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Our Community Is Thriving!



Brampton Crematorium & Visitation Centre's GM Puneet Aujla with a young family member at the charity car wash last weekend. *Story on Page 4*



Justice Anil Neil Singh (left) was sworn-in as a Judge in the Ontario Court on August 8. At the ceremony were Justice Singh's parents, dad Ranji (second from left) and mom Leila; lawyer, Dhaman Kissoon, also attended. *Story on Page 5.*

'Trini' celebrations about to 'take over town'

By Romeo Kaseram
LJI Reporter

Toronto – Toronto is gearing up for number of extraordinary celebrations that will see Trinbagonians (aka nationals of Trinidad and Tobago) and friends “taking over town” in the weeks ahead.

“Coming hot on the heels of the Toronto Caribbean Carnival activities and World Steelpan Day, which featured important aspects of Trinidad and Tobago’s culture, we are now switching gears towards celebrating Trinidad and Tobago’s 62nd Anniversary of Independence,” said Acting Consul General Tracey Ramsubagh-Mannette at the Consulate General for Trinidad and Tobago in Toronto.

“First up is Trinifest, a festival of cricket that will take place in Brampton on August 24 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. A Trinbago West team will face off against a Trinbago East team for the ultimate bragging rights. On the sidelines of the cricket match, there will be prizes and giveaways, a Best Dressed Trini competition, tassa drumming, and pan and a rhythm section.”

Then come August 30 and August 31, the national flag of Trinidad and Tobago will be raised in Scarborough, Mississauga, Brampton, and Ajax.

Said Ramsubagh-Mannette: “The time between Independence Day on August 31 and Republic Day on September 24 is known as National Patriotism Month. Our pinnacle celebration during that special month is the Trinbago Toronto Festival, taking place on September 7 and September 8 at Nathan Phillips Square.”

She added, “The Trinbago Festival, now three years old, is already the largest celebration of Trinidad and Tobago music, culture, and food outside of Trinidad and Tobago. We are also excited that the CN Tower and Toronto sign will be illuminated in red, white, and black on September 7 to mark



Presented by Grace Foods Canada, the Island Eats Food and Travel Festival took place last weekend at Mel Lastman Square. The event was filled with the pleasant aromas of Caribbean cuisine, pulsating rhythms, and winning smiles. Among the winning smiles was Acting Consul General at the Trinidad and Tobago Consulate General, Toronto, Tracey Ramsubagh-Mannette, who is pictured above with a vendor at the event. *Photo by Russell Lutchman* the occasion!”

The upcoming event at Nathan Phillips Square grew out of last year’s tremendous success, when more than 20,000 Trinbagonians and friends of Trinidad and Tobago filled Yonge-Dundas Square with a sea of red, white, and black in the heart of downtown Toronto. The energy was palpable, **See Page 5: Magical**

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Impeccable home with hardwood floors & stairs, gas fireplace, internal access to garage, & large private deck. Backyard extends over landscaped hill to other side for avid gardener. Impressive upgrades include modern light fixtures & modern ceramics. In quiet neighbourhood near university. A hot buy so call now!



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NEPMCC's Senior VP Ned Blair (at left) presents a plaque to Consul General Davis, second from left; also receiving the presentation are JCA President David Betty (second from right), and Dr Susan Robinson

NEPMCC award for JCA

The Jamaican Cultural Association was presented with a plaque at its 62nd anniversary gala by the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada.

Held at the Jamaican Canadian Centre in North York, the gala was also in celebration of the 62nd anniversary of Jamaica's Independence.

Noting the JCA's contribution to the community, the GTA, and to Canada, the NEPMC's plaque recognised the group for its "62 years of national pride, and for sharing your culture, art, music, and success in sports".

It added, "We celebrate your diversity, and inroads in business, government, social, and political activism, and for distinguished service to Canada".

The award was presented to the JCA by the NEPMC's Senior Vice President Ned Blair. Receiving the NEPMC's recognition for the JCA was Consul General Kurt Davis.

The evening also saw Blair being the recipient of the Markham-Unionville Award, which was presented by Markham-Unionville's MP Paul Chiang.



MP Paul Chiang (left) presents Ned Blair with the Markham-Unionville Award; looking on at right is Shalieann Brown, JCA Membership Services Chair, who earlier had presented Blair with a Lifetime Award



Soni Rambharack (left) introducing the panel: Gauri Dhanrajh, moderator; Rudra and Dhruv Datt; Roshni Dhansa; and Vidhi Sharma. The panel discussed *Building Bonds with Youth and Mandirs*



Moderator Kashmeena Mangal with panelists Khushi Jetley; Khushali; Aneal Mahadeo; and Arnav. This panel discussed *How to Maintain Hindu Identity on Campus*

Hindu Federation's Youth Conference

The Hindu Federation, together with Hindu Students Council, hosted a Hindu Youth Conference on July 27 at the Mississauga Ram Mandir. The conference was titled, *Dharma Conference: Lessons from the Ramcharitramanas*.

There were representatives from OCAD University, University of Toronto (St George, Scarborough and Mississauga campuses), George Brown College, University of Western Ontario, Ontario Tech University, McMaster University, and University of Guelph.

The content of the conference was of the highest quality and was delivered in an eloquent manner. It is intended that the conference will be an annual event.

Vishwa Dave (left photo), a student at George Brown College, with a classical dance performance; at right is Pandit Roopnauth Sharma, President of the Hindu Federation, addressing the students



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BCVC 2nd annual charity car wash makes a big splash

Brampton – Brampton Crematorium & Visitation Centre once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment to the community through another successful hosting of the second Annual Charity Car Wash, Suds, Soap, and SOCH. The successful charity event was held on August 18.

This event not only united the local community, but also underscored the funeral home's dedication to corporate social responsibility by raising over \$50,000 for SOCH Mental Health, a local non-profit organisation that promotes mental health literacy across various ethnic communities. These communities include the Punjabi, Hindi, Indo-Caribbean, Tamil, and more.

Held in the bustling parking lot of the Embassy Grand Convention Centre in Brampton, the car wash turned into a vibrant gathering spot, drawing together families, business leaders, and many local politicians.

The day featured a variety of engaging activities, including a four-station car wash, face painting, a three-point basketball competition, and a dunk tank.

The presence of Brampton Fire & Peel Regional Police, along with dignitaries such as Regional Councillor Gurpartap Toor, MP Kamal Khara, MP Maninder Sidhu, City Councillor Rod Power, MPP Hardeep Grewal, and MP Shafqat Ali, further highlighted the importance of the cause, its significance, and notably, its widespread support.

For its second event, Brampton Crematorium & Visitation Centre set an ambitious fund-raising goal of \$30,000, increas-



Co-founders of SOCH Mental Health Maneet Chahal-Gill (left) and Jasmeet Chagger (at right), with GM Punet Aujla (second from left), and Brampton Centre MP Shafqat Ali (second from right)

ing the total by \$10,000 from last year's objective. However, this year saw overwhelming and touching generosity from sponsors, community members, and local businesses that propelled the event to surpass all expectations, the event raising over \$50,000 in donations and pledges.

It was a remarkable success that illustrated not only the power of collective action, but also the funeral home's deep-rooted commitment to giving back to the community.

Corporate Social Responsibility is more than just a commitment for Brampton Crematorium & Visitation Centre – it is a guiding principle that shapes its operations and community initiatives.

The Centre actively engages in annual events like the Charity Golf Tournament, the Food & Toy Drive, and the Charity Car Wash, not just to bring people together, but at the same time to raise awareness about critical societal issues such as mental health, food security, and the well-being of underprivileged families.

"Our goal is not only to provide exceptional services, but also to be a pillar of support in the community," stated Punet Aujla, General Manager of Brampton Crematorium & Visitation Centre.

He added, "We recognise that our role extends beyond our walls, and we are committed to making a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve."

The Suds, Soap, and SOCH Charity Car Wash has become a beacon of Brampton Crematorium & Visitation Centre's efforts to promote mental health awareness, particularly within ethnic communities that face unique challenges in accessing resources.

By partnering with organisations like SOCH Mental Health, the Centre is actively contributing to initiatives that help break down the stigma surrounding mental health.

As a leader in community engagement and social responsibility, Brampton Crematorium & Visitation Centre continues to inspire and support the local community.

The resounding success of this year's charity car wash was a testament to the strength of community spirit and the impact of working together for a common cause.

In a press release following the event, the Centre extended heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated, donated, and supported the event, and for their help in making a meaningful difference in the lives of those who need it most.

[Click here for information about SOCH Mental Health and the upcoming events.](#)



A Brampton fire truck on display alongside vehicles from the exotic car club



A media wall set up outside the Convention Centre displaying all the generous sponsors



Ice Cream Truck set up at the event, sponsored by Aujla Salon & Spa & Glam by Gilly



Peel Regional Police Cruisers going through the four stations of the car wash




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Justice Singh: Dedicated to justice, committed to community service

By Romeo Kaseram
LJI Reporter

Toronto – In a gain for the judiciary, and a significant personal and professional career milestone, Justice Anil Neil Ranji Singh has been appointed as a judge of the Ontario Court, an elevation to a role that highlights his dedication to justice, and his commitment to community service.

Justice Singh's appointment was celebrated with an elucidating and evocative address that was delivered by Dhaman Kissoon, a prominent lawyer, philanthropist, and community builder.

Also an Adjunct Professor at Queen's Faculty of Law, Kissoon played an incipient but crucial role in Justice Singh's early career.

Justice Singh was called to the Ontario Bar in 2008, and began his legal career as a sole practitioner focused exclusively in criminal defence. Over the years, he built a reputation for commitment to justice, fairness, and compassion, qualities that have earned him respect across the legal community.

Justice Singh's journey is a testament to perseverance and dedication, Kissoon stated during his address.

He added, "His path to this esteemed position reflects not only his intelligence, but also the values instilled in him by his parents, Ranji and Leila Singh, who emigrated from Guyana." He also noted that Justice Singh's great grandparents arrived in Guyana from India.

It was a genealogical heritage that instilled in Justice Singh "the values of hard work and resilience", Kissoon noted.

Growing up in the diverse communities of Toronto, Markham, and Newmarket, Justice Singh's upbringing laid the foundation for his understanding of the varied cultures and communities that he would later serve.

He excelled academically, earning a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Western University before attending Osgoode Hall Law

School, where he received numerous accolades, among them the Clifton H. Lane Memorial, the Fogler Rubinoff LLP, and the Shibley Righton LLP prizes.

However, despite his academic success, Justice Singh soon encountered a major hurdle early in his career, Kissoon revealed.

"Despite his significant achievements and excellent grades, Justice Singh faced a significant challenge early in his career, receiving no interviews or job offers after law school," Kissoon recalled.

But in previous interactions, Kissoon recalled discerning "something special in this young man."

"I couldn't let his potential in the legal field go to waste," he declared.

Kissoon offered Justice Singh a position at Kissoon & Associates, where he assisted the firm with its busy criminal defence practice in preparing Charter motions, trial memoranda, and trial briefs.

"He excelled as an articling student, and distinguished himself very quickly," Kissoon recalled.

What drove those early years in Justice Singh's blossoming career were his determination and resilience. It was evidenced in his establishment of a successful career as a Sole Proprietor criminal defence lawyer for a decade, where he managed all aspects of a busy practice in Newmarket and Toronto, Kissoon stated.

Kissoon recalled that Justice Singh, after reflecting on his time as a defense lawyer, once said, "In this business, we often deal with people whose lives are rooted in trauma. I prided myself on defending my clients while also treating them with kindness and compassion."

In 2020, Justice Singh became an assistant Crown attorney in the Newmarket Crown Attorney's Office. Then from 2021 to 2023, he was a prosecutor with the Ministry of the Attorney General's Guns and Gangs Unit, where he worked on wiretap prosecutions, while also



Dhaman Kissoon delivers his address at Justice Singh's swearing-in ceremony



Justice Singh (left) at the swearing-in ceremony on August 8

prosecuting individuals charged with firearms and drug offences.

Most recently, Justice Singh returned to the Newmarket Crown Attorney's Office, where he primarily focused on complex prosecutions.

"He built strong relationships with all participants in the justice system, leaving an indelible impact," Kissoon said.

Beyond his professional achievements, Justice Singh remains deeply committed to community service. He has volunteered his time mentoring students at Osgoode Hall Law School, coaching youth sports, delivering meals and care packages to the homeless, and has been a guest lecturer at Queen's Faculty of Law.

Spouse Paula and their four children have been a source of inspiration and support

throughout his career.

In speaking about his work-life balance, Kissoon revealed that Justice Singh once stated, "Above all else, I am a husband and a father who just happens to work in the legal field. My family is my greatest accomplishment."

In his well-received address, Kissoon also emphasised that Justice Singh's appointment was not only a personal achievement, but a gain for the judiciary.

Said Kissoon: "Justice Singh has several qualities that make him an outstanding addition to the judiciary. He is, as Crown Attorney Sean Doyle put it, the 'quintessential triple threat,' respected by the Crown, the defence bar, and the judiciary. His ability to approach each case with fairness, integrity, and compassion has earned him the respect of all who have worked with him."

As the latest addition to Ontario's judiciary transitions from the Newmarket Crown Attorney's Office to his new role in Brampton, Kissoon reflected on the widespread confidence being felt through Justice Singh's proven ability to continue serving the community with the same dedication that has defined a successful career.

"His appointment as a judge is a tremendous gain, as he will undoubtedly make an exemplary judge. While his move from Newmarket to Brampton is a loss for the Central East, it is clearly a gain for the Central West," Kissoon declared.

He also noted that Justice Singh's latest journey is not without support and admiration that are layered into a foundational structure that is constituted with his colleagues, friends, and family.

"We are confident that you will continue to serve with the same integrity and dedication that have defined your career. Congratulations on this well-deserved honour," Kissoon concluded.

Magical downtown TO celebration

From Page 1

and the grand celebration was nothing short of magical.

It is much more than a celebration; it is a tribute to the Trinidad and Tobago diaspora, whose members have made significant contributions in various fields, including academia, cuisine, sport, film, music, business, and the arts. The Trinbago Toronto Festival celebrates these achievements while reminding the community that their roots and heritage are a source of immense pride.

As Ramsubagh-Mannette noted on the Trinbago website, "The growth of the Trinbago Toronto Festival has been incredible. Last year's energy was electric, and we're thrilled to take it to the next level at Nathan Phillips Square. This festival is a reflection of our gratitude and pride in the Trinbagonian community here in Canada. We want everyone to feel the warmth, ingenuity, and resilience that define our people."

The festival is presented by Trinidad Tourism Limited, and supported by the Tobago Tourism Agency Limited under the auspices of the

Consulate General of Trinidad and Tobago in Toronto.

Again promising a weekend packed with activities and entertainment, the two day event will see performances by top Trinidadian and Tobagonian artists, a wide array of food vendors offering authentic Caribbean cuisine, and cultural shows that highlight the rich heritage of the twin islands republic.

And as Ramsubagh-Mannette noted, the highlight of the weekend will be a special illumination of the CN Tower and the 3D Toronto sign in the national colours of Trinidad and Tobago on September 7 in a gesture that symbolises the deep connection between the two nations.

"The Trinbago Toronto Festival is not just about celebrating our culture; it's about inspiring a sense of community and connection," Ramsubagh-Mannette added.

"We hope that this festival will encourage Trinbagonians and friends of Trinidad and Tobago, both old and new, to 'come home' and experience the authenticity of our culture, even if just for a weekend."



Island Eats last weekend. Photo by Russel Lutchman

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Editorial

Our diaspora's response

In its latest move at recovery from the devastation caused by Hurricane Beryl last month, the government of Grenada has indicated that this week it will be disbursing (EC) \$11.6 million in relief funds in aid to vegetable and livestock farmers, fisherfolk, and other farming industries, as part of its Hurricane Beryl Relief Drive.

Meanwhile, emergency relief items, which have been shipped from the Caribbean diaspora abroad, are also being disbursed out of Grenada's capital city, St George's.

Here in Toronto, we acknowledge the commendable efforts made in coordinating the outpouring of assistance from our generous diaspora by both the Consulate General of Grenada and its hardworking Consul General Gerry Hopkins, and Grenada Disaster Preparedness, Toronto, which is led by the indefatigable Unison Joseph.

At the same time, we acknowledge the leadership out of the Trinidad and Tobago Consulate General, led by Acting Consul General Tracey Ramsubagh-Mannette; also, the kind generosity of diasporic organisations in our Trinidad and Tobago community that continue to reach out with relief aid following Hurricane Beryl and its destructive onslaught on Grenada, Carriacou, and Petite Martinique.

Among the groups in the diaspora in Toronto are the United Trinbago West Indian Association; Trinitest Canada, which is led by the untiring philanthropist, George Maharaj; Caribbean Limers Association; the Crab and Callaloo Kaiso Band Toronto; and Caribbean Strong.

It is notable that the outpouring of relief support here in the diaspora for Grenada, and other impacted Caribbean nations, among them Jamaica, St Lucia, and Barbados following Hurricane Beryl, is in step with the outreach at the government and community levels back in our homelands.

It is reassuring, as it is commendable, that our diaspora rallied in the wake of the extreme weather exigency, and has shown that we are similarly supportive, generous, and committed to the good health of our homelands, and to the unifying, uplifting principles of Caribbean integration.

Such reflexive responses to help during critical times, notable in the supportive gestures from Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and other Caricom nations, alongside our diaspora's outreach abroad, are reassuringly integrative.

However, it must be pointed out that such reflexive and worthy responses are typically reified via triggers following episodic and calamitous occurrences.

Put another way, as unfortunate as this sounds, the time has come to frame our episodic and collective responses with aid within the bigger picture, which is the ominous and precarious unraveling of our Caribbean weather patterns due to the existential march of climate change.

A glance at rising temperatures in the Caribbean is quite sobering. Two years ago, the mean temperature in the region was 1.23 degrees Celsius warmer than the average recorded from 1951 to 1980; also, in the last three decades, temperatures in the Caribbean have warmed at an average rate of 0.2 degrees Celsius per decade.

Also notable is the Caribbean's rising sea surface temperature, which warmed up at a rate of 0.01 degrees Celsius to 0.04 degrees Celsius annually between 1982 and 2016.

The statistics also reveal a rise in sea levels in the Caribbean, with projections of an increase of 18-24 centimetres by 2050. The rate of sea level rise in Trinidad and Tobago, for example, has climbed from 1.6 millimetres per year to 3.0 millimetres per year over the past two decades.

Higher sea levels and rising sea surface temperatures provide more energy for hurricanes; a warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture, resulting in more intense rainfall during hurricanes; and higher sea levels and warmer ocean temperatures contribute to more severe storm surges, exacerbating coastal flooding.

With these key climate change ingredients in place, it was no wonder that Hurricane Beryl, the first for 2024, rapidly strengthened, and so unusually early, to Category 5.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting an above-average 2024 hurricane season. While Caribbean leaders seek long-term solutions to climate change, it is likely our diaspora will again be responding with short-term aid in the months ahead.

Yes, indeed it is so - we can be many identities

Indian. Black. Woman. American. Vice President... Yes, one can identify oneself in multiple ways. Yes, many of us come from detailed and complex backgrounds. And yes, all of these identities define who we are as a person.

To level set, the *Oxford Dictionary* defines intersectionality as "the interconnected nature of social categorisations such as race, class, and gender, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage".

The Democrat nominee for US President, Kamala Harris, is a leading example of the emergence of intersectionality in the mainstream.

However, as intersectionality emerged, the concept's understanding, recognition, and respect remained limited.

But this concept is not a revelation to many racialised persons in the corridors of power – the understanding of intersectionality is not only significantly under-represented, but also completely misunderstood.

And to some, even at the highest levels of power, the concept that the Vice President of the US (and likely future President) is Black and Indian simultaneously seems difficult to conceptualise.

It may be ignorance or a narrow vision cemented by a place of everlasting privilege, likely a combination of both.

The concept of intersectionality is difficult for many in positions of power to understand, simply because these spaces tend to be occupied by conservative individuals who come from homogenous backgrounds.

Author Jane Coaston described a conservative's view of intersectionality as "the new caste system' placing non-white, non-heterosexual people on top". It is viewed as an elevation of those who might be Othered, and done unfairly.

Intersectionality is a difficult concept for many conservatives to comprehend, simply because it frightens them, as they see it as leveraging the perceived status of being victimised to achieve something greater.

Coaston elaborated that a typical conservative view on intersectionality means "because you're a minority, you get special standards, special treatment in the eyes of some". It "promotes solipsism at the personal level and division at the social level". It represents a form of feminism that "puts a label on you. It tells you how oppressed you are. It tells you what you're allowed to say, what you're allowed to think".

Intersectionality is important, not only in the context of the upcoming US presidential election, but in how we operate and in an ever-changing world.



Ryan Singh

The term 'intersectionality' emerged with roots in Black feminist activism. It was coined in 1989 by American critical legal race scholar Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw.

Crenshaw applied the term 'intersectionality' to describe the double discrimination of racism and sexism faced by Black women, critiquing the "single-axis framework that is dominant in antidiscrimination law, feminist theory and anti-racist politics" for its focus on the experiences of the most privileged members of subordinate groups.

Understanding the roots of this concept helps us be more aware of how this concept is extremely relevant to many of us. For example, those of us with families from the Caribbean, but ancestry from previous regions, such as South Asia, Africa, and East Asia, already demonstrate how intersectionality can be established within one or two generations.

So many of us experienced the concept of mixed racial households, and/or already have mixed racial roots.

This concept is important to us, and not only ourselves, but to our future generations, intersectional identities will continue to increase.

With the rise of migration, integration of ethnocultural communities, and the increase (and great acceptance) of interracial relations that produce offspring, the growth of a demography that is heavy with intersectional identities is inevitable.

As we hear the rhetoric in the US presidential election, it is not mere racism, but it is a fear of the emergence of a new generation of leaders who proudly demonstrate the growing fact that the world is evolving.

The limitation to conceptualising this, and to keep up with, has put many in corners where their places of privilege are threatened.

This week Kamala Harris will become the Democrat nominee for US President. And her nomination will be historic in many ways. When she takes the stage and accepts the nomination, Harris will represent multiple identities of people all at once, and this will be monumental.

In fact, should Harris become the President, she will likely be one of the most diverse leaders in the world.

In an ever-globalising world, Harris is not only from the next generation of leaders, but she the voice of many people who come from intersectional backgrounds.

Yes, we can be many things: be true to these identities, and not be limited by the narrow vision of those who cannot conceptualise these confluences due to internal fear.

Grounded in the time and season for flying kites

Here is another deep dive into my archives, returning to the surface my boyhood run-ins with a maternal helicopter, and the call of the wild from a boyhood friend who inhabited a world of flying kites and playing cricket on the street.

Davey was my partner-in-crime. Our growing-up days back in the homeland were sometimes filled with mischief, and invariably, it was I who paid the price for our boyhood shenanigans.

He was one among, who my mother described as our neighbour's "stringband" of children, who let out of the house on mornings to roam the world, had no parental policing and law enforcement the way I had. It meant that for me, sometimes the long arm of the law in our house saw a curried-encrusted pot spoon swinging at the end of it.

It was this self-same Davey who came to our front gates with its hinges creaking from the weight of thick, iron bars, there to regale my wide-eyed wonderment with hyperbolic tales of discovery in faraway corners of our village.

Here birds fell out of the sky, diving into ponds and then rising to soar with a silver fish struggling in its claws. And at the top of a distant hill resided a giant mango tree that produced crisp, low-hanging, and the sourest of palatable fruits.

In fact, somehow the notion entered my formative young mind that great adventures were low-hanging fruit for Davey and his brood of siblings – "that wayward battalion" – as my mother described them, while sternly wagging in the negative a discouraging forefinger under my nose,

So it was that while Davey ran "scot-free" in the wilderness without supervision, it was I who was apprehended, and who paid the price for him springing me, and for my short-lived escape to freedom from the confines of our front yard.

My mother was the law, as she was the head of our household. It meant her punitive judgements, after summing up my offences, were far from summary, more capital, and certainly uppercase in its delivery.

So it was I had sentences handed down in "jail-time", grounded and confined to the landing on the front steps, while our neighbourhood "rapsallions" (again my mother's word) roamed free in the street below, their laughter weaving through the leaves of grass with a melody that I could barely hum.



Romeo Kaseram

From my perch behind the iron rails of our burglar-proofing, I watched an already street-smart Davey bursting to capacity with the fullness of his young life. How he shone, brilliant like the rising sun, while I stood behind the front gate in the shadow cast by our tall and impenetrable hibiscus fence.

Davey could make a kite dance, a puppeteer with such precision with the string that it came alive in the sky, a dragon swooping and diving, threatening to lift away to its den another neighbour's girls giggling with ribbons in their hair.

Or down on one knee, he would aim a marble at its target *aggie* with the focus of a marksman, each "tock-tock-tock" that I heard from my hibiscus confines confirmation he was adding to his growing treasure of *taws* and *cat's eyes*.

But it was during those games of cricket on the street where Davey's sun climbed to its zenith, there to shine down with a midday light that eliminated all shadows from around him.

Already he had found his place in the world as a team-player, identifying and morphing into a supporting role while at the wicket, playing defence so he frustrated the belaboured bowler, giving his batting partner a run-scoring edge.

I would listen from the solitary perch of my exclusion as they piled the runs on. Then the game started growing intense against the tension of its approaching, forced conclusion as the daylight began fading away. Soon after, the tropical evening began failing, and as the sun flailed, it burnished the cricketers with gold as the dust rose off the street under their frantic feet.

But it was Davey's kite-making where he excelled in the solitariness of an immense talent. He hummed as he designed, its lilt a soft and engaging drone that was an accompanying soundtrack to his creativity.

Peering through the fence, I watched as he readied the kite for flight. With interlocking bones set so it had perfect balance, it sat confidently on his forefinger, waiting to be freed with a farewell lift. Then it rose freely and effortlessly, lifted on the wings of his artistry, climbing to become a dot against the azure.

I chased after that kite, fingers just brushing against the tip of its tail. Then my mother's voice was pulling me back to earth.

"How many times must I call to you? One times two; two times three. Go and learn your multiplication tables. Now!!"

Even as the kite soared, I remained grounded.

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Nationals waiting to cast their vote during Guyana's National Elections in 2020

Guyana needs a 'national narrative'

Dear Editor,

Today there are some very dangerous narratives being peddled in Guyana. Over the years, I have emphasised the role of narratives as part of our differential cultural repertoires that foster the divisions in our political and social lives.

I noted that each group in Guyana has its own narrative of why we are in this mess, and each points its fingers to the other in blame. This simply means that our narratives are in conflict. Sadly, these narratives have become more fractured since the change of government in 2020 and the flow of oil revenues.

I have suggested we need to consciously construct a "national narrative" that would legitimise each group in our country to their just desserts.

Narratives are stories and evidently we are hard-wired to create them. An event occurs – say the elections contretemps at Ashmins in 2020 – and we are driven to explain how or why it happened.

What occurred first...what followed? Who were the persons involved? What did each person do, and what were their choices? What were the background circumstances – social or physical – that might have brought the event about? In a word, we want to know about causation.

And we create narratives. Since very few of us are in a position, or have the inclination, to conduct rigorous enquiries from ground zero, we reflexively also resort to narratives that others might have constructed around similar events.

We fall back on "history" – whether at the micro level of our lived experience, or at the macro level from what we are taught. Narratives, then, are not only constructed; they are constitutive as far as they "explain" our experiences.

In assuming there must be some material historical truth "out there", we should appreciate we have to be careful to filter out, as best as we can, the inherent subjectivities of all narratives – especially when they concern history "writ large".

Reality may be created by events and processes, but our "experience" of that reality is the "re-membrance" of it. History and remembrance are not the same. History is the human narration of that reality as seen by historians, but it is our "remembrance" of the events that structure our responses.

Why is it, we should ask, do the supporters of the PNC/APNU/AFC coalition insist there

Vigilance needed with T&T foreign exchange

Dear Editor,

The current situation in the foreign exchange market can be misleading, especially when considering the implications of declining oil production, and a lack of gas revenue.

Countries that rely heavily on energy exports often see significant impacts on their currency value when these revenues diminish. A drop in oil production typically leads to a decrease in foreign exchange earnings, which in turn can weaken the local currency.

This scenario not only intensifies economic instability, but can also fuel inflationary pressures such as import costs rise.

Moreover, when energy revenues decline, governments may be compelled to tighten fiscal policies, or increase borrowing to maintain budgetary balance.

These measures can lead to investor scepti-

was nothing untoward in the alleged actions of Clairmont Mingo in the tabulation of the Region 4 Statement of Poll's, when the international observers and the ambassadors allege he was pulling a flagrant sleight of hand? Much of it has to do with the narrative we bring to "explain" our experience.

Afro-Guyanese have a historical fear, their "Ethnic Security Dilemma", of being "swamped and subordinated" by Indo-Guyanese, if the latter get into office via the PPP.

To assert, as I have done, that Indo-Guyanese are now a minority in a nation of minorities, in which neither of the two major blocks have a chance of securing office through attracting votes outside of their base constituency, has not cut much ice.

Even though the "Mixed" constituency cleaves to Afro-Guyanese, and together now amount to a majority.

Today, we have the advantage of hindsight, and access to a wider array of accounts than those who lived through the events. In refuting possible "illusions of retrospective determinism" – that things HAD to be so – we should connect the past with the present in a broader, more unified narrative that is healing, rather than destructive.

We cannot change the past, but we can certainly change the future.

John Paul Lederach, the "International peace-builder", defines constructive social change as "the pursuit of moving relationships from those defined by fear, mutual recrimination, and violence toward those characterised by love, mutual respect, and proactive engagement".

We can do worse than start with positive "proactive engagement" while recognising the complexity of relationships, and not fall prey to the "us versus them" mentality of the memory warriors, who insist that only their narrative is valid.

Moral imagination is a matter of creating links between memory and vision, and is, to a large extent, the vocation of viable communities.

By shifting the meaning of the past through a differential emphasis on particular events, we can transform how we act in the present. The past may not literally exist – any more than the future does – but it lives on in its consequences, which are a vital part of it. Our past was not all hate or division.

Ravi Dev, Guyana, via email.

cism and further depreciation of the currency.

As foreign exchange markets react to these factors, countries might also face difficulties attracting foreign investment, further compounding the challenges.

Temporal factors must also be considered: geopolitical tensions, regulatory changes, and market speculation can all amplify volatility. With energy prices being a significant concern globally, fluctuating demand and changing energy policies can heighten uncertainty.

Consequently, as energy revenues dwindle and oil production decreases, the foreign exchange landscape is likely to become increasingly turbulent. Investors and policymakers should remain vigilant, and consider diversifying economic strategies to mitigate these risks effectively.

Gordon Laughlin, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.

Call to rethink 'A' grade govt mark

Dear Editor,

How could anyone in their right mind give the government of Trinidad and Tobago an 'A' grade for its performance? Understandably, and the grade comes from Energy Minister Stuart Young, but this reeks of audacity.

I wonder if Young, who was recently acting as Prime Minister, still thinks he is the acting Prime Minister?

Of course, for him all is well: he is surrounded by security; and he has public officials waiting on him hand and foot. Wherever he goes, all roads, bridges, and water supply are good, and his salary and benefits are all in order. When he goes to Venezuela he is not digging in the bin for a meal.



Stuart Young

I am asking him to rethink his 'A' grade rating. I am asking Young to take note of the number of people homeless and begging in droves.

I am asking him to open a newspaper, and see therein how people are dying at the hands of criminals. How they live in fear of extortion and home invasion.

I ask him to go into communities just south of the Caroni Bridge to see the squalor and deprivation we live in. I am asking him to see how people are dumping rubbish, rubble, derelict vehicles to the chagrin of residents.

I ask Young to really rethink that 'A' grade.
Linda Capildeo, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.

RE/GUYANA GUYANA PROPERTY MATTERS

Property Values Rising in Guyana

By Kal Juman-Yassin

In 2015 the population of Guyana was 755,031. Today it is officially 804,567, and unofficially about one million persons or more. The population growth is a direct result of its hydrocarbon driven economic boom and an inflow of unaccounted Venezuelan and other migrants. The result is a pressing need for everything including housing across all major municipalities.

The growing demand for land and the shortage of residential housing supply has pushed property values to record levels. Agricultural lands are being rezoned into housing with some landowners reaping significant windfalls. Guyana's Real Estate Association has noted the sharp rise of rentals where the cost of a two-bedroom apartment rental is triple the price in 2010. Rates for a modern two-bedroom apartment in Georgetown can easily fetch (all currency in USD) \$2,500 per month with updated detached homes in better neighbourhoods going for more than \$4,000 per month.

The sharp rise in building materials costs coupled with a shortage of skilled workers has pushed construction costs higher. Inflation has seen aggregate costs rise from \$40 to \$55 per ton, and average building costs up from \$60 per square foot to over \$125 per square foot or more. Building in Guyana to North American standards will likely cost 10-20 percent more since the majority of materials would have to be imported.

The economic hyper-growth is challenging the current infrastructure, which is barely adequate as is. In response, the government is investing heavily on many fronts with billions of dollars allocated for hinterland roads and bridges to better connect smaller communities. Construction is already on the way for new highways on the east coast, east bank, and west coast, which will open up many new areas for development.

Many property owners are asking themselves whether to invest and modernise their properties in Guyana, or whether to cash out at today's high land values. Georgetown properties now range from \$250,000 to \$1M plus depending on location, size of the lot, and condition of the building. Property values may be rising, but many owners have unrealistic valuation expectations. Estimating a property's potential value requires understanding several factors, including the current condition of the building, and the dynamics of the surrounding neighbourhood.

Overseas property owners are taking a renewed interest in the Guyana property market. Their real estate assets are likely worth more today, and could be excellent long-term investment assets, providing income and equity growth. For investors interested in the Guyanese property market, there are many opportunities with higher yields than available in the US or Canadian market.

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 check out our free online property risk assessment.](#)

Understanding how Guysuco benefits Guyana

Dear Editor,

Guysuco and its 8,000-plus employees received another round of financial support from the government of Guyana as contingency funding of (Guy) \$4 billion earlier this month.

The funding forms part of the support targeted towards reviving the sugar industry, and hopefully viability and economic stability in the future.

This subsidy caused members of the opposition PNC and AFC parties to object, and to make arguments against the policy of President Irfaan Ali's administration to revive the industry, which was shuttered by the APNU+AFC government in 2017.

The argument against reviving Guysuco is a simplistic one. Namely, that sugar costs more to produce than it earns, and, therefore, it is a 'waste' of money to continue with the industry. It is better to fire the workers, and let them seek other avenues to earn a living.

This argument fails to consider the numerous benefits that Guysuco brings to the nation. It is pertinent to enlighten and/or remind all Guyanese of these benefits from time to time.

That Guysuco has over 8,000 employees means it supports their families, which is similar to the continued employment of over 11,000 civil servants and 14,000 teachers who are surplus to the requirements.

There are no complaints about these employees, and the strain that they place on the national treasury.

Guysuco is the training ground for most who work, or will continue to work, in Guyana's

most vital sector, agriculture – be it in sugar, or in other crops.

Guysuco has, and continues to provide training for machinists, mechanics, plumbers, soil technicians, engineers, and so on. These persons are invaluable to Guyana as we grow as a nation.

Guysuco provides the technical and manual labour for drainage of our coastland, which is work that is not billed to the government. If this was so, then the 'subsidy' in the funding from the government may very well be totally absorbed.

Ironically, those who are loudest against Guysuco are also the loudest complainers about the price of agricultural produce. They think we can all swing in office chairs, and the plantains will grow themselves!

I would ask my fellow Guyanese, regardless of political affiliation, to think carefully before making callous calls to once again close Guysuco, and to 'fire' the workers.

I urge patience as the work continues for its revival. Just as importantly, be appreciative of the benefits that this much-maligned corporation has provided in the past, and can provide in the future for our nation, especially its youth.

In attempting to raise the standard of living of all Guyanese, President Ali is adopting a holistic approach; and as it is well-known, a rising tide raises all ships.

The alternative is an unthinkable inequality in our society, and a crushing case of 'Dutch disease'.

Robin Singh, Guyana, via email.



Irfaan Ali

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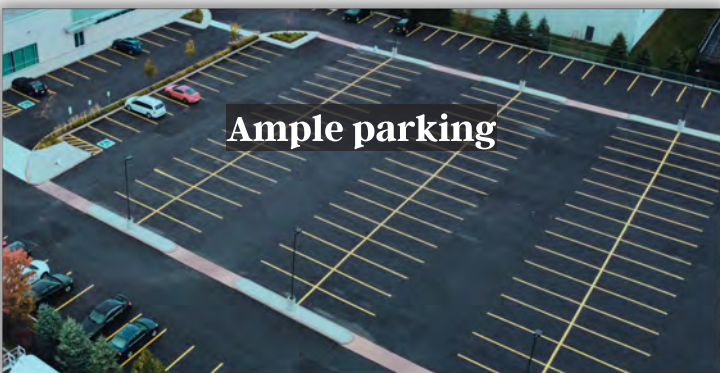


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Nuances layered on why Guyana diaspora may not return

Guyana has a massive skilled labour shortage, estimated to be more than 100,000 or almost one-third of the country's existing labour force. The country has resorted to importing foreign labour, as well as courting its overseas diaspora to return home to fill the labour shortage gap.

However, it is doubtful that the diaspora, which is the largest in the world based on the proportion of Guyanese living abroad, would take up the government's offer to return home to work. [See Chart: The World's Biggest Diasporas].

The demand for labour stems from the country's world-leading economic growth, which is fuelled by its booming oil industry and associated infrastructure and industrial development initiatives.

Recognising that the diaspora comprises of highly skilled individuals who can make an invaluable contribution to the country's development, the government has in recent years been engaged in a conscientious diaspora outreach program to highlight the opportunities in Guyana; and to encourage Guyanese to take advantage of them.

According to Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud, the government sees the diaspora as an asset, and has made it a priority to engage it in evolving sectors in the economy.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation has set up a Diaspora Unit to co-ordinate its engagement efforts.

From a more strategic standpoint, President Dr Irfaan Ali is reported saying: "We are also keen on transforming the brain-drain into brain-gain. The technology now exists to also tap into our highly skilled diaspora."

He added, "[The] diaspora possesses the skills and expertise that are needed for the modernisation of our economy. We hope to be able to use ICT to be able to make greater use of the wealth of skills available within the diaspora, including in providing educational and health services."

As well, Ali stated: "We look to our diaspora

to project our external interests, including to protect our democracy and to defend our territorial integrity and sovereignty, particularly from external threats. We look to our diaspora to champion the international causes which are germane to our national interests, including arresting climate change. Indeed, we also look to our diaspora to wield its influence in attracting and in unlocking markets for our products."

Incidentally, Guyanese fled their homeland in droves for much of the past five decades. However, it is not likely that Guyanese will return in droves, although a few will – much to the disappointment of the government, whose expectations

are high that Guyanese will be enamored by the country's economic transformation.

Don't get me wrong, the majority of Guyanese are longing to return home – not to stay but just for a visit.

Truth is, for most, uprooting themselves from their foreign abode is far more challenging compared to fleeing Guyana in the first place. Most are now settled in their new homes; have built careers; and have kids and grandkids who

have grown up in what is their new home. The few who are willing to go back are either professionals who are either retired; have secured jobs in Guyana; are willing to take the risk of setting up a business; or have grown tired of living in a foreign country.

The latter are excited about living in a country whose culture they already know or simply want to spend their last days at home in Guyana. Or like the message from theme song of the sitcom, Cheers says: "I want to go where everybody knows my name."

Yet, some believe they would have more respect in Guyana. A story told to me by Michael Granger, the now deceased brother of former President Granger way back in the early 1980s is a good illustration of this: "I came back home because I am respected here. In America I am nobody, I am just an ordinary person, no one



Dwarka Lakhan



Irfaan Ali



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cares that I am a professor."

Granger, a former colleague at the Ministry of Agriculture, was responding to my question on why he would leave his job at Purdue and return to Guyana?

Then I was a naïve individual, who like most Guyanese at that time believed living in North America would be dream come through.

The truth is, many Guyanese feel this way. Some of those who migrated abroad have had their expectations of "streets paved with gold" shattered, especially in North American countries. They have had to struggle to achieve respectability. At the same time, many Guyanese living abroad have attained the peak of excellence in their respective fields.

While the prospects of returning home might sound appealing, it is necessary to understand why Guyanese fled their homeland in the first place. For some it was in search of a better life. For most, they were running away from a country which was characterised by racial discrimination, nepotism, bribery and corruption.

But that's not all. Fear was one of the most important factors, driven by high levels of crime and violence. Truth is: although the country is progressing economically, much has not really changed. Therefore, returning home to conditions they fled from is not a viable option.

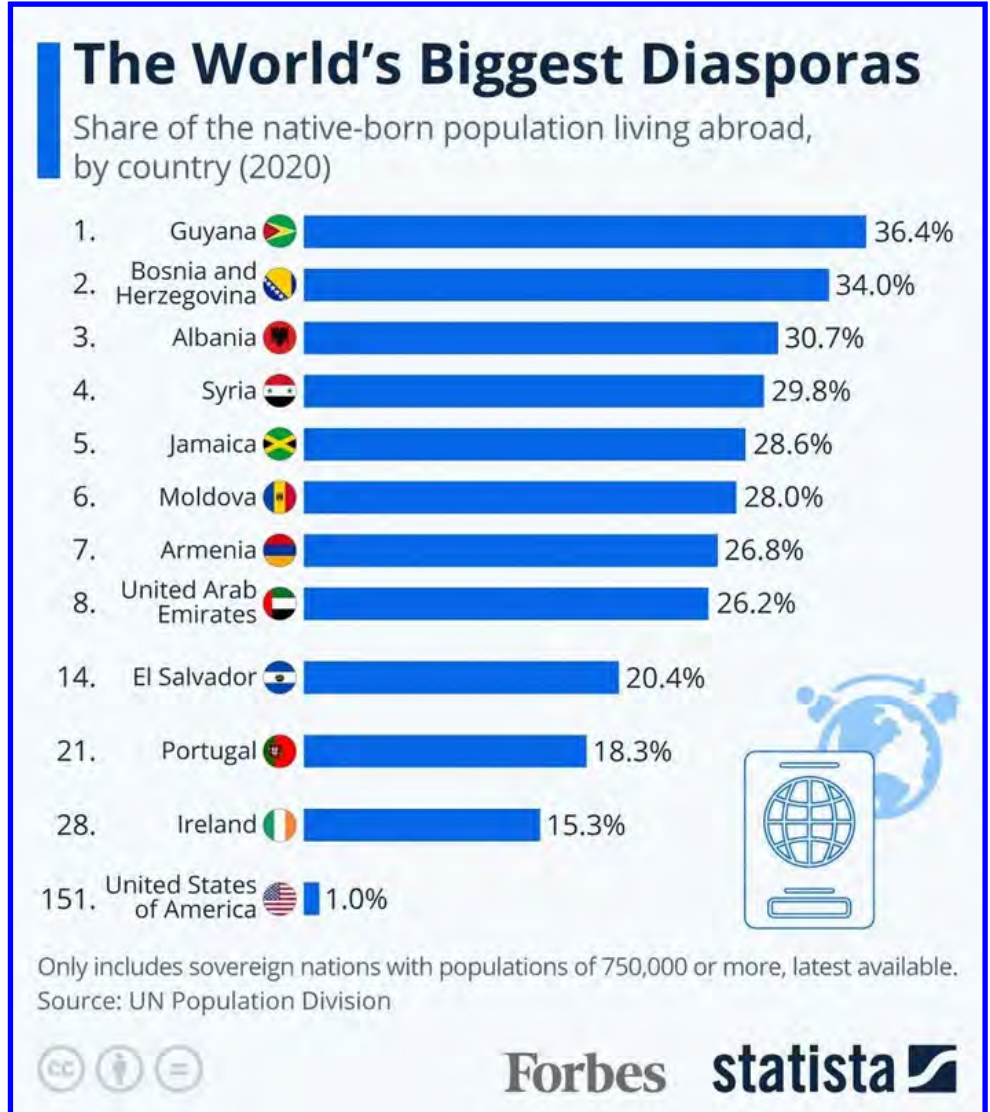
In reality, people will naturally look at the opportunity cost of remigrating to Guyana. What will they get in Guyana for what they have to give up in their foreign home?

Therefore, the expectations of the government for a mass influx of Guyanese from the diaspora would most likely remain unfulfilled.



Robert Persaud

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OON the Move with netball

The Official Outreach Netball (OON the Move) first annual Youth in Focus Netball tournament took place August 9 - August 10. Participants were from Trinidad; Miami - Caricom Sports and Social Club; Ottawa; and Toronto.

The tournament was organised by OON the Move and its president, Raymond Edward, and Marva Johnson, technical director. The event took place at the Flemingdon Park Netball Park, which is in the Don Mills and Eglinton area.

OON the Move seeks to reach as many youths and adults in Canada to further develop netball, and to bring fun and fitness all in one package. Its mission is to provide and promote physical activity for youths and adults of all ages for the betterment of community health, and to promote netball in Canada.

OON The Move was successfully launched on June 23, 2012, at Flemingdon Park Netball Court. The team started with five teams - Bramalea Nets, Mississauga Blue Stars, North York Netball Club, Success, and Toronto Vixens. There is one Youth team - the Crescent Town Rebels.



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Celebrations for Dr Doobay

Dr Budhendra Nath Doobay received one of Canada's highest national honours last month with an appointment as a Member to the Order of Canada. Following his appointment, he received congratulations from across the diaspora, and from many officials in the GTA.

Among the officials that extended congratulations were Richmond Hill and its Mayor David West, and the City of Brampton and its Mayor Patrick Brown.

In a statement on social media, the City of Brampton said, "Congratulations to Dr Doobay for his dedication and monumental achievements and we thank him for his generous contributions to Brampton." A celebration was also held on August 13.

Members of Brampton City Council also honoured Dr Doobay, declaring him to be an "esteemed heart surgeon, leader, visionary, mentor, teacher and philanthropist".

Dr Doobay was also celebrated at Panwar Music and Dance Production's *Ram Leela: Prince of Ayodhya*, which was held on August 11 at the First Ontario Concert Hall in Hamilton.

In other celebratory news, Vishnu Mandir recently concluded its 31st annual *Bhagwat Yagna* in a week-long celebration.





Holness and Jamaican police comfort a resident in Clarendon last week

Jamaica govt responds after shooting

Kingston – Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness last Wednesday declared a state of emergency in the southern Clarendon parish after eight people were killed in separate gun attacks on the night of August 11. Among the dead are a seven-year-old schoolboy.

“This is an opportunity for the government to mobilise fully to have a very serious focus on gangs. We cannot allow murders to be normalised in our country,” Holness declared during a press conference.

Earlier in the week, Holness had condemned what he described as a “reprehensible, brutal and senseless attack”.

He also stated, “The Jamaican State will not countenance such savagery being meted out to our people. We will respond strongly.”

Holness also revealed that five persons have been arrested in connection with the attack.

Following the Clarendon attack, the Jamaican government began taking more decisive steps against crime, with Holness and National Security Minister Dr Horace Chang outlining a comprehensive strategy aimed at dismantling criminal networks and bringing perpetrators to justice.

Early last week, during a visit to Cherry Tree Lane in Clarendon where the tragic incident occurred, Chang emphasised the need for stronger legislation to combat firearm offenses. He also serves as Deputy Prime Minister.

Said Chang: “The killings by men with high-powered guns have shocked the entire nation. We will take every step to protect citizens, prevent reprisals, and apprehend members of the gangs.”

He also highlighted that all legislation dealing with gun crimes would receive urgent attention, underscoring the government’s commitment to tackling the root causes of violence.

Chang described the Clarendon attack as an act of terror, and gave the assurance that the police are fully supported in their efforts to apprehend the killers.

In response to the attack, a curfew was imposed in several communities in central Clarendon and south St Catherine, where gang activity remains prevalent.

The government also enacted the new Firearms (Prohibition, Restriction, and Regulation) Act, 2022, which imposes strict penalties on those convicted of possession or trade in firearms and ammunition, with sentences ranging from 15 years to life imprisonment.

This legislation creates a dual regime that distinguishes between prohibited and authorised firearms. According to the statistics, firearms are involved in 85 percent of murders and violent crimes across Jamaica.

Another governmental response saw Holness declaring a zero-tolerance approach to gangs and organised crime, a move that came following an emergency meeting of the National Security Council last week.

Said Holness: “We cannot allow this incident to be treated merely as another criminal act. Organised crime violence is an act of terror, and we must treat them as criminal

terrorists.”

He stressed that the security forces have been directed to launch comprehensive operations against criminal elements.

“Operations are already underway from all levels. We are seeking the support of our partners to apprehend those overseas who are facilitating, directing, and funding the criminal operations here. No stone will be left unturned,” Holness declared.

He also called on the Jamaican people to remain vigilant, and assured them the government is fully committed to restoring peace and order.

“I want to give the Jamaican people the reassurance that your government will use this as an opportunity to deal with the gangs once and for all,” he asserted.

The attack saw three gunmen firing on a group of people who were celebrating a birthday. Among the victims were 27-year-old cosmetologist Kavel Daley, 50-year-old construction worker Lawrence Francis, 20-year-old cashier Diamond Bennett, and the young student, Aiden Bartley.

The brutality of the incident left the Clarendon community in shock, mourning, and fear.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey described the incident as bordering on terrorism, and emphasised that the police were following significant leads to bring the perpetrators to justice.

“We will ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice,” Bailey asserted.

Jamaica’s main opposition People’s National Party also expressed shock and condemnation at the massacre, with its leader Mark Golding saying Jamaica was “sickened” by the violence. He offered the Opposition’s cooperation to address the issue.

“I stand ready to cooperate with the government to achieve bipartisan action to come to grips with this utterly untenable situation,” Golding stated.

Chang reiterated the government’s commitment to mobilising all elements of the security forces to disrupt criminal gangs.

“We will respond with the most severe action to disrupt the criminals and reassure the law-abiding citizens,” Chang declared.

Last year Jamaica ranked as the second-deadliest country in the Latin American and Caribbean region, according to a study by Insight Crime, with 60.9 homicides per 100,000 people, second only to the small island state of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Also, Holness noted that while the number of gangs estimated to be active in the country has shrunk from 400 to 185 in five years, the figures remain “very high”.

Despite significant declines in murders in the area due to extensive work by the security forces, Chang acknowledged the ongoing challenges. For the period from January to August 3 this year, Jamaica recorded 692 murders compared to 820 in the corresponding period last year.



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MY LANDLORD SOLD THE HOUSE I HAVE BEEN LIVING IN FOR 10 YEARS AND SAID I HAVE TO MOVE IN 2 MONTHS. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Understanding the legal aspects of your situation is crucial. If the new buyer intends to rent the property, they cannot terminate your tenancy contract and evict you. This legal protection is designed to ensure your security as a tenant. Remember that if the new buyer or a family member is not moving in, you have the right to stay, giving you control over your living situation.

To terminate your lease, your landlord must give you a minimum of one month’s rent to compensate you, and the rent must be paid on or before the termination date in the notice. This compensation is your right as a tenant, and can help alleviate the financial burden of moving. The landlord will send you an N12 form from Tribunals Ontario, a notice saying the interested party needs the rental unit. If your landlord has multiple rental properties, they can offer you another one acceptable to you, providing you with an alternative if you’re not willing to move.

Purchasers usually sign an affidavit stating that they want the home to live in, and you can ask your landlord for that as proof. You have the right to refuse to leave if your landlord informs you that you must give up your premises without written notice. However, if your landlord gives you a written notice, on the appropriate forms, as required by the rental tribunal, and you disagree, be aware that your landlord can apply to the Landlord and Tenant Board to evict you.

Your landlord must give you two months’ notice from the end of the term. For example, if you are in a month-to-month tenancy and your landlord gives you notice on August 10, then the term starts on September 1, and the 60-day notice will take you to October 31. If you have a lease, the landlord cannot evict you until the lease expires. For example, if the lease expires on December 31, your landlord can give you notice on November 1 that they need the property, and you must leave by December 31.

The delivery of the notice to you is also worth noting. For example, if your landlord gives you the notice by hand on August 1, then the termination date should be on September 30. If your landlord mails the notice on August 1, then the landlord must add five days extra, but the termination date must be on the last day of the rental period. In this example, the last day of the rental period is September 30 plus five days, which takes us into October, and since it is not the end of the rental period, the termination date becomes October 31.

Once you receive the notice from your landlord, you can end the tenancy earlier by giving the landlord ten days’ notice. If you disagree with the notice, you do not have to move, and your landlord must file an application with the rental tribunal for a hearing no more than 30 days after the termination date that the landlord gives you. For example, imagine that the termination date is on September 30. In that case, the landlord must apply to the rental tribunal for a hearing before October 31, failing which, the landlord would have to start over from the beginning.

The tribunal would need a copy of the N12 and the certificate of service from your landlord, showing how and when you received the notice. Once this is done, the rental tribunal will send you a notice of hearing with the time and place. Most hearings are conducted via *Zoom*. Both sides will have a chance to tell their stories at that time. The judge will decide, and you will know the outcome a few weeks later.

The rental tribunal has a backlog of cases, and it could take months to get a hearing. If your landlord sold the property with a specific closing date, and you do not move, the buyer can sue the landlord. I suggest meeting with your landlord and working out an arrangement that both of you can live with.

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JCA gala, keynote speaker celebrate legacy and empowerment

By Romeo Kaseram
LJI Reporter

Toronto – The Jamaican Canadian Association marked both its 62nd anniversary, and the homeland's commemoration of becoming an independent nation, with a grand gala that took place in Toronto on the evening of August 10.

A testament to the enduring strength and resilience of the Jamaican diaspora in Canada, the celebration highlighted the JCA's achievements, even as it reaffirmed its commitment to empowering the generations ahead.

Themed *Honouring Our Legacy, Empowering Our Future*, the evening of entertainment, good food, and enchanting camaraderie also featured many key highlights.

Key among these highlights was the JCA honouring the outstanding commitment made by individuals and organisations that have led to the present-day JCA's success story.

Among the awardees were Prudence Betty, Noel Lewis, and Lisa Rutty; recipients of the Diamond Jubilee Recognition Awards were two past JCA presidents, Dr Vincent Conville, and community stalwart Kamala Gopie, who were recognised for their six decades of dedication to the JCA. Ned Blair, Senior Vice President of the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada, was also a recipient with a Lifetime Award.

At the same time, the gala also saw the JCA renewing its commitment with a call to action to continue building on its legacy of positive growth for the future.

Another main highlight was the evening's keynote address, which was delivered by Chris Campbell, President of the Carpenters Union Local 27 in Toronto.

Campbell recently made history with his appointment as the first Black president in the union's 140-year history. Along with his latest elevation to the top leadership, Campbell is also lead player for Equity, Diversity & Inclusion at the Canadian Regional Council.

A veteran of 35 years with the union, he also has a significant portfolio of corollary but related roles on industry and community boards, among them the JCA, and is well-respected for his legacy of activism in his consistent advocacy for workers' rights, alongside his commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in the trades.

For such dedication to his union, to community service, and for his determination to building a better world, Campbell has received multiple awards and recognition within the labour movement and beyond.

Among the key components that made up his informative address was Campbell acknowledging his historical role as the

only known Black President with a full-time paid job in the construction industry in Canada, which made it a significant milestone in Toronto's 140-year history with the trades.

It was an elevation that could not have been achieved without the guidance and support of many other industry stalwarts, Campbell informed the packed hall.

And as he informed his listeners, the Carpenters' Union boasts a membership of about 35,000 in Ontario, and 75,000 across Canada, for whom it negotiates livable wages, pensions, health benefits, and fair job site representation.

Campbell also shared his early life experiences growing up in a two-bedroom tenement yard in Kingston, Jamaica.

"As a young boy, I didn't grasp the level of poverty. It was my mother and the community who truly raised me," he recalled. It was an environment that made meaningful the African proverb, 'It takes a village to raise a child,'" he declared.

And in speaking to the legacy component in the gala's theme that evening, Campbell paid homage, and expressed heart-felt gratitude, for the intervention by his mother into his early life.

Her legacy through unwavering guidance, support, and inspiration is today evidenced in the fearlessness, and a sense of adventure, which she instilled in him as a young boy, he declared.

And speaking to his early education, Campbell recounted his early formative primary and high school years back in Jamaica. He also fondly spoke to his first introduction to what would later become a career in the trades.

As he recalled, even as he began recognising, and nurturing an incipient competitiveness, at the same time he was being introduced to the trades by an uncle, with whom he worked on electrical side jobs.

Expanding on the early influences that helped frame the legacy of positive input into his youthful life, and his emergence as an ambitious, questing young man, Campbell recalled an episode of empowerment that he encountered soon after arriving in Canada.

Here he found another mentor, to whom he also paid tribute for leaving him with an enduring legacy. Frank Lake was a former sergeant in the Jamaica Defence Force now resident in Canada, Campbell recalled.

"He was my first mentor that didn't sugar-coat the reality of what life is like for a young Black male in Canada 1987. He invited me home to meet his family, and we had several serious conversations about what career path to take," Campbell stated.

He added, "I honour the legacy of this stranger who empowered my future. He introduced me to the carpenters, electrical,

and plumbers union, and guided me through the apprenticeship process in Ontario."

Campbell then riffed into his modern-day world of the trades, noting the growing demand for skilled tradespeople, while highlighting the lucrative opportunities in the industry.

"One in every six jobs will be in the trades by 2026. In 2022, the average income in the trades was \$57,000, and a construction unionised journeyman in Toronto earns about \$70 per hour," he told the attentive room.

He then highlighted the importance of skilled trades as a viable career option for young people, with his words directly addressing his listeners, and the Jamaican diaspora.

"Wouldn't it be nice for our kids to get into the construction trade? There is a reason why other cultures gravitate to this industry," he declared while urging parents to consider the opportunities available for their children in the skilled trades.

And he issued a similar message for future empowerment with a call to action for more Black entrepreneurs to enter the construction industry, even as he underscored the importance of community support and mentorship.

However, it would not be a journey without challenges, he cautioned, while noting the path to success was not wholly littered with obstacles.

"My mindset was one where I know that not everyone was here to stop you from progressing," he stated, adding, "Both white and people of colour were instrumental in my being here today."

However, he recalled being turned away from some projects where he was seeking employment.

"[But] like Bob Marley said, 'When one door is closed, don't you know that many more are open,'" he declared.

Campbell added, "Through hard work, dedication, and consistency I persevered and persevered. I did not take no for an answer. I believe in the goodwill and humanity of the Canadian people... I saw obstacles as temporary delays along my 35 years journey..."

He then spoke directly to the next generation, exhorting them to view obstacles as temporary delays, while emphasising the importance of continuous learning and building upon the legacies left by those who came before.

In wrapping up his address, Campbell returned to the evening's theme and its futuristic and constitutive emphasis on legacy and empowerment, saying, "Be adventurous and fearless in pursuing your dreams. If you're passionate about your career choices, don't let anyone tell you 'No.' Prepare for the blessings that are sure to come your way."



A youthful section at the gala listens attentively to the keynote address



A section of the audience that attended the gala



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Memorable passion for poetry, prose in evidence at Queens Book Fair

By Dhanpaul Narine

It was an afternoon of high literature at the Queens Library, in New York. The program was billed as *Poetry, Prose and Passion*. It surpassed expectations, and has left a memorable impression – both on those who attended the event, and in the social media community.

The *Queens Book Fair and Literary Festival* was founded in 2018, the purpose of which is to promote literacy, especially among our young people. The programs have included a wide range of topics such as *Women as Trailblazers*, the observance of Black History Month, *Indo-Caribbean Heritage*, *Education and Schooling in Queens*, and the works of Nobel Prize author V.S. Naipaul, among others.

The latest program, in early August, honoured two outstanding persons in the community, Dr Keith Proctor and Ms Davina Singh.

Proctor has a distinguished record of service. He was born in Guyana where he liked classical music. This took him to the prestigious Royal Academy of Music in London. Since migrating to New York, Proctor has performed in various churches for over 30 years, especially in Brooklyn. He is a wonderfully humble person.

Singh was attracted to classical Indian dance at an early age. She enrolled at the Natraj Center for the Performing Arts, and the dynamic Barbara Lemoine took her, and others, through their paces.

The Rangapravesam, or graduation, was held to a packed audience in the presence of accomplished musicians, and her musical guru Sadhana Paranjit. It was most fitting then that the awards should be given to these two stalwarts.

The children impressed as usual with their poems and speeches.

Ariana Narine spoke on the importance of love, while sisters Maya and Malia Hardowar reminded us that dedication and hard work are important to progress.

There were poems by Lionel Narine, Arun Whyte, Karissa Jagbeer, while Rani spoke about the importance of leadership.

We were also graced with the presence of Amelia Persaud. Mother and daughter, Samantha Tappin and Jelecia teamed up to read poems about life from Rabindranath Tagore, and educator Jean Chester stressed the need for literacy, especially in New York City.

The keynote speakers, Dr Sharla Madho-Khargi and Ambassador Eugene Pursoo, were on point. They addressed matters that are relevant to the community.

Pursoo is Grenada's former Ambassador to the United Nations. He said that the Caribbean should be more creative in solving its problems, and that since the Emancipation of Slavery,



Honoree classical dancer Davina Singh (left) receives her award in the company of Dhanpaul Narine and Sherry Algreto



Dhanpaul Narine with the distinguished musical icon and Book Fair honoree Dr Keith Proctor

there has been a serious case of mis-education.

Madho-Khargi is a Clinical Psychologist. She addressed the need to involve young people in a positive way in education and community development.

Then it was time for the presentations. Sherry Algreto is the first female Chair of Community Board 9, in Queens, New York. She was a conductor waving a wand, efficient and caring.

Sherry worked around the clock to help publicise the great contributions of Proctor and Singh. The result was the arrival of Councilwoman Lynn Schulman with Citations for the honorees.

Schulman represents District 29 in New York City Council. She spoke highly of the Queens Book Fair, and said that she is also passionate about books and libraries, and that she voted for funds to be allocated to libraries.

As a result of the efforts of Sherry Algreto and Councilwoman Schulman, the honorees earned nine awards each for their rich contributions to the community.

Another awardee was poet Haimnauth Ramkirath, who recently published his book *Poems for Guyana's Youth* with an introduction by Petamber Persaud.

Ramkirath received an award from Queens Book Fair, and he read a number of his poems to the appreciation of the audience. There are many wonderful poems, but our favourites are *The Masquerade Band* and *Sunset Over the Essequibo*.

A number of distinguished guests turned up to speak on

various topics. Ravi Dev lauded the efforts of the Book Fair to create awareness in the community, and recommended more of them. This was echoed by Anil Bedasie.

Dheeraj Gayaram has entertained audiences for over 50 years. He said in the fall of 2024 that he will go into retirement.

We were joined by a mother and her two daughters. Benazir Udawala, and daughters Sofia and Gabby read admirably. The Book Fair would like to thank Benazir's husband Dave Sanichara for his support. Dave's mom, Chris Sanichara, is also a strong supporter of literacy.

Stacy Moses will graduate soon as an attorney, and she made a stirring call for our young people to stay on course.

Stacy was followed by Dr Mirza Ijaz Rahman, who grew up in Richmond Hill, and had done wonderful humanitarian work in New York and Guyana. He has given out scholarships to students of Richmond Hill High School, and he plans to do the same for other schools in the area.

Anil Bedasie and his family have attended the Book Fairs since 2018. His daughter Shreya Bedasie is an incoming freshman at Adelphi University, majoring in the Health Sciences.

She says, "If the common faiths emphasise the value of life, then promoting healthy habits is essential to survival."

Her sister Veena is a junior at St John's University, majoring in Biology. She said immigrants are hardworking and care about their families. She urged parents to find out about the career interests of their children, and to try to nurture their passions.

Cheryl Wilson is an educator with the Department of Education. She read beautifully from Tagore, and asked that we work for peace.

Rose October, 'the phenomenal woman', read movingly from Martin Carter, and also introduced one of her own poems.

Pat Jordan-Longford (Aunty Pat) is a staunch friend of the Book Fair. She urged all to get involved in reading and writing, and called on the community to support literacy.

The moderator was no other than Trishala Persaud, Guyana's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations. She was eloquent, knowledgeable, and made everyone comfortable.

Thanks are extended to Ashook Ramsaran from the Indian Diaspora Council, and a consultant to the Book Fair, for his help. Also, to Queens Library, Richmond Hill Branch, for their hospitality. Alex Ramdhoon was kind enough to create an album of pictures.

The next event of the Queens Book Fair and Literary Festival will be on November 9, 2024 when we will discuss, *The Power of Books*.

For further information, email doclse007@aol.com.

OBITUARY

Joseph Emmanuel Nancoo: Revered educator, community leader

Joseph Emmanuel Nancoo: 1929-2024

Joseph Emmanuel Nancoo, a celebrated educator and community worker, was laid to rest in Montreal on July 30.

He was born in Hermitage, Trinidad, 95 years ago, in 1929. He was a teacher, journalist and community worker before leaving Trinidad for Canada in 1957.

While in Trinidad, Nancoo was president of the Cultural Academy – a San Fernando-based organisation of high school graduates from Naparima College, Presentation College, Naparima Girls High School, and St Joseph Convent, which frequently won Arts Festival awards in Drama and Public Speaking.

He was also President of the Hermitage Ex-Pupils Association, which brought the world famous mathematical prodigy to Hermitage. Although a resident of Montreal, Nancoo was brought to speak at Naparima College at its Founders Day celebration.

He was also a journalist for the *Trinidad Guardian* both in Trinidad and Montreal.

In Trinidad, Nancoo was a graduate of Hermitage Presbyterian School, Naparima College, and St Andrew's Theological College.

He successfully led Naparima College in the first ever inter-college debate against Queen's Royal College in 1947.

In Canada, he also distinguished himself in debating, representing Mount Allison University and Sir George Williams University against leading universities in Canada

and in the US.

Nancoo started his teaching career at Bien Venue Presbyterian School, La Romaine, and later at Hermitage Presbyterian School, under the principalship of his distinguished father Nathan Emmanuel Nancoo.

Most of Nancoo's years as an educator were in Canada. He was a teacher at Dunton High School (Montréal), Boucherville Protestant School, and Combined High School at Canadian Forces Base in St Hubert.

He also taught in Eastern Townships, Shawinigan and Kahnawake.

Nancoo was also coordinator for Extended Services at Vanier College, and communications coordinator for the Quebec Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers.

He played an active role in various teacher organisations. He was Chairman of Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers' Structure Committee, Chairman of the Adult Education Commission, and Vice-President of the Professional Development for Quebec Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers.

He also represented Quebec teachers at the Canadian Teachers' Federation, and Canadian Teachers at the World Conference of Teachers. Among his many voluntary organisations, Nancoo was President of the Montreal Chapter of the Royal Commonwealth Society.

He was also the recipient of numerous awards for his community service.

His ashes were interred in Montreal on July 30, 2024.



Joseph Emmanuel Nancoo: 1929-2024

NALIS marks 60 years of TT, India diplomacy with Book Corner

The atmosphere was a vibrant and unifying one on August 7 at the National Library and Information System Authority (Nalis), when the library marked a significant milestone of confluence and harmony at its Adult Library in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

As the Trinidad and Tobago media reported, it was an event that saw the diplomatic relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and India taken up a notch when NALIS, in collaboration with the Indian High Commission, and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Cultural Cooperation, launched the India Corner to commemorate 60 years of diplomatic ties between the two nations.

Nestled on the first floor of the National Library Building, the addition of its latest repository of texts and other resources promises to be a treasure trove of knowledge and cultural exchange for all nationals of Trinidad and Tobago, and the diaspora, who are descendants of Indian Indentured labourers.

The India Corner is a dedicated space filled with books and resources provided by the Indian High Commission. This special collection aims to provide a deeper understanding of India's culture, politics, economy, and history.

Once catalogued, the books will be available for loan, offering a unique opportunity for visitors and users of the library's resources to explore the rich tapestry of Indian heritage.

The launch event featured notable and eminent speakers, including Indian High Commissioner Dr Pradeep Rajpurohit, NALIS' Board Chairman Neil Parsanal, and NALIS' Executive Director Paula Greene. Each speaker highlighted the importance of this initiative in fostering cultural exchange and understanding between India and Trinidad and Tobago.

In her address, Greene eloquently captured the essence of the India Corner, stating, "This Corner should remind us that through knowledge and culture, we are all connected."

She also encouraged visitors to explore, engage, and immerse themselves in the wealth of knowledge available at the India Corner.

During his address, Board Chairman Parsanal reflected on the historical ties between Trinidad and Tobago and India, which date back to 1845.

At the same time, he emphasised the importance of the India Corner in bridging cultural gaps, and helping individuals trace their roots.

Parsanal also expressed a hope that the collection would help bridge the gaps in ancestral memories, noting that personally he has always wondered at the origins and genealogical

"What do you want?" A female voice screamed at the top of her voice. A loud pounding on the door snatched Walter out of a deep sleep. "Help! They're trying to rob me! Somebody, please call the police!" Sobs accompanied the pleadings, and the pounding grew louder and more urgent.

Walter sprang up into a sitting position in his sleeping bag and stared at the door. He gasped when the doorknob rattled. A glance at the clock on the floor beside his sleeping bag displayed the time of 3 a.m. He had just moved into the apartment earlier in the day. He reached for his cell phone, but his heart dropped when he remembered that he had to sell it along with his bicycle to add to the funds needed for the down payment on the studio apartment, which was the only one available at a reasonable rent.

Walter knew that the building was in a seedy part of town in a dangerous neighbourhood where violent predators stalked their victims for whatever was on offer, but it was better than having to sleep on park benches or shelters during the approaching winter. He considered himself lucky to have two minimum-paying jobs in an impoverished community with high unemployment.

Without a moment's hesitation, at the risk of his own life, Walter sprang up and raced across the floor to the front door. The woman outside his apartment door desperately needed his help. He yanked it open but saw no one there.

A cold wind cut his breath when it passed through his body, giving him a split second of a vision that made him clutch his throat. He spotted the image of a bloodied woman lying on the floor in front of his apartment door. He recoiled when her pleading dead eyes stared into his. He slammed the door shut and slid to the floor with his back to the door and his hands cradling his head.

What had he just witnessed? He tried to force himself awake, hoping that he was in a terror-filled nightmare, but cold horror ran up his spine when he heard the latch on the door close as if



Parsanal cuts the ribbon to open the India Corner at NALIS with High Commissioner Rajpurohit (second from right), while looking on are Greene (second from left), and guests. NALIS' Facebook photos



Greene presents High Commissioner Rajpurohit with copies of NALIS' Indo-Trinbagonian Poetry

roots of his own name.

The books at the National Library, and those at the National Archives will assist in allowing readers to make the journey in discovering their roots, he said.

Parsanal added: "The establishment of an India Corner here

at NALIS, just as we have all the books at the National Archives, helps us who wish to make that journey, to do so more comfortably, a little easier."

High Commissioner Rajpurohit also expressed his enthusiasm for the project, while articulating his vision for future expansions.

"We would be glad to have more India Corners in the future in your other branches outside of Port-of-Spain, in different areas, and we would like to further enrich with new things. A lot of books have come out of India, like dance, music, the culinary arts, very popular, the food, and all," he said.

He also highlighted the collaboration between NALIS and his office, declaring it to be a significant step in enhancing the understanding of India's influence and its role in world affairs.

"This is an opportunity. This is just the beginning to have a Corner, of course, with Trinidad having such a large diaspora in itself. But whatever little effort that we can make at the level of the High Commission, to develop a greater understanding, to develop what are the latest developments in India, and many more," he added.

The India Corner is the third installation in NALIS' international section, joining the ranks of the Spanish Corner and the Chinese Corner. This diverse range of cultural resources provides readers with an unparalleled opportunity to immerse themselves in the cultural heritage of different nations.

During the launch, Shiv Kumar Nigam, the Second Secretary at the High Commission of India, recited a poem in Hindi, which added a poetic touch to the event.

The program was chaired by Primatie Persad, Director of the NALIS Public Libraries Division, who oversaw the proceedings with grace and poise.

As a token of appreciation, Greene presented High Commissioner Rajpurohit with copies of NALIS' publication, *Indo-Trinbagonian Poetry*. Produced by the Heritage Library Division, the collection features a bibliography of works created by poets of Indo-Trinidad and Tobagonian descent, further cementing and enriching the cultural ties between the two nations.

The India Corner stands as a testament to the enduring relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and India, and symbolises a bridge between cultures, inviting visitors to embark on a journey of discovery and connection.

As the India Corner opens its doors to the public, it promises to be a beacon of cultural exchange and learning, fostering a deeper appreciation for the rich heritage that unites these two vibrant nations.

The Supernatural The Link

some force wanted to prevent him from leaving.

Walter's stomach churned when his sleeping bag started to take on a life of its own. It climbed up the wall, onto the window sill, and curled itself into the shape of a dog. He froze under its intense gaze. A chill in the air added to the fear that enveloped him, forcing him to instinctively bring his knees up to his chin and hug his legs against his chest.



Walter with a searing headache that caused him to shade his eyes. His sleeping position at the door and the sleeping bag hanging halfway off the windowsill left him doubting his sanity. Did the nightmare cause him to move around the apartment in his sleep, or did he experience a paranormal event?

With the darkness gone, daylight gave Walter the courage to rise to his feet the following morning and make a slow shuffling walk to the bathroom, trying to fight the eerie feeling of being watched. Even though he sensed the evil presence, Walter hoped that the light of day would protect him from supernatural attacks. He hurried through his bathroom routine and scampered out of the apartment.

During the two-hour break between jobs, he went to the local library to research deaths in the neighbourhood. His heart

Too terrified to speak, he braced himself for a violent attack from the malevolent entity that seemed to possess his sleeping bag. There was none. They stared at each other in silence for an eternity until Walter grew tired enough to catch catnaps before the extreme stress drained the energy out of him. His body keeled over and fell to the floor. He blacked out.

The warmth and brilliance of the morning sun through the curtainless windows awoke

skipped a beat when he read that a nurse was murdered outside her apartment door upon her return home at midnight after working her shift at the hospital. Because of the overload of murder investigations overwhelming the precinct, the police did not have the manpower to undertake thorough investigations. Abigail's case ended up in the cold case files, falling behind more high-profile cases. Her attackers were never found.

When Walter polled the residents of the apartment building, they all agreed that his apartment was the scene of the crime. When they told him that everyone stayed away from the area in front of his door because they heard strange noises and felt chills that caused the hairs of their necks to stand on end whenever they passed the area, Walter understood why the apartment was so readily available. He heard that no renter had lasted more than a few days in his apartment.

After his second job, Walter followed the published obituary to the tomb of Nurse Abigail in the local cemetery. He asked her how he could help, assuring her that he was not like the others, too terrified to understand the reason her spirit could not rest.

When the dog pound down the street flashed in his head, Walter believed that Abigail was showing him another sign. He left the cemetery with confident strides to help the police by searching for evidence that they might have missed. He noticed CCTV cameras installed on the next-door laundromat. The owners willingly searched for and found footage of the fateful night when Abigail was attacked.

Two dog pound employees were seen following their victim into the apartment building. The police checked their evidence and found the pound's dog hairs on Abigail's clothing, which showed that the two men had come into contact with her on the night of her murder. The perpetrators pointed fingers at each other, but under pressure, they both confessed to the brutal crime.

Abigail turned the latch for Walter each evening when he returned home from work.

Kamil Ali



Concern in Arima over rising crime

Port-of-Spain – The business community in Arima has raised alarms over a noticeable surge in crime in the east Trinidad borough. Over recent years, Arima has witnessed a troubling increase in violent crimes, including shootings, woundings, and murders.

Recently, these concerns reached a peak after several high-profile incidents occurred in the area.

Now with crime flourishing and continuing to challenge the peace and security in the area, the business community, local leaders, and residents are calling on the authorities for more decisive action to restore order and safety to commercial sites, and on the streets.

Crime is now so flagrant in the borough that a homicide in the area earlier this month that brought police investigators to the scene saw another murder taking place a short distance away from the officers.

Additionally, late last month, an off-duty soldier was confronted by armed suspects

while tending to his garden, resulting in one of the assailants being shot.

And in another shocking incident, a woman was killed shortly after returning from a wake for her uncle, who had been murdered a week earlier.

The escalating violence led Mayor Balliram Maharaj to cancel the Jouvert celebrations for Arima Borough Day, which was due to take place on August 10.

The uncertainty about crime in the area was the reason for the cancellation, Maharaj later revealed.

“The decision was made after consultations with the police,” he explained, noting that the safety of residents was a priority.

President of the Arima Business Chamber Christian Rampersad expressed frustration with the frequent changes in the ranks of the Police Service in the Northern Division.

“The ever-changing hierarchy creates confusion, anxiety, and frustration among the



Mayor Balliram Maharaj (centre) and a police officer during a walkabout in Arima where they met and spoke with residents and business owners

business community,” Rampersad said.

He added, “I have dealt with numerous inspectors, senior superintendents, and sergeants, and each change leads to a breakdown in communication and cooperation. It feels like we’re starting from scratch every time.”

Rampersad also supported Maharaj’s decision to cancel Jouvert celebrations, highlighting the broad impact of crime.

“Crime affects everyone, not just the people of Arima. The police must ensure a smooth transition of information and strategy whenever personnel changes occur,” Rampersad insisted.

Business owner and former head of the Arima Business Chamber, Raj Jadoo, echoed Rampersad’s sentiments.

As he noted, police statistics reveal that the Northern Division leads in criminal activities, including violent crimes.

“It’s clear that we need effective strategies to combat this trend,” Jadoo remarked.

He proposed the implementation of the “Eagle Eye” project, which involves funding camera systems to help police track criminal activities, a strategy that has seen success in Tunapuna, a nearby town.

However, George Hadeed, another business owner and former mayor of Arima, expressed skepticism about the effectiveness of camera systems alone.

“There are bandits entering stores, robbing them in broad daylight without masks, and nothing is done even when they are caught on camera,” Hadeed lamented.

He called for a comprehensive approach to tackling crime, including the judiciary’s role in ensuring that criminals face justice.

Former Mayor Cagney Casimire noted that Arima’s crime problem reflected a nationwide issue. He urged citizens to form community watch groups, and called on the government to either empower citizens to protect themselves, or increase police patrols and praedial larceny units.



Police officers at the crime scene last week where six young persons died

Rowley appeals to youth for good sense

Port-of-Spain – In the wake of a police operation that resulted in the shooting deaths of six young persons, including a teenage girl, Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley called for reflection and better decision-making among the nation’s youth.

While he did not speak directly to the police action and the untimely deaths of the victims, Rowley emphasised the dangers of violent confrontation with law enforcement and urged youths to seek alternative paths.

“It appears some bad choices were made,” he said.

He stressed the importance of making informed decisions, saying, “Don’t make the mistake of believing, or letting anyone make you believe, that you could shoot your way out of a situation with the police or the defence force. Such a decision is a poor one.”

Rowley’s comments followed a shootout in Freeport, central Trinidad last week, after police encountered gunfire from suspected bandits during investigations into a home invasion earlier that day.

According to the police, officers were met with gunfire, which led to the fatal exchange. Rowley underscored the responsibility of law

enforcement to protect citizens, and for them to act when their lives are at risk.

“When you arm yourself with a weapon like a gun, it means you have decided to use it. Law enforcement officers will not wait to see what and how you use it,” he explained.

He added, “Don’t do it! Don’t do that to your family, don’t do that to this nation!”

He also urged young people to avoid jeopardising their futures.

Minister of National Security Fitzgerald Hinds also spoke about the police shooting, expressing sorrow over the loss of young lives, while urging youths to capitalise on opportunities in education, art, culture, sports, and business.

He highlighted the importance of individual actions aligning with the law and the Constitution, while noting the broader concerns about violence.

Dr Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, Minister of Education, spoke on engaging youth through popular platforms like *TikTok*, *Facebook*, and *Instagram*. She also advocated for a multifaceted approach to youth involvement, while emphasising personal responsibility in making use of available opportunities.

Fleeing suspect turns to church for sanctuary

Port-of-Spain – It was a case of a fleeing bandit not having a prayer after police foiled a mid-morning robbery in Port-of-Spain.

The drama started last Wednesday after robbers stole a truck and sped away from the crime scene in Maraval.

As the police reported, around 9:30 a.m., three bandits relieved a Maraval family of their grey Nissan Frontier pick-up truck. The family was returning home after grocery shopping.

Officers from the Belmont Police Station were alerted, and soon after officers in an unmarked vehicle spotted the truck speeding into Port-of-Spain. A roadblock led to a crash, with the suspects fleeing, leaving behind a gun, a bag, and in a twist that could only happen in a Cinderella story, one side of a slipper.

One of the suspects quickly entered the Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church. Seeking divine intervention to avoid apprehension by

the pursuing officers, he quickly donned a priest’s *alb*, a full-length, long-sleeved white garment, in an attempt to blend into the religious atmosphere.

However, the fit of the priest’s vestment was far from liturgically convincing, and with the devil in the details, a vigilant police officer soon apprehended the suspect in the sacristy.

The Archdiocese of Port-of-Spain later commented, saying, “While hiding in the sacristy, the suspect put on a priest’s *alb* to disguise himself. A member of the TTPS, following the suspect, entered the sacristy shortly after and apprehended him.”

Additionally, the Archdiocese declared, “The Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of Port-of-Spain continues to pray for the crime situation in Trinidad and Tobago. We ask the intercession of Our Lady of the Assumption; pray for us.”

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Rowley views lettuce during a walkthrough at a greenhouse last week

Govt concerned over unhealthy eating

Port-of-Spain – Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley last week raised concerns over deteriorating public health due to poor dietary habits while urging nationals to adopt a healthier eating regimen.

His comments underscored the critical role of dietary choices in public health, and his government's commitment to fostering a more sustainable and health-conscious society through innovative agricultural practices.

At the time, Rowley was speaking at the launch of the Youth Agricultural Shade House Project in Chaguaramas in north Trinidad.

In his address, he highlighted the need for a more conscious approach to food consumption.

"We might live in one of the best areas of the world – the Caribbean, in terms of its natural climate and beauties, but at the personal level, largely because of our diet, non-communicable diseases are destroying this Nirvana for us," he said.

He also expressed concern to those gathered at the event about the increasing disconnect between the population and the agricultural sector, highlighting the impact of this divide on the nation's health.

And at the same time, he attributed the poor dietary choices to a lack of exposure to fresh produce and traditional foods.

"One of the main reasons why we have not been consuming more of these kinds of products is largely because people have not grown

up with it. A lot of parents nowadays have not grown up consuming vegetables and ground provisions. They grow up eating out of a pack out of the fridge: salt, fat, and sugar," Rowley lamented.

As a corollary to poor consumption, he emphasised the financial implications inherent in unhealthy eating, pointing out that a shift towards healthier diets could reduce the expenditure burden on the national healthcare system.

"There are some people who tell you, if the work is not being done, there is one solution: hire more people. If we are all getting very sick by our behaviour, they will tell you hire more doctors and nurses. That is a war you will never win," he declared.

Highlighting the significance of the Youth Agricultural Shade House Project, Rowley praised it as a vital initiative for local and regional development. The project aims to introduce high-yield farming techniques on small plots of land, a move seen as crucial in meeting agricultural targets.

"If we are going to impact the situation and meet our target of 25 percent by 2025, we need a bigger effort, and I can tell you that our government, in the national Budget, spends a number of billions of dollars. This exercise of shade housing, and the bringing of 1,500 farmers into agriculture, are probably the best expenditure that the government would have made at this time," he stated.

Govt responds to query over sizeable sum given to Walcott

Port-of-Spain – The Trinidad and Tobago government's decision to award (TT) \$250,000 to Olympian Keshorn Walcott last week raised questions among members of the public, prompting a detailed response from Minister of Sport and Community Development Shamfa Cudjoe-Lewis.

The concerns arose after Walcott, a two-time Olympic medallist, was presented with the sizeable cheque under the Sport Ministry's Elite Athlete Assistance Programme.

Walcott finished seventh in the men's javelin final at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

Questions were raised over the government's rationale behind such significant financial support, particularly in the wake of Trinidad and Tobago's Olympic team returning home empty-handed without a medal for a consecutive Olympic excursion.

Trinidad and Tobago was represented at the 2024 Games by a team of 17 athletes.

Addressing the criticism, Cudjoe-Lewis explained that Walcott, who won gold at the 2012 London Olympics and bronze at the 2016 Rio Olympics, qualifies for the maximum (TT) \$250,000 per year in elite athlete funding due to his top-tier status.

Said Cudjoe-Lewis: "...I saw on social media responses to Keshorn Walcott collecting a cheque of (TT) \$250,000 in support from the government... and many people would comment, saying 'What did he win?'"

As Cudjoe-Lewis indicated, Walcott is in

the top tier according to the government's elite athlete policy, which made him eligible for (TT) \$250,000 per year in elite athlete funding.

She also emphasised the broader financial support the government provides to athletes, revealing that (TT) \$1.5 million was allocated specifically to support the athletes participating in the 2024 Olympics.

And she highlighted that from 2015 to 2024, the government has invested over (TT) \$400 million in sports, averaging \$40-\$50 million annually.



Keshorn Walcott

Business owner packs up, flees TT following extortion attempt

Port-of-Spain – One of the owners of Pablo's Doubles in east Trinidad revealed last week the family has fled the country following an extortion attempt and retaliation by criminals.

According to the business owner, (TT) \$75,000 was demanded from the doubles outlet by the criminals, and after non-payment, their St Augustine residence was shot at on August 4.

Pablo's Doubles has three locations between St Augustine and Tunapuna in east Trinidad. The owner of one outlet, who requested anonymity through fear of further retaliation, said other businesses were also fired upon, and extortion demands made.

He revealed those businesses paid the extortionists because they could not afford to leave Trinidad and Tobago.

"We just put our whole lives in a suitcase and left. I am never coming back, maybe for vacation," the owner said last week.

He added that the family has no idea what their next move will be as they settle in North America.

Asked what the authorities can do to encourage them to return to Trinidad and Tobago, he said, "What can the authorities do? These guys are going to do what? Go in front of the judge and get bail eventually, and this will continue to go on. It is not stopping."

Reports have been growing recently of increased extortion demands from businesses in St Augustine.

In the wake of these reports, Member of Parliament Khadijah Ameen last week appealed for the intervention of the government and the police.

She said small businesses were being targeted, and while some owners could flee the country, their employees were being left behind without jobs.

"The concern I have is that residents and business owners are very reluctant to come for-

ward with information, because they are afraid of retaliation," she said.

Ameen added that while the Cyber Crime Unit and other arms of the police service were working with those who came forward, the greater issue was the recovery of the community after business owners flee, leaving unemployed nationals behind.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Junior Benjamin told the media last week that extortion remains a top matter for police, and the establishment of a dedicated unit to tackle the growing situation is being considered.

"We are putting strategies in place to deal with that, so as reports come in, we are looking at these requests based on their merit," he said

Benjamin said in some cases, special investigators were being assigned, but divisional commanders had jurisdiction over their respective areas to address reports of extortion as they saw fit within the law.

Earlier this month, police shot and killed two teenagers, and the mother of a two-year-old girl, during an exchange of gunfire near the Caroni Cremation site in central Trinidad.

According to the police reports, the three suspects were affiliated with the Resistance Gang, which has been extorting businesses in the Central and Northern Divisions, encompassing Chaguana, St Augustine, and Tunapuna.

Meanwhile, the Confederation of Business Chambers' Coordinator Jai Leladharsingh expressed concern about the surge in extortions.

"There is not one word coming from the Ministry of National Security, nor the office of the Commissioner of Police regarding this whole matter of extortion," he said.

He confirmed that several business owners in south and central Trinidad had sold their assets and fled the country.



Khadijah Ameen

ment's commitment beyond the Olympic cycle. Cudjoe-Lewis also compared Trinidad and Tobago's support for its athletes to Jamaica's model, where government funding is provided only after athletes qualify for the Olympics.

In contrast, Trinidad and Tobago provides financial support both in and out of competition seasons, she stated.

Larry Romany, the newly appointed chairman of the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago, joined Cudjoe-Lewis and spoke about the long process required to develop Olympic champions.

"It takes an average of ten years to produce an Olympic champion. And, then again, not everybody is going to be an Olympic champion," Romany said, noting the challenges faced by smaller nations like Trinidad and Tobago in competing on the global stage.

Cudjoe-Lewis concluded by acknowledging the independence of national sporting bodies, and the limits of government intervention, despite calls for more direct oversight. She urged these organisations to reflect on their practices and collaborate more effectively to achieve better outcomes for athletes.

"The fact is, as an island state of just about 1.3 million people, we have been extremely successful in what we do," Romany added, reinforcing the notion that Trinidad and Tobago's athletes have made significant strides on the international stage, even without consistent medal success.

The Golden Years of Indian Cinema

Celebrating the gems from those 1960s' golden age movies

By Vidur Dindayal

Golden age movies released in 1960 must be among the very best. *Chaudhvin Ka Chand* (*The Full Moon*) is unforgettable for its song, which is named after the movie itself. I believe the movie was later shown in colour.

Guru Dutt has a few record breaking artistic movies to his name, and *Chaudhvin Ka Chand* is certainly one of them. He did not fare too well with *Kaagaz Ke Phool*, but made up for it with *Chaudhvin Ka Chand*, which was a super hit at the box office. It was the fourth top-grossing movie of 1960.

Chaudhvin Ka Chand stars Guru Dutt as Aslam, Waheeda Rehman as Jameela, Rehman as Nawab Pyaare Miyan, Johnny Walker as Mirza, Minoo Mumtaz as Tameezan, and Tun Tun as Naseeban. The heroine Waheeda Rehman was still a new name, and so was Guru Dutt as a hero.

The film is considered to be a notable Muslim-social, which is a movie that portrays Islamic culture in India. It was ranked in the 2003 *Outlook Magazine* poll of 25 Leading Indian Directors for Best Bollywood Movies of All Time. *Filmfare* listed it among "Seven Muslim socials you must watch".

The setting for the movie is the beautiful city of Lucknow, where Islamic culture flourished. In 1968, I was travelling by train early in the morning into Lucknow, I found the skyline captivatingly picturesque with domes and minarets among other buildings.

The film is about a love triangle – two friends who love the same girl Jameela (Waheeda Rehman). The two friends Aslam (Guru Dutt) and Nawab (Rehman) attended a gathering, where the ladies exchange veils for fun. This causes the two best friends to accidentally fall in love with the same woman named Jameela. Aslam did not know this. He and Jameela got married. Later, Aslam discovers that his friend Nawab also loved Jameela. In response, Aslam begins working on turning Jameela away, and for her to fall for his friend Nawab instead.

The plan does not work, as Jameela is not convinced. Eventually Nawab, overcome with grief, realising that he was putting his friend Aslam into a lot of sorrow, takes his own life to be out of the way to ensure there are no obstacles to Jameela for Aslam. It is a very sad movie.

Music Director Ravi composed the score for the film, with Shakeel Badayuni writing the lyrics. Its music was ranked high in the Top 100 Bollywood Albums.

The film's title track *Chaudhvin Ka Chand* became especially popular, and is noted for the picturisation of the song. It is regarded as one of the most acclaimed romantic ballads in India, and one of the most loved filmi songs of all time.

Johnny Walker is in his element in the song *Mera Yaar Ban Hai Dulha*, with the *shehnai* playing, an instrument that is often played at a wedding ceremony. He is also versatile in *Yeh Duniya Gol Gai*.

Minoo Mumtaz, who I think is the comedy actor Mehmood's sister, is professional and entertaining with her dances with Johnny Walker in the song *Bedardi Mere Saiyan* and the *mujra* dance song, *Dil Ki Kahani Rang Layi Hai*.

The song *Badle Badle Mere Sarkar*, which is sung by Lata Mangeshkar and performed by Waheeda Rehman, is done in part in a beautiful setting in the gardens to her house.

In the eighth *Filmfare Awards*, the movie won the following awards: Best Lyricist – Shakeel Badayuni for film *Chaudhvin Ka Chand*; Best Male Playback Singer – Mohammed Rafi for song *Chaudhvin Ka Chand*; and Best Art Direction – Biren Nag.

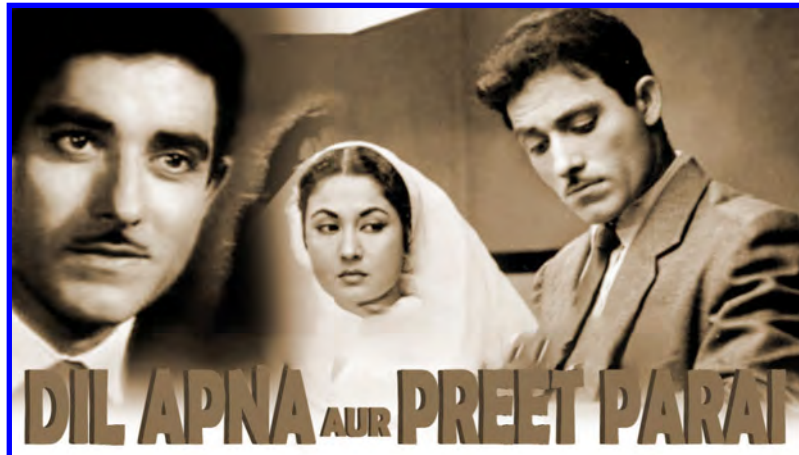
It was also nominated for Best Supporting Actor – Rehman; Best Music Director – Ravi; and Best Story – Saghir Usmani. This film was also entered into the second Moscow International Film Festival.

Jis Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai (*The country in which the Ganges flows*) is a Raj Kapoor produced movie starring Padmini, Raj Kapoor, and Pran. It was declared a "hit" movie by *Box Office India*.

For many of us, the name of the movie has deep meaning – blessings of the country where the most holy river flows. The river Ganges is most sacred for Hindus, the personification of Goddess Ganga. Bathing in the river is a 'cleansing'.

Also, Ganga is vital to the Indian economy, an essential source of water, and since ancient times it has provided irrigation for crops. In modern times, it is an important source of hydroelectric power.

The team of Shankar-Jaikishan composed the songs, with lyrics written by Shailendra and Hasrat Jaipuri.



The unforgettable song, with Raj Kapoor in a boat afloat on the Holy Ganga singing *Mera Naam Raju* tells me all about Raj Kapoor as an actor. When I saw it recently to refresh my memory, Raj Kapoor was in a raftlike boat with two men steering, and he was enjoying his singing; later in the song he was in a small boat with few people in it, with lots of people ashore looking on.

According to the *Atul Song a Day* website, the song is sung by Mukesh and picturised as a boat song with Raj Kapoor. It is an introduction to the movie's story, where Raj Kapoor is playing a *dafli*, while introducing himself by singing this song. A *dafli* is a tambourine with bells around it, and generally played with palm and fingers. The artist that beats or plays it is called a *dafliwale*.

I had naturally assumed the song was sung in a boat on the river Ganga, but in reality it was picturised on river Narmada near Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, at a spot called Bhedaghat. Raj Kapoor has shot quite a few songs at this location.

Jabalpur, where Raj Kapoor's brother-in-law, movie star Prem Nath and family settled after partition, is a tourist must-see with waterfalls, sacred and religious sites, and other landmarks.

All the songs are eternal, and are enjoyable to listen to, and to watch. The song *Kya Hua Ye Mujhe Kya Hua*, with Padmini singing and dancing to it, is so super-active, that I wonder how they did not become breathless. I am sure the whole song and dance were not shot continuously; there must have been breaks for them to catch their breaths.

Raj Kapoor is a poor, friendly orphan who gets his bread by singing songs. One day, he helps an injured man, and later was kidnapped by a few bandits. It then turns out that the injured man he helped is Sardar, who is leader of this gang.

They were 'good' bandits who stole from the rich to distribute to the poor. The Sardar takes good care of Raju, who then falls in love with Kammo (Padmini), Sardar's daughter.

Pran is one of the bandits. He kills Sardar, takes over the gang, and tries to marry Kammo. However, Raju elopes with Kammo and tells the truth to the police, but begs the police not to kill the bandits. Eventually he returns to the bandits and convinced them to surrender to the police in order to ensure

good and respectful life to their family, especially their children.

Raj Kapoor repeated the song *Jis Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai* with him, beating the *dafli* with all the vigour he can muster, and singing with deep emotion that reverential song about all being children of that blessed 'desh' where 'mother' Ganga flows.

It so won over the bandits and their womenfolk and children that they put down their weapons and joined in the spirit of the music, and danced to the stirring rhythm, enjoying it to the full.

This movie was inspired by initiatives of the venerable Gandhian Vinoba Bhave, and social and political leader Jayaprakash Narayan, who heeding their call saw hundreds of *dacoits* in the gang surrendering to police and later joining the mainstream society.

The film won many prestigious awards at the National Film Awards and *Filmfare Awards*. It received the 1960 Certificate of Merit for Best Feature Film in Hindi.

It also stood out at the ninth *Filmfare Awards* function by winning the most awards, four of them, and eight nominations, all as follows: Won: Best Film – Raj Kapoor; Best Actor – Raj Kapoor; Best Editing – G.G. Mayekar; Best Art Direction – M.R. Acharekar.

Nominated were Best Director – Radhu Karmakar; Best Actress – Padmini; Best Supporting Actor – Pran; Best Music Director – Shankar-Jaikishan; Best Lyricist – Shailendra for *Hothon Pe Sacchai*; Best Male Playback Singer – Mukesh for *Hothon Pe Sacchai*.

Dil Apna Aur Preet Parai (*My Heart is Mine and My Love is for Someone Else*) is a romantic drama starring Raaj Kumar, Meena Kumari, and Nadira. It was written and directed by the unique, golden age super star behind the movie *Kali Ghata*, Kishore Sahu.

The film's music is by Shankar-Jaikishan, and features a hit song *Ajeeb Dastan Hai Yeh*. At the 1961 *Filmfare Awards* it created an upset by beating the popular musical epic, *Mughal-e-Azam* of Naushad, in the Best Music Director category.

Dr Sushil Verma is a surgeon in the Shimla Hospital. Karuna is a nurse who comes to Shimla Hospital, and first encounters Sushil during an emergency surgery. Both clearly liked each other, but kept their feelings restrained.

Sushil lives on the hospital grounds with his aging mother, and younger sister Munni. By chance, Karuna meets Munni, who injures herself. She dresses Munni's wounds, and helps in the house, as the mother is too ill to attend to household tasks. Sushil comes home to see this, and falls even more in love with Karuna.

While Sushil was studying medicine, his father had died, and a close friend of Sushil's father paid the medical school fees to enable him to qualify. This created a debt that Sushil's mother lived with, and felt somehow she had to repay.

She organises a trip to Kashmir for the family to meet up with the friend of Sushil's father, who had paid for his medical school fees. He has a daughter Kusum (Nadira), and hoped his daughter would marry Sushil.

Sushil's mum saw this as a great chance to clear her 'debt'. She had Sushil and Kusum marry. Sushil objected at first, but eventually gave in to his mother.

Kusum discovers Sushil and Karuna's attachment. She tries to get rid of Karuna by taking her for a drive in her car at high speed at a cliff top. Kusum lost control, her car toppling into the sea below, and she lost her life. Karuna was saved. Karuna and Sushil are reunited.

The songs are all entertaining. Music is by Shankar-Jaikishan, with lyrics by Hasrat Jaipuri. *Ui Itani Badi Mahafil Aur Ik Di*, sung by Asha Bhosle for Helen in her cabaret dance, is one of Asha's best songs. It is a very popular song based on Harry Belafonte's *Banana Boat Song*.

The song *Ajib Dastan Hai Ye* is for the scene where the married couple is in a small boat in a lake in the evening, and was sung by Lata Mangeshkar for Meena Kumari. This Hawaiian-themed song is based on *My Lips Are Sealed*, by Jim Reeves.

Shisha-E-Dil Itna Na Uchhalo is a happy Lata Mangeshkar song with performers Meena Kumari, Shammi, Bela Bose, Edwina, happily enjoying a break on the beach and the sea water.

The song *Dil Apna Aur Preet Parai*, is sung by Lata Mangeshkar for Meena Kumari in the evening among boats on the sea side. *Mera Dil Ab Tera O Saajana*, is a lively dance song, in a village with villagers dancing, and the two, Raaj Kumar and Meena Kumari imagining themselves singing and dancing. This is an absorbingly entertaining 'must see' movie.



Often offering glimpses into her new house, last week Ananya Panday shared two photos on social media during her performance of Shiv Puja to mark the auspicious month of Shravan. In left photo, she is smiling with clasped hands near her Shiv puja arrangement. Photo at right shows a close-up of the Shivling decorated with marigold and lotus flowers. Panday was last seen in the Netflix release *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan*, alongside Siddhant Chaturvedi and Adarsh Gourav. She will be seen next in the web show *Call Me Bae*, which will be released on September 6. Panday's Instagram photos



Rani Mukerji

Mukerji, Johar to speak in Australia's Parliament

In an historic development for Indian cinema, stalwarts Rani Mukerji and Karan Johar will deliver a keynote address at the Australian Parliament House on August 13, the Indian media reported last week.

The event precedes the 15th annual Indian Film Festival of Melbourne, which begins on August 15.

The invitation to Mukerji and Johar comes on the heels of a recently ratified co-production treaty between India and Australia. The address will explore cinema's unique ability to bridge cultural divides, unite audiences globally, and pave the way for increased collaboration between the Indian and Australian film industries.

Both Mukerji and Johar have played pivotal roles in shaping contemporary Indian cinema, with a repertoire of films that have not only entertained millions, but also sparked important conversations on societal issues at home in India and abroad.

Mukerji is well-known for her versatile performances in films like *Black*, *Hichki*, and *Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway*. She is also a celebrated actress known for powerful performances in other movies such as *Mardaani* and *Hum Tum*, and has been a trailblazer for women in the Indian film industry. Her nuanced portrayals have earned her numerous awards and accolades, making her a respected figure in Indian cinema.

Speaking to her excitement about the opportunity in Australia, Mukerji stated, "I'm proud to represent the Indian film fraternity at the Australian Parliament House, and speak about the rich history of cinema that we have offered to the world at large. This is a milestone moment for our fraternity, and it would be an honour for me to speak about the growing cultural ties between Australia and India through cinema."

Johar is well-known for his directorial debut with the iconic *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*. A multifaceted filmmaker and producer, has been instrumental in introducing a new wave of storytelling in Bollywood. Also among his films are *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*, and *My Name Is Khan*, which have also achieved both commercial success and critical acclaim. As a producer, he has also launched several new talents in the industry, further solidifying his influence.

"I am deeply honoured to be invited to speak at the Australian Parliament House. I am thrilled to be a part of this historic event, and to celebrate the incredible journey of Indian cinema," he stated.

Expected to be in attendance for the keynote address are Australia's members of parliament, ministers, and other dignitaries, their presence reinforcing the global impact and cultural significance that Indian cinema has made.

IFFM festival director Mitu Bhowmik Lange highlighted the importance of the upcoming event, saying, "This is a landmark year for the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne as we celebrate our 15th year. Having Rani Mukerji and Karan Johar as keynote speakers at the Australian Parliament House is a testament to the festival's growing influence and recognition."

The event marks a significant moment for cultural diplomacy, as it highlights the strengthening ties between India and Australia through the lens of cinema.



Karan Johar

Mumtaz speaks on rise, fall of stars

Veteran actress Mumtaz recently candidly discussed the rise and fall of the 'superstar' Rajesh Khanna. At the same time, she noted Khanna's decline was not entirely his fault.

Mumtaz made the statement in a frank interview with the publication *Rediff*, and which was reported on by various entertainment media in India.

Her career spanned almost three decades, in which she shared the screen with luminaries as Rajesh Khanna, Shammi Kapoor, Dilip Kumar, and Dharmendra, among many others.

She made an early debut in cinema at age 11 with *Lajwanti* and *Sone Ki Chidiya*, and did smaller roles in movies such as *Stree* and *Sehra*, before rising to fame with *Khilona*.

However, her pairing with Rajesh Khanna was the most successful, with a total of ten films done together. As she told *Rediff*, she closely observed her co-actors and their rise to stardom and their gradual fall in the later years of their careers.

Mumtaz stated she also observed Khanna's rise to fame, and then his decline. However, she added his fall into oblivion was not entirely his fault.

As she noted, movie stars owe their fame to the audience, and at the same time, they are nothing without the love and adulation of their audience.

"We stars are what we are because of your love. Without your love, we are nothing. It wasn't entirely Rajesh Khanna's fault. I remember when he was known as the 'phenomenon'. My bungalow was very close to his. I have seen big-name producers and directors behaving like his *chamchas*," Mumtaz said.

She was quite critical of filmmakers who flatter actors and stars, which she described as *chamchagiri*.

She added, "His girlfriend Anju Mahendroo would play host all night. She would serve food and drinks till 3:00 a.m. I have seen the same night-long sessions in Shammi Kapoor's home. He used to spend a fortune on entertaining guests."

She also spoke about Shammi Kapoor, whom she dated at one time.

"I think Shammi Kapoor let himself go and decided to live life the way he wanted to. But to his credit, when he came on set, he worked hard. The same goes for Rajesh Khanna."

At the same time, she also applauded *Heeramandi's* director Sanjay Leela Bhansali for "maintaining a distance from everyone".

As she noted, Bhansali "does his work, treats his actors with respect, and goes home. You are paying the actors; why do you need to do their *chamchagiri*?"

And she was also high in praise for the late singer Mohammad Rafi, calling him a "disciplined, humble, and god-fearing" human being, whom she loved teasing while attending his song recordings.

"I would tease him by screaming, 'Rafisaab, I love you.' He would turn towards me, then turn away blushing," she recalled.

And in an older interview with *Times Entertainment*, Mumtaz had spoken about her "rivalry" with Sharmila Tagore, saying, "Heroines cannot be friends, not then, not now. We didn't do dinners or hang out together. It's always been like that."

However, this time around, Mumtaz refuted that there existed any bad blood with Sharmila, who acted in multiple films opposite Rajesh Khanna.

Said Mumtaz: "I respect [Tagore] a lot. She is far more educated and sophisticated than me. I started working at the age of eight, so I learned everything on the job. Whether it is Sharmila or any other heroine, I never had time to interact with them."

She also noted that they both had different audiences and a different fan base.

She added, "But yes, I did more films with Kaka (Rajesh Khanna)

than Sharmilaji. It was God's blessing that not one film of mine with Kaka flopped. Sharmilaji had flops with him."

Mumtaz also revealed that while Rajesh Khanna never encouraged animosity between his two leading ladies, he was a bit possessive over her.

"Rajesh Khanna never fueled the rivalry or spoke a word against Sharmilaji. But he would get upset when I signed films with other heroes like Dharmendraji or Devsaab. But he worked with other heroines. I never sulked. He thought he owned me. But never mind, it meant that he cared for me."

Mumtaz is now 77 years old. She also shared memories from her younger years working with Dilip Kumar and his wife Saira Banu, stating that collaborating with them was a "pleasure" as they both treated her with "so much care".

As she reminisced, "Sairaji was so warm during the shooting. The first scene required me to hit Dilipsaab. I was petrified. He said, 'Why won't you hit me? Hit me hard.' I will never forget the kindness of people like Prithviraj Kapoor, Shashi Kapoor, Mehmoodsaab, Sunil Dutt... we lost them so early."

Mumtaz also spoke to the future about making a comeback. "I have received offers and big money to write my story. I will do it when I am ready. Even when I make a comeback to acting, it would have to be something worthy of me. I watch the films that are being made these days. They have nothing to offer me. Why should I play the mother or the *bhabhi*? I have always done what I wanted in life," she said.



Mumtaz



Rajesh Khanna

Grave steps down as Cricket West Indies CEO

Saint John's – A major shift in leadership is set to take place in Cricket West Indies come October when Johnny Grave steps down as Chief Executive Officer. At the helm since February 2017, Grave will leave a legacy marked by both achievements and challenges in Caribbean cricket administration.

Grave began his innings with CWI following a successful tenure as the Commercial Director of the Professional Cricketers' Association in England. His educational background includes a BA (Hons) in Geography & Management studies from the University of Leeds, and an MBA from Bayes Business School, London.

He was appointed CEO of CWI by then-president Dave Cameron in 2017, succeeding Michael Muirhead.

During his tenure at CWI, Grave faced numerous challenges, among them the Covid-19 pandemic and financial constraints within the cricketing body. But despite these obstacles, he managed to steer the organisation towards profitability and stability.

One of the significant milestones he achieved was the acquisition and full ownership of the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua. This ground is now the home for CWI's men's and women's academies.

Also under Grave's leadership, CWI successfully hosted several prestigious tournaments: the 2018 Women's T20 World Cup; the 2022 Men's U19 World Cup; and co-hosted the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup with the US.

These events not only focused global attention on West Indies cricket, and participating Caribbean nations, but at the same time significantly boosted the region's cricketing infrastructure and its capacity to host fast-paced and world class tournaments.

Facing the fast pace of administrating West Indies cricket, Grave also faced modern-day issues such as player disputes, financial strains, and maintaining the delicate balance between traditional and emerging cricketing practices and the rapid evolution of the structure and form of the game.

Also among his accomplishments was he significantly enhanced relations between the CWI board and the players. He also recently facilitated an MOU between the CWI and the West Indies Players Association that guarantees players designated windows for the IPL and CPL tournaments. Additionally, the



Johnny Grave

agreement ensures pay parity between men's and women's players by 2027.

His management style and approach focused on inclusivity, transparency, and strategic planning that earned him the respect of players and administrators alike.

Grave commented on his tenure, saying, "It has been an absolute privilege to have been CEO of CWI since February 2017. Having just hosted a successful T20 World Cup and delivered significant surpluses for CWI for the third consecutive year, I do feel it is the right time for me and my family to seek a new challenge."

He added, "I have received tremendous support from so many people since becoming CEO, and I would like to thank everyone, especially the staff and the players, particularly during the difficult pandemic, for their trust in me and their commitment to West Indies cricket. I have put everything into this role, and now is the right time for someone new with fresh energy to lead the organisation, and continue this important work and build on the strong foundations that are now in place."

CWI President Dr Kishore Shallow praised Grave's contributions, noting, "Johnny's efforts, particularly through challenging times such as the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as successfully hosting three World Cups including the Women's T20 World Cup in 2018, the Men's Under-19 Cricket World Cup in 2022, and recently, the Men's T20 World Cup, have made a lasting impact on CWI."

As the Caribbean media reported, Grave's departure marks the end of a transformative era for West Indies cricket, setting a solid foundation for future endeavours.

Also, last week CEI indicated it was embarking on a comprehensive recruitment process to find a successor who can build upon these foundations, and continue the growth trajectory set during Grave's leadership.

As CWI indicated, its board will be initiating a comprehensive recruitment process to select the next CEO.

Said CWI: "The organisation is dedicated to ensuring a thorough and transparent selection process. Details regarding the recruitment process will be announced shortly, and will be published across various media platforms to keep stakeholders informed."

Ishan Kishan gets golden opportunity from BCCI

It appears a golden opportunity has been handed to Ishan Kishan by the Board of Control for Cricket in India for a comeback to the Indian side ahead of the selection meeting for the Bangladesh Test series, which will take place next month, the sports media in India reported last week.

Prior to this development, there was an air of uncertainty about Kishan's future in international cricket, across all formats, since being denied a central contract by the BCCI in February this year. Apparently, he was sidelined following his decision to opt out of the Ranji Trophy last year.

Since then, Kishan has not been named in any of the Indian squads, including the T20 World Cup. Also, a possible return was not addressed during Gautam Gambhir's first press conference following his appointment as head coach of the men's team.

However, according to a report in the cricket website *Cricbuzz* earlier this month, the wicket-keeper-batter Kishan made himself available for the upcoming domestic season after being counselled by national selectors.

Following this move, he was included in the list of 25 pre-season probables by the Jharkhand State Cricket Association. The development came weeks after BCCI secretary Jay Shah reiterated that all available players should play for their respective States, including India probables when not on national duty.

The Indian media later reported that Kishan played for Jharkhand in the Buchi Babu invitational tournament on August 15 in Chennai. And in another report, the *Indian Express* indicated that the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee was likely to pick Kishan for the Duleep Trophy, which is to be played from September 5 to September 24.

This domestic tournament will also feature Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and other India regulars. It will also be a key benchmark when the selectors meet to pick the 15-member squad for the Test series against Bangladesh, which starts on September 19.



Ishan Kishan

It was also reported in the Indian media that the selectors want Kishan to resume his red-ball career if he wants to stage a comeback to the Indian side.

A similar re-entry was made earlier this month by Shreyas Iyer, who was similarly denied a pick like Kishan. Iyer made a return to the Indian team during the ODI series against Sri Lanka earlier this month.

It also appears to be the end of the innings for Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane, with the likelihood they would no longer be in the reckoning for a place in the Indian squad.

This possibility was reported last week by the *Indian Express*, which noted that the selectors did not consider the two veteran batters for the Duleep Trophy.

While Pujara was among the top run-getters in the Ranji Trophy last season, an out-of-form Rahane led Mumbai to a title win. However, the selectors are keener on giving Sarfaraz Khan and Dhruv Jurel opportunities, the *Indian Express* noted.

Meanwhile, it was also reported last week that Rishabh Pant is being eased back into each of the formats, with the Indian media citing the source of this item to BCCI's chief selector Ajit Agarkar.

Pant has been making a return to competitive action since March this year after being on the sidelines for 15 months following recovery from a car accident in December 2022.

He was picked for India's triumphant T20 World Cup campaign after a stellar show in IPL 2024, before being brought back to the ODIs earlier this month in the tour of Sri Lanka. It appears now that he is all set to return to Test cricket.

A wicketkeeper-batter, Pant last played in the traditional format in December 2022 against Bangladesh in Mirpur.

A week later he was involved in a vehicular accident on the Narsan border of Roorkee near Hammadpur Jhal while returning home from Delhi. He spent the better part of 2023 recovering from the injuries sustained in the accident. He returned to competitive cricket for Delhi Capitals in IPL 2024.



Alick Athanaze

Windies draw 1st Test

Following the first Test draw with South Africa last week, West Indies Test skipper Kraigg Brathwaite said he had faith the batters would have pulled off a win had the rain not interrupted the chase at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad.

The Test saw two lengthy rain delays on the final day that saw the match ending in a draw. However, the West Indian chase revealed a possibility following the batting display from Dominican left-hander Alick Athanaze, who fell eight runs short of his maiden Test century.

After South Africa declared on 173 for 3 in their second innings during the first session of play, West Indies were set a target of 298 for victory from the remaining three sessions.

However, the rains came just before lunch, which led to the match almost two hours later, dampening a potential victory for the West Indians.

Apparently rain played a dominant inning throughout the match, with 142 overs lost over the five days.

Meanwhile, it was Athanaze who put up the most resistance to the South African bowlers, remaining centred with the bat even as he was the centrepiece in three crucial partnerships that kept the scoreboard moving upwards to the 298 target.

But with the delays for rain, time ran out, leaving West Indies on 201 for 5, falling short by 97 runs.

Brathwaite disagreed that rain saved the match for West Indies. "I wouldn't say we would have escaped [losing]. We had 100 runs to win, and were fully confident we would have made it if the rain didn't fall, albeit the game would have been a little different. We were fully confident we could have gotten the runs and we showed it," he maintained.

On Athanaze's knock with the bat, Brathwaite said he was pleased the 25-year old stayed true to the team's plan.

"It was surely planned. It's quite easy to think [we would] come and defend and bat out the day. From me to the boys, was to trust the plan and fully back it, whatever it is. Alick showed it from his approach and tried to sweep the ball. He's a good sweeper and for him to go and do it, I thought that was good."

Brathwaite lauded Athanaze's innings, and said while he did not secure his maiden Test century, it was all part of the bigger picture.

As he noted, the more exposure the team received to different levels of the game, and playing against different teams, meant West Indies would continue to improve.

"The more cricket we play, the better. Playing a Test match... is intense cricket, and the more we do it and the more guys continue to see growth from watching... that is what is important," he stated.

He added, "Once we continue to [improve] as a group... that's how we get better. The more cricket we play, against different opposition, that's how we will improve as a team, and the batters as well."

Athanaze also told the media afterwards he was pleased to play an important role in the first Test. While he was disappointed to miss out on his first century, he said he felt satisfied to play a solidifying role among the batters.

"The result of the match is more important than getting the hundred. I would have loved to get the hundred, and I am really hungry for it. It's unfortunate that I didn't get it. But at least I'm getting closer," he said.



Marizanne Kapp

Kapp climbs to the top of her game

South Africa's Marizanne Kapp was talked out of retiring from cricket earlier this year in a move that today sees her grateful for the decision, since she is now at the peak of her prowess.

Earlier this month *ESPNcricinfo* reported at the top of the year Kapp approached Cricket South Africa indicating her intention to retire from the international format. However, as she stated, CSA director of cricket Enoch Nkwe urged her not to rush into a decision.

Kapp had cited the toll of balancing the workload of franchise cricket along with the demands of her personal life.

But Nkwe urged her not to rush into a decision. Since then, Kapp and CSA have worked together on her workload, with the result being that she is now committed to South Africa for the foreseeable future.

It is a future that includes the T20I and ODI World Cups over the next 12 months.

"I did retire earlier this year – or asked to retire – and luckily I didn't," Kapp told *ESPNcricinfo*.

She added, "I spoke to the director of cricket [Nkwe], and he actually asked me to just hang on, think it through, [and] don't make decisions too quickly. I'm glad that I didn't go through with it because I feel like I'm at the peak of my career."

As Kapp noted, "The older I get, I'm getting better. So it would be a shame to have worked for all those years, and now [when] I'm at my peak, I retire from international cricket. I've loved playing in all these leagues, but playing for your country and at World Cups are a different level. CSA have been so good to me in helping manage my workload. Now I'll play for as long as I can contribute."

Kapp produced an all-round display in South Africa's first ODI win over Australia in February. Her retirement earlier this year would have continued a significant loss of big names from South Africa in recent years. Among the notable names that left the team are

Dane van Niekerk, Mignon du Preez, Lizelle Lee, and Shabnim Ismail.

Kapp's ODI bowling workload is now being carefully managed, and she remains confident of playing a full all-round role in T20s for both her franchise sides and for South Africa.

As *ESPNcricinfo* reported, she has committed to playing all the ODIs, which are part of the Women's Championship and count towards World Cup qualification.

However, she will miss some T20Is, including November's series against England. These T20Is overlap with the end of the WBBL, where she has signed a three-year deal with Melbourne Stars.

"[CSA] have been so good to allow me to play in the leagues where I can. With T20, it's not too hard to manage [the workload]. But in ODI cricket, I'm not 20 anymore, and my workload has been so high with the bat that it makes it impossible to continue to bowl ten overs [in every game]," she stated.

Additionally, "If you look at the make-up of the South African team, we are a bit light on the batting front. So I am needed more with the bat. So the bowling will probably take a bit of a backseat just in ODIs."

That Kapp is at the peak of her career is backed up by numbers, particularly with the bat. So far in all T20s this year her average is 33.06, and her strike rate at 142.97, both considerably up on her career figures. She has averaged 62.63 in ODIs since 2023.

Last WBBL season, she was picked up by Sydney Thunder for a campaign that saw her averaging 9.40 with the bat, and taking ten wickets at 37.40.

Despite her recent performances, Kapp admits she had challenging times.

"It's probably been my toughest couple of years. It has not been easy. I've always enjoyed my batting... but [I used to] feel like the world was always so focused on my bowling, and wouldn't speak about my batting, and that makes you lose confidence," she said.

India women training in Bengaluru

The Indian women's squad is now in training in Bengaluru in southern India in a fitness and conditioning camp at the National Cricket Academy, part of the preparation for the Women's T20 World Cup 2024 to be held between October 3-October 20.

The large squad is made up with potential picks for the T20 World Cup. However, it is minus players who are now in the Women's Hundred and the Women's Caribbean Premier League.

Among the missing players are Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, and Richa Ghosh, who are in England for the Hundred, with Jemimah Rodrigues away for her maiden stint in the WCPL 2024 with Trinbago Knight Riders.

There are no international games for the team before the start of the World Cup.

According to a report by the cricket website, *ESPNcricinfo*, the camp is focusing largely on fielding and fitness, and would then move into more specific area such as spot bowling and range hitting.

ESPNcricinfo also reported that Board of Control for Cricket in India has engaged a sports psychologist to conduct sessions for the team. The move is in response to a request by team captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who has repeatedly called for the sessions to help players open up on their challenges and to work on combatting pressure and mental fatigue.

A team will be then picked for the World Cup, and the players will reconvene in early September for an intense skill-based camp, which will be part of the final run into the October T20 tournament, *ESPNcricinfo* added.



Harmanpreet Kaur

Cricket Schedule

(Matches ALL TIMES LOCAL)

| | |
|---|--|
| Wednesday August 21, 2024 Sri Lanka tour of England, 2024 Eng. vs SL, 1st Test, Day 1, Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester, 11:00 AM Bangladesh tour of Pakistan, 2024 Pakistan vs Bangladesh, 1st Test, Day 1, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi, 10:00 AM | 5, Emirates Old Traf., Man., 11:00 AM Bangladesh tour of Pakistan, 2024 Pakistan vs Bangladesh, 1st Test, Day 5, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi, 10:00 AM |
| Thursday August 22, 2024 Pakistan vs Bangladesh, 1st Test, Day 2, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi, 10:00 AM England vs Sri Lanka, 1st Test, Day 2, Emirates Old Traf., Man. 11:00 AM | Monday August 26, 2024 South Africa tour of W, 2024 WI vs SA , 3rd T20I, Brian Lara Stadium, Tarouba, Trinidad, 3:00 PM Thursday August 29, 2024 Sri Lanka tour of England, 2024 England vs Sri Lanka, 2nd Test, Day 1, Lord's, London, 11:00 AM |
| Friday August 23, 2024 Sri Lanka tour of England, 2024 England vs SL, 1st Test, Day 3, Emirates Old Traf., Man., 11:00 AM Bangladesh tour of Pakistan, 2024 Pakistan vs Bangladesh, 1st Test, Day 3, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi, 10:00 AM | Friday August 30, 2024 Bangladesh tour of Pakistan, 2024 Pakistan vs Bang., 2nd Test, Day 1, National Stadium, Karachi, 10:00 AM Sri Lanka tour of England, 2024 England vs Sri Lanka, 2nd Test, Day 2, Lord's, London, 11:00 AM |
| Saturday August 24, 2024 South Africa tour of WI, 2024 West Indies vs South Africa, 1st T20I, Brian Lara Stadium, Tarouba, Trinidad, 3:00 PM Sri Lanka tour of England, 2024 England vs Sri Lanka, 1st Test, Day 4, Emirates Old Traf., Man., 11:00 AM Bangladesh tour of Pakistan, 2024 Pakistan vs Bangladesh, 1st Test, Day 4, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi, 10:00 AM | Saturday August 31, 2024 Bangladesh tour of Pakistan, 2024 Pakistan vs Bang., 2nd Test, Day 2, National Stadium, Karachi, 10:00 AM Sri Lanka tour of England, 2024 England vs Sri Lanka, 2nd Test, Day 3, Lord's, London, 11:00 AM |
| Sunday August 25, 2024 South Africa tour of WI, 2024 West Indies vs South Africa, 2nd T20I, Brian Lara Stadium, Tarouba, Trinidad, 3:00 PM Sri Lanka tour of England, 2024 England vs Sri Lanka, 1st Test, Day | Sunday September 1, 2024 Bang. tour of Pakistan, 2024 Pakistan vs Bang, 2nd Test, Day 3, National Stadium, Karachi, 10:00 AM Monday September 2, 2024 Bangladesh tour of Pakistan, 2024, Pakistan vs Bang. , 2nd Test, Day 4, National Stadium, Karachi, 10:00 AM Sri Lanka tour of England, 2024 England vs Sri Lanka, 2nd Test, Day 5, Lord's, London, 11:00 AM |
| | Monday September 2, 2024 Bangladesh vs Pakistan 2nd Test, Day 4, Karachi, 10:00 AM. |

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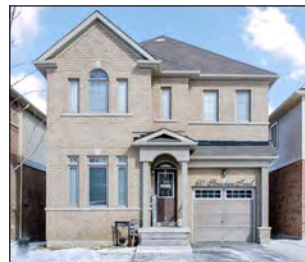
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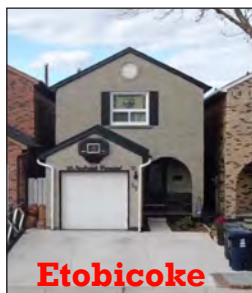
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- CRITICAL ILLNESS
- SUPER VISA
- RESP & RRSP
- INVESTMENT

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

Abdool Saheed
Financial Advisor
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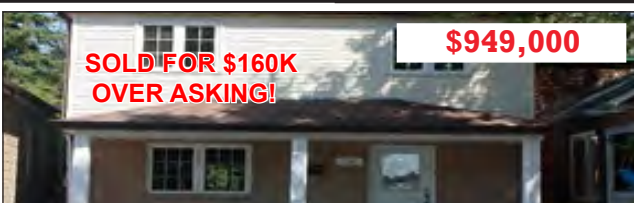
CityPointe Heights starting @ High 400s

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



Essa For Lease \$2,995

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



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

Narrative Condos

STARTING FROM LOW \$300s



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



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