Asked about past increases in the budget for the Long Island Rail Road link, his voice took on an uncharacteristic edge.

"Let me correct you," he said. He explained that when he took over capital construction in 2003, he was asked to make a thorough review of the Long Island project. Mr. Nagaraja determined that its \$5.3 billion estimate was overly optimistic and that it would cost \$1 billion more. "Sitting here today," he said, "the project is still \$6.3 billion."

"It's very important for the credibility of the organization," he said. "So we have to make sure that when I come up with a number and when I tell my bosses, 'This is the number, this is the schedule,' that we can deliver."

Of course, there is always the unexpected. No one predicted that workers digging at South Ferry would uncover remnants of Colonial-era buildings. In planning for Fulton Street, he said, no one expected that a booming Manhattan real estate market would force the authority to go more than \$100 million over budget to acquire property needed for the project.

South Ferry is scheduled for completion in 2008 and the Fulton Street hub in 2009. The other projects are to be finished in 2013. That is when Mr. Nagaraja plans to retire. "I think it's a nice thing to end my career with." [Courtesy: www.nytimes.com © 2006 The New York Times Company]

*(Continued from page 21)*  
foreign participation in our economy.

We happily welcome foreign investment and seek to promote public-private partnership on a large scale.

As part of such innovative public-private partnerships, we have made provisions for grant assistance through a specially created "viability gap funding" mechanism, and for access to long-term funds through a special purpose vehicle, the Infrastructure Development Finance Company. The qualitative and quantitative expansion of education in India will enable us to sustain a highly productive work force with a wide range of skills.

There are already more than 70 Indian software companies and 5,000 Indian engineers operating in Japan and Indian companies are making significant efforts to train software professionals for the Japanese market. Japanese has already been introduced as an optional foreign language in our secondary schools and the government is committed to increasing Japanese language learning opportunities in India. We would urge the Japanese industry to exploit India's IT advantage the way the US and Europe have done and are doing.

India's fast expanding economy will create a large demand for energy. There are many opportunities for collaboration between Indian and Japanese companies in the area of energy efficient and environmentally friendly technologies. We must exploit this vast latent potential.

Prime Minister Abe and I are sincerely and deeply committed to breathing new life into our traditional friendship. We propose to launch negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between India and Japan.

I invite all of you to a youthful, dynamic and self confident India, where more than a billion people are seeking socio-economic progress in the framework of a functioning democracy, an open economy and an open society deeply committed to fundamental human rights and respect for rule of law. I invite you to join us in this historic journey of creativity and enterprise.

I am convinced that the 21st Century will be the Century of Asia. But to ensure this and to translate this into global prosperity and peace for all, Japan and India must work together. I invite you to join us to build a new India, a new Asia and a new world.



A classical dance performance during a program in Toronto

- photo by : Gnane -





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# No idea of entering politics: Kanimozhi



Poet K Kanimozhi, daughter of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi's daughter and poet K Kanimozhi has recently said that she has no idea of entering politics for now.

Talking to reporters in Madurai, Kanimozhi, however, said she would definitely inform the media if "I am entering politics."

Kanimozhi, co-organiser of "Karuthu", a forum for free exchange of opinion, strongly opposed capital punishment and said it should be abolished. Crimes would continue irrespective of whether death penalty

existed in law or not. On the Eelam (Sri Lankan) Tamils issue, Kanimozhi said she felt that if "separate Eelam was the only solution, it should be established".

On the move to introduce Tamil as a language of the Madras High Court, she said all High Court judgments were given in English and appeals also had to be done in English.

"Only solution for that is to establish a Supreme Court Bench in Tamil Nadu," she said adding she expected a demand for the same from "different quarters".

Replying to a question, she said the DMK had given "prominence" to women in the local body elections and public service in general. "That was why more than 40 per cent women had been elected in the recent local body elections."

Later she addressed the members of the Madurai Bar Association when she stressed the need for using Tamil in the High Court. [PTI]

# Small screen's `Arasi' (Queen)



The new serial, Arasi.

`Selvi' is just over, but Radaan never rests.

Radhika is back in action with her new mega, `Arasi' that opened its marathon innings on Sun recently. A war of emotions between mother and daughter this time, The cast has Sivachandran, Santoshi, Latha, M. S. Bhasker, Ravikumar and Radhika, who dons two different roles in `Arasi.' And she's its storywriter too.

Backed by Rajbabu's screenplay and Liyaqath Ali Khan's dialogue, the soap has Samuthirakani directing it. The unit has stayed put in Rameswaram for the past few weeks for the shoot.

# The Oldest Ritz-Carlton in US is 'Making a passage to India'

By Curt Nickisch [marketplace.org]

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007 the very first Ritz-Carlton hotel, built in Boston in 1927, will transfer ownership to Mumbai-based Taj Hotels. The cost: \$170 million.

The international Taj Hotel Group breaks into the U.S. market by buying this 278-room hotel. Back in its home base of India, many Taj properties are converted royal palaces.

The new general manager David Gibbons says the Ritz name will change to the Taj Boston, but little else will. Though Gibbons might spice up the menu with a few Indian entrees. "If I do there'll be somebody grinding the curry daily properly - and it will be done with the authenticity. So yeah that'll be added to the repertoire. But it won't be the repertoire," says Gibbons.

In the Taj Mahal Hotel lobby in New Delhi, a fountain splashes under a mural of an elephant. Tiger statues stand guard in the hotel suites.

But David Gibbons says you won't see elephant statues on the Boston Common. Taj is known as the steward of iconic buildings and palaces. We look at this one as an American palace.

An international flavor could help Taj, says hotel industry analyst Matt Arrants. He says

Boston's social elites no longer pay the bill. These days, it's corporate customers and a new wave of international travelers. "And they're coming for medical treatment at Mass General Hospital or one of the other medical institutions in the city; they here go shopping on Newbury Street, or visit their kids at Harvard, Boston University or MIT. So that's an important factor," says Arrants. These factors went into purchase price. Taj paid six hundred thousand dollars per room for the Boston Ritz, the highest price ever in Boston.

It reflects a larger trend, says Martin Desmairis. He edits the Indus Business Journal and says Indian companies are flush with cash after a decade of U.S. outsourcing. "Now they've got American know-how. The door's open, and now it's a two-way street I



The Ritz-Carlton, Boston – During construction in the late 1920's

think. They know how to do it one way, so it's not too hard to take a look at that and do it the other way," says Desmairis.

Next month Bostonians will have to get used to another way of puttin' on the Ritz. Hotel industry analyst Matt Arrants. "I tell you the one thing I like is that it's a nice quick one syllable so it's easy to say 'I'll meet you at the Taj for a drink' just as easily as you can say 'I'll meet you at the Ritz.'"

Chai and crumpets

**"Saree with Pocket"**

The "Saree with Pocket" introduced by Sri Kumaran Stores. The above advertisement hoarding is in Chennai. "Now women would not have to search for a place to put in their car keys or the cell phones," says the photo feature in Chennaiist.com

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# Punjabi as part of school curriculum in Canada

A school in Ontario has become the first in the province to introduce Punjabi as a subject.

Lincoln M. Alexander secondary School in Mississauga will start Punjabi language classes for Grade 10 students from early February, Globe and Mail newspaper reported on Dec 31st.

"Thanks to the persistent efforts of the Punjabi community ... we are acknowledging a significant and wonderful population which wants to learn Punjabi," Director of Education for Peel

District School Board, Jim Grieve was quoted by the paper as saying.

With a strength of 1,650 students, the school is already teaching French and German. While French will be compulsory credit in Grade 9, Punjabi will be treated as any other optional course, it said.

"Its our way of reaching out to the community," Jerry Powidajko, Principal of the Lincoln Alexander school, where 70 per cent of students are of South-Asian origin was quoted as saying.

"Punjabi is one of the most spoken languages in Toronto. I know learning the language will help me in future," Jennifer Thompson, one of the two non-Punjabi students who enrolled for the class said.

Ontario, which is home to a large politically conscious Punjabi population, the introduction of Punjabi as part of the school curriculum has been a long-standing demand. Parents who worried that their children are losing touch with their culture and language, have been pressing for the course, the paper said. [PTI]





TidBitz

By: Anand. J

A brief look at young married actors

Prashanth

Prashanth is one of the senior VARISU actor and son of



actor Thyagarajan. He is almost rated along with Prabhu and Karthik the other varisus. He has given a lot of hit films from his first film ‘Vaigasi Porandhachu’ directed by Kastoori raja and paired with Kaveri [now TV actress] and films like Sembaruthi with Roja [Selvamanis first] and Director Shankar’s Jeans with double roles and many other hits. Prasanth married Grahalakshmi on 1-9-2005 with heavy blessings from J.Jayalalithaa the then TamilNadu Chief Minister. His marriage is now in courts due to a divorce application by his wife. He is not allowed to see his child and wife has demanded huge money for monthly maintenance from Prashanth. Actor Prashanth doesn’t have any big hit to his name after his blockbuster movie Jeans. Let us wish him that the new year 2007 brings him all good luck.

Vijay



The senior varisus actor and son of actor, Director S.A.Chandrasekhar position seems to be weak and the only his only 2006 movie release ‘Aadhi’ was a colossal flop giving him lots of trouble. Because of Aadhi’s failure at the box office, Distributors are not willing to pay and release Vijay’s Pongal release of ‘POKKIRI’ which is a revised edition of a Telugu hit film. Due to Rama Narayanan, President of Producers guild the issue has been amicably settled

and Pokkiri will see the light of day on the Pongal day. Vijay got his 2nd child recently and his marriage life is normal. He doesn’t live with his parents and is looking to bounce back with his box office magic this Pongal. Good luck to Vijay.

Surya



Famous actor Sivakumar’s first son Surya married Sillunu oru Jyothika the famous actress last September. His only 2006 movie release ‘Sillunu Oru Kadhal’ with Jyothika bombed at the box office. Wife Jyothika’s film Mozhi is expected this Pongal. Jyothika decided not to act in movies further to her marriage. At present Surya has only 2 films in hand and those are not big budget movies. Whether the new year 2007 bring him good luck needs to be seen. We wish him all the very best in this new year 2007.

Arun Vijay

Actor Vijayakumar’s son Arun rechristened his name to Arun Vijay citing reasons of numerology. He is one among those few actors who have changed their names in the Tamil film industry. He has not tasted success so far in his career although he is a capable actor. He is another actor who recently got



married in 2006. His three sisters who also entered filmdom sank without a trace. Arun aka Arun Vijay still sustains in the industry despite not having any big hits to his credit. His sheer perseverance and confidence will get him success this new year 2007. We wish him the best of luck in the new year 2007.

Manoj



Director and actor Bharathiraja’s son also got married in late 2006 to a malayalee actress after a love affair with her. Bharathiraja who is still believed to make even a STONE act, couldn’t get his son Manoj a success with his movie Taj Mahal. Manoj wants to try a hand in Direction and he may soon wield the megaphone for a big budget movie. Unlike his father, he wants to concentrate on city slicks as opposed to rural dramas. We wish him all the very best and a good new year 2007.

Dhanush

Director Kastoori Raja’s



second son and husband of Iswarya, daughter of Super Star Rajinikanth. Dhanush had two releases in the year 2006 and his latest release ‘Thiruvilayadal Aarambam’ is doing well at the box office. He is elated and very happy to taste success after a long gap.

His next film Parattai Engira Azhagu Sundaram is touted

A brief look at eligible bachelor actors

to be a family jerker and might win him more accolades. Can Dhanush continue his successful run at the box office needs to be watched. We wish him all the success in the new year 2007.

Vishal



With hattrick hits Chellame, Sandai Kozhi, Thimiru, Vishal is one of the hot eligible bachelors in the Tamil film industry. He has been linked with actress Reema sen with whom he delivered two super hits Chellame and Thimiru. His latest release Sivappathikaram is doing average at the box office. With four official hits to his credit, Vishal looks forward to a fantastic new year 2007. We wish him a continuous success in the new year 2007.

Silambarasan

Actor, Director and Ashtavadani T Rajendar’s son Silambarasan aka Simbhu started his career from his



childhood. He named himself as the ‘Little Superstar’ and he has grown into a actor of demand. His much touted

Vallavan (his only movie release in 2006) turned out to be an average grosser at the box office. He was linked with actress Nayanthara and later severed it. His strength is his confidence and his weakness as everyone says is his over confidence. Simbhu, another eligible bachelor and a potential actor badly needs a hit in the new year to prove his credentials. We wish him all the very best in the new year 2007.

Jayam Ravi

Famous Editor Mohan’s son Jayam Ravi is also an eligible bachelor actor who has never been linked with any of his costars. He has had a couple



of box office hits to his credit like ‘Jayam’, ‘Something Something Unakkum Enakkum’ and ‘M Kumaran s/o Mahalakshmi’. His latest movie ‘Deepavali’ is expected to release this Pongal. We wish him a successful new year 2007.

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Oscar Anupam

Anupam Kher has been signed by none other than the ace Oscar winning director Ang lee for his movie LUST, CAUTION. The makers and the actor closed the deal on January 3, 2007 and the actor will begin filming for this venture soon. Ang Lee has directed oscar winning films including Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon and Brokeback Mountain. The movie LUST, CAUTION is being made in Chinese language. Its an ultimate honor for the Indian actor to work in an International film project by the world acclaimed film director. LUST, CAUTION is an espionage thriller set in World War II era in Shanghai. Anupam kher's role is said to be one of the key role in the movie. Well done Anupam.

Pushkar Aishwarya



Aishwarya Rai has been in news the whole of year 2006. Starting with a broken love with her ex-boyfriend Vivek Oberoi, year 2006 saw the media flashing news anything and everything about Aishwarya Rai. Rumors were agog that Aishwarya wedded Abishek Bachchan secretly in a South Indian temple. Rai's family has supposedly challenged the priest who broke the news. Another news about someone sending her money in an envelope from South Africa was blown out of proportions. Latest we hear is about a drunken bodyguard of Aishwarya Rai supposedly

misbehaved with the crowds and the security guards at the Pushkar temple when actress paid a visit. Ash reportedly was paying a normal visit to the temple after her film shooting of Jodha-Akbar was over. She is paired with the current heart-throb Hrithik Roshan in the movie and it's a period film. Ash maintains an astounding silence through all this media controversies.

Baddie Hrithik

After Koi Mil Gaya and Krrish, Rakesh Roshan plans to start the shoot of the third film in the series in 2007. It is reported that the film will start rolling in the second half of 2007. Hrithik Roshan who plays the character of a Super hero in this film



wishes to do something new this time. He wants to be a baddie (negative role) in the super hero film. He is even ready to give the super hero title for playing a negative character. However, since he already plays the role of both the father and son in the film, negative roles seems to be a big no. Discussions are still on to cast him as a villain in the movie with an altogether different get-up. Audience loved Hrithik in Dhoom-II especially for his camouflaged characters he played. Whether Hrithik turns a baddie, wait and watch.

Howzatt Kumble

Indian leg spinner Anil Kumble will be soon seen on Silver screen with a debut in yet another cricket-based flick Meerabai Not Out. Produced by Pritish Nandy's PNC (Pritish Nandy Communications) and directed by award winning Marathi director Chandrakant Kulkarni, the movie also stars Mandira Bedi in the lead along with Anupam Kher, Mahesh Manjrekar and Eijaz Khan.

Mandira's husband Raj Kaushal, who has earlier directed Anthony Kaun Hai, will be the



line producer. Mandira seems to fit the bill perfectly, as she is well acquainted with the game. She shot to fame due to Sony Entertainment Television's cricket show Extra Innings during the last World Cup. She will be a part of next year's Cricket World Cup as well. Kumble is going to do a cameo in the film. The team is hoping to release the movie before the World Cup starts. Meerabai Not Out is all about cricket and the story revolves around an avid cricket fan as well as Mandira.

Crorepati Shah Rukh



Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC) is back. And Shahrukh Khan is going to be hosting it instead of Amitabh Bachchan. So, does the tussle between SRK and Big B continue? After replacing him as the brand ambassador of Navratan Oil and ICICI Bank and being the new age 'Don' Shahrukh is all set to get onto the hottest seat of Indian Television. Wonder how will he re-christen Computer ji? C... C....C....Computer ji... Anyone....Kaun Banega Crorepati will be produced by Siddhartha Basu's Synergy Communications. Says Siddhartha, "KBC with SRK will bring a whole new set of audience to STAR PLUS. Although I have been associated with KBC ever since it began, this is literally a new beginning

for me. SRK's wit, energy, excitement and enthusiasm will rub-off onto all of us and together as a team we hope to create some magical moments on television." So, who makes a better host....Big B or SRK? Do let us know your thoughts.

Kajri Aamir



Aamir Khan plans his work meticulously. Everything is planned well in advance. But then he is also known to pull up surprises. Kareena Kapoor had been ecstatic about working with Aamir in Mani Rathnam's 'Lajjo' early next year. Maybe she will have to wait a bit longer as Aamir may be launching his own home production a remake of Tamil hit film 'Ghajini' this January. The film has been tentatively titled 'Kajri' and will

star Aamir in the lead role (A part played by leading Tamil actor Surya to ultimate perfection). Ravi K Chandran will be the cameraman. In a news published in a popular Mumbai tabloid, director of the original A R Murugadoss (He is directing the Hindi remake too) admitted that Aamir has told him that they will be starting the film soon. It has also been learnt that Aamir wants to cast Asin (She played Kalpana, the main heroine in the original) in the Hindi remake too. But the problem is that Asin can't speak Hindi and since the film is going to be shot in Sync Sound, it won't be possible for her to speak her own lines. If at all Asin is cast in Aamir's remake, then she shall give all the top Bollywood heroines a run for their money. If Asin is not cast opposite Aamir, then in your opinion who do you think should be cast opposite Aamir in 'Kajri'?



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Film Reviews

By: Anand. J

THIRUVILAIYADAL AARAM BAM

Starting with a problem with the title, the producer opted for an addition of AARAMBAM along with the original title of Thiruvilayadal. The movie turns out to be a new beginning for Dhanush and it might well turn out to be his big comeback movie. Incidentally Dhanush has enacted a lot of scenes in the movie which was earlier done by his father-in-law Superstar Rajinikanth.

Named as thiru in the hero role Dhanush sings "Ennamma Kannu" the famous Rajini-Sathyaraj song with Prakash Raj. It's an out and out Dhanush's movie and going by the first two weeks Box office collection reports, the movie is poised to be a Super hit. Lets have a look at the story. Thiru (Dhanush) is a carefree laid back guy who has a great time with his friends (Karunas, Sukumar and others). He is basically a nice guy who wants to do some business and come up in life. But his dad (Mouli) and mom (Saranya) does not have confidence in him. One day after a small fight, his dad asks him to leave home and he sleeps in the temple. In the morning he sees Priya (Shriya) and it is love at first sight for him. She is the sister of a rich business tycoon Guru (Prakash Raj). Thiru takes a different route to make Priya love him, by directly approaching Guru. Slowly, Priya falls in love with Thiru but soon a twist happens just before interval in which our hero makes a business deal with Guru for leaving his sister. What follows then is a series of



unpredictable twists and turns that keeps you engrossed.

Clearly the dialogues of Bhoopathy Pandian and its racy presentation make the film entertaining. The confrontation scenes between Prakash Raj and Dhanush are the highlights. Comedy has worked out well without depending on comedians. There are quite a few funny moments that make you laugh

and think at the same time. Director Bhoopathi Pandians idea of making the LOVE as a business subject is really a good idea and seems to be new. But all other scenes look like he has copied the old formula, sequences and narration. The sequences where the growth of Dhanush is shown seems like a lift from the Blockbuster Annamalai where Rajinikanth played the part with élan. Music is by D Imman and the songs are average.

Dhanush tries to give a matured performance but he is shadowed by Prakash Raj during his confrontation scenes. Heroine Shriya looks good but doesn't bother to act.

To sum up Aarambam oru RAMBAM (Saw) illai. Is it not enough!!!

SIVAPPADHIARAM

Karu Palaniappan, the new Director who gave a successful film 'PARTHIBAN KANAVU' has now come with this Sivappadhikaram a slightly changed name of literature Silappadhikaram. But here there is no Silambu or Kannagi, only red-Sivappu is there in the second half of the film.He has used the action prowess of Vishal and acting talent of Raghuvaran in good combination.The film centres around the political arrogance and how it gets cut down by hero.

The movie begins with a retired professor Elango (Raghuvaran) coming to his native village along with his daughter Charulatha (Mamta). He summons a student from Chennai, Sathyamoorthy (Vishal), to join him in his research on folk songs. Sathyamoorthy's pleasing manners attracts Charulatha. Meanwhile, poll fever grips Tamilnadu as general elections are announced. But, candidates are murdered one after another and a fear sets in

among them. Many of them prefer to withdraw nominations. Citing lack of security to candidates, the State Election Commission prefers to postpone the



elections.

Meanwhile, the police manage to obtain clues in a series of murders and arrest Elango. In a flashback, it is revealed why Elango with the help of Sathyamoorthy goes out to murder the aspiring MLAs. Sathyamoorthy along with his friends had studied in a college in Chennai where Elango was the professor. They come out with a pre-poll election survey which results

in them incurring the wrath of the ruling party of the State. With the help of police, they let loose terror in the college and kill over 50 students.

Sathyamoorthy and Elango, who survive the attack, resolve to teach a lesson to the corrupt politicians. The screenplay is not upto the expectation. Vishal kills many political bigwigs and escapes without a trace. The screenplay lacks the gripping touch and the narration has lot of loopholes. Yet the subtle and polished performance by Raghuvaran and good action support by Vishal needs appreciation. Mamta as heroine comes, dances and vanishes.

Even though it is not a very new theme by Director Karupalaniappan, attempt for revitalizing folklore songs, good music by Vidyasagar and good use of the comedian Kanjakaruppu the film just gets above PASSMARK.

ILLAI KAARAM !!!!

Aachi —an achiever all through

MALATHI RANGARAJAN

Manorama

Providence could not have chalked out a more rewarding career — 2007 marks Manorama's 49th year in cinema. What an eventful half-century it has been! And the comedienne is still in the race, relentless and unstoppable. "I think I've completed more than 1,300 films," she says simply! She will receive the Kalaigñar Award this month. From the State to the Centre and then straight to the Guinness, honours have always been a part of her life. It's nearly two decades since Manorama smoothly shifted to serious character roles. "On and off I do get to play humorous parts. Watch out for my comedy scenes with Vivek in Ajit's 'Azhwar,' " she laughs. 'Thamirabharani,' you gather, will be another such. Among her co-stars whom she competed with in acting, she remembers Nagesh. He would gambol about in song sequences and she saw to it that she never lagged behind. "We were shooting a duet and there was this huge haystack as high as two coconut trees. The top tapered into a narrow plateau. Nagesh asked me whether we could climb up to the top and dance there. I went ahead. Then he suggested we slide down, and again I did it. Even thinking about it makes me tizzy now," she laughs.

"A.P. Nagarajan liked my acting a lot. I used to narrate a funny story called 'Korasami' in 'Madras' lingo. It tickled him so much that every time he introduced me to some one he would ask me to tell the story and roll in laughter as though he was listening to it for the first time," she smiles. You request her to repeat it and she rattles it off without a pause



Actor Manorama on her eventful life and illustrious career spanning nearly five decades. Photo: R. Shivaji Rao

even as you double up in laughter. Incredible versatility! But among her serious roles her favourite is K. Balachander's 'Unnaal Mudiym Thambi.'

As a singer

Most of her numbers in films have been hits. It's surprising to learn that she's never been formally trained. "But like Ekalayva, I drew inspiration from M.S.Subbulakshmi. As a student I was asked to sing 'Paaruk-kullae Nalla Naadu' for Bharatiar Day. I sang it in MS's 'Kaattrinilae' tune and won a standing ovation," she remembers. "On hearing of her death I went to her house and stayed there for nearly an hour, chanting 'Kanda Sashti Kavacham.'"

Director Mukta Srinivasan likes Manorama's voice a lot. But Sivaji Ganesan would tease her about her singing. "If you open your mouth to sing, I'll kill you," he would gesture at functions. There was this event where G.K.Moopanar was the chief guest. Mukta Srinivasan had asked her to sing the invocation piece. Naturally the crowd had to stand up for it.

After singing as she passed Ganesan who was also on the dais, she cheekily whispered, "You stood up for my song, didn't you?" He jokingly put his hand on his forehead and remarked, "My fate!" Manorama goes into raptures as she recollects the scene.

Masterpieces such as 'Thillana Mohanambal,' had Manorama essaying unforgettable roles. "Just a handful of the massive cast of 'Thillana ... ' is alive today," she says solemnly.

"On the days I don't don make-up I feel unwell," is her response to your poser about her hectic work schedules. "I was unwell for some time. Now I'm back in form. My only prayer is that I should go away without ailing," she says.

As you walk out there's a busload of people from Kanyakumari waiting to have a glimpse of their 'Aachi.' "Everyday fans come from all over the State and if she's in town she always comes out to greet them," says the man outside.

Courtesy: The Hindu

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# 2007 The Year Ahead:



# Growth Prospects Are Strong, but Social, Environmental Pressures from Globalization Need More Attention

Globalization could spur faster growth in average incomes in the next 25 years than during 1980-2005, with developing countries playing a central role. However, unless managed carefully, it could be accompanied by growing income inequality and potentially severe environmental pressures, predicts the World Bank.

According to Global Economic Prospects 2007: Managing the Next Wave of Globalization, growth in developing countries will reach a near record 7 percent this year. In 2007 and 2008, growth will probably slow, but still likely exceed 6 percent, more than twice the rate in high-income countries, which is expected to be 2.6 percent.

On how globalization will shape the global economy over the next 25 years, the report's 'central scenario' predicts that the global economy could expand from \$35 trillion in 2005 to \$72 trillion in 2030. "While this outcome represents only a slight acceleration of global growth compared to the past 25 years, it is driven more than ever before by strong performance in developing countries," said Richard Newfarmer, the report's lead

author and Economic Advisor in the Trade Department. "And while exact numbers will undoubtedly turn out to be different, the underlying trends are relatively impervious to all but the most severe or disruptive shocks."

Broad-based growth in developing countries sustained over the period would significantly affect global poverty. "The number of people living on less than \$1 a day could be cut in half, from 1.1 billion now to 550 million in 2030. However, some regions, notably Africa, are at risk of being left behind. Moreover, income inequality could widen within many countries, compounding current concerns over inequality between countries," said François Bourguignon, World Bank Chief Economist and Senior Vice President, Development Economics.

Global trade in goods and services could rise more than threefold to \$27 trillion in 2030, and trade as a share of the global economy will rise from one-quarter today to more than one-third. Roughly half of the increase is likely to come from developing countries. Developing countries that only two decades ago

provided 14 percent of manufactured imports of rich countries, today supply 40 percent, and by 2030 are likely to supply over 65 percent. At the same time, import demand from developing countries is emerging as a locomotive of the global economy.

Continuing integration of markets will make jobs around the world more subject to competitive pressures. "As trade expands and technologies rapidly diffuse to developing countries, unskilled workers around the world - as well as some lower-skilled white collar workers - will face increasing competition across borders," explained Uri Dadush, Director of the World Bank's Development Prospects Group and International Trade Department. "Rather than trying to preserve existing jobs, governments need to support dislocated workers and provide them with new opportunities. Improving education and labor market flexibility is a key part of the long-run solution."

Globalization is likely to bring benefits to many. By 2030, 1.2 billion people in developing countries-15 percent of the world population-will belong to the "global middle class," up from 400 million today. This

group will have a purchasing power of between \$4,000 and \$17,000 per capita, and will enjoy access to international travel, purchase automobiles and other advanced consumer durables, attain international levels of education, and play a major role in shaping policies and institutions in their own countries and the world economy.

The next wave of globalization will likely intensify stresses on the "global commons," which could jeopardize long-term progress, the report warns. Nations will have to work together to play a larger role in issues involving global public goods - from mitigating global warming, to containing infectious diseases like avian flu, to preventing the decimation of the world's fisheries.

According to the report, global warming is a serious risk. Rising output means that annual emissions of greenhouse gases will increase roughly 50 percent by 2030 and probably double by 2050 in the absence of widespread policy changes. To avoid this, policies will have to promote "clean" growth so as to limit emissions to levels that will eventually stabilize

atmospheric concentrations. Moreover, poor countries will need development assistance to adapt to coming environmental changes, including support for their participation in the carbon finance market.

The authors conclude that the challenges of rapid globalization put new burdens on both national policymakers and international officials. Nationally, governments need to ensure that the poor are incorporated into the growth process through pro-poor investments in education, infrastructure, and support mechanisms for dislocated workers. They need to support and invest in workers-all the while promoting rather than resisting change.

Internationally, the report calls for stronger institutions for tackling threats to the global commons. It also calls for more and better development assistance. Reducing barriers to trade is vital as well, since it can create new opportunities for poor countries and poor people. "Revitalizing the Doha round of world trade negotiations and concluding an agreement that benefits the poor is urgent," said Mr. Dadush. [worldbank.org]

# Can I Tempt You Into Making One of These Resolutions?

By Marty Nemko

I know, I know. You don't even bother making New Year's resolutions any more because you always break them. But I'd like to tempt you by proffering the five most potent career resolutions I can think of. If perchance you could keep even one, even if only for a few weeks before slipping back into your wicked ways, your worklife would likely be much better.

## 1. Embrace work.

So many people do what they can to avoid work: They procrastinate tasks until the last nanosecond, take sick days when they're not sick, play on the Net instead of with that spreadsheet. Fact is, while shirking feels good in the short run, ultimately, at the risk of sounding like your parents, the more productive you are, the better you'll ultimately feel about yourself and your life. Not to mention, you're more likely to get a raise and less likely to be downsized.

## 2. Even if you're a clerk, think like a CEO.

Today, worker-bee jobs are ever more likely to be offshored or automated. The jobs that will endure and pay well require that vision thing. You can acquire vision if you remember to always keep your antennae out for a better way: to streamline a process, save costs, find a new profit center, etc. When you've come up with an idea, before sharing it with your boss, vet it with a trusted colleague. If the idea passes muster, to avoid your boss stealing the credit, bring it up at a meeting or email it to stakeholders for input.

## 3. Think time-effective.

So many people forget that time is our most valuable commodity. Keep a little voice on your shoulder, ever whispering in your ear such

questions as: Is it time-effective to take on this task? Should I delegate it? Do it perfectly or is good-enough good enough? As you're doing a task, keep asking yourself, "Is this most time-effective approach?"

Meetings may be the workplace's biggest time sucks. Here's a time-effective way to think about meetings. Before calling one, ask yourself if it's is really necessary? Would a group email do? If a meeting is needed, only invite those who truly must be there--don't buy into today's corporate-think that inclusion is the magic word. Often the benefits of being included are outweighed by the opportunity cost of attending. If you're an invitee and think it's time-ineffective to attend, explain that to your boss and see if you can opt out. Travel is a huge time suck, so if you do want to call a meeting, could it be done by tele- or web conference? (Gotomeeting.com makes the

latter easy.) Work expands to fill the time allotted, so could that half-day meeting be shrunk to one hour? In advance of the meeting, send a tightly scheduled agenda plus any homework attendees should do in preparation. At the meeting, keep thinking "time-effective" and you'll be able to stay within your agenda's time limits.

## 4. Listen better.

Everyone thinks they're a good listener, but I ask you: "Think of all the people you know. What percentage would you rate as good listeners?" Well, they probably think you're not so great either. The problem is that being a good listener seems much easier than it is. It requires you to focus 100 percent of your attention on what's being said, the body language (especially changes in body language), and noticing what's not being said. That means you can't just be

rehearsing what you're going to say next. As Fran Leibowitz says, only half joking, "There is no listening. There's just waiting for the other person to stop talking."

## 5. Be nice.

In the end, that's critical not only for getting ahead, but as a way to ensure you make a difference. Thousands of scientists spend their entire lives in search of a cure for cancer to no avail. Thousands of non-profit and government managers try to make a dent in societal ills, too, with little result. Yet, simply being nice to as many people as possible ensures that you at least slightly improve the lives of everyone you touch. Of course, it's challenging to be nice to people you find inferior to you, but that's another column.

Courtesy: Marty Nemko, (martynemko.com.)



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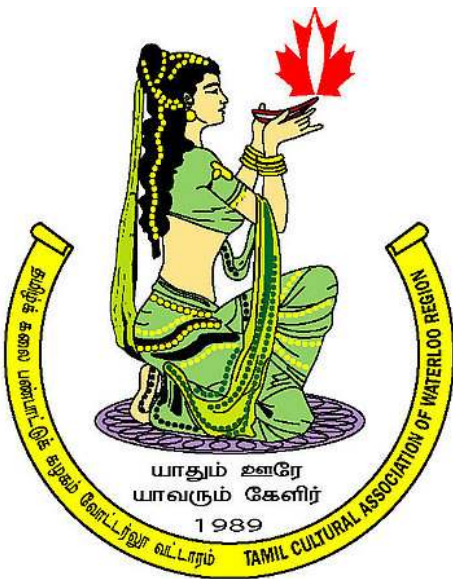
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# Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region

(Kitchener - Waterloo - Cambridge - Guelph)



The annual Christmas and New Year Celebration of Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region was held at the Christ Lutheran Church Hall in Waterloo on the 30th of December.

A large gathering of Tamil and other community members attended the event.

The President of the association Mr. Suresh Abraham welcomed the guests from the Region and community members from Toronto. A minute of silent was observed for the victims of Tsunami in Sri Lanka and South India.

The Secretary, Mrs. Dharini Sivakumar stressed the importance of giving during this season to our children in Sri Lanka and around the world.

The event included Carol service, Western Music and Games. The highlight of the event was the Magic show and Santa Claus Kids and Adults enjoyed the evening. It ended with dinner and gifts for all.

Some of the photos taken at the event is shown here.



The annual Christmas and New Year Celebration of Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region was held at the Christ Lutheran Church Hall in Waterloo on the 30th of December, 2006



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## The MT Space (Multicultural Theatre) General Auditions – Non Equity

Actors: Looking for actors (male and female) with interest in working in physical theatre. This is a paid engagement of 8 weeks rehearsals and two weeks of shows.

### Dates & Times:

1<sup>st</sup> Session:  
Friday Jan.12/6-9pm;  
2<sup>nd</sup> session:  
Saturday Jan. 13/ 10-1pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> session:  
Saturday Jan. 13/ 2-5pm

### Place:

The MT Space studio at 141  
Whitney Pl. , Kitchener , ON

### Requirements:

Please e-mail [info@mtspace.ca](mailto:info@mtspace.ca) to book a spot.  
No text is required in preparation for the auditions; however, actors will be asked to work in a collective setting with other actors in a 3-hour session. Each actor will be expected to work in collaboration with the other actors through improvisation on specific topics.  
What to bring: photo and resume.

What to wear: Comfortable clothes for movement on stage.

The upcoming show, Pinteresque (working title) will be presented at the Registry Theatre June 14-23, 2007 . The new creation will explore the stories of Canadian war refugees in relation to Harold Pinter's 2005 Nobel Prize lecture *Art, Truth and Politics*.

**Rehearsals begin on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007.**  
Director Majdi Bou-Matar.

The MT Space is a non-profit multicultural theatre company based in the Waterloo region which creates innovative and dynamic physical theatre. The MT Space encourages the participation of artists from diverse cultural backgrounds. For more information about the company, please visit our website at [www.mtspace.ca](http://www.mtspace.ca)  
Info Courtesy: Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region.



# THE WORLD CUP OF CRICKET

Compiled by: Shiyam Loganathan

## A Brief History

In 1912 the first attempt to stage a world championship tournament of cricket was, when a three-way series was arranged between the then current Test playing nations, Australia, England and South Africa. Due to poor weather, the concept was dropped and not repeated until 1975, when, following the success of domestic one-day competitions, the six Test-playing nations (England, Australia, New Zealand, West Indies, India and Pakistan) were joined by Sri Lanka and East Africa in the first World Cup in England. An immediate and wonderful success, the tournament was repeated in 1979 and 1983 in England, before moving abroad, maintaining a four-year cycle. The next World Cup will take its place in the West Indies in March of 2007. A brief history of previous tournaments follows.



**ENGLAND 1975**  
Clive Lloyd receives the trophy from the Duke of Edinburgh as the West Indies defeated Australia in the first World Cup.



**ENGLAND 1979**  
Clive Lloyd holds the World Cup trophy again as the West Indies defeat Pakistan in the semis and England in the final.



**ENGLAND 1983**  
Kapil Dev hoists the World Cup trophy after India ends the West Indies dominance to win their only World Cup.



**INDIA and PAKISTAN 1987**  
The Aussies win their first World Cup in stunning fashion over England



**AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND 1992**  
Imran Khan stands with the trophy as Pakistan defeated England in the final



**INDIA, PAKISTAN and SRI LANKA 1996**  
Sri Lanka had a tremendous World Cup topping their group and then defeating England in the quarters, India in the semis and finally Australia in the championship match. de Silva's performance in the finals was dominating as he took two catches, three wickets including Australia's top 2 scorers, and batted for an impressive 107 not out. This was the first finals victory for the host nation of the World Cup.



**AUSTRALIA 1999**  
Australia defeated Pakistan in the finals to capture the World Cup again.



**SOUTH AFRICA 2003**  
Australia defeated India in the finals and dominated throughout the tournament to attain their third World Cup.

## The 2007 World Cup of Cricket in West Indies

This years Cricket World Cup will be hosted by the champions of the first two World Cups. The West Indies are hosting this tournament in extravagant fashion, as matches will be played in nine different countries and twelve different stadiums. A description of the host countries and stadiums follows.



**Antigua and Barbuda**  
Sir Vivian Richards Stadium  
Capacity: 20,000 Matches: Super 8s



**Barbados Kensington**  
Capacity: 28,000  
Matches: Super 8s and final



**Barbados 3Ws**  
Capacity: 3,000- 4,000  
Matches: Warm-up matches



**Grenada Queen's**  
Capacity: 17,00  
Matches: Super 8s



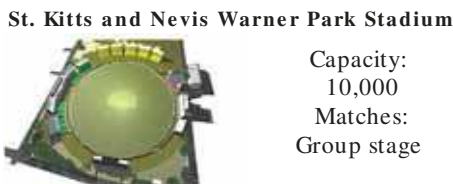
**Guyana Providence Stadium**  
Capacity: 16,000  
Matches: Super 8s



**Jamaica Sabina Park**  
Capacity: 21,000  
Matches: Opening Matches group stage and semi- final



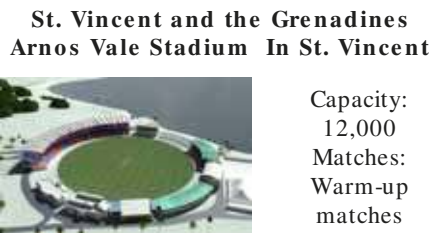
**Jamaica Trelawny Multi-Purpose Stadium**  
Capacity: 25,000  
Matches: Opening ceremony and warm up matches



**St. Kitts and Nevis Warner Park Stadium**  
Capacity: 10,000  
Matches: Group stage



**Saint Lucia Beausejour Cricket**  
Capacity:20,000  
Matches: Group Stage and Semi-final



**St. Vincent and the Grenadines Arnos Vale Stadium**  
Capacity: 12,000  
Matches: Warm-up matches



**Trinidad and Tobago Queen's Park Oval**  
Capacity: 17,000  
Matches: Group stage

**World Cup Group Matches:** These matches will start on the **13th of March** running for 13 days over which 24 matches shall be played. **Warm-up matches** will precede the group stage starting on the **5th of March**. **The Super 8s** follow the group stage and will start on the **27th of March**.

Group A		Group B		Group C		Group D	
Wed Mar14	<b>2nd Match</b> <b>Australia v Scotland</b> Warner Park, Basseterre, St Kitts	Thu Mar 15	<b>4th Match,</b> <b>Bemuda v Sri Lanka</b> Queen's Pk Oval, Port of Spain, Trinida	Wed Mar 14	<b>3rd Match</b> <b>Canada v Kenya</b> Beausejour Stadium, Gros Islet, St Lucia	Tue Mar 13	<b>1st Match</b> <b>West Indies v Pakistan</b> Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica
Fri Mar16	<b>6th Match</b> <b>Netherlands v South Africa</b> Warner Park, Basseterre, St Kitts	Sat Mar 17	<b>8th Match</b> <b>Bangladesh v India</b> Queen's Pk Oval, Port of Spain, Trinida	Fri Mar 16	<b>7th Match</b> <b>England v New Zealand</b> Beausejour Stadium, Gros Islet, St Lucia	Thu Mar 15	<b>5th Match</b> <b>Ireland v Zimbabwe</b> Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica
Sun Mar18	<b>10th Match</b> <b>Australia v Netherlands</b> Warner Park, Basseterre, St Kitts	Mon Mar 19	<b>12th Match</b> <b>Bermuda v India</b> Queen's Pk Oval, Port of Spain, Trinida	Sun Mar 18	<b>11th Match</b> <b>Canada v England</b> Beausejour Stadium, Gros Islet, St Lucia	Sat Mar 17	<b>9th Match</b> <b>Ireland v Pakistan</b> Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica
Tue Mar 20	<b>14th Match</b> <b>Scotland v South Africa</b> Warner Park, Basseterre, St Kitts	Wed Mar 21	<b>16th Match</b> <b>Bangladesh v Sri Lanka</b> Queen's Pk Oval, Port of Spain, Trinida	Tue Mar 20	<b>15th Match</b> <b>Kenya v New Zealand</b> Beausejour Stadium, Gros Islet, St Lucia	Mon Mar 19	<b>13th Match</b> <b>West Indies v Zimbabwe</b> Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica
Thu Mar 22	<b>18th Match</b> <b>Netherlands v Scotland</b> Warner Park, Basseterre, St Kitts	Fri Mar 23	<b>20th Match</b> <b>India v Sri Lanka</b> Queen's Pk Oval, Port of Spain, Trinida	Thu Mar 22	<b>19th Match</b> <b>Canada v New Zealand</b> Beausejour Stadium, Gros Islet, St Lucia	Wed Mar 21	<b>17th Match</b> <b>Pakistan v Zimbabwe</b> Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica
Sat Mar 24	<b>22nd Match</b> <b>Australia v South Africa</b> Warner Park, Basseterre, St Kitts	Sun Mar 25	<b>24th Match</b> <b>Bangladesh v Bermuda</b> Queen's Pk Oval, Port of Spain, Trinida	Sat Mar 24	<b>23rd Match</b> <b>England v Kenya</b> Beausejour Stadium, Gros Islet, St Lucia	Fri Mar 23	<b>21st Match</b> <b>Ireland v West Indies</b> Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica





**Position: Medical Office Assistant**  
**Location: Newmarket**  
**Salary: 12hr-13hr**

Must at least one-to-two years' recent work experience in a medical office. A strong personal interest in healthy living is desired. Exceptional fluency in written and verbal English. High level of professionalism in appearance and communication. Ability to maintain a positive outlook and accuracy while under pressure. Ability to establish priorities and excel at tasks, working both independently and with others. Must be able to be active on feet most of the day. Familiarity with PC and Windows XP.

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www.3kc.ca resume@3kc.ca

**Position: Secretary/ Receptionist**  
**Location: Toronto**  
Experience: One-to-two years' experience needed.

Requirements:  
Must be fluent in English (Reading, Writing, Speaking), punctual, smart, and intelligent. Should be able to type 45 words per minute, know computer software (Word, Excel, etc...) and Knows computer (USB Use, Internet, etc...). Professional in general, multitasker, quick learner, problem solver and personal skills (talking to others) . No narcotic/alcoholic addictions.

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CREATE GRAPHICAL TEMPLATES for both text, financial and graphic presentations. Create new formats to ensure high efficiency and streamline production of deliverables.

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Fabian's Café  
Specialities  
Queen Elizabeth Cake



**Oven Method:** Bake at 180 degrees (350 degrees Fahrenheit)  
**Oven Time:** 30 to 40 minutes  
**Yield:** Four 8 inch Cakes  
**Ingredients:**  
1. -500 ml of Coffee (Instant or Filtered)  
2. -125 g of Chopped Walnut  
-235 g of Chopped Dates  
3. -125 g of Soft Butter  
-400 g of Sugar  
4. -2 Eggs  
5. - 450 g of Cake Flour  
- 2 Teaspoons of Baking Powder  
- 1 Teaspoon of Baking Soda  
**Preparation:**  
Keep ingredients in five separate bowls as they have been grouped above and numbered.  
Make 500ml of Coffee according to your flavor

Pour the Coffee over the chopped Walnuts and Dates; Put it aside to cool down  
Prepare four 8 inch baking pans with butter and wax paper; Set aside  
Beat the Butter and the Sugar in a mixing bowl using a Padel.  
Slowly add the Eggs into the mixture (**Do not over mix**)  
Slowly add the Flour, Baking Powder and Baking Soda into the bowl  
Add the previously made mixture of Coffee, Dates and Walnuts in to the bowl (**Do not over mix**)  
Pour the mixture into the baking pans  
Bake at 180 degrees (350 degrees Fahrenheit) for about 30 to 40 minutes  
**To Glaze the Cake:**  
\* While the cake is baking, after 20 minutes start to make the glaze  
**Ingredients:**  
-125g Butter

- 35% Cream  
- 275 g of Brown Sugar  
- 125 g of Chopped Walnut  
-125 g of Grated dry Coconut  
**Preparation of the Cake Glaze:**  
Put all the ingredients above in a sauce pan and boil it for 3 minutes  
When the cake is ready, pour the glaze over all four cakes equally and put the cakes back into the oven until the glaze turns into a nice golden color.

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