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Toronto named the second safest city in the world.

Toronto placed second on a list of the world's top 60 safest cities, directly behind first place winner Copenhagen and directly ahead of Singapore, according to the Economist, which released the results of its biennial Safe Cities Index this week.

The report ranks "60 cities across 76 indicators covering digital, health, infrastructure, personal and environmental security." Toronto made the top five in two of those categories: environmental and infrastructure security.

Although it's the 2nd safest city in the world, buying a house in Toronto is a difficult task especially for the youngsters. According to the Mercer Cost of Living City Ranking released earlier this year, Toronto is the second most expensive city to live in Canada (after Vancouver) and the 98th most expensive in the world. Here is the safe cities index for 2021: 1) Copenhagen, 2) Toronto 3) Singapore 4)

Sydney 5) Tokyo 6) Amsterdam 7) Wellington 8) Hong Kong 9) Melbourne 10) Stockholm 11) Barcelona 12) New York 13) Frankfurt 14) Washington DC 15) London. But, the city has also ranked highly in Statistics Canada reports of the safest major cities in the country.

Toronto Mayor John Tory said there are several factors that make Toronto safe, including support systems, like strong public education and an increasing "whole-of-city" approach to safety.

"It starts with mutual respect and a shared fundamental set of values around that within the city, including things like a strong pushback against racism or prejudice of any kind," Tory said.

"I think if you start there, everyone is more likely to want to create an environment that is safe in a broader context."

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மங்கள சமரவீர Mangala Samaraweera (Former Minister of Finance of Sri Lanka)



Mangala Pinsiri Samaraweera was a Sri Lankan politician. He was also the first openly gay politician from Sri Lanka. He was the Minister of Finance from 2017 to 2019, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, for two terms from 2005 to 2007 and 2015 to 2017

Born: April 21, 1956, Matara	Died: August 24, 2021
--	---------------------------------

Education: Royal College - COLOMBO

Party: United National Party

Parents: Mahanama Samaraweera,
Khema Padmawathi Samaraweera

Previous offices: Minister of Finance of
Sri Lanka (2017–2019), MORE...

Sri Lankan politician. He was also the first openly gay politician from Sri Lanka. He was the Minister of Finance from 2017 to 2019, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, for two terms from 2005 to 2007 and 2015 to 2017. He created a stir in Sri Lankan politics when he was sacked as a minister by President Mahinda Rajapakse in 2007, after which he formed a new political party called the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (Mahajana) Wing, which later merged with the United National Party in 2010.

He served as a politician for over 30 years in his career until his retirement from politics in 2020. During his tenure as a politician, he was known for his political stance against the Sinhala Buddhism regime despite himself being a Sinhala Buddhist and despite Sri Lanka being a majority Buddhist nation. He also advocated for LGBT rights in Sri Lanka, despite Sri Lanka having not legalised LGBT rights.

Born to Mahanama Samaraweera and Khema Padmawathi Samaraweera née Amaraweera, his father was a cabinet Minister of Local Government, Housing, Communications, Posts and Telecommunications in Sirimavo Bandaranaike's government and his mother served as a member of the Matara Urban Council.

Educated at Royal College, Colombo and at Walthamforest College, London, he gained a BA in Clothing Design and Technology from St. Martin's School of Art in London, he served as a design consultant to the National Design Center of Sri Lanka and served as a visiting lecturer in the Institute of Aesthetic Studies, University of Kelaniya. It was veteran textile designer Chandra Thneuwera who invited him to join her at the Institute of Aesthetic Studies while he was working as a consultant for the Ministry of Textile Industries under the guidance of Wijayapala Mendis.

He died on 24 August 2021 at the age of 65 due to COVID-19. Prior to his death, he was admitted into the intensive care unit of the Lanka Hospital in Colombo after being tested positive for COVID-19 in August 2021. He was diagnosed with COVID-19 despite having being immunised with the Pfizer vaccine. Before his death was officially confirmed on 24 August 2021, rumours of his death started circulating on social media from 18 August. He was the second high profile Sri Lankan politician to succumb to COVID-19.



ILLUSIVE UNITY AND ERODING THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE TAMILS IN SRI LANKA.

GAJENDRAN



SAMBANTHAN



VIGNESWARAN



There is no doubt that unity is the most uttered and much used and abused word by the Tamil politicians and leaders who took control of the political destiny of Tamils since independence in 1948.

It is also a history that Tamil leaders and parties on various occasions moved to form united fronts like the Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] in 1976 and Tamil National alliance [TNA] in 2010 mostly due to compelling circumstances. The united parties and their leaders, however were not prepared to sacrifice their interests and give up their leadership or dissolve their parties to forge in favour of a one united Tamil party or front under one flag.

The in-fighting among the parties persisted leading to the birth of new parties and the total number of Tamil political parties now stands at 17 which all of them clinging to the mesmerizing words "Tamil" and "National" in their names. These catching words serve as the hooks and nets to lure the imagination of the people and draw their backing and votes.

The question arises as to how far and to what extent they have committed themselves to sacrifice their lives and interests with dedication and sincerity to struggle and advance the lingering causes of Tamils and mitigate their sufferings due to the genocides in the hands of Sri Lankan Security Forces since 1958. If one looks at the performance of the Tamil nationalist leaders, a blank and empty record of performance only stares at one's face. It is not necessary to list the several issues of Tamils which have been steadily accumulating for the last 20 years.

Instead of confronting their issues with unity, there is only palpable disunity as to who should be the only leader of Tamils, which party should lead. In addition, there is disunity and disagreement as the priority of issues to be taken, disunity as to with whom talks have to be conducted, disunity as to the composition of delegations and its members for any talks with the Government. There is also disunity as to the core demands and as to the political proposals for talks, Unitary, Federal, Confederation, Self-rule for North and East or full implementation of the 13th Amendment.

The current and main actors of Tamil parties are Tamil National Alliance [TNA] led by R. Sampanthan, Tamil National Peoples' Front led by Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam and Tamil Makkal Munnani led by C. Vigneswaran. It has to be stated that the aged long time leader of TNA has almost relinquished his leadership role to the double role dashing controversial Sumanthiran.

One would have observed the recent eruption of hostility and rivalry between Sumanthiran and Vigneswaran accusing each other with press statements and interviews while Vigneswaran also lambasted TNA as well. While our supposed saviours are pulling each other's hairs in public, the Tamils are fully feeling abandoned and losing their hopes and confidence for the emergence of a just and acceptable political settlement. When the rats are fighting among

By: Thambu Kanagasabai, LL.M – London.

themselves the cats celebrate their easy consumption of preys In this respect the divide and rule policy of Sri Lanka is playing its role efficiently, having its grip and hold on Tamil leaders.

However, the leaders are united in releasing separate statements and conducting interviews and dashing out well prepared eloquent speeches in the Parliament and outside with a feeling of smug satisfaction to have tackled the problems of Tamils without any ground action.

The cumulative efforts and consequences of the disastrous and destabilizing actions and conduct of the Tamil leaders are far reaching, damaging and debilitating the causes of Tamils while elating the Sinhalese leaders and Governments with comfort and ease to proceed undeterred with their agenda of Militarisation, Sinhaleseisation and Buddhisation.

Even the proposed new Constitution incorporating an acceptable political settlement looks a remote possibility, while there are moves afoot by Buddhist Clergy and by extremist and hardline Sinhalese Parliamentarians to get rid of the 13th Amendment and/or Provincial Council system from any constitution or otherwise.

To sum up, it can be stated that the aim of the Tamil leaders is to defeat their Tamil rivals and keep them at bay but not tackling the burning problems and agitating for a permanent political settlement. To achieve this sinister goal, the Tamil leaders appear to be determined to do whatever possible, for them Tamils as a race and their survival is neither a priority nor they are lying in their minds. The intention, thinking and conduct are only focused on this ulterior motive and matters.

Today, the Tamil race is at the edge of its extinction. Any hope for a Saviour has evaporated while chauvinism and majoritarianism is in full swing from the Sinhalese politicians, political parties and some Buddhist Monks who are steadily progressing towards the obliteration of Tamils' traditional and historical homelands [North and East of Sri Lanka] and their distinct characteristics.

Sinhaleseisation and Buddhisation has led to the loss of a major portion of the East and is moving from Vavuniya to further north following Vanni. Tamils have realized that no Saviour or courageous sincere leader is in sight to save them from the ongoing structural genocide.

Viewing this desperate situation, what is needed now is some sort of transitional political arrangement to ensure the survival of Tamils and preserve their identities. Since the Tamil leaders have miserably failed to confront these damages and realities which are staring in their faces, the burden is obviously transferred to the civilians, activists, organizations and University Students to form a united front and launch mass agitations, protests, boycotts and satyagraha [like Gandhian style] campaigns in a peaceful and non-violent manner.

It is better late than never. The Tamil voters have to act wisely to elect young, sincere and dedicated leaders while forcing the present leaders for permanent retirement. The disunity, complacency and inaction Tamil leaders have led to the entry of South political parties, UNP, SLFP and SLPP in the North, particularly in the Jaffna District and improving their vote bank resulting in Parliamentary seats where TNA won 9 seats in 2015 elections and was able to secure 6 seats in the 2020 elections.

While Vigneswaran is insisting on the condition of the "Confederation" for any talks with the Government, Sumanthiran, the de-facto leader of the TNA claims the solo right to speak on behalf of all Tamils. It is a puzzling statement which needs his clarification as to when and how he obtained this mandate to proclaim himself as the leader of entire Tamils. Otherwise it can be dismissed as a pure gimmick.

What the late leader and father of the Tamil Nation S.J.V. Chelvanayagam prophesied is now proved to be true when he said in 1977 "Only God can save the Tamils". However, it appears even God cannot save the Tamils unless it happens swiftly to halt the extinction of the Tamil race in Sri Lanka.

It is reported that a meeting of Tamil National leaders was held recently and a decision was made to act unitedly and not individually. It is hoped that this last unity will sustain at least for some time with the leaders leading to the formulation and presentation of united demands listing the urgent issues regarding immediate actions and solutions for the Government, if at all the government invites the representatives of all major Tamil political parties for official talks.

It is hoped that unity will survive and prevail among the Tamil leaders forsaking their rivalries and unitedly place the core and immediate demands for consideration and acceptable solution by the Government.



By: Thambu Kanagasabai -
LL.M [London] Former Lecturer in
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Smart ways to save for a house or condo



(NC) With Canada's housing market hotter than ever, saving up a down payment can feel impossible. But wise spending and saving decisions can add up over time. Here, Vanessa Bowen, money expert and accountant, offers simple yet effective ways to save for the home you've had your eye on.

Ensure you have a good credit score

A better credit score means that you can qualify for lower interest rates and loans that you may require when investing in a future property. Working to improve your overall credit score, such as by avoiding late bill payments, will help make your savings go further as you look towards purchasing the house or condo of your dreams.

Contribute lump-sum payments to your savings

Large annual payments such as a work bonus or your tax return can be added as lump-sum contributions to your savings. Contributing larger sums helps you reach your end-goal more quickly, so remember to save these payments. It's money you don't count on in your day to day anyway, so it'll be easier to set aside and watch your savings steadily grow.

Switch to a no-fee bank account

A small step that you can take that will add up to big savings in the long run is switching to a no-fee bank account. The PC Money Account is the bank account reimagined with no monthly fees and opportunities to earn PC Optimum Points on every dollar spent everywhere you shop. Now, instead of having to pay monthly banking fees, you can put your hard-earned money towards saving up for a house or condo.

Cut down on unnecessary spending

Try cutting back on expenses such as takeout food and shopping for things you may not actually need, like subscription services. Instead, put this money, which could potentially add up to thousands each year, towards a significant investment opportunity, such as a future Home.



Mould problem? DIY tips for your home



(NC) No matter where you live, mould can be found around you. Mould is the common word for any fungus that grows on food or damp building materials.

People living in homes with mould and damp conditions are more likely to have eye, nose and throat irritation; coughing and phlegm buildup; wheezing and shortness of breath; and worsening of asthma symptoms.

What should you do to make sure this unwanted visitor doesn't stay? Try cutting back on expenses such as takeout food and shopping for things you may not actually need, like subscription services. Instead, put this money, which could potentially add up to thousands each year, towards a significant investment opportunity, such as a future Home.

1. Look for damp spots and identify the problem. Check basements, closets, windowsills and around sinks, tubs and pipes. Dry any surfaces where moisture has collected.
2. Repair water leaks ASAP. Clean up immediately after any water leak or flooding.
3. Keep your home well ventilated. Always turn on your kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans when cooking, showering or bathing. Let the fan run for a few minutes after you're done. Make sure your clothes dryer, stove, kitchen and bathroom fans all vent to the outdoors.
4. Seal tubs and sinks. Make sure the seal is tight, so water doesn't leak into the walls.
5. Throw out basement clutter. Cardboard boxes and old clothes are great places for mould to grow. If you need to store items, be sure to use plastic bins with lids.
6. Reduce humidity. Keep humidity low, about 50 per cent in the summer and 30 per cent in colder weather. You can use a hygrometer — an inexpensive tool available at most hardware stores — to measure humidity.
7. If needed, use a dehumidifier or air conditioner to reduce humidity levels. Clean Often.

Regularly clean and disinfect anything that holds water, like humidifiers, dehumidifiers and air conditioners. Clean surfaces affected by mould with water and dish detergent. Bleach is not necessary to remove mould.

Consider hiring a professional if you have a lot of mould (greater than three square metres), it comes back after repeated cleanings or someone in your household suffers from asthma or other respiratory problems because of it.

Find more information at canada.ca by searching the keywords "mould" and "home."

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Returning to office? How to survive your commute



(NC) With many of us returning to the office this fall, the commute may be the thing we're least looking forward to. If your driving skills are a little rusty or you're dreading becoming bored behind the wheel, check out these helpful tips and tricks.

Set up your entertainment

No one likes to feel like they're wasting their time commuting, so before you leave your driveway safely set up something fun to keep you busy. It can be a true-crime podcast, your favourite artist's playlist or an audiobook. Then, put your phone away so you can stay focused on the road.

Keep your eyes on the road

If you're using a GPS, take a minute to set your destination before taking off. Eating, grooming, adjusting your clothing and music are all innocent tasks that can raise your risk of getting into an accident. So, get comfortable in your seat and if you get hungry on the road, take 15 minutes to pull over and enjoy your snack.

Be aware of common tow truck scams

In the unfortunate event of a fender bender, always record details of the accident, any other vehicles involved, the name of the tow truck company and driver, etc. Remember not to sign any blank work order forms. Read all the terms and conditions on documents to ensure you understand what you're authorizing.

Finally, have the car towed to your regular repair shop, or one recommended by your insurance company or broker, not just the one recommended by the tow truck driver. According to Aviva Canada, customers who go use a preferred, vetted vendor for their tow, repair and car rental have their auto claim settled, on average, 30 days faster, save over \$1,000 in claim costs, and are more satisfied overall.

Prepare for an emergency

You could get a flat tire, get stuck in traffic, get into an accident, have your car break down or slide into a ditch on a less travelled road. This is why it's important to always be prepared with an emergency kit. Stock it up with a first aid kit, bottled water, snacks, flashlight, batteries, tire gauge, jumper cables and warm clothes during winter. Learn more about how to protect yourself or report suspicious or fraudulent activity at [Aviva.ca/en/about-aviva/protect-yourself-from-fraud](https://www.aviva.ca/en/about-aviva/protect-yourself-from-fraud).

Tips for coping with anxiety and sadness during COVID



(NC) There's no doubt that the pandemic has caused stress and anxiety for many people across Canada and around the world. Even if you know you're not the only one feeling sad or lonely, this realization may not be enough to help you cope — especially if you're dealing with a major life stressor, like a layoff or loss of a loved one.

If you are struggling to cope, these tips may help:

Put down your devices.

Indulging in things that bring you joy are perfectly acceptable. But being glued to your laptop or smartphone for long periods of time will only lead to a sore neck, back and eyes. Extensive electronics usage can also lead to a host of other issues, such as insomnia, demotivation and depression. If technology is taking over your precious time, take a step back to rethink how you use it.

2. Cut back on your vices.

Being cooped up, it's understandable that many of us have been leading less healthy lifestyles than pre-pandemic. But overindulging in binge drinking, smoking, takeout and couch time may not be the best option for coping with anxiety and sadness. Though they may seem small, these habits can pile up to have adverse effects on your mind and body.

3. Give yourself a daily routine.

Something as simple as opening the curtains when you wake up, making your bed and brushing your teeth can help you begin the day with a hopeful mindset. Seek inspiration and ideas for self-care, and block out certain times of the day? even just a few minutes? to devote to yourself.

4. Seek out extra support.

Sometimes even the most helpful tips and strategies are not enough. Fortunately, you can access free help 24/7 from the comfort of home. On the Wellness Together Canada portal you'll find free, reliable information, self-assessment tools, and have the option to connect with peer support, social workers, psychologists and other professionals for confidential text sessions or phone calls.

Support is just a call or click away. Find more information at [wellnesstogether.ca](https://www.wellnesstogether.ca).

How to return to social activities in confidence



(NC) With more of Canada fully vaccinated and provinces cautiously opening back up, many of us are eager to revisit the gym, restaurants and movie theatres. But even with the light at the end of the tunnel, the pandemic isn't over — and the anxiety of returning to social activities can be daunting.

Here are three tips to keep in mind as we slowly reclaim our pre-pandemic lives.

1. Know and define your comfort zone.

After over a year of being heavily restricted, you may feel pressure to be a social butterfly and fill your calendar with events to make up for it. It's okay to not rush in headfirst. Figure out what you're comfortable with. Are you okay with going to eat out at restaurants, but only on a patio? How about heading to a movie theatre, but only at certain times? Just because restrictions are being lifted doesn't mean you have to abandon your comfort zone. Communicate your boundaries with friends and family, so they may be aware of where you draw the line.

2. Don't bombard yourself with headlines.

It's important to keep informed. After all, who hasn't obsessively tracked new cases and vaccination rates at some point during the pandemic? But it's also unhealthy to obsess over the news, and information fatigue is very real. For the sake of your mental health, step away from the headlines when you find yourself going down a COVID-19 rabbit hole.

3. Don't be afraid to seek help if needed.

With everything constantly changing, it can be normal to experience stress, the indoor blues or feelings of loneliness. If you're struggling, remember that there are resources available that can help.

For example, the Wellness Together Canada portal offers free, credible information and resources, available 24/7 to help address mental health and substance use issues. Here, you can access self-assessment tools or choose to connect with peer support, social workers, psychologists and other professionals via confidential text sessions or phone calls.

Support is just a call or click away. Find more information at [wellnesstogether.ca](https://www.wellnesstogether.ca).

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Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce Business Centre Opening, Aug. 15, 2021, Markham.



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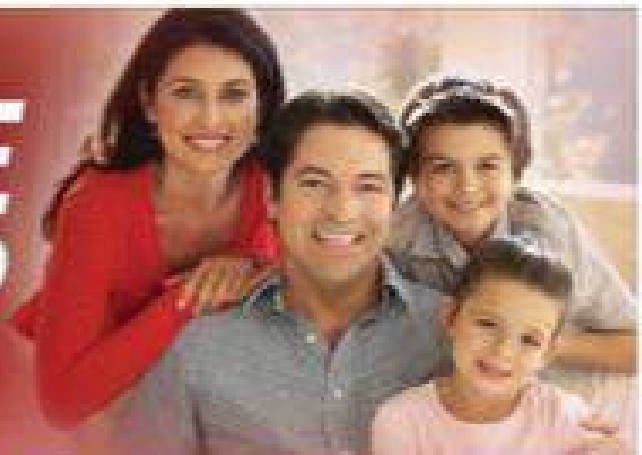
WORLD TAMIL BADMINTON FEDERATION OF CANADA

held its first ever Badminton tournament on Aug 8, 2021, in Brampton.



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Suresh is passionate about delivering value in every connection that he makes. As a Specialist Business Strategist & Coach, he revels in efficiently maximizing potential and fostering professional relationships within organizations. And as the Founder and CEO of Connecting GTA, he is dedicated to help propel your business forward.

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City of VAVUNIYA

வவுனியா

Between 5th century BC and 13th century AD present day Vavuniya District was part of Rajarata. Vavuniya District was thereafter ruled by Vanniar Chieftains who paid tribute to the pre-colonial Jaffna kingdom. The district then came under Portuguese, Dutch and British control. In 1815 the British gained control of the entire island of Ceylon. They divided the island into three ethnic based administrative structures: Low Country Sinhalese, Kandyan Sinhalese and Tamil.

The district, which was then called Vanni District, was part of the Tamil administration. In 1833, in accordance with the recommendations of the Colebrooke-Cameron Commission, the ethnic based administrative structures were unified into a single administration divided into five geographic provinces. Vanni District, together with Jaffna District and Mannar District, formed the new Northern Province.

Vanni District was later renamed Mullaitivu District and then Vavuniya District. At the time that Ceylon gained independence, Vavuniya was one of the three districts located in the Northern Province. Mullaitivu District was carved out of the northern part of Vavuniya District in September 1978.

Parts of Vavuniya District were under the control of rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam for many years during the civil war. The entire district was recaptured by the Sri Lankan military in 2008.

Vavuniya District's population was 171,511 in 2012. The population of the district is mostly Sri Lankan Tamil.

The population of the district, like the rest of the north and east of Sri Lanka, has been heavily affected by the civil war. The war killed an estimated 100,000 people. Several hundred thousand Sri Lankan Tamils, possibly as much as one million, emigrated to the West during the war.[11] Many Sri Lankan Tamils also moved to the relative safety of the capital Colombo.

Most of the Sri Lankan Moors and Sinhalese who lived in the district fled to other parts of Sri Lanka or were forcibly expelled by the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, though most of them have returned to the district since the end of the civil war.



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Enjoy a short cruise in the Toronto Harbour to enjoy views of the Toronto skyline and visit the Toronto Islands. This tour features live narration designed to entertain and inform as you explore the region.

Enjoy the best views of the Toronto skyline
Learn the history of the islands and harbour
Take advantage of great photo opportunities

This cruise of the Toronto Harbour and islands gives you the chance to enjoy scenic views of the Toronto skyline, learn the history of the area, and explore the Toronto Islands.

Your captain will start the tour by taking you to view the Western Harbour before crossing into the lagoons to visit the Toronto Islands. Sites featured on this part of the tour include the historic Hanlan's Point, the Island Yacht Club, and the woodlands of the Island Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary. The captain and crew will provide an entertaining and informative narration to detail everything you see.

During the second half of the tour, return to the Toronto Harbour where the crew will tell you about many of the notable buildings that make up the skyline while you cruise along to find the perfect place to photograph Toronto from the water.

See less

The dock is located in the heart of Toronto's waterfront at Pier 6. Check-in at the red boathouse at the intersection of York Street and Queens Quay West. The red boat house has a Beaver Tail restaurant within it.



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