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## Our Community Is Thriving!



Stepping in the right direction at TWF's June 1 'Walk The Path' walkathon were (left to right) Shafqat Ali, MP Brampton Centre; TWF's Event Co-Chair Ivan Dawns, IUPAT; Anthony Henry, TWF President; Ruby Sahota, MP Brampton North; Ken Noel, TWF Executive Director; and Carpenters Union's Sean Blake, TWF Event Co-Chair. Photo by Simon R. Samuel

### 'Walk the Path' with TWF

**Toronto** – The build-up of enthusiasm, energy, and its accompanying momentum were palpable at the Etobicoke Creek Trail on the morning of June 1, when many participants gathered to 'Walk the Path' alongside members of The Walnut Foundation.

The event was TWF's tenth annual walkathon and fund-raiser, one of the enabling events put on by the group as it works to build awareness, educate, and to offer support for the high incidence of prostate cancer, and for men's health in the GTA.

While the walkathon was an enabling call that saw widespread participatory support from the community, at the same time it was also part of TWF's fund-raising drive. The funds go toward sustaining its exemplary work in advocacy, raising awareness, and providing support for men's health.

As of this week, its \$100,000 goal was almost 70 percent on the way to achieving the target. **Donations can be made online** – [click here for TWF's fund-raising site](#).

## Kissoon fund-raiser puts charity at the fore

By Romeo Kaseram  
LJI Reporter

**Toronto** – The formula is working well that is driving the Latchmin Kissoon Golf Tournament to the fore, and into what is promising to be its third successful year of charitable fund-raising, its organiser Dhaman Kissoon said last week. This year's event will take place on June 19 at the Granite Ridge Golf Club in Milton.

"We're less than a month away from the tournament, and already we are completely sold out, with 144 golfers signed up to participate," Kissoon said.

And recognising the herculean effort being made by its organising team, he added, "Already everything is fully in place... except for the weather!"

As Kissoon recalled, the tournament was revived in his mother's name three years ago. Before its reincarnation, it had been originally inaugurated in 2000 in the memory of his late father, Sugrim Kissoon. It raised over \$500,000 in 15 years, he said.

Announcement of the revived golf tournament in his mother's name was made in March 2022 during a religious event at Vishnu Mandir that celebrated her 85th birthday.

During the announcement, Kissoon also stated that the effort was being undertaken by his family to assist Vishnu Mandir's leader Dr Budhendranauth Doobay, and VM's Global Care Outreach, in its work to make dialysis care affordable to patients in Guyana.

Since its 2022 re-emergence, proceeds from each successfully concluded tournament have gone towards dialysis care sites in Guyana, with last year's event alone raising \$70,000, Kissoon stated.

Given its growing traction and upward trajectory since 2022, Kissoon said the formula that is now driving the Latchmin Kissoon Golf Tournament has made it into "an easy sell".

Understandably, a main contributory component is his mother's eminence, and the aura of empathy, compassion, and devotion that surrounds her as the family's revered matriarch.

Said Kissoon: "When we tell our friends in the business community it is for mom, they step up right away."

He also recalled an uplifting and touching moment during the concluding ceremony at last year's event, when his mother addressed the gathering with a heartfelt show of gratitude

**See Page 15: Fund-raiser**



Latchmin Kissoon (seated at centre) with family, friends, and supporters after last year's tournament; its organiser, Dhaman Kissoon is standing, middle row, second from right. The event raised \$70,000. Photo by Ramesh Ramkalawan

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Rameshwar Mandir & Cultural Sabha Inc. celebrated its tenth anniversary with a commemorative, fund-raising event that was held on May 26 at the Brampton Triveni Mandir. The event saw outstanding performances of *bhajans*, which were led by special guests Pundit Munelal and Naveeta Maharaj of Florida. Also among the other esteemed performers were Rajmanie Maharaj, Renuka Ramlakhan, and the Rameshwar Mandir Kirtan Mandali. The mandir has extended its appreciation to Chris Gajadhar and Dave Ramlakhan for their significant donations. Rameshwar Mandir is the first Hindu temple in Caledon, and this fund-raising event will serve to improve its property to better serve the needs of the community. Activities include weekly religious services, support for seniors, events to empower youth through music, health and wellness initiatives, on-line lectures, and musical classes. In photos are Pundit Rajesh Maraj, Pundit Munelal, and Pundit Lakhraj, directors, performers, and guests at the well-attended event. *Photos by Ramesh Ramkalawan.*



## Philanthropic Endowment Fund projects moving ahead

Ottawa – The government of Canada last month congratulated the Foundation for Black Communities following announcement of the results of its first call for proposals supported by the Black-led Philanthropic Endowment Fund.

The acclamation came from Kamal Khera, Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities, and Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth.

According to a release from Ottawa, a total of \$9.1 million, including \$5.88 million from the Philanthropic Endowment Fund, will support 84 projects that are working to fight anti-Black racism and improve social and economic outcomes for Black communities in Canada.

Another 23 projects are being finalised, which may bring the total up to 107.

Ottawa established the Black-led Philanthropic Endowment fund to create a sustainable source of funding for Black-led, Black-focused, and Black-serving not-for-profit organisations and registered charities in Canada to empower Black communities across Canada.

As the release noted, “Diversity and inclusion have long been key to Canada’s success and prosperity, and Black Canadians have contributed to making Canada the country it is today. The government of Canada is investing in Black-led and Black-serving organisations across the country to address long-standing and systemic barriers to social and economic inclusion.”

As Khera declared, “Diversity and inclusion make Canada stronger. [The] announcement builds on transformative investments our government has made to empower Black communities across Canada since endorsing the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent in 2018.”

She added, “Through the Black-led Philanthropic Endowment Fund, we have created a sustainable source of funding for Black-led not-for-profit organisations, ensuring that they have the means to address their priorities. The recipients of this first call for proposals will help in our fight against anti-Black racism and in improving the social and economic outcomes of Black communities across the country.”



At the announcement were government ministers Kamal Khera (second from right), Julie Dzerowicz (second from left), and Marci Ien at right; at left is Michèle Ballestin. *Facebook photo*

In 2018, Canada endorsed the UN International Decade for People of African Descent, which runs from 2015 to 2024. On February 7, 2024, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced an extension until 2028 of the federal government’s efforts within these frameworks, to promote equality, empower Black Canadians, and strengthen their leadership in business, social justice, and community.

The Foundation for Black Communities is a national Black-led and Black-serving organisation that aims to ensure that Black communities have the sustained resources and infrastructure they need to make a meaningful impact.



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RKMCC's youths have won Cambridge's Outstanding Youth Group 2024 for paving positive pathways, and for making an impact in the community

Turned out to be a lovely day for golf

Milton – Rain, rain, go away, and it eventually did on May 25 after the inclement weather eased up its threat to wash away the day.

However, the organisers and the management of Granite Ridge Golf Club in Milton made the decision to get the Radha Krishna Mandir and Cultural Centre's tournament started shortly after 1:00 p.m. despite the occasional drops of refreshing water splashing down.

And so it was that following their delicious vegetarian lunch, the pre-registered attendees headed out for an afternoon of golfing camaraderie; and the inevitable snacks, which were provided by volunteers of RKMCC.

It was such that by the time the 18th hole was in sight, the day had grown into a fantastic one for golfing. After five hours of intense

golfing, participants returned to the clubhouse happy the sun was out, and that blessings had instead rained down on RKMCC and its commitment to build a new mandir and community centre in Cambridge, Ontario.

Of course, a sumptuous vegetarian dinner and dessert were then served to the group of happy golfers.

And what made them even happier were the prizes for the men's and ladies' longest drive; closest to the pin; the putting competition; and this is the truth: there was even a prize for the most honest golfers.

This wonderful day of golfing and fund-raising ended with the team of Nazeem Lahashmi, Shazeem Lahashmi, Raj Charrana, and Dr Tom Laurenza crowned as the 2024 winner with a score of minus nine.



Save the date: Bhakti Sangeet 2

By Romeo Kaseram  
LJI Reporter

Cambridge – Construction of Radha Krishna Mandir and Cultural Centre's new mandir continues to take shape with its beautiful structure emerging as a notable and holy presence in Cambridge, Ontario.

With its sacred shape now fixed in the landscape, excitement is growing among devotees as they move towards achieving their long-time goal following years of dedication, hard work, and industrious fund-raising by its membership, among them a tremendous and admirable effort that is being pioneered by the mandir's youths.

The RKMCC was founded over 23 years ago by Guyanese and Trinidadian families.

Fund-raising remains the key to completion of the new building, and in the light of last April's successful concert, the RKMCC is again putting on another top-notch mega-concert, Bhakti Sangeet 2.

Yet again another evening of entertainment by top artistes, the event will see live performances taking place in Toronto, and will once again feature the uplifting energies and dynamism of Pt Neil Dev Persad, Pt Narad Gosine, and Pt Hardat Ashwar; and this year, there is a new addition in the line-up of golden voices, that of Pt Rajeev Persaud's.

This stellar line up will be onstage, along with special appearances by Sanjay Matadin, Priya Persaud, Alex Mohan, Guri Sharma, and Devin Nauth; similarly delivering their entertainment best will be Anand Seeram, Adesh Sahadeo, Naresh Rishi Lakhan, Nathan Khan, and Tamesh Doobay.

The event takes place at the Sringeri Banquet Hall, 80 Brydon Drive, Etobicoke. Doors open at 5:00 p.m., and the show begins an hour later. Click here to view highlights of last year's sold-out event, and to purchase tickets for Bhakti Sangeet 2.

Taking to the stage again this year will be Trinidad and Tobago's Pt Narad Gosine. A versatile pandit and a talented performer, Pt

Gosine has studied and traveled in India, and is as accomplished with Vedantic philosophy as he is with many musical instruments, among them the harmonium, the keyboard, and many types of drums.

Our own Pt Hardat Ashwar is no stranger to the GTA. He has followed in the footsteps of his talented father, whom he recalls singing alongside without the need for a book.

Pt Ashwar is well-known for not only his passion to dharma, but also for his leadership, and his tremendous love for music and singing. He is also respected and admired for his indefatigable community work, and for the support he continues to give to RKMCC and its exemplary mandir building project.

Pt Persad brings more than his musical talent to the stage. An academic in computer sciences, programming, and project management, he is also a respected leader, playing key roles as president of the Divali Nagar in the US; is the spiritual leader of the Amar Jyoti Mandir in Miami; and spiritual advisor at Devi Mandir here in Toronto.

Pt Persad is also well-respected for his musical talent, and is a graduate of the Bharatiya Vidya Sansthan BVS; is a vocal and tabla graduate; and has studied Carnatic vocal training.

And our own Pt Rajeev Persaud is a practicing pandit from Brampton, who is currently studying Religion at Harvard University. He is also learning music under the guidance of Shri Hemant Panwar, and has been a beneficiary of Radha Krishna Mandir's support and encouragement as a young pandit for several years.

Bhakti Sangeet 2 takes place on June 15 at the Sringeri Banquet Hall in Etobicoke. Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$20 for kids. Sponsorship packages are also available. Click here to purchase tickets online. Or call Prakash - 519-571-6426; Ryan - 416-560-6175; Ram - 519-496-1743; or Jean - 416-526-5780.

Online donations are also accepted for the building fund. Click here to donate, or e-Transfer to donate@radhkrishnamandir.ca. Tax receipts are issued for donations over \$20.

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Last month Ottawa hosted Asian Heritage Month celebrations on May 8 and May 11 on Parliament Hill that saw participation by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and many federal government ministers. Among the ministers were MP Chandra Arya, MP Kamal Khera, MP Paul Chiang, and MP Shafqat Ali. The celebratory events showcased the rich tapestry that makes up Canada, and saw many guests and officials in attendance from across the nation in an atmosphere that fostered understanding, respect, and unity across many communities. The events also featured performances by various Asian-Canadian diaspora groups from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, and Sri Lanka. *Photos from Facebook, X, and Instagram.*



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**Editorial**

## Cricket's resurgence

Cricket has come a long way from the first international match that was played between the US and Canada. According to *Wikipedia*, that match took place between September 24-26 in 1844 at the St George's Cricket Club ground, which was located at Bloomingdale Road, now 30th Street and Broadway in New York.

As *Wikipedia* adds, "The game was scheduled for two days, and after the first day, Canada had been bowled out for 82, with the USA being 61 for 9 in reply. On the second day, bad weather prevented play, so the game was extended to a third day, when the USA were all out for 64, and Canada were bowled out for 63 in their second innings, setting the USA 82 runs to win. Canada bowled the US out for 58 to win the match by 23 runs."

Just under two centuries later, on June 1, 2024, the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 got underway with Canada playing the US at the Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium in Dallas, Texas.

As *The Guardian* in the UK reported on June 2, "Build it, and they will come. The great American cricket experiment got underway on [June 1], when USA beat Canada by seven wickets in the opening match of the T20 World Cup at the little ground in Grand Prairie, Texas. And hell's bells if it wasn't, in its own little way, one of the game's great occasions."

The report also re-captured the energy generated by the match and its spectators, stating, "A crowd of around 5,000 were treated to a brilliantly freewheeling innings by USA's Aaron Jones, a pocket-rocket batsman who was born in Queens and raised in Barbados. Jones clobbered 10 sixes, one of them clean out of the ground, in an undefeated innings of 94 off just 40 balls."

There were 14 balls left in the match when Jones plundered his tenth six to take away the win for the US.

Such excitement is more and more notable, and is now an expectation, in the modern-day game; and of course, in the media reports that re-create the energy of both the game and the adrenaline-driven spectators.

Compared to the 1844 international game in New York, today's play on the field is comparable to the thundering feet of our West Indies pacers in the hey-day of their reign to that of a slow spinner's deliberate, calculated, and tidy run-up to the wicket.

Indeed, the game has come a long way.

And it has made such a long journey across many boundaries, obstacles, and ancestries and ethnicities, that the latest ICC World Cup T20 tournament is today being hosted in both the Caribbean and the US.

As the media in Trinidad and Tobago have noted, there is something fitting about these two host locations, given the game's early history, and now its resurgence, and the growing, widening international appeal.

As *Newsday* out of Trinidad and Tobago noted last month, cricket is gaining traction, particularly in the US, where the East Asian population is growing and consolidating; similar traction is noted here in Canada.

*Newsday's* editorial adds, "Not long ago, many believed cricket to be in the doldrums, its glory days, of which the West Indies was a huge part, over. It was perceived as a colonial relic, and nowhere near as fashionable as the more popular [soccer]. The advent of the Twenty20 format was seen as a desperate attempt at a revamp. Many predicted the demise of genteel Test cricket, and wondered how long the new craze would last."

However, as the publication further noted, the T20 format "has been an injection of adrenaline to the sport. Test cricket remains; it has even been given a new lease on life with more aggressive playing. Day and night games have been introduced."

Understandably, despite our geographic distance from the fields of play, as a diaspora we too are energised participants in cricket's ongoing resurgence and consolidation.

And at the same time, as a people from the Caribbean, we are similarly immersed in the hope along with our homelands that the quest would once again be fulfilled for the West Indies to regain its eminence in the game.

Perhaps it might happen in the Caribbean this month.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of this publication.  
Letters to be published will be edited where necessary.  
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# Multifaceted roles for multiculturalism in Canada

In times of geopolitical conflicts, multiculturalism in Canada serves as a beacon of hope and stability. As tensions rise and divisions deepen on the global stage, Canada's commitment to multiculturalism stands out as a model for peaceful coexistence and cooperation.

By embracing diversity and promoting inclusivity, Canada fosters a sense of unity and solidarity among its citizens, regardless of their cultural or ethnic backgrounds.

Multiculturalism in Canada offers a counter-narrative to the "us versus them" mentality often perpetuated during geopolitical conflicts. It demonstrates that people from different cultural, religious, and linguistic backgrounds can live together, respecting each other's differences while finding common ground.

This inclusive approach not only strengthens social cohesion within Canada but also sends a powerful message to the international community about the value of diversity and dialogue in resolving conflicts.

Moreover, multiculturalism in Canada serves as a diplomatic asset, enabling the country to engage with diverse communities around the world and build bridges of understanding and cooperation. By showcasing our work toward a multicultural society, Canada can promote peace-building efforts, and contribute to conflict resolution initiatives on the global stage.

In essence, multiculturalism in Canada is not just a domestic policy, but a crucial tool for promoting peace, stability, and reconciliation in a world fraught with geopolitical tensions.

Multiculturalism in Canada is not just a policy; it is the cornerstone of our national identity. Embracing diversity enriches society, fostering innovation, resilience, and understanding.

Multiculturalism as a policy intended to allow Canadians to celebrate their differences while finding unity in shared values of tolerance and respect. Multiculturalism enhances cultural exchange, economic prosperity, and social cohesion, making Canada a vibrant mosaic of traditions, languages, and perspectives.

In practice, multiculturalism is a testament to the belief that diversity is a strength, enriching every aspect of Canadian life, and ensuring a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

However, the ideal of multiculturalism is fragile. The rise of emboldened racism, ongoing microaggressions toward Indigenous people and people of colour, and underlying discrimination stall the full potential of multiculturalism.

Community-building plays a pivotal role in nurturing and supporting multiculturalism in Canada. However, the mere presence of diverse communities does not automatically translate into a harmonious multicultural society. It is through intentional community-building efforts that the true potential of multiculturalism can be realised.



Ryan Singh

There are many reasons why we need to encourage actively pursuing community building as essential to supporting multiculturalism in Canada.

Community-building provides platforms for individuals from different cultural backgrounds to come together, interact, and exchange ideas. Through active opportunities, we are able to share who we are, and allow others to learn about each other's customs, traditions, and values, fostering mutual respect and understanding.

By breaking down stereotypes and promoting empathy, community-building initiatives lay the foundation for peaceful coexistence in a multicultural society.

Strong communities are built on a foundation of social cohesion and inclusivity. By creating spaces where everyone feels welcome and valued, community-building initiatives help newcomers integrate into Canadian society, while retaining their cultural identities.

Whether through language classes, cultural festivals, or neighbourhood gatherings, these initiatives facilitate meaningful connections and friendships across cultural lines, reducing social isolation, and promoting a sense of belonging for all.

Community-building empowers marginalised groups within Canada's multicultural mosaic to amplify their voices and advocate for their rights. By organising grassroots initiatives and community-led projects, individuals from diverse backgrounds can address issues of discrimination, inequality, and systemic barriers.

This activism not only leads to tangible improvements in the lives of marginalised communities, but also promotes a more inclusive and equitable society for all Canadians.

Cultural exchange is not the only successful aspect of a multicultural nation, driving innovation, economic empowerment, and entrepreneurship.

Community-building initiatives often provide valuable resources and support for immigrant and minority entrepreneurs looking to start businesses and contribute to the Canadian economy.

By offering mentorship, networking opportunities, and access to funding, these initiatives help bridge the gap between communities and mainstream institutions, creating pathways to economic empowerment and success.

Moreover, diverse businesses contribute to the vibrancy and dynamism of local economies, driving innovation and creating jobs for Canadians of all backgrounds.

By investing in and supporting community-building initiatives, Canada can harness the full potential of its diversity, and create a more inclusive, equitable, and harmonious society for generations to come.

## Wrapped in academics and 'studiously' avoiding chores

Here's another of my golden oldies taken from its dusty archive, and served with an extra twist of irony about a young lady "studiously" avoiding household chores.

Our neighbour's daughter was held up as an example for me to aspire to when I came to be her age. A studious young lady, her eyes were constantly in the books.

She would sit on the front steps of their house with a thick volume, and a couple heavy dictionaries, while her mother and sisters toiled with the chores such as cooking, sweeping, and energetically scrubbing black-pot off the bottoms of cooking utensils.

Mother and sisters burdened themselves with house work until their backs were bent, their faces smudged with black-pot, and fingers were coarse with wood ash from washing dishes.

Meanwhile, our exemplar of bookishness and extended hours of study avoided her fair share of housework, claiming she needed to concentrate on the forthcoming national exams.

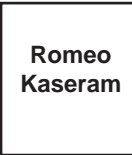
Even as her family scurried around the house pinching their fingers between split firewood, or hacking and coughing in a smoky kitchen, at the same time they were forced to tiptoe around our young lady as she leafed through the dictionary, to then gaze at its words with rapture while an idle forefinger remained stalled on the page.

She needed so much quiet that even the neighbours started rolling intolerant eyes in our direction when our clanging wicket fell during our games of cricket on the road.

"Shhhh!!! Shooooosh!! Why all you so noisy? All you constantly disturbing the child," they reprimanded.

With the bowler on a hattrick, our encouragement was soon deflated: "Why you all don't hush your loud mouths! You are a bunch of vagabonds! You all are sounding like cats fighting for a fish-bone! Can't you see the child studying!? Why don't you have some respect and go inside and pick up a book like her and improve your minds? One day she will be somebody, and your set will still be playing bat-and-ball on the road!"

Of course, we were not worried about our future. Then we



were young and full of energy, proud of our agility in outrunning swarms of pursuing wasps after disturbing their nests among the cashew trees. Then we could easily leave the slowest of our peers behind, ignoring their howls of anxiety as the inexorable wasps gained ground.

And so it was that mere remonstrances from the adults, who were suitably impressed and manipulated by this young lady's studied act of studiousness, like the wasps, did not sting us.

Neither did the adults' reprimands pierce our thick, pachydermal skins when we were held up as good examples of bad examples, even as we were harangued to follow her hard-working industry and focus.

Said my mother in exasperation: "Whole day you playing cricket and thieving people plum and mango. Why don't you pick up a book and start turning those rusty gears inside that lazy head?"

Finally, it came to pass that the young lady finished her examinations. It meant she had time on her hands, even as the washing piled up, yellow leaves from the mango tree littered the front yard, and the water barrel needed to be replenished with numerous trips and dips from the nearby well.

But not our young lady. Instead, the word started being spread throughout the village that she had now turned her hard-working and pencil-calloused hands to writing poetry.

Sitting on the front steps, with her books piled handily on the floor behind, the family now maintained an even further, respectful, and discrete distance.

It was a remarkable development – a poet had never rooted in the stony ground of this family before. Now a writer had emerged to flourish with a fountain pen among copy book pages, and who was taking blossoms that were words and assembling little poems into neat bouquets.

As she wrote she gazed dreamily at the clouds, the way contemplative poets do, while ignoring the litter of leaves. One day we heard a poem had been accepted, and was published abroad.

We moved our clanging wicket two streets away.





Ambassador Michael E. Brotherson (centre) addresses guests at the Town of Hempstead event on May 17. Second from left is Don Clavin. DPI (Guyana) photo



Ambassador Brotherson (second right) and Supervisor Clavin hoist the Golden Arrowhead at celebrations for Guyana's 58th Independence anniversary at the Town of Hampstead event. DPI photo



Ambassador Brotherson (centre) with officers from NY's Guyanese American Law Enforcement Association at Bowling Green Park on May 24. Guyana Consulate (New York) FB photo



Ambassador Brotherson (centre), with NY Mayor Eric Adams (left) and Ambassador Trishala Persaud (at right) during the May 24 celebration. FB photo



The Golden Arrowhead and the American flag at Bowling Green Park at Guyana's 58th Independence anniversary celebrations. Photo Eric Adam's X account

# NY diaspora marks Independence

Dear Editor,

Guyana's Consul General to New York, Ambassador Michael Brotherson, praised the Guyana government's visionary path of "sustainable and equitable development for all Guyanese" in his uplifting speech at the flag-raising ceremony in the Town of Hempstead, Long Island, on May 17.

The event was held in observance of Guyana's 58th Independence Anniversary.

This day was also extra special for the career diplomat with 30 years' service to his credit, and who happens to be the first Guyana Consul General to receive an award of excellence from the Town of Hempstead at the 58th Independence Anniversary flag-raising ceremony.

Ambassador Brotherson was gracious in his remarks when he expressed gratitude to the Town of Hempstead for the award they bestowed upon him, saying, "I am indeed honoured and humbled, and I accept it in the name of all of Guyana."

He added, "Guyana today remains a beautifully diverse, yet unified country."

He also cited Guyana's charismatic leader's role in promoting unity and equity.

As Ambassador Brotherson declared, "Under President [Irfaan] Ali's shrewd leadership and progressive vision for a 'One Guyana,' the country has moved to unprecedented levels of economic growth and continues to make great progress in all the areas of development..."

Additionally, "This noble objective of 'One Guyana' has at its core the sustainable and equitable development and prosperity for all Guyanese."

Hempstead is an ethnically diverse township with a population of 800,000 (equivalent to the size of Guyana's population). It also has a vibrant Guyanese community that adds richness to its growth and vitality.

The affairs of the town are managed by a 'Supervisor' who has a similar status as a 'Mayor.' This role is held by Don Clavin, who also conferred an award on Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Guyana's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Witnessing the flag-raising ceremony were staff members of Guyana's diplomatic missions in New York, and members of the Hempstead community.

Among the dignitaries were Trustee Clariona Griffith (who is a Guyanese, and who has been influential in helping to organise the event); Hempstead Town Clerk, Kate Murray; and Community Affairs Executive Director, Zahid Syed.

Also in attendance were dignitaries Trudy King, Organiser; and Fazal 'Joe' Yussuff, Adviser on Investment & Diaspora Affairs at the NY Guyana Consulate, among many others.


The flag-raising event was hosted by Supervisor Clavin, the Hempstead Town Board, and the Department of Public Affairs, and was put together by the Apostolic Caribbean Christians.

Also in his address, Ambassador Brotherson thanked Supervisor Clavin; the Hempstead Town Board; and the Department of Community Affairs for hosting the flag-raising ceremony in observance of Guyana's 58th Independence Anniversary.

He also took the opportunity to remind attendees that on May 24 the Guyana Consul General in conjunction with the Permanent Mission of Guyana to the UN, and the Office of the Mayor of New York City, were hosting a major flag-raising ceremony at the historic Bowling Green Park in Manhattan, New York City.

Guyana is on the forward march and the good life that had eluded Guyanese for decades would soon get into their grasp. Guyanese must seize the moment!

Dr Tara Singh, New York, via email.



## GUYANA PROPERTY MATTERS

### Does paying the Land Tax guarantee possession of your Property... Perhaps not!

By Maj Khan

It has been generally understood that one of the best ways to protect your property anywhere in the world is to pay the land taxes. The fact is land taxes must be paid, and in Guyana there is an annual filing requirement with a two percent penalty for failure to do so. The government arm responsible for land taxes is the Guyana Regulatory Authority.

The optics are quite straightforward; however there is *caveat* with far-reaching consequences, of which owners should be aware. Those who are familiar with land disputes strongly advise that taxes must be paid in person. Why? The receipts for paying land taxes are often handwritten on a carbon-copy book.

In fact, property transactions in Guyana including title, valuation, mortgage, and tax compliance receipts are all done on paper. In the age of the Internet, those living abroad are well-versed with the digital world, where access to home ownership is at their fingertips. In Guyana, the government has just implemented an e-service platform that will take time to develop. In the meantime, most land records are written or typed and housed in local offices. It means that remote property owners have to invest a great deal of time and funds to ensure their paperwork is in order.

Currently, most owners living abroad have a 'trusted' family member they rely on to ensure the daily upkeep of their property, including paying the land tax. If that receipt is written in the name of anyone else other than the registered owner, it can create conditions that are favourable for that individual whose name is on the receipt. Translation: that individual is in a position to file for possession of that property. This is especially viable if the owner has not visited the property for years.

Unfortunately, today property disputes are common, with siblings pitted against each other, parents against children, and families at war with each other. The stakes are high, and the price paid heavy – often with a bitter experience fraught with a gamut of emotions, with substantial time and monies invested over decades. And the question is always asked, "What could they have done differently to ensure none of this would come to bear in the first place?"

RE/Guyana is a property services company dedicated to making it easier for overseas property owners to administer, divest, acquire, and develop their real estate assets in Guyana. [Click here to visit RE/Guyana's website.](#)



# Indian arrivals 179 years ago laid foundation for a better T&T

Dear Editor,

Trinidad and Tobago commemorated the 179th anniversary of the arrival of East Indian Indentured labourers to its shores on May 30. It was 179 years ago when the sailing ship *Fatel Razack* left Calcutta, on February 16, 1845, to embark on the perilous journey to Trinidad.

According to the authors of *Kala Pani Revisited: Indian Labour Migrants and the Sea Crossing*, possibly exacerbating the prospect of this journey was the traditional belief that sea crossings were “anti-thetical to Hindu culture, entailing a separation of the traveller from the Holy Ganges, thereby breaking the reincarnation cycle and engendering a loss of caste”.

However, fear and trepidation gave way to resolute steadfastness, and the first of the ancestral voyages commenced. Their arrival to these shores enkindled the cosmic fires of destiny, giving birth to our very existence, and shaping the diverse core of modern-day Trinidad and Tobago.

The legacy of Indian Arrival Day is a celebration of a rich and exquisite culture, tempered with a solemn, introspective tribute to the struggle, sacrifice, and survival of the bearers of that culture. The East Indian Indentures suffered great indignities during colonialism, and struggled to be treated fairly post-Independence.

Yet, through noble sacrifices and sheer nerve, they sought and created opportunities, laying a mighty foundation for their children, and for future generations to grow and thrive.

Rising above the challenging circumstances of the cane fields and cocoa estates, phenomenal leaders in every sphere of professional endeavour were forged, forever transforming fields such as law, medicine, education, culture and the arts, commerce, politics, and much more.

Today, the distinct East Indian influence in our cuisine, fashion, entertainment, language, customs and traditions is yet another aspect of the invaluable diversity that is a hallmark of Trinidad and Tobago’s society.

While we celebrate the good, we must remember and



Woodland Dance Academy’s members perform a traditional dance during the National Council of Indian Culture’s celebrations of Indian Arrival Day in central Trinidad last month

learn from the hellish reality of their experiences on the estates. Trinidad and Tobago historian Professor Emerita Bridget Brereton, in referencing D.V. Trotman, pointed out that, “Colonialism rested on racism, which meant separate and unequal treatment for the non-white majority, psychological violence against the inferior groups, and disrespect for the culture of the people”.

Not only was this racism perpetrated against our ancestors, but such divisions were systematically encouraged and provoked among the same non-white majority by the colonial overlords. These divisions that were based on race in Trinidad and Tobago were meted out by the plantation masters to prevent us from uniting to challenge the inequities of the colonial *status quo*.

Now that Trinidad and Tobago is an independent republic, if we ever hope to move forward as a nation, then we must banish the ‘divide and rule’ mentality – one of the last spirits of colonial governance that continues to haunt us at all levels of society. This is perhaps what Bob Marley meant by “emancipate yourself from mental slavery”.

With the end of colonialism, each successive generation has moved further away from the shameful heritage of racial division, and has begun to embrace our true identity as proud

nationals of Trinidad and Tobago.

When we reject racism, it is only then that we would have truly left the plantation behind, and are ready to govern ourselves as independent citizens of our great nation.

No one should care about the race or ethnicity of the person who governs us, but only about whether they are eminently competent to do the job, in the same way that we do not care about the race of the doctor treating us, only that they are qualified to save lives.

This is the Trinidad and Tobago that we must aspire towards: a place where citizens will be able to progress based only on their own merits and abilities.

Those who came before us suffered unspeakable horrors because of racism and elitism, and we would only disgrace their memory if we wield those divisive weapons of their oppressors against each other. Therefore, as descendants of the enslaved and Indentured, it is our duty to ensure that such evils are exorcised from the soul of our nation.

Prejudice is poisonous to national development, and must become extinct from North to South; from the playground to the Parliament.

May there be no more attacks and vandalism of our holy places of worship; no more threats of Calcutta ships; no more displays of sari skits; and no more vile and divisive conversations, especially on social media.

Together, we can create a world that ensures that every human being is afforded the dignity, equality, and respect that were denied our ancestors, both the enslaved and Indentured.

Over these past 179 years, citizens of Indian descent have contributed considerably to the growth and the development of Trinidad and Tobago with their blood, sweat, and tears; and they continue to do so, honouring their ancestors. Without their sacrifice, none of us would be here.

Trinidad and Tobago is a medley of diverse notes, which when played together in harmony, resonates with the sound of a sweet melody.

Davendranath Tancoo, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.

## Why the month of May remains important to the history of the Guyanese people

Dear Editor,

May is especially important to Guyanese, and this year it marked the 186th anniversary of the arrival of Indians in Guyana from India. This arrival should be recognised fully by all Guyanese as a significant record in Guyanese history.

However, most Guyanese, and particularly Indo-Guyanese, benignly and shamefully do not know their history because of the deliberate policy during colonial times, and the inherent skewed education syllabus. Some impertinently treat the contention with derision.

The history of Indian Indentureship was hardly taught in schools; still students and the general public were, or are not yet adequately exposed to this segment of historiography, except to some extent at high school and at university levels.

People generally are not aware of the Gladstone Experiment with the “Hill Coolies”, and the many voyages thereafter from Calcutta and Madras to the shores of Guyana; of the conditions of work on sugar estates thenceforth; and of the persevering, tenacious, and indomitable struggle during that period.

Only a few know of and had access to writings by Henry Kirke, Peter Ruhoman, and Dwarka Nath. Few knew of James Crosby except the fact that they “were going to ‘Krasby’s office’”.

Few yet ever heard of the prolific letter-writing immigrant, Bechu, except when he was minimally referenced by Tyran Ramnarine and later introduced by Clem Seecharan for general reading.

Apart from a few academics, Guyanese did or do not know of Hugh Tinker, James Beaumont, William Des Voeux, and Charles Freer Andrews; most, including many academics, still do not know!

History is integral to the overall culture of the people and the nation. The films by Rohit Jagessar and Shundell Prasad



Members of Guyana’s Golden Om Dharmic Dance Group perform at Indian Arrival Day celebrations in East Bank-Corentyne early last month.

did in fact give glimpses of, and tended to popularise the Indentureship era. This void is regrettable. There should be immediate remedial mechanisms to fill this gap.

The month of May is especially important to Guyanese because it was during May 1964 when inter-racial animosity resulted in hundreds of innocent Indian men, women, and children being wantonly abused in every way possible – violence, killing, rape, burning and looting of property – in the most brutal manner.

It was an ignominious time that resulted in mass migration of Indians from the predominantly African township of Wismar, Christianburg, and the Mackenzie area.

Reading the Wismar Report should be sobering for all Guyanese. It was suppressed for many years in Guyana. But the stories were in the international press – *New York Times: East Indians flee race violence in British Guiana mining area*, which was published on May 27, 1964; and again, the *New York Times:*

*Officials accuse Police in British Guiana*, published on May 28, 1964.

Then there was *Time Magazine: British Guiana race war*, on June 5, 1964; *Newsweek Magazine: Politics of violence*, on June 8, 1964; and *Facts on File, Volume XXIV: British Guiana*, June 4, 1964.

Only a few in Guyana had access to these articles.

The month of May is especially important to Guyanese since it was on May 26, 1966 when Guyana became an Independent nation. After all this time, some Indo-Guyanese still feel strongly that the selection of May 26 lays bare insensitivity to many Guyanese, and is a brutal reminder of the internecine conflicts.

Then there is the phenomenon of epochalism. You cannot turn back the clock.

However, one must be socialised in other modes of thinking – in an epistemological manner. According to the broken plate theory, you can’t mend “the broken plate”: *Grab a plate and throw it to the ground./OK, done./Did it break?/Yes./Now apologise to the plate/ Sorry/Did it go back to the way it was?/No. Now, do you understand?*

Nevertheless, we must not allow certain discontinuities to continue. The nation must heal and find closure to the anomic periods of the past.

For this, there should be openness, truthfulness, and generosity of spirit. The truth must be known, for only the truth can make one free.

After 58 years of Independence, there is sadly a lot still under the rug. When we individually and collectively develop this ability and mind-set to address all matters truthfully, without fear or favour, then our minds will truly be free – to deal with Independence and nationhood – and hopefully find closure.

Gary Girdhari, Guyana, via email.





Liza Destiny



Prosperity

# Guyana emerges a major player in global crude oil supply

In less than five years since commencing oil production, Guyana has emerged as a significant contributor to the growth of global crude oil supply.

According to recent data published by the US Energy Information Administration, the country had the third-fastest production growth rate globally between 2020 and 2023, behind the US and Brazil.

The EIA stated that Guyana increased crude oil production by an annual average of 98,000 barrels per day (bpd) from 2020 to



Dwarka Lakhan

America, behind Brazil, stated the EIA.

It is estimated that Guyana's current recoverable oil and natural gas resources are more than 11 billion oil-equivalent barrels. Since starting production in 2019, Guyana has increased its crude oil production to 645 000 bpd as of early 2024, all from the Stabroek block.

Between 2020 and 2023, Guyana increased crude oil production by an annual average of 98,000 bpd.

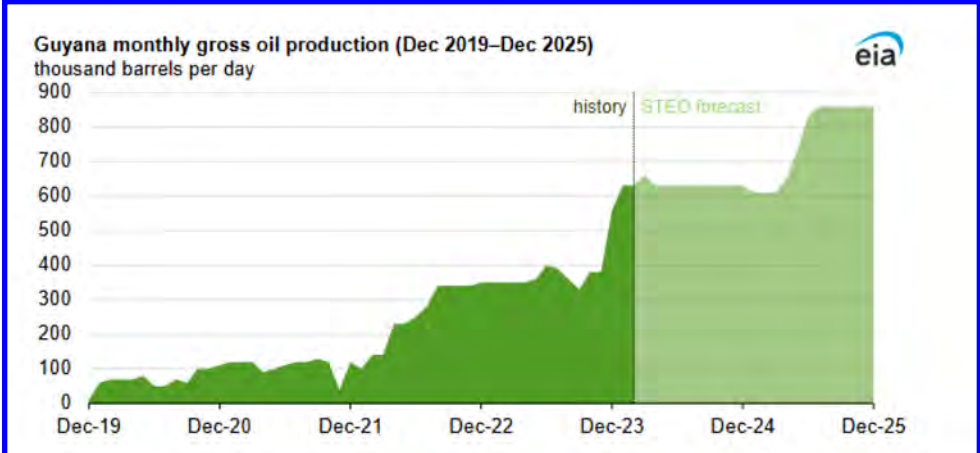
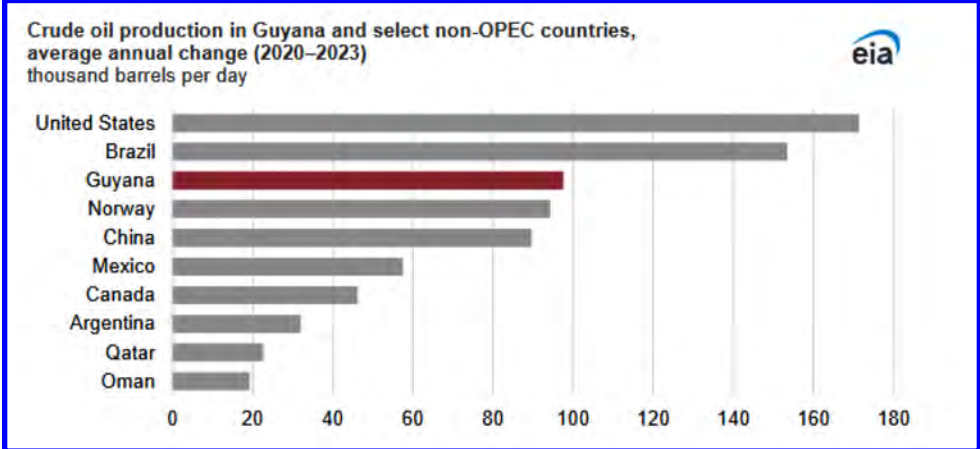
Incidentally, the first significant oil discovery in offshore Guyana was made by ExxonMobil in 2015 at what is now the Liza project in the Stabroek block. Since then, ExxonMobil and its partners, Hess and CNOOC, have made more than 30 additional offshore oil and natural gas discoveries within the Stabroek block.

However, the future of the corporate partnership at the Stabroek block will likely change. Chevron is planning to acquire Hess, which holds a 30 percent stake in the Stabroek block.

The acquisition is expected to face delays due to arbitration filings by existing block partners ExxonMobil and CNOOC, which claim pre-emption rights over Hess's stake in the block.

ExxonMobil holds a 45 percent interest in the Stabroek block, and CNOOC holds a 25 percent stake.

However, the bigger problem facing Guyana's oil is Venezuela's claim of sovereignty over the Essequibo region, which accounts for more than two-thirds of Guyana's land area. The International Court of Justice ruled last December that Venezuela should not take any action to interrupt the *status quo* while the



Guyana's oil production comes from three floating production, storage, and offloading (FPSO) vessels: *Liza Destiny*, *Liza Unity*, and *Prosperity*.

These vessels produce oil and natural gas from the Liza and Payara projects, located in the Stabroek block. All associated natural gas is re-injected into wells to support its production and used as on-site fuel.

The Stabroek Block's partners, which currently include Exxon Mobil, China National Offshore Oil Corporation, and Hess, project that their combined production capacity will reach approximately 1.3 million bpd by the end of 2027.

The companies have plans to develop three additional projects: Yellowtail, Uaru, and Whiptail.

If realised, then the increased production would make Guyana the second-largest crude oil producer in Central America and South

ICJ hears the case. But Venezuela continues to dispute the ICJ's jurisdiction over the territorial claim.

In the meantime, crude remains the largest contributor to Guyana's economic growth, which is among the fastest in the world.

Dwarka Lakhan, BA, MBA, FCSI, FICB

is a Member of the Canadian Association of Journalists, and an accomplished financial writer. His book, **Winning Ways, Real World Strategies to Help You Reimagine Your Practice**, is available on Amazon and on [winningways101.com](http://winningways101.com). He can be reached at [dlakhan@rogers.com](mailto:dlakhan@rogers.com).

# Guyana and India explore potential for oil and gas collaboration

**Georgetown** – The potential for collaboration in areas that include oil and gas was explored last month by the governments of Guyana and India.

The discussions were held between Natural Resources Minister Vickram Bharrat and with the Secretary (West) of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, Shri Pavan Kapoor.

The talks took place on the sidelines during the fourth international conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), which was held in Antigua and Barbuda.

According to a release from the Guyana government, the two officials held talks "on a range of issues, including cooperation in hydrocarbon sector, and Indian technical assistance extended to Guyana in capacity building and developing infrastructure in energy and power sectors".

The Guyanese delegation at the SIDS4 conference was led by Prime Minister, Brigadier (Retired) Mark Phillips. In addition to Minister Bharrat, Minister of Public Works Juan Edghill also represented Guyana at the event.

Shri Pavan Kapoor addressed the plenary session during Day 2 of SIDS4, where he reiterated India's commitment to continuing its support for SIDS through innovative financing under the India/United Nations fund.

"India will continue to support implementing the Antigua and Barbuda agenda for SIDS, through its long-standing bilateral development partnerships that include concessional financing, grant assistance and capacity building, and training programmes," Kapoor stated.

Additionally, "Through the India/UN Development Partnership Fund, we've also focused on the SIDS. Presently the fund sup-

ports 82 projects in 57 countries, of which half are SIDS."

India is already expected to partner with Guyana in critical areas in the oil and gas sector, including refining crude oil, as the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Indian government approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two nations in January of this year.

The MoU would see India sourcing crude from Guyana, an arrangement that it has previously done in 2021, when HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd, a joint venture between State-run Hindustan Petroleum Corp and Indian steel tycoon LN Mittal, bought Guyana's crude.

It was also announced in January last year that India had made an initial proposal on the direct long-term purchase of crude. At the time, it had been announced that Guyana was

examining the proposal at a technical level.

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the signing of an MoU among the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, the government of India, and Guyana's Ministry of Natural Resources on cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector.

Another area the MoU will cover is cooperation with Guyana for crude oil refining. Additionally, it will create opportunities for Indian companies to explore and produce oil in Guyana and for collaboration in natural gas.

At the government bilateral level, the MoU also allows for capacity building, strengthening bilateral trade, collaborating to develop oil and gas-related regulations and cooperation in renewable and clean energy,

including biofuels and solar energy.

It was also revealed in February that India has sourced as much as (US) \$149 million in crude oil from Guyana between 2021 and 2022.



India's Kapoor (right) met with Guyana's Bharat at the sidelines last month during SIDS4



Kapoor (left) paid a courtesy call to Guyana's PM Brigadier (Retired) Mark Phillips



# Indo-Caribbean educators meet to drive greater diversity, inclusion

**Toronto** – A significant milestone in the journey towards greater diversity and inclusivity within the education sector was achieved on May 16 when the Indo-Caribbean Educators Network met for its inaugural meeting in Toronto.

The effort was led by school administrators Nadira Persaud, a Toronto District School Board Superintendent; Leila Girdhar-Hill, a retired TDSB Superintendent; and Jasminie Singh, and Peter Deboran, who are both recently retired TDSB principals. Also leading the effort were several school administrators from the Indo-Caribbean Administrators Affinity Group.

The initiative brought together over 30 educators from across York Region, the Peel and Durham Regions, alongside Toronto District School Board educators.

According to a release from the ICEN, the meeting provided a platform for educators to “candidly share their experiences and insights into how their social identities have influenced their careers, and the challenges they have encountered along the way”.

As the release noted, discussions at the event revolved around the barriers faced by Indo-Caribbean educators in attaining leadership positions within the education system. At the same time, the discussions also expounded on the need for greater representation and advocacy.

Both Singh and Deboran welcomed participants and articulated the *raison d'être* and the motivations driving the establishment of the ICEN.

As the release stated, “Singh emphasised the ‘profound sense of relief’ experienced by administrators during the initial meetings, as fellow educators around the table immediately resonated with their ‘shared perspectives and experiences’ within their respective boards”.

Similarly, Deboran underscored the unique skill sets possessed by Indo-Caribbean teachers, while citing their proficiency in “valuing diversity, fostering effective communication, imparting knowledge in an organised manner, and demonstrating initiative at both school and board levels”.

As the release noted, “What came across was the sense that people want to be in an affinity space where they see others that look like them, and sound like them, and share experiences that are reflective of the colonial experiences of our ancestors.”

During the session, participants were asked to consider what the educational community and the wider Canadian commu-



**Retired TDSB principal Peter Deboran (left) makes a presentation at the inaugural meeting of the ICEN. At right, attendees who participated at the event**

nity needed to know about Indo-Caribbean students. Also, how they, as educators who shared their cultural identities, support our students and our community.

“Unlike other ethnic groups, the Indo-Caribbean community has historically lacked adequate representation and mentorship opportunities within educational leadership roles. Through the formation of the ICEN, the group aims to address this disparity by fostering a supportive community that empowers educators to support each other in realising their goals, and contribute meaningfully to the academic and social success of our students,” the release declared.

It added, “The ICEN acknowledged the prevailing narrative of the Caribbean as made up solely of people of African ancestry, and Canadians are generally unaware of the over two million Caribbean people of Indian ancestry living in the Caribbean; nor are they aware of the over 100,000 Caribbean Indians in the GTA. ICEN is poised to serve fellow educators as a site of agency, collaboration, and community service.”

And as it declared, “By leveraging the skills and passion of its members, the network endeavours to not only uplift Indo-Caribbean and Caribbean students, but also to enrich the broader community through tangible and sustainable initiatives.”

For more information about the ICEN and upcoming events, please contact [iceducatorsn@gmail.com](mailto:iceducatorsn@gmail.com).



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Photos by Russell Lutchman



Black Eagles Sports and Cultural Club held its annual Masters International All Fours Championship at the Nitro Arena in Brampton on May 25-26. Black Eagles Sports has been around since 1977; the tournament has been ongoing for the last 18 years. Last month's prestigious event saw 28 teams participating, with seven teams from NY and Boston; one from Montreal, and 20 notable players arriving from Trinidad and Tobago to join local teams. The weekend saw energised participation among the friendly but highly-focused players. Entertaining the players were a DJ and a one-man rhythm section. The final four teams that emerged from intense card-playing were Black Eagles and Redemption Fiyah; and Hot & Spicy, captained by Shiva Nandlal, and Snipers, captained by Terry Lalchand. Snipers eventually made the victory lap, taking away its second trophy since 2014.



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Jamaican PM Andrew Holness addresses the Jamaica Civil Service Association 105th Annual General Meeting which was held late last month

## Jamaica's Holness optimistic about prospects for republic transition

**Kingston** – The government of Jamaica remains optimistic about the prospects for this nation's transition from a constitutional monarchy to a republic, Prime Minister Andrew Holness said last week.

As the *Caribbean Media Corporation* reported, at the time, Holness was speaking to the process of transition, saying it has not gone as he had expected in relation to the anticipated stakeholder support.

However, he indicated he remained optimistic and hopeful that constitutional transformation would be achieved.

"It has not gone quite as I had expected; we needed to have the support of the Opposition. We still hold out hope that maybe we can actually do this. We will carry it as far as we can with the great hope that we can reach to some understanding and consensus. It is truly my wish for Jamaica to become a republic," he said.

Holness made the statement last month at the Jamaica Civil Service Association's 105th annual general meeting.

At the May 30 event, he also noted that constitutional reform remains one of the major transformational projects being undertaken by his government.

He also pointed out that Jamaica's observance of 60 years of Independence presented a fitting moment for constitutional reform, while adding that other leaders, including former

prime ministers, also reached out and made public statements encouraging the move for the country to become a republic.

During his presentation, Holness also listed several other nation-building and transformational projects being undertaken by his government that are aimed at transforming the lives of Jamaicans.

The projects covered the areas of road infrastructure, healthcare, education, national security, unemployment and training, the economy and fiscal management, housing and urban renewal, transformation of the public sector, and productivity.

Said Holness: "I use the term nation-building projects. These are not short-term projects, meaning that the impact is not for five years, the things that we are attempting to do will set the foundation for the country for the next 50 to 100 years."

He added, "This is the first time that the country has been in a position to plan longer than a five-year cycle. The danger with planning outside of a five-year cycle is that you probably will do things that are not popular to get you re-elected, but you definitely will do the things to ensure that the country will be on a solid footing."

He also said, "People won't appreciate them right away, but on reflection, they will understand what it is that we are doing."

## Grenada to host talks on Sargassum

**Saint George's** – Grenada will host policymakers, experts, business leaders and environmentalists in September for a Sargassum conference, the government announced last week.

Top on the agenda will be discussions on how to develop sustainable solutions to manage the invasive seaweed, the Grenada Government Information Service stated in a media release.

The conference is aimed at bringing together key stakeholders to explore innovative solutions and business opportunities related to sargassum management.

"This prestigious nomination underscores Grenada's commitment to environmental sustainability and regional leadership in addressing marine challenges," the GIS release stated.

The conference was among decisions made when incoming Caricom Chairman, Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell headed Grenada's delegation at the SIDS4 Conference in Antigua & Barbuda, alongside representatives from the European Union, and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States.

"The discussions focused on collaborative strategies to manage and mitigate the impact of

sargassum seaweed on coastal ecosystems, the tourism industry, and local communities," the GIS release noted.

During that meeting, the EU pledged increased technical support and funding to aid in the development of sargassum management technologies and practices.

"This support will be instrumental in enhancing the region's capacity to effectively respond to recurrent sargassum influxes," the release added.

Additionally, "The discussions emphasised the dual benefit of sargassum management strategies that not only protect our marine and coastal environment, but also unlock economic opportunities. By converting sargassum into valuable products, we can turn a challenge into a source of economic growth and sustainability," the release declared.

Mitchell was enthusiastic about the meeting, stating, "We are honored to be chosen as the host... This is a critical issue that affects not just Grenada, but the entire Caribbean region. By working together with our international partners, we can find innovative solutions that protect our environment and create new economic opportunities for our people."



Dickon Mitchell



## Ask Jay...

Please send your questions to  
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### How Do INTEREST-FREE MORTGAGES, KNOWN AS HALAL MORTGAGES, OPERATE?

**H**alal mortgages are a unique financial arrangement based on Islamic principles prohibiting the payment or receipt of interest. In this arrangement, the home is financed through an interest-free loan, similar to a regular mortgage, but without the interest component. However, unlike a conventional mortgage, the homeowner and the lender share ownership, and the homeowner pays a fee equivalent to the interest. This structure makes it an interest-free option and empowers homeowners to take control of their financial decisions, an essential aspect of Islamic finance.

Canada has three types of Halal mortgages: **Ijarah**, **Murabaha**, and **Musharaka**. The property is sold to a Trust and then leased to the other party. A Halal mortgage is similar to a rent-to-own agreement, where the home's occupants start as tenants and become owners upon the final loan payment.

**Ijarah Mortgage**, a Halal mortgage, operates on the principle of profit sharing. When a customer approaches an Islamic financial company to lease a home, both parties agree upon the contract terms, the lease length, and the rental fee. The Islamic bank then purchases the house and leases it to the customer for the agreed term. At the end of the lease term, the customer can buy the home at a pre-agreed price.

The **Murabaha** is a cost-plus financing system in which an Islamic financial company buys a home and then sells it to its client for a profit set against Canada's overnight lending rate. This means that the financial company adds a markup to the cost of the home, which is then sold to the client. According to the sales agreement, the customer pays a fixed monthly amount for the remainder of the contract, usually 15 years.

**Musharaka** mortgages, another type of Halal mortgage, offer a gradual path to homeownership. They involve a partnership between the buyer and an Islamic financial company. At the start of the mortgage term, the financial company holds a larger share of the home's equity, gradually decreasing over the term. This arrangement allows the consumer to gain progressively full ownership of the property, aligning with the principles of Islamic finance.

Unlike traditional mortgages, Halal mortgages have a fixed long-term payment plan. However, the monthly fees are about four percent higher than those of conventional mortgages. Since Halal mortgages are not insured, buyers cannot buy with five percent down, and must pay 20 percent of the purchase price. It takes longer for a buyer to save 20 percent for a down payment, and the buyer loses out on capital appreciation and must pay rental costs during that time.

In the event of a default, the lender can take possession of the property and sell it. Unlike conventional mortgages, if there is a loss, the lender cannot seize other assets from the borrower. Halal mortgages are open mortgages that a buyer can pay off anytime without penalties.

A Halal mortgage contract discusses the financial arrangements between the landlord and the tenant, how you transfer ownership after the term, and how to resolve disputes. The contract must align with Sharia principles and Canadian law. In this arrangement, the homeowner is fully responsible for any maintenance and upgrade of the property.

Canada's financial system is a credit system where someone can build their credit over time. However, Islamic rules forbid using credit cards, a standard tool for building credit. As a result, most Muslims who stick to strict Islamic financial principles may not have a credit history, and, therefore, need a Halal mortgage to buy a home.

As a realtor, I have observed that many of my Muslim clients choose to borrow money from a conventional lender and pay interest, instead of opting for Islamic financing because it is cheaper and easier to arrange.

A Halal mortgage is another financial option that Canada's banking system can offer. If we can design a mortgage product where a buyer can buy with five percent down and have an open 25 year fixed-term mortgage at a reasonable rate, with a rent-to-own or interest-based payment plan, then this would be a win-win for lenders and borrowers alike, and appeal to Canadians.

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Lovely day for cricket

**Toronto** – It was a lovely day for cricket when the Guyana Consulate took charge of the Toronto Police Cricket Club and locked up the win at the Percy Cummins Cricket Ground in Scarborough.

Of course, what made it a lovely day for cricket was not exactly the inclement weather; instead, it was a day awash with camaraderie, tremendous talent on the field, and hundreds of partying spectators (securely ensconced under capacious umbrellas) having a wonderful time celebrating Guyana’s 58th Independence anniversary.

The May 25 event was later described by Guyana Consulate, Toronto’s Honorary Consul Mani Singh, as an eventful and successful day.

Meanwhile, even as the rainclouds finally receded and the sun came out, so were spirits lifted at the Percy Cummins Cricket Ground.

Organised by the Guyana Consulate and the TPCC, the T-20 match finally got underway, and saw a spirited Guyana Consulate team defeating TPCC by 25 runs.

Following the match, the scoreboard showed that the Guyana Consulate XI had acquired a total 128 for four in their allotted 20 overs. The innings was led with an undefeated 43 by Abdool Samad, and another 22 not out contributed by Mu’adh Shariff.

Tightly policed by remarkable spells of bowling and fielding, the Guyana Consulate XI then held the TPCC behind the bars, limiting their score to 103 for eight for their allotted 20 overs.

The Guyana Consulate XI was solidly represented by the Guyana-born Samad in a knock that saw the boundary welcoming two fours and three sixes off his bat.

Samad has represented Canada at the ODI level, and hails from good Guyana cricketing stock – he is the brother of the late former Guyana national player, Fazil Abdool ‘Terminator’ Sattaur.

Shariff also worked diligently to keep the scorer busy, the partnership with Samad producing an unbeaten 51 runs. He was also among the wickets with two for 28, while Samad and Ian Baldeo were also among the wicket-takers with one each.

On patrol with the ball on the TPCC side was former Canadian player, George Codrington. He was TPCC’s best bowler with figures of two for 20.

Totally on the beat with the bat on the TPCC’s side was its top scorer Surendra Seeraj, whose 25 saw three fours happily greeting the boundary, while Ejaz arrested the crowd’s attention with a stellar 23 that included one four and a lofty six.

The match was organised by the Consulate’s Sports Adviser, Shiv Persaud, and President of the Toronto Police Cricket Team, Raj Singh. Persaud is President of both the Scarborough Cricket Association and the Ontario Softball Cricket League.

The Guyana Consulate side also included former National players Sunil Dhaniram, Azib Ali Hanif, Kenneth Wong, and Eion Katchay.

The rainy top of the day saw a ceremonial start with Honorary Consul Singh led into the cricket ground by a police motorcycle escort. He was then welcomed by two Police Equestrian Officers on horses.

Singh then walked past a 13-man police salute, following which both the Canadian and Guyanese flags were hoisted and their respective National Anthems sung to commemorate Guyana’s 58th Independence anniversary.

The T-20 cricket match was among several events that were put on by staff at the Guyana Consulate, and by Honorary Consul Singh in Toronto, in celebration of Guyana’s 58th Independence anniversary last month.



Sunny weather was soon on the way for a glorious day of cricket



Captain Samad (second from left) gets his trophy



A solemn moment during the official ceremony



Officials at the T-20 cricket were (left to right) former Police Services Board Chair, Dr Alok Mukherjee; TPS Superintendent, Andy Singh (31 Division); Honorary Consul, Mani Singh; current PSB member, Nadine Spencer; and Retired Superintendent, Dave McLeod, Vice-president of TPCC and host of the event



Guyana Consulate XI with the winner’s trophy



Honorary Consul Singh motivates the troops



An officer puts up the Golden Arrowhead



Guyana Consulate XI get ready for the T-20 match. Photos courtesy One Guyana Forum





## Fund-raiser aid for dialysis

From Page 1  
and humility.

“I asked her to say a few words. She went up on stage to face 180 people, and thanked God for what was a beautiful day. She then thanked the people in the room, and Dr Doobay for his support. She spoke without any notes, and those who witnessed her speak noted she still had the courage and wherewithal to stand on a stage and address the room. When she was done, she received a standing ovation,” Kissoon recalled.

He added, “We’re hoping we will do the same again this year” with another pleasant, moving, and evocative expression of gratitude.

Kissoon also spoke to the second component that was driving the tournament’s success, which was the enthusiasm and philanthropy by participants to support its concomitant charitable focus on dialysis care in Guyana.

As Kissoon noted, the tournament has kept true to its humanitarian commitment on fund-raising to help dialysis patients in Guyana.

At the same time, it has also been putting the message out about the work that is being done in Guyana by Vishnu Mandir and its Global Care Outreach to ensure patients have access to affordable, critical, and essential dialysis care.

Following last year’s event, Dr Doobay indicated he was pleased with the effort, and noted it had been a “classy act”. In the final tally of last year’s scorecard, not only had the Latchmin Kissoon Golf Tournament raised \$70,000, but at the same time it had lifted the profile of Vishnu Mandir’s dialysis cause.

And as Kissoon stated, in similar fashion, this year’s event is already promising to be another thrilling fund-raiser, with top sponsors providing entertaining products, steelband music, a remarkable lunch, an entertaining Caribbean atmosphere. Altogether, what is certain to be another “classy act”.

## Guyana’s Independence celebrated in Scarborough

**Toronto** – Guyana’s unique and distinct cultural diversity, and its multicultural society as the Land of Six Peoples, were highlighted last month when Guyana Consulate’s Honorary Consul Mani Singh addressed guests, officials, and over 200 members of the diaspora at Scarborough Civic Center.

The event was held to celebrate Guyana’s 58th Independence anniversary, and included the solemn and moving occasion of raising the Golden Arrowhead.

In his address, Singh also extended Independence Day greetings on behalf of Guyana’s President Dr Irfaan Ali, Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo, Prime Minister Mark Phillips, and the government of Guyana.

Among the guests and dignitaries at the event were Osman Ali and Bibi Shariman Ali, parents of Guyana’s President Ali.

Also in attendance was trumpeter Jan Morgan, who led the gathering with renditions of the National Anthems of Canada and Guyana.

Present for the flag-raising were members of the Guyana Ex Soldiers Association of Toronto: Michael Narine, Jay Latchman, Earla Hinds, Chaman Prasad, Arjune Ramsawak, Janiss Best,

and John DaSilva.

Interfaith leaders present at the event were Bishop Colin Esseboom, Shaykh Imran Ally, and Pandit Jag Gossai.

The event also saw the talents of musical and artistic performers on display that included the reading of an Amerindian poem by 11-year-old Samarah Sukhai, grand daughter of Pauline Sukhai, Guyana’s Minister of Amerindian Affairs.

A medley of three iconic songs was also done by Vijay Singh playing the harmonium. He was accompanied by Rajeev Kumarjit on the drum.

Django Panfyah, the 2018 Best Steel Pan Solo Artist Award winner, performed a medley of patriotic Guyanese songs with trumpeter Morgan that included Dave Martins’ well-known *Not a Blade of Grass*.

Another patriotic song, *We Love You Guyana*, was performed by the Singh sisters Suhana, Sumeera, and Sunaya. They were accompanied by Saurabh and Rishabh on the cello and key-boards. A reception followed the ceremonies and performances, with attendees treated to wholesome Guyanese fare and refreshments. (Files courtesy One Guyana Forum)



Bobby Ramlagan photos courtesy One Guyana Forum



The Brampton Guyanese Association held its flag-raising ceremony for Guyana’s 58th Independence anniversary at City Hall last month. The event was described by its organisers as a massive success, and a truly celebratory occasion. The group also extended its gratitude to Shivana Ramcharan from BMO Mortgage Specialists, Tropical Escape Restaurant, Farrah Hadiya, Ravi’s West Indian Store, and Jamila, who all helped to make the event a success. Photos: Brampton Guyanese Association Facebook page



# Time to deal with the dislocations being caused by social media

By Dhanpaul Narine

The revolution is digitised. Are we a nation that has become dumb on smart gadgets? Are we Facebookers who sit for hours staring at a screen where Facetime, Inbox, Outbox, Dropbox, and miles of sockets and dockets, have immersed us in a new vocabulary? There are those that believe we are hooked up, addicted and uneducated, and standing in corners glued to smart screens, as we invite Internet apnea. Jonathan Haidt is a social psychologist at New York University. He uses the story of Babel in *The Atlantic* to argue that we live in a fractured society, and says that Babel is a fragmentation of America.

According to Haidt, "Something went terribly wrong, very suddenly". He adds, "We are disoriented, unable to speak the same language or recognise the same truth. We are cut off from one another and from the past."

Social media have created dislocation in which we have lost "social capital, with high levels of trust, strong institutions, and shared stories. Social media has weakened all three", argues Haidt.

There can be no doubt that social media have resulted in disorientation and a reluctance to explore the treasure-trove of literacy. But is this "very suddenly" as Haidt says?

The signs of anti-intellectualism have long manifested itself in American education. In 1963, Professor Richard Hofstadter provided the theoretical basis for anti-intellectualism. He argued that "the strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that my ignorance is as good as your knowledge".

In 1982, Daniel Moynihan bemoaned the fact that video tapes were knocking books off the shelves, and a year later, a publication sent shockwaves across America. The document, *A Nation at Risk* was published under the Ronald Reagan administration. It found that the students were not equipped to meet the demands of science and technology.

According to the report, "a total of 13 percent of all 17-year olds in the US were functionally illiterate. Functional illiteracy among minority youths may run as high as 40 percent".

What was damning about these revelations was that many students did not possess higher order thinking skills, and more than 40 percent "could not draw inferences from written material; only one-fifth could write a persuasive essay from written material; and only one third could solve a mathematical problem requiring several steps".

The National Endowment for the Arts reported in 1982 that the number of adults that read for pleasure was 82 percent, but by 2002 this figure had dropped to 67 percent. The proportion of 17-year olds that read nothing, unless required by school,



doubled between 1984 and 2004. There are other disturbing revelations. In 2009, the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs found that among public school students, 77 percent of them did not know that George Washington was the first President of the US; nor could they name the author of the Declaration of Independence. Many students did not fare better with the citizenship tests, as only 2.8 percent of eighth graders were able to pass it. It is little wonder that a number of educators feel that the educational skills of the previous generation will not be surpassed by current performance in schools. Many educators feel that students in today's educational institutions will not surpass, equal, or even approach those of their parents. When asked to name a country that begins with the letter 'U' some seventh-graders replied, "Europe, Utah, or Utopia". The currency of England was given as the "Pesos, the dollar, I don't know, or the Queen's money". The name of America's neighbour, south of the border, was given as, "Disney World, Texas, or Montana". The point from these examples is that the seeds of dumbing-down were sown in the 1970s. They slowly worked their way into the classrooms through government's control of the school system, and the lack of choice that brings competition. In 2006, it was reported that American students were behind

other countries in the basic subjects. For example, America was placed 18th in reading, 22nd in science, and 28th in math, behind countries such as Poland, Australia, and South Korea. In the 2009 *Journal of Science*, it was found that Chinese students outperformed their American counterparts in science, based on test scores in four American universities, and three Chinese universities. The Americans averaged 50 percent, while the Chinese scored 90 percent. What has been the role of the Internet on college students? Information shapes one's thought process, but as Nicholas Carr argues, "The 'Net seems to be chipping away my capacity for concentration and contemplation". The surfeit of information, at a click, is not without its drawbacks. We browse and skip, rather than bury our minds into the beauty of the prose. We hop and skim, and read abstracts, rather than decipher the essence of the long passages. The malleable mind wanders and cognitive development becomes obscure. Enter Sergey Brin, from Google, who wants our brains to be replaced by Artificial Intelligence, which is a scary thought. As far as college students are concerned, a report in *Applied Cognitive Psychology* found that they spent five hours a day on their smart phones that has created a cascade of substandard performances. The conclusion was that more phone use led to poorer solving problem skills. Where do we go from here? Social media have given a voice to many, the minorities that clamour for change, and who have been able to organise, to effect revolutions. The Arab Spring is one such example. Search Engines have presented a world library, at the fingertips, and have given us information to transform societies. But social media are uncontrolled and unregulated. It has lumped people into categories, of right and left, conservative and liberals, and centrists; progressives and patriots; racists and traitors. Social media have also allowed a few to drive and dictate the agenda, and almost everyone to be an authority and a critic. A child is cyber-bullied every 15 minutes and little is done to stop it. There are those that predict social media will get worse, as viral piles on viral, the planet of the apps increases, and people don't know what to believe anymore. Institutions, known for their credibility, are damaged. The leak in the US Supreme Court, Roe vs Wade, has added to the confusion. Haidt argues that the answer lies in the creation of voluntary associations to "fix local problems". But this is not enough. Power lies in education. It lies in the schools, and colleges, where sound curricula can accommodate the digital embrace, to reflect and enhance learning. As the social media engines grind away, the simple stories continue to hold the truth.

## ICT honours Ramsaran, Persaud at Indian Arrival Day celebration

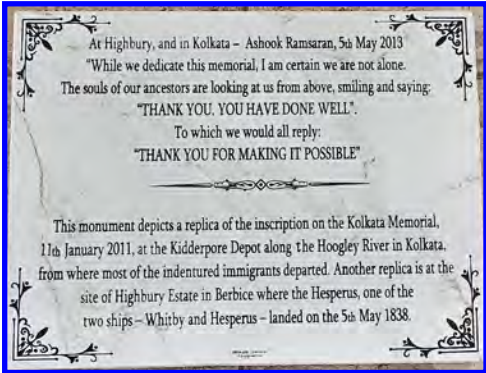
Georgetown – The late Dr Yesu Persaud was honoured on May 5 during celebration of the 186th anniversary of the first arrivals of Indians from India as Indentured labourers to the then British colony of British Guiana (now Guyana). Also honoured at the same event was Ashook Ramsaran. Both Persaud and Ramsaran are recipients of India's prestigious Pravasi Samman Awards.

Persaud was given a well-deserved tribute for founding the Indian Commemoration Trust, which organised the Indian Arrival Day event as it has done annually since 1988.

A well-known industrialist and philanthropist, Persaud was lauded for his vision and continuous commitment to the preservation of Indian culture and history in Guyana. His family attended and received a commendation plaque, which will be attached to the steel replica of the SS *Whitby*.

Ramsaran is President of the Indian Diaspora Council, was born in Guyana, and currently resides in the US. He was honoured for his efforts in convincing the Government of India to install the Kolkata Memorial in Kolkata, India, on January 11, 2011 in recognition of those who left India as Indentured labourers from 1834 through 1920. Ramsaran also wrote the inscription for the Kolkata Memorial.

In 2013 on the 175th anniversary of Indian arrival in Guyana, Ramsaran collaborated with the Government of India and Persaud of the ICT to erect replicas of the Kolkata Memorial at Highbury, where the first ship landed, and at Monument



The commemorative plaque, above; at centre, is Ashook Ramsaran (left) receiving the plaque from ICT's Hemraj Kissoon; the monument is at left

Gardens in Georgetown. Ramsaran also wrote the inscriptions on both these monuments in Guyana. The plaque was installed on the marble base of the Kolkata Indian Memorial Monument at Monument Gardens, and a similar one is planned for Highbury. Hemraj Kissoon, chairman of ICT, presented the plaque to Ramsaran, which states: At Highbury and in Kolkata – Inscription by Ashook Ramsaran 5th May 2013: "While we dedicate this memorial, I am certain we are not alone. The souls of our ancestors are looking at us from above, smiling and saying: "THANK YOU. YOU HAVE DONE WELL". To which we would all reply: "THANK YOU FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE". This monument depicts a replica of the inscription on the Kolkata Memorial, unveiled on January 11, 2011, at the Kidderpore Depot on the bank of the Hoogly River in Kolkata, from where most of the indentured immigrants departed.

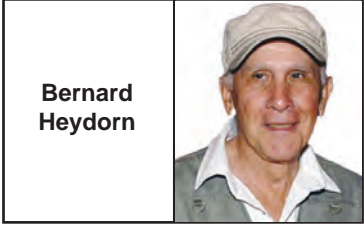
Another replica is at the Indian Arrival Centre at Highbury Estate in Berbice where the *Hesperus*, the first of 2 ships with indentured labourers, landed on May 5, 1838. Indian High Commissioner Dr Amit Telang, and Guyana's Minister of Culture Charles Ramson, both in attendance, lauded the rich and enduring Indian culture and its positive impact on the development of Guyana. Also in attendance at the celebration was US Deputy Chief of Mission, Adrienne Galanek, as well as several other officials and community leaders. The SS *Whitby* left Calcutta on January 13, 1838. Of the 249 Indentured (233 men, five women, and six children) on this ship, five passed away. They voyaged 112 days, and arrived in Guyana on May 5, 1838. The SS *Hesperus* left Calcutta on January 29, 1838, and also arrived in Guyana on the night of May 5, 1838. Out of the total of 165 passengers, 13 died, leaving 135 men, six women, and 11 children. For the next 80 years until 1920, nearly 239,000 Indians came to Guyana as Indentured labourers. Large numbers also were taken to Trinidad, Suriname, Jamaica, and other British colonies. The majority of these workers would never return to India, and having settled in these countries, achieved significant successes and contributed to the development of their respective countries.



Support from family, exemplars helped Guyana boy walk the good path

In a world where humanity seems to be struggling for goodwill to shine, I can safely say that I am fortunate to find folks that stand out in my experience. Now deceased for the most part, I ponder their influence on my life. They have made a difference to me.

A number of these individuals have some things in common.



Bernard Heydorn

They have been, or are humble folks who were blessed with a long life in a number of cases. Some relatives, some friends, and strangers.

My Uncle Eugene comes to mind. Of

Portuguese ancestry, from Madeira, he lived and died in Guyana within 80 miles from where he was born. An older brother of my mother, he was married with no children of his own and adopted one from a relative.

Working for most of his life as a “storewalker” at Bettencourt’s Store in Georgetown, he retired at a pittance of a pension. Having a wife who was somewhat less charitable than he was, he found the time and money to put shoes on my feet and other members of my family, unknown to his wife. He was short in stature, but a giant in my mind!

He rode a motorcycle on which he came to visit my family, living in the “bush town” of New Amsterdam, where I spent most of my childhood. He called me “manniezing”, a word I suspect of Portuguese extraction. In effect, it meant that I got to clean his shoes when he visited our home, and being paid a “jil”, two cents. That could get me a “sweet drink”.

He was an athletic individual who reportedly was among the first to swim the Demerara River both ways, which made it into the newspaper of the times in the 1930s. He attempted to do the same for the Berbice River, and almost made it, but got carried on toward Crab Island off New Amsterdam by the strong tide. He took part in cycling events in Georgetown, which the Governor attended and gave out trophies.

He was a member of the British Guiana Volunteer Force during some of the civil disturbances in Guyana in the early 20th century. He was next in the firing line of Volunteers, called up during riots, but was spared the experience of firing on fellow Guyanese. He said he learned many things in the Volunteer Force, including how to swear!

I last saw him when my book *Walk Good Guyana Boy* was launched in Georgetown at a public event. He did not want to be present because he said he did not have a suitable suit to wear. The presence of the Prime Minister, television, and newspapers was too much for him!

He left me with the treasure of a picture of his father Joaquim Menezes, my grandfather, the only one I have of that Portuguese generation from Madeira.

He assured me he had enough money for his burial as he did not want to be a burden to other folks. He died shortly thereafter, in his upper nineties. Before I left, he told me that my family had “beautified Canada” by living there!

Another hero of mine was Cecil, an Afro Guyanese elderly gentleman who called me at home, having read my book *Walk Good Guyana Boy*. Cecil worked on Water Street, the commercial centre of Georgetown.

He was heading into his nineties, and was a walking newspaper. He goes back to tramcar days, and cricket, and Georgetown



Eugene Menezes

characters, and many things that influenced me. He read my articles in the *Indo-Caribbean World* for decades, living alone after his wife had died, and having the support of his children.

Like Uncle Eugene, his mind was clear right to the end. On his death bed I featured an article from *ICW* on his life, and he said he would give me an A, but not quite an A-plus. He was just short of a century. Cecil, I still have that old Guyana bit coin (eight cents) you gave me.

Another individual to enter my life was Tulsie, a veteran officer of the Royal Canadian Air Force. He called me and said he was retired, but had read my newspaper articles in *ICW* for years. They kept him company when he was out in the desert in faraway places on duty in the RCAF.

We became friends immediately. He knew my love of music and dance, and sent me several CDs he made of music he figured I would welcome, and I did. We spoke on the phone until his voice became weak and disappeared. When I checked, his wife said he had passed away. He had invited my wife and me to visit him at his home in Winnipeg, but time ran out on us. Tulsie, you are gone but not forgotten.

His story reminds me of a message I got from a padre in the RAF at a desolate base in the northernmost part of the British Isles on Christmas Day. He identified himself and said he was using material from one of my Christmas articles in *ICW* at his Christmas service at the RAF base and station. Guyana Boy and *ICW* it seems can walk far!

Getting closer to family, I am blessed to have a mother-in-law on my wife’s side who passed away in her upper eighties, who found the time to visit our family and her grandchildren in the many places we lived in our married life; all, except the present residence.

She would arrive with her little suitcase, always with a smile, gifts, stories, and help around the house. She accompanied our youngest son delivering newspapers until she fell in the snow



Joaquim Menezes

and went home with a black eye.

She wanted to live to the start of the new century, which we celebrated with her. She died, shortly thereafter in 2000, still cheerful, and looking after herself to the end – a profile in courage and compassion.

I cannot end this essay on admiration without mentioning a close family member, my beautiful wife Vivienne.

Wife, homemaker, scholar, teacher, mother of three, editor, dance instructor, life companion of over five decades – I can go on and on.

The life and contribution of Vivienne could perhaps be summarised with her ability to multitask. At one time in our family life, we were both studying for our Doctoral degrees, PhDs, at Louisiana State University. Vivienne took a full time job as a French teacher at a school, was part time lecturer at the university, full time student, housewife, mother, chief cook and homemaker, editor for the books, articles, and Dissertation I was writing; meanwhile, she was doing research for her own Dissertation.

Through it all, she did it cheerfully, with steadfastness, intelligently, with talent, grit, and courage. I could not ask for anything more. I must add she was also my barber, and still is. I have been blessed over the years.

These are some of the giants on whose shoulders I have stood, and continue to do as I head into the known and unknown of old age.

If the creeks don’t rise and the sun still shines, I’ll be talking to you.

Sitahal receives THFF’s Lifetime Achievement Award

**Miami** – A Lifetime Achievement Award was recently bestowed on pioneering Trinidad and Tobago actor, writer, and director, Errol Sitahal. He was honoured at the recently concluded Third Horizon Film Festival in Miami, Florida.

The recognition is the only citation ever given by THFF, “In recognition of his pioneering and career-long achievements in, and contributions to film and television in the Caribbean and beyond,” a release from the organisation stated.

It was presented on May 12, on the occasion of a screening of Ian Harnarine’s film *Doubles*, which was the Closing Night Film of the festival.

Speaking to the honour, Sitahal remarked: “I am one lucky *Jumbie* to be able to receive this prestigious award on my own behalf before it becomes posthumous. Luckier than most of my deserving erstwhile contemporaries. I share it with them.”

Sitalhal’s performance in *Doubles* continues to wow audiences and critics alike. In March he won “Best Supporting Actor” for his performance in the movie at the Canadian Film Fest in Toronto.

He is a graduate of Naparima College in Trinidad. Sitahal also has a storied career that spans over five decades of work in stage, film, and television.

At the festival, Director of Programming at Third Horizon Film Festival, Jonathan Ali, stated that Sitahal’s pioneering career roles include broadcasting work with Banyan Productions. As a

distinguished thespian, he has taken roles in plays by Derek Walcott, Harold Pinter, Errol John, Eugene O’Neill, and other greats.

He has also acquired international recognition in Hollywood starring in Alfonso Cuarón’s *A Little Princess*, and in the *Harold and Kumar* series.

THFF is based in Miami, and celebrates the exciting new wave of cinema and creativity emerging from filmmakers across the Caribbean and its diaspora. It was named “one of the 25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World” in 2019 by *MovieMaker Magazine*.

The critically acclaimed film *Doubles* won three awards at the recently concluded Canadian Film Fest in Toronto. It took the *Reel Canadian Indie Award*, *People’s Pick For Best Flick*, and the *Jury Award for Best Supporting Actor*, Errol Sitahal.

It was shot entirely on location in Toronto’s Caribbean community, and in Trinidad & Tobago. The cast includes Sitahal and Sanjiv Boodhu playing lead roles, as well as Rashaana Cumberbatch and Leela Sitahal. Also appearing in the movie are Trinidad and Tobago talents Patti-Anne Ali and Penelope Spencer.

*Doubles* is expected in cinemas in Trinidad and Tobago later this summer, while it continues its festival run around the world. Theatrical runs in Canada and the US are also expected later this year.



Errol Sitahal receives the Lifetime Achievement Award. Photo by Nicole Combeau





Father David Khan (right) during the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church's Corpus Christi procession last week



Acolytes from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church's proceed along the street during Corpus Christi celebrations in south Trinidad last week

Church leader highlights falsity, issues call for sincerity and truthfulness

**Port-of-Spain** – While denouncing the prevalence of deceit among politicians and Christian leaders, at the same time the Catholic Church in Trinidad and Tobago issued the call for the emergence of sincerity and truthfulness. The call was made last week by Roman Catholic parish priest Fr David Khan during his hard-hitting sermon when the nation marked the Corpus Christi holiday. Father Khan made the statement at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church in south Trinidad. He did not equivocate during his delivery, declaring, “Too many Christian leaders are liars.” At the same time, he implored his parish-

ioners to embrace authenticity and honesty in their faith, while urging them to engage in self-reflection. He also admonished those who merely pay lip service to Catholicism, using it as a means to secure privileges, such as admission to Catholic schools for their children. “Ethics are severely lacking. People have to become the best version of themselves,” he told the congregation. Highlighting the role of social media in exposing falsehoods, Father Khan castigated politicians and leaders for their duplicity, saying, “Politicians, various leaders say things to us, and it is recorded. And after they say they never said it. When you play the recording,

they damn lie!” He added, “We all need healing in our own land, in our own lives. The greatest healing is for us to become like Christ and be a reflection of Christ.” He also sent a message for all journalists to be responsible, stating, “Your speaking is frozen in written words. Are you making a situation better or worse? You can correct, point out errors, and flaws. But what are you doing?” He continued, “Thank God for social media today. We have too many Christian leaders who are liars. They are leading us down a road of destruction. We have many people who say they are for Christ, but actions speak louder than words. They say it, but actions do not

reflect they are for Christ.” He called on journalists to continue to point out the errors of the leaders, saying: “We have to do self-introspection, and ask yourself, will you become like Christ?” He also addressed the youngest members of the congregation, the First Communion Children, emphasising the significance of their journey in becoming reflections of Christ’s love and authenticity. He cautioned against the hypocrisy of those who profess allegiance to Christ while their actions betray their words. Following the church service, the parishioners participated in a procession through the streets of San Fernando.

Moving send-off as T&T bids farewell to former SAGHS’ principal Mahase

**Port-of-Spain** – The moving funeral send-off for pioneering principal and mother figure Dr Anna Mahase last week saw past and present students of St Augustine Girls’ High School, government officials, former colleagues, and many mourners in attendance to pay tribute, and to honour her memory and legacy. Mahase died at age 91 on May 24. Her funeral took place at the Aramalaya Presbyterian Church in Tunapuna, east Trinidad. Along with the high school’s alumni, also in attendance were Trinidad and Tobago’s President Christine Kangaloo, and Zalayhar Hassanali, wife of former President Noor Hassanali. While she did not have biological children, Mahase was regarded as the ultimate mother figure by many nationals. It was this lasting impact during her tenure in the education system that mourners focused on when her

accomplishments were lauded as an educator, trailblazer, and a visionary. In her tribute, Justice Alice Yorke-Soo Hon said, “Nurturing, guiding, loving, caring, inspiring. She looked after us, and she looked out for us.” Former national hockey player Jocelyn Francois also paid tribute to Mahase, saying, “That visionary woman took us starry-eyed, awkward young girls, and using her resources, her connections, and influential network, created an environment conducive to learning. Valuable lessons of racial and religious tolerance were taught as we celebrated each other’s differences. Dr Mahase was the original influencer.” While Mahase was praised for her impact on thousands of SAGHS students, she was also

remembered for how much she gave back to the nation. Former Port-of-Spain Mayor Joel Martinez told the media after the funeral service that Mahase “gave so much to the lives of Trinidad and Tobago.” He added, “You could have learnt so much from her. She was always one who would teach because she was a true teacher. She was always giving of herself, and uplifting you at the same time, so you never left as if you were scolded.” MIC Institute of Technology chairman Professor Clement Imbert echoed a similar sentiment, saying that Mahase was “one of the most morally upstanding persons you could find in Trinidad and Tobago. I can’t think of a woman

greater than Anna Mahase in Trinidad and Tobago”. Mahase was the youngest woman at 28 years old to be appointed a principal in Trinidad and Tobago when she took the lead role at SAGHS. Her stellar career and achievements saw her rewarded by the government of Trinidad and Tobago when she became the recipient of several national awards, including the Medal of Merit (Gold) in 1976, and the Chaconia Medal in 1990. She was one of 50 people honoured with the Excellence in Education and Distinguished Public Service award on the 50th anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago’s Independence. Following her retirement, Mahase served in various capacities, including president of the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society; a member of the Teaching Service Commission; and on the Caribbean Examinations Council.



Anna Mahase



Trinidad and Tobago’s President Christine Kangaloo (left to right), Russell Mahase, and Zalayhar Hassanali, widow of President Noor Hassanali



The St Augustine Girls High School alumni choir performs at the funeral of their former principal, the late Dr Anna Mahase





Visitors at NCIC's Indian Arrival Day celebration enjoy a traditional vegetarian repast on a Sohari leaf



NCIC volunteers cook the vegetable chataigne, also known as katahar, on a *chulha* using firewood

NCIC marks Indian Arrival with traditional foods

**Port-of-Spain** – A three-day food festival celebrating Indian Arrival Day was held last week by the National Council of Indian Culture.

Among the events was visitors being treated to a wide range of foods that were cooked using the methods that were employed by Indentured labourers 179 years ago.

The idea to re-enact the Indentured practices of the past came from NCIC president, Senator Deorooop Teemal, spokesperson Surujdeo Mangaroo told the media.

Mangaroo is president of the NCIC and chairman of the Heritage Food Festival Committee.

“This was conceptualised by our president, Senator Deorooop Teemal for Heritage Month to showcase traditional cooking

and dining. We are giving patrons the opportunity to sit in a traditional setting called *rasoyi ka ghar*, and dine using a leaf and traditional enamel cutlery,” Mangaroo stated.

He added that the foods were being cooked on *chulhas* using firewood. The firewood and *chulha* method was used for cooking until the 1950s, when gas stoves and kerosene stoves became affordable, he added.

Attending the food festival event were Cindy Moonsammy, and her mother Asha Moonsammy. They both declared they were pleased with the quality of the food, and appreciated the traditional way it was prepared.

“There is a distinct taste of food cooked on a *chulha*, especially when you *sakay* foods on a fireside,” Asha recalled.

Motorcade, procession mark celebrations in south

**Port-of-Spain** – A motorcade and procession through the streets of Penal and Barrackpore in south Trinidad were among the highlights when devotees of the Divya Jeewan Hindu Mandir celebrated Indian Arrival Day last week.

The celebrations were funded by the business community, the mandir’s spiritual leader Pundit Rajendra Maharaj said.

The procession saw classical Indian dancers and as *tassa* drummers from the Three Legends *Tassa* group taking to the streets despite the rainfall. Also enjoying the rain were the Sumaree Biraha dancers, who were astride the effigies of horses.

Now 104 years old, Ramrajee Ramsawak, a market vendor, rode on a boat in honour of her ancestors as the procession entered Clarke Road, Penal.

Ramsawak told the media she was privileged to be part of the function for the second year.

“We don’t know if I will be here next year, but I am happy that I can still participate,” she said.

She also expressed a wish for youths to learn the lessons of their ancestors, and to make sacrifices to educate and care for their children.

“Young people do not know how hard the old people worked. Nowadays, young people don’t want to work. They want everything too easy,” she lamented.

In his address, Pundit Maharaj emphasised the need for more support to preserve Indian culture. At the same time, he warned that traditional art forms could die if they were not passed down to future generations.

“The *Jhal Ramayan* and the *Chowtal* singing are some



Sumaree Biraha dancers astride effigies of horses during Indian Arrival Day celebrations last week

aspects of our culture that we want to promote among youths. We want to see a resurgence of this,” Maharaj declared.

He also noted that some of the traditional classical singing and dances were indigenous and unique to Trinidad and Tobago.

And he issued the call to corporate Trinidad and Tobago, and the government, to assist in preserving East Indian culture and identity.

Mitchell: T&T enriched by Indian culture

**Port-of-Spain** – East Indians have made an influential contribution to the national identity of Trinidad and Tobago, this nation’s Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts Randall Mitchell said last week.

Mitchell made the comment while delivering the feature address at the National Council of Indian Culture’s Indian Arrival Day celebrations, which was held at the NCIC Nagar site in Chaguanas on the evening of May 30.

As he declared, said East Indian culture has now become infused in all facets of the national community.

“From the nostalgic sounds of Indian classical music to the lively hands of *tassa* drumming, and the intricacies of traditional dances that grace our stages. The cuisine has become a beloved staple in homes all over the country, and even abroad. The joyful celebrations of *Diwali* and *Eid*, along with deep spiritual traditions, have all enriched the diverse culture that makes Trinidad and Tobago so special,” he stated.

Mitchell said the NCIC’s theme for Indian Heritage Month, *Charai Vetu – Keep Moving*, reminded the nation of the importance of progress and perseverance.

“It encourages us to reflect on the journey thus far, to celebrate the immeasurable achievements, and to continue moving

Central Trinidad hit by earthquakes, explosions

**Port-of-Spain** – What felt like a meteor impact that jolted nationals out of their beds were explosions accompanying two earthquakes that hit Trinidad in the early morning hours of May 30, the University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre has said.

In a release issued later that day, the Seismic Research Centre said it recorded two minor magnitude earthquakes early that morning, both striking within the Caroni Swamp.

According to the release, the first event registered a magnitude of 2.9, and was widely reported across central Trinidad. Four to six seconds of shaking accompanied by what sounded like an explosion occurred at 2:57 a.m., it noted.

The department said it located the earthquake at a depth of 15.9 kilometers, placing the epicenter 6.2 kilometers northwest of Chaguanas. Shaking and noise from the quake were sufficient to cause people to arise from sleep, it added.

Then just over two hours later, at 5:08 a.m., a second minor-magnitude earthquake of magnitude 2.7 also produced shaking across mainly central Trinidad, along with an explosive-like noise.

This second event was located 2.47 kilometers north-northwest of the earlier earthquake, and approximately 8.66 kilometers north-northwest of Chaguanas.

Director of Seismic Research Centre Dr Erouscilla Joseph later told the media that hearing sounds before an earthquake is a common occurrence.

According to Joseph, the “explosion” heard was likely because the earthquakes were shallow and occurred on land.

“Due to the fact that it was so shallow – we are talking about three kilometres depth – it would have been accompanied by the sound. Sound waves are something that sometimes occur when there are earthquakes similar to what has happened here. It is a well-known phenomenon that occurs in other places,” she said.

Joseph likened the incident to a volcanic event, explaining that the release of energy is often accompanied by vibrations, which are manifested as sound waves.

Similarly, she explained that the fault system generating an earthquake, with rocks in motion, can sometimes transmit vibrations “into the air as a sound wave”.

This is the phenomenon that occurred, she noted.

“People, at least people close to the epicentre would have heard it as a sound. This is what has happened. This is a well-known phenomenon that happens with earthquakes, but it is not uncommon at all,” she added.

She added that while the Seismic Research Centre operates systems 24 hours a day to detect activity, it is standard practice not to report any activity below a magnitude of 3.5.

“These were 2.7 and 2.9 magnitude. This would have not been automatically posted because something that small, we would usually need to verify it first, if it really is a felt event. So you want to post the ones that would most likely be felt,” she stated.

She also noted that while both episodes were shallow, each one was felt because it occurred in a populated area.



Erouscilla Joseph



Minister Mitchell (left) receives a painting from Teemal during Indian Arrival Day celebrations last week



## The Golden Years of Indian Cinema

# **Brilliant, highly-acclaimed Balraj Sahni starred in over 100 films**

By Vidur Dindayal

**B**alraj Sahni was a lecturer at Rabindranath Tagore's University at Shantiniketan, then an announcer at *BBC London's Hindi Service Radio* before he entered the careers of film and writing. He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1969.

He was brilliant. It would be an achievement for anyone to get to do any one of the notable jobs he did.

Born Yudhishthir Sahni on May 1, 1913 at Rawalpindi, Punjab, (present day Punjab, Pakistan), he studied at Government College in Lahore, and at Gordon College. He held a Bachelor's degree in Hindi, and a Master's degree in English Literature from Lahore. Soon after in 1936 at the age of 23, he married Damayanti.

In the late 1930s, Balraj and Damayanti left Rawalpindi to join Rabindranath Tagore's Visva-Bharati University in Shantiniketan in Bengal, where he was appointed an English and Hindi lecturer. Here their son Parikshit Sahni was born when Damayanti was studying for her Bachelor's degree.

Sahni worked with Mahatma Gandhi for a year in 1938. The next year, in 1939, with Gandhi's blessings, he went to England to join the *BBC-London's Hindi* service as a radio announcer.

While at the *BBC*, Balraj worked alongside George Orwell, who had made his name as the author of *The Road to Wigan Pier* in 1937. Orwell supervised cultural broadcasts to India in which he created programmes with contributions from T. S. Eliot, Dylan Thomas, Mulk Raj Anand, among others. At the *BBC*, Orwell introduced *Voice*, a literary programme for his Indian broadcasts. Balraj Sahni returned to India in 1943.

He was always interested in acting, and started his acting career with plays of the Indian People's Theatre Association. Damayanti became well-known as an IPTA actress even before he got into films.

He started his film career in Bombay in 1946 with *Insaaf*, followed by *Dharti Ke Lal*, then Damayanti's first film, *Door Chalein* and other films.

Sadly, Damayanti died in 1947 at age 26. In 1951, Balraj remarried to writer Santosh Chandhok. They had three children, including Parikshit Sahni.

Sahni acted opposite top heroines. Among these were Padmini, Nutan, Meena Kumari, Vijayanthimala, and Nargis in films such as *Bindya* (1960); *Seema* (1955); *Sone Ki Chidiya* (1958); *Sutta Bazaar* (1959); *Bhabhi Ki Chudiyaan* (1961); *Kathputli* (1957); *Lajwanti* (1958); and *Ghar Sansaar* (1958).

His character roles were well-received in films as *Neelkamal*; *Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani*; *Do Raaste*; and *Ek Phool Do Mali*. One film, *Bhabhi*, with his role as the elder brother is a wonderful family drama that was grippingly entertaining and absorbing throughout.

He also starred in the classic Punjabi film *Nanak Dukhiya Sub Sansar* (1970), as well as the critically-acclaimed *Satlu De Kande*.

Sahni had established himself as an Indian film star. He starred in over 100 movies in 28 years from 1946 to 1973 inclusive, just under four per year. In 1970, he did as many as eight movies.

He is best known for *Dharti Ke Lal* (1946); *Do Bigha Zameen* (1953); *Chhoti Bahen* (1959); *Kabuliwala* (1961); *Waqt* (1965); and *Garam Hawa* (1973).

*Dharti Ke Lal* (*Children of the Earth*), was based on the Bengal famine of 1943, which killed millions of people. In 1949, *Dharti Ke Lal* also became the first Indian film to receive wide-spread distribution in what was then the USSR. This led to the country becoming a major overseas market for Indian films.

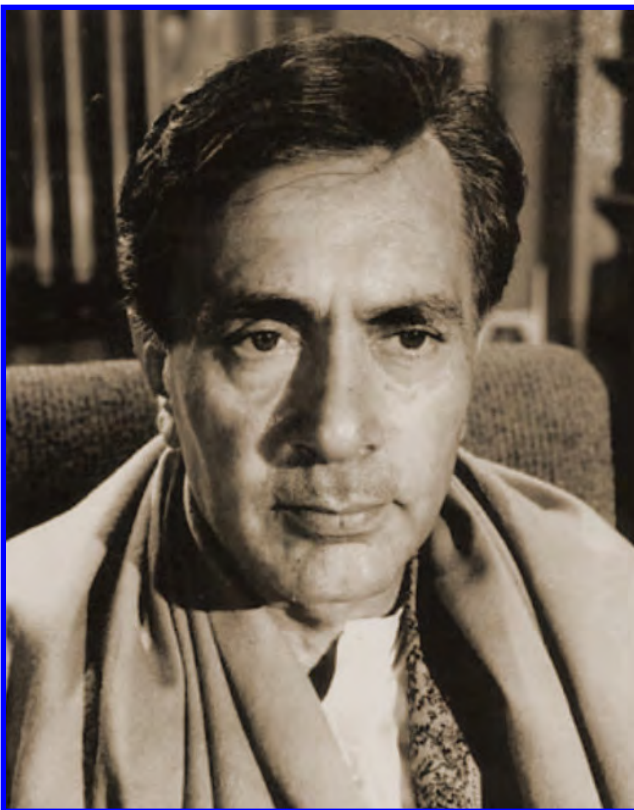
This superhit old classic movie, starring Sahni, Tripti Mitra, Sombhu Mitra, Rashid Ahmed, Rashid Khan, and David, with music composed by Ravi Shankar, marked another chapter in the new wave in Indian cinema that focused on socially relevant themes. It remains one of the important Hindi films of that decade.

Among its soulful and touching songs were *Ek Huwe Bin Kam Na Chali He*; *Beete Ho Sukh Ke Din* – a gem of a song; for musical appreciation of Pandit Ravi Shankar – *Ab Na Zuban Pa Taale Daalo*; the boat song – *O Manwa, Naiyya Ye Mose*; and the happy song at a fair – *Jai Dharti Maiyya Jai Ho*. The film gave Sahni his first important on-screen role, which continued with Bimal Roy's *Do Bigha Zamin* (1953).

*Do Bigha Zamin*, third in that year's top ten highest grossers, known for its socialist theme, is considered an important film in early Indian cinema, and a trendsetter.

The story was about Shambu (Sahni) who owns a small piece of land surrounded by that of a Thakur, Harnam Singh. The Thakur wants to construct a large mill on land including Shambu's, who refuses to part with his land.

The court orders Shambu to pay off a debt he owes the Thakur within three months or else the Thakur becomes owner



**Balraj Sahni**

of Shambu's land. To save his land, he has to find work.

The movie received many coveted awards: All India Certificate of Merit for Best Feature Film; the first Filmfare Award of 1954; and Best Film and Best Director – Bimal Roy.

It was the first Indian film to win the International Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, and the Prize for Social Progress at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. The film was also released in China and in the USSR.

Initially Director Bimal Roy had planned to cast others in the lead, but after he saw Sahni in *Hum Log* (1951), he decided to cast him. To better prepare for the role, Sahni actually rehearsed by pulling a rickshaw on the streets of Calcutta. Many rickshaw pullers were facing the same situation as portrayed in the movie.

Actress Nirupa Roy who had played Hindu goddesses in several films, was cast in the role of Parvati. She really wept in her scenes in the film, saying, "This is the first film I didn't use glycerine for tears".

The film's title is derived from a famous poem by Rabindranath Tagore, called *Dui Bigha Jomi*.

*Chhoti Bahen* was eighth among the top ten highest grossing movies released in 1959. With Nanda – the younger sister, in the title role, it starred Sahni and Rehman.

In *Chhoti Bahen*, Rajendra (Sahni) lives a poor lifestyle along with his younger brother Shekhar, and younger sister Meena. Her marriage is arranged. Then things turn sour as Meena loses her vision. The wedding is cancelled. Rajendra remains single to look after Meena. Brother Shekhar and Shobha get married.

Shobha moves in. Misunderstandings crop up. Shekhar and Shobha move out to live with Shobha's dad. Rajendra loses

his job. His uncle takes over the house and asks him to leave. Homeless, he and Meena turn to Shekhar for help. He refuses. Rajendra falls ill and gets separated from sister Meena, while Shekhar takes to horse-racing and alcohol.

*Chhoti Bahen* was the top movie when I saw it in Guyana. Its eight songs are all hits, but the one that tells all about love of brother for little sister is *Bhaiya Mere Rakhi Ke Bandhan Ko Nibhana*. The little sister in the dance number *Baghon Mein Baharon Mein* and Mehmood's *Main Rickshawala* are also enjoyable.

*Kabuliwala*, the 1961 movie based on the 1892 short story by Rabindranath Tagore, starred Sahni, Usha Kiran, Sajjan, Sonu, and Baby Farida.

The music is by the highly-regarded Salil Choudhury. The song *Ganga Aaye Kahaan Se* with telling words is sung by Hemant Kumar. The easily recognised song *Aye Mere Pyaare Watan* sung by Manna Dey is touching. *Ya Qurban O Saba*, sung by Mohammed Rafi, is a happy song that is sung with friends.

The last song is a must see dream song – very entertaining – with the child calling out for *Kabuliwala*, and is taken to heaven by a bird where she and her friends sing happily seeing *Kabuliwala*. The singers were Hemant Kumar, Usha Mangeshkar, Savita Banerjee, and Ranu Mukherjee.

*Waqt (Time)* topped the highest grossers list for 1965 films. It was included in the British Film Institute's list considered for its top ten of Indian films award.

The film stars an ensemble cast of Sunil Dutt, Raaj Kumar, Shashi Kapoor, Sadhana Shivdasani, Sharmila Tagore, Balraj Sahni, Achala Sachdev, Rehman, and Madan Puri. It pioneered the concept of Hindi films with ensemble casts.

The plot re-introduced the 'lost and reunite' formula to Indian films, originally featured in the 1943 Ashok Kumar-Mumtaz Shanti-starrer *Kismet*. A happy family separated by *Waqt* goes through a series of trials trying to reunite.

The film contains the songs *Hum Jab Simat Ke*, sung by Mahendra Kapoor and Asha Bhosle, and *Aage Bhi Jaane Na Tu*, which is sung by Asha Bhosle.

Sahni is perhaps best remembered for his picturisation of the legendary song *Ae Meri Zohra Jabeen*. He appeared opposite Achala Sachdev in the number. This shows Sahni in his element as a prosperous young trader and his wife, entertaining their friends in a singing session at their lavish beautiful home.

At the other end of their fate, an earthquake destroyed their property completely with everything they owned, thus the song *Waqt Se Din Aur Raat*, sung by Mohammed Rafi is very moving.

*Waqt* won five Filmfare Awards: Best Director – Yash Chopra; Best Supporting Actor – Raaj Kumar; Best Story – Akhtar Mirza; Best Dialogue – Akhtar ul Iman; and Best Cinematography (colour) – Dharam Chopra.

*Garm Hava (Hot Winds)* is a 1973 film with Sahni as the lead. The film's score was by classical musician Ustad Bahadur Khan. It featured a Qawwali, *Maula Saleem Chisti*, composed and performed by Aziz Ahmed Khan Warsi and his Warsi Brothers troupe.

The story follows the journey of Salim Mirza (Sahni), the head of the family who decides to stay back in India, his homeland, despite the rising tensions and communal clashes during partition.

*Garm Hava* beautifully captures the toll taken on individuals and families of societal change, and it remains a significant film in Indian cinema history. In this last film, Sahni's role has often been called his best performance by critics.

Sahni was also a gifted writer. His early writings were in English. Later he switched to Punjabi, and became a writer of repute in Punjabi literature in 1960, contributing many poems and short stories in magazines including the magazine *Preetlari*.

After a visit to Pakistan, he wrote *Mera Pakistani Safarnama* after a tour of the Soviet Union in 1969. This earned him the Soviet Land Nehru Award.

He also wrote his autobiography, *Meri Filmi Aatmakatha*. He was an extremely well-read and politically conscious person.

In the 1950s he inaugurated the Library and Study Centre for the underprivileged in Delhi. In 1973, he founded the Punjabi Kala Kender in Bombay, which gives away the annual Balraj Sahni Award, and which is also given by the All India Artists Association.

Sahni also did screen-writing. He wrote the 1951 movie *Baazi*, which starred Dev Anand. He was honoured by the Government of India with the Padma Shri Award in 1969.

Sahni died on April 13, 1973 of a massive cardiac arrest, at age 59. He had been depressed for some time by the untimely death of his young daughter, Shabnam, who had passed away a year earlier.

He died soon after dubbing his last film. The last line he recorded for the film is: *Insaan Kab Tak Akela Jee Sakta Hai?* Translated to English, it states, *How long can a man live alone?*



## Sandhu elated with Bridgerton role

Playing Miss Malhotra in Netflix's hit *Bridgerton* Season 3, Banita Sandhu told the Indian media last week she was on "cloud nine" following her Hollywood debut.

"It was like a dream come true. It's the biggest show on Netflix right now. I have never been on a set like that," she stated.

Additionally, "The makeup, costume, dance, and everything else felt like I was living in it. It felt so real while shooting."

Among her best moments were the episodes that were shot at locations in palaces outside of London, she said.

"The night shoots and morning hours that we were all putting in, everything was so exciting, because everyone was into it so much," she revealed.

Sandhu made her Bollywood debut with *Varun Dhawan* in October, 2019. However, she noted that she did not altogether see *Bridgerton* as a Hollywood debut.

"Even when *October* released, I did not think of it as my debut in Bollywood. I just thought of it as my first film with a learning

experience. As an actor, I really go with my heart and gut when making a decision about working with someone, it's not really a strategic move that this is my entry in the industry. That can set a lot of pressure on expectations. I am more into the on-set experiences," she stated.



Banita Sandhu

Said Sandhu, "With *Bridgerton*, I got so many comments like, 'Oh, you look so pretty!' I think in a lot of my Indian movies, I am hardly wearing makeup, and I don't look my best. This is the first time that I got all dolled up for this global thing, and that's why people are seeing that side of me as well."

She also said she wants to focus across genres, whether in Bollywood or elsewhere.

"I want to broaden my horizons into different genres. I am shooting for G2 (PAN India film) right now, which is again a huge action movie, so it will be different for the audience to see me in that kind of a role. I have done a lot of emotional dramas and I would also love to explore the comedic space," she revealed.



One of the photos Sanjay posted to Instagram

## Sanjay Dutt marks mom's birthday

Son of the legendary actress Nargis Dutt recalled her birthday on June 1, with Sanjay writing on social media that he continues to miss her "every day, every minute, every second", the Indian media, among them *NDTV*, reported last week.

Nargis was born June 1, 1929, and died on May 3, 1981 at the age of 51 after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Sanjay shared two black and white photographs on *Instagram* to mark his late mother's 95th birthday. One photograph show him and Nargis standing together; in the other, a young Nargis was dressed in a saree with a braided hairdo.

In the post, Sanjay wrote, "Happy birthday mama, I miss you every day, every minute, every second, I wish you were with me, leading the life you wanted me to and I hope I have made you proud, love you and miss you mama."

Sanjay also remembered Nargis on Mother's Day, posting another black-and-white image along with the note, "Wishing a Happy Mother's Day to the woman who taught me how to love unconditionally and live with kindness. Your spirit lives on in the love I carry in my heart, Mom. Thank you for everything, love you."

Sanjay has recently been posting photographs of his mother on *Instagram*. An earlier photograph was posted that showed a young Sanjay standing near Nargis. Two other photographs featured Nargis looking lovingly at her son.

Similarly, Sanjay wrote, "Miss you, Maa! Even though you're not here, your presence is felt in every moment. We hold you close in our



Nargis in a saree and braids

hearts and memories Maa. Love you."

Then on International Women's Day on March 8, Sanjay uploaded a video that featured photographs highlighting the important women in his life.

Among them were Nargis, sisters Priya Dutt and Namrata Dutt, wife Manyata Dutt, and daughter Trishala Dutt.

Wishing them all the best, Sanjay wrote, "Celebrating the incredible women in my life today and every day. You are my strength, my love, and my inspiration. Happy [International] Women's Day to all my loves."



Kapadia (second from right) with friends after winning the Grand Prix award

## Kapadia speaks to elitism, need for funding

Public institutes will become useless if turned into "elitist" spaces, filmmaker Payal Kapadia wrote on *Facebook* last week. At the same time, she proposed applying a tax on big budget movies that would go to building a fund to foster independent film-making.

Kapadia shared these thoughts last week in a wide-ranging and lengthy *Facebook* post, *The Hindustan Times* and other Indian media houses reported.

She recently made history by becoming the first Indian filmmaker to win the Grand Prix award at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival for *All We Imagine as Light*. The prestigious Grand Prix is the second highest prize after the *Palme d'Or*.

An alumnus of Pune-based Film and Television Institute of India, Kapadia said public institutes should always be accessible to everyone.

"Unfortunately, public institutes are becoming more and more expensive nowadays. These spaces can only remain relevant and can encourage discourse if it remains accessible to all. If it becomes an elitist space like various public universities have become over many years, it will be useless to the nation," Kapadia wrote.

She added, "There are many private institutions that are made only to maintain the *status quo* and give opportunities to the elite. A space like FTII is somewhere in-between at this point in time. We should strive for it to be even more accessible."

Kapadia also stressed that there is "significant need" for raising the quality of education at the primary education level.

She also noted that while she comes from a privileged background, there were many challenges faced by women in her family. However, they were aided in choosing their professions by having access to prestigious institutions like the J.J. School of Art and Jawaharlal Nehru University, she stated.

Kapadia's mother is Nalini Malani, who is among India's first generation of video artists. Malani works with several media that include theatre, video, and mixed media paintings and drawings.

Said Kapadia: "For me, the greatest learning was being at the Film and television Institute of India where I was a student for five years. FTII was a space where we could not only formulate our thoughts about filmmaking, but also about the world we inhabit."

She added, "Filmmaking does not exist in a vacuum. It is through debates and discussions, questions and self-reflection that we move closer to the films we choose to make."

She also noted that the FTII encourages independent thinking and diversity.

In 2015, Kapadia was one of the protesting students who went on strike to oppose actor Gajendra Chauhan's appointment as the chairperson of the FTII.

She said the students at the premier film

institute did not always agree with each other; however, they learned a lot from their differences.

"Affordable public education has been instrumental in making this possible. And it is not just FTII. If we look at films being made in our country, you will always find someone in the crew who went to a public institute – Jamia, JNU, HCU, SRFTI, K.R. Narayanan, just to name a few," she stated.

At the 77th Cannes this year, *All We Imagine as Light* was the first Indian film in 30 years, and the first ever by an Indian female director, to be showcased in main competition.

The last movie was Shaji N. Karun's *Swaham*.

Kapadia recalled many persons asked her why it took three decades for an Indian film to make it to the official line-up, a question she also posed to the selection committee.

"We should ask ourselves this as well. Why can we not support more Independent film-makers?"

At the same time, she also credited the French Public funding system that helped her make the movie.

*All We Imagine as Light* is an Indo-French co-production between Petit Chaos from France and Chalk and Cheese Films from India.

The other co-producers are Arte France Cinéma, Baldr Film, Another Birth, Les Films Fauves, and Pulpa Film.

Said Kapadia, "In France, a small tax is levied on each and every ticket sale of a film, as well as a tax levied on TV channels. From this the CNC fund is created that allows Independent producers and directors to apply for funding."

Distributors and exhibitors can also get funding to distribute films once completed, she noted.

Though she believes that charging audiences a tax would be "unfair", Kapadia proposed a tax on the profits made on "blockbuster films", saying it will help to create an Independent film fund.

"If such a system was made in our country with an autonomous body to run the fund, it would only encourage more and more Independent film-making. For a democracy to thrive, voices need to remain independent from big studios that are run by rich industrialists."

She also praised the Kerala government for starting a similar kind of fund that "supports female filmmakers as well as filmmakers from under-represented castes".

Additionally, "I think this is the need of the hour. I know that a lot of well-meaning individuals in the film industry have started their own production houses. But they only support filmmakers they know. There should be some autonomous system with representation that could give opportunities to filmmakers even if they know no one in the film industry."

And governments should only be involved as facilitators in the funding process, she said.



ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Points Table (as of June 4)							
Group A: USA; CAN; IND; IRE: PAK							
Group B: AUS; ENG; NAM; OMA; SCOT							
Group C: AFG; NZ; PNG; UGA; WI							
Group D: BAN; NEP; NED; SA; SL							
GROUP A							
TEAM	M	W	L	T	N/R	PT	NRR
USA	1	1	0	0	0	2	1.451
CAN	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1.451
IND	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PAK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GROUP B							
AUS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ENG	1	0	0	0	1	1	-
NAM	1	1	0	0	0	2	-
OMA	1	0	1	0	0	0	-
SCOT	1	0	0	0	1	1	-
GROUP C							
WI	1	1	0	0	0	2	0.411
PNG	1	0	1	0	0	0	-0.411
AFG	1	1	0	0	0	2	6.250
NZ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UGA	1	0	1	0	0	0	-6.250
GROUP D							
BAN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEP	1	0	1	0	0	0	0.539
NED	1	1	0	0	0	2	-0.539
SA	1	1	0	0	0	2	1.048
SL	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1.048
ICC Men's T20 WC 2024							
Upcoming matches - (All times local)							
Match #8 Wed, 5 Jun; IND vs IRE							
Venue: New York, USA; Start 10:30 am							
Match #9 Wed, 5 Jun; PNG vs UGA							
Venue: Providence, Guyana; Start 7:30 pm							
Match #10 Wed, 5 Jun; AUS vs OMA							
Venue: Bridgetown, Barbados; Start 8:30 pm							
Match #11 Thu, 6 Jun; USA vs PAK							
Venue: Dallas, Texas; Start 11:30 am							
Match #12 Thu, 6 Jun; NAM vs SCOT							
Venue: Bridgetown, Barbados; Start 3:00 pm							
Match #13 Fri, 7 Jun; CAN vs IRE							
Venue: New York, USA; Start 10:30 am							
Match #14 Fri, 7 Jun; AFG vs NZ							
Venue: Providence, Guyana; Start 7:30 pm							
Match #15 Fri, 7 Jun; BAN vs SL							
Venue: Dallas, Texas; Start 8:30 pm							
Match #16 Sat, 8 Jun; NED vs SA							
Venue: New York, USA; Start 10:30 am							
Match #17 Sat, 8 Jun; AUS vs ENG							
Venue: Bridgetown, Barbados; Start 1:00 pm							
Match #18 Sat, 8 Jun; WI vs UGA							
Venue: Providence, Guyana; Start 8:30 pm							
Match #19 Sun, 9 Jun; IND vs PAK							
Venue: New York, USA; Start 10:30 am							
Match #20 Sun, 9 Jun; OMA vs SCOT							
Venue: North Sound, Antigua; Start 1:00 pm							
Match #21 Mon, 10 Jun; BAN vs SA							
Venue: New York, USA; Start 10:30 am							
Match #22 Tues, 11 Jun; CAN vs PAK							
Venue: New York, USA; Start 10:30 am							
Match #23 Tues, 11 Jun; NEP vs SL							
Venue: Lauderhill, Florida; Start 7:30 pm							
Match #24 Tues, 11 Jun; AUS vs NAM							
Venue: North Sound, Antigua; Start 8:30 pm							
Match #25 Wed, 12 Jun; USA vs IND							
Venue: New York, USA; Start 10:30 am							
Match #26 Wed, 12 Jun; WI vs NZ							
Venue: Tarouba, Trinidad; Start 8:30 pm							
Match #27 Thu, 13 Jun; BAN vs NED							
Venue: Kingstown, St Vincent; Start 10:30 am							
Match #28 Thu, 13 Jun; ENG vs OMA							
Venue: North Sound, Antigua; Start 3:00 pm							
Match #29 Thu, 13 Jun; AFG vs PNG							
Venue: Tarouba, Trinidad; Start 8:30 pm							
Match #30 Fri, 14 Jun; USA vs IRE							
Venue: Lauderhill, Florida; Start 10:30 am							
Match #31 Fri, 14 Jun; NEP vs SA							
Venue: Kingstown, St Vincent; Start 7:30 pm							
Match #32 Fri, 14 Jun; NZ vs UGA							
Venue: Tarouba, Trinidad; Start 8:30 pm							
Match #33 Sat, 15 Jun; CAN vs IND							
Venue: Lauderhill, Florida; Start 10:30 am							
Match #34 Sat, 15 Jun; ENG vs NAM							
Venue: North Sound, Antigua; Start 1:00 pm							
Match #35 Sat, 15 Jun; AUS vs SCOT							
Venue: Gros Islet, St Lucia; Start 8:30 pm							

# Windies need to shift into more powerful gear

**Georgetown** – West Indies will need to shift into a more powerful gear to get all its cylinders firing come their second match of the ICC T20 World Cup. The need for speed came following a jerky win over Papua New Guinea in their opening Group C match on June 2.

Chasing a rather modest total of 137 for victory at Providence Stadium in Guyana, West Indies lost wickets regularly, and at one time were likely looking at PNG in the rear view mirror after almost stalling at 97 for 5 after 16 overs.

However, Roston Chase and Andre Russell both stepped on the gas to pick up the momentum with a 40-run unbroken partnership. Eventually, the West Indies picked up speed to win by five wickets.

“Yes, definitely [it was a tough game]. Credit has to be given to PNG,” said West Indies captain Rovman Powell following the match.

He added, “I think their plans were simple and they played some good cricket. It’s important to get two points; it’s important to start well, and that is what we did.”

However, Powell acknowledged that West Indies must improve as the tournament progresses.

“I think we can be better in all three departments. We have seen this team play some very good cricket. [June 2], I would not say it was an off day, but we weren’t quite up to the straps of the level we want to play. I think we are 60-70 percent there... Hopefully we can correct that for the second game,” he stated.

West Indies face Uganda at Providence on June 8 at 8.30 p.m. With West Indies needing 40 runs off 24 deliveries, PNG would have been hoping to pull off an upset over the two-time World Cup winners. But Chase, with a strong showing in last month’s three-match series against South Africa, had other ideas, and struck a composed unbeaten 42 off 27 balls.

Three boundaries in the 18th over by Chase off PNG skipper



Alzarri Joseph finds a resonant timbre as Sese Bau fails to defend the timber during their T20 match on June 2

Assad Vala helped get the chase back on track. He hit two fours and one six, and by the end of the 18th over, the equation was simply 13 runs needed off 12 balls.

West Indies made the win look comfortable in the end, getting to 137/5 in 19 overs. Russell was 15 not out, off 14 deliveries. And despite conceding 18 runs in the 18th over, Vala was the best bowler for PNG with 2/28 in four overs.

West Indies got their innings off to the worst possible start when Johnson Charles was given out leg before in the first ball of the second over without scoring. It could have been two wickets down early on, but PNG chose not to review a leg-before decision that would have sent Nicholas Pooran back to the pavilion for zero.

Rain interrupted play for 20 minutes when West Indies were 8/1 after 1.4 overs.

When the game resumed, opener Brandon King played aggressively, racing to 24 off 13 balls with all his runs coming in fours. At the other end, Pooran did not look himself as he took 16 balls to get his first boundary.

He came into the World Cup in scintillating form, cracking 499 runs in the 2024 Indian Premier League for Lucknow Super Giants at an average of over 60. In the sixth over, Pooran struck Sese Bau for three consecutive boundaries as West Indies went past 50.

However, a couple tight overs followed, and Pooran, attempting to increase the scoring rate, was caught at long on by Tony Ura to give spinner John Kariko the wicket. Pooran’s 27 off 27 balls included one four and two sixes.

As pressure built up, King was caught at deep mid-wicket for 34 off 29 balls (with seven fours), attempting to clear the boundary. He did not execute the shot properly, as one hand came off the bat.

Powell (15) and Sherfane Rutherford (two) then both fell cheaply as PNG began liking their chances. However Chase and Russell went on to topple their hopes for the win.

# Watch Men’s T20 World Cup games at Cineplex

**Toronto** – Cricket fans across Canada are in for a treat as Cineplex, Willow TV, and Ethnicity Matters come together to present the live screenings of select ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2024 matches. The matches will be shown in 19 cities, bringing the excitement of international cricket to the big screen.

“Cineplex is thrilled to bring cricket fans together to see the matches on the big screen with big sound. Fans can cheer on their favourite teams from the best seats in the house, close to home,” said Matt DeVuono, Executive Director, Event Cinema at Cineplex.

Cineplex is a top-tier Canadian brand that operates in the film entertainment and content, amusement and leisure, and media sectors. It offers a unique escape from the everyday to millions of guests through its circuit of over 170 movie theatres and location-based entertainment venues.

It is also recognised as having one of Canada’s most admired corporate cultures, and employs over 10,000 people in its offices and venues across Canada.

The upcoming edition of the International Cricket Council MeO’s T20 World Cup 2024 is now on, and will end on June 29 in the US and the Caribbean.

The Canada’s Men’s National Team will be participating in the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2024 for the first time, and have been grouped with India, Pakistan, Ireland, and the US in Group A.

The ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2024 match screenings will focus on Group A match-ups, and include live screenings of the semifinals and championship final on June 29.

“We are thrilled to bring the action of the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2024 to cricket enthusiasts in Canada. This collaboration with Cineplex and Ethnicity Matters allows us to offer an unparalleled viewing experience,” said Willow TV’s Anurag Bahl, Director - Business Strategy, Partnerships & Revenue.

Willow TV is the premier broadcaster of cricket in North America, bringing fans the best of international and domestic cricket.

The landscape of Canadian sports is evolving, with cricket emerging as a major contender. Boasting a dedicated fan base of over three million, and engaging 300,000 participants nationwide, cricket is now played in all of Canada’s ten provinces.

This growth mirrors the multicultural vibrancy of the country, as communities come together to celebrate their shared pas-

sion for the game. Cineplex’s screenings of the ICC Men’s T20 2024 World Cup matches underscore this momentum, bringing the thrill of world-class cricket to audiences across Canada.

“Our goal has always been to celebrate diversity and connect communities through shared experiences. This initiative with Cineplex and Willow TV brings the cricket community together, fostering a sense of unity and excitement. Cricket fans love to watch the big matches together and the screening opportunities provide another chance to enjoy collectively,” said Howard Lichtman, Partner and Co-Founder at Ethnicity Matters.

The group is a full-service agency built for a multicultural world connecting leading brands.

Screening Schedule (all times in ET)	
June 1 - Canada vs. USA, 8:30 PM	
June 9 - India vs. Pakistan, 10:30 AM	
June 11 - Canada vs. Pakistan, 10:30 AM	
June 15 - Canada vs. India, 10:30 AM	
June 16 - Ireland vs. Pakistan, 10:30 AM	
June 26 - Semifinal 1, 8:30 PM	
June 27 - Semifinal 2, 10:30 AM	
June 29 - Championship Final, 10:00 AM	Participating Theatres
Cineplex Cinemas Strawberry Hill, Surrey, BC	
Cineplex Cinemas Langley, Langley, BC	
Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver, Vancouver, BC	
SilverCity Riverport Cinemas, Richmond, BC	
Cineplex Cinemas Coquitlam and VIP, Coquitlam, BC	
Scotiabank Theatre Winnipeg, Winnipeg, MB	
Cineplex Odeon Sunridge Spectrum Cinemas, Calgary, AB	
Cineplex Odeon South Edmonton Cinemas, Edmonton, AB	
Scotiabank Theatre Halifax, Halifax, NS	
Cineplex Cinemas Fairview Mall, Toronto, ON	
Cineplex Cinemas Courtney Park, Mississauga, ON	
Cineplex Cinemas Winston Churchill and VIP, Oakville, ON	
Cineplex Cinemas Yonge-Dundas and VIP, Toronto, ON	
Cineplex Odeon Eglinton Town Centre Cinemas, Scarborough, ON	
SilverCity Richmond Hill Cinemas, Richmond Hill, ON	
Cineplex Cinemas Vaughan, Woodbridge, ON	
SilverCity Brampton Cinemas, Brampton, ON	
Cineplex Cinemas Mississauga, Mississauga, ON	
Cinéma Cineplex Forum and VIP, Montreal, QC.	





Bernadine Bezuidenhout

Bezuidenhout leaves international game

New Zealand wicketkeeper Bernadine Bezuidenhout last week announced her retirement from international cricket, the cricket website ESPNcricinfo reported.

Bezuidenhout played four ODIs and seven T20Is for South Africa before switching over to New Zealand. Her tenure with New Zealand saw her in 16 ODIs and 22 T20Is.

“It’s been such a great ride,” Bezuidenhout said in making the announcement via a New Zealand Cricket statement.

She added, “Playing for the White Ferns has been a huge privilege and honour, and it has left me with the fondest memories. The journey has taught me so much and I’ll be forever grateful to everyone who has been on the path with me.”

Bezuidenhout made her international debut for South Africa in 2014. She relocated to Christchurch in 2015, and was first picked for New Zealand in early 2018 after the expiration of a two-year residential stand-down in August 2017.

She played the T20 World Cup later that year, where New Zealand were knocked out in the league stage.

She was later diagnosed with Relative Energy Deficiency in Sport (RED-S), and was out of the game for two years, making a comeback on New Zealand’s squad for the T20 World Cup

Brits returns to SA’s squad for India tour

Top-order batter Tazmin Brits is set for a return after being included in the 16-member squad for South Africa’s upcoming tour of India, the cricket website Cricbuzz, and the international media, reported last week. The tour kicks off on June 16.

Brits had a knee surgery in April, and will undergo a fitness test before the team’s departure. The test will determine the extent of her participation in the multi-format tour comprising three ODIs, as many T20Is, and a one-off Test that has been sandwiched between.

The three ODIs will kick-start the tour in Bengaluru, and are all part of the ICC Women’s ODI Championship 2022-2025.

Meanwhile, South Africa will be without Lara Goodall, who is out with a minor hamstring injury. Also among the contracted players not on the team are Chloe Tryon, out with her back, and Ayanda Hlubi, who is recovering from a groin injury.

However, their participation have not entirely been ruled out, with the selectors yet to announce the squad for the tour-concluding T20I leg to take place in Chennai.

The otherwise experienced squad features the return of SA Emerging all-rounder Nondumiso Shangase, who has been recalled after Bangladesh tour in December 2023. Additionally,

in 2023.

She has since founded the non-profit, social enterprise The EPIC Sports Project Charitable Trust, which aims to use sport to inspire hope and belonging in young people in high-deprivation communities and break barriers to participation in sport.

As she stated, “I’m at peace with this decision, but it wasn’t an easy one to make. I’ve struggled to find a balance between my work and playing career for a while now, and after a lot of thought and reflection, I feel that it is the right time to pivot and put my full focus on The EPIC Sports Project.”

Bezuidenhout played five of New Zealand’s six white-ball games at home against England earlier this year, before being ruled out due to a hamstring injury in the final ODI.

“I want to thank Bernie for the contributions she has made to the White Ferns on the field, and for the caring qualities she brought to the group off the field,” said Ben Sawyer, New Zealand’s head coach.

He added, “We’re proud of the work that Bernie does outside of cricket, and I have no doubt she will continue to make a positive impact on the lives of many.”

Bezuidenhout will continue to play domestic cricket for Northern Districts.

wicketkeeper Mieke de Ridder also will be in the line-up for a comeback after missing the recent tour against Sri Lanka due to a hand injury.

“So far, preparation has been great. We had a big focus on options against spin, and it was good to see the buy-in from the team,” said interim head coach, Dillon du Preez.

He also noted new management was involved, which would be a great opportunity “for them to find their feet before we come back and start our preparation for the World Cup”

He added, “The key for us would be to assess the conditions as soon as possible, be calm under pressure, and try and play key moments in the game better than the opposition. We all know a series against India in India will always be tough. Looking at our previous series against Sri Lanka, as a team we agreed that we need to improve, and be more consistent in our overall execution.”

Before departing for India on June 8, the selected squad will undergo a four-day pre-tour camp in Tshwane.

**SA ODI and Test Squad:** Laura Wolvaardt, Anneke Bosch, Tazmin Brits, Nadine de Klerk, Annerie Dercksen, Mieke de Ridder, Sinalo Jafta, Marizanne Kapp, Ayabonga Khaka, Masabata Klaas, Sune Luus, Eliz-Mari Marx, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Tumi Sekhukhune, Nondumiso Shangase, and Delmi Tucker.



Tazmin Brits

Upcoming Cricket Tours

- New Zealand women in England (June-July 2024)
- India in Zimbabwe (July 2024)
- West Indies in England (July 2024)
- Namibia & Oman in Scotland (July 2024)
- Zimbabwe in Ireland (July 2024)
- South Africa in West Indies (July-August 2024)
- Sri Lanka women in Ireland (August 2024)
- Sri Lanka in England (August-September 2024)
- England women in Ireland (September 2024)
- Australia in England (September 2024)
- Ireland vs South Africa (in UAE) (Sept.-October 2024)
- ICC Women’s T20 World Cup (Oct. 2024, Bangladesh)
- England in West Indies (October-November 2024)
- Pakistan in Australia (November 2024)
- Bangladesh in West Indies (November-December 2024)
- India in Australia (November 2024-January 2025)
- England women in South Africa (November-December 2024)
- Sri Lanka in South Africa (November-December 2024)
- England in New Zealand (November-December 2024)
- Pakistan in South Africa (December 2024-January 2025)
- Women’s Ashes: England in Australia (January-February 2025)

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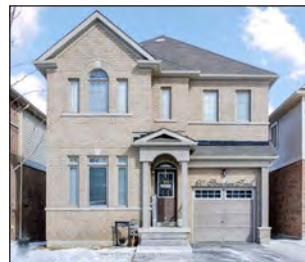
## Mississauga For Sale \$740,000

Location! Location!  
Location! Welcome to this beautifully well-kept 3 bedroom townhouse in the highly sought after neighbourhood of Malton. Home features large living and good-sized dining room. Large kitchen with stainless steel appliances & granite countertops. Walkout to your fully-fenced private backyard. Upstairs features 3 good-sized bedrooms and updated bathroom. Lower level features recreation room with additional storage area and walkout to your private garage. Close proximity to highways, public transit, Go, Westwood Mall, schools, library, airport, park, and community centre.



## Beeton For Sale \$1,139,000

Location! Location!  
Location! Welcome to this lovely 4 bedroom, full brick home. This premium lot boasts a beautiful walk-out with patio, brand new glass façade deck above, both outdoor spaces providing an unobstructed view of the Beeton Creek. Hardwood throughout, freshly upgraded oak stairs with iron pickets, new light fixtures, open-concept kitchen with custom backsplash, quartz counters & breakfast bar, rough-in for central vac as well as three piece basement rough-in & an extended driveway.



## Pickering Condo For Rent \$2,800

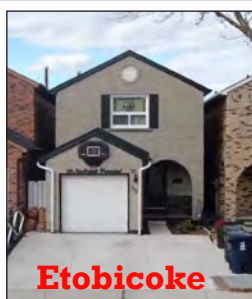
Location! Location! Location! Step into the world of modern elegance with this exquisite 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom home for lease in one of Pickering's new vibrant neighbourhoods. This unit boasts an updated, open-concept living space, perfect for entertaining and relaxation. The kitchen shines with stainless steel appliances and sleek design. Unit features beautiful wraparound balcony with extravagant views. Nestled in a desirable neighbourhood, this home provides unparalleled access to local schools, shopping, and entertainment options. The proximity to Pickering GO Station makes commuting a breeze, while Farm Boy and Pickering Town Centre are just a short walk away. Highway 401 access further enhances your connectivity to the greater Toronto area. Seize the opportunity to be part of this vibrant community. This brand-new unit is more than just a home; it's a gateway to a lifestyle of convenience, luxury, and charm! Don't miss out!!



## For Sale \$999,900

Family Friendly  
Neighbourhood,  
Walking  
Distance  
To Schools  
& Parks.

**SOLD  
\$350,100  
OVER  
ASKING  
PRICE**



**Etobicoke**

## Ajax For Sale \$949,000

Location! Location! Location!  
Welcome to this BRAND NEW, NEVER LIVED IN modern 3 story 3 bedroom 3 bathroom townhouse in a highly sought-after neighbourhood in Ajax. The main floor beckons with its open-concept design, guiding you to a spacious second floor featuring a generous kitchen and breakfast area that overlooks the combined living and dining room. This seamlessly flows to a walk-out balcony, the third floor features 2 adequately-sized bedrooms with a large primary bedroom with 4 piece ensuite.



## Richmond & Jarvis Downtown Toronto Condo For Sale \$598,990

Location! Location! Location!  
Bright & spacious 1 bed 1 bath corner suite located in the rarely available prestigious French quarters. The residence features a functional open concept layout boasting 9' ceilings. The spacious living room seamlessly transitions to a breathtaking private balcony overlooking quiet courtyard. Building features world class amenities; spectacular roof top garden with BBQ, gym, party room, lounge/library suites. Steps from the St Lawrence Market, distillery, and financial district.



  
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**If you fail to plan, then  
you're planning to fail.**

**Abdool Saheed**  
Financial Advisor  
Cell: 416-731-7527

## CityPointe Heights starting @ High 400s

Located at The Gore Road and Queen St E., CityPointe Heights is a new condominium community connected to three of the GTA's most beloved cities. Your favourite - and soon-to-be favourite - Brampton, Toronto, and Vaughan locations are very close to home. Discover two of the fastest growing cities in the Greater Toronto Area, and why with each passing year, they have more to offer.



## Essa For Lease \$2,995

Beautiful 4 bedrooms, 4 washrooms, 2 storey home located in the quiet neighbourhood of Angus. Minutes to Barrie. Open concept main floor w/ walkout to fenced backyard. Finished basement with rec room, full washroom & laundry area. Large driveway w/ 4 parking spots. Walking distance to trails & parks. Stainless steel apps, recently upgraded w/ pot-lights & led lighting & much more. All light fixtures, fridge, stove, dishwasher, washer & dryer, central air-conditioning, hot water tank, furnace, & garage door opener.



**LEASED**

**SOLD FOR \$160K  
OVER ASKING!**

**\$949,000**

A Beautiful Open Concept Renovation - 3 bedroom, 4 washrooms, Detached Home in York. Huge Backyard. Conveniently Located Within Walking Distance To amenities and schools. Extremely Close Proximity to Public Transit! A Great Place to Call Home.

## Narrative Condos

**STARTING  
FROM LOW \$300s**

It all begins at 7437 Kingston Road - a unique project set against the backdrop of both nature and the city. Located on Kingston Road, adjacent to Rouge and Port Union, The Narrative offers the perfect balance of nearby green space, a diverse and welcoming community, nearby amenities, and easy access to the heart of Toronto via the 401.

  
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