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# INDO CARIBBEAN WORLD

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## Our Community Is Thriving!



Brampton was energised with anticipation on May 11 when the City held a send-off for our ICC T20 Men's World Cup Tournament hopefuls, Team Canada. The event saw Brampton South MP Sonia Sidhu (at left), and Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown (left of the ICC World Cup trophy), players, and cricket fans in attendance. See story on Page 4.



We extend greetings to Chanderdai Lakhan, who celebrated her 100th birthday on March 9 with family and friends. Her story of arrivals and departures is on Page 14.



World class cricketers stand with youthful players, PMCF leaders, and well-wishers at the launch of the inaugural cancer fund-raiser, Cricket to Conquer Cancer, which takes place in Mississauga on May 31

## Cricketers come out to bat in PMCF fund-raiser

**Toronto** – In a move that is seeing the game of cricket hit new boundaries in Canada, the Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation earlier this month unveiled a ground-breaking initiative and fund-raiser, Cricket to Conquer Cancer.

With its objective to become North America's premier street cricket fund-raiser, the inaugural Cricket to Conquer Cancer event is aiming to build up an innings that would put much-needed funds on its scoreboard.

Funds raised from this event will go to support The

Princess Margaret, the largest comprehensive cancer centre in Canada, and one of the top five centres in the world.

"By combining a global passion for street cricket with a desire to live in a world free from the fear of cancer, this inaugural event promises to not only generate critical funds for cancer research, but also foster a sense of community," a release from PMCF stated.

The game's potential for inclusive national and community

See Page 5: Top cricketers

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May is Freedom of the Press Month and the National Ethnic Press marked Freedom of the Press Day on May 10 by recognising members of the press who keep their communities informed. The event also paid tribute to journalists jailed abroad, and who are prohibited from returning to homelands due to their work in exposing corruption. Held at City Hall, this year five publications were recognised for their perseverance to the craft, and for unwavering commitment to the truth. In photo with the award winners are (at extreme right) Tony Ruprecht, former MPP and the evening's host; second from right is Thomas Saras, NEP President; and in the back row, second from right, is Maria Saras-Voutsinas, Executive Director of the NEP. Photo by Ricky Castellvi.

WF walkathon a step in the right direction

Toronto – In a move that is a step in the right direction for prostate cancer awareness and men’s health, the Walnut Foundation will be walking the talk come June 1 when it holds its annual ‘Walk the Path’ walkathon.

Deploying its commitment to its watchwords, passion, compassion, and action, the ten kilometre event will hit the road at the Etobicoke Creek Trail in Brampton from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Etobicoke Creek Trail is located at 30 Loafers Lake Lane at Sandalwood Parkway and Conestoga Drive in Brampton.

With the annual event and fund-raiser in its tenth year, the WF also issued the call to our community to come out and join the charity walk on the morning of June 1.

Also, the call was made for community members to support a walkathon participant with a donation to the group. This year the WF’s fund-raising goal is \$100,000; at this time, it has acquired almost 40 percent of its target.

The funds go to raising awareness through direct education, providing support to men who are newly-diagnosed and are in treatment for prostate cancer, and in advocating for improved access to free PSA testing.

As WF’s President, Anthony Henry noted, “This will enable

us to continue the work we are doing to engage and to educate our community about our higher risk for prostate cancer, and death from prostate cancer.”

The data show that Black men are 2.2 times as likely to die from prostate cancer; also, that 76 percent are more likely to contract the disease.

Henry also noted that participation in the walkathon had seen “a marked increase in attendance since the last walkathon in June 2023: 20 to 30 men per session versus 12 to 15 per session prior”.

He also indicated there has been a build-up in momentum with community participation in the WF’s outreach, revealing that approximately 300 men had tested for prostate cancer in the past eight months.

“This could be a game changer for prostate cancer screening in Ontario,” he stated.

He also declared that participation in the walkathon, and online donations, would see continued joint collaboration with Princess Margaret Hospital in running mobile clinics in Black communities to screen for prostate cancer. Click here to donate to the walkathon and the WF. Also, see display on Page 18.



On the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, Bhavani Shankar Mandir and the Hindu community of Brampton performed an auspicious Bhumi puja to consecrate the space for the mandir’s forthcoming 51-foot Shivji murti. The murti will arrive in 2025. Meanwhile, a Darshan of a smaller version of Shivji is now in its holy space. Spiritual Leader of Bhawani Shankar Mandir Pt Hardat Ashwar officiated at the Bhumi puja, which consecrated the spot where the sacred murti will reside. In attendance were Guyana Consulate, Toronto, Honorary Consul Mani Singh, and Pt Bhoj Sharma from Vishnu Mandir. Also in attendance were over 200 devotees, pandits, and many friends of the mandir and the diaspora. In photos, above right, are Pt Bhoj (left to right), Pt Ashwar, and Honorary Consul Mani Singh; top left, devotees and Pt Ashwar pose with the smaller Shivji murti; and at bottom left, Pt Ashwar and Singh during the sacred Bhumi puja consecration.



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# Brampton hosts eventful send-off for Team Canada to T20 tournament

**Brampton** – The City of Brampton was the site for an eventful send-off on May 11 when residents and well-wishers gathered to support Team Canada as it prepares for the upcoming ICC T20 Men's World Cup Tournament.

The world class tournament takes place from June 1 to June 29 in the Caribbean and the US.

The Brampton event also saw residents and cricket fans meeting up with top Team Canada players, among them Jeremy Gordon, Nicholas Kirton, Rayyan Khan Pathan, Saad Bin Zafar, Aaron Orlando Johnson, Dilpreet Singh Bajwa, Rabbjyot Rajput, Saniyah Zia, and Achini Perera.

Also standing out among the highlights that energised Ken Whillans Square were many cricket fans taking photos alongside the prestigious T20 World Cup trophy. The trophy was made available after the City of Brampton partnered with the International Cricket Council and Cricket Canada to bring it to the cricket capital of Canada.

“As the cricket capital of Canada, Brampton is honoured to partner with the International Cricket Council in bringing the T20 World Cup Trophy to our city. This event not only showcases our love for cricket, but also celebrates the diversity and unity within our community,” said Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown in a media release.

At the same time, he called on the community to “embrace the excitement of the upcoming ICC T20 Men's World Cup Tournament”, while declaring, “Let's rally behind our team and as they go for gold!”

General Manager of Cricket Canada Ingleton Liburd was similarly enthused.

“Cricket Canada is thrilled that Team Canada has secured its spot in the ICC T20 World Cup, a testament to their hard work and dedication. We are incredibly proud of our team's achievement as they look forward to representing our nation on the world stage,” he stated.

Additionally, “As we embark on this historic journey, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Brampton for hosting the ICC Trophy, and for their unwavering support. We invite everyone to join us in cheering on our national team this summer as we strive for victory!”

Brampton is home to a population of close to 700,000 and over 100,000 businesses. Energised by its diverse communities, Brampton remains focused on its commitment to building a healthy city that is safe, sustainable, and successful.



In photos are MP Sidhu (top photo at left, second from right) with Mayor Brown (centre), with guests and players



Among its cricket highlights is the commitment in its 2024 Budget to invest \$8 million in cricket infrastructure and programming.

Also, starting July 2, the City will kick off the first-ever Youth Cricket League. In this project, youths between the ages six to 15 will be encouraged to learn a new sport, and improve their cricket skills this summer. The objective is to encourage them to get active, lead healthy lifestyles, and experience the power of sport.

Brampton is also home to 19 cricket sites, and is growing. Its cricket amenities host 42 unique seasonal organisations, tournaments, and individuals that book over 14,000 hours of field time.

During the summer of 2023, the city hosted the GT20 Tournament that welcomed some of the top international cricket players, and some of the biggest names in the game.

Also, the City Lands project is a proposed redevelopment of the municipal-owned site at Kennedy Road South, Highway 410 and 407, at the CAA sports and entertainment facility that includes a new state-of-the-art, multi-purpose

cricket facility.

Attending the May 11 event was Brampton South MP Sonia Sidhu. Following the event, her posts to social media declared, “Cricket is not just a sport, it's a passion that brings us all together. Today we gathered to send our best wishes to the Canadian Men's Cricket Team heading to the T20 World Cup. Thank you to all the dedicated coaches, players, and team members for representing our country on an international level. Go team Canada!”

And speaking with the community media, Team Canada captain, Saad Bin Zafar said he

was excited and thrilled to play in the T20 World Cup for Canada.

“It's finally happening; my dream of playing in the World Cup is coming true. Being a captain and a leader is a position of privilege,” he told the community media.

Zafar added, “I'm super-happy, super-excited. I look forward to a lot more, and better things in cricket in the future. I'm feeling really positive. I think finally things are working for us.”

Team Canada's opening match will take place on June 1 against the US.



T20 World Cup trophy in Brampton earlier this month

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# Top cricketers in Mississauga fund-raiser for PMCF cancer research

From Page 1

involvement, and its rising popularity as a Canadian sport was noted by the PMCF's leaders.

"Cricket is becoming one of Canada's most popular sports," said Steve Merker, Vice President of Corporate and Community Partnerships at the PMCF.

Merker added, "This inaugural event, a first of its kind in North America, aims to raise substantial funds for the Cancer Center while inspiring thousands of new supporters to take on our vision to Conquer Cancer in our Lifetime."

The inaugural Cricket to Conquer Cancer event will be hosted on May 31 in Mississauga. It will see dozens of co-ed teams made up of rookies, ringers, celebrities, and players of all ages and skill levels pitching in with bat and ball during the dawn-to dusk tournament.

It will also see national and international cricket stars playing alongside and against participants. These top players have also communicated their growing enthusiasm and delight to support the initiative.

"I am thrilled to witness cricket's growing popularity in Canada – a testament to its welcoming and multicultural community. It truly is a global sport," said Carlos Brathwaite.

A world class cricketer, Brathwaite led the West Indies team in 30 of his 41 T20 International matches, and is also the 2023 Global T20 Canada champion.

He added, "We all have a personal connection to cancer; me included. One thing that kept my mum going through her cancer treatment was her constant smile and positive outlook. I look forward to making this event a celebration for survivors, and an inspiration for

all those during their journey."

Brathwaite has spoken in the past about his mother, Joycelyn, and her battle with breast cancer. As the international media have reported, he revealed his mother's challenges with cancer ahead of Jane McGrath Day during the Sydney Test when West Indies toured Australia in 2016.

Jane McGrath was the wife of Australia fast bowling legend Glenn McGrath. She died of cancer in 2008. The third day of the first Sydney Test cricket match at the Sydney Cricket Ground each year is now known as Jane McGrath Day. The day is a fund-raiser for the McGrath Foundation, a charitable organisation dedicated to cancer and its awareness.

Here in Canada, cancer is the leading cause of death, with two in five Canadians diagnosed with the illness in their lifetime; it is also the second leading cause of death around the world.

Funds raised from the Mississauga event will accelerate cancer research, education, and the clinical care that are underway at The Princess Margaret.

"The effects from this fund-raiser will know no bounds," said Dr. Amit Oza, Head of the Division of Medical Oncology & Hematology at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre.

Additionally, "Funds raised by our passionate community of participants help lead to the breakthroughs that will help patients here in Canada and around the world. As a cricket enthusiast myself, I am delighted we can celebrate this amazing sport while creating a global impact on cancer research."

[Click here for more event information, or to register for Cricket to Conquer Cancer.](#)



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**Editorial**

## Caribbean road safety

An alarming 14 road deaths occurred in Jamaica in the week that ended on May 17. Among the fatalities were four children between 12 to 15 years of age; also among the tragic deaths were five pedestrians, three drivers of private vehicles, two passengers in commercial vehicles, and two passengers using public transit.

As the *Jamaica Observer* noted last week, these terrible deaths “forced the National Road Safety Council to convene a meeting in an effort to come up with measures to stem the carnage”.

The available statistics for road fatalities in Jamaica are far from reassuring. As the *Jamaica Observer* reported, the latest statistics released on May 17 by the Road Safety Unit reveal that 161 people have been killed in 138 fatal crashes for the year so far.

The RSU also noted that road fatalities in Jamaica have increased by one percent, while fatal crashes are down by five percent when compared to the corresponding period in 2023. And as is normally the case, males account for the majority of the fatalities with 86 percent, compared to 14 percent for females.

It is a similar narrative of tragedy on Guyana’s roads. On May 13, five persons died in a horrific road accident on the Soesdyke-Linden Highway. And as happened with Jamaica, the tragedy and its carnage similarly triggered national mourning and ongoing discourse on road safety.

As Guyana’s Ministry of Home Affairs has reported, road fatalities increased from 99 in 2022 to 175 in 2023 (an increase of 76.8 percent). Also noted was an alarming trend in the high rate of motorcycle fatalities, which increased in 2023 by 166.7 percent over the 2022 figure.

In the case of Trinidad and Tobago, its road fatalities increased by eight percent, from 86 in 2022 to 93 in 2023. Last month saw 32 road deaths recorded so far, compared to 28, for the corresponding time the year before.

Also, this nation’s police service has cautioned drivers and pedestrians to exercise greater caution and alertness on the roads. In an update, the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service’s Traffic & Highway Patrol Branch, Roadway Surveillance Unit, said that ten pedestrian deaths were recorded during March to mid-April, accounting for 59 percent of road traffic deaths at the time for 2024.

Meanwhile, global figures indicate that the annual number of road traffic deaths fell slightly to 1.19 million per year, according to the latest WHO global status report on road safety 2023. According to the report, two road deaths occur per minute, and over 3,200 per day across the globe.

Also, the WHO report stated that since 2010, road traffic deaths have fallen by five percent to 1.19 million annually. It adds that road crashes remain a persistent global health crisis, with pedestrians, cyclists, and other vulnerable road users facing an acute and rising risk of death.

There was also notable and reassuring developments among UN member states, the WHO report revealed. As it stated, 108 countries reported a drop in road traffic-related deaths between 2010 and 2021.

However, what was quite notable and reassuring were that ten nations succeeded in reducing road traffic deaths by over 50 percent, among them Trinidad and Tobago.

It is illustrative for us to note within our diaspora here in Canada that we remain vigilant about crime when traveling to our Caribbean homelands.

At the same time, we must also pay attention to our safety while on the roads back home. Also, it is worthwhile to know the government of Canada issues road safety cautions via its travel advice and advisories on its official website on nations as Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and many others.

For example, the Canadian government’s travel advice on road safety in Barbados cautions visitors about roundabouts; in the case of Guyana, visitors are told that road conditions and road safety are poor; roads are poorly lit; drivers do not respect traffic laws; drinking and driving are prevalent; and roaming livestock pose a further hazard.

While we mourn with families in the region that have lost loved ones on the roads, it is important that our diaspora exercises vigilance during visits to our homelands.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of this publication.  
Letters to be published will be edited where necessary.  
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## Ensuring fair and equal access to the right to vote

Canada is a diverse nation, built by people from a variety of cultures and religions. A fundamental aspect of being Canadian is an assurance of fair and equal access to our democratic institutions, including access to voting in an election.

A Canadian’s cultural or religious observance should not be conflicted with our right to vote and overall participate in the democratic process. Therefore, ensuring that general elections are not held on major cultural or religious dates of significance is vital to ensure that the principles of multiculturalism are upheld, strengthened, and respected.

In 2022, the municipal elections in Ontario were set by legislation to be held on Monday, October 24. This date was also Diwali.

At that time, the Indo-Caribbean Canadian Association called on the Ontario government to amend the election date of the 2022 Municipal Elections due to this conflict with Diwali. We predicted that this would be a barrier to many Canadians to access and participate in the democratic process, and there be respect for the province’s diversity.

There was precedent in Ontario for moving an election date to ensure that the province’s diversity is respected, and that all citizens can participate and practice their democratic right to vote without conflict with a major religious observance.

In 2007, the Ontario government moved the election date from October 4 to October 10 because of a conflict with the Jewish observance of Shemini Atzeret, on which members of the Orthodox Jewish community would be unable to vote.

When that change was being considered, the former Chief Electoral Officer, John Hollins, was concerned an election on October 11 might infringe on the timing of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, and that date was avoided as well.

Although provincial elections were held on a Thursday, the then provincial government amended legislation to hold the election on a Wednesday, avoiding Shemini Atzeret and Eid al-Fitr. The 2007 Ontario general election was held on October 10.

In 2022, despite attention in the media, and the issue being brought directly to the attention of the Minister with oversight of the appropriate legislation, the election date was not amended.

As a result, the City of Brampton saw a record number of Election Day staff resign their positions on the eve of the elec-



Ryan Singh

tion. Hindu, Jain, Sikh, and Buddhist Canadians were torn between participating in elections and participating in religious observances.

Hosting a general election on the religious and cultural observance for millions of citizens is not only problematic from a logistical standpoint, but it is outright counter to the notion of multiculturalism.

Fast forward, the upcoming federal general election is set for October 20, 2025 – also the date projected for Diwali. Yet again, another foreseeable dilemma for millions who observe religious traditions on that day.

On March 20, 2024, the Canadian Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs introduced Bill C-65, Electoral Participation Act (An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act). According to the government, this bill aimed to enhance citizens’ participation and trust in Canada’s electoral process.

Overall, the legislation included several proposals to increase access to voting and encourage more Canadians to vote. A specific amendment proposed to move the date of the 2025 fixed election date due to the forecasted conflict with the period set for the observance of Diwali.

The amendment is a one-time change to the date of the Federal General Election, should the general election be held on a fixed date in 2025. If passed by Parliament, the legislation would ensure the election date move to Monday, November 3, 2024, one week after Diwali.

Voting is a fundamental right, and as our community is composed of newcomers, new citizens, and first- or second-generation citizens, we should all leverage the right to vote if eligible. Participating in the democratic process is important, and that process should be fair and have equal access.

Diwali should be spent with family and friends, attending mandirs and gurdwaras, or lighting diyas at home and enjoying festivities. Instead, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains, many from the Indo-Caribbean community, will be conflicted between practicing their civic duties and observing Diwali. This should not be the case.

Whether it is Diwali, Eid, Bandi Chhor Divas, Rosh Hashana, or Easter, we must understand and respect the diversity of our country, and ensure that all people do not have to choose between their cultural and religious practices and their access to involvement in our democratic institutions.

## Cooking up stories with new ingredients in later years

*Here’s another visit to my electronic archives, where I disturbed this column in its sleepy drive, blew off the dusty bytes from its surface, and cleared away a few cobwebs from my hazy recall. It was published in October 2002, and explored how we romanticise our past, add a touch of sprinkles to a personal narrative here, and a rigorous cover-up of polish there, to what really happened as the decades flow away from the story’s source. Of course, I can’t help but add a dash or two of salt to flavour the narrative...*

Talk around the dining table turned one evening to how couples met back in the homeland. Now perhaps a few of us have noticed that somehow the passage of time seems to cloud such recall, and that it becomes a bit of a challenge to sift out what really happened back then to what is presently being told by a narrator seeking to sugar-coat the past.

I find nowadays that it is as sure as the inevitability of a spousal frown when the salt shaker comes my way that an older relative, or a guest at our dining table, would recall a moment of family history, or an ancestral anecdote, that is totally opposite to its traditional telling.

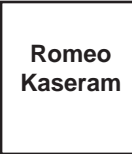
Coming to think of it, despite a second spousal frown at the marked incredulity on my disbelieving face, at times these recalls can be a downright re-telling, the tale over-stirred with saccharine, and quite unpalatable for its questionable veracity.

At our dining table one evening sat an old family friend who was recounting meeting his better half at a ‘cooking night’ he had attended as a young man back in the homeland.

‘Cooking nights’ are part of the wedding tradition, so-called since it is the night when voluminous food preparations are made for the wedding repast the next day. With the traditional wedding ceremony conducted on Sunday, it meant preparation of the vats of vegetables was done the night before.

But ‘cooking nights’ were not all about peeling vegetables, or prepping huge vats of rice and dhal for the fireplace the next morning. It was also a celebratory affair held under the makeshift bamboo tents, which were populated with wooden folding chairs for guests arriving the next day.

It was beneath the bamboo tents where the nuptials were held. But the night before, it was a site for temporary tables, a resting place for large cooking pots, makeshift fireplaces, and for preparation of a vast quantity of vegetables to feed the mul-



titude of highly-adorned guests arriving the next day.

The ‘cooking night’ was also a space for community bonding. It was here where a village group sang wedding songs, and older couples reminisced about their wedding day decades before; and it was here too, where young men met their future brides-to-be.

It was during these sessions of entertainment, alongside the chores of cooking preparations, when the ladies would take a break from the eye-watering chore of grinding pungent peppers for a relaxing moment with a cup of strong, sweet tea.

And among them would be the young, unmarried girls looking up in anticipation at the eligible boys who were on the prowl, despite their nonchalant, sauntering gait when they arrived under the wedding tent.

So it was that said family friend was recollecting his visit to a ‘cooking night’, a fateful and serendipitous evening in his youthful life. It was at a ‘cooking night’ where he met his wife-to-be, now a demure and greying presence at our dining table, with a similar watchful and hawkish eye fixed on the salt shaker.

Now our friend had become boastful: “When I done lift them heavy pot, I peel *alloo* by the hundreds. And talk about dance! When the fellars start to sing the old wedding songs and beat the *dholak* doop-dom-doop is like my waist had ball bearing!”

He and his wife-to-be had bonded that evening, working diligently together on a sack of potatoes, their confluent chemistry agitating their throbbing hearts during peeling of the pumpkins. They were inseparable when their hands met during the washing of mounds of rice.

But then came the other side of the story, revealed to my spouse when the salt shaker was being secured in its vault.

As this counterpoint went, said family friend was so smitten that he did not make it through three potatoes, having almost severed a finger after becoming confused, and was knocked out by love’s hammer-blow mere seconds into the first round.

It meant his bride-to-be rendering First Aid, said family friend whimpering with the application of the pungent, sanitising carboloc soap. They had bonded by a standpipe, not during the washing of rice, she declared. Soon afterwards, his father approached her parents and timidly asked for her hand.

“And he never peel a potato, wash a pot, or touch a carboloc soap after that. In fact, he never lift a single pin to this day!”



Govt intervention needed to curb rising fatalities on Guyana’s roadways

**Dear Editor,**

My heart goes out to the families of the five persons who were killed in a road accident on the Soesdyke-Linden Highway on May 13. Having recently experienced the loss (not by accident) of someone who for decades was closer to me than anyone else in this world, I can imagine the excruciating pain that now traumatises these families.

I also understand that the condition of four other persons is described as critical. No amount of soothing words can give enough comfort to the families of these deceased persons. The only vital relief could flow from the Lord. Our prayers are with the victims’ families.

This tragedy calls into question the rising carnage on the roads. It was reported by the Ministry of Home Affairs that road fatalities increased from 99 in 2022 to 175 in 2023 (an increase of 76.8 percent). An alarming trend is the high rate of motorcycle fatalities, which increased in 2023 by 166.7 percent over the 2022 figure.

A good perspective of the magnitude of Guyana’s road fatality situation is obtained by citing the relevant figures for Trinidad & Tobago. There, the road fatalities increased by just eight percent – from 86 in 2022 to 93 in 2023 – yet they lamented this slight percentage increase.

The cause of accidents, the loss of lives, the grief, the economic impact, and social dislocation are all combined and expressed as an

**Proper morals indispensable in governance**

**Dear Editor,**

The late former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Basdeo Panday, once ignited a fiery debate with his famous assertion that “politics has a morality of its own”. His belief that the realm of politics operates within its own moral framework, distinct from conventional ethical standards; that the complex dynamics of power, competition, and public perception often necessitate decisions and actions that may appear morally ambiguous to outsiders.

While some have interpreted his remarks as an acknowledgement of the pragmatic realities inherent in political manoeuvring, others have criticised them as an endorsement of moral relativism in public life.

The resurgence of this statement comes at a critical juncture for Trinidad and Tobago as the nation now grapples with rampant lawlessness and corruption, arrogant and uncaring civic leaders, along with pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges.

In the midst of widespread disillusionment with traditional political institutions, questions about the moral compass of those in power have taken on added significance.

History bears witness to the catastrophic consequences of moral bankruptcy in governance, with the Roman Empire serving as a poignant example of the perilous consequences of moral laxity in governance.

In that time, disregard for ethical principles by Roman emperors led to rampant corruption, decadence, and eventual collapse.

Emperors as Nero and Gaius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, better known as Caligula, epitomised the moral decay that permeated Roman society, prioritising personal indulgence over the welfare of their subjects. Their tyrannical rule eroded the social fabric, sowing seeds of discontent and rebellion.

Similarly, in the 20th Century, regimes characterised by moral bankruptcy witnessed catastrophic consequences. The totalitarian regimes of Hitler and Stalin exemplify the atrocities perpetrated when power is divorced from moral constraints.

The disregard by these two disgraced lead-

ers for human dignity and ethical principles resulted in unspeakable horrors, leading to the loss of millions of lives, and widespread devastation.

However, King David and King Josiah, as depicted in the Bible, exemplify leaders who governed with righteousness and integrity, ushering in periods of prosperity and stability for their nations.

On the other hand, David’s adherence to moral principles, despite his flaws, earned him the epithet of “a man after God’s own heart”. His commitment to justice, mercy, and humility laid the foundation for a just and prosperous kingdom.

Similarly, Josiah’s efforts to uphold the law, and to promote religious reforms revitalised the nation of Judah, fostering a climate of moral renewal and national unity.

In the 20th century, leaders such as Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi demonstrated the transformative power of moral leadership. Mandela’s unwavering commitment to reconciliation and justice paved the way for South Africa’s transition to democracy, while Gandhi’s adherence to non-violence inspired a nation to achieve Independence through peaceful means.

Contrary to the notion that politics operates within its own morality, the examples provided underscore the indispensable role of proper morals in governance.

In conclusion, while politics may indeed grapple with distinctive challenges and ethical quandaries, the belief that it functions within its exclusive moral framework is fundamentally misguided.

I implore today’s political leaders not only to “get it right”, but to demonstrate genuine care, respect, and dignity towards citizens.

It is imperative that as politicians they recognise their duty to serve the people, prioritising moral, ethical, and spiritual values as the cornerstone of good governance. Their actions should reflect a commitment to the well-being and prosperity of those they represent, ensuring the society is built on integrity, compassion, and justice.

**Anthony K. Gulston, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.**

reduce police corruption, and release more police to work on the streets to monitor speed and regulate traffic.

Home Affairs Minister the Honorable Robeson Benn has said that speeding accounted for 61 of the 99 (or 61.6 percent) fatalities in 2022, and for 128 of the 175 (or 73.1 percent) fatalities in 2023.

Therefore, in 2022, six in every ten fatalities were due to speeding, compared with seven in every 10 in 2023.

Guyana’s Traffic Chief Senior Superintendent Mahendra Singh has stated that, apart from speeding, drunken driving and lack of attentiveness (distraction) are major contributory factors in fatalities. Fatalities are due to either one factor, or a combination of factors.

However, making statements about behavioural attitudes (such as the need to observe rules and being attentive) would not yield any significant result, unless these are buttressed by relevant policies and programmes that are designed to regulate behaviour.

The government of Guyana should consider revising speed limits, as is being done in New York State, which has just passed the Sammy’s Law that allows New York City to reduce the speed limit from 25 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour, and to reduce it further to 15 miles per hour in designated zones.

Do drivers’ behaviours on the roadways reflect the social and moral decay that threatens the viability of Guyanese society? Social issues like suicide, broken families, alcohol-

ism, crime, drug abuse, mental illness, and domestic violence have not yet been elevated to the centre of the political radar. To ensure that the rapid physical and material transformation expresses itself in quality living for all Guyanese, this must be accompanied by “attitudinal” transformation.

Here is where the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, in association with NGOs like churches, could play a key role. It is great to note that President Dr Irfaan Ali is aware of this dichotomy, and he recently met with religious leaders to help in rebuilding our society on principles of equity and shared responsibility.

However, I note that these NGOs could play a greater cohesive role in nation-building if the government is willing to allocate annual subventions to them.


At the enforcement level, while e-ticketing and the setting up of cameras would help to control drivers’ behaviours, this must be complemented by having more “boots on the ground”.

Education and training programmes for drivers and road users are important, but police must patrol streets, monitor speed limit, direct traffic, and conduct random traffic blocks. There are other measures that the government could employ to contain the problem, but those would be discussed elsewhere.

I have given much thought to the traffic fatalities, including criminality, and I would recommend that the government allocate the responsibility of immigration and naturalisation to a separate entity, as was done by the previous APNU+AFC administration, to be called the Ministry of Immigration and Citizenship.

This move would allow the Ministry of Home Affairs to consolidate its focus on the public safety enforcement agencies (police, prison, and fire service) to bring crime and road accidents under control.

**Dr Tara Singh, New York, via email.**



**GUYANA PROPERTY MATTERS**

### Selling Property in Guyana

**G**uyanese property owners who are considering selling should be aware of the process and the costs that lie ahead. For the uninitiated, buying and selling a property in Guyana is not a simple process, and will involve lawyers, realtors, valuation consultants, and accountants and take nine to 12 weeks to complete. Some attempt to reduce potential costs and tax liabilities by managing the process themselves, which is often an exercise in frustration.

In cases where the property may have increased substantially in value, taxes are most likely due. Regardless of the payment arrangements the seller may make with the buyer, the Guyana Revenue Authority will assess the current value and levy taxes on the increase in value from 2011 to today. In some Georgetown neighbourhoods, this increase can be substantial.

Even in cases where the buyer is known, there is a significant process that will include managing the sales and conveyance process, which includes getting a valuation, an audit, filing the paperwork with the Guyana Revenue Authority, and obtaining the certificate to complete the sale. Without this, the GRA will not permit the transfer of the property to the buyer.

The best approach for sellers is to retain an experienced lawyer and realtor to manage the process on their behalf. The fees associated are typically deductible from the taxes levied, so professional help pays for itself.

In cases where the seller may be a group of persons, there is the additional requirement of settling the proceeds as per their respective shareholding. The payment and receipt of large amount of funds today requires the appropriate paperwork to comply with modern anti-money laundering requirements common now in every jurisdiction.

RE/Guyana’s service is designed to simplify this process for overseas sellers where we integrate all realtor, legal, valuation and accounting services. We ensure our clients are able to obtain market value, and are able to successfully complete the transaction without having to make a single trip to Guyana. The globalised Guyanese nation can see a buyer who is located in Canada with a seller located in Europe.

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.](#)



# 'Misunderstanding' over T&T banning Guyana's milk was avoidable

Dear Editor,

The recent decision by Trinidad and Tobago Customs officials to ban containers of milk imported from Guyana, manufactured by Demerara Distillers Ltd, is in poor taste, and could have been avoided.

The "misunderstanding" is attributed to a Trinidad and Tobago importer not ensuring that approval was granted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries. Indeed, a one-off importer licence was not applied for. However, these breaches may be the result of lack of information.

Moreover, I am contending that the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas guarantees free movement of goods, services, and labour among Caricom States. It is egregious for Trinidad and Tobago Customs officials to explicitly explain their policies only after the matter descended into diplomatic tension.

My first argument censuring the Trinidad and Tobago authorities hinges upon the need for transparency in their rules of operation governing intra-regional trade, particularly as it relates to animal products.

Understandably, Trinidad and Tobago must protect its biodiversity, and repel animal-borne disease by enforcing the requirements of its Animal Diseases and Importation Act.

The act adequately operationalises WHO recommendations. However, are the traders' requirements that are stipulated by this act publicised throughout Caricom?

This question remains pertinent, as a decade ago there were perceptions of anti-Jamaica trade, resulting from Trinidad and Tobago's refusal of Jamaican patties into the country,

## Robbing German tourist an unkind act

Dear Editor,

It is appalling to learn that bandits in Trinidad and Tobago robbed German tourist Tilo Kruse on his walk between Toco and Icacos. His journey was supposed to be one to highlight the awesome beauty of this part of Trinidad and Tobago that is seldom seen – unless a murder victim's body has been dumped there, or a roadway has collapsed.

One would have thought that his walk would have revealed the eco-attraction of the area, the culture of sharing and caring of villagers, but instead he got a dose of violence.

Here is a foreign national who sees beauty and goodness everywhere, and nationals could find nothing to do except rob him? What did they get? Sweet drink money?

The man is on foot – he gave back money to the community when villagers gave him

## Need for timely data on poverty in Guyana

Dear Editor,

Guyana's last budget underlined the importance of using the country's oil revenues to meet the basic needs of the population, including nutrition, the absence of hunger, good healthcare, and sound education and training opportunities. This is commendable. But what information do we have on these needs? How will we measure progress?

Currently the Statistical Bureau publishes data on employment, wages, and the labour market with a two-year lag, and has published data on nutrition through 2017. The Bureau also publishes periodic cluster surveys of the situation of women and children.

In the annual budget documents for 2024, the Ministry of Health presented infant and maternal mortality estimates for 2023, as well as targets for 2024. Also, in education, the ministry produces an annual statistical bulletin that is available on its website.

However, there are no timely national statistics on poverty. This shortcoming is common in



which contained beef that originated from nations with mad cow disease.

Even in that instance, information was not well-circulated to the entire region. It would be wise for the country's Ministry of Trade and Industry to publish information widely on these matters to avoid a perception that this nation is conducting xenophobic protectionism.

My second argument condemning the Trinidad and Tobago Customs officials is in their group-think error of lack of diplomatic

foresight that their actions would result in reasonable backlash on social and mass media from Guyana.

In fact, Guyana's President Dr Irfaan Ali also voiced his discontent that the blocking of the containers of milk was against the spirit of intra-regional trade.

In the interest of regionalism and food security, the Customs officials could have contacted the country's chief veterinary officer to expediently process the Agriculture, Land and Fisheries Ministry application, and encouraged the importer to engage in an expedient import permit request

Of course, this matter would have required Customs officials communicating with relevant ministers. Is there a case of breakdown

a couple of bucks. What shame those people who robbed bring to our country. They are not patriots at all, and should be banished from citizenship, along with all of the killers who roam the streets attacking nationals.

The laugh out loud moment, of course, is that the police were looking out for him. How sickening that they promised to be more vigilant after he was robbed.

I mean, how many incidents would they have been treating with, that the man was robbed and his attackers got away.

Personally, I was tempted to venture into these areas, but I would not bother now, since it is so easy to get robbed.

Instead, I will opt to jet out on the new Puerto Rico one-way trip.

Goodbye, robbery capital.

Linda Capildeo, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.



Tilo Kruse

in communication, or bureaucratic red tape within the Customs department and Trade and Industry Ministry?

My third argument is forwarded at various government agencies in every country that is a signatory to Caricom Single Market and Economy.

I am critical about whether each member-State's Customs department has a manual that is digitised or printed that can be distributed throughout Caricom, explaining all the conditions for intra-regional goods entering its borders.

When Caricom goods are denied entry at a neighbouring Caricom port, it evokes wider fears about certain nations being insular, classist, or racist.


Notably, the unfortunate case of Shanique Myrie of Jamaica being denied entry to Barbados in 2013, and being treated poorly by Immigration officials is emblematic of a wider concern that some Guyanese and Jamaicans have voiced in traversing airports in Barbados and Trinidad.

The litany of complaints warrants possible re-orientation and training of Immigration and Customs officials, and greater information flow from these officials.

Trinidad and Tobago's various government agencies must internalise that proactive treatment of regional traders and skilled workers is essential for the country's sustainable development. In an era of globalisation, Caricom nations are vulnerable to economies of scale enjoyed by foreign competitors outside of the region.

We need to prioritise market access for regional partners within Caricom to reduce our cost of living, to enhance our quality of life, and because we are "one family".


Chandradath Madho, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.



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# Good move by Guyana govt to re-visit tourism as priority

After more than three decades of shattered expectations, Guyana's elusive tourism dream is now beginning to take shape. Fuelled by its sudden surge in oil-driven wealth that has spurred massive development initiatives, the country is currently experiencing a strong increase in visitors. As well, two major constraints to tourism, accommodation, and air travel, have seen dramatic improvements in recent years following a spate of hotel and resort developments, and a significant increase in airlines servicing Guyana.

Over the past quarter of century, there has been no shortage of cheap talk about tourism. Plans written in the sand were washed away and rewritten time and again for a variety of reasons. However, with money now available to develop the sector, the government is optimistic that tourism will thrive, and has consequently once again made it a priority.

In its 2024 Budget, the government noted that tourism has always been a sector in which Guyana enjoys a comparative advantage, with a world class product whose potential was not previously realised solely because of certain constraints that are finally being overcome.

The truth is, Guyana does not boast the features of traditional tourist destinations – blue water, white sandy beaches, surf, and all-inclusive resorts like many of its Caribbean counterparts, which have become exclusive tourist destinations. However, it is a haven for eco-tourists, and a nature lovers' paradise.

Guyana is blessed with characteristics that attract eco-tourists – exotic fauna and flora, pristine rainforests, resplendent waterfalls, diverse wildlife, and a myriad of other natural and cultural features. It is attractive to tourists who are environmentally sensitive, and culturally aware, and do not follow the herd. These tourists are looking for individual expression and relaxation, and for nature away from concrete jungles. They have a different mindset. To them, beaches are boring; they love adventure. Incidentally, Guyana's beauty has always been romanticised. Alan Adamson, writing in his book, *Sugar without Slaves*, describes Guyana's natural beauty in a stunning manner.

He writes, "For most people who have never lived there or are unfamiliar with its history, Guyana is a name saturated with romantic connotations. This is the delightful land of W.H. Hudson's *Green Mansions*, the exotic setting of Conan Doyle's *Lost World*, the *El Dorado* of Sir Walter Raleigh's tragic hopes."

Guyana is also the land its British colonisers referred to as the *Magnificent Province* and the *Jewel in Victoria's Crown*. But on the darker side, cut into the heart of the north-west hinterland, Guyana is the country that provided the scenes for the movies, *Crime of the Century* and the *Jonestown Massacre*.

The country's natural characteristics have not gone unnoticed. Guyana was identified a few years ago as the best eco-region in the Caribbean by the travel magazine, *Caribbean World*. It also received a big boost when it was recognised as the *Best Eco-Tourism destination in the world* at the ITB Global Travel Trade Fair's Sustainable Top 100 Destination Awards, which was held in Berlin, Germany in 2019.

Last year, the UK edition of *National Geographic Traveller* named Guyana 13 out of 35 countries for travellers to consider in 2023 and beyond. It highlighted Guyana's beauty, stating: "Thick rainforests, sprawling savannahs, magical mountain ranges and epic rivers — Guyana may be one of South America's smaller nations, but it packs a big punch for nature-lovers."

It added: "Natural highlights range from jaguars stalking dense forests to giant anteaters on the savannahs, harpy eagles in the skies and wow-moments like Kaieteur Falls, one of the world's highest single drop waterfalls (and twice as high as Victoria Falls)." Guyana has also been nominated for South America's Responsible Tourism Award 2024 through the World Travel Awards. Results are still pending.

Recognising that tourism has the potential to take off, the government announced that it is pursuing several initiatives to boost the sector. The 2024 Budget noted that the number of arrivals in 2023 amounted to 319,056 visitors, surpassing the previous highest of 314,727 recorded in 2019 – a 10.7 percent increase relative to the level recorded in 2022.

Historically, almost 50 percent of all tourist arrivals originate from the US, followed by about 25 percent from the Caribbean, 15 percent from Canada, and the remainder from Europe and the rest of the world. More recently, Guyana has attracted an increasing number of visitors from Suriname and Brazil, indicating a shift in the origin of visitors to the country.

In order to ensure the expansion of airline routes and seat volumes, the government has maintained efforts to improve connectivity between Guyana and the rest of the world with new services and routes. Previously, Caribbean Airlines dominated air traffic to Guyana.

In March 2023, British Airways introduced a twice weekly service from London via St Lucia. This has dramatically improved connectivity with destinations in the Caribbean and Europe. In September 2023, Canada Jetlines, in collaboration

with Fly AllWays, improved access to the Canadian market by introducing a twice weekly service to Toronto via the Dominican Republic.

In December 2023, Suriname Airways introduced a Bridgetown-Georgetown-Paramaribo service, thereby improving connectivity with Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean. These new services, as well as additional flights put on by current carriers, together added 150,234 seats or 14 percent more than in 2022. Also, United Airlines announced the introduction of a service from Houston to Georgetown four times weekly, commencing April 2024.

This provides yet another route into the US with improved connectivity to third cities in the US and beyond, and will ease the pressure and increase availability on existing Miami and New York services.

In June 2024, American Airlines plans to expand its services with an additional daily flight between Miami and Georgetown,

increasing capacity and providing additional options to travellers. The new services by UA and AA will add 137,268 new seats to the market in 2024, which will make a significant impact on seat availability, pricing, and commuter options and convenience.

Hotel capacity has also increased significantly through government initiatives with private investors. As of last year, Guyana had in excess of 150 hotels and 30 resorts and lodges, with an approximate room capacity of 3,400. Most of these accommodations can be characterised as traditional and rustic establishments with only a small number of business-oriented accommodation properties of international standards.

However, the 2024 Budget expects that over 1,000 world class rooms will be added to the stock by the end of 2024. Many of these are from internationally recognised chains, including an Aiden Best Western in Georgetown, expected to open its doors by May and add 150 rooms; a Marriott Courtyard at Timehri, expected to open by August adding 150 rooms; and a Four Points Sheraton at Providence projected for completion by December adding 172 new rooms.

Also there are an AC Marriott at Ogle, which is expected to open its doors by December adding 152 new rooms; and a Hyatt Place at Providence on East Bank Demerara, expected to open by December and adding 136 new rooms.

As well, construction is expected to continue on several other hotel properties, not only in Georgetown, but also in West Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice, all of which will further increase the room stock of the industry upon their completion.

The government is also expanding hospitality training to

service tourism. In February construction commenced on the (US) \$7.2 million Hospitality and Tourism Training Institute at Port Mourant, Berbice. This facility is the first of its kind in Guyana. It is set to provide hands-on training in a diverse range of areas within the services sector, preparing persons for careers in hotels, and restaurants, among other related industries.

To this end, over the last three years, 49 new tourism experiences were launched, 22 of which were launched in 2023 through successful partnerships with the private sector and communities.

In 2023, substantial support was given to the circuit development approach, in Region 2 and Region 9, where the Discover Essequibo and Travel South Rupununi Stakeholders were engaged in new tour experiences, reviewing the governance structure, and employing integrated marketing strategies.

Further, in 2024, focus will be placed on promoting experiential travel and high-quality experiences through the establishment of tourism circuits in Regions 5, 6, 8, and 10, in keeping with the government's promise of promoting nature, eco- and adventure tourism. Niche markets in areas including sports, culture and heritage, entertainment, culinary, and agri-tourism will also be pursued. In addition, support will be granted to the development and promotion of nine Amerindian communities.

Guyana is evidently on the cusp of becoming a leading sustainable tourism destination. To this end, the government will continue to pursue country level accreditation from the Global Sustainable Tourism Council.

According to the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, the country needs to aggressively pursue new and emerging markets in order to leverage its true potential. The CTO recognised that Guyana is one of the region's most diverse destinations, and is in a great position to promote sustainable development tourism to the world.

For tourism to flourish, the government recognises that a cross-sectoral effort is required among the government, the private sector, and civil society – the latter being an area that was previously ignored.

Without a doubt, tourism creates its own challenges. There is no homogeneity in what tourists want, given individual tastes, preferences, and discriminating spending patterns. It is also the industry most sensitive to economic, political, and social patterns. Therefore, developing and maintaining a competitive advantage is the only thing that will ensure viability.

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).



Dwarka Lakhan



Kaieteur Falls

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Ava



Kylie



Tacy (left) with Arlene



Terrel



Dr Rodrigo Soto (left) with Elisa



Aarav

# TCCF completes surgeries at GPHC

**Toronto** – The Caribbean Children’s Foundation reported earlier this month it had completed another successful round of surgeries at the Guyana Public Hospital Corporation.

According to a release from the charitable group, eight complex surgeries were completed late last month, along with a super-complex surgery on a four kilogram child who required aortic arch reconstruction and Ventricular Septal Defect closure.

These complex surgeries were performed by Dr Rodrigo Soto, a pediatric cardiac surgeon, who happily reported last month that

all the children had returned to their homes with healthy hearts, and were now with their families.

As Soto reported, this latest and successful TCCF intervention to aid sick children in Guyana was a great trip. He added, “Things are looking good at GPHC, and everybody was really happy and thankful we could do these complex cases with excellent outcomes.”

**TCCF is a Canadian-based charity.** Its mandate is to enable poor and critically-ill Caribbean children get the specialised medical care they need as quickly as possible.



Nicholas



Damaya



The ICU team at the GPHC

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## Markham pays tribute with Amar Erry Atrium

**Markham** – A newly-named atrium paying tribute to the late Amar Erry was unveiled last month by the City of Markham.

According to a news release from the City of Markham, the Amar Erry Atrium is located inside Aaniin Community Centre, and is named after Erry, a long-time and dedicated community member, volunteer, and former president of the Vedic Cultural Centre in Markham. He died on January 21, 2021.

Erry also served on boards and committees such as the Canadian Federation of Intercultural Friendship and Taste of Asia. He was also a spiritual, cultural, and a humanitarian leader and mentor who will always be remembered for his desire to bring people together in a spirit of shared humanity, regardless of faith or cultural background. He was also a champion and driver for diversity and inclusion in Markham.

“Amar was a man who enriched the lives of those who knew him, and we were all made better for having known him,” said Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti.

He added, “He was a man whose pillars were about unity, peace, respect, and love. The role he played in interfaith discussions helped foster a spirit of collaboration in Markham through the years. I will forever hold with the greatest affection the friendship Amar and I shared.”

One of the primary features of the Amar Erry Atrium is the abundant light that shines down into the space. The location is especially fitting to honour the late Erry, whose light and desire to bring people together now serves as a common space for visitors to enjoy for years to come, the release declared.

Markham is an award-winning municipality with over 362,000 residents. It is also the largest of nine communities in York Region, is home to over 650 corporate head offices, and more than 1,500 high tech and life science companies. It is also a leader in attracting foreign direct investment, with more than 234 foreign companies in the City. *City of Markham photos*



The late Amar Erry



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Imdadul Islamic Centre celebrated Mothers' Day on May 12.

Imdadul marks Mother's Day with happy event

By Sayem Khan  
Special to Indo-Caribbean World  
Toronto – “Heaven lies beneath the feet of your mother” (*Hadith*). This is a prominent wise verse in the religion of Islam that summarises the supreme honour of mothers in Islam. Our mothers make significant sacrifices on a day-to-day basis, and we should always strive to earn their praise!

Special occasions like Mother's Day provide us with an opportunity to express our gratitude, and to spend quality time with our beloved mothers.

On May 12 members of the Imdadul Islamic Centre joined at the Imdadul Annex to celebrate this auspicious gathering.

It was an emotional experience for everyone who attended. President of Imdadul Islamic Centre, Mushtaq Rustam, delivered the welcome speech, and made a special *Dua* for our mothers. The majority of Imdadul's annual events are family-oriented, and there are accommodations available for everyone.

Members in attendance brought their family members of all ages to celebrate this auspicious morning. Everyone has their unique way of celebrating this special day. Usually, people express their love by buying gifts, checking up on her health, and joining other family-specific functions.

As the guests started to arrive at the program venue, the mother figures were welcomed by sharing fresh roses.

At Imdadul, our community is blessed to have had the leadership of mother figures, particularly our beloved Hajen Shareefun Khan.

Their prudent thoughts helped shape the groundwork of the resilient community as it stands today.

In addition, the Imdadul's Sister Program has been a pillar of the community for many years. This circle of support provided immense social, and emotional support, and much required guidance.

Brother Osman Khan, Secretary of the Imdadul Islamic Centre, requested that everyone to not take their respective parents for granted. Often we get busy with our daily lives, and perhaps end up neglecting the needs of our parents who are alive. We are bound to regret this decision at some stage of our lives!

Local Member of Provincial Parliament, Tom Rakocevic joined the event to honour the mothers, and also presented certificates to the outstanding volunteers with Volunteer Recognition Awards.

An instrumental member of the Imdadul mosque, the talented Sister Nazira Baksh, performed Mother's Day Special *Nasheeds*.

The event concluded with brothers of the Imdadul Jamat, including the founder of the Amir Quality Meats, Brother Amir, serving special brunch to sisters in attendance.

On their way home, many members were heard humming Sundar Popo's, "A mother's love should never forget..."



Ask Jay...

Please send your questions to  
TheBrij@TheBrij.com or call: 416-418-2745

BUDGET 2024: A CRUCIAL STEP TOWARDS REALISING THE ELUSIVE CANADIAN DREAM OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Canadian dream of homeownership is under threat. Today's reality is that this goal is slipping further away. Currently, an average Canadian spends nearly two-thirds of their income on shelter. If this trend continues, the Canadian dream of home ownership will be unattainable, especially for Millennials and Gen Z. The 2024 federal budget is a beacon of hope, an aspiring plan to bring down the cost of shelter to 30 percent. The government plans to build 3.87 million new homes across Canada by 2031 to meet the demand. Here are some insights on how the 2024 Budget proposes to achieve this goal.

**CUTTING RED TAPE AND STREAMLINING THE BUILDING PROCESS:** The federal government works with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to improve zoning and regulatory stumbling blocks. The Housing Accelerator Fund, worth \$4 billion, is given to the Province and Territory as an incentive to facilitate the process and build more homes. The funds will help cut red tape that delays new construction.

**RELEASE GOVERNMENT LAND:** In major cities across Canada, land scarcity and high costs pose significant challenges to building new homes. However, the government has a strategic solution – its surplus of idle and unoccupied lands. Instead of selling these lands, the government plans to lease them to builders, which will help keep property prices affordable. This strategic step ensures a steady supply of affordable housing, and encourages investors to participate in the housing market, thereby boosting the overall housing supply.

**BUILDING MORE APARTMENTS AND REDUCING RENT:** It is challenging to build affordable flats today, but budget 2024 will put aside \$15 billion in new low-cost loans, bringing the total to \$55 billion. This stimulus will allow investors to build apartments above shopping plazas and malls in dense neighbourhoods. By providing low-cost financing and extending the loan term, the government hopes to boost the quantity of affordable homes to Canadians.

**BUILD HOUSES IN FACTORIES:** The 2024 budget takes a bold step towards the future of housing with its allocation of \$50 million over 2024-2025 for Next Generation Manufacturing Canada to establish prefabricated housing factories. This innovative approach not only streamlines the construction process, but also ensures quality control through factory inspections. The government is stepping up to the plate, showing its commitment to addressing the housing affordability crisis in Canada.

**BUILD A SECONDARY SUITE TO FAMILY HOMES:** Scores of homeowners have extra space, such as a basement or a laneway garage, to transform into a secondary suite. In the past, building a secondary suite was challenging and costly because of municipal red tape and expensive construction. This budget will bring \$409.6 million over four years, opening in 2025 to unveil the Canadian Secondary Suite Loan Program, assisting homeowners to gain \$40,000 in low-interest loans to build a secondary suite. A secondary suite will provide safe, affordable accommodation for tenants, and extra income for landlords.

**TRAINING AND RECRUITING SKILLED TRADESPEOPLE:** Canada needs more qualified workers, causing a problem in quickly building homes. Budget 2024 will provide \$100 million over 2024-2025 to Employment and Social Development Canada to recruit and train skilled workers for the next generation. In addition, the government is making it easier for skilled workers from other countries to get certified and enter the workforce.

Trudeau's budget outlines a plan for federal spending of \$52.9 billion this year, resulting in a deficit of \$39.8 billion. The goal is to gradually shrink this deficit to \$20 billion by 2028-2029, focusing on making housing more affordable for Canadians. However, this deficit presents a growing concern given Canada's mounting debt, which has risen from \$1.18 trillion to \$2.18 trillion since 2007-2008. Canadians are now spending approximately \$70 billion annually on interest payments, exceeding the allocation in the 2024 budget by \$19 billion. Instead of helping the younger generation, we are giving them our debts to carry, and it is no wonder they are having a tough time because they have to pay more taxes to cover Trudeau's nine-year spending spree.

While the 2024 budget presents an ambitious plan, it is crucial to remember that you can also play a part in realising your home ownership dream. By setting aside ten percent of your income from every paycheck, and placing it in a tax-free savings account or RRSP, you're taking a significant step towards your goal. It is also essential to manage your expenses wisely and pay your debts. With a solid down payment, low debts, and good credit, you can turn your dream of home ownership into a reality. The power is in your hands.

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# A great and caring humanity - Chanderdai Lakhan turns 100

By Romeo Kaseram  
LJI Reporter

Chanderdai Lakhan left her double digit numbers of birthday celebrations behind on March 9 when she marked her milestone acquisition of 100 years with family and friends. Her story, like many in our diaspora, is about arrivals and departures.

Our triple-digit centenarian is mom to Radica, Sam, Krisendat, Chris, Sridatt, Dwarka, Ahilia, Janet, and Jerome. Chris died in 2018, while Sam passed away last year.

Understandably, Chanderdai's daily life today is filled with the joy and contentment that emanate from her extensive and extended family's adulation and support.

And in return, she remains a caring, and at times quite a solicitous mother and matriarch, her son Dwarka says.

He also tells us his beloved mom is a gracious mother-in-law; and an exemplary and nurturing grandmother, great grandmother, and given her great age, obviously a great great grandmother.

While family life and its concomitant arrivals of new-born members remain a joyous and contributory component to her enduring longevity, the arc of Chanderdai's life has not been without its unwelcome weave of trauma and untimely departures.

She was born in Fyris Village on the Corentyne on March 9, 1924, to Indentured immigrant parents who came from India to what is now the former British Guiana; and notably, Chanderdai's mother was a young girl when she stepped off the ship.

However, there is a touching subtext to Chanderdai's early diasporic ancestry at this South American port of entry. In this arrival is a poignant weave of trauma, one that is painfully stitched into her ancestral connectivity to our troubled Indentured past.

Dwarka tells us that their own internal ancestral narratives, which are similarly threaded within all of our diasporic families' histories, speak to many lived and painful rips, along with the many stitches that were applied to the wounds, in the ten decades that brought the family together as Chanderdai marked her centenary birthday earlier last month.

As he tells us, his mom's recall about their early ancestral history in their first rooting as a familial node in Guyanese soil comes from a lineage of Indentured arrival that took a tragic turn during passage across the *kala pani*.

That their family's Indentured history was built on a foundation with a significant lacunae, with an originary absence of stability as a complete family unit, one that should have stepped off the ship's gangplank as pairs of trepidant feet arriving onto the new earth that was the British Guiana shoreline.

However this confluence as a family did not occur at the gangplank, and was the consequence of a great tragedy and trauma that had occurred at sea during the crossing from India to the shores of British Guiana.

As Dwarka notes, throughout her lengthy life his mother constantly recalled the painful and haunting memories from their family's first ocean trip to British Guiana. It is a recall set within the narrative of trauma, which was told to Chanderdai by her mother.

It was such that during the three-month journey across the *kali pani*, the black water, this consuming landscape of transition and uncertainty was further darkened with the onboard passing of his mother's grandparents.

Their passing left behind a young girl within a transitory spatiality that was fraught with uncertainty; it was an irretrievable loss, and a great and unexpected sorrow. This young girl was Chanderdai's mother-to-be.

As was the practice then with onboard ship deaths, the passing of Dwarka's great grandparents' meant their bodies were buried at sea. They were likely wrapped in sailcloth, their feet weighted with rocks or a cannon ball, their



Chanderdai and Dwarka (above); mom at right, with her mother below



bodies lifted over the deck's rail and dispatched overboard to quickly sink to their final resting place.

Here their tombstones are etched on water, and remain unmarked and in the in-between to this day, their remains inhabiting the transitory middle-ground fluidity of an unknown world that lay ahead in British Guiana, with India left behind in the finality of the splash as their bodies disappeared below the ocean's apathetic and eternally bobbing surface.

Their deaths during the crossing left Chanderdai's mother-to-be orphaned on board the ship.

Such a depth of loss of both her parents during the *kala pani* crossing for this young girl, as horrific as it was unfathomable, is as much a sundering as it was a solitary ordeal for a young child now left behind and set adrift to navigate an unknown and approaching new world.

Throughout her life Chanderdai recalled for the benefit of her many progenic arrivals, new family members inhabiting the thriving branches of her growing genealogical family tree, how deeply embedded was her mother's grief at the unanticipated deaths of her parents.

And how her mother constantly relived the narrative of trauma brought by this painful umbilical severing during the shipboard journey towards the unknown and extractive fields of Indentureship in British Guiana.

As Dwarka notes, "[Our mom] often tells the heartbreaking story of both her grandparents, as told to her by her mother, who died on the boat on their way to Guyana, and were thrown overboard. The struggles of her mother as a parentless little girl living with different adopted parents over time in a 'foreign' land during Indentureship is permanently and painfully etched in her memory."

Arrival in British Guiana saw his grandmother becoming an adopted child; and later entering into an arranged marriage to a much older man who died when she was still young, Dwarka says.

Chanderdai, and her siblings, were the next generational fruits on the emergent and rooting family tree in Guyana; and she thrived.

Among her many roles in her 100 years has been that of a caregiver, Dwarka reveals. As he notes, Chanderdai's recall of stored memories across the arc of her many years reveals a caregiving role during her teenage years, when she nursed her blind and ailing father.

Then her older sister and brother were married and had left home, which meant the role and duty to care for both her father and mother were left in her capable hands.

Later, his mother also played a major role, yet again as a caregiver, for her aging mother in her senior and declining years, until her death in 1966.

Chanderdai's marriage also saw ample evidence of her industry, commitment, and caregiving for the growing family and its diasporic and lateral nodes, Dwarka indicates.

"[Mom] worked hard on their farms and in the rice fields, side-by-side with her husband, and later in their business," he states.

And then tribulation found the family again,

as it did for many other families during the dark days in Guyana's political history of turbulence and turmoil, Dwarka recalls.

"She nursed her husband back to health when he was seriously injured as a sugar worker by a suspected GAWU bomb, which blew up the truck in which he was traveling on Tain Public Road in 1964, during the dark days of civil strife in Guyana," he reveals.

In those challenging and brutalising years of caring for her seriously injured husband, Chanderdai rose to the challenge, Dwarka recalls. Notably, in her own words, Dwarka remembers her describing those days as a "struggle to feed her nine children".

Chanderdai's commitment and hard work saw her emerging to become the glue holding the family together; it was also an emergent role that today still sees its resonance in her being a towering matriarch within the globally scattered, diasporic family, he says.

And she still retains the face of her great and caring humanity, Dwarka adds.

"Even though her children are all adults, she still worries about them, as though they are still under her care. She endures sleepless nights when we are not well. And while we might try to avoid causing her pain if something is really wrong, she can tell from our

voices, or by looking into our eyes. She asks, 'Beta, wah wrong, you sure you all right?' Her caring is reminiscent of the adage, 'Mothers know best'."

Chanderdai followed her children to Canada in 1986. However, she still draws sustenance from her rootedness to Guyana, and yearns to return "to see her house".

Meanwhile Dwarka notes she maintains a strong and vicarious connectivity to the homeland, which she accesses via a network that threads many of her old friends together, "people from the village", who similarly yearn for Guyana while scattered across North America.


Perhaps part of that longing is fueled by his mother's life-long retention of her free-spiritedness, Dwarka observes.


As mom asserts, she does not like to "live like a bird in a cage" whenever she compares lifestyles between Guyana and Canada.

Meanwhile, at 100 years old, recall of her past returns memories with decades-old details and clarity; also, she still reads, and writes remarkably well, Dwarka reports.




And ask her to sing *The Song of Guyana's Children, Born in the Land of the Mighty Roraima*, and she will render this patriotic song with a youthful and uplifting nationalism, without missing a lyric.

## HAPPY ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

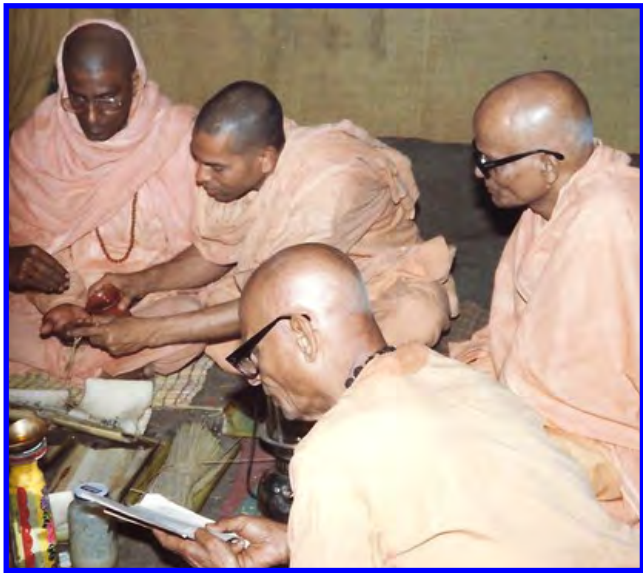




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Contemporary photos of last week's Ramayana Yajna taken by Ramesh Ramkalawan; Swamiji's initiation in Sanyas is in the photo above, and at extreme right.



## Caring humanity drives Swamiji's lifetime immersion in Hindu Dharma

By Romeo Kaseram  
LJI Reporter

Canada Sevashram Sangha operating as the Pranav Hindu Mandir Cultural Centre last Sunday concluded a five-session Ramayana Yajna to honour the organisation's spiritual head, Srmat Swami Bhajananandaji Maharaj, marking his 80th birthday. The Yajna, conducted by Pandit Bhojnarin Sharma of the Vishnu Mandir, took place at the Canada Sevashram Sangha's place of worship at 102 Rivalda Road in Toronto.

The occasion also witnessed the *sthapana*, or official unveiling of a 15-foot Shiva Murti standing majestically in the foreground of the Ashram lawns, *trishul* in one of the Deity's hands, and the other, beckoning a solemn welcome to those entering the premises, while at the same time gesturing a silent blessing to those traversing Rivalda Road.

The Canada Sevashram Sangha caters to the spiritual needs of hundreds of Hindus in the Greater Toronto Area. It was established in 1998 through the instrumentality of Srmat Swami Bhajananandaji Maharaj. He conducts weekly services here, and observes all *parvas* (festivals) recognised in the Hindu tradition to fulfil the expectations of his congregants.

Additionally, Swamiji conducts classes for the organisation's young people, covering such areas as precepts and practices of Hinduism, scriptural and historical facts pertaining to the Dharma, teaching of religious rites and ceremonies, singing of *bhajans*, and exposing his charges to other activities relating to special observances.

In the area of propagation of the Sangha's message, Swamiji has been conducting a weekly television program that is broadcast across Canada, which he has done for over 30 years.

In addition to this broadcast, Swamiji also issues periodic newsletters, and the publication *Hinduism*, a magazine initiated by Swamiji's guru, the venerated Swami Purnanandaji Maharaj.

Swami Bhajananandaji's commitment and dedication to his faith have roots in the distant past. He fondly recalls his grandfather Pandit Sadhan Maharaj, a first-generation migrant from India, and a fervent upholder of his Hindu faith, passing the torch of his Brahminic calling down to his own son Pandit Lalta Persaud Misir, Bhajananandaji's own father.

Pandit Lalta Persaud made it a practice to take his son along with him when performing *pujas* and other religious ceremonies, or when attending lectures by visiting religious personalities from India.

These events would be followed by rigorous discussions between father and son, all of which amounted to an education on a variety of religious themes, and which helped to establish the son's faith in the religious order.

So strengthened became the young man's belief that he confided to *Indo-Caribbean World* his desire at such a young age



Swami Bhajananandaji

was that he "wished to be reborn in India in a next life so as to become a Swami".

In the year 1961, Bhajananandaji joined a temple group from his home village of Canje, Berbice, that had attended a *Maha Shivratri* celebration at the Cove and John Ashram of the Bharat Sevashram Sangha on the East Coast of Demerara.

The experience there was so transformative, that in his own admission, he "became so restless to the extent that [he] wrote a letter to the Ashram indicating interest to join as a student Brahmachari".

His interest was communicated to Swami Purnanandaji Maharaj, founder of the Ashram, who was at the time in London, England. Swami Purnanandaji acceded to Bhajananandaji's request after establishing his acceptability based on his health and educational status.

So, in 1962, Bhajananandaji left home at 3:00 a.m. quietly, without the permission of his father, whose desire was for his

son, the eldest of 13 children, to become an established Pandit.

The 18-year-old headed for the Ashram in Cove and John, whose calling for him was so irresistible that his destiny there became intertwined.

He started out at the Ashram firstly carrying out *Gurukul* duties, learning basic religious performances, and observing the disciplines required of a faithful student.

In 1966 he was initiated as a Brahmachari, and assigned the name of Brahmachari Shiv Sankar, along with 12 others. He was given teaching assignments in the Hindu College, and was appointed manager of the Hindu Primary School.

In 1981, Brahmachari Shiv Sankar was sent to take charge of the Trinidad Sevashram Sangha. Four years later, in 1985, his Guru Swami Purnanandaji instructed him to leave for the headquarters of the Bharat Sevashram Sangha in Calcutta (now Kolkata), India, to become a Swami.

The next year, he was consecrated as a Swami by the venerable Bara Swami Satchidanandji Maharaj.

Swami Bhajananandaji spent the next two years in India receiving intensive training at the headquarters of the Bharat Sevashram Sangha to prepare him for the role that was expected of him as a monk of the Ashram.

He travelled widely in India to familiarise himself with the workings of the Sangha. Then in 1987, the newly minted Swami was dispatched to Canada to relieve an ailing Swami Brahmanandaji, who was in charge there.

Not long after, with the passing of the latter Swami, the task of running the affairs of the Canadian arm of the Sangha fell to Swami Bhajananandaji.

Swami Bhajananandaji accepted the challenge respectfully, and has since been the architect of the Canada arm of the Sangha. He nourished and grew the movement in his appointed area, but kept a watchful eye and visited other territories when called upon. Besides Canada, he is no stranger to the Sangha's operations in Guyana, Trinidad, Jamaica, London, England, Fiji, the Netherlands, and the US, where he has regularly done missionary work.

After 62 years as a servant of the Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Swami Bhajananandaji's achievements in the organisation have been crowned with his being unanimously appointed as one of 12 persons on the governing body responsible for the administration of the 400-plus monks, and hundreds of branches worldwide.

Swami Bhajananandaji is physically of small built, dresses immaculately with typical orange-coloured Swami garments, walks with an upright gait and firm steps, but these outward traits do little to reveal his humility and depth of understanding of the Hindu Dharma. Barely 80 years on this earthly plane, and so much has been added to Swami Bhajananandaji's karmic bank!





Down Liberty Ave: Stories that energise, sustain our thriving Guyanese community

By Dhanpaul Narine

No one was happy. The beauty pageant brought frowns instead of smiles. It is one of the stories from Liberty Avenue, and they are varied, diverse, and riveting. They expose the raw, unadulterated, and sometimes sublime architecture on which a society rests.

In addition to the pageant, the restoration of a statue, migrants taking turns to sleep in the community, a sign on Lefferts Boulevard, honouring iconic women, the Phagwah parade, and President Irfaan Ali's visit to Brooklyn, made some of the headlines on Liberty Avenue.

Add books and speeches for Black History Month, and you have the complete roller-coaster of emotions and events that have made Liberty Avenue such a special place in the hearts and minds of the community.

Who would have thought that a beauty contest would have snowballed out of proportion? This is exactly what happened when two strong-willed women teamed up to do a pageant in Queens. One pulled out on the day before the pageant with a laundry list of accusations. If the idea was to break the event, the plan misfired.

The pageant went ahead and turned out to be a classy affair. But this was just the start of a back-and forth that involved the wolves on social media that were only too eager to jump in to add to their ratings, build platforms, and collect their checks.

Spare a thought for the contestants in this drama. They performed admirably, showcasing their many talents that impressed the audience. There could only be one winner, but don't tell that to some of the parents who complained that their child should have won.

A demonstration took place on Liberty and Lefferts with ladies trashing ladies. The bullhorns were out but the message was lost in the rains. An all-out boycott was planned for the Diwali Motorcade on Liberty Avenue. But the Motorcade had the biggest attendance in its history.

What are the lessons in all this? People need to put aside their differences and work together. The other lesson is that Lakshmee Singh knows how to get things done!

The Shri Tulsi Mandir is situated one block from Liberty Avenue, and proudly displayed a statue of Mahatma Gandhi. Why then would someone want to deface and destroy this monument of Gandhi? Thanks to the overhead cameras the perpetrator was caught not once, but twice, destroying the statue. He was duly prosecuted, and a replacement statue arrived from India.

At the reinstallation ceremony, New York City Mayor Eric Adams called for tolerance. He stressed the multicultural strength of New York City, a point that was reinforced by Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, and City Councilwoman Lyn Shulman. Gandhi currently stands serenely outside the Shri Tulsi Mandir, a symbol of peace in the city, and with a camera watching over him.

It took a group of migrants in Liberty Avenue to make the national news and impact policy in the corridors of Washington. This happened when it was discovered that scores of migrants had occupied a building, and were taking turns to use toilet facilities, and to sleep. Who knew there were so many Senegalese living in Richmond Hill?

The migrant crisis has reached an alarming state in New York. It seems as if everybody is dumping migrants into New York, and overstretching its already slim resources. Can you imagine that a much-loved practice of going to the library on a Sunday will be gone? Once they cut it, you don't see it anymore.

This brings us to the Queens Book Fair and Literary Festival. This was founded six years ago to promote reading and literacy in Queens, New York. The meetings are held at the Queens Library, Richmond Hill Branch. The staff is amazingly kind and courteous.

This year's Black History Month observances was on point because of its diversity, and the participation of young people. Lourdeth Ferguson, the moderator, was mightily impressed to see Indo-Caribbean children display such deep knowledge of Black History. The speakers, Rev Kerry Rogers, Arthur Jackson, Albert Jurczynski, and Dr Melina Basant, made the important point that Black History is American History. Indo-Caribbean Heritage observances will take place on June 1, 2024.

In March 2024, history was made in Liberty Avenue when a new sign was installed at the Liberty Avenue and Lefferts Boulevard Station. This is the last stop on the 'A' train, and departure sees hundreds of persons exit onto the Avenue on their onward journeys. The 'Little Guyana' sign stands proudly at the bottom of the subway stop, so it was most fitting that a 'Welcome to Little Guyana' sign should be installed prominently at the top to remind all of the presence of Guyanese in the area.

Demetrius Crichlow, a senior vice-president of the NYC



NY subway sign welcoming all to 'Little Guyana'



**President Ali received a great welcome in Brooklyn**

Transit, said that the time and place were perfect to recognise 'Little Guyana.' Senator Joe Addabbo Jr played an important role in getting the signage to the community, as did the Richmond Hill-South Ozone Park Lions Club president Romeo Hitlall.

There can be no denying that Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar and Assemblyman David Weprin are wonderful supporters of the efforts of the community.

In April 2024, the annual Phagwah Parade took place to great fanfare. It was a picture-perfect day, and according to observers, the parade had the biggest turnout since it started 36 years ago.

There was a record number of floats on Liberty Avenue, and the politicians turned up to talk about their care and concern for the community, even for one day!

The program in Smokey Oval Park hit the right notes with a combination of classical and modern items, and some old favourites. There were still hundreds in the park when the program ended in the sunshine.

Here's an issue that was trending for weeks: President Irfaan Ali visited Liberty Avenue last October. During question time, a lady invited him to visit Brooklyn. He promised that he would, and on a bright April day he was in Brooklyn chatting jovially with the community, and visiting various Guyanese businesses in the area. He even clapped roti, much to the delight of the people there. According to journalist Tangerine Clarke, "The President was treated in Brooklyn with respect. The people took to him and the meeting was warm and friendly."

But as one can imagine, the visit did not go down well with some. They asked: How dare did the President visit Brooklyn? And why did the people treat him so well? There must be retribution, they said. The Guyanese businesses that welcomed him must be boycotted, and the owners must apologise. Really? This is senseless and utter madness, and racist to the core.

The memory of the so-called leaders in Brooklyn is short. They would do well to know that when former Guyana President Desmond Hoyte walked down Liberty Avenue, Guyanese escorted him and took him to various businesses. No one called for the business places to be boycotted.

At a memorial service for Hoyte in Brooklyn, this writer spoke and reminded all that Hoyte wanted racial unity in Guyana.

When former President David Granger visited Richmond Hill, Mike Persaud, a local resident, invited Granger for dinner. He accepted, and there were members of the business community present. No one called for their businesses to be boycotted.

When the current PNC leader Aubrey Norton visited Richmond Hill a few months ago, he was treated with respect by the community, including the business community, and again no one called for a business boycott in Liberty Avenue.

The lesson from all this is clear. People thrive on racial divisions. The planters deliberately kept Indians away from Blacks in Guyana. Working class unity would have destroyed the system. Local leaders took over and carried on with the racial divisions. Walter Rodney preached working class unity, and they assassinated him. In the eyes of the racists, Plantations Richmond Hill and Brooklyn must be kept separate.

But people are smart. In this age of technology, the world is connected, and racism will not be allowed to thrive. The peoples of Guyana know that we have more in common than we have differences.

Happy

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# Baptiste's Caribbean Perspectives chronicles 30 years of Caricom

**Georgetown** – A publication that chronicles major developments in Caricom for over 30 years was launched last week in Georgetown, Guyana. Titled *Caribbean Perspectives*, it is authored by former Caribbean journalist and specialist in Caribbean affairs, Sandra Ann Baptiste.

The launch was attended by Guyana's President Irfaan Ali, and Caricom Secretary-General Dr Carla Barnett. Both leaders lauded Baptiste's efforts in assembling a comprehensive account of the early days of the regional integration movement. The book contains an extensive collection of articles, one-on-one interviews with many regional leaders, and material from radio and television broadcasts.

Now a business and communications consultant, Baptiste is the Chief Executive Consultant of the Florida-based Carigold Signature, which published the book and hosted its launch.

Delivering the feature address, Ali noted that the book outlines three decades of inter-regional development of Caricom, and shows how much work has been, and will continue to be put into the regional union.

Ali's address was reported by the Guyana media, and *Caribbean Today*.

As Ali noted, "We are leading on climate in the global conversation. We are leading on forest in the global conversation and [on] finance. On peace, we are leading the conversation, and on reparative justice. Recently, we have found ourselves in the excellent position of ensuring, what many leaders in the past spoke of, that this region remains a region of democratic credentials."

He further encouraged Caricom members to conduct and apply a decision-making framework to allow the body to continuously and permanently operate in an efficient manner.

Additionally, he declared that each day Caricom gets closer to its goal of closely linking its member states, either by way of transportation with the ongoing ferry service among Guyana, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago; with the removal of trade barriers; and the common food security goals.



President Ali (centre) with Dr Carla Barnett (second from left), *Caribbean Perspectives* author Sandra Ann Baptiste (second from right), and guests at the book launch

He also assured that Caricom will not be left behind, as he will ensure that it will work collectively to foster success.

"I want to say very clearly that there is no other option to succeed and win. Caricom will not lose, and Caricom will not be left behind. As a collective, we are going to confront the challenges of the past and the present. We are going to overcome those challenges, and we are going to position Caricom as the strongest block," he asserted.

Meanwhile, *Caribbean Perspectives* features the views of over a dozen Heads of Government from across the region, business icons and civic leaders.

In its pages are interviews and features with Guyanese Presidents Dr Cheddi Jagan and Donald Ramotar; Barbadian leaders Sir Errol Barrow, Sir Bernard St John, and Sir Erskine Sandiford; Prime Ministers Michael Manley and P.J. Patterson from Jamaica; Dominica's Dame Eugenia Charles, Saint Lucia's John Compton; and James Mitchell of St Vincent and the Grenadines.

It also contains articles that focus on the many disappointments about the slow pace of integration; key integration issues; intra-regional trade issues; strengthening regional links;

national social and economic issues; and tourism development.

A section also looks at Commonwealth issues, with articles on Secretaries-General Sir Shridath Ramphal and Chief Emeka Anyaoku, as well as on Caricom Secretaries-General Roderick Rainford and Edwin Carrington.

"There are few better placed, or informed to drive this task than Sandra Ann Baptiste, a committed regionalist with whom I have had the pleasure of sharing information and views since my earliest days in the engine room of the integration movement at the Caricom Secretariat in the 1970s," Carrington said in a message to mark the launch of the publication.

Rainford also commented on *Caribbean Perspectives*, commending the book as an historical document, which he said would be of great interest to all who have followed the history of regionalism in the Caribbean.

"The enormous task of producing these reports for over 30 years required tremendous research, and is quite a labour of love that tells the story of the ebbs and flows of regional developments over that period," he stated.

In her address, Baptiste stated that the book was produced to inform students across the region about developments in the earlier days of Caricom, which is now observing its 50th anniversary.

She also presented copies of *Caribbean Perspectives* to the librarians of the University of Guyana and the Guyana National Library, and indicated that the publication will be made available to the University of the West Indies libraries. It is also being provided to all the Caricom heads of government.

Baptiste also recommended that the current Caricom leaders read the book's foreword, which was written by former Caricom Assistant Secretary-General Byron Blake, who was critical of the state of the integration movement.

She also recommended that Caribbean Heads of Government listen to the people of the region to find out how they feel about the regional integration movement.

"It is time for Caricom leaders to consider a mini-West-Indian Commission," she suggested.

With a bad feeling that something was wrong, I slipped under the covers without making a sound or shaking the bed. Why didn't I know why I felt such dread in my heart? I needed the comfort of Amie, but when I tried to touch her, she pulled away. I could swear that I heard a sob. I stared at her shoulders in the semi-dark light of the half-moon. Did I imagine them jerking with each sob?

"Why?" Did she just whisper those words through a snuffle?

I rolled over onto my back with my hands under my head, I stared at the ceiling, unable to sleep, troubled by the unknown. I felt tormented about something, but did not know what it was.

When a bad dream woke me up, I realised that I had fallen asleep. A glance at the clock told me it was midnight. I turned to look at Amie, but she was not there. My heart stopped when the TV on the wall turned itself on at a news channel.

The reporter at the scene of an accident spoke during a newsreel. It showed footage of a car at the bottom of a cliff being approached by a rescue team dangling from ropes to attach hooks to the vehicle for a tow truck's winch to pull it up to the road.

The reporter said that she believed the occupants were still trapped in the vehicle, but no one knew if they were alive. From the height of the drop to the rocks below and the mangled appearance of the vehicle, any hopes of survival were slim.

I turned the TV off and got out of bed to see if Amie was in the bathroom. I searched the apartment, but she had vanished. I checked the door but the inside bolt was still in place. I returned to the bedroom and lay on the bed haunted by the mystery that plagued me. Was I having another bad dream?

I turned to Amie's side of the bed and realised that it was made up the way she had always left it when we got up to go to work every morning. We both took the train to work because of the congested streets of the downtown area where we worked a few blocks from each other.

## The Supernatural Connected

Kamil Ali



we had finished eating the supper Amie had prepared as I did every evening.

My knees buckled when I opened the fridge and found no lunch. I searched for the lunch bag but it was missing. I heard a sound in the bedroom and sprinted across the floor but the bed was neatly made up the way I had left it. Because my mind was unsettled, I wanted to call in sick to stay at home and unravel the puzzle that tormented me.

Since we had no home phone, I searched for my cell phone, but it had also gone missing, along with my laptop that I took to work with me every day.

Again, a sob from the bedroom dragged me out of the kitchen. This time the TV was on and the same news channel rebroadcasted the accident scene, but this time they showed the details of the wrecked sports car with a young couple who had died when speed catapulted them over the guardrail to the bottom of the incline.

When the channel switched to a commercial break, I realised that I had just caught the end of the news two times in a row. My heart sank when I read the news that scrolled the top stories across the bottom of the screen.

I read about the wrecked transit system that Amie and I took to work every day. The train had derailed with many casualties. My stomach churned when the news returned. They blurred the graphic images of medics working frantically among the twisted bodies.

I was in denial when I realised that there was only one way to put the pieces of the puzzle into place to resolve the enigma. I had to rush to the nearby hospital.

When I floated into the hospital I knew that I had died and everything after that moment was a dream. Amie appeared beside me and held my hand a few times.

When I arrived at her bedside in a large makeshift ward of 20 or more broken bodies on gurneys, her head, with tubes inserted in her nose and mouth, moved from left to right with a tear rolling out of each eye.

Amie had been resuscitated a few times. but chose death to be with me. She flatlined and smiled while we floated away into eternal bliss.





Rowley (left) is escorted by Akash Ambani during a tour of Reliance's facilities in Mumbai last week

T&T, India in talks to build cricket academy in Trincity

Port-of-Spain – The Trinidad and Tobago delegation visiting India was last week given a tour of the Ambani facility, the Jio World Convention Centre, and the Reliance Corporate Park in Mumbai, India.

The Trinidad and Tobago team was led by Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley. He was accompanied by wife Sharon Clark-Rowley, Works and Transport Minister Rohan Sinanan, and Sport and Community Development Minister Shamfa Cudjoe-Lewis.

The Jio tour was hosted by Reliance Jio Ltd chairman Akash Ambani, the elder son of Mukesh Ambani, who is chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd.

According to a statement later issued by Trinidad and Tobago's Office of the Prime Minister, Rowley and Ambani are in talks to establish a cricket academy in Trinidad and Tobago. Ambani is also the owner of the Indian Premier League team the Mumbai Indians.

As the OPM noted, Rowley stated that the creation of a state-of-the-art cricket training facility in Trinidad and Tobago will help nurture young players in Trinidad and Tobago and the wider region.

It added he also declared that the academy will play a critical role in building a foundation for the improvement and restora-



Rowley, wife Sharon (2nd left), the T&T group, and devotees at Mumbai's Shree Siddhivinayak Temple

tion of West Indies cricket.

Land has already been made available for the project, the statement noted. Earlier this month, Rowley said a parcel of land in Trincity had been earmarked as the building site.

Rowley added that Reliance and local interests had approached Cabinet with a proposal for the academy.

"What (Reliance Industries) needed from the government was land. The government has made the land available, and we're now waiting for the investment to progress," he stated.

He added, "They sent an architect down to see the site, and he's designing the facility, so we hope to move to an investment stage in the not-too-distant future."

During the visit Rowley was invited to the pitch at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai, where he participated in the coin toss ahead of the IPL T20 match between the Mumbai Indians and the Lucknow Super Giants.

Reliance is also a dominant figure in the global energy industry. During the visit, the Trinidad and Tobago delegation was given an extensive tour of Reliance's refining and petrochemical complex in Jamnagar.

It also included in-depth presentations on the company's drive towards new energy production, including solar energy and biofuels.

Govt looks to better policing with CoP's second extension

Port-of-Spain – The government of Trinidad and Tobago expects an improvement in the nation's policing with Commissioner of Police Erla Harewood-Christopher taking up her second year in the role.

The extension was granted earlier this month by Trinidad and Tobago's Cabinet, further to her appointment by the Police Service Commission.

The government's expectation was revealed last week by Finance Minister Colm Imbert, who at the time was Trinidad and Tobago's Acting Prime Minister.

Imbert said considering all circumstances, Cabinet had little choice but to reappoint Harewood-Christopher to the role. He also made no prediction on the crime rate being lowered.

According to Imbert, Cabinet had consulted the PSC over Harewood-Christopher, and received positive feedback about her evaluation, which rated her as "good", he stated.

Imbert also spoke to Harewood-Christopher's reappointment, stating, "We felt that in all the circumstances, the best thing to do was to extend. On what basis are we going to say we reject the scientific assessment by the PSC of the Commissioner's performance?"

He also noted that had it not been Harewood-Christopher, no one knew who would be appointed. Even the PSC would take months to find a permanent CoP, he noted.

Imbert also pointed to the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the police second division, which he stated had both expressed support for Harewood-Christopher's extension.

"Thousands of police officers through their association – the vast majority of police officers – have come out in full support of the extension. Now that is a very positive sign. It means they are ready and willing to work with her," Imbert declared.



Erla Christopher

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Williamsville residents with empty water vessels earlier this week

## Fed-up residents protest water woes

**Port-of-Spain** – Frustrated residents in Williamsville took to the streets earlier this week in protest while calling on Public Utilities Minister Marvin Gonzales and the Water and Sewerage Authority to put an end to their ongoing water woes.

Carrying empty water vessels and holding up placards, the residents claimed that dry taps have persisted for over two years in their areas. They also declared that they were being neglected by the authorities.

At the height of the protest, the residents blocked off the main road to vehicular traffic leading into their community.

One resident at the protest told the media their Williamsville community had suffered for too long.

“We have been given empty promises by WASA and even when we call to beg for truck-borne supply, we have not been getting any. This has been happening since 2022. We are in 2024 now and we have really, really come to end of our patience,” said Williamsville resident Joy Ramoutar.

To add to their water woes, Ramoutar said WASA also “messed up the road” while running lines, with the poor conditions of their streets further impacting on the residents.

“Is dust in the morning, dust in the night, dust in your pot. No water in your taps. So enough is enough,” an outraged Ramoutar declared.

Williamsville has always been a peaceful community, Ramoutar stated. However, with the situation of neglect, waterless days, and bad

roads, the need for collective action was now being clearly and widely felt, she stated.

“I am appealing to Marvin Gonzales. You have been going around the country saying that you have been improving our water supply, but we have not been benefiting from anything. So, we are appealing to you to correct this situation as soon as possible,” Ramoutar added.

Another resident, Romero Abraham, told the media that their businesses, places of worship, and schools in Williamsville were being negatively affected by the water issue.

“Ninety percent of properties are businesses. People can’t sustain their workers because of the lack of water. A commodity like water is needed to sustain business. No water at places of worship, at schools,” he lamented.

He claimed that Williamsville was being “geographically discriminated and victimised”, with many in the community “suffering for water”.

Abraham also called on the authorities to explain its distribution to customers.

“[WASA] said they regularising the water but we [received] no water for 30 days. The authorities need to explain regularisation better,” Abraham said.

Councillor for the area Vincent Raghoo later confirmed for the media that the Williamsville community has been facing a chronic shortage of water for over two years.

“Every day is the same problem over and over. We standing here in 2024 and we begging for water. Is that right? We are not supposed to be begging for something like water in 2024,” Raghoo stated.

people are feeling it. We need to stop these criminals.”

Further afield, a bartender in central Trinidad later described the crime situation in Trinidad and Tobago as worrisome.

“Every time there is a murder, people feel scared to come out, so bars may be affected if people aren’t coming out... We are always on our guard, security-wise,” the bartender stated.

Another spokesperson in central Trinidad declared that vigilance was the key.

“It’s frightening. But how can you prevent crime? We just have to be vigilant, but we are a fine dining restaurant and bar, so we have precautions in place.”

A spokesperson for an establishment in north Trinidad said the bar is always aware of criminal elements.

“We really don’t have issues here, but we are aware of criminal elements, so we are usually careful,” the spokesperson said.

Another bar worker in Port-of-Spain also declared that caution was key.

“Crime is rampant all over, so whether you are operating a bar or a hairdressing salon, it is possible that you can be a target. You just have to be cautious at all times,” the bar spokesperson said.

## Tension with Imbert and Ramdass unnecessary, dangerous – Rowley

**Port-of-Spain** – The imbroglio between Trinidad and Tobago’s Ministry of Finance and Auditor General Jaiwantie Ramdass over the understatement of revenue in the Auditor General’s 2023 financial year report was an unnecessary and a dangerous bacchanal, Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley has said.

Rowley made his first public statement on the issue following his return from visits to Ghana and India.

As Rowley revealed, he was first informed there was a problem in March, and while out of the country, he kept in communication with acting Prime Minister Colm Imbert on developments.

Said Rowley: “I can tell you... I am quite surprised at this development, and I am very disappointed that it would have happened. There is an investigation taking place, and I, like everybody else, will like to see what the investigation says because this is not the kind of thing that I anticipated.”

He added, “I was first informed that there was a problem, I think it was in early March. As a Member of Parliament, I am very familiar with the Auditor General’s reports going to the Parliament... It is a standard thing, it does not turn the country upside-down.”

However, Rowley said “something happened” during that episode.

“... I am still quite distressed about it. As the Prime Minister of the country, I don’t take very lightly a public official, especially one involved in audit... telling me and the rest of the world that the Minister of Finance has been engaged

in backdating the books. That is a very, very serious allegation, and it has far-reaching consequences,” he stated.

Rowley also recalled an incident in the past where an error from the Ministry of Energy in reporting gas production had almost led to an international downgrading by a ratings agency.

Thankfully, the error was picked up and corrected, he said. However, he noted that when the agency was made aware of the error, it led to tensions.

“That was just a number from the Ministry of Energy. So you can imagine when the Auditor General is saying to the world that the Minister of Finance has backdated the finances and all kinds of interpretations are being put on that alleged action... I just had to look on helplessly as

PM,” Rowley said.

Additionally, “I had no role in it. None whatsoever. Because it is all a matter between office holders who are specifically put to handle specific actions in handling our finance. And no role is there for the office of the PM... But I do know a problem arose for cause. And just as we’ve done in many other things it’s been converted into an unnecessary and a dangerous bacchanal. I, too, will wait on the outcome of the investigation to see and to confirm what has happened here.”

Meanwhile, Rowley declared that despite this ongoing disagreement between the two offices, he had faith that they would still be able to work together for the business of Trinidad and Tobago.



Jaiwantie Ramdass

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The Golden Years of Indian Cinema

Madhumati led 6th Filmfare Awards with 12 nominations in 1958

By Vidur Dindayal

Madhumati led the sixth Filmfare Awards with 12 nominations and won nine awards, a record it held for 37 years. These included Best Film; Best Director; Best Music; Best Actress – Vijayanthimala; Best Supporting Actor – Johnny Walker; and Best Female Playback Singer – Lata Mangeshkar. Before this there was no Filmfare award for female playback singers.

Starring Dilip Kumar with a fresh modern look, Vijayanthimala, Pran, and Johnny Walker, its story was about reincarnation – two people meeting and soon recalled their tragic love story. It was the most popular and highest-grossing Indian Golden age movie of 1958.

The music and all the 11 songs by Salil Chowdhury are very enjoyable. I never forget the song by Dilip in the open hill scene, among trees, *Suhana Safar Aur Yeh Mausam Haseen*, one of the most popular songs by Mukesh.

Madhumati became the first Indian film to be released abroad after its release in the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival Theatre in Czechoslovakia. It was similar to the Alfred Hitchcock films *Rebecca* (1940) and *Vertigo* (1958).

Madhumati was selected as India's official submission for Best Foreign Language Film at the 31st Academy Awards.

According to Javed Akhtar, Madhumati is one among the top three or four romantic films ever made in Hindi cinema. Vijayanthimala says Madhumati was one of the “most memorable films” of her career.

Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi (That Which Moves is Called a Car), is a musical comedy. Starring Madhubala with the brothers Ashok Kumar, Anoop Kumar, and Kishore Kumar, the film revolves around a middle-aged man who resents women, and forbids his younger brothers from marrying. Other stars included Veena, K.N. Singh, Sajjan, Helen, and Cuckoo.

It was a major commercial success, and Madhubala's fourth consecutive major hit of 1958. The film has gained classic status, and it was the second highest-grossing film of 1958.

The music is composed by S.D. Burman and his son, R.D. Burman. Out of the eight songs, *Ek Ladki Bheegi Bhaagi Si* was listed among the Top 25 Rain Songs of Bollywood. Most were sung by Kishore Kumar. Manna Dey, Asha Bhosle and Sudha Malhotra also sang in a few.

Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi is commendable in its portrayal of women. Madhubala's character is that of a remarkably liberated woman in a male-dominated world.

Yahudi, starring Dilip Kumar, Meena Kumari, Sohrab Modi, Nigar Sultana, Minu Mumtaz, Tiwari, Murad, Helen, and Cuckoo – both as dancers/singers, is an epic romantic historical drama about persecution of Jews in the Roman Empire. The film was the third-highest grossing Hindi film of 1958.

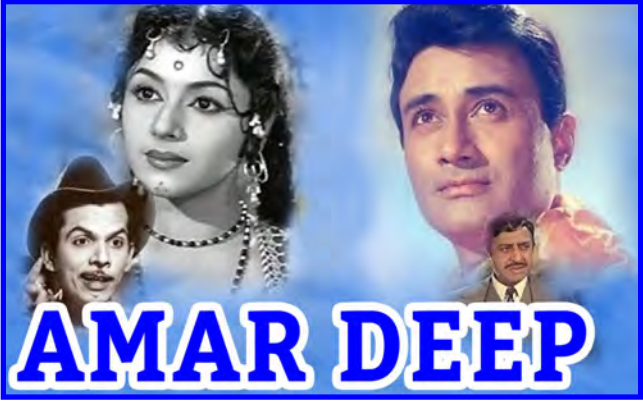
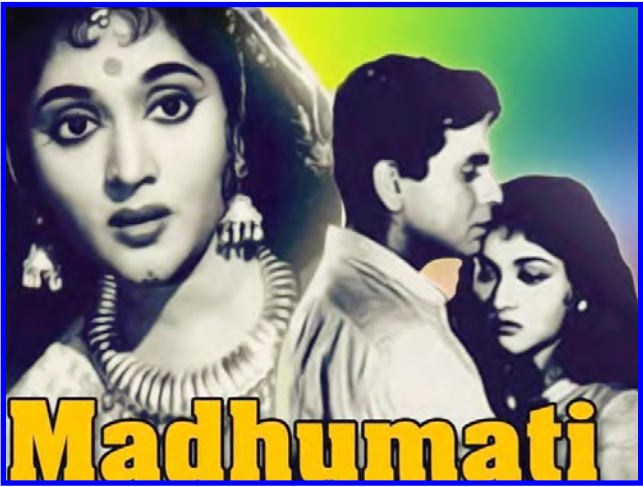
The film's lyricist Shailendra won the Filmfare Award for Best Lyricist at the Sixth ceremony for the song *Yeh Mera Diwanapan Hai*, which was sung by Mukesh.

With music by Shankar Jaikishan, among the seven songs and dances are *Dil Mein Pyar Ka Toofaan*, a wedding dance. The dancer is Kamala Laxman, a famous classical dancer. She was awarded *Padma Bhushan*, the third highest civilian award by the government of India. Most memorable is the beautiful and lively song and dance *Bechain Dil Khoyi Si Nazar* picturised by Helen and Cuckoo.

Phir Subha Hogi (Morning Will Dawn Again), stars Raj Kapoor, Mala Sinha, and Rehman. It was the fourth highest-grossing film in the year. It is a story of a poor law student who supports his education with money orders from his mother and things that he pawns.

Lyrics for this film were composed by Sahir Ludhianvi, with music by Khayyam. Among the six songs, *Woh Subah Kabhi Toh Aayegi*, sung by Asha Bhosle and Mukesh, brings tears to my eyes. It is very emotional. Here are the lyrics and as best as possible the meanings.

Woh Subah Kabhi Toh Aayegi, Woh Subah Kabhi Toh Aayegi,  
In Kaali Sadiyo Ke Sar Se, Jab Raat Kaa Aanchal Dhalakega  
Jab Dukh Ke Badal Pighalenge, Jab Sukh Ka Sagar Chhalega  
Jab Ambar Jhum Ke Naachega, Jab Dharati Nagame Gaaegi  
Woh Subah Kabhi Toh Aayegi, Woh Subah Kabhi Toh Aayegi  
Jis Subah Ki Khatir Jug Jug Se, Hum Sab Mar Mar Ke Jite Hai  
Jis Subah Ke Amrit Ki Dhun Me, Hum Zahar Ke Pyaale Pite Hai  
In Bhukhi Pyaasi Ruho Par, Ek Din To Karam Faramaayegi  
Woh Subah Kabhi Toh Aayegi, Woh Subah Kabhi Toh Aayegi  
Maana Ke Abhi Tere Mere Aramaano Ki Kimat Kuchh Bhi Nahi  
Mitti Ka Bhi Hai Kuchh Mol Magar  
Inasaano Ki Kimat Kuchh Bhi Nahi  
Inasaano Ki Izzat Jab Jhuthe Sikko Me Naa Toli Jaayegi  
Woh Subah Kabhi Toh Aayegi, Woh Subah Kabhi Toh Aayegi  
That morning will still come; that morning will still come.  
From the beginning of the dark years, when the dark night emerges.



When the clouds of sorrow melt, then the ocean of happiness floats.  
When Ambar will sing and dance, when the earth will sing.  
That morning will still come. That morning will still come.  
For the sake of this morning, everywhere, we all live while dying  
For that everlasting sound, we drink cups of poison  
In hunger and thirst, for one day of work we look forward.  
That morning will still come; that morning will still come.  
It means that my love for you is not worth much.  
Even the soil has no value.  
The value of a human being is not very high.  
The honour of humans, when they learn to lie, will have no weight.  
That morning will still come; that morning will still come.  
Sadhna (Realise), a film starring Sunil Dutt, Vijayanthimala, Leela Chitnis, and Manmohan Krishna. Its story revolves around Mohan, who is a lecturer. His old mother would like him to get married and settle down before she dies.  
The film's soundtrack was composed by Datta Naik, and the vocals were provided by Lata Mangeshkar, Mohammed Rafi, Geeta Dutt, and Asha Bhosle.  
Out of the seven songs, the words of *Aurat Ne Janam Diya Mardon Ko* by Sahir Ludhianvi, and sung by Lata Mangeshkar-Vijayanthimala in the movie, are very touching. I understand it to mean that woman gave birth to man, but man gives her to the marketplace, and ignores the result in the abuse she suffers.

Sadhna, on the subject of helpless women, was all about Vijayanthimala's skills as a dancer. It was the fifth highest-grossing film of the year, and won Filmfare Awards: Best Actress – Vijayanthimala; and Best Story.

Phagun (Spring) stars Madhubala, Bharat Bhushan, Jeevan, Dhumal, Mehmood, Cuckoo as dancer, and Kammo as dancer.

A romantic musical, Phagun revolves around Bijan, who falls in love with a dancer named Banani. They are unable to marry each other due to social differences in their lifetime, and are reincarnated to complete their love tale.

Music Director is O.P. Nayyar, with lyrics by Qamar Jalalabadi. Among its 11 entertaining songs, the most popular and most memorable is *Ek Pardesi Mera Dil Le Gaya*. All songs were sung by Asha Bhosle, and some with Mohammed Rafi.

Parvarish (Upbringing) star Raj Kapoor, Mala Sinha, and Mehmood. It is the story of a wealthy man compelled to adopt two boys, including a prostitute's son after an accident. This results in insults from the society for adopting a prostitute's son.

Out of the seven songs in the movie, I like *Aansobhahari Hai*, which is sung by Mukesh for Raj Kapoor; *Beliya Beliya Beliya Beliya* and *Jane Kaisa Jadu Kiya Re* are dance numbers. A lullaby *Jhoom Re, Jhoom Re*, sung by Lalita Pawar in the movie is heartwarming.

Kala Pani (Black Water) is produced by Dev Anand for Navketan Films. Starring Dev Anand, Madhubala, Nalini Jaywant, Agha, Mukri, Kishore Sahu, Sapru, and Mumtaz Begum, it is the story of a young man, who upon learning about his father's wrongful implication in a murder, vows to bring the true criminals to justice.

The film was a huge success. At the sixth Filmfare Awards, Dev Anand and Nalini Jaywant won Best Actor and Best Supporting Actress Awards, respectively.

Music was by S.D. Burman. Out of the seven quite entertaining songs, I like to listen to *Achha Ji Main Haari*; *Chalo Maan Jao Na*. In *Dilwale O Dilwale*, Madhubala is dancing. In *Nazar Lagi Raja* and *Dil Lagake Kadar Gayi*, Nalini Jaywant is dancing beautifully. In *Jab Naam-E-Mohabbat* she is singing to Dev Anand.

Howrah Bridge is a crime thriller. Kumar, a businessman from Rangoon, travels to Calcutta to track down his brother's murderers. Madhubala stars as Edna, a cabaret dancer, in one of her most popular roles.

Others in the cast with significant roles were K.N. Singh, Madan Puri, Om Prakash, Dhupal, and Sunder. Mehmood and Minoo Mumtaz played wedding dancers. Music was composed by O.P. Nayyar, one of the biggest reasons for the film's success. *Mera Naam Chin Chin Chu*, brought fame to Helen, who was only 19 at the time.

Other evergreen songs were *Aaiye Meharban*, picturised on Madhubala; *Dekhke Teri Nazar*; *Yeh Kya Kar Dala Tune*; *Main Jaan Gayi Tujhe Saiyan*; *Gora Rang*; *Chunariya Kali*; *Mohabbat Ka Hath*; *Jawani Ka Palla*; and *Eent Ki Dukki*, *Paan Ka Ikka*.

The film became one of the biggest hits and the ninth highest-grossing film of 1958.

Dilli Ka Thug is a comedy starring Kishore Kumar, Nutan, Madan Puri, and Iftekhhar. Kishore Kumar Sharma (Kishore Kumar) gambles and tricks people to make money. On being confronted by his mother, he decides to find a job, and lands one in Mumbai. Music was by Ravi. The song *Yeh Raatein Yeh Mausam* still remains popular to this day. Singers were Kishore Kumar and Asha Bhosle-Nutan in the movie.

In the familiar song *Hum To Mohabbat Karega*, Kishore Kumar is teasing Nutan. Another well-known song is *C A T Cat, Cat Mane Billi, R A T Rat, Rat Mane Choocha*. *Seekh Le Babu Pyar Ka Jadu* is a dance song with Nutan singing. *Yeh Bahar, Yeh Sama* is a dance in pool number. *Kisi Ka Dil Lena Ho* with lead dancer Minoo Mumtaz and *O Babu, O Lala* – lead dancer Smriti Biswas are both entertaining dance numbers.

In addition to the ten highest grossers, the hundred plus movies released in 1958, include these memorable hits: *Adalat*; *Farishta*; *Amardeep* (big hit in Guyana); *12 O'Clock*; *Daughter of Sindbad*; *Devar Bhabhi*; *Harishchandra*; *Gauri Shankar*; *Ghar Sansar*; *Jailor*; *Khazanchi*; *Maalik*; *Maya Bazar*; *Mujrim*; *Milan*; *Naya Paisa*; *Night Club*; *Pati Parmeshwar*; *Piya Milan*; *Police*; *Kalidas*; *Raagini*; *Raj Tilak* – this featured a beautiful dance contest between Padmini and Vijayanthimala; *Solva Saal*; *Son of Sinbad*; *Sone Ki Chidiya*; *Taqdeer*; *Ten O'Clock*; *Zindagi Ya Toofan*; *Baghi Sipahi*; *Chaalbaaz*; and *Kalidas*.

The movie *Lajwanti* received a Certificate of Merit at the 1959 National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi. It was also nominated for the *Palme d'Or* for Best Film at the 1959 Cannes Film Festival. During shooting of *Teesri Gali*, comedy star Gope suffered a heart attack and died on the spot.

Madhubala starred in four of the top ten that year plus in two other hits – *Police*, and *Baghi Sipahi*. O.P. Nayyar was Music director in nine movies released in 1958.



## Emotional moment for Shah with Manthan's premiere at Cannes

Shyam Benegal's iconic film *Manthan* had its premiere screening at the 77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival on May 17. The screening of this 1976 classic, starring the late Smita Patil and Naseeruddin Shah, created a wave of nostalgia and appreciation for its timeless story, *Bollywood Hungama* and other Indian news outlets reported.

The premiere was a star-studded affair, and was attended by veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah and his wife Ratna Pathak Shah. Prateik Babbar, son of the late Smita Patil, was also at the stellar event.

Following the premiere, Shah told *Brut India* at the French Riviera he was awed at being a part of the red carpet ceremony, an experience he had only witnessed on screen before.

"It felt unreal to me. I have always seen the red carpet ceremony either on video or in photographs. I have seen all these lovely ladies parading themselves in their gorgeous costumes. I never dreamt I would be a part of that one day. So my wife and I decided to keep it as simple as possible. And of course, it was a terribly emotional experience," he said.

The couple chose simple attire for the eventful occasion.

Shah also described the experience as deeply moving. He recounted the presence of several friends who were part of the film, including Girish Karnad, a friend and his teacher at the Film and Television Institute of India, and his late friends, Smita Patil and Amrish Puri.

He also admitted to fighting back tears, the consequence of being overwhelmed by *Manthan's* enduring societal relevance, and the memories associated with his colleagues.

He added, "Because there were so many friends who were in the film. Girish was a friend and my teacher. He was the director of FTII. Smita was a dear friend, and so was



Shah (centre) calls for courageous films at Cannes 2024

Amrish. None of them are there any longer. So it was a moving experience. I could hardly hold back the tears. And I find that the film has really stood the test of time."

Looking back at his portrayal of the character, Shah admitted that with his present-day experience, he might approach the role with a greater awareness of the social context, and with a tighter grip on the character's emotions.

"I'd probably play it with a lot more awareness of the situation, and little more control

over the emotions of the character," he revealed.

He also addressed *Manthan's* enduring social relevance, lamenting over the persistence of the caste system, a social evil that continues to plague millions of underprivileged citizens in India.

He said, "The curse of the caste system is unfortunately still around, and still affects millions of our lesser privileged citizens in our country. And it is a pity that people adhere to it so strongly still. It's not something that is going

to be easy to rid people's minds of – the evils of the caste system."

He added, "I hope it made a statement. I think it did make a statement regarding that. It did make statements on the unity of those who are oppressed."

And looking down the road to the future of Indian cinema, Shah identified religion as a crucial social issue demanding exploration through brave filmmaking. Religion is a pervasive force in our lives, and often leads to harmful consequences, he stated.

Consequently, hard-hitting films are needed to address this critical issue, he declared.

"I think courageous films should be made about this factor, which seems to be on all our minds, and which to my mind is one of the most harmful things that has happened to humanity. I would probably choose that. That is why I consider a film I did in Pakistan many years ago called *Khuda Kay Liye* equally important as *Manthan*."

*Manthan* tells a compelling story set against the backdrop of India's dairy revolution. The movie explores the clash between traditional methods and modern technology in the fight for a better future for dairy farmers.

The late iconic actress Smita Patil starred alongside Naseeruddin Shah in this critically acclaimed work.

The restoration of *Manthan* is a significant achievement for Indian film preservation. The film, a fictionalised version of the beginnings of the extraordinary dairy cooperative movement that transformed India from a milk-deficient nation to the world's largest milk producer, was inspired by Dr Verghese Kurien, the father of the White Revolution.

*Manthan* is also India's first crowd-sourced film, which was produced by 5,000,000 dairy farmers who contributed two Rupees each towards the production of the film.

## Responses mixed over Aishwarya's choice of gowns at Cannes

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's appearance at the 77th Cannes Film Festival left fashion critics wondering about her outfit choices, the Indian media have reported. And unfazed by the criticism, Aishwarya has since spoken out about her Cannes looks. She is also L'Oréal Paris' brand ambassador.

In a recent video feature by *Vogue India*, Aishwarya spoke about the creative forces that were behind her first-day appearance at Cannes, and revealed that her close friends, Shane and Falguni Peacock, were the masterminds behind the design. Her first outfit was called the "Gilded Glow".

While fashion critics raised eyebrows at the outfit, Aishwarya described the ensemble as "magical", and emphasised the intention was to achieve a "fresh" and "beautiful" makeup look to complement the outfit.

"The look... on the red carpet was designed by my dearest friends Shane and Falguni Peacock. They call it 'Gilded Glow'; but to me, it was just magical," she said.

For her first appearance, Aishwarya opted for a black gown adorned with elegant touches of bling. The white puffed sleeves added a dramatic flair to the ensemble, while her signature cat eyeliner and bold lips provided a familiar yet striking complement to the outfit.



Aishwarya's two outfits at Cannes this year

Despite gracing the iconic steps of the Palais des Festivals et des Congrès with her usual poise, Aishwarya's look garnered mixed reviews.

Some felt that her appearance came across



as "shabby" and "unattractive" rather than "dramatic", noting that it left much to be desired in terms of style and glamour.

The *Vogue India* video also saw negative

commentary on social media, with many posts wondering about her fashion choices.

Among the posts were, "Alas sorry gown... Magical.. No... Time to change your designer". Also, "Aish please ditch those designers and go for someone who'll dress you up beautifully. They made a mockery out of that second green-white gown. Also, this jacket is another Daler Mehendi types," a Reddit user stated.

For her second Cannes look, Aishwarya wore a silver and blue gown, complete with dramatic sleeves and a voluminous skirt.

Again designed by the celebrated Peacock duo, the ensemble also generated a wave of mixed reactions, inspiring memes and harsh critiques that included statements such as "out-right bizarre".

Over the years Aishwarya has dressed for Cannes in a yellow Neeta Lulla saree, which she wore for her debut in 2002. And while she has impressed fashion critics with her style choices at times, there were a few misses along the way.

Among her less successful Cannes looks was a feather-adorned gown by Ashi Studio in 2019, which was criticised for its heavy eye makeup and imposing hairdo. Then in 2023, her silver gown from Sophie Couture received mixed reviews, with some finding the oversized hood and large black bow to be off-putting.

## Bollywood elite visits Mumbai polling booths for Lok Sabha Elections 2024

Shah Rukh Khan, wife Gauri, daughter Suhana, and sons Aryan and AbRam visited an 'all women managed' polling station in Mumbai on Monday to cast their votes during the fifth phase of the ongoing Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

The young Khans were brought along to observe the voting process, *The Indian Express* reported. The family was accompanied by police officers to their polling station.

Last week Khan urged fans to exercise their

right to vote, emphasising the importance of fulfilling their duty as responsible Indian citizens, the media reported.

He also encouraged voters to make informed decisions while keeping the best interests of the country in mind.

"As responsible Indian citizens, we must exercise our right to vote this Monday in Maharashtra. Let's carry out our duty as Indians and vote keeping our country's best interests in mind. Go forth Promote, our right to Vote," he

posted to social media.

Other celebrity couples were also seen visiting polling booths on Monday, the media reported.

Among them were newlyweds Rakul Preet Singh and Jacky Bhagnani, and parents-to-be Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone.

Also casting their votes were Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan.

Star of the hit *Animal*, Ranbir Kapoor was also seen at the Pali Hill polling centre in

Mumbai.

Amitabh Bachchan and wife Jaya were also cast their votes, while Aishwarya Rai Bachchan posed for the cameras, and displayed her inked finger after casting her vote.

After casting his vote Akshay Kumar, Farhan Akhtar said, "I want my India to be developed and strong."

Veteran actor Rekha was also photographed alongside manager and friend, Farzana, after they voted at a Mumbai polling booth.



IPL 2024 POINTS TABLE (AS OF MAY 20-2024)							
TEAM ABBREVIATIONS							
RR (Rajasthan Royals); KKR (Kolkata Knight Riders); LSG (Lucknow Super Giants); SRH (Sunrisers Hyderabad); CSK (Chennai Super Kings); DC (Delhi Capitals); RCB (Royal Challengers Bengaluru); PK (Punjab Kings); GT (Gujarat Titans); MI (Mumbai Indians).							
TEAM	M	W	L	T	N/R	PT	NRR
KKR	14	9	3	0	2	20	1.428
SRH	14	8	5	0	1	17	0.414
RR	14	8	5	0	1	17	0.273
RCB	14	7	7	0	0	14	0.459
CSK	14	7	7	0	0	14	0.392
DC	14	7	7	0	0	14	-0.377
LSG	14	7	7	0	0	14	-0.667
GT	14	5	7	0	2	12	-1.063
PK	14	5	9	0	0	10	-0.353
MI	14	4	10	0	0	8	-0.318

IPL 2024

SCHEDULE OF MATCHES REMAINING  
(ALL TIMES - GMT)

**Qualifier 1** (N) played at Ahmedabad  
Tue, 21 May '24; SRK vs KKR (2:00 pm)

**Eliminator** (N) played at Ahmedabad  
Wed, 22 May '24; RR vs RCB (2:00 pm)

**Qualifier 2** (N) played at Chennai  
Fri, 24 May '24; SRH vs TBA (2:00 pm)

**Final** (N) played at Chennai  
Sun, 26 May '24; KKR vs TBA

# IPL keeps key WI, SA players out of T20Is in Jamaica

West Indies are minus their ICC Men's Twenty20 World Cup captain Rovman Powell and deputy Alzarri Joseph when they take on South Africa in three Twenty20 Internationals this week in Jamaica.

As the Caribbean media reported earlier this week, in Powell's place is Brandon King, who has been named interim captain, with Roston Chase his deputy for the matches against the South Africans starting tomorrow, and continuing on Saturday and Sunday.

While the matches mark the return of internationals to Sabina Park in Kingston, at the same time it will be the final and proper dress rehearsal for West Indies before they start the journey to win a third T20I World Cup.

This tournament starts on June 1 in the Caribbean and the US.

With such a big tournament looming, it is not an ideal time for Powell and Joseph to miss these preparatory matches.

However, they became unavailable for selection when their respective sides reached the knockout stages of the Indian Premier League.

These matches are now on, and offer the opportunity for both players to cash in on the final of the highly lucrative Indian T20 tournament.

Powell and left-hander Shimron Hetmyer,



Rovman Powell

another West Indies World Cup selectee, are part of the Rajasthan Royals that will play against Royal Challengers Bangalore, whose roster includes Joseph, in the elimination final of the IPL. This game will be played today at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Two other members of the West Indies World Cup squad, all-rounders Andre Russell and Sherfane Rutherford, are on the Kolkata Knight Riders team that played yesterday against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the qualification final of the IPL in Ahmedabad.

Cricket West Indies indicated in a news release that Joseph and Rutherford will be added to the squad if their respective franchises fail to reach the final of the IPL. Also, World Cup selectees Shai Hope and Nicholas Pooran are both being rested for the series, and will join the squad on May 27 in Trinidad, where the squad will officially be in World Cup mode.

South Africa too will be missing critical players, including their World Cup captain Aidan Markram, beanpole left-arm pacer Marco Jansen, and wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen. They are all members of the Sunrisers Hyderabad team in the IPL.

Players from West Indies and South Africa are among a small group of World Cup-bound, foreign internationals taking part in the knockout stages of the IPL, including the Australia trio of fast bowlers Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc.

Also in this line-up are left-handed batter Travis Head, and England opener Phil Salt, although several others from the competing teams made an early exit.

West Indies lead selector Desmond Haynes said the matches against South Africa will give the players selected a last chance to get in the right frame of mind for the World Cup.

As he noted, "These are among the last competitive T20I matches before the start of the World Cup. Players have the opportunity to fine-tune their skills and ensure they are as prepared as they can be for the World Cup, whether they are in the final squad or reserve pool."

Head coach Darren Sammy added West Indies will try to make the best of the situation during the matches against the South Africans.

"We have not played together as a team since the Australia series, but we just completed a very high-intensity training camp in Antigua. Now we have the chance to integrate some of our players returning from the IPL and build some momentum as a group going into the World Cup," he said.

The three games against South Africa will give players left out of the World Cup squad, namely left-arm spin bowling all-rounder Fabian Allen, left-handed batter Alick Athanaze, pacer Matthew Forde, ambidextrous all-rounder Kyle Mayers, left-arm pacer Obed McCoy, and leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr, a final chance to impress Haynes and Sammy.

All the teams have until Saturday to make changes to their provisional World Cup squads that were previously named, after which any alteration will require approval from the event's technical committee.

It means there is still time for players who were omitted to impress the selectors.

## Gambhir for India's head coach role?

Former India batter Gautam Gambhir is likely on top of the Board of Control for Cricket in India's wish-list for the role as India men's head coach. He is currently the mentor of Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL.

The development was reported earlier this week by the cricket website ESPNcricinfo, and other international sports media houses.

The role as India's head coach will be available after Rahul Dravid's term ends at the conclusion of the 2024 T20 World Cup in June.

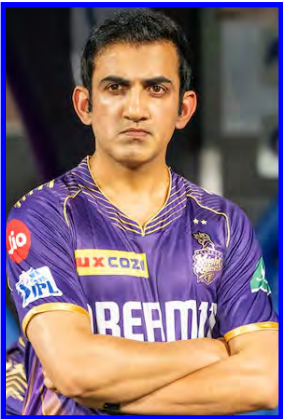
Last week, the BCCI posted an advertisement seeking applications for the position of India men's head coach.

The job would be for all three formats for a duration of three and a half years, starting July 2024 until December 2027.

According to ESPNcricinfo earlier this week, Gambhir was contacted by the BCCI to gauge his interest in the job.

It was also reported that further discussions are expected after KKR complete their IPL 2024 campaign. Meanwhile, the deadline for applying for the job is May 27, a day after the IPL final.

As reported internationally, Dravid has informed the BCCI he will not be seeking



Gautam Gambhir

an extension to this head coach tenure. It was expected that V.V.S. Laxman would succeed Dravid. However, Laxman made himself unavailable last year due to personal reasons.

Gambhir has no experience coaching at the international or domestic levels, but has been in charge of the coaching staff at two IPL franchises.

He was mentor at Lucknow Super Giants in IPL 2022 and 2023 that saw the team qualifying for the playoffs in both seasons. He then joined KKR for the 2024 season, where they will finish the league stage on top of the points table.

Gambhir's move to KKR for IPL 2024 was unexpected, and it was later revealed that he had been persuaded to become the team's mentor by the franchise's principal owner Shah Rukh Khan.

Gambhir was also part of India's T20 World Cup triumph in 2007, and the ODI World Cup victory in 2011. He captained KKR for seven IPL seasons from 2011 to 2017, and they qualified for the playoffs five times, and won two titles in 2012 and 2014 under his leadership. They also reached the final of the defunct Champions League T20 in 2014.

coaching staff, including Bravo.

Bravo played 295 international matches for West Indies, scoring 6,423 runs and taking 363 wickets. He has also earned 100 First Class, 227 List A, and 573 T20 caps during his career.



Dwayne Bravo

He is currently the leading wicket-taker in T20 cricket, with 625 wickets to his name in the format, and has scored nearly 7,000 runs.

Besides a stellar playing career, Bravo also has coaching expertise, Cricbuzz reported. He is currently the bowling coach of Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League.

Meanwhile, it was also reported this week that former West Indies coach Phil Simmons has joined Papua New Guinea as a 'specialist coach' ahead of the World Cup tournament.

Cricket PNG said he was recruited because of his extensive experience of local conditions.



## New bowling coach: Bravo for Afghanistan

Former West Indian Dwayne Bravo has been appointed as Afghanistan's national cricket team's bowling consultant for the upcoming T20 World Cup, the ACB announced earlier this week.

The appointment was reported by the international media, among them the cricket websites Cricbuzz and ESPNcricinfo.

As the reports stated, Bravo will be joining the Afghan players this week during the team's preparatory camp ahead of the marquee event, which takes place in the Caribbean and the US from June 1 to June 29.

This week Afghanistan were already in St Kitts and Nevis, and were in a ten-day long training camp, part of their preparations for the upcoming tournament. According to the ACB, the camp is being overseen by the team's



# Toronto Police Cricket Club

Proudly Hosts

## Guyana Consulate Cricket Team

In celebration of Guyana Independence Day

Event Details

Date: Saturday, May 25, 2024

Time: 12pm

Venue: The Percy Cummins Cricket Ground located at 117 White Heather Blvd, Scarborough (Major Intersection: McNicoll Ave and White Heather Blvd)

Itinerary

12pm: Flag raising ceremony

12:30pm: 20 Overs Cricket Match

Contact

Raj Singh

President, TPCC

Cell: 647-268-1107

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Shiv Persaud

Guyana Consulate - Cricket

Cell: 647-291-4792

Email: shiv\_persaud@hotmail.com





Hayley Matthews

Praise for Hayley Matthews from CWI

West Indies Women's captain Hayley Matthews was congratulated last week by Cricket West Indies President Dr Kishore Shallow for being named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for April 2024.

Matthews' exceptional all-round performances against Pakistan earned her the prestigious accolade for the third time.

Shallow praised Matthews for her achievement, saying, "Hayley continues to be an inspiration and a beacon of excellence for West Indies cricket. Her dedication, skills, and leadership are evident in her performances, and we are incredibly proud of her accomplishments."

In the recently-concluded series against Pakistan, Matthews amassed 325 runs in the ODI series at a remarkable average of 162.5, and took six wickets.

In the T20I series, she continued her stellar form, scoring 126 runs at an average of 42, and securing six wickets.

Her outstanding contributions earned her four Player of the Match awards and the Player of the Series title in the ODIs.

In his remarks, Shallow also emphasised the wider resonances of Matthews' success, noting that it serves as a powerful motivator for young girls across the Caribbean to pursue cricket.

"Hayley's achievements not only bring pride to West Indies cricket, but also inspire young girls across the Caribbean to pursue their dreams in the sport. Her journey is a powerful narrative of what can be achieved when desire meets hard work and determination," he stated.

Matthews edged out strong competition from South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt and Sri Lanka's Chamari Athapaththu to claim this latest award. Her latest triumph adds to her previous wins in November 2021 and October 2023, making her one of the most decorated players in this category.

Only Australia's Ashleigh Gardner has won the ICC Women's Player of the Month award more times than Matthews.

Reflecting on CWI's commitment to women's cricket, Shallow remarked, "CWI's continuous efforts to support and develop women's cricket are yielding remarkable results. Hayley's success is a clear indicator of the growth and potential of women's cricket in the West Indies. We remain steadfast in our mission to provide our female cricketers with the best opportunities to excel."



Bangladesh women's cricket team

2024 Women's T20 WC starts October 3

India will take on Pakistan on October 6 in Sylhet in the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup, which will be held in Bangladesh with the teams divided into two groups of five each.

In Group A are Australia, India, New Zealand, Pakistan and QF1, while Group B's teams are South Africa, England, West Indies, Bangladesh and QF2.

The tournament starts on October 3 with England facing South Africa in the afternoon in Dhaka, while hosts Bangladesh will be in action on the same day in the evening game. They will take on the runners-up of the T20 World Cup Qualifiers, which is now taking place in Abu Dhabi.

Australia are the defending champions, and have won the tournament a record six times. They will play their first game on October 4 in Sylhet, in the afternoon match against the winner of the Qualifiers. India's first match of the competition will be against New Zealand on the same day in Sylhet in the evening.

A total of ten teams will be part of the tournament – two teams to be decided through the Qualifiers – with 23 matches to be held in total. The top two sides from both groups will feature in the semifinals.

Sri Lanka and Scotland have also qualified for the tournament.

Sylhet will host the first semifinal on October 17, while Dhaka will host the semifinal on October 18, as well as the final on October 20. The semifinals and the final will have reserve days.

The official warm-up matches will be held from September 27 to October 1, with the BKSP ground to host all practice games.

Cricket Schedule

(Matches ALL TIMES LOCAL)

- Thursday May 23, 2024**  
Bangladesh tour of US, 2024  
US vs Ban., 2nd T20I, Prairie View Cricket Complex, Houston, 10:00 AM  
Netherlands T20I Tri-Series, 2024  
Ireland vs Scot., 5th T20I, Sportpark Westvliet, The Hague, 11:00 AM

**Friday May 24, 2024**  
South Africa tour of WI, 2024  
West Indies vs South Africa, 1st T20I, Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica, 2:00 PM

**Saturday May 25, 2024**  
Pakistan tour of England, 2024  
England vs Pakistan, 2nd T20I, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 2:30 PM  
Bangladesh tour of USA, 2024  
US vs Ban., 3rd T20I, Prairie View Cricket Complex, Houston, 10:00 AM

**Sunday May 26, 2024**  
South Africa tour of WI, 2024  
West Indies vs South Africa, 2nd T20I, Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica, 2:00 PM

**Sunday May 26, 2024**  
South Africa tour of WI, 2024  
West Indies vs South Africa, 2nd T20I, Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica, 2:00 PM

**Monday May 27, 2024**  
South Africa tour of WI, 2024  
West Indies vs South Africa, 3rd T20I, Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica, 2:00 PM

**Tuesday May 28, 2024**  
Pakistan tour of England, 2024  
England vs Pakistan, 3rd T20I, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, 6:30 PM

**Thursday May 30, 2024**  
Pakistan tour of England, 2024  
England vs Pakistan, 4th T20I, Kennington Oval, London, 6:30 PM
- Sunday June 2, 2024**  
ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024  
US vs Canada, 1st Match, Group A, Grand Prairie Stad., Dallas, 7:30 PM

**Monday June 3, 2024**  
ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024  
Sri Lanka vs South Africa, 4th Match, Group D, Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, New York, 9:30 AM  
Namibia vs Oman, 3rd Match, Group B, Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, Barbados, 8:30 PM

**Tuesday June 4, 2024**  
ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024  
England vs Scotland, 6th Match, Group B, Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, Barbados, 10:30 AM  
Netherlands vs Nepal, 7th Match, Group D, Grand Prairie Stadium, Dallas, 10:30 AM  
Afghanistan vs Uganda, 5th Match, Group C, Providence Stadium, Guyana, 8:30 PM

**Wednesday June 5, 2024**  
ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024  
India vs Ireland, 8th Match, Group A, Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, New York, 9:30 AM

**Thursday June 6, 2024**  
ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024  
Australia vs Oman, 10th Match, Group B, Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, Barbados, 8:30 PM  
Papua New Guinea vs Uganda, 9th Match, Group C, Providence Stadium, Guyana, 7:30 PM  
United States vs Pakistan, 11th Match, Group A, Grand Prairie Stadium, Dallas, 10:30 AM

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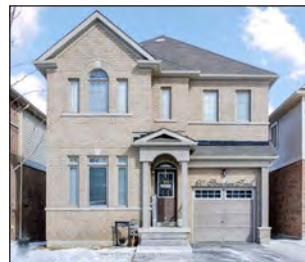
## Mississauga For Sale \$740,000

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.



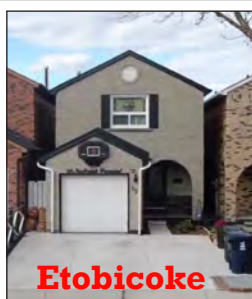
## Pickering Condo For Rent \$2,800

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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## 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.



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**\$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

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