

# SIVAGURUNATHAN TROPHY

6th Cricket Encounter

15th September 2017



# VS



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4TH ENGLISH DEBATE

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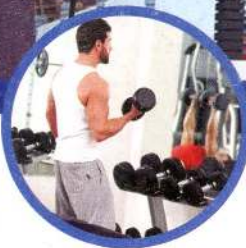
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# Program Agenda

**Day 1**    **Friday, 15th September 2017**

### Match

7:45am	Ananda College Team leaving Hotel
8:00am	Ananda College Team arrival at Jaffna Hindu College
8:15am	Pooja at Jaffna Hindu College temple
8:45am	Leaving Jaffna Hindu College
9:00am	Arrival at Jaffna University Grounds

**9:00am -9:45am Opening Ceremony**

Lightning the traditional oil lamp  
Hoisting the national flag & Play the national anthem  
Hoisting the Ananda college flag & play the school song  
Hoisting the Jaffna Hindu College flag & play the school song  
Speech in Tamil by Ananda College Principal  
Speech in Sinhala by Jaffna Hindu College Principal

**10:00am – 5:00pm Limited Overs Cricket Match**

## Dinner

6.45pm	Teams Arrival at Thinnai Hotel
7:00pm - 7:30pm	Speech by the President, Jaffna Hindu College OBA Colombo
	Speech by the President, Ananda College
	Speech by the Chief Guest - Professor Ratnam Vigneswaran (Vice Chancellor University of Jaffna)
7:30pm – 8:00pm	Prize Giving
8:00pm – 11:00pm	Celebratory Dinner

**Day 2- Saturday, 16th September 2017**

Debate  
8:45am Ananda College Team leaving Hotel  
9:00am Ananda College Team arrival at Jaffna Hindu College  
9:30am -11:30am Debate



## Message From the Principal of Ananda College



I consider it an immense pleasure to release this brief communiqué to the souvenir published in light of the brotherly cricket encounter that takes place annually between Ananda College, Colombo and Hindu College, Jaffna tightening the bond of fellowship. Ananda College Colombo and Hindu College Jaffna are two of the stalwart educational institutions in the country steadfast in their respective missions. Both schools have produced eminent individuals of the highest caliber to the motherland and to the global arena for over a century now.

The Sivagurunathan Challenge Trophy, since its inception in 2012, has enabled the yoking of both our communities in a brotherly bond. It can be considered as an event that would go down the annals of history as a "visionary step" taken towards the building of amity among the Sinhalese and Tamils – the people of North and South. This event therefore, also deserves an alternative title "The North & South Amity."

My message this year urges all of us an honest molding of our future. Both our schools stand tall as authoritative establishments responsible for carrying forth the ideals which we hold dear to our people. If we look candidly into the noble teachings contained in the Hindu and Buddhist scriptures, I am certain we can find similarities than differences. We are a people coming down generation to generation walking abreast towards the common goal of peace and harmony. The Buddha said, "Whatever kinds of worldly merit there are, all are not worth one 16th part of the release of mind by universal friendliness; in shining, glowing, beaming & radiance the release of mind by universal friendliness far excels & surpasses them all."





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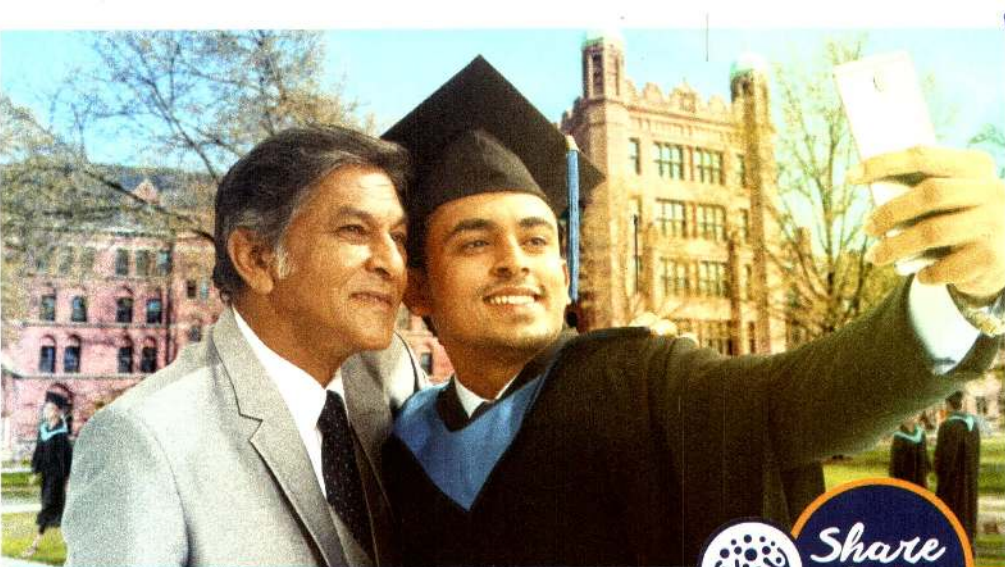
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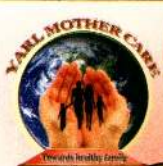


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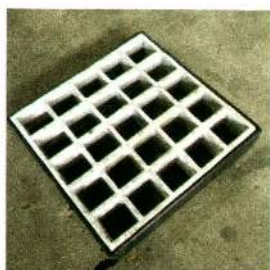
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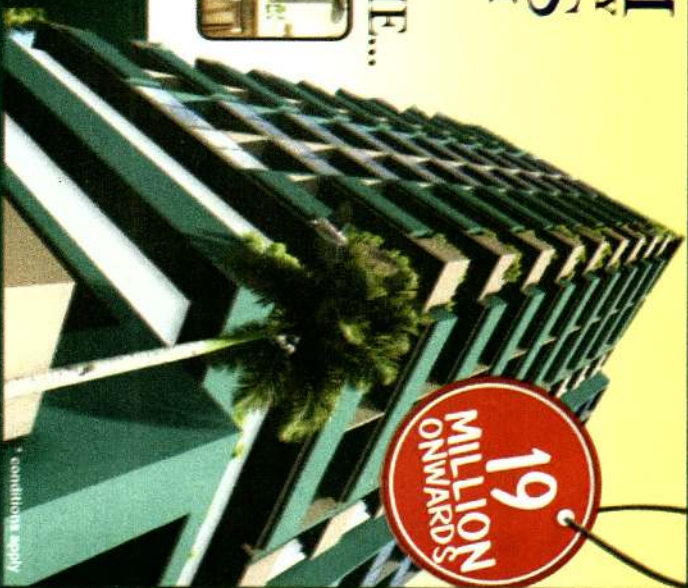
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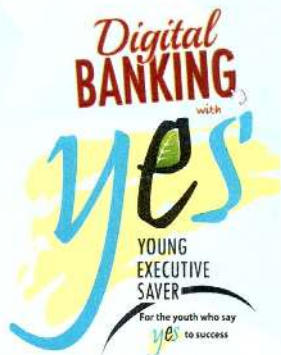


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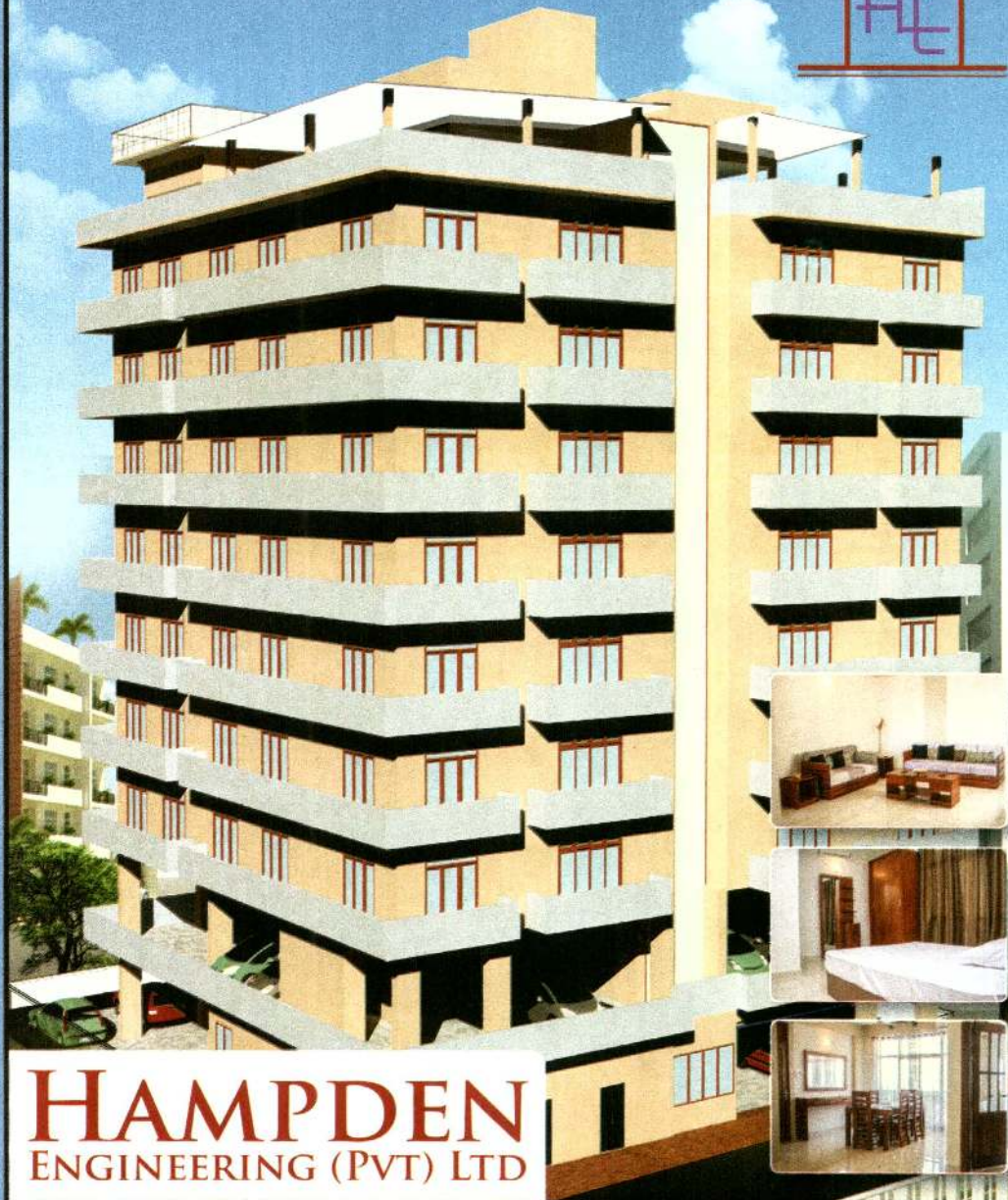


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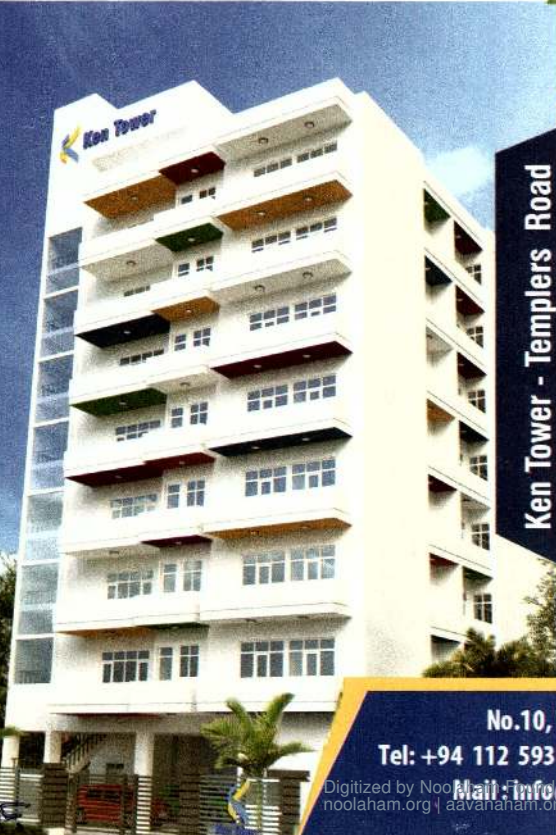
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Message from the President, OBA (Jaffna) of  
Jaffna Hindu College.

செய்தி - தலைவர் யாழ்ப்பாணம் இந்துக்கல்லூரி பழைய மாணவர் சங்கம்

என் அன்பு இந்து அன்னையின் புதல்வர்களே!

எமது இந்து அன்னையின் நலனுக்காக நாமெல்லோரும் செயலாற்றிக் கொண்டிருப்பது அனைவரும் அறிந்ததே யாழ். இந்துக் கல்லூரிக்கும் கொழும்பு ஆனந்தாக் கல்லூரிக்கும் இடையே துடுப்பாட்ட போட்டியையும் விவாதப் போட்டியையும் வருடா வருடம் நடாத்தி வருகின்றதானது எமது கல்லூரி மாணவர்களின் திறமைகளை மேம்படுத்த உதவுவதோடு இவர்களிடையே நல்லிணக்கத்தையும் ஏற்படுத்தி வருகின்றமை குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது. அந்த வகையில் தங்களது இந்த செயற்பாடானது பாராட்டுதற்குரியது என்பதால் இந்துவின் மைந்தர்களாகிய எங்களனைவரையும் பெருமை கொள்ள வைக்கின்றது.

நாம் அனைவரும் எம்முள் வேறுபாடுகள் களைந்து ஒருமித்து செயற்பட்டால் தடைகள் அனைத்தையும் தகர்த்தெறிந்து அன்னையின் புகழை தரத்தினை மேலும் உயர்த்தலாம். இது அனைவரும் அறிந்ததொன்று. எனவே எமது சங்கங்கள் அனைத்தும் ஒன்றுகூடி எமது சிந்தனைகளை, திட்டங்களை பகிர்ந்து எல்லோர் கருத்துக்களையும் உள்வாங்கி முன்னேற்றப்பாதையில் எமது நடவடிக்கைகளை முன்னெடுப்போம். என்விடமேகினும் எத்துயர்மேகினும் எம் அன்னை அவள் நலம் மறவாதிருப்போம்.

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Standing (Left to Right)

Mr. Harindra Dahanayake - AC OBA, Mr. S. Suluxshan - Asst. Secretary JHC OBA, Mr. Yasas Randunu - Secretary Special Project Committee AC OBA, Mr. T. Thumakanthan - Vice President JHC OBA, Mr. Adel Hashim AC OBA, Mr. G. Vasanthan - Vice President JHC OBA, Mr. Malith Jayasinghe AC OBA, Mr. Nadeeka Senarathna - AC OBA

Seating (Left to Right)

Mr. K. Sundaresan - Secretary JHC OBA, Mr. Bimal Wijayasinghe - Vice President AC OBA, Mr. K. Asokan - President JHC OBA, Mr. Asoka Karunaratna - President AC OBA, Mr. W. S. Kiruparatnam - Deputy President JHC OBA, Mr. Jayantha Wickramasinghe - Immediate Past President AC OBA

Absent:

Mr. N. Kunatharshan (Vice President - JHC OBA), Mr. N. Rajkumar (JHC OBA)









## Cricket Jokes

In a local match, the umpire was being jeered and heckled unmercifully from the crowd. At length he walked over to the boundary and sat down next to his chief critic. "What are you doing?" asked the spectator. "Well," said the umpire, "it seems you get the best view from here."

During the match, the fieldsman positioned just behind the umpire kept trying to distract the batsman as the ball was bowled to him. Several appeals for lbw were turned down, and finally the umpire turned to the fieldsman and said sternly: "I've been watching you for the last 20 minutes." "I thought so," came the reply, "I could tell you weren't watching the game!"

The fast bowler delivered a bouncer which hit the batsman on the head and he had to be taken to hospital for observation. The next day he was introduced to the batsman's wife. "I'm terribly sorry about what happened to your husband, I feel very bad about it," grovelled the bowler. "Oh, think nothing of it," replied the wife, "I've been wanting to do that myself for years."

The cricketer was proud of his progress as a batsman and invited his mother-in-law along to watch him play, hoping to impress her. At the crease, he turned to the wicketkeeper and said "I'm anxious to do well and really hit this ball. That's my wife's mother over there." "Don't be silly," said the wicketkeeper. "You'll never hit her at 200 hundred yards."

Source of Information : Internet



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## 2016 Event Photos



## Ananda College Debate Team



### Seating (L to R)

- 1 RamyaSamaradiwakara ( Teacher in charge)
- 2 S M Keerthirathna ( Principal Ananda College)
- 3 SarathGunathilake ( Deputy Principal AC)

### Standing (L to R)

1. Dineth Hettiarachchi
2. AadithaEdirisinghe
3. Seth Ganepola
4. SahasGunasekara



## Jaffna Hindu College

Debate Team - 2017



### Left to Right

Mas.Ravishankar Banujan, Mas.Sadadcharan Keethasaba (Captain),  
Mr.I.Thayanantharajah (Principal), Mrs.M.Naageswaran(Teacher-in-Charge),  
Mas.Indrakumar Aran, Mas.Arulmoli Harshan.



## Debating Captain's Message – Ananda College

I take much pride in penning this message to the Souvenir released in connection with Panikkar-Thanasabalasingham Memorial Debate between Ananda College and Jaffna Hindu College.

The tournament for many years was the one link that strengthened the attachment we have with our brothers in the northern peninsula and the one reminder that made us understand that distance is not a barrier for friendship.

This debating encounter has been one of the most celebrated inter school competitions for us at Ananda College. Not only has it been a competition that improved our competence as school level debaters but it also facilitates an opportunity for us to connect with our brothers living in another part of Sri Lanka while sharing our ideas and opinions.

Competitions such as this allows us to understand the more humane approach to resolving conflicts thus reinforcing the core principles of civilization within society. It is the paramount importance of such an aspect of language that Mr.M.V.K. Pannikar and Mr.V.Thanasabalasingham saw which resulted in them sharing that wisdom and moulding the young of both educational institutions to meet each other on the floor of a competitive debate.

Thereby, While thanking the principal of Jaffna Hindu College and its academic staff for hosting this year's completions we also extend our best wishes for the debating team of Jaffna Hindu College for the encounter.

Seth Ganepola

Captain

Ananda College -Debating Team

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## Message from the Captain of the Debate Team of Jaffna Hindu College

I am glad to pen down a few words about the PanikkarThanabalasingam Trophy. This debate paves way for better relationship between the two schools. And I'm delighted in taking part in building such a relationship. In order to strengthen the bond beyond distance, competitions are a must. It gives an opportunity for us to unite and share what we know and have. The debate we are about to encounter is going to be one of those tools. And I hope we will give our best to achieve success in our goals. I convey my regards to Ananda College team.

Good luck.

Sadadcharam Keethasaba

## Cricket Team – Ananda College, Colombo



Seating (L to R)  
 Rohan Soyya - Head Coach, Priyankara Nandasena - Master in Charge, Asel Sigeera - Captain, S. M Keerthirathne - Principal, Sarath Gunathilaka - Deputy Principal  
 Co-Curricular Activities,  
 Jagath Alwis- Prefect of Games, Amal Fernando Asst. Senior Coach  
 Standing 1st row (L to R)  
 Lakshitha Amarasekara, Kalana Wijesiri, Nadeesha Karunaratna, Induwara Ranathunga, Gishan Vishwagith, Ranul Lakpura, Kanishka Ranthilakage  
 Standing 2nd row (L to R)  
 Daminda Reshan, Kavindu Gimhana, Hasindu Shamika, Shamal Hirushan, Sanath Dassanayake, Lahiru Aththanayaka





Sitting (Left to Right)

Mr.N.Pakeerathan (Coach), Mr.K.Paheerathan (Master In Charge), Mas.R.Kajananth(Captain), Mr.I.Thayanantharajah (Principal),  
Mas.L.Sivalauxan(Vice.Captain), Mr.S.Nimalan(Deputy Principal), Mr.K.K.Vasavan (POG)

Standing (Left to Right)

Mas.M.Gobiram, Mas.U.Kethees, Mas.R.Nikesh, Mas.N.Iynkaran, Mas.S.Chantharu, Mas.P.Thanushan, Mas.E.Parimalan, Mas.K.Shanthies,  
Mas.U.Milukshan, Mas.S.Thanustan, Mas.S.Ankavan, Mas.K.Pirakulathan

I applaud the original thought leaders of both schools for taking the initiative to start this tournament; they have displayed good judgment by yoking two districts and two peoples under a common Sri Lankan frenzy – which is cricket. I believe this is a sustainable model.

The tournament had been named after one of the most revered members of our staff (1916 – 1942) and an alumnus of Jaffna Hindu College. The high objective we have placed before this tournament is the promoting of understanding and fellowship between the two schools – its students, parents, and the communities they serve at large; for this effect, many extra activities such as the “Panikkar-Thanabalasingham” English debate tournament, the city excursion, the joint-accommodation concept have been organized in connection with the tournament making this a time of jubilation to both our students and old boys.

My wish is that our schools and our students will always show concern and respect for each other and realize the visionary purpose of this tournament - “The North & South Amity.”

S M Keerthirathna  
Principal  
Ananda College, Colombo.

## Message From the Principal of Jaffna Hindu College

---



It is very appreciable that the memorable event of the friendly cricket tournament between two leading National Schools Jaffna Hindu College and Colombo Ananda College.

The organizers of this remarkable event should be regarded and remembered with gratitude.

I have no doubt that the friendly encounter will encourage the students of south and north towards friendship and broadmindedness.

It is fast that there two leading schools having a long history of religious and cultural traditions have arranged this annual encounter named as Sivagurunathan Trophy.

I congratulate and thank all the noble organizers of this encounter on behalf of the hinduites.

Wish both the teams all the best for great success.

Mr.I.Thayanantharaja  
Principal  
Jaffna Hindu College



## Message from the President, Ananda College Old Boys Association



It is a special honor and a privilege to send this brief message to the souvenir published on the occasion of the annual cricket encounter for the "Sivagurunathan Memorial Challenge Trophy" and the English Debate for the "Panikkar-Thanabalasingham Memorial Shield" being held between Ananda College Colombo and Jaffna Hindu College, Jaffna.

This friendly cricket match is being played in respectful memory of great personality & scholar Late Mr. V.T.S.Sivagurunathan, a Jaffna Hindu College alumnus who was a stalwart during Ananda's formative years, while the English debate is being held in honor of Late Mr.M.K.N.Pannikar & Mr. V.Thanabalasingham, both alumni of the iconic Hindu institution Jaffna Hindu College but were members of the staff at Ananda College, teaching science & promoting English language to connect with communities.

This is a unique encounter between the two beacons of Hindu and Buddhist educational institutions in Sri Lanka. The union between the two schools can be dubbed as a most futuristic attempt towards positive change. This event gives reasons for the Colombo residents to visit Jaffna and for the Jaffna residents to visit Colombo. To this effect, the annual AC-JHC event has proven to be fruitful.

While thanking the members of Old Boys' Associations of both schools for organizing this magnificent event, let me wish all the very best to the cricketers & debaters from both schools as well as the others who will be participating in this annual encounter & the celebratory banquet.

Mr.AsokaKarunaratna  
President  
Ananda College OBA

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## Message from the President, OBA (Colombo) of Jaffna Hindu College.



It gives me immense pleasure to pen this message as the President of the OBA (Colombo) of Jaffna Hindu College to the souvenir to be published to mark the occasion of the 6th Cricket Encounter between Ananda College and Jaffna Hindu to be played in Jaffna on 15th September, 2017 for Sivagurunathan Trophy. I am happy to note that this event started off only as a cricket encounter is moving in the right direction to match the foresight and spearhead the intentions of those stalwarts who initiated this historical event to promote building and strengthening the bonds of friendship and camaraderie between the communities of both the schools which were established with a common purpose by our ancestors. Now this annual event is not only a cricket match, a debate in English for the students and an annual dinner to mark the occasion. When it comes to handling issues about education in national schools, the OBAs of both the schools are in consultation and act together in resolving issues which adds strength to our bargaining.

I wish both captains and their teams success in the events and assure the alumni of both the schools, the best of time in Jaffna.

Mr.M.N.Asokan,

President,

OBA (Colombo) of Jaffna Hindu College

## Cricket Captain Message Jaffna Hindu College

I have great pleasure in giving this message to the souvenir to be published on account of the cricket encounter (Sivagurunathan Trophy) which is to be played by the two leading National Schools of the North and South.

Sports and academic activities are complimentary to each other in the development of the students. The healthy, physique and disciplined mind could be realized through sports and games.

Further, students who actively participate in games will learn good leadership, management and teamwork qualities and resilience character.

The two teams hail from schools with long standing historical traditions of the island. I have no doubt that this encounter between the two national players from north and south will help to develop the national unity and peace.

I wish the encounter a great success.

P.Kajanath



It is with a humble sense of pride and greatest pleasure I pen down this message, as the captain of Ananda College 1st XI cricket team to the souvenir of Sivagurunathan Memorial Cricket Encounter, 2017

Ananda College, Colombo being one of the primary centers of wisdom that promotes peace, unity and brotherhood between different communities in Sri Lanka look forward to share the message of our capability in promoting harmony through the brotherhood, competitiveness and the excitement of 'Cricket' that we would share with our colleagues from North.

This encounter itself has become a brand of its own, that exchanges a true sense of sportsmanship and reconciliation that joins the hearts of students from North and South. My Team and I expect to bring out our best game and play the game with a true sense of brotherhood and sportsmanship.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the organising committee and wish them all the very best in organising the event.

Last but not least, we wish good luck to our colleagues from the North and look forward to have a memorable and an exciting encounter this year.

May the blessings of mother Ananda be with you all.

Asel Sigera

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Introducing The  
Ananda College Team



A. Sigera,  
Right hand batsman,  
Left arm leg spinner

---



D. Reshan,  
Left hand batsman,  
Left arm leg spinner

---



G. Edirisinghe,  
Left hand batsman,  
Right arm off spinner

---



H. Shamika,  
Right hand batsman,  
Right arm off spinner

---



I.Ranatunga,  
Left hand batsman,  
Right arm off spinner

---



K.Ranthilakage,  
Left hand batsman,  
Right arm off spinner

---



K.Gimhana,  
Right hand batsman,  
Right arm off spinner

---



L.Hiranya,  
Right hand batsman,  
Wicket keeper

---



L.Amarasekara,  
Right hand batsman,  
Right arm off spinner

---



K.Wijesiri,  
Right hand batsman,  
Right arm leg spinner

---





S.Hirushan,  
Right hand batsman,  
Right arm medium fast

---



S.Dassanayake,  
Right hand batsman,  
Right arm medium fast

---



R.Dayarathne,  
Right hand batsman,  
Left arm leg spin

---



N.Nethmina,  
Right hand batsman,  
Left arm leg spinner

---

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## Introducing The Jaffna Hindu College Team



P.Kajanath (Captain)

Right Hand Batsman

Wicket Keeper

---



L.Sivaluxsan(Vice Captain)

Right Hand Batsman

Right Arm Off-Spinner

---



E.Parimalan

Right Hand Batsman

---



M.Kobiram

Left Hand Batsman

Left Arm Off-Spinner

---



G. Shanthos

Left Hand Batsman

Right Arm Off-Spinner

---



N. Iyankaran

Right Hand Batsman

Right Arm Medium Fast

---



S. Ankavan

Right Hand Batsman

Right Arm Medium Fast

---





P.Thanushan

Right Hand Batsman

Right Arm Medium Fast

---



K.Nikesh

Left Hand Batsman

Right Arm Off-Spinner

---



S.Chanthuru

Left Hand Batsman

Left Arm Medium Fast

---



U. Milakshan

Left Hand Batsman

Right Arm Off-Spinner

---



K. Pirakalathan

Right Hand Batsman

Right Arm Medium Fast

---



S. Thanustan

Right Hand Batsman

Wicket Keeper

---



U. Kethees

Right Hand Batsman

---

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## Message from the Principal of Ananda College

I consider it an immense pleasure to release this brief communication to the souvenir published in light of the brotherly battle of words the "Panikkar-Thanabalasingham" English Debate Competition that takes place yearly between Ananda College, Colombo and Hindu College, Jaffna tightening the bond of fellowship.

Ananda College Colombo and Hindu College Jaffna are two of the steadfast educational institutions in the country persistent in their respective missions. Both schools have produced eminent individuals of the highest caliber to the motherland and to the global arena for over a century now.

"Panikkar-Thanabalasingham" English Debate since its inception in 2012, has enabled the association of both our communities in a close brotherly bond. It can be considered as an event that would go down the annals of history as a "visionary step" taken towards the building of amity among the Sinhalese and Tamils – the people of North and South with same blood.

I applaud the original thought leaders of both schools for taking the initiative to start this venture. They have displayed good judgment by yoking two districts and two communities for the purpose of tightening the human relationships.

The high objective we have placed before this event is promoting of understanding and fellowship between the two schools – its students, parents, and the communities they serve at large.

My wish is that our schools and our students will always show concern and respect for each other and realize the visionary purpose of this venture setting an example to the wider society regarding - "The North & South Amity."

S M Keerthirathna  
Principal  
Ananda College, Colombo

## Message from the Jaffna Hindu College Principal Message

I am indeed very pleased to give this message of felicitation on the memorable occasion of an inter-collegiate debate on the panikkar thanabalasingam Trophy which is to be taken place on the 16th September 2017, between the students of Jaffna Hindu College and Colombo Ananda College.

A debate of this nature undoubtedly will contribute toward strengthening of brotherhood among the students in the country. This will also help for the cultivation of skills in English language learning among our students. This friendly debate between two different religion, culture and language will really enhance the feeling of unity.

I hope that the memorable event may be an everlasting one with pride of place in the history of the island.

Wishing both the teams all the best for a great success.

Mr.I.Thayanantharaja  
Principal  
Jaffna Hindu College



Speech of Former Chief justice K. Sripavan made at the celebratory annual dinner of Jaffna Hindu College and Ananda College held on 1st May 2016 at the Kingsbury Hotel, Colombo.

Principals of both Jaffna Hindu College and Ananda College, eminent old boys, members of the staff, parents, and most importantly, my dear students from Jaffna Hindu College and Ananda College, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for the kind introduction and warm welcome. My wife and I feel honored by the invitation you have extended to us to be your Chief Guest at this most important event in the school calendar of both Jaffna Hindu College and Ananda College. Being invited to be chief guest at a function involving one's old school must be one of the high points of any person's life. I am very conscious of the privilege that the Old Boy's Association of Ananda College has accorded to me today. I extend my warm appreciation to all who made this event possible.

Let me also congratulate all those who have taken part in this year's V. T.S. Sivagurunathan Trophy and the winners of the Pannikkar-Thanabalsingham Challenge Shield. Many of you would have strived to do your best in order to be a part of this annual event and I believe that represents the true spirit of both schools. Although we all know that taking part is a key element in team sports, school events and life in general, winning is what makes us push ourselves and achieve our full potential. I am very impressed with the continuous efforts of the Old Boy's Association of Ananda College and Jaffna Hindu College in developing bonds of friendship, understanding and trust through this annual cricket encounter between both colleges. This is indeed a futuristic attempt by the OBA's of both schools to lead this country towards positive changes.

As I pondered on what I should talk about, my mind flashed back to a series of events and encounters in virtually the most important first two decades of my life at Jaffna Hindu College. I believe all of us here, to a greater or lesser extent, are where we STAND, in regard to the important national issues that challenge us today - regarding questions of peace, violence, good governance, human rights, economic development and so on, on the basis of our own individual experiences in what is commonly referred to as the formative years of our life, in school. I am happy that Ananda College is conducting this annual event to pay tribute to her revered teachers; Mr. V.T.S. Sivagurunathan one-time headmaster and a distinguished alumnus of Jaffna Hindu College, and two other senior teachers Mr. Pannikkar and Mr. Thanabalsingham who excelled in teaching Science and English at Ananda College, for their tireless and dedicated services for decades.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you all well know Jaffna Hindu College is the premier Hindu Institution in this country and has nurtured generations of students who have distinguished themselves in whatever vocation they engaged in, with discipline, dedication and character, inculcated in them whilst in school. There is no doubt that Jaffna Hindu College always ventured to make this objective a reality among all the students who passed through her portals. Discipline and order has been the hallmark of Jaffna Hindu since inception. Alumnus of Jaffna Hindu College over generations has set forth unparalleled standards that are envied and at the same time silently respected by many. Some of the illustrious old boys of Jaffna Hindu who achieved distinction in the legal field include former Chief Justice S. Sharvananda, former Attorney General Shiva Pasupati and former President Court of Appeal K. Palakidnar just to name a few. Similarly, some of the legal luminaries produced by Ananda College I understand are, former Attorney General

Yuwanjana Wijayatilake, present Additional Solicitor General Yasantha Kodagoda and many Presidents' Counsel. Ladies and Gentlemen, we should always remember that students are the real promoters of the prosperity of the future of any country. They must therefore cultivate strong virtues and be courageous and enthusiastic helpers of society. Students should try to develop an optimistic attitude towards life. Thoughts automatically give rise to actions. Actions in turn produce habits and habits then form man's character. It is the character which decides our destiny for good or bad. Character is that on which the destiny of a nation is built. Whether in public life or in student life we cannot reach great heights if we are lacking in character. In this regard the schools play a major role. Over and above imparting knowledge based on a sound value system, schools should always strive to be the epitome of harmony and unity; and create communities where racial and religious prejudices do not exist. In a country that was once torn apart by war; stemming from deep racial and religious divisions, I believe these efforts by the Old Boy's Associations of both Ananda College and Jaffna Hindu College will lay the foundation to maintain the multi religious, multi ethnic character of this country, and instill into the minds of all Sri Lankan citizens the consciousness of belonging to one nation. This I believe would be the greatest contribution to our nation.

The end of the protracted armed conflict that divided our country has created a reasonable expectation that we would be able to reach reconciliation and healing that would lead to rapid economic progress. We have all once again begin to believe in the dreams of Martin Luther King in the 1960s that our children too can now have an opportunity to live in a nation where they would



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not be judged by the race they belonged to or the creed they believed in, but by the content of their character. Lord Buddha has said that each one has the essentials of enlightenment. Jesus has said that the kingdom of God is Within you. Prophet Muhammad has said that God is nearer to you than the very artery of your neck. Lord Krishna says in the Bagavatgita that in the lowest worm, as well in the highest human being, the same divine nature is present. Thus one could see that all religions are affirming the presence of a divine element in human beings. It is this, that confers on us dignity, which confers on us responsibility, which makes us believe that it is possible for us to shape the future in any manner we choose. We should try to find out what it is that we want and, when once we know it, if we are firm in our view, if we act unitedly, there is nothing impossible for human beings to achieve. Bridges can be easily smashed but not so easily built, and the emotional and psychological bridges of life are far harder to rebuild and they also leave scars behind.

It is because we are divided, fighting one with another, undisciplined in our nature and not united, that we have all the confusion that we come across in this country. The confusion in this country is a reflection of the confusion in our own souls. If we are able to discover the element which is able to integrate our own nature, immediately we will find that there is nothing determined, that there is nothing fixed but the whole thing is open to us and it depends on us what we make of the future of this country.

Unfortunately, as you all know our students are not trained in schools to approach life's problems with the fortitude, self-control and sense of balance which our atmosphere now demands. Without this disciplined enthusiasm for great causes, students become a danger to themselves and to the society as a whole. Youth is the stage in life when the slightest turn, towards wrong will spell disaster. Discipline is therefore necessary. It is necessary for all achievement, especially great achievements. Discipline is not something just for students it is also essential to our society. Discipline is following rules and customs even though no one else is there to see us do it, because we respect the origin, or fear the consequences of these rules we generally accept them as the "right" way to do things. It gives us our integrity and honor, which is a crucial part of who we are.

Today, we have come to realize that we have to live together and if we are to live together, we must have tolerance of other people's views; religious tolerance, ideological tolerance, and these are the things which have become inevitable in the interests of self-preservation. Forgiveness is love at its highest power. I think the philosophy on which this country should rebuild itself is definitely not the philosophy that believes in extermination or segregation or assimilation, but one that believes in achieving racial harmony, and if racial harmony is to be achieved, our whole outlook on life must be different. We must respect every individual. An individual may not be as great as we are; he may not have the intellectual achievement or the educational gifts or the vast experience which some of us may claim to possess, but that does not mean that the unsuspected possibilities and potentialities of people have all been explored. If you take democracy in the proper sense of them, it is tolerating of differences, it is accepting the variety of the world as something to be encouraged

and not as something to be destroyed. If you have differences, they have to be settled by peaceful methods.

There is so much unknown to us that may yet come out. I sincerely hope Sri Lanka will begin to provide the atmosphere and circumstances which will help each individual to grow to his utmost. There is an observation of Aristotle which I would like to Quote - " Man when perfected is the best of animals, but, when separated from law and justice, he is the worst of all since armed injustice is the more dangerous, and he is equipped at birth with arms; meant to be used by intelligence and virtue which he may use for the worst ends. Therefore, if he has no virtue, he is the most unholy and the most savage of the animals".

In conclusion, I would once again congratulate the winners of the Pannikkar-Thanasalingham Challenge Shield and also wish both the cricket teams the very best for their cricket encounters.

Thank you.







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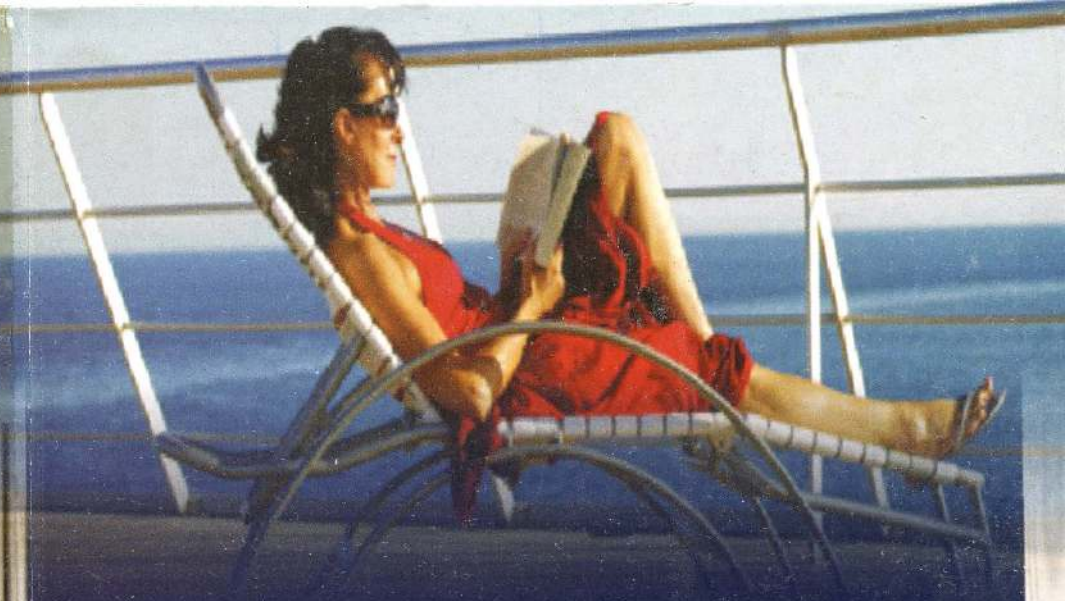
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