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Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown (right) beams with pride after being presented with an inaugural Brampton Wolves' jersey by Canadian national cricketer, Saad Bin Zafar (centre). Looking on is Ashad Patel (left), Director of Bombay Sports Organisation; the trio were at a press conference last week to showcase Brampton's alpha positioning in Canadian cricket.

Brampton's cricket eminence soars with GT20 tournament

Brampton – Canada's finest cricketers will be playing alongside top international stars in the game when they take to the field in Brampton for the third edition of the Global T20 Canada tournament. The 20-overs' matches will be played at the CAA Centre from July 20 to August 6.

The excitement was palpable last week when Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown held a press conference to showcase Brampton's growing eminence as the cricket capital of Canada.

Alongside Brown were Brampton's own Canadian national and international player, Saad Bin Zafar, and Ashad Patel, Director of the Bombay Sports Organisation, which is hosting the tournament.

"We are getting very excited in the City of Brampton to be hosting the GT20," Brown said.

Commenting on the growing excitement over the upcoming tournament, Brown noted that cricket has emerged

as one of the fastest growing sports, if not the fastest growing sport in North America. He added that Brampton is quickly becoming known as "Canada's cricket capital".

"We recognise the importance of this tournament, and we want to see the beautiful sport of cricket grow in Canada," he said, adding that Brampton was "a proud sponsor" of the event.

Brown also spoke to ongoing infrastructural development to support the game, what he described as "a major expansion of cricket" in Brampton.

"It's not just hosting an iconic international tournament, but we now have 14,000 hours of cricket time allocated. We are enhancing over 20 cricket amenities right now in the City. We have more cricket fields than any city in Canada. And we are just embarking on doing winter cricket as well. We will have winterised facilities as well, so that

See Page 5: Cricket

Diaspora mourns passing of Dr Brinsley Samaroo

By Romeo Kaseram
LJI Reporter

Toronto – The diaspora in Toronto and further abroad last week joined with Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean region in mourning the loss of academic, professor, humanist, politician, researcher, and author, Dr Brinsley Samaroo.

He died in Trinidad on July 9 following a brief illness; he was 84.

Among the many mourners in Trinidad and Tobago paying tribute to Samaroo was University of the West Indies lecturer, Dr Jerome Teelucksingh.

Samaroo was an "academic legend" and "a master of his craft", Teelucksingh said.

Additionally, "He was respected as a serious scholar who unearthed historical treasures in libraries and archives across the globe."

Teelucksingh also recalled Samaroo's gravitas, presence, and delivery, saying: "[He] earned respect for his depth of knowledge, experience, excellent memory, humour, and captivating anecdotes. Despite some disagreements with his views... Samaroo held an esteemed place in the hearts and minds of those who knew him. His impeccable research enriched their lives and broadened their understanding of Trinidad and Tobago's history."

He also spoke about Samaroo's influence as a high school teacher and a university professor, stating that he lectured to hundreds of students at Naparima College, and at the University of the West Indies in St Augustine, Trinidad.

Many of Samaroo's former students later achieved success in various fields, Teelucksingh noted. These



Brinsley Samaroo

successes were a result of Samaroo's tutelage and guidance, he declared.

"He moulded and empowered young minds while fostering a generation of civic-minded Caribbean citizens," Teelucksingh added.

And Samaroo made a major impact abroad, Teelucksingh recalled, saying, "He also nourished the minds of many more through his presentations at conferences and seminars around the world."

Samaroo's legacy will continue, not only in the pages of history that he meticulously explored, but

also in the hearts and minds of the individuals he inspired and mentored, Teelucksingh declared.

"His contributions to academia, and his dedication to the study of Trinidad and Tobago's past, will forever be remembered and cherished by those who had the privilege of learning from him. As the nation mourns his loss, may his memory continue to inspire future generations of scholars and historians to delve into the rich tapestry of their own heritage," Teelucksingh said.

Last week members of the diaspora were also mourning Samaroo's passing, even as they recalled his scholarship, guidance, and influence during visits to Toronto.

In 1995, Martin Latchana was an organising member of the group, the Ontario Society for Services to the Indo-Caribbean Community. Initially, OSSICC was formed to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Indians in Trinidad and Tobago.

Among the members of OSSICC were Henry Ramjass, Melanie Toolsie, Krishna Nankisoor, Sarojini Lang, Michael Latchana, and York University professor, now Emeritus, Dr Frank Birbalsingh.

"The 150th celebratory event was held at York University to a full house, and Samaroo delivered the keynote address," Latchana said.

Recalling Samaroo's gravitas, eminence, and the inspiring depth of his message, Latchana said that in hindsight, it appears this keynote address was instrumental in building up momentum as

See Page 14: Engaging speaker

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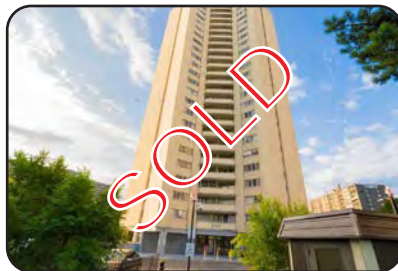
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Acting Consul General at the Trinidad & Tobago Consulate General, Tracey Ramsubagh-Mannette (right), is presented with a copy of *Beyond Indentureship: Indo-Trinidadian Entrepreneurs* by its author, Hemraj Ramdath, at the book's launch, which took place at the Consulate General in Toronto on July 8.

Ramdath's 'Beyond Indentureship' a vital read

By Romeo Kaseram
LJI Reporter

Toronto – In what is itself a pioneering and enterprising effort, the first book by author Hemraj Ramdath has been described by Trinidad and Tobago's Acting Consul General in Toronto, Tracey Ramsubagh-Mannette, as a "vital read" and "a tribute" to the hard work and sacrifice made by our Indo-Caribbean ancestors in Trinidad and Tobago.

Ramsubagh-Mannette made these statements during the launch of Ramdath's *Beyond Indentureship, Indo-Trinidadian Entrepreneurs*, which took place at the Consulate General in Toronto on July 8.

In her introductory remarks, Ramsubagh-Mannette spoke to three main priorities that drive Indo-Trinbagonian families forward: land ownership, education and business, and the "incredibly high expectations" by parents of their children.

Said Ramsubagh-Mannette: "These ingrained attitudes and beliefs within Indian families have provided the impetus for the community to make significant contributions to the economic development of Trinidad and Tobago, in camaraderie with all the other ethnicities and backgrounds that have built our nation."

She added, "From agriculture to commerce, medicine to education, entrepreneurship to the arts, Indo-Trinbagonians have excelled in various fields, contributing to the nation's growth and prosperity. They have established successful businesses, creating employment opportunities, and driving economic progress. Through their entrepreneurial endeavours, Indians have become catalysts for innovation, and have inspired generations to strive for success."

Speaking to *Beyond Indentureship, Indo-Trinidadian Entrepreneurs*, Ramsubagh-Mannette noted the text's confluence with these priorities, stating: "...I grew up and lived in an environment with all these businesses being household names at one point or another, but never knew that much about the human, personal stories behind most of them."

She also declared, "Each of the accounts featured in *Beyond Indentureship* was riveting in its own way, but I came away each time with this new appreciation and gratitude for those who paved the way."

Additionally, "Our ancestors are the roots from which our family trees have grown. They are the individuals who faced countless challenges and overcame tremendous obstacles in order to provide a better future for their descendants. Their resilience, determination, and unwavering spirit have shaped who we are as individuals, as a collective, and as a nation."

Speaking with *Indo-Caribbean World* last week, Ramdath noted the positive commentaries on the narratives of enterprise and success of the many subjects in his first published book. He also cited the positive reception from many other critics and readers.

Noting the successful launching in Trinidad and Tobago,

Miami, and earlier this month in Toronto, he said positive reception has come from many technocrats, other diplomats, and many readers across the spectrum back home, and abroad in the diaspora.

The feedback has been both encouraging and inspiring, he declared.

Ramdath also stated that researching and writing *Beyond Indentureship* was a ground-breaking experience. This was so for the uniqueness of its subject material in the success stories of Indo-Trinidadian entrepreneurs, and that it was the first time a publication was exploring the contributions of these established businesses.

As he noted, all the subjects in the text's narrative display a "commitment to excellence, grit, and determination".

He added, "[Indentured labourers] arriving with nothing came together with a common purpose. And together with family, a value system of industry, along with their *Jahaji Bandals*, expertise in agriculture, their commitment to the ownership of land, were able to convert forests and swamps."

Ramdath also indicated that his research discovered more than an underlying tenacity and endurance to survive. That inherent in these stories were also antecedents that traveled from India to Trinidad with our Indian ancestors through their diligence, industry, and commitment to building a foundationally stronger life in a new and challenging land.

Ramsubagh-Mannette spoke to these qualities in her introductory address. As she stated, "Each of the accounts featured in *Beyond Indentureship* was riveting in its own way, but I came away each time with this new appreciation, gratitude for those who paved the way."

It is for this reason that *Beyond Indentureship* is "vital reading", she declared.

She added, "I really want to thank Hemraj for the days, hours, and months that he... poured into this research. *Beyond Indentureship* is above all a tribute. It honours our Indian forefathers by giving them a voice, and by honouring them, we acknowledge and express gratitude for the opportunities and privileges we have inherited. Their efforts have created the foundation upon which we build our lives, and it is our responsibility to remember and honour their contributions."

And as she noted, honouring our ancestors "is not solely about looking to the past; it is also about the present and the future."

Said Ramsubagh-Mannette: "When we remember them, we recognise the interconnectedness of generations and the continuity of life. We acknowledge that our actions today have an impact on the generations to come, just as their actions shaped our present. The takeaway here for me is renewed commitment to leaving a positive legacy for future generations, just as our ancestors did for us. Let us carry their spirit within us and strive to make them proud in all that we do. Remember that they would accept nothing less."



Ramdath autographs a copy of *Beyond Indentureship*

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Climate sea-change - now colour shifting in the oceans

The latest impact of increased greenhouse gas emissions could be changing the colour of the world's oceans, *Popular Science*, *CNN*, and other international news media outlets reported last week.

In a study published on July 12 in the journal *Nature*, an international team of scientists found that the changes and blue-green fluctuations to the ocean's hue over the last 20 years cannot be explained by the natural year-to-year variability alone. These changes are present in more than 56 percent of the planet's oceans.

The study also found that tropical oceans near the Earth's equator have become steadily greener over time.

A shift in ocean colour is an indication that ecosystems within the surface may also be changing. While the team cannot point to exactly how marine ecosystems are changing to reflect the shift, its members indicated they were certain that human-induced climate change is likely behind it.

"I've been running simulations that have been telling me for years that these changes in ocean colour are going to happen," study co-author and MIT senior research scientist Stephanie Dutkiewicz said in a statement.

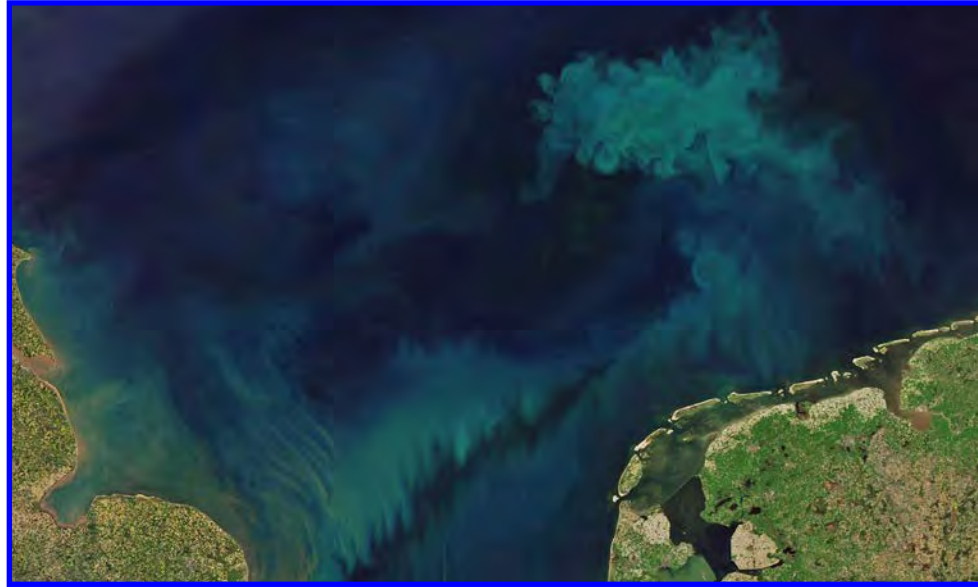
He added, "To actually see it happening for real is not surprising, but frightening. And these changes are consistent with man-induced changes to our climate."

The ocean gets its signature colours from what is living in its upper layers. Waters that are a deep blue typically reflect little life, while greener water indicates the presence of ecosystems.

Also, greener water generally means there is plenty of phytoplankton, the microscopic plant-like microbes that live in the upper ocean, and which are filled with chlorophyll.

Phytoplankton are the backbone of the marine food web, supporting everything from tiny krill and fish up to marine mammals and seabirds. They also help the ocean capture and store carbon dioxide.

Scientists monitor phytoplankton levels across the ocean's surface as an indicator of



Changes in ocean colour were tracked by scientists analysing measurements from the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer on board the Aqua satellite. Image - NASA & Joshua Stevens utilising Landsat data from the US Geological Survey & MODIS data from LANCE/EOSDIS Rapid Response.

how these essential ocean communities are responding to changes in climate.

To keep an eye on it, scientists track changes in chlorophyll that are based on the ratio of how much green versus blue light is reflected from the ocean's surface. These changes are monitored from space.

A 2010 paper by one of this new study's co-authors, Stephanie Henson of the National Oceanography Center, found that if scientists were only tracking chlorophyll, it would take at least 30 years of continuous monitoring to detect a trend that was specially being driven by climate change.

They argued that this was because large natural variations in chlorophyll that occur year to year would overtake any human-made influence on chlorophyll concentrations.

A follow-up model in 2019 by Dutkiewicz confirmed signals that climate change might be driving changes in hue should be easier to detect over the smaller and more normal variation in colour, and which should be apparent

within 20 years.

"So I thought, doesn't it make sense to look for a trend in all these other colours, rather than in chlorophyll alone?" study co-author and bio-geoscientist at the National Oceanography Center in the UK, B.B. Cael said in a statement.

Additionally, "It's worth looking at the whole spectrum, rather than just trying to estimate one number from bits of the spectrum."

In this new study, the team analysed measurements of ocean colour taken by an instrument aboard the Aqua satellite called the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS).

The Aqua satellite has been monitoring ocean colour for 21 years, with MODIS taking

measurements in seven visible wavelengths, including the two colours that researchers generally use to estimate chlorophyll levels.

Using measurements taken from 2002 to 2022, Cael carried out a statistical analysis using all seven ocean colours.

First, he looked at how much these colours changed between regions in a given year, to get a sense of their natural variations. Next, he looked at the bigger picture to see how annual variations in the ocean's colour changed over two decades.

The analysis showed a clear trend of above the normal year-to-year variability in colour.

To determine if this trend is related to climate change, he looked at the model that Dutkiewicz determined in 2019. This model simulated the Earth's oceans with the addition of greenhouse gasses, and also without it.

The model matched up almost exactly with the real-world satellite data - with greenhouse gasses, a change in ocean colour will show up within 20 years, and occur in about 50 percent of the world's surface oceans.

The team believes that this new study demonstrates that monitoring the oceans colours beyond green chlorophyll can give a faster and clearer way to detect changes to marine ecosystems.

"The colour of the oceans has changed. And we can't say how. But we can say that changes in colour reflect changes in plankton communities that will impact everything that feeds on plankton," said Dutkiewicz.

Additionally, "It will also change how much the ocean will take up carbon, because different types of plankton have different abilities to do that. So, we hope people take this seriously. It's not only models that are predicting these changes will happen. We can now see it happening, and the ocean is changing."

Climate shocks acute in Latin America

As some Latin American countries battle severe drought and others disease outbreaks brought on by flooding, the World Meteorological Organisation warned earlier this month that extreme weather and climate shocks were becoming more acute in the region, the website *phys.org* has reported.

Latin America and the Caribbean countries are caught in a "vicious cycle of spiraling impacts" of accelerated warming and sea-level rise, the UN weather agency said in its latest report on the state of the climate in 2022.

It noted that many recent events in the region were influenced by a long-running La Niña climate event, "but also bore the hallmark of human-induced climate change", said WMO secretary general Petteri Taalas.

He also warned that "the newly arrived El Niño will turn up the heat and bring with it more extreme weather".

El Niño is marked by warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific near the equator, while La Niña has the opposite effect.

Among the highlights of the WMO report are in Latin America and the Caribbean, the period from 1991 to 2022 showed an average warming trend of about 0.2 degree Celsius per decade higher in Mexico and the Caribbean.

Also, sea levels rose at a higher rate in the South Atlantic and subtropical North Atlantic than the global mean, increasing

the risk of coastal flooding and fresh water contamination.

The report also highlighted exceptionally high temperatures, low air humidity, and severe drought led to periods of record wildfires in countries including Argentina and Paraguay.

Also that these fires contributed to planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions reaching their highest levels in 20 years, "locking in even higher temperatures".

It noted too that floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains caused hundreds of fatalities in the region, and billions of dollars in losses; and that drought in the Parana-La Plata Basin, which includes areas of Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina, was the worst since 1944.

As a result, low river flows reduced hydro-power production, forcing countries to replace hydroelectric energy sources with polluting fossil fuels.

It was also noted that Chile remains in the grips of a 14-year-long mega-drought; that glacier melt has worsened, with near total loss of snowpack in the Andean glaciers in the 2022 summer.

As a result, the darker glaciers absorbed more solar radiation, further accelerating the melt.

Finally, that only about 60 percent of people in Latin America and the Caribbean are covered by early warning systems for severe weather events.



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Rotary Club leaders from left to right are past Assistant District Governor Claude Armstrong; past President Ashni Ramsammy; past District Governor Sandhya Maini; special award recipients Maula Singh, Jennifer Liu, Sultana Kissoon, & new President Dhaman Kissoon. Photo by Ramesh Ramkalawan.

Kissoon now Brampton Rotary president

Brampton – The Rotary Club of Brampton Flower City Centennial held its Changeover Gala at the prestigious Mississauga Grand Banquet Hall on July 10.

At the event prominent Ontario lawyer and Law Professor Dhaman Kissoon was inducted as president of the club.

This is Kissoon's third term as president. Over the years he has been the recipient of many Paul Harris awards, and the prestigious Rotary Citizen of the Year award.

The event was attended by many distinguished guests, among them Rotary District Governors, Judges, Crown Attorneys, and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

Acting Counsel General of Guyana at the Toronto Consulate General, Grace Sarius-Joseph, spoke at length about Kissoon's significant contribution to Canadian and Guyanese communities.

In his remarks, Kissoon outlined the club's many plans for 2023-2024. One objective would be for the Brampton Club to partner with the Georgetown Club in Guyana, where his cousin, Devendra Kissoon, is also president.

Kissoon is hoping the clubs can work together to address mental health issues in Guyana.

This year the Rotary Club of Brampton is celebrating its 81st year of community and world service.

The club is an organisation of business and professional leaders, who are united worldwide to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

In its 81 years, it has supported Easter Seals, the annual Brampton Santa Claus Parade, skating at Gage Park, YMCA Rotary pool, Peel Memorial Hospital Foundation, and the Canadian Cancer Society, among many others.

'Cricket is going to boom in Canada'

From Page 1

the community can play indoors...," he stated. And he was also cognisant of the global reach the GT20 would have for the City, saying, "The GT20 television audience is extraordinary. I'm not sure it is necessarily appreciated how lucky we are to have an event with this international reach."

He added, "The GT20 television will be in 84 countries with an expected television audience of 133 million, which is far in excess of even a Stanley Cup hockey game. That was the last GT20. The 2023 version is expected to be in 150 countries, with an audience of over 150 million."

Brown also expressed confidence for the future, saying, "This is a moment in time when cricket is going to just boom in our country."

He added, "[Twenty] years ago if you said that Canada was going to be competing in the World Cup and Soccer, you would have been skeptical. I think we're at the same point when it comes to cricket, where you're going to see Canada compete with the titans in the world. You're going to see Canada compete with the Indias, the Pakistans, the UKs, Australias, because we see the foundations being built in our country. So, I'm saying it here: watch out for Canadian cricket, because it is on the rise!"

As Cricket Canada's website indicates, six franchises are participating in this year's GT20 event. Each team is made up of 16 players from full and associate nations, including two world-renowned marquee players, three Canadian

national team players, and three emerging Canadian cricketers. A total of 25 matches will be played over 18 days.

Top international players participated in the first two editions of the GT20 tournaments, among them Chris Gayle, Yuvraj Singh, Lasith Malinga, Kieron Pollard, Andre Russell, Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Malik, David Warner, Steve Smith, Brendon McCullum, and Thisara Perera. Mentors included Wasim Akram, Brian Lara, and Maheia Jayawardene. Gayle and Afridi are

again participating in this year's tournament.

"Cricket Canada is excited to announce that Canada's premier cricketing event, the Global T20 is BACK, and is once again ready to entertain you with exciting match play and some of the best names in the industry. With Canada regaining OD status, Global T20 will work as a catalyst to kick start our campaign to realise our vision to be amongst the top Associate Nations," said Rashpal



Chris Gayle

Bajwa, Cricket Canada President.

GT20's management added, "We are excited about the return of GT20 Canada. In Season Three, we will aim to improve the playing experience for our players, produce a world-class event for thousands of fans, and inspire a new generation of cricket lovers to participate in the sport."

We believe it is an exciting time for the growth of cricket in North America and Season Three will be an influential factor in contributing to this growth."

Romeo Kaseram, LJI Reporter

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Editorial

Dr Brinsley Samaroo

The passing of Dr Brinsley Samaroo in Trinidad earlier this month has witnessed touching and genuine reflections on his personality, life, and his extensive body of academic writings, lectures, and keynote addresses.

He has been described by the University of Guyana's Dr Vashti Singh as "a scholar *par excellence*".

Singh also spoke to Samaroo's "profound contribution to academic research at regional and global levels until the very end of his life's journey". Too, she cited his last conference attendance in June at Anton de Kom University's Global Conference on Slavery, Indentured Labour, and Migration, which was held in Paramaribo, Suriname.

As Singh wrote, Samaroo delivered a powerful keynote address at this conference, titled, *The New Interlopers: Chinese, Javanese and Indian Migrants to The Caribbean*. He also chaired a panel session on *Ethnicity, Culture and Religion in Past and Present*.

"...Samaroo's precision and strong argumentation were premised on historical methodology and evidence to encapsulate the experiences of diverse peoples towards building more inclusive societies in the Caribbean region," Singh wrote.

She added, "His active participation at the conference spoke to his intellectual generosity, and his conviction that history has an instrumental role in human development for all peoples."

That healthy mix of Samaroo's authentic personality with commitment to academic and professorial professionalism was also noted in the tribute paid by lecturer at the University of the West Indies, Dr Jerome Teelucksingh.

In his tribute, Teelucksingh described Samaroo as "charismatic"; also, that he was "disciplined, patient, generous, and forgiving".

As Teelucksingh wrote, "[Samaroo's] bold and fearless statements on the past and present made me realise that he walked a narrow path that others feared to tread. He was one of the region's outstanding experts in Indo-Caribbean history, but could easily speak on other aspects of Trinidad and Tobago's history such as the 1990 attempted *coup d'état* and the Black Power era. Some might believe they could fill the academic void that... [he] has left. They need to realise that disciples never become greater than their masters."

In its July 10 Editorial, the *Trinidad Express* valorised Samaroo as "a disruptor of official narratives and champion of historical personalities who had been marginalised, ostracised, and even obliterated from the official historical record."

Additionally, "He not only researched and documented the stories of the uncelebrated and ordinary people of history, but championed the case for their official recognition and rightful place in history."

Also, that he had "built a solid academic career at [UWI], but it was outside the world of academia that he made his most profound impact as an historian".

Here in our diaspora, we are only too cognisant of the "profound impact" that Samaroo made in our new world. As we too mourn his passing, we recall the generosity of his guidance, and the sharing of his unique knowledge of the past and the present in helping us as Indo-Caribbeans to better understand our history, and consequently, to shape and map out our journey from the margin to the centre as we live our lives here in Canada.

As former organising member of the Ontario Society for Services to the Indo-Caribbean Community, Martin Latchana, noted in his tribute here in Toronto, Samaroo's erudition, scholarship, and vision were instrumental in fueling the momentum when we began making our emergent voices heard in Canada.

Said Latchana: "[Samaroo] was very supportive of the diaspora abroad. He was a giant and very helpful. He gave us a perspective of ourselves as Indians in the Caribbean that was pioneering and unique."

He added, "Our diaspora thinks very highly of [him]. He was always supportive..., willing to assist, and helped and guided us as Indo-Caribbeans."

Dr Brinsley Samaroo will be missed.

Samaroo's sugar museum a bitter-sweet legacy

Dr Brinsley Samaroo, one of the first historians of Indentureship from the Caribbean, who wrote with an intimate familiarity of the struggles of Indo-Caribbean people, has passed away at age 84. We've lost someone with encyclopedic knowledge of Indentureship, but also a generous and kind academic who believed knowledge was to be shared.

Born in Rio Claro, Trinidad and educated at Naparima Boys College, Samaroo furthered his studies in India where he completed a Bachelors and a Masters at Delhi University. He acquired his PhD in London.

In 1969 Samaroo returned to teach history at the University of West Indies, St Augustine Campus. The revolutionary 1970s influenced many, and as Samaroo recounted to me, he took the university to the people, visiting communities like Laventille, East Dry River, and Belmont, together with Black Power leaders Makandal Daaga and Khafra Kambon to teach historical lessons of resistance.

After he retired in 2005, he joined the University of Trinidad and Tobago, helping to build and grow that institution by mentoring another generation of graduate students.

Throughout his prolific academic career, Samaroo presented talks internationally, organised seminal conferences on Indo-Caribbean experiences, published more than 45 academic papers, edited several books, including *The Blackest Thing in Slavery Was Not the Black Man: The Last Testament of Eric Williams* (2022). Additionally, he co-edited foundational books such as *India in the Caribbean*, and *Across the Dark Waters* with David Dabydeen.

Samaroo's last offering before he passed was a biography on the labour rights activist, Adrian Cola Rienzi, who was leader of the All Trinidad Sugar Estates and Factory Workers Trade Union: *Adrian Cola Rienzi: The Life and Times of an Indo-Caribbean Progressive*, 2022.

In addition to his stellar academic career, Samaroo channelled his passion for social justice into politics.

As Patrick Watson, retired Director of UWI's Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies recalled on *Facebook*: "Many people forget that period in our history when three groups – the United Labour Front, led by Basdeo Panday; *Tapia*, led by Lloyd Best; and the Democratic Action Congress, led by ANR Robinson – formed a loose union called the National Alliance to contest the elections of 1981, facing off against the governing PNM and the young Organisation for National Reconstruction.

"Meetings were held at Brinsley's house where I met John Humphrey and other activists. John was the candidate for St Augustine, and Brinsley was his manager. I spoke on a political platform for the first time during that campaign, on a platform

promoting the candidacy of John Humphrey, who easily won his seat.

"I was invited to Brinsley's house to celebrate John Humphrey's election victory, and although it was a ULF gathering, it was probably the first meeting of the yet unborn, yet unnamed National Alliance for Reconstruction..."

"The rest is history. Brinsley, who was appointed a National Alliance Senator in the Parliament of 1981-1986, was chosen to contest the Nariva seat for the NAR. He won his seat convincingly, and was appointed a minister [of agriculture] in the new NAR government. Following his election in 1986, he had to resign his post at UWI as Senior Lecturer in History."

However, what most of his student and mentees probably remember first and foremost about Samaroo is his desk at Alma Jordan Library's West Indiana Collection. His rigorous scholarship and commitment to research were legendary.

Secondly, especially for those of us overseas, what folks might remember most is his generous spirit – he was always picking up members of the diaspora from the airport, allowing visiting researchers to stay in his home, facilitating connections, providing tips on the archives, the list goes on.

Ten years ago, I was teaching at the UWI, and even though we had not met prior, Samaroo opened doors for me, introduced me to countless people, and showed me the archives – not just the official archives, but the hidden archives in people's homes.

On one of our drives, he took me to Brechin Castle in central Trinidad to give me a tour of his vision. After the sugar industry shut down in Trinidad in 2003, Brechin Castle lay abandoned (although the estate infrastructure remained).

Samaroo's dream was to turn it into a Sugar Heritage Village with a museum, an archive centre (in the former big house), a conference centre, auditorium, and recreational park (complete activities for children such as a petting zoo and a working train). We talked about creating a website with online curriculum resources.

He wanted to create a lasting legacy for children who have grown up not knowing the cane fields. The project was opened by then Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, but power shifted.

As Kevin Jared Hosein, in his essay *The Ghosts of Brechin Castle*, says, "The Sugar Museum closed that September after a decision was made by the new ruling party. One can even contend that it was only opened a month prior as a political tool. The weaponising of history and culture."

Yet, many countries see museums as sites of national conscience, for example, the Tenement Museum in NY, the District Six Museum in South Africa. Let us hope those in power heed the call to reinstate the Sugar Heritage Village, and to name it after Dr Brinsley Samaroo.

'Junction' as a site of arrival & decision-making

Junctions are points of arrival and confluence, as much as sites of communication. Growing up back home as a boy and listening to adults speaking about "the junction" always triggered in my budding imagination visions of a place that was endlessly active, and where no one slept.

From how they talked, I imagined "the junction" to be a hectic intersection, where humanity came together from all directions, only to keep flowing forward constantly as voluminous traffic.

And that to interrupt it was quite easy – all it took was raising an arm, stopping and boarding a taxi or a public transport bus, and then quickly joining the stream that was flowing into the capital city.

But there was another intriguing site at "the junction", which soon came to be known to my growing awareness that there was a wider world beyond the life-consuming sugar factory.

Our neighbour would say to his wife, "Look here, girl. I just running down by 'the junction' to make a call."

What on earth was this adult up to, I wondered.

My grandmother could not be disturbed in the few hours of daylight left when she returned from her daily tasks in the cane fields. The fast-approaching evening, and the energy she had left from cutting tons of sugar canes, were consumed with even more hard labour, where she eked out of the hard, yellow earth the vegetables and roots that constituted our meals back then.

Approach her with a question as, "Ma, why is neighbour going down by 'the junction' to make 'a call'?" and her response would be an irascible and curmudgeonly one.

"Why this child so curious? Look, come and help me carry this firewood into the house!"

My uncles were aloof teenagers back then. But another neighbour, Teach, was always available for a chat. Put a question to him and right away he would set down his book and send a bucket down into the depths of his encyclopaedic knowledge.

"There is a telephone box down by 'the junction', son. Your

neighbour is going to call the newspaper in the city. He is a correspondent for this part of the country," Teach said.

As he spoke, he gestured to a pile of newspapers stacked on a chair. A search among the layers of newspapers, and Teach found a story within, which he read out loud, pointing to each word using a well-manicured forefinger.

"That is your neighbour's name at the top of the story. It is called a 'byline'. He called this story in using the telephone down by 'the junction'."

I also recall Teach quickly assessing and seizing the teaching moment.

Speaking to my bewilderment, he gently reassured me, saying, "Not to worry, little boy. One day you will have your own telephone. You won't have to use the public one down by 'the junction'. And I know you will learn to read better than me!"

Now here was a lot of information to unpack.

However, what I recall troubled me most was Teach's pointing forefinger, with its well-manicured fingernail, the edge trimmed and filed, white, and curved like a piece of the moon.

His fingers were familiar not only with newspapers, but also with the many books at his feet and under the table, and with the pens and pencils scattered on the table top.

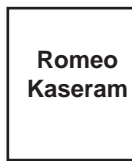
On the other hand, my grandmother's palms were callused; each fingernail serrated like the teeth on a saw. The edges beneath her nails were permanently rimmed with indelible soot from the burnt canes; with the back of her hands contoured, a map of her lifetime of scars from the torturous and razor-edged cuts that came from the broad-sword leaves of sugar canes.

Years later into my life I came to understand that my curious mind, my seeking out knowledge about a neighbour making 'a call', and Teach's elucidating intervention, were all contributory to my youthful self arriving at a "junction" itself.

A few years later I stood at 'the junction' and made 'a call'. The voice on the other end was as patient as Teach's, telling me how to find the Newsroom, but to come visit when I was a bit older.



Nalini Mohabir



Romeo Kaseram

Views expressed are not necessarily those of this publication. Letters to be published will be edited where necessary. Publisher: Harry Ramkhelawan Editor: Romeo Kaseram Columnists/Writers: Frank Birbalsingh, Vidur Dindayal, Bernard Heydorn, Adit Kumar, Dwarka Laxhan, Dhanpaul Narine, Harry Persaud, Arti Panday, Mohan Ragbeer, William Doyle-Marshall. Contact Information: Indo Caribbean World Inc. 312 Brownridge Drive, Thornhill, Ontario. L4J 5X1 (905) 738-5005; indocaribbeanworld@gmail.com Website: www.indocaribbeanworld.com

T&T now in a difficult place, but can overcome these tribulations

Dear Editor,

Trinidad, and to a lesser extent Tobago, has been beset by crime on an unprecedented scale, hereto unseen in this once peaceful land.

Is it because the UK system of laws we adopted was entirely unsuited to this nation?

If so, then where did we go wrong? Was it when we were cast adrift in international waters with just the Constitution as our guide?

In 1962 we had Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams, who was learning the ropes, but with his egocentric vision he thought he could do it all without the assistance of foreign expertise.

It is like hiring an on-the-job trainee without a mentor to guide him. But that is not unusual. Every new prime minister, to put their unique stamp on the office, makes changes that usually benefit them, and not the nation.

Williams could be forgiven for his lack of governing ability; he was Trinidad and Tobago's first prime minister, with nothing to guide him. He wrote the laws as he saw fit, with the Westminster system as his guide. But what are the excuses of those prime Ministers that followed? Why are they following Williams instead of changing the paradigm?

Williams practised a form of autocracy once he was elected. He brooked no dissent from the opposition or the public. He once stated, "Not a damn dog bark" to his opponents, and subsequent prime ministers followed his example of berating dissenters.

Since Williams made up rules as he went along, the people

Time to scale up & modernise Guyana's community libraries

Dear Editor,

The benefits of community libraries in Guyana are innumerable, and I ask readers to go online and research them for themselves.

Guyana is in desperate need of community libraries. Community libraries are resource hubs that connect users to information and people. Many libraries offer a multitude of services including volunteer opportunities, full and part-time work, after-school homework help, photocopying, printing and scanning services, free WiFi, book clubs, computer classes, skills training, and so much more.

I cannot understand that in 2023, we are boasting about oil, gas and "development", yet there are only 28 public libraries in Guyana, according to the data submitted by the Guyana National Library to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions.

Three of these libraries are government-funded research libraries; one is the National Library; and another is the University of Guyana library on the Turkeyen and Tain Campuses.

Your guess is as good as mine as to the other 23, and the services offered, excluding circulation and reference services.

These libraries and some of their services can be supported by service groups such as Lions and Rotary clubs, private, public sector organisations and philanthropists.

Instead of investing in more community rum shops, bars, strip clubs, and gambling shops, I urge those with the means and interest in the well-being and welfare of their communities and their own well-being to invest in community libraries.

This is something that the Guyana Police Force, Men on a Mission, and numerous other organisations can throw their support behind.

To President Irfaan Ali and First Lady Arya Ali, I encourage you to use the resources at your disposal to launch a national initiative to scale up and modernise community libraries in Guyana.

Considering all the great plans you have and are contemplating, this perhaps, will be your greatest contribution and the most memorable feature of your legacies.

Rawle Small, Guyana, via email.



Arya Ali



Eric Williams

sat up and noticed. But they became disenchanted with him as the years went on, and the poor did not get the satisfaction they expected. Hence the reason for the Black Power uprising that shook the nation in 1970, a mere eight years after we achieved Independence.

That was a tumultuous time when lawlessness gradually took hold of the fledging nation – and the authorities were helpless to stop it. The changes the Williams administration made were too little too late; it was done to pacify the revolution, but not in any meaningful way. The rich still controlled the government, and Williams was still a puppet of the oligarchs.

The nation's youths saw through that charade and felt cheated. That was the defining point when they realised that the PNM was only interested in remaining in power at their expense.

The government was on a slippery slope of its own making. It had created a nation where every man, woman, and child were left to beg, borrow, or steal to earn a living. The government had lost its moral footing, and so began the long decline to where we are today.

The PNM had built a society where every institution was

T&T flooded with issues, no water among them

Dear Editor,

I was born in Trinidad and Tobago in 1938, and apart from two years away studying in the mid-1960s, have lived and worked here my whole life.

In 1963 I was one of the very few people of my background who supported the idea of Independence. Through the 1970s and beyond, I was a bit of an activist for causes of fair play and national uplifting. But what a waste of time and conscience. I watch our country collapse before my eyes, and with our government hapless or just unwilling to do anything to stem our current dilemmas.

It is quite clear that the government can do nothing to provide the vital commodity of water to much of our country – our home in Cascade included. And our hapless government has no real problem with this ongoing disaster. Every day the situation will be "normalised" and every day we have the ongoing failure.

And of course, it is not just the water supply. Much of the country is under flood water because all of our "drainage" is clogged with uncut grass, many of our rural roads are impassable because of landslips and subsidence.

Our infrastructure is in a state of collapse everywhere.

Lots of potential in T&T but nation still 'stuck'

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Legal Affairs. I received my digital marriage certificate in four days without leaving my home. Unfortunately, we have to start the process all over because there was an error. The name of one of the witnesses is incorrectly spelt. Having gone through the application process, I was not required to put in the data; this was done by the ministry.

In the handwritten (analog) version, the name is spelt correctly. How can the digital version have an error? I understand human error, but what is the process implemented to correct, eliminate or reduce human error? What is the system that ensures the product delivered to the customer is acceptable?

Digitisation should lead to improved efficiency, better services, enhanced decision-making capabilities, and a satisfied public. What is keeping us back? Our minds and attitudes are keeping us back.

We talk about digital transformation all the time, but we continue to invest our resources in structuring structures without making sure both structure and people are properly matched. People are the most important factor to transform our paid-for-with-hard-earned-taxes nation.

The tax-paid leadership must communicate the necessary mindset transformation by demonstrating continuous behaviour change. The only way public sector employees will "buy in" to the significant change that is needed is if they see their leaders at all levels changing their behaviour. Remember the cliché: "People do what you do, not what you say!"

The leadership must invest in the upskilling of the entire public service to help us all adapt to new technologies and ways

compromised with PNM-installed cronies. The lack of accountability was why rampant crime, killings, robberies, murder, and mayhem were the order of the day.

The trillions of dollars squandered since our Independence went up in smoke. That money could have been used to build world-class healthcare and educational systems equal to the best in the world.

Instead, we are left with a tale of two cities, not unlike the one when the Black Power advocates rebelled against the Williams regime. One where the rich continue to prosper, and the poor are left with crumbs.

However, if we expect a saviour to extract us from this morass we have created, we will be deeply disappointed. It has not happened yet, and it will never happen until we take responsibility for what we have done to ourselves.

The solution is to vote out the PNM and UNC puppets, and accept responsibility for what Trinidad and Tobago has become. Then, like recovering addicts, we must pledge that we will vote out all those politicians who have failed to keep their word, and never again will we fall for their self-aggrandising schemes.

Where we are today did not happen overnight. However, we will overcome because "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice", as Martin Luther King Jr has said; change takes a long time, but it does happen.

Rex Chookolingo, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.

Drainage on the Lady Young Road (let us change this name – but not replaced with the name of a local politician) is clogged by landslips, from the "shanty mall" at the summit down both slopes. Eventually the road will wash away.

Our government ministers have no idea, as they ride hidden in the deep back seats of police-escorted limos. The Minister of Works was rejected by voters in elections, but still was appointed minister, and while he turns up to look at some flood or landslip, he fixes nothing.

The police service is in disarray and cannot control the escalating crime. Our legal service cannot win a case as it too struggles to serve the nation.

Our pathetically angry Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley believes solutions lie in insulting us the citizens while doing nothing to solve all the problems he has brought.

We were once – and quite recently too – a burgeoning industrial/

petroleum nation, but all that has been closed down as policy, or just allowed to fade away. Can we save ourselves? Indeed do we want to? However, my wish for today is that water flows into our tanks. We pray for rain, our only hope!

Peter O'Connor, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.



of working. We also cannot upskill by tossing new skills on top of old – some excavation work is needed to replace all of the unhelpful attitudes and habits our people have so carefully acquired and hoarded (like Gollum and his precious ring in J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*) throughout their lifetimes.

Think of how the gains of delivering a certificate quickly, with all the elements involved, were totally and completely undone because human error was allowed to occur; the supervision process missed the error entirely.

Converting a broken analog system to a digital one is still maintaining a broken system. The world has transformed successfully from analog to digital in the public sector. What is our problem? We are still in the mode of "...dah not mih job..."; and "...dat good enough..."

Digitisation, if done correctly, is a fantastic opportunity to confirm data from the traditional records and to update or correct them as needed.

It would be lovely to have a reset button to hit to foster a culture of learning and innovation. There isn't one. There has to be careful, well-advised consideration – and surgical education implemented to repair the problem.

In addition, our leaders must demonstrate the capacity to foster that culture of learning and innovation. It is time for a new leadership that walks the talk of a changed mindset.

We have so much potential but we are stuck. This ministry incident is just one example of our "stuckness" and the decades of failure of our leadership. It is easy to say, "Time to move on!" But moving on without properly repairing will ensure that the "stuckness" keeps us stuck.

Dennise Demming, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.

Protecting Guyana's mangroves

Dear Editor,

Last month Guyana's Head of State President Irfaan Ali again spoke eloquently on the pertinent issue of mangroves and its preservation in Guyana.

The occasion was the signing of an agreement between the government of Guyana and the European Union to establish a comprehensive programme to protect and manage Guyana's invaluable mangroves.

As Ali said, "We have committed to expanding the protected area system from 8.3 percent to 17 percent, then eventually to 30 percent. And these are targets that we are aggressively working towards."

He added, "These are targets that are integrated into our planning framework, and our policy-making framework. This amounted to Guyana's policy framework that prioritises environmental protection, embracing climate-smart approaches, and harnessing the country's rich natural resources to improve livelihoods and foster economic opportunities, and where mangroves are concerned, we need to internalise that mangroves help to mitigate climate change, and help people and nature adapt correspondingly."

Let me issue the reminder to all that although mangroves make up less than one percent of all tropical forests around the world, they have a critical role in mitigating climate change. Why is this so?

Mangrove soils are highly effective carbon sinks, locking away large quantities of carbon, and stopping it from entering the atmosphere.

In addition, they are vital in helping society adapt to the impact of climate change in reducing surges from storms and the rise in sea-levels.

I think many may have forgotten about the genesis of all this, which all started as part of the EU/Guyana partnership agreement that was signed at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 27, which was in Egypt last year, valuing approximately 4.6 million Euros.

This is big news, as it shows the seriousness that our government is attaching to climate change concerns.

After all, Guyana's forest spans some 18 million hectares, and our extensive mangrove ecosystems occupy over 200,000 hectares of the coastal region.

According to Ali, "One of the things that we want the project to focus on is those earthen embankment and those riverine areas, where the population might be small, but agricultural output in those areas is very large."

Ali also stressed, "[The] project's scope

Dangers of mercury in gold mining

Dear Editor,

I watched a documentary recently about Singapore on the dangers in using mercury to mine gold. It was sad to see how smaller gold miners and their families were seriously affected by this highly toxic metal.

The recent tragedy at the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, and the concerns uncovered with mercury found in the blood of scores of our workers, should have been a wake-up call. It is essential that we find another way to safely extract the gold needed to support the development of Guyana's economy.

It is said that mercury eventually enters the food production cycle; and that it does not break down in the environment.

Instead, it becomes a gas when burned, and enters the water cycle. It is extremely important that we begin banning its use in the gold mining industry.

There are healthier alternatives – from panning to magnets, which can be implemented to effectively protect miners and extract gold.

The safety of our citizens must become, and then remain, a top priority for Guyana.

Our Amerindian brothers and sisters are at

will also include the monitoring of mangrove seedling planting, the rehabilitation of existing forests, and the establishment of robust nursery programmes for aggressive replanting efforts."

And as he noted: "Our entire policy architecture, our policy framework is geared around ensuring that we are adopting the best environmental practices, and doing everything in a climate-smart way, in protecting the environment, advancing our natural attributes of biodiversity. But more importantly, leveraging these natural assets now for improving livelihoods, and creating economic opportunity."

With the EU's response, the Commission's Executive Vice President, Frans Timmermans was elated, saying, "... Guyana is making strides towards major development... the time is only fitting for the EU and Guyana to strengthen their bilateral ties."

Additionally, "One of the ways to cooperate is to help preserve this country's natural riches, which are almost without limits. This is a partnership we've just signed so that we can support the efforts of Guyana to strengthen the position of mangroves. Mangroves are such a huge contribution in our fight against the climate crisis."

Timmermans also highlighted the ambition of Ali's administration to ensure that Guyana's economic development, and the progress of its fossil fuel industry, maintain its high ambition for climate neutrality.

He also highlighted that maintenance of Guyana's natural riches was something "we want to be a part of, and I hope we can elaborate very concrete measures".

I am in agreement that even though climate change is the biggest threat the world now faces, one of the instruments we need to help in the fight is to conserve our mangroves. There are more than 60 different species of mangroves, all specialised in its growth along swampy coastlines in tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world.

Mangroves are an incredible group of plants, as not only do they have a unique ability to thrive in saltwater environments, but their strong and complex root systems also protect coastal communities and the landscape from extreme, erosive weather events such as storms and hurricanes.

And as I stated earlier, one of its biggest capabilities lies in capturing and storing carbon. The muddy soil that mangroves thrive in is extremely carbon-rich, and over time, mangroves help to not only add to this store of soil by capturing sediment and holding it in place, as well as carbon.

H.B. Singh, Guyana, via email.

the highest risk of being exposed to the harmful effects of mercury.

Guyana is already being enriched from the extraction of oil, and we should not become greedy to the detriment of ourselves and our people. The pace of gold extraction should be in sync with the safe methods of mining. There is no longer an urgent economic gap that needs to be filled by the sale of gold.

Guyana can also afford to provide a monetary incentive to miners to ensure they do not suffer any economic hardship due to the transition to safer mining practices. This would allow them to safeguard themselves, and their families' health, while earning an honest living in a safe environment.

The Cooperative Republicans of Guyana looks to the Irfaan Ali-led government to implement the necessary regulations and reforms in the gold industry that would ban the use of mercury, improve the required safe work practices, and provide the financial package and/or jobs needed for the miners to not suffer any economic setbacks, as we transition to safer mining of gold.

Jamil Changlee, Guyana, via email.



President Irfaan Ali (right) with the EU's Frans Timmermans following signing of the agreement on protecting Guyana's mangroves last month



Guyana's mangrove ecosystem is estimated to occupy close to 200,000 hectares

RE/GUYANA GUYANA PROPERTY MATTERS

Prescriptive Title Explained

By Kal Juman-Yassin

Guyana's laws allow a person residing in or in possession of a property to claim ownership after 12 years if they can prove the paper owner has abandoned it. The law originated to allow Guyanese to claim ownership of land historically owned by overseas colonial entities, and has allowed for both the legitimate and fraudulent transfer of property ownership to occur.

In some cases, overseas Guyanese property owners have deliberately allowed their relatives to claim ownership with their consent. Property owners who intend to retain and pass on assets to their heirs need to actively engage in the administration of their properties to avoid losing it to an unchallenged prescriptive rights claim.

The process would include filing an application with an updated survey, interviewing and obtaining statements from witnesses, preparing an Affidavit, and serving a Petition to the neighbouring occupiers of the land in support of the Claim.

The applicant would then be required to file an advertisement of the Petition in the *Official Gazette*, and a daily newspaper for three consecutive Saturdays. After these steps, the applicant would then appear in court and obtain the grant where there is no opposition, and then files to become the owner of the property by Transport, Certificate, or Title of a Lease.

Any person can file an opposition to the grant of a Petition by filing and serving an Opposition, which would trigger a court trial to determine whether the Opposition should be upheld or dismissed.

Challenging the court's ruling years after can be difficult unless proof of fraud can be adequately demonstrated. If the property has subsequently been sold to another party, then the property is likely irretrievably lost.

The lesson for every overseas owner of Guyanese property is to ensure that the property is effectively administered and managed. Owners should ensure they pay the rates and taxes, have an up-to-date rental agreement with their tenants, and visit the property at least once per year. Don't assume everything is fine; check up on your property today.

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.

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Singh: Guyana making SDG progress, but needs more funding

Georgetown – Guyana is making significant progress in achieving its projected 17 Sustainable Development Goals, Finance Minister Dr Ashni Singh told the United Nations High Level Political Forum meeting earlier this week.

The UN's SDG plan outlines 17 interlinked objectives that should eliminate poverty, and foster peace and prosperity for all people at the global level.

Singh also told the world body that while Guyana has woven national development into its successive budgets, at the same time his government is continuing with its work on these goals to improve the country's essential infrastructure and public services.

Singh made these declarations while addressing the UN High Level Political Forum as part of Guyana's Voluntary National Review of the SDG objectives.

During his address, Singh updated the world body on the progress Guyana is making towards the SDG ambition, which includes bettering the lives of Guyanese.

At the same time, he also noted that even as other nations are cognisant of the SDG aim, and are working to eliminate poverty, and guaranteeing a better life for all by 2030, much more funding is needed to help these vulnerable countries achieve their goals.

Additionally, Singh stated that the circumstances faced by these countries have been made worse by the challenges faced during the Covid-19 pandemic, and from rising energy and food prices, and climate change.

"We use this opportunity to repeat our previous call that this, and other undelivered financing commitments, be honoured; and urge completion and adoption of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, even as we endorse measures such as those proposed under the **Bridgetown Initiative** to support the most vulnerable countries," Singh said.

He added, "No less is required, if we are to have even a remote chance of achieving the lofty but necessary goals we set ourselves in Agenda 2030."

At this time, the progress being made on how nations are faring in achieving these global goals are being reviewed, and which should be approved by 2030. The engagement earlier this week was part of the mid-term review of the 17 SDG intention.

As Singh stated, one of the directions taken by Guyana is to weave national development into its successive budgets, along with a commitment by his government to continue improving essential infrastructure and public services.

"However, the scale of investments needed is costly, especially given Guyana's geography and the population distribution, which contributes to the complexity and cost of reaching more remote communities," Singh said.

He added, "Thus, these actions will be complemented by the government's deliberate advocacy for increased volumes of affordable financing to fund the critical initiatives essential to meeting Agenda 2030. Recent geopolitical shocks have reminded us that food security, and energy, and climate security, are core to ensuring national, regional, and even global resilience."

Beyond Guyana inching towards achieving more of these global goals, Singh pointed out that his government has also provided leadership on Caricom's ambitious food security agenda, and through its Low Carbon Development Strategy.

However, he contended that national commitment alone is not enough to help countries achieve the SDG purpose.

As such, Singh reiterated the calls that were made for more equitable disbursement of financing that recognises the inherent vulnerabilities and challenges being faced by many nations.

In the light of his call for more overall financial support, Singh spoke further to the specific need for affordable financing for Guyana, even noting that this meant a redoubled global commitment.

However, even while the financial constraints remained, Singh made it clear that Guyana was making progress with its SDG objectives, despite the disruptions, key among them being the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Notwithstanding, Guyana persevered, and still made considerable progress towards the achievement of the goals," Singh said, noting that gains were made under Goals Six, Seven, Nine, 11, and 17.

"Overall, we've improved data collection within these goals for tracking progress, and the achievements reflected are as a result of deliberate policy and programme interventions that are

focused on accelerating development to ensure gains are made for all Guyanese," he said.

Singh also revealed that his government has invested in infrastructure to deliver water to over 30,000 residents in the hinterland. As such, the proportion of the hinterland with access to safe water moved up from 33.8 per cent in 2019 to 75 per cent at the end of 2022.

"Additionally, in order to ensure the affordability to the most vulnerable, we have removed the water tariff from the first ten cubic meters of water per month consumed by 28,000 senior citizens. Removed Value Added Tax on water charges, and reduced water tariffs across the board, thereby benefitting over 175,000 customers," he stated.

Singh also commented on Guyana's work being done with another SDG goal, noting that, "Under Goal Seven, affordable and clean energy, significant investments in solar farms and hydropower have advanced. In addition, work has started on 300 MW of new power generation capability, harnessing Guyana's new-found gas resources."

This move would allow for a 50 per cent reduction in electricity costs to the population by 2025, Singh revealed.

Singh also spoke to Guyana's investments in the 165-MW Amaila Falls Hydropower Project, as well as a new solar home energy programme to reach the remotest areas, and other energy poor communities.

According to Dr Singh, penetration of remote areas with more connectivity would benefit over 245 communities, or 30,000 households, in Guyana's hinterland.

"In line with Goal Nine, industry, innovation and infrastructure, heightened focus is being placed on ramping up investments... to address the large infrastructure gap, with the aim of improving connectivity for our citizens



Singh at the UN this week



Singh (front row, left) with Guyana's UN Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett (centre) & Director in the Office of the Budget Sonya Roopnauth (right). Members of Guyana's Permanent Mission to the UN are in the back row across the country," Singh said.

He added, "New and expanded transport networks including new highways, bridges and ocean-going vessels have already increased

capacity for movement of people and cargo. Additionally, business incubators and business outsourcing have seen greater employment of women, over recent years."

Mani Singh

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Joe Jaglal (left to right) with Guyana Festival Chair, Malcolm Cho-Kee, Vice Chair Norma Kim Sue-Kam-Ling, Acting Consul General Grace Sarius-Joseph, & the Consulate's Clyde Gulliver extend the invitation to all to join the festival's events on July 22-23. See details in the display below. *Toronto Consulate General photo.*

July 23: Wales Community Picnic will take place at Centennial Park, Area #8, 256 Centennial Park Road, Etobicoke. For more information call Boya, 647-706-8523; Freddie 647-355-3997; Jeewan 416-706-8726; TCHR Jairam 416-844-0486; Nalini 647-721-1468; and Imran 416-803-2297.

August 6: Enterprise Family and Friends will hold their fun day reunion at Flushing Meadows Park by the Boat House.

August 6: The annual family and friends picnic for Lusignan, Annandale, & Mon Repos will take place at Morningside Park (Areas 4 & 5), 390 Morningside Avenue in Scarborough. This annual event offers the opportunity to reconnect with old friends, meet new ones, and to exchange energy, stories, and food. Call 647-404-0997; 647-204-0314; and 647-835-6705 for more information.

August 12: The ACG One Guyana Festival with Enmore Committee & Mahaica Picnic will take

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July 23 - Guyana Festival
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 • Cultural Show • Guyanese Lime • Food Booths • DJ's
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 Malcolm Cho-Kee (416) 720-2202 • Kim Sue (416) 275-4158 • Amanda Nandkissore (647) 787-6280
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place at Paderewski Park, 9700 Highway 27, Woodbridge starting 10:00 am. It is a free event, and will feature live music. Among the performers will be Omesh and the Wave Band, and local singer Mala Haripersaud. Activities include a car show, a duck curry competition, a tassa group, a DJ competition, and a car show. There will be lots of activities for the kids. For more information call Bejai Jairam, 416-986-2495; Ramesh Ramchran, 647-0537; or Danny Doobay, 416-899-0537.

August 12: Santa Maria Restaurant and Bar will hold its third annual outdoor Duck Curry Competition at 157 East Drive in Brampton. Call 647-716-0637 or 905-790-8785 for more information.

August 12: Vreedenhoop Picnic and Surrounding Areas will take place at Wildwood Park (A), 110 Wildwood Crescent, Toronto. The event starts at starting 11:00 a.m., with the group sharing the location with Wakenaam Picnic.

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One Love Family summer celebration

One Love Family Services held its *Curry In De Six* event last weekend in a summer celebration that saw the parking lot of One Love Table sizzling with activity. The scent of curries filled the car park in what turned out to be a wonderful day of camaraderie, sharing of foods, and fund-raising.

Highlight of the day was the Duck Curry Competition that saw Andrew Ramharak & family taking away the trophy. The eminent Guyanese-Canadian chef, Devan Rajkumar, judged the many duck curry entries.

Fondly known as Chev Dev, he has no

boundaries when it comes to culinary exploration. As he has said, he is on a mission to create food worth sharing, and which modernises the craft, traditions, and tastes of the East and Caribbean cuisines.

Also attending were food vendors along with the many talented chefs, who were all recognised for their savvy, sauces, and savoury delectables. The event also had many family activities, with musical performances by Raz Hyder, DJ Vick, and Bhisam on the steelpan. Hosting the event were television personalities Chalisa Ram and Karan Singh.



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ECLAC calls on Caribbean to shape policies for more FDIs

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has called on nations in the region to improve its policy design to take advantage of the contribution that Foreign Direct Investment can make in energy transition and to the Caribbean's sustainable productive development.

As ECLAC noted in its annual report, *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean 2023*, last year Latin America and the Caribbean received (US) \$224.579 billion in FDI, which was 55.2 percent higher than the previous year levels. The input marks the highest value on record.

It said the global foreign direct investment scenario in 2022 was heterogeneous, and that while these flows grew in Latin America and the Caribbean and in other regions of the world, they decreased in the US and in some European Union countries.

Overall, global FDI inflows shrank by 12 percent versus 2021, totalling (US) \$1.29 trillion. However, according to the report, nearly all the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean received more FDIs in 2022.

There was also a positive change in FDI inflows to the Caribbean, fueled mainly by greater investment in the Dominican Republic, which was the second-largest recipient country after Guyana.

ECLAC said that the 2022 results are mainly attributable to the increase in FDI in some countries, particularly in Brazil; to growth in all the components of FDI, especially earnings reinvestment; and to the increase in FDI in the services sector.

According to the report, this dynamic is consistent with the post-pandemic recovery, and it is unclear whether it will stay at similar levels in 2023.

FDI inflows to Latin American and Caribbean countries had not topped (US) \$200 billion since 2013. These flows also increased as a share of regional GDP in 2022, accounting for 4.0 percent, the document noted.

"The challenge of attracting and retaining foreign direct investment that contributes effectively to the region's sustainable and inclusive productive development is more relevant than ever. There are new opportunities in an era of reconfiguration of global value chains

and geographic relocation of production in the face of a changing globalisation," ECLAC's Executive Secretary, José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs said when he presented the report's main conclusions.

Additionally, "The challenge is not only to attract and retain, but also to maximise FDI's contribution to development, and to this end countries must focus on post-establishment productive development policies, which include the promotion of productive linkages, policies for adding value and moving up value chains, for human resources development,



José Salazar-Xirinachs

infrastructure and logistics, and building local capacities."

At a regional level, 54 percent of FDI went into the services sector, although both the manufacturing and natural resources sectors also rebounded.

Also, financial services, electricity, natural gas and water information and communications, and

transportation-related services had the largest share of investments in the services sector as a whole.

The US and the European Union, excluding the Netherlands and Luxembourg, were the main investors in the region, while FDI coming from countries within the Latin America and Caribbean region experienced a significant increase, rising from nine to 14 percent of the total.

In fact, the annual report points to a more than 80 percent increase in FDI from Latin America and the Caribbean to destinations both inside and outside the region.

In 2022, the sum invested abroad by transnational Latin American companies, known as *translatinas*, reached a historic high of (US) \$74.677 billion dollars, which is the highest figure recorded since this series began to be compiled in the 1990s.

Furthermore, the amount of FDI project announcements in Latin America and the Caribbean grew by 93 percent in 2022, totalling nearly (US) \$100 billion dollars.

For the first time since 2010, the hydrocarbons sector – coal, oil and gas – led the announcements, with 24 percent of the total, followed by the automotive sector (13 percent) and renewable energies at 11 percent.

if we work together."

She added, "Therefore, we are delighted to build a strong partnership with the [CDB]. By pooling our expertise, knowledge and resources, we aim to support small states in their efforts to address their development challenges and improve the lives and livelihoods of people throughout the Caribbean, ensuring no one is left behind."

CDB head Leon said, "The Commonwealth Secretariat has been a valued and steadfast partner to CDB, and the entire Caribbean region. Our organisations share a common vision and purpose in advancing the agenda of developing countries, and it is through collaboration and mutual support that we can achieve significant progress."

Additionally, "Our collective efforts must be centred around evidence-based decision-making and transformational actions. By leveraging our expertise, resources, and networks, we can effectively address development challenges faced by our region, especially in the areas of technological innovation and climate action."

Leon also stated that CDB remains committed to the region's development agenda.



Ask Jay...

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BRAMPTON LRT COMES WITH REAL ESTATE OPPORTUNITIES

Real estate values alongside any central transportation corridor usually appreciate substantially in value. Like the stock market, investors can make an informed decision about investing in an investor who researches the company. Brampton's population will soon reach 700,000 residents, while Mississauga's population is around 800,000. Mississauga has a fine 18-kilometre transportation line with 19 stops extending from Port Credit to the Brampton Gateway Terminal.

Brampton City Council met recently to revisit their plans on building a Light Rail System from north of Steeles Avenue to the Go Station near Queen Street. LRT is a transportation system with electrically powered Light Rail Vehicles operating on cables.

In 2015, the Brampton City Council, in a 6-5 vote, killed the plan to build the LRT. The Ontario government funds the LRT project. Had Brampton City Council voted in favour of the project in 2015, the Brampton LRT would now be almost completed. With fresh eyes, Patrick Brown, Brampton's current mayor, took a second look at the project in 2019. In 2021, The Transit Project Assessment Process came up with two options.

The first is to build a surface rail from Steeles to the Brampton downtown Go Station; the second is to make an underground rail from Nanwood Drive to the downtown core.

The surface railway would have three stops in both directions at Charolais Boulevard, Nanwood Drive, and the third between Wellington and Queen Streets. The north terminal would be below grade near the downtown Go Station, and stairs and elevators would connect the platform with the GO Station.

With this option, the LRT would have dedicated centre lanes from Nanwood Drive to Wellington Street, with regular traffic on both sides. Engineers must restrict bicycle paths and left turn lanes with the surface option. It would be noisier for residents and businesses, and would be susceptible to daily traffic. This option would cost \$933 million, and be completed in about five years.

The second option is to have two underground stations located at Nanwood Drive and south of the downtown GO station. The tunnel portal would be at Elgin Drive, and the downtown terminal would be between Main Street and Neilson Street.

The underground option would not disturb traffic flow along the Hurontario-Main Street corridor. A tunnel would provide faster commutes and more ridership. Extending the tunnel further north would be easier if needed. The underground version would cost \$2.8 billion, and would be completed in about seven years.

LRT is owned and operated by Metrolinx, a Crown corporation of Ontario, whose long-term vision is to develop a sustainable transit network across the GTA and Hamilton. Once completed, the Mississauga Brampton LRT transportation network will provide riders with many travel options.

The LRT corridor will eventually become a medium to high-density area, where riders can hop on and off the LRT. It will reduce the heavy traffic flow along one of Brampton's busiest roadways. By 2045, one-quarter of the workforce will be living along the Mississauga-Brampton Hurontario-LRT corridor. Those who choose to invest along the corridor today will enjoy the bountiful harvest tomorrow.

Brampton is one of the fastest-growing cities in Canada. The LRT will act as a pressure relief valve, allowing easy commutes for residences. Over time, condos will begin to sprout, and the landscape will change to be like Square One. If you cannot buy now, save for when the condos take root. Usually, it takes about five years for the project to finish. By then, the LRT should be on a roll, and if you consider inflation, the price can double.

Based on my research, investing in properties anywhere along the Hurontario-Main Street corridor would be fruitful. There are many tiny homes scattered on both sides. In the future, the highest and best use for these homes will change to multi-residential or commercial.

Secretariat, CDB in regional agreement

An arrangement to deepen collaboration on sustainable development in the Caribbean was inked earlier this month between the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Caribbean Development Bank.

The agreement was reached during a meeting by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, and President of the CDB, Dr Hyginus Leon. It was held in Port-of-Spain on July 4.

Through this collaboration, the organisations will explore combining expertise and resources to undertake joint activities to promote good governance, economic growth, climate action, and technological innovation in Commonwealth countries that are members of the CDB.

Speaking about the agreement, the Rt Hon Scotland said, "Climate change, debt burdens, and the aftermath of the pandemic have converged to create a perfect storm of devastation. No one is more affected than small States, particularly those in the Caribbean, facing long-lasting implications for their development trajectories. And we know we have a better chance of success in tackling these challenges

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Engaging speaker, down-to-earth, & supporter of the diaspora

From Page 1

the diaspora began taking steps to make Indo-Caribbean voices heard in Canada.

Said Latchana: "Brinsley was very supportive of the diaspora abroad. He was a giant and very helpful. He gave us a perspective of ourselves as Indians in the Caribbean that was pioneering and unique. He was an engaging speaker, and quite a down-to-earth academic."

It was not the first time that Samaroo was invited to Toronto as a keynote speaker. He returned in 1989 for yet another significant diaspora event, Latchana said.

"This time I was involved with the Caribbean Education Organisation of Canada. We were trying to raise funds for three scholarships at the University of Toronto. Brinsley prove once again to be an inspiring keynote speaker," Latchana recalled.

"Our diaspora thinks very highly of Brinsley. He was always supportive, and generous with his knowledge, time, and scholarship. He was always willing to assist, and helped and guided us as Indo-Caribbeans, and also the Presbyterian church," Latchana said.

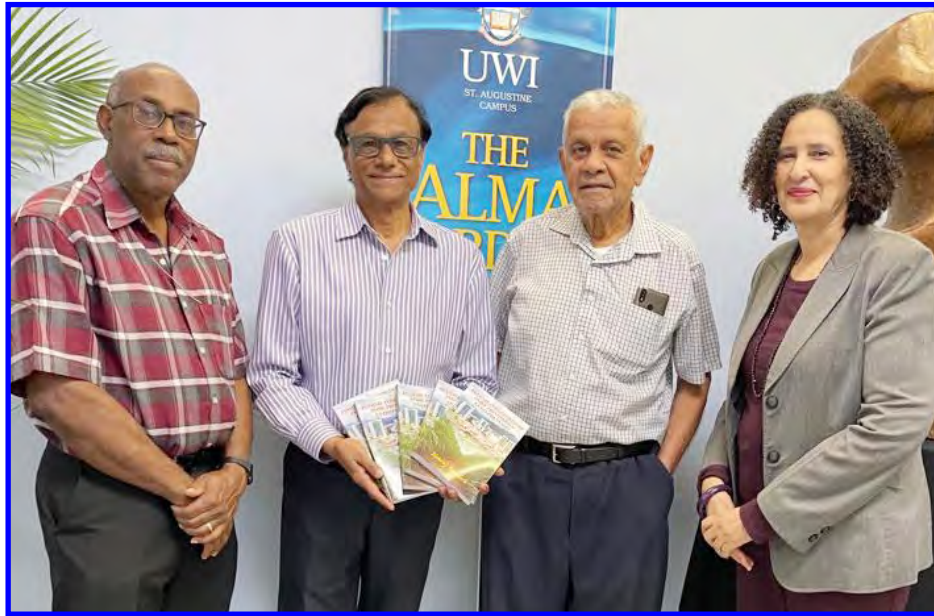
He added, "The diaspora here in Toronto is richer for his involvement with us, and for this we are thankful and very grateful. Brinsley will be missed."

Samaroo's generosity was also recalled by another member of the diaspora here in Canada, Hemraj Ramdath, author of the recently published book, *Beyond Indentureship, Indo-Trinidadian Entrepreneurs*.

Ramdath's book was recently launched at the Consulate General in Toronto.

Speaking to *Indo-Caribbean World* last week, Ramdath recalled Samaroo's timely and scholastic interventions during his research and writing of *Beyond Indentureship*.

"He was my advisor for this project," Ramdath said, adding that encouragement and support from Samaroo saw him successfully setting out on the journey to document successful Indo-Caribbeans in businesses in Trinidad and Tobago.



Brinsley Samaroo (second from right) with author of *Beyond Indentureship*, Hemraj Ramdath (second from left), at the Alma Jordan Library at the University of the West Indies. At the time, Ramdath was making a presentation of his book to Dr Glenroy Taitt, Head of the West Indiana Collection, & Elmelinda Lara, Head of Technical Services.

"Samaroo opened doors for me. He encouraged me and mentored me. He introduced me to publishers. He read the emerging manuscript, and promptly and punctually responded with comments," Ramdath recalled.

He was also a major source of information for the more difficult-to-reach candidates.

Consequently, Ramdath cited Samaroo as a resource, the text noting his input through "private interviews".

Ramdath also expressed his gratitude to Samaroo in the book, writing, "I owe the entire content of this publication to Professor Emeritus Brinsley Samaroo, who has been my much-appreciated advisor and mentor. [He] worked tirelessly in reviewing all... 33 cases presented, and has provided guidance and suggestions to make the book more relevant, ensuring all information was credible and current."

Said Ramdath: "It is difficult to imagine a life moving forward without his help. He had a profound impact on the contents in my book. His was an incredibly encyclopaedic mind; he was always willing to help, and never said no."

He added, "This book would not have been possible without him. He was inspirational, and it could not have been completed without his guidance."

One of Samaroo's final acts to help Ramdath with *Beyond Indentureship* was presenting it at the International Diaspora Conference on Slavery and Indentureship in Suriname, which he attended last month.

Another member of the Trinidad and Tobago diaspora in Toronto, Stanley Algoo, recalled Samaroo being a senior contemporary when they both attended Naparima College in San Fernando, south Trinidad.

As Algoo recalls, Samaroo overheard a lecture delivered by the then Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams, who enjoined his listeners "to decolonise the mind".

It was this phrase that "stuck with [Samaroo] and inspired him to become an historian," Algoo stated.

He added, "While Williams was focused on British Imperial history, Brinsley found the diasporic history of the Indo-Trinidadian more appealing, and in need of research and meaningful restoration, a cause to which he devoted his life."

Algoo stated Samaroo then "humanised" Indo-Caribbean culture, "and gave academic credentials to elevate it".

He added, "[Samaroo's] scholarship together with the efforts of [others]... protected Indian culture... against the majority Afro tendency of the day."

Algoo also recalled Samaroo's role during the national crisis that was the attempted *coup d'état* in 1990. As a government minister, he worked tirelessly with other government officials and the US government to restore democracy.

"[Samaroo's] contribution to the national identity, academia, and individual, impoverished students will be an outstanding model for those who wish to follow," he said.

We have lost a great friend, patriot, & expert in diaspora studies

By Primnath Gooptar

It is with great sadness I acknowledge the passing of a colossus in the field of history in Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean, and the Indian diaspora – Professor Emeritus Brinsley Samaroo.

I have lost a great friend, an elder brother, and a confidante. Recently in June this year we spent a wonderful time at an international conference on Slavery and Indentureship in Suriname, during which he delivered one of the two feature lectures.

There he interacted with several Caribbean and international scholars, sharing his thoughts on several topics of interest, while renewing acquaintances. He was in his full glory at that conference, very alert, and fully participated in all of its aspects, including the Indian Arrival Day celebrations.

Fondly called Brinsley by many, he will always be remembered for his high level of intelligence, his considerable knowledge of the history of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean, with his specialty on the Indian diaspora.

He was a walking encyclopedia with information at his fingertips.

He shared his knowledge, time, and services with everyone who approached him. No one ever left empty-handed. He was always ready to lend or give a book or article as needed.

He was equally at home on topics dealing with slavery, post-emancipation issues, Indian Indentureship, and Indentureship in general, the first Peoples, and the Indian diaspora. He never discriminated against anyone, and had friends in the highest and lowest places. He walked with kings yet never lost the common touch.

Who was this giant among historians in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean?

This humble giant hailed from Rio Claro in south Trinidad. In the latter part of the 1950s at 12 years old, he left the quiet village of Rio Claro and entered Naparima Boys College, where he began an academic career that spanned over seven decades.

When he completed his studies, he took up a teaching job at the same school. Soon higher learning called him. He proceeded



Brinsley Samaroo (left to right) with King Atchabe Denis Assongba, king of one of Benin's provinces in West Africa, & Dr Primnath Gooptar at the International Diaspora Conference on Slavery and Indentureship, which was held in Suriname in June.

to India on a government scholarship, where he completed the Bachelor of Arts Hons in 1963, and the Master's Degree in history in 1965, both at Delhi University.

He returned to Trinidad, but his yearning to further his studies took him to London University, where he obtained his PhD in 1969 specialising in Caribbean history.

Home whispered in his ear, and he returned to Trinidad and Tobago, where he taught History at the University of the West Indies St Augustine from 1969 to 2005, rising to the position of Head of the History Department.

He later joined the University of Trinidad and Tobago, where he held the position of Senior Research Fellow from 2005 to 2013.

At UTT, he supervised the work of several graduate students in the Academy of Arts, Letters, Culture and Public Affairs. He was my PhD supervisor from 2008-2012.

Brinsley initiated and chaired several local and international conferences at UWI and the National Council of Indian Culture. He was a life member of the NCIC, and served on several committees such as the NCIC Hall of Pioneers, and the NCIC

Heritage Center.

He delivered scores of lectures on the Indian diaspora, the First Peoples, slavery and post-emancipation, the labour movement, and the history of Trinidad and Tobago. His views were always sought by the media on these topics, and he wrote extensively on them.

Undoubtedly, an exciting part of his career involved the presentation of papers at conferences in England, India, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and in the diaspora. His contribution to international scholarship has indeed been a sterling one.

He has also received several awards and accolades in various countries worldwide. In 2014 he received the Chaconia Medal (Gold) for his contribution to Trinidad and Tobago.

In the political realm, he served in the Senate from 1981 to 1986, and in the House of Representatives as the elected Member of Nariva Constituency from 1986-1991. He served as a government minister in three different portfolios: Office of the Prime Minister (1987-1988); Decentralisation (1988-1989); and Food Production and Marine Exploitation (1989-1991). Also, over the years, Brinsley served on several government-appointed Committees.

He has also written and published more than 45 papers in respected journals. Several papers have also been published as book chapters.

He edited and co-edited several books, among them *India in the Caribbean* (with David Dabydeen); *A Return to the Middle Passage* (with Ken Ramchand); *Across the Dark Waters* (with David Dabydeen); *In Celebration of 150 Years: The Indian Contribution* (with several others); and, *The Construction of an Indo-Caribbean Diaspora* (with A. Bissessar).

Three of his recent books are, *The Price of Conscience: Howard Noel Nankivell and Labour Unrest in the Caribbean in 1937 and 1938*; *Glimpses of the Sugar Industry: The Art of Garnet Ifill*; and, *The Life and Times of a Labour Pioneer: Adrian Cola Reinzi*.

We have lost a great friend, a true patriot, and a giant in the field of history in Trinidad and Tobago, more so in the field of Indian diaspora studies.

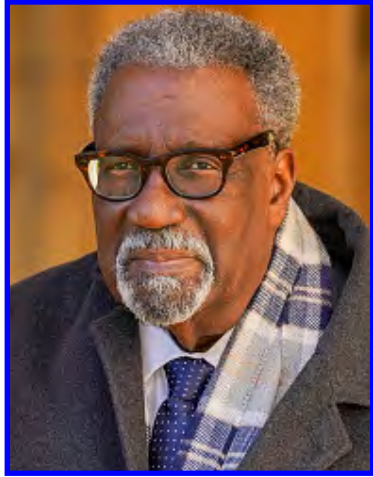
He leaves to mourn his wife Joan and daughter Kavita. He will truly be missed.



Shivnarine Chanderpaul



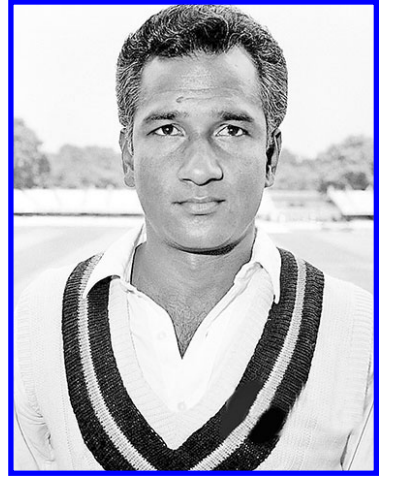
Garry Sobers



Clive Lloyd



Kieron Pollard



Rohan Kanhai

Now West Indies picking up pace in its downward spiral

By Dhanpaul Narine

Have you ever heard such nonsense? When the West Indies cricket team failed to qualify for the 2020 T20 World Cup, Kieron Pollard told us that the players were not to be blamed. When West Indies failed to qualify for the 2023 World Cup, Ian Bishop told us that the players were not to be blamed.

Why shouldn't the players be held accountable? Who spilled the catches, played the rash shots, and bowled irresponsibly? Didn't Darren Sammy say West Indies was the worst fielding side in the 2023 competition? And you wonder why West Indies cricket is in this mess.

There has been no response from Cricket West Indies as to the team's poor showing; its website speaks mainly about the India tour. But many are saying that West Indies cricket is dead.

On July 1, 2023, 'Scotland removed the patient from the ventilator,' according to the Economic Times of India. What will CWI say and do now? Who will address this mediocrity in maroon?

When West Indies failed to qualify for the T20 World Cup, Ricky Skerritt promised a 'full post-mortem' on the sub-par performance. That was three years ago, and as is typical with the way things are done, we still await the results of that post-mortem.

In 2020, Ricky Ponting described West Indies' failure to qualify for the T20s as a disgrace. What would he say now that West Indies was knocked out from the World Cup?

Johnny Grave, from CWI, said the team "did not execute under pressure" in 2020, and that soul-searching was in order.

But the CWI, and the team, had three years to search their souls, and to devise ways to get ready for the 2023 World Cup. This is the first time in the 48-year history of the competition that West Indies will not be there. It is a slap in the face of fans considering that West Indies won the World Cup in 1975 and 1979, and was the runner-up in 1983.

What is the cause of West Indies' decline? What can be done to remedy it? The answers are not easy or straightforward.

Frank Worrell was able to break the insularity, and to forge the team into a cohesive unit. He led from the front, and saw cricket as a unifying force in the region. As leaders, Garry Sobers, Rohan Kanhai, Clive Lloyd, and Viv Richards had their own approaches to the game. But they were deep thinkers that saw the importance and the value of cricket as a pillar of West Indian integration.

When West Indies cricket did well, so did Caricom, and the politicians breathed easier. But the 'Fire in Babylon' has ebbed, and a once great and proud team is a shadow of itself. The social significance of the cricket field was lost a long time ago. There is no sense of nationalism and pride that existed in the days of the three Ws, or in the Lloyd-Richards era.

Finding the cause for the rocket that spiralled can be confusing. Skerritt has blamed irresponsible stroke-play. Pollard wants stakeholders to be involved.

Sir Hilary Beckles sees it as a "collapse of

nationhood". Wesley Hall spoke about the lack of discipline in the side, a point that is reinforced by Joe Solomon.

Rohan Kanhai said in his time the nation preceded self-interest. Cricket was bigger than the individual. The team played with their hearts.

It is clear that there is a disconnect among CWI, the players, and the public. The trust is not there.

Then there are factors such as the influences of IPL, CPL, BBL, and others. Test cricket, the true test, is played to empty Caribbean stadiums.

The big names put T20s above Test matches. But even in the 50-over formats West Indies' will to win is absent.

Playing for country does not have the financial appeal as the franchise money from the T20s. The body language suggests that players would be more comfortable plying their talents internationally, rather than playing for West Indies.

Australia's team that won the world championships had several players that were not part of the IPL. They put their country first. The 2023 Ashes series with Bazball and Ozball pull in the crowds, even as West Indies linger at the bottom of the ratings.

What can be done to bring life into West Indies cricket? How can it regain its former glory? The surgery will be long and painful, but the ever-suffering fans deserve change that will lead to better days. Here are a few suggestions:

(1) The current Board should do the public a favour and step down. It has failed miserably to improve cricket in the region. It should be replaced by persons that connect with the players and fans. It should reflect the diversity of the Caribbean and women should hold executive positions.

(2) Academies should be set up in each cricket-playing country and should be run professionally.

(3) Cricket should become a part of the curriculum in schools, with time set aside for coaching. The message should be that playing for West Indies is a privilege, and should become the aspiration of players.

(4) There should be competitions at various age levels to spot talent.

(5) Team selection should be based on merit and not on race, class, nepotism, politics, or other reasons.

(6) What about the treatment of retired players? Where is fair play by the CWI? Who can forget former CWI president David Cameron promising a benefit match for Shivnarine Chanderpaul that never happened? But Cameron went and did one for Richardson. What message is this sending? The overall policy of CWI is to ignore the contributions of cricket stalwarts and put them to grass.

The CWI could use cricket to bring peoples together, and show that the game is not all about money.

Here is another suggestion: The CWI and the CPL could work together to stage a "Clive Lloyd Eleven" versus a "Shivnarine Chanderpaul Eleven" to be played at Providence, before the Guyana leg of the CPL. This could help to unify



A dejected Jason Holder contemplates WI's loss to Scotland earlier this month

the country, even for one day!

There is a long road ahead for West Indies cricket. There will be occasional victories, but let no one be lulled into a sense of over-confidence. Afghanistan, Scotland, and Zimbabwe

have improved beyond recognition, while a former world champion crumbled at the might of the Netherlands.

Lord Constantine and Sir Frank Worrell must be looking down in horror!

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Soothing rhythms in pastoral poet Ramkirath's latest anthology

Haimnauth Ramkirath, *Stirrings of Hope & Other Poems*
A review by Gokarran Sukhdeo

Modern poetry is characterised by its freedom to write in any structure – rhymed poetry, blank verse, or free verse – and to experiment with novel hybrid structures. Modern poetry is sometimes marked by imagery and allusions that are difficult for many readers to comprehend.

There was a time when poetry was simply the language of the emotions and passions, literature based on the interplay of words with rhythm, employing rhyme and metre, with natural images, ideas, and emotions too complex or abstract to directly describe in prosaic forms.

Now, modern poetry is openly rejecting, discarding the once-sacred literary commandments

– especially rhyme, rhythm, romanticism, convention, versification, and simplification – that every commoner (myself included) held sacrosanct.

However, there are some ‘middle-of-the roaders’ who adopt hybrid structures. Haimnauth Ramkirath, the latest Guyanese poet prodigy, has successfully done so purely because he is a pastoral poet – one of those who remains faithful to “the beauty and the mysteries of the natural world and is fascinated by the greater beauty and mysteries of the human spirit”, and who derives his inspiration from nature, and aligns his life, morals, and values to it.

Ramkirath preambles his fifth anthology, *Stirrings of Hope & Other Poems*, quoting Emily Dickinson:

*“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all.*



Thus, summarising for the reader what they “hope” to read overwhelmingly in his poems. As in Dickinson, he does not promise to rigidly follow any rhyming pattern, but will stick with some traditional rhythmic, metrical form, as he starts his first poem with an iambic tetrameter.

Indeed, most old folks like me who love traditional poetry find the iambic very soothingly rhythmic like timeless waves tenderly loving, caressing the steadfast shore.

Which brings me to his creative metaphors and imagery, so rich, profuse, and imaginative, that his anthology displays an endless supply.

Let us take a random look at one of his poems, *Oh! Little Stream* – an ode to a little stream:

*Oh, little stream with a gentle lively rhythm.
A mean rock mocks your rousing movement.
It looks you in the face and blocks your way.
Don't just lament; don't just stay.
Don't wait for someone to build you a stairway.*

*You have the birds and the woods to greet,
and the plain's parched lips to soothe.
Step aside the stingy rock and move along.
The world will reckon you wise and strong.*

*You need to know it's not all groovy and smooth.
There's work to do — undergrowth to bend your way through.
Don't just stand and stare at wine-filled grapes on the vine.
You need to learn the world's a little less kind;
look to none to fend for you whether the day dreary or fine.*

Here we see his skillful, poignant use of personification of a little stream, and of a mean rock mocking the stream's movement, and of the plain's parched lips. In this 5-4-5 versification we also see, as is very common of him, his frequent employment of the iambic.

A closer examination of this poem's iambic pentameter, rhyming pattern, and summarisation reveals it to be a modern contemporary sonnet – a move away from the classic Shakespearean, Petrarchan, Miltonian, and Spenserian.

In another of his contemporary sonnets, *A Defiance and a Flair*, he explains why he has chosen to be non-conforming with either the classic or modern, but to uniquely be himself, even as he admonishes us, also, to be different.

*Every wind brings a different feeling;
every towering wave a different drenching.
Every mountain shows a different face;
every star a different brightness each night we gaze.*

....
*Why then we move with the same strident steps
like machines that ask for little sleep and rest?*

....
*A thousand suns beckon not to cringe to an outmoded creed,
but to send your anchors deep and dream like only you could.*
The general themes of Ramkirath's poems take root in his deep association with nature from a young age, as well as currently an ardent practitioner of Meditation and Yoga. He is equally pastoral and metaphysical.

Thus, while being a modernist, he does not break with the Romantic pieties and clichés of the classics, refreshingly reminding us of Elizabeth Browning and William Shakespeare, both of whom have liberally compared the beauty of nature to humans and their moral and spiritual values and aspirations.

Never cynical, Ramkirath uses his poems to appeal to the qualities, goodness, and potentialities of his fellow beings. He has an innovative command of language, especially in the use of extended, creative metaphors – a device that pleasingly transforms black and white poetry into technicolor.

In all his poems, Ramkirath generally generates meaning for his audience, something frequently left by the modernists to the (lost) reader's imagination.

Thus, Ramkirath holds true his motive to “make poetry accessible to the farmer, the bricklayer, and all who want to enrich their lives with the music and rhythm of poetry. Therefore, the images and descriptions are natural and fluid, and drawn from the sounds and sights of the world around us”.

The poems are soothing because he is a humble expressionist, a naturalist, one who lives his poetry and writes from his heart. So prolific, he has already produced six anthologies in five years.

Haimnauth Ramkirath, one of the first and youngest economics graduate from the University of Guyana, was a teacher in Guyana before migrating to the US and qualified himself as a Controller. He is presently retired and lives in New Jersey. The reviewer, Gokarran Sukhdeo, is the winner Guyana Prize for Literature.

The price of living and working in the city and raising their two children left Tom and Ellie with two options during their earning years. They could either pay off their mortgage and retire mortgage-free, or take one or two vacations a year and retire with a small amount owing on the house, which would reduce their retirement nest egg. They chose the first option.

When they retired, Tom and Ellie sold their mortgage-free home in the suburbs and moved to a faraway small town for a quiet life and a low cost of living. They bought a small townhouse condominium 100 miles away and set themselves up for a life of luxury and travel. Their dream was becoming a reality.

A week after they settled in, they found themselves on a tourist bus. With no travel experience, they chuckled when they climbed onto the old bus with no air conditioning.

While the driver negotiated potholes in the dry dusty road through a desert, the tour guide stood in front of the bus and pointed to landmarks, sand dunes, and outcroppings of cactus growths.

The overheated bus stopped at every oasis for the tourists to brush the dust off

their clothes and stretch their legs, while the driver dipped pails of fresh water to pour into the radiator, and washed the front and back dust-caked windshields. Some tourists drank and splashed on water from the waterholes at each stop to cool themselves in the blazing hot sun that created shimmering heatwaves off the desert sand.

On one occasion, after gulping water and dipping her entire body in an oasis, Ellie wandered into a concave rock formation to hide in its shade. She seemed to be exploring the rock's surface while Tom, curious to know why every oasis-stop looked the same, returned to the bus with a stomach-full of water to read the tour brochure. He flipped the pages



The Supernatural Chained by Time

of the pamphlet, but it only described oasis stops along the way. Alarm bells went off in Tom's head when there were no mentions of camel rides and entertainment from enjoying the festivities and rituals of various nomadic tribes. He feared that they had boarded the wrong bus.

After about 20 minutes, the bus started up again and the driver closed the door. Tom jumped up and ran forward, yelling for him to stop. Ellie had not returned. The driver

ignored him, and the tour guide smiled at him while continuing to repeat the exact words that he had spoken at each startup after an oasis stop. Tom glanced around at the other passengers, but they never seemed to notice the strangeness of the situation, nor shared his concern about his missing wife. He slammed against the door several times with all his might, but it did not budge. After exerting all his energy,

Tom slumped onto the stairs leading to the exit.

When his breathing subsided, logic tried to force its way back into his senses to protect his sanity. He pinched himself and shook his head to pull himself out of a terrible nightmare but struggled to cross the fine line between fantasy and reality.

Tom gasped when the screeching brakes slammed his head against the seat in front of him. In a daze, he glanced around and wondered how he got back in his seat. He scrambled off the empty bus and hurried to the rock where he had last seen Ellie. He suspected that she had entered the cave inside the rock formation and had become lost. When he arrived, he found that the rock had an overhang that provided shade, but

it had a solid wall where he thought that it was hollowed out into a deep cavity. He

tapped the wall at different places, hoping to find either an echo behind it or a secret switch that opened a door. In order not to attract attention, he called Ellie's name just above a whisper and pressed his ear on the rock wall for a response.

Sudden silence made Tom spin around. The bus and every tourist had vanished. His stomach churned when he realised that he was standing in the middle of nowhere. The rock formation no longer existed, and the desert stretched as far as the eyes could see on every side.

Thinking that he had returned to his nightmare, he willed himself to wake up, but his situation became more mysterious when a churning dark cloud formed overhead. It plunged the desert into complete blackness. Flashes of lightning blinded him, and thunderous booms made him jump. With nowhere to hide, pelting raindrops stung Tom and drenched him. He shivered in the sudden subzero temperature.

The blaring horn of the bus made him jump. His hand went to his mouth when he turned around in the semi-darkness of twilight. He was standing in front of the busload of tourists, blocking them from moving forward. He hurried on board and apologised to everyone as he raced to his seat next to Ellie.

“You were the last one.” She smiled and slipped her fingers through his. Her words gave him a flashback. He was the only person left on the bus at the last stop and he did not recall any tourists walking about in the desert during his focus on finding Ellie. “It will dawn on you soon.” She chuckled. “Pardon the pun, but each person has his or her own moment of enlightenment. I've had mine.”

The bus continued into the night with no lights to guide it. Fear of a crash kept Tom on high alert until sunrise, when sudden revelations slammed into his head. He and Ellie, along with the other residents of the townhouse, had perished in a fire in the middle of the night, caused by faulty electrical wiring. They had died before they could escape. Sadly, for Tom and Ellie, the first and last trip that they had ever undertaken, was into the afterlife.

Kamil
Ali



T&T business heads lament escalating impact of crime

Port-of-Spain – Business leaders last week issued the call for the government's crime plans to be revisited, and for more action to be taken in targeting the criminals as Trinidad and Tobago remains under siege with record levels of homicides.

So far for the year over 300 murders have been committed.

"Businessmen are in a state of siege. Homeowners as well, because there are a lot of home invasions, it is just all around, we are under siege, people cannot even leave their gate open for too long, they simply cannot," said Chaguanas Chamber of Industry and Commerce president Baldath Maharaj.

He noted the Chamber's first meeting with Police Commissioner Erla Harewood-Christopher in March 2023 saw her indicating there would be a reduction in crime by June. Also, she identified 15 areas of criminality that were being worked on by the police.

"The statistics show that there was not any improvement at all. In fact, over the years what we have been seeing is an upsurge in crime, and then it goes down. [Harewood-Christopher] came in just when there was an upsurge, and it has not gone down since," Maharaj said.

Kiran Singh, president of the Greater San Fernando Area Chamber of Commerce noted that statistically there is a direct relationship between crime and business, adding that when



Baldath Maharaj

crime increases business activity decreases, and investor confidence slows down.

He said coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic businesses are looking forward to reinvestment, re-employment, and expanding, but crime impacts all of these plans.

He said there were recommendations to implement more CCTV cameras and beef up private security.

Said Singh: "We have done that and the youth apparently are not concerned that they are being recorded because they are going with masks or without masks. They escape and they seem to be going brazen and boldfaced in how they do it. Why is it we cannot capture these people? This is such a small country, why are we not apprehending these youths?"

Former President of the Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce Diane Hadad said the formula being used to treat



Diane Hadad



Kiran Singh

crime must be revisited. She said she cannot cast blame on the present Police Commissioner, since the problem ran deeper.

"This is a problem deeper than a Police Commissioner, and I will keep saying that I think the Commissioner who had a handle on it was [former Police Commissioner Gary Griffith]; or at least had an understanding of what was required and was prepared to go out there and [get it done]. I think that attitude and the temperament are what were required. [However,] we have lost that battle of having that level of action," she said.

She said crime is having a severe impact on business. "[Crime] is not just impacting on business – it has business on its knees," she said.

President of the Fyzabad Chamber Angie Jairam said Fyzabad and Oropouche are now considered hot spots due to the level of criminal activities there.

"We have seen the youths being a major part of the criminal element committing petty crimes that lead to more violent ones. This trend has now empowered a younger generation of criminals, who are targeting small businesses and homeowners within their communities. Businesses are obviously affected by early closure and additional security expenses to operate," she said.

Banks take action as exiting clients robbed

Port-of-Spain – In response to a frightening surge in robberies targeting clients exiting banks after withdrawing large sums from commercial banks, the Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago last week started working more closely with law enforcement, and partnering with a private crime-fighting organisation.

Last month, BATT asked customers to protect themselves by using online platforms instead of withdrawing cash. The call came in the wake of even more clients being targeted recently after leaving banks.

Among the victims were Nazem Nahous, 87, and his 80-year-old wife Jinan. They are the in-laws of Local Government Minister Faris Al-Rawi.

According to police reports, just before noon last Wednesday the couple left the Ellerslie Plaza branch of Republic Bank and returned to their Westmoorings home. Upon arrival, they were approached by a mask-wearing gunman. Nahous was robbed of his wallet containing (TT) \$2,000, his Republic Bank credit card, his national ID card and driver's licence.

"The Bankers Associations of Trinidad and Tobago acknowledges with great concern the increased risk being faced by

clients before and after they visit our branches and ATMs. The increase in criminal activity is of as much concern to BATT as it is for our valued clients," the association stated in a release last week.

It added, "In an effort to combat the uptick in these criminal activities, BATT has strengthened its coordination effort among all banks; broadened the interaction with the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service; and is finalising a partnership with Crime Stoppers Trinidad and Tobago Ltd with a view to mitigating and or managing incidents of this nature collectively and expeditiously."

Also indicated was BATT's commitment in assuring clients that their safety remains a primary concern.

"While we encourage clients to make greater use of our non-cash service options, we are committed to doing what we can to provide a safe environment for clients who choose to avail of our cash services. We remind clients to remain alert, pay close attention to their immediate environs when approaching and leaving bank premises, and notify the bank and police right away if any suspicious activity or individuals are noticed," BATT stated.

BATT has eight member banks, including Citibank (Trinidad & Tobago) Ltd, First Caribbean International Bank (Trinidad & Tobago) Ltd, First Citizens Bank Ltd, JMMB Bank (Trinidad & Tobago) Ltd, Republic Bank Ltd, Scotiabank Trinidad and Tobago Ltd, RBC Royal Bank (Trinidad & Tobago) Ltd, and ANSA Bank. The organisation was formed in 1997.

Speaking during an interview with i95.5FM last week, BATT president Richard Downie, managing director of RBC Royal Bank, confirmed the steps being taken to protect customers.

"BATT has strengthened its coordination effort among our member banks, we have broadened our interaction with the TTPS, and we are in the current process of finalising our partnership with the Crime Stoppers of Trinidad and Tobago to try to mitigate these activities," Downie said.

He added, "We take this issue impacting our clients, which we understand is a major concern, and so we are trying to do our part to help alleviate these issues that are facing our clients because we see it as a national issue."

There have been several robberies of clients following visits to banks, leading BATT to declare it had a "zero-tolerance policy" for any type of criminal activity, and that it was concerned about the reports that seemed to be related to cash withdrawals from various financial institutions.

"Our banks have instituted several safety measures including improvements to the internal technological infrastructure, as well as collaboration with the Trinidad & Tobago Police Service through BATT's Inter-Bank Security Committee to apprehend any individual who engages in any type of criminal activity against the banks or its customers," the organisation stated.

It also urged customers to use online banking platforms to minimise cash withdrawals as often as possible, and to shield PIN numbers when using an ATM.



Richard Downie

T&T's credit rating outlook moves up a notch

Port-of-Spain – Trinidad and Tobago's credit rating outlook was last week shifted by Moody's Investors Service to positive from stable, while at the same time maintaining the government's long-term local and foreign currency issuer and senior unsecured ratings at Ba2.

According to the organisation, "The positive outlook reflects improved prospects that Trinidad & Tobago's fiscal consolidation momentum triggered by energy price windfall gains will be more sustained than projected in Moody's baseline scenario, despite lower gas prices, owing to the implementation of structural spending and revenue measures aimed at reducing fiscal accounts' sensitivity to energy prices."

It further stated, "A sustained return to economic expansion after several years of contraction, supported by the projected increase in oil production starting this year would also enhance economic resiliency, as would continued diversification efforts in the non-energy sector. The government's adopted structural fiscal and economic reforms are reflected in an improving institutions and governance strength assessment as a driver of this action."

Responding to the latest rating, Trinidad and Tobago's Finance Minister Colm Imbert stated he considered this affirmative move on the part of Moody's "a welcome development".

He added, "[It] acknowledges the positive outcome of the efforts of the country throughout the several different shocks

that have taken place over the recent years, such as oil and gas prices shocks, and the severe adverse effects of the Covid-19 pandemic."

Imbert also declared that Moody's positive outlook for Trinidad and Tobago is based on the fiscal performance of the country, which goes beyond the windfall of last year as a result of the surge in oil and gas prices and flows from positive developments favourably affecting gas production capacity and economic diversification.

Imbert noted too that the improvement in Trinidad and Tobago's outlook was also an "acknowledgement of policy effectiveness, illustrated by the capacity of the government to implement difficult but necessary long-term reforms in restructuring transfers and subsidies, and improving revenue collection".

As Imbert noted, "The government's adopted structural fiscal and economic reforms are reflected in an improving institutions and governance strength assessment as a driver of this action."

He added, "This improvement in our outlook is a first step in the convergence and harmonisation of our international credit ratings. It is also clear that our credit rating dynamics and momentum are now positive, which is of significant importance in a world of more elevated interest rates. Better credit ratings will positively influence the cost of funding for the government and State Enterprises and the economy of Trinidad and Tobago as a whole."



Colm Imbert



A firebombed Morvant house last week following ongoing gang warfare

No CEPEP contract link to gangs: Govt

Port-of-Spain – The government of Trinidad and Tobago’s awarding of CEPEP contracts came into focus last week when it was revealed by the media that recent internecine gang violence was tied to its disbursement.

According to the media reports, senior police sources close to the investigations of two gang-related murders, and a subsequent firebombing attack on the residence of one of the victims, were connected to a war over CEPEP contracts between two gang leaders, both of whom are now incarcerated.

However, in response to the reports, National Security Minister Fitzgerald Hinds insisted that the government does not issue CEPEP contracts to gangs.

He added if any State enterprises were doing so, then they will be held accountable.

He also insisted that from the reports he had received, a CEPEP contract was not the issue that led to the gang war.

“From all the information available to me, that event had absolutely nothing to do with any CEPEP contract... Nothing, absolutely nothing to do with that based on the reports made known to me by the police,” he insisted.

Hinds further noted: “If young men in a community would get to that level of extreme violence over the issuance of a CEPEP contract, assuming that it was so, that would have been doubly heart-breaking to me when one considers the number of opportunities that exist in Trinidad and Tobago, whether it is an academics, sport, business, the professions...”

Additionally, “[There] are so much opportunities available to everyone who wants to come hither to earn and learn, rather than to burn down anybody house over a CEPEP contract.”

However, criminologist Dr Randy Seepersad later noted that successive governments are guilty of glorifying gangs over the years through legitimate State contracts. This is a major factor in that is fuelling crime, he stated.

Seepersad said he met with a security agency that had issued a recent report indicating CEPEP State contracts were an ongoing problem. He added there appears to be no political will to put an end to gangs receiving these contracts.

Seepersad also noted that many sectors have complained

about this issue, among them police, intelligence experts, and researchers. These organisations have also made it clear that when millions of dollars are channelled through the hands of gangs or gang leaders, it then empowers them, and adds to the difficulty of combatting crime.

These contracts also fuel money laundering, Seepersad revealed.

“It makes it much easier to launder money from illegal proceeds if you have a legitimate business set up, because you can say the money is being earned by the legitimate business, and you can put it into the banking sector where you have legitimate business access to funds,” Seepersad said.

When these gangs are empowered, they are supported by the community that sees them as an avenue to obtain money to put food on the table. Gangs are then valorised as role models and protectors of the community, he added.

“It gives them so much leverage and power that you really cannot unseat them from the community. It would be difficult,” Seepersad said.

Additionally, he revealed that some years ago there was a lot of gang warfare with gangs competing for contracts, which led to the number of murders escalating in Trinidad and Tobago.

“Despite this, over and over people are telling the government that the literature shows this is the worst thing you can possibly do as a way of providing employment to impoverished communities. Yet it seems they cannot do, and are unwilling to change the mode. I do not see that as something that is impossible to do,” Seepersad said.

According to Seepersad, stakeholders need to come up with other innovative ideas to create employment in the communities, and which ensures transparency.

“Talk to procurement people, and figure out what is a mechanism that is different. [One where] you can still provide the funding and the employment to these communities, but in a way that is transparent. And then put this mechanism in place, because ultimately people have to eat and survive, and if they can get access to funding through proper channels that are not gang-related, they will abide by it,” Seepersad said.

Al-Rawi runs defence over CEPEP linkage to gang warfare

Port-of-Spain – The government of Trinidad and Tobago last week reaffirmed its position that CEPEP only conducts business with limited liability companies.

The affirmation came from Local Government and Rural Development Minister Faris Al-Rawi, who was responding to media reports that a murder, followed by the torching of a home in Morvant, were the result of a fight between rival gangs over a CEPEP contract.

“You cannot subcontract the contract without breaching the contract,” Al-Rawi told a PNM public meeting in east Trinidad last Thursday.

He added, “All of the company’s records are public records in the Company Registry. You can search for the owner and the name of any company. And by putting the laws that we did, and putting the contracts that we did, we will have the evidence as to whether something is true or not.”

Al-Rawi then went on to comment on the UNC, saying, “[The Opposition] will never tell you that. You see in following



Faris Al-Rawi

the money, which is what our government did, and for the seven years that I was there [as Attorney General], it was the main target that I was on. Follow the money, follow the cash, follow business, follow land,” he said.

Al-Rawi also commented on the attack on his mother-in-law and father-in-law, who were held up at gunpoint and robbed outside their home in Westmoorings in north Trinidad.

“...I want to tell you what happened after that. A report was made to the police because CCTV evidence is admissible in a court of law. The cameras along the neighbourhood that caught the licence plates were able to be used to track vehicles because of the technology at TSTT, Digicel, and the Telecommunications Authority. Phone tracing for stolen phones is possible. And the hard-working police at Four Roads said to me they have solved many of these home invasion issues.”

However, Al-Rawi also indicated that nationals remain unwilling to take “the final step,” which is to give evidence

TTMA commends flour producers on lower price

Port-of-Spain – The Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers’ Association last week commended its members, Nutrimix, National Flour Mills and Sheik Lisha Ltd for decreasing the price of flour.

Said the TTMA: “The decision by these companies to reduce flour prices due to the global decrease in price of grain indicates that manufacturers continue to be conscious of the impact their products have on the cost of living for consumers. The domino effect of this global decrease in the price of grain highlights the potential impact of external factors on manufacturers.”

It added, “Manufacturers in Trinidad and Tobago continue to be optimal in their production and pricing up to the factory gate. However, factors external to the manufacturing process, such as the global price of flour, has an impact on the cost of goods to consumers. The association is hopeful that as the global economy continues to regularise in its post-Covid-19 period, it will continue to have a positive impact on the consumer in the future.”

The TTMA also commended the outcomes of the recent 45th regular meeting of the conference of heads of government of Caricom, which was held in Trinidad and Tobago earlier this month.



Roger Roach

Said TTMA

President Roger Roach: “TTMA looks forward to Caricom strengthening its trade and economic linkages with non-traditional countries, to support further integration into the global economy, and advance relations with Africa, building on established partnership arrangements. We also welcome the formal inclusion of Martinique and Curacao as Associate Members of Caricom, and foresee many opportunities with this initiative.”

The TTMA stated that Caricom has benefited many of its members who manufacture and export products made in Trinidad and Tobago throughout the region, as well as nationals who have made significant investments in other Caricom countries.

Said Roach: “Improving regional integration – for instance, through more intra-regional trade and policy coordination – can help the region’s small-size economies build greater resilience, and enhance its competitive united power on the global stage. Caricom, acting as a group, can enhance economies of scale, which will help the region better negotiate international value chains, and mitigate against the associated risks, bringing widespread benefits to the people of our region.”

He added, “Regional economic integration should not be an end goal, but a means to creating a single economy that allows people to travel, live and work freely across the region. We would also like to see a standard harmonised framework in place for local content, labelling and packaging standards, and a unified best practice approach to immigration, customs, and border control. With these measures in place, we would be closer to having a single economy and common market framework, thus allowing all Caricom citizens to benefit from these outcomes.”

against the criminals.

“...I would like to say to every person in this country who is afraid of taking the final step, which is to put people away by evidence... when I was Attorney General, we amended the Evidence Act so that CCTV evidence could speak for you, and you could stay quiet,” he added.

Al-Rawi also revealed that National Security minister Fitzgerald Hinds remains one of the hardest working ministers in the portfolio.

“He is carrying the final leg of the race with the baton to turn on the CCTV cameras all over this country, so that evidence could speak from a camera in a court of law. So we can tie that into the motor vehicle records which we digitised, where we could trace vehicles and trace owners and know what they are,” said the minister.

Meanwhile, CEPEP said in a statement that it does not engage gangs, and that it condemns all gang violence. Along with Al-Rawi, it also indicated that work is not subcontracted, noting that doing so are grounds for immediate termination from the programme.

The Golden Years of Indian Cinema

Superstar singer-actress Suraiya one of the greats in early cinema

By Vidur Dindayal

Suraiya, actress and singer, was one of the greats in early Indian movies. She was the highest paid and most popular star of the Indian cinema, from the late 1940s to the early 1950s. In her heyday, she was known as Malika-e-Husn (Queen of Beauty), Malika-e-Tarannum (Queen of Melody), and Malika-e-Adakari (Queen of Acting).

Suraiya was lead actress in several films; she acted in 67 movies altogether. Her co-stars included Shyam, Raj Kapoor, Dev Anand, Rehman, and others.

Renowned as a playback singer, she mostly sang for herself. She sang 338 songs for movies.

I enjoy listening to her songs, even today.

Suraiya was born Suraiya Jamal Sheikh on June 15, 1929. She attended the school, now known as J.B. Petit High School for Girls in Mumbai. Her childhood friends included Raj Kapoor and Madan Mohan. They introduced her to All India Radio, where she was singing for children's programs.

As an actress, Suraiya made her debut as a child star in the 1936 movie *Madame Fashion*. In 1941, when she accompanied her uncle to see the shooting of the film *Taj Mahal*. Its director, captivated with her charm and innocence, selected her to play the role of Mumtaz Mahal. She has since made history as an actress and singer.

Her numerous movies as actress and singer from 1942 to 1963 include *Ishara* with star Prithviraj Kapoor, and *Anmol Ghadi* (1946) with stars Noor Jehan and Surendra.

Pyar Ki Jeet (1948), brought crowds of well-wishers outside Suraiya's house. During the premiere of *Badi Behen* (1949), a large crowd gathered outside the cinema hall.

In the 1940s, she worked with Dev Anand in seven films together. Her other movies include *Mirza Ghalib* (1954). In the mid-1950s, Suraiya told Lata Mangeshkar that she would soon be cutting down on her films. *Rustam Sohrab* (1963) was her last film.

Suraiya, unsurpassed as a singer, sang her first song as a child-singer in the film *Nai Duniya* (1942). Naushad heard Suraiya's voice over the radio, and he immediately chose her at age 13 to sing for Mehtab in the 1942 film *Sharda*.

The rest of her singing is history – hit after hit in movies like *Anmol Ghadi*, *Omar Khayyam* (1946), and *Parwana* (1947).

I enjoy listening to these songs, among many: *Tu Mera*



Suraiya (above); & with a youthful Dev Anand (at left)



Chand (movie *Dillagi*; *Layi Khushi Ki Duniya* (*Vidya*); *Tarari Tarari* (*Dastan*); *Rahi Matwale* (*Waris*); *Main Leta Hai Angrai* (*Anmol Ghadi*).

In her honey-rich voice, songs like *Woh Paas Rahein*, *Tere Naino Ne Chori Kiya*, *Yaad Karun Tori Batiya*, and the rare classical number *Man Mor Hua Matwala*,

became all-time favourites. *O Door Janewale*, *Wada Na Bhul Jana* in *Pyar Ki Jeet* in 1948 became a hit all over India.

In 1948, while shooting the film *Vidya* with Dev Anand, she became romantically involved with him. They fell in love and wanted to get married. Suraiya's family strongly opposed the marriage. Eventually, they both accepted their lot and did not marry. Suraiya remained single until she passed away.

In 1963, Suraiya retired from her acting career. She lived alone with her mother. They were happy years. She would occasionally go to see her film-world friends.

After her mother's death in 1987, she became lonely in her apartment in Mumbai where she had lived from the early 1940s. Suraiya died on January 31, 2004, aged 75.

Suraiya was a mega star. As actress/singer, one of few, she was the jewel in the crown in the Indian film industry in her

day. She was showered with honours and tributes.

Suraiya's film *Anmol Ghadi* celebrated its Silver Jubilee with 25 weeks continuous showing in cinemas all over India. In 1951, the inaugural issue of *Screen*, the film newsweekly, featured Suraiya's photo on its cover.

Her film *Mirza Ghalib* received the President's gold medal for the Best Feature Film of 1954. The then Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, remarked that she had brought *Mirza Ghalib* to life.

Suraiya thought his praise more worthy than an Oscar.

In November 1956, Suraiya was one of the delegates of the government of India, including Raj Kapoor, Nargis, and Kamini Kaushal to the Soviet Union, where her films were screened.

In 1996, Suraiya was awarded the Screen Lifetime Achievement Award.

In December 1998, she was honoured for perpetuating Mirza Ghalib's memory by the then Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee during the Mirza Ghalib bicentenary celebrations.

On April 30, 2003, Suraiya was honoured by the Dadasaheb Phalke Academy and Screen World Publication at a special function on the 134th birth anniversary of Dada Phalke.

When celebrating *100 Years of Indian Cinema*, in May 2013, a postage stamp bearing Suraiya's image was released by India Post of the government of India.

In addition, she was voted the 'Best On Screen Beauty with the Most Ethnic Look'.

Tributes paid to Suraiya included those of O.P. Dutta, Director of her movie *Pyar Ki Jeet*.

He said: "Suraiya... was a bundle of unforgettable qualities, a sublime voice, the ring in the voice, the perfect diction, the effortless rendering... she gave a sterling performance in *Bari Behen*... She was right at the top and I was very happy for her."

Dilip Kumar said, "She was a caring girl, very affectionate, particularly with junior artistes... Suraiya will be sorely missed..."

Dev Anand said, "I did not go to her funeral because I would have been reminded of her past. I cried from a distance."

Outlook magazine wrote after her death: "She evoked the kind of hysteria – in the late 1940s – that can be compared only with Rajesh Khanna in his heyday from 1969 to 1972..."

The *Hindu* newspaper wrote about Suraiya: "What can you say about a lady, who was courted by Dev Anand, respected by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru... That she was beautiful, talented, adored by millions, but died a lonely single woman? Or, that she was the best ever superstar singer-actress of Indian films, yet walked away to a self-imposed exile at the height of her glory? Yes, Suraiya was all this..."

Suraiya's songs, as a tribute to her, are played every year on her June 15 birth anniversary, and her death anniversary on January 31 by Radio Ceylon.

Celebrating Manna Dey & the voice that descended from heaven

By Antara Nanda Mondal

*Zindagi kaisi hai paheli haaye,
kabhi toh hansaaye, kabhi yeh rulaaye...*

Words that have become proverbial, a song that continues to charm music lovers across generations and the singer who has set benchmarks in playback music that are hard to surpass.

When we think of the male golden voices of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, Manna Dey, along with his contemporaries Mohd Rafi, Kishore Kumar, Mukesh, Hemant Kumar and Talat Mahmood, is one of the sextet who took Hindi film music to the heights of excellence. Such was his impact that music directors created songs keeping him in mind, with the trust that only he could deliver those intricate murkis with ease.

Born Prabodh Chandra Dey in Kolkata 1919 and known by his nickname Manna, this versatile singer became synonymous with classical songs and humorous songs in Hindi and Bengali film music, and also adhunik Bengali songs. When it came to classical rendition of purely "raag-based" classical/semi-classical songs, music composers would straightaway look for Manna Dey.

Remember the intricate *tarana* that comes with *Laaga Chunri Mein Daag Chhupaun Kaise* (*Dil Hi To Hai*) based on *Raag Bhairavi*, or the hidden paths in *Poochho Na Kaise Maine Raain Bitai* (*Meri Surat Teri Aankhen*) based on *Raag Ahir Bhairav*, the romance in *Jhanak Jhanak Tori Baaje Payelia* (*Mere Huzoor*) based on *Raag Darbari Kanada*, or the proverbial *Kaun Aaya Mere Man Ke Dwaare*, *Payal Ki Jhankar Liye* (*Dekh Kabira Roya*), based on *Raag Raageshri*?

Manna Dey's songs became superhits not only because of



Manna Dey

the remarkable music, but also because of the ease with which he sang those difficult classical compositions. He brought the elite "classical" music into the popular domain, making these songs 'hummable' by anyone who loved to croon.

Recipient of Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2009, the Padma Bhushan in 2005, the Padma Shri in 1971, and the National Award twice, Dey began his career in playback singing with a

duet with Suraiya *Jaago Jaago Aayee Usha* in the film *Tamanna* in 1942, under the music direction of well-known composer K.C. Dey, his uncle, tutor, and mentor.

But it was only in 1943 that he got his first solo break with Ram Rajya. Incidentally, the producer of the film Vijay Bhatt and its composer Shankar Rao Vyas had approached K.C. Dey with an offer for playback in the film.

When K.C. Dey refused the offer on the grounds that he would not lend his voice to other actors, they spotted Manna Dey sitting in the corner of the room and offered him the opportunity.

Shankar Rao Vyas taught Manna Dey the songs, and he chose to sing them in his uncle's distinct style. And thus started the illustrious career with the first song *Gayi Tu Gayi Seeta Sati* (*Ram Rajya*, 1943).

Though he sang quite a few songs after this, his first hit song was Kavi Pradeep's *Oopar Gagan Vishal* for the film *Mashal* (1950).

He lived in a large, joint family, "in an atmosphere drenched in music". His immense control over his voice was due to his intense tutelage under stalwarts of classical music who visited his home, and his uncle K.C. Dey, who was a well-known Bengali actor, singer, music composer, and teacher.

K.C. Dey mentored him and introduced him into a career that would eventually become legendary.

"I was drawn towards my uncle's ability to modify classical music to make it appealing to the layperson," Manna Dey recalled in an insightful interview in *Bollywood Melodies: A History of the Hindi Film Song*, the authoritative book by

See Page 21: Classical training

Classical training set Manna Dey's voice in a genre of its own

From Page 20

Ganesh Anantharaman.

The classical training set Manna Dey in a genre of his own, but that did not in any way affect his extensive repertoire of love songs, humorous songs, and songs that could move you to tears.

Think of a romantic, moonlit night and *Yeh Raat Bheegi Bheegi, Yeh Mast Fizaayein, Utha Dheere Dheere Woh Chand Pyaara Pyaara...* (the Manna Dey-Lata Mangeshkar duet from *Chori Chori*) sets the mood.

Shankar Jaikishan picked him for Raj Kapoor at a time when Mukesh was known as the actor's voice. The songs and the actors set the screen on fire.

Well, romance need not be just the young people's domain in the cine world. The passion Manna Dey injected in *Aye Meri Zohra Zabeen (Waqt)* proved that middle aged people can be just as romantic and fun as the youth, and even today, this song is played as a popular DJ track in parties.

Aao Twist Karein, Jaag Utha Mausam (Bhoot Bungla) connected with the youth with its Rock 'n Roll beats, while *Tu Pyaar Ka Saagar Hai (Seema)* became one of the most popular bhajans of Hindi film music.

The lyrics of *Kasme Vaade Pyar Wafa Sab, Baatein Hain Baaton Ka Kya (Upkar)* along with Manna Dey's undeniably soulful rendition, made this song a proverbial one, synonymous with broken promises and lost love.

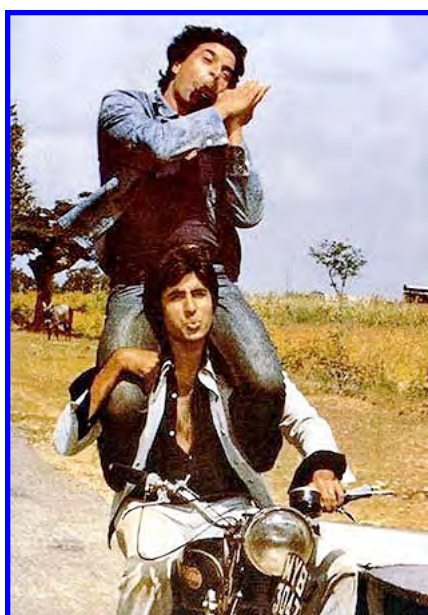
Ek Chatur Naar, Manna Dey's hilarious duet with Kishore Kumar, which he sang with a deliberate accent, set a whole new standard in fun songs, where the rendition had to be playful, yet intricately classical, and not slip into slapstick.

Unknown to many, Manna Dey was an extraordinary composer as well, making music for a few films and non-film albums. In the 1952-made *Tamasha*, five out of eight songs were his tunes.

Says Manek Premchand, renowned author of several books on cinema including *Romancing the Song* and the biography



Above, *Waqt's Aye Meri Zohra Jabeen Tujhe Maloom Nahin*; at right, *Yeh Dosti, Hum Nahin Todenge*, from *Sholay*.



Talat Mahmood – *The Velvet*

Voice: "Among the many reasons he was great was his refusal to take short cuts at recordings, at his interviews, at whatever he did, restlessly searching for excellence and often getting it. In *Tamasha* he made three singers playback for a young Meena Kumari – Asha, Lata, and Geeta – producing unimaginable footprints of sweet melody."

Referring to one such example, *Thi Jinse Palbhar Ki Pehchaan*, Premchand adds, "Do notice that all three stanzas are composed differently from each other, another instance of this man wanting to take the long route."

Manna Dey not only set high standards in Hindi film playback, his repertoire of Bengali songs is just as outstanding. Bengali popular music has basically two genres – film music and modern *adhunik* songs, and Manna Dey came up with superhit numbers in both.

Coffee Houser Shei Adda Ta Aaj Aar Neyi reminisced the lost era of Kolkata's famous coffee house gatherings or "adda", while the classical gems *Ami Je Jalsaghare* and *Aami Jamini Tumi Shashi Hey (Antony Firingi)* brought back the era of the 19th century music.

Ami Shri Shri Bhajohori Manna is a fun song about

cooking, *Bado Aika Laage (Chowringhee)* creates the mood of loneliness, while *Jodi Himalay Alps Er Shomosto Jaumat Baraf* spells everlasting love. Manna Dey became the playback voice of Bengal's King of Hearts Uttam Kumar, when the star's legendary partnership with Hemant Kumar faded out.

These are just a few gems from a treasure of the finest music that Manna Dey has left behind. In the south, one of his most famous songs is the iconic *Manasa Maiyne Varu...* in the Malayalam classic *Chemeen*.

Manna Dey recorded more than 3,500 songs from 1942-2013. Apart from Hindi and Bengali, he also sang in Assamese, Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, Punjabi, Bhojpuri, Awadhi, Magadhi, Maithilee, Konkani, Sindhri, and Chattisgarhi.

Out of his large repertoire, Manna Dey had his own favourite Hindi film songs, and for particular reasons. Below are 18 of his favourite songs sourced from the book, *Bollywood Melodies: A History of the Hindi Film Song*.

- *Ritu Aaye Ritu Jaaye Sakhi*, with Lata Mangeshkar from *Humdard*;
- *Laaga Chunri Mein Daag*, from *Dil Hi To Hai*;
- *Ketaki Gulaab Juhi Champak Ban Phool*, with Pt Bhimsen Joshi, from *Basant Bahar*;
- *Preetam Daras Dikhao*, with Lata Mangeshkar from *Chacha Zindabad*;
- *Har Taraf Ab Yahi Afsaane Hain*, from *Hindustan Ki Kasam*;
- *Tere Naina Talash Karein*, from *Talash*;
- *Aao Twist Karein*, from *Bhoot Bangla*;
- *Aye Meri Zohra Jabeen*, from *Waqt*;
- *Kasme Yaade Pyar Wafaa Sab*, from *Upkar*;
- *Tu Hai Mera Prem Devata*, with Mohamed Rafi from *Kalpana*;
- *Tum Gagan Ki Chandrama Ho*, from *Sati Savitri*;
- *Yeh Dosti, Hum Nahin Todenge*, from *Sholay*;
- *Re Man Sur Mein Gaa*, from *Laal Patthar*;
- *Chham Chham Baaje Re Paayalia*, from *Jaane Anjaane*;
- *Kaun Aaya Mere Mann Ke Dwaare*, and *Bairan Ho Gayi Rain*, from *Dekh Kabira Roya*;
- *Sur Naa Saje*, from *Basant Bahar*;
- *Bhay Bhanjana*, from *Basant Bahar*.



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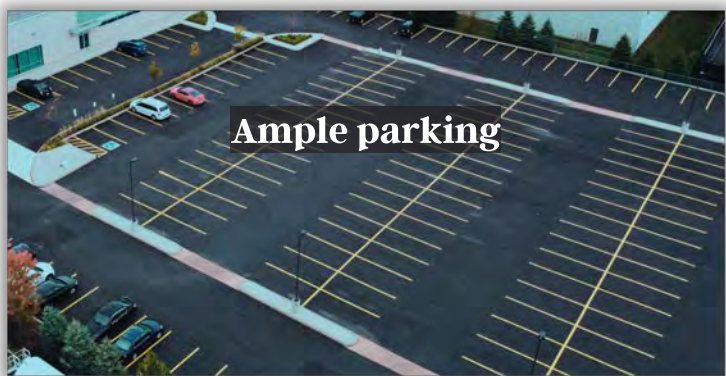


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Pakistan, England in T20I series next year

Pakistan and England will play a four-match T20I series in May next year in a build-up to the 2024 men's T20 World Cup in the Caribbean, the boards of the two countries confirmed earlier this month.

As reported by the website *Cricbuzz*, finalists from the last edition in Australia will play games in Leeds (May 22), Birmingham (May 25), Cardiff (May 28), and London (Oval, May 30) before flying out to West Indies for the marquee ICC event.

Babar Azam's team will also play five T20Is against Netherlands and



Heather Knight

Ireland in the build-up to their contests against England. The details of those series will be announced at a later time.

England and Pakistan had also played in a seven-match series in Pakistan ahead of the 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia, a tightly-contested series that England edged 4-3, before going on to beat the same opponents in the final of the World Cup at

the MCG.

Meanwhile, the women's sides of both the countries will also be simultaneously engaged in a bilateral series of their own comprising three T20Is, and as many ODIs, the latter as part of the ICC Women's Championship.



Babar Azam

In fact, Heather Knight's team will play across 14 venues in total – including Edgbaston, The Oval, The Ageas Bowl, and Headingley – before finishing their season with three ODIs and five T20Is against New Zealand Women between June 26 and July 17.

England Men will begin their Test summer upon their return from the World Cup. They will host West Indies (July 10-30), and Sri Lanka (August 21 - September 10) for three Tests each.

Australia, who are currently engaged in the Ashes series, will return to the UK in September next year for white-ball games (three T20Is, and five ODIs).



Ian Bishop

Caribbean talent exists but requires hard work

There are lots of talent that will take hard work to develop to make the Caribbean side relevant again on the international stage, former West Indies fast bowler Ian Bishop said last week.

Bishop was speaking to the miserable performances by the Caribbean team in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier. The team was led by Shai Hope, and coached by former captain Daren Sammy.

West Indies failed to qualify for the World Cup, which will be staged in India from October 5 to November 19 this year.

Having won the Cup twice, this was the first time the side finished fifth with only two points in the Super Six stage of the Qualifier.

West Indies lost against hosts Zimbabwe, which was followed by humiliations from The Netherlands and Scotland.

Bishop told the media in Trinidad and Tobago he was still trying to come to grips with the reality that West Indies will not be attending the World Cup.

"It has been as tough for me, as I guess it would have been for any West Indies cricket fan, whether they reside in the Caribbean or beyond," Bishop told the *iSports* radio programme on 95.5 FM out of Trinidad and Tobago.

"The West Indies still have a lot of goodwill around the crick-eting world. The number of people that have messaged me to say that they are also hurt has been quite reassuring, so it is not something that I ever thought I would see taking place. But it is what it is; it has happened, and it has taken me a couple of days to get over it," he said.

Additionally, "As a player myself, I have been in situations where we haven't performed to the best of our ability, and if you are running a big organisation, your staff, your employees must have an understanding of what are the targets. If they fail to reach those targets, there must be a reassessment and steps taken to right that wrong."

Also, "I won't say this is all on the players. They have some responsibility, and there must be some responsibility and acceptance from them. But we have to create players at the territorial level who understand the game, prepare for the game, and come up in a culture of excellence. And when you have done everything to prepare those players, then you can hold them more accountable."

Bishop said the fundamentals of the player development pathway in the Caribbean needed work for it produce world-class players, and there needs to be a system where players fully understand the requirements to be successful.

"We need to produce in the territories a culture that spreads throughout the region, where players must understand how they must carry themselves, how they must prepare, how they must run between the wickets, what the requirements are for white-ball cricket, what the requirements are for red-ball cricket, and then feed that into the international set-up," he said.

He added, "We have to look around, even people like myself, how I broadcast and tell the story. We have to reassess is there something else that all of us can do, and have a buy-in to prepare these players for the level of excellence required because the ICC Associate teams are not just beating us, they are wiping the floor with us, so there are dramatic steps that need to be taken right now, and we need everyone buying into that."

Bishop also indicated there are a few "green shoots" of talent coming through the system, players such as pacer Jayden Seales, and batters Alick Athanaze and Kevin Wickham, among others.

"I still believe we have what it takes to be relevant once again, but obviously it will take a lot of hard work," he stated.

Also, "We have to find a better way of harnessing the talent, better talent identification, and procuring of that talent."

MCC seeks to protect 'sanctity' of Test cricket

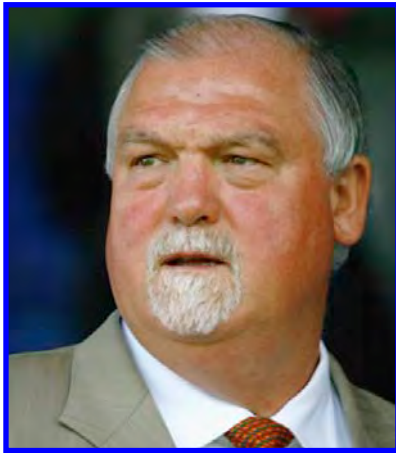
Deploying more funds to protect the "sanctity" of Test cricket and to grow the women's game were highlights among the proposals that have been set out by the Marylebone Cricket Club's world committee, the *Guardian* reported last week.

The committee of former and current players said intervention was needed to ensure finances were spread evenly across competing nations. It also proposed a reduction in one-day matches to ease fixture congestion.

"It's time for the global game to reset," said chair Mike Gatting.

He added, "Too often, member nations are finding themselves living hand-to-mouth with their cricketing operations, versus having a long-term, viable strategy in place that future-proofs the game in their country, both financially, and in terms of participation."

Based at Lord's, which it owns, the MCC acts as custodian and arbiter of the game's Laws, and of the Spirit of Cricket. The world committee members include former England captain Gatting, ex-India skipper Sourav Ganguly, former Australia coach Justin Langer, and Sri Lanka legend Kumar Sangakkara. It meets twice a year to debate and provide opinion on the global game.



Mike Gatting

Among the proposals made to the International Cricket Council, cricket's global governing body are a Test-match financial audit to identify nations in need of support to sustain a Test programme; a Test fund to support those nations and protect the "sanctity" of Test cricket; and a "substantial" ring fenced fund to protect, grow, and strengthen women's cricket.

Also, to make it a requirement for any associate nation seeking Test status to invest in, and field a women's team; a more balanced Future Tours Programme across all nations, while finding space for franchise cricket; and, removing bilateral One Day International series other than in the year leading up to a 50-over World Cup.

The committee also expressed concern at the widening disparity between nations and the survival of Test cricket outside India, Australia, and England, adding "immediate action must be taken" to protect the game.

The committee also raised the issue of the global international calendar, which has come under increasing pressure from the growth of domestic T20 franchise leagues, such as the Indian Premier League. In January, four different leagues ran simultaneously around the world, often at the same time as international cricket.



Herefordshire's Olly Rogoff hit a towering six during the National Counties Championship match against Oxfordshire last week, only to look on as the lofted ball landed on the windscreen of his father's car. Dad Nigel had parked near the boundary to watch his son at the wicket, & was sitting in the driver's seat when the ball landed & smashed the front glass. Running out of time, Olly began going for big hits, pummeling the bowling for four sixes. The last six found the family's car, the ball climbing so high, that "It came down with snow," his half-amused father said. The game drew, with Olly losing his wicket in the next ball.



Clare Connor

Connor recalls history of English cricket exclusion

The aftermath of a damning report into discrimination and inequity in English cricket has been a “chastening and distressing” time for the sport, Clare Connor, the first female president of Marylebone Cricket Club, told *The Independent’s* Sonia Twigg last week.

In a release from the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket last month, it was found that racism, sexism, elitism, and class-based discrimination were “widespread and deeply rooted” in cricket.

During her career, Connor has broken down many barriers in the game, which led to her becoming the first woman to lead the 230-year-old MCC in October 2021. She is now England and Wales Cricket Board’s deputy CEO, and managing director of England Women, which makes her the most powerful woman in the English game.

“We’ve got to get the balance right of celebrating how far we’ve come, there’s no doubt that [in] women’s cricket at all levels – domestically, internationally, the club game – the opportunities now for girls in the game... we should absolutely celebrate really fast progress over the last few years,” Connor told *The Independent*.

“It is a sport that is transformed, record levels of investment, focus, player pay. But it is also chastening to read the recommendations in the report across the board, particularly as they relate to gender. It’s been a distressing time for the game aside from the amazing men’s and women’s stuff on the pitch. It’s been a chastening and distressing time for cricket to have those headlines, and for people to have suffered and felt excluded from the game over years.”

Additionally, “There’s a significant piece of work for the game to do, and I’ll be playing my part in that. It’s important work, and for anyone who loves sport, and anyone who loves cricket, it’s a big responsibility, and something that we’re taking very seriously.”

The England women’s T20 match against Australia at Lord’s on July 8 marked 25 years since the start of the Women’s Ashes trophy. Connor was involved in creating this series as a player back in 1998, which was the same year women were first allowed to become members of the MCC.

“It was an unrecognisable era. It was where women’s sport was at the time, paying your own way, paying expenses, paying to train, paying for your own England blazer,” she recalled.

“My first big tour to India [was] in the winter of 1995, so I’d just started university. I had to pay towards my airfare, and that was for a seven week England tour. So, if you fast-forward 25 years, and look now at the earning potential in the game, the coverage, the endorsements, broadcast, the game being live on *Sky* and the *BBC*.”

Speaking about 1998 as the year of the creation of the women’s Ashes trophy and a landmark moment in the history of the MCC, Connor recalled a dichotomy she had experienced the previous year.

“When I first played for England in 1997, I played at Lord’s against South Africa, so I was an England cricketer, but I wasn’t allowed to be in the Long Room [the heart of the famous MCC pavilion] – we were allowed to walk through it because we had to get to the pitch – but I was young then and I probably didn’t quite realise the sense of exclusion that [this] represented,” she said.

She added, “It’s strange to look back on that actually. But that period was such a key time for women’s cricket, not only the creation of that women’s Ashes trophy that still stands – the women’s Ashes trophy still has that old humble trophy with the old women’s Ashes in it, but it’s nestled in a big modern trophy so it also represents the past and the present. But it was also the year women were allowed to be members of the MCC, and in their own right be in the Long Room.”



England fast bowler Lauren Filer will play for London Spirit as The Hundred teams confirmed their full squads for this year’s competition, the *British Broadcasting Corporation* reported last week. Filer was announced as one of the final round of sign-ups in the women’s competition. The tournament begins on 1 August. “I absolutely can’t wait to play at Lord’s in The Hundred for London Spirit,” Filer said. She added, “It will be great to link up with Heather Knight, and it’s obviously so special to play at the home of cricket. It’s just a brilliant competition, with some of the best players in the world, and I’m really looking forward to being a part of it.” India wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh will join Filer at London Spirit after replacing the injured Georgia Redmayne.

Cricket Schedule

(ALL TIMES LOCAL)

Wednesday July 19, 2023

Pakistan tour of Sri Lanka, 2023 Sri Lanka vs Pakistan, 1st Test, Day 4, Galle International Stadium, Galle, 10:00 AM

The Ashes, 2023

England vs Australia, 4th Test, Day 1, Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester, 11:00 AM

Thursday July 20, 2023

Pakistan tour of Sri Lanka, 2023

Sri Lanka vs Pakistan, 1st Test, Day 5, Galle International Stadium, Galle, 10:00 AM

The Ashes, 2023: Eng. vs Aus., 4th Test, Day 2, Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester, 11:00 AM

India tour of West Indies, 2023

West Indies vs India, 2nd Test, Day 1, Queen’s Park Oval, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 10:00 AM

ICC Men’s T20 WC Europe Qualifier 2023 Jersey vs Austria, 1st Match, Grange Cricket Club, Edinburgh, 10:30 AM; Italy vs Ireland, 2nd Match, Goldenacre, 10:30 AM; Scotland vs Germany, 3rd Match, Goldenacre, 03:30 PM

Friday July 21, 2023

The Ashes, 2023: Eng. vs Aus., 4th Test, Day 3, Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester, 11:00 AM

India tour of West Indies, 2023

West Indies vs India, 2nd Test, Day 2, Queen’s Park Oval, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 10:00 AM

ICC Men’s T20 WC Europe Qualifier 2023 Germany vs Austria, 5th Match, Goldenacre, 10:30 AM; Denmark vs Ireland, 4th Match, Grange Cricket Club, 10:30 AM; Scotland vs Jersey, 6th Match, GCC, 03:30 PM

Saturday July 22, 2023

The Ashes, 2023: Eng. vs Aus., 4th Test, Day 4, Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester, 11:00 AM

India tour of West Indies, 2023

West Indies vs India, 2nd Test, Day 3, Queen’s Park Oval, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 10:00 AM

ICC Men’s T20 WC EA Pacific Qualifier 2023 Japan vs Philippines, 1st Match, Amini Park, Port Moresby, 9:30 AM; PNG vs Vanuatu, 2nd Match, Amini Park, Port Moresby, 1:30 PM

Sunday July 23, 2023

The Ashes, 2023: Eng. vs Aus., 4th Test, Day 5, Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester, 11:00 AM

India tour of West Indies, 2023

West Indies vs India, 2nd Test, Day 4, Queen’s Park Oval, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 10:00 AM

ICC Men’s T20 WC Europe Qualifier 2023 Italy vs Jersey, 8th Match, Goldenacre, Edinburgh, 10:30 AM; Austria vs Ireland, 7th Match, Grange Cricket Club, 10:30 AM

Denmark vs Germany, 9th Match, Grange Cricket Club, 3:30 PM

ICC Men’s T20 WC EA Pacific Qualifier 2023 Japan vs Vanuatu, 3rd Match, Amini Park, Port Moresby, 9:30 AM; PNG vs Philippines, 4th Match, Amini Park, Port Moresby, 1:30 PM

Monday July 24, 2023

Pakistan tour of Sri Lanka, 2023

Sri Lanka vs Pakistan, 2nd Test, Day 1, Sinhalese Sports Club, Colombo, 10:00 AM

India tour of West Indies, 2023

West Indies vs India, 2nd Test, Day 5, Queen’s Park Oval, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 10:00 AM

ICC Mens T20 WC Europe Qualifier 2023 Scotland vs Italy, 10th Match, Grange Cricket Club, Edinburgh, 10:30 AM; Denmark vs Austria, 11th Match, Goldenacre, Edinburgh, 10:30 AM; Jersey vs Ireland, 12th Match, Goldenacre, Edinburgh, 3:30 PM

Tuesday July 25, 2023

Pakistan tour of Sri Lanka, 2023

Sri Lanka vs Pakistan, 2nd Test, Day 2, Sinhalese Sports Club, Colombo, 10:00 AM

ICC Men’s T20 WC Europe Qualifier 2023 Scotland vs Austria, 14th Match, Goldenacre, Edinburgh, 10:30 AM; Italy vs Denmark, 13th Match, Grange Cricket Club, 10:30 AM; Germany vs Jersey, 15th Match, Grange Cricket Club, 3:30 PM

ICC Men’s T20 WC EA Pacific Qualifier 2023 Philippines vs Vanuatu, 5th Match, Amini Park, Port Moresby, 9:30 AM; Papua New Guinea vs Japan, 6th Match, Amini Park, Port Moresby, 01:30 PM.



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FOR SALE HALIBURTON \$584,999

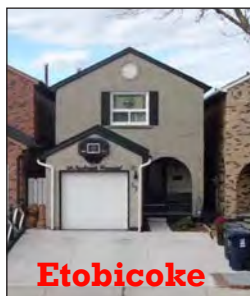
Welcome to one of highlands east, fully renovated (2010) three bedrooms all-season cottage with one full washroom, open concept dining/kitchen, & living area with wood fireplace & potlights. Relax on two huge decks and enjoy nature's beauty at your doorsteps. This spacious lot offers lots of parking spaces, 1 fully insulated natural pine bunkie, lots of storage spaces (5 sheds), and beautiful landscaping with a firepit. Steps to Tamarack lake for swimming, fishing, and canoeing. Minutes to the town of Gooderham.



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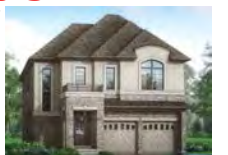
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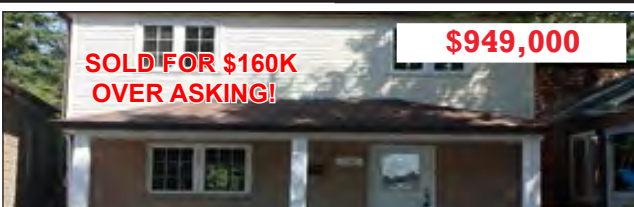
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