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Our Community Is Thriving!

Nathan Phillips Square pulses to Trini rhythms

Toronto – Nathan Phillips Square pulsed with the vibrant beats and rhythms of Trinidad and Tobago last weekend, as 45,000 spirited festival-goers filled the heart of downtown Toronto with a carnivalesque, Caribbean atmosphere.

The Trinbago Toronto Festival, a celebration of culture, food, and community, painted the city red, white, and black, honouring the national colours of Trinidad and Tobago, while the iconic CN Tower and Toronto Sign joined in, illuminated with nationalistic solidarity.

For two days, September 7 and September 8, Nathan Phillips Square, temporarily renamed 'Independence Square', echoed the spirit of the historic gathering place in the heart of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad's capital city, as it overflowed with lively "limers" – a term synonymous with festive and relaxing gatherings.

The event was held alongside Trinidad and Tobago's National Patriotism Month, ensuring that the joy and national pride of the Caribbean homeland were made similarly palpable in Toronto, proving that distance could not dampen (indeed, there was an occasional sprinkling of rain)

the spirit of the diaspora.

Held under the guidance of the Consulate General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in Toronto, the festival is now being hailed as "the sweetest lime of the summer," a joyful celebration of the culture and contributions of the Trinidad and Tobago community in Canada.

Acting Consul General at the Trinidad and Tobago Consulate General in Toronto, Tracey Ramsubagh-Mannette, underscored the event's significance, stating, "This event is a humble attempt to bring all of the things that make us extraordinary and exceptional into one space, for one weekend, in the heart of downtown Toronto, and to proudly tell the story of who we are, what we have created, and how much we have given the world."

Ramsubagh-Mannette further expressed gratitude for the community's overwhelming support: "We have been happy to support this event since 2022, as it is built on the belief that members of our diaspora are our most powerful and persuasive ambassadors, not just for our country's tourism product, but

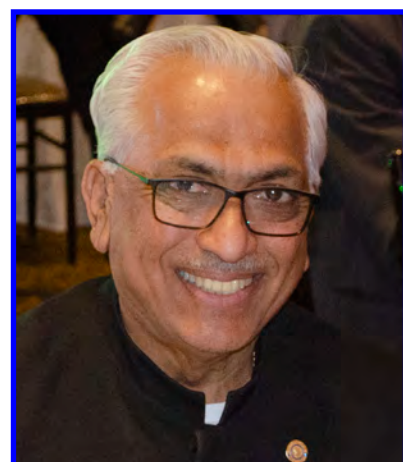
See Page 5: Entertainment



Ramsubagh-Mannette



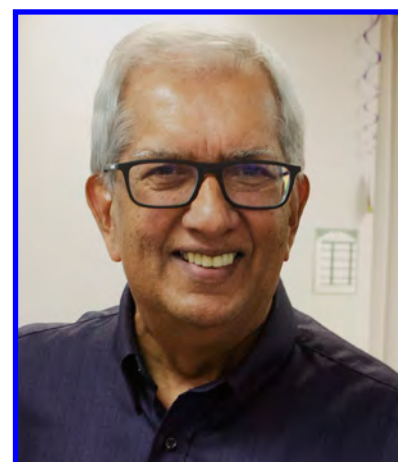
The CN Tower in red, white, and black. *Philip dos Santos photo courtesy the Consulate General, Toronto*



Dhaman Kissoon



Radharani Rajaram



Winston Kassim

CGCC getting ready for a sold-out gala

**By Romeo Kaseram
LJI Reporter**

Toronto – The Canada Guyana Chamber of Commerce (CGCC) is gearing up for its highly anticipated 2024 gala, a landmark event that has already sold out weeks before its October 19 jubilee at the prestigious Woodbine Banquet Hall in Etobicoke.

With demand soaring, this year's gala promises to be one of the most significant gatherings in the Caribbean-Guyanese-Canadian business community, underscoring the CGCC's growing reputation as a vital bridge between Canada and Guyana.

Among the leaders driving the CGCC forward in Toronto are Winston Kassim, Fareed Amin, Radharani Rajaram, Amita Shariff, and Dhaman Kissoon.

Interest in the gala spiked immediately after announce-

ment of the date for the gala, as businesses and professionals sought out spots at what has quickly evolved into a key annual event in the diaspora's business calendar.

"We are happy to announce the event is completely sold out," Kissoon told *Indo-Caribbean World* late last week.

Kissoon is a respected Toronto lawyer, a community builder, and an indefatigable supporter of various charitable groups here in the GTA.

He is also chairman of the CGCC's fund-raising committee, and a co-chair looking after the gala's logistics.

He also noted that the momentum and peak level of interest in this year's gala show that the CGCC is not just growing, but is also being recognised as a key player in opening up investment synergies between Canada and Guyana.

Since its inception in 2022, the CGCC has been on a mission

See Page 10: Gala's theme

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\$1,169,000

Talk of the Town!

Beautiful bungalow located in one of Toronto's most sought neighbourhoods! Designed for happy living, this freshly painted home has been recently renovated throughout & features gleaming laminate floors, bright potlights, brand new appliances & boasts both modernity and marvels!



\$1,189,900

Right Place Right Value!

This lot has great potential for conversion into a commercial property! Has approximately 127 feet facing Confederation Parkway. Features a large double car garage – ideal for the home mechanic. It's a rare find with a lovely corner lot property – endless possibilities await!



\$1,049,900

A Pleasure to Treasure

This spacious home is impressively maintained with careful attention to detail. The main floor features a tall, nine-foot ceiling, California shutters, and internal access to the garage! There are three full baths upstairs! This lovely home features a stamped concrete front porch and patio.



\$779,000

What a Sun-Sational Delight!

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



\$1,650,000

Smooth, Smart and Rambling

Prestigious home in top-notch neighbourhood features impressive dble door entry to grand foyer & office. 9' ceilings with LED lighting – natural flow to inviting open concept living & dining room. 80K state-of-the-art kitchen with water inlet, built-in ovens, & grand centre island. You're invited to visit this charming abode.



\$739,900

Bright and Spacious!

Spacious corner property with fenced lot for your enjoyment! Upon entry, you will love the modern gourmet kitchen with cabinets, quartz counters & backsplash. Sun-drenched property with modern LED pot lights, 4 spacious bedrooms on upper level & finished basement for an extended family.



\$497,000

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Spacious & clean unit features 2 bedrooms & 2 washrooms! Open concept living area walks out to large balcony. Minutes away from the University of Waterloo! Freshly painted unit comes furnished, & features laminate floors, large windows & stainless-steel appliances! Comes with a parking spot!

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Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in Brampton

Brampton – The Walnut Foundation announced earlier this month that the City of Brampton and its Mayor Patrick Brown have officially designated September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

The proclamation marks a vital step in the foundation's ongoing mission to raise awareness about, and support for, prostate cancer and its impact on our community.

Stating in a Facebook post that it was "thrilled" to make the announcement of the proclamation, the foundation extended its gratitude, saying, "Thank you to the Mayor and the City of Brampton for your support in helping us make a difference. Together, we can spread hope, support research, and work towards a world where prostate cancer is no longer a threat."

The impact of prostate cancer in our community continues to resonate with worrisome frequency, and is one that is highlighted by disturbing statistics from the Canadian Cancer Society.

As the CCS has noted, 27,900 men in Canada will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year, with 5,000 expected to die from the illness in 2024.

However, the impact is particularly severe and alarming in our community, where Black men are twice as likely to die from prostate cancer compared to other groups.

Founded in 2007, the foundation is committed to educating

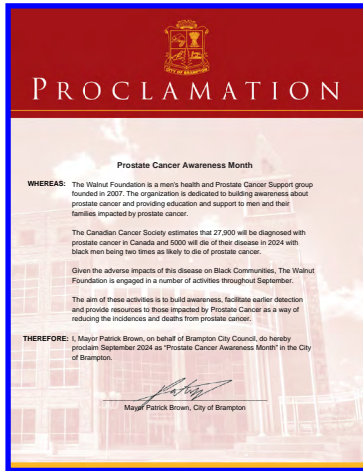
the public about prostate cancer, and in providing crucial support to men and their families impacted by the disease.

As part of its ongoing community interventions, throughout September the foundation is continuing with its mandate to channel its energies into initiatives that educate, support, and advocate for early detection to build awareness, to facilitate early detection, and to reduce deaths.

At the same time, the foundation's outreach is continuing as it rallies our community on the importance of early detection and prevention, promotes education on health, and to offer resources to those in need.

In its work to address the disparities in prostate cancer outcomes with initiatives focused on building awareness, facilitating early detection, and providing much-needed support, the proclamation by the City of Brampton, and Mayor Brown, was welcome amplification for these efforts.

Brampton's and Mayor Brown's support underscored the shared commitment to health equity, and for a future where prostate cancer claims fewer lives.



Also, the City of Brampton's proclamation in making September Prostate Cancer Awareness Month was a welcome signal of growing awareness of the disease's uneven impact in our community, and an indication of the foundation's growing network of support, which can make all the difference.

Pandit Gossai graduates as an Inter-religious Chaplain

Toronto – Pandit Jag Gossai has added a new accomplishment to his distinguished career by graduating as an Inter-Religious Chaplain from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. This certification equips him to offer emotional and spiritual support to individuals across diverse faiths, expanding his impact in the community.

"I must be able to balance the various and competing cultural and religious norms that define the people that I serve," Pandit Gossai explained, highlighting the inclusive approach he brings to his work.

With over two decades of experience as a practicing priest in Canada, Pandit Gossai currently serves as the Head Priest at the Devi Mandir in Pickering, Ontario, where he is also a Registered Clergy.

He is known for his dedication to performing a wide range of religious ceremonies, including weddings, funerals, pujas, and other *samskaras*, fulfilling his spiritual duties with commitment and compassion.

Pandit Gossai is enthusiastic about his new role as an Inter-Religious Chaplain.

"Now that I am an Inter-Religious Chaplain, I look forward to providing spiritual care in the community, as well as in higher

education and Corrections Services," he said.

This new chapter in his life aligns with his long-standing commitment to service, whether within the local community or beyond.

His passion for education is concomitant with his life-long drive for excellence.

At the Devi Mandir, he has initiated and supervises the *Bal Vikaas* Classes, aimed at instilling Hindu philosophy in children. His educational journey has also spanned continents; he has taught at universities and colleges in Guyana and Canada, specialising in technology. His academic credentials include both Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the UK, and the title of *Prayog Upadhyaya*, an honour conferred upon those with exceptional knowledge and practical application skills.

Born in Mahaica Creek, Guyana, and now residing in Markham, Pandit Gossai's journey reflects a life devoted to both spiritual leadership and education. His recent achievement as an Inter-Religious Chaplain marks a significant milestone in



Pandit Jag Gossai

his ongoing mission to serve diverse communities with empathy, wisdom, and respect.

Brazil's flag raising at Queens Park

Toronto – On September 6 Honorary Consul Mani Singh represented the Government of Guyana, the Guyana Consulate in Toronto, and the Guyanese Diaspora at a flag raising ceremony to mark Brazil's 202nd Anniversary of the Independence.

The flag raising in Toronto took place at the Ontario Legislative Building in Queens Park.

Singh expressed gratitude on behalf of the government and the people of Guyana to the government and the people of Brazil for their strong support for Guyana's sovereignty and territorial integrity against Venezuela's illegal claim.

In his remarks, Consul General of Brazil in Toronto, Ambassador Enio Cordeiro, declared that Brazilians "are proud to be a multi-ethnic people, living in a thriving democratic society and served by solid and resilient institutions", while noting that these values are shared with Canada "in a traditional relationship that started more than 150 years ago".



Guyana's Honorary Consul Singh (left) with Brazil's Consul General Enio Cordeiro at the flag raising



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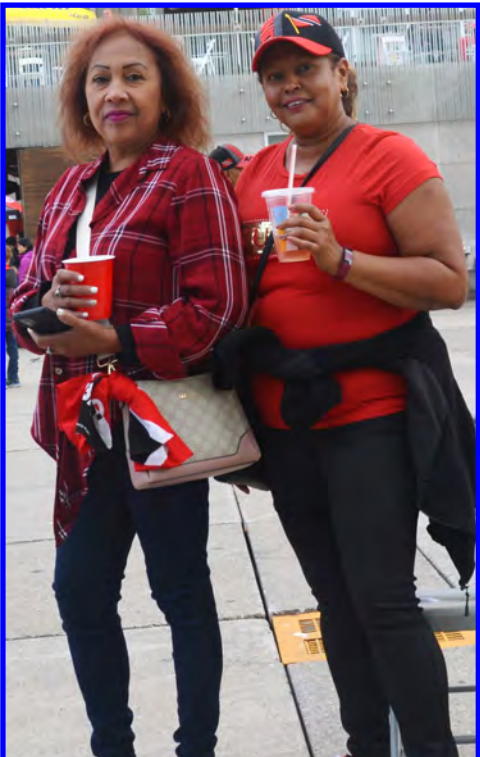
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Trinidad and Tobago's national colours were a pervading motif at the Trinbago Toronto Festival at Nathan Phillips Square on September 7-8. In photo at top left, Acting Consul General Tracey Ramsubagh-Mannette is with Local 27's President Chris Campbell. Photos by Hinano Beekhoo and Russell Lutchman



Entertainment fills Nathan Phillips Square

From Page 1

for all of our cultural and creative assets. We are so grateful to everyone for coming out in their numbers to represent the red, white, and black!”

The festivities featured an electrifying lineup of performers, including Mical Teja, Andre Donawa, and KI, who brought the crowd to life, accompanied by traditional Carnival characters courtesy of Trinidad and Tobago's National Carnival Commission.

The rich cultural tapestry of the event also showcased steelpan music, tassa and African drumming, Indian and folk dance, limbo, chutney, and calypso, reflecting the diverse heritage of Trinidad and Tobago.

Foodies were not left out, with festival-goers savouring traditional delights like the ever-popular doubles from Drupati's Scarborough and the tangy fruit snack, chow, presented by Chowfest.

Petronilla Marchan, founder and organiser through the Palo Seco Innovations Group, expressed her excitement about the festival's growth and significance.

“We're proud and excited by the Festival's tremendous growth. It is an honour to host this year's event at Nathan Phillips Square, an iconic venue that truly reflects the significant contributions of our community to this city,” Marchan shared.

Beyond the celebration, the festival is rooted

in community spirit and its rippling impact. Proceeds will benefit the Caribbean Scholarship Foundation, which provides opportunities in business, education, and the arts for Caribbean youth.

While a cadre of volunteers ensured the success and oversaw the logistics on the ground, at the same time it could not have lifted off without the support from key partners, among them the Tourism Trinidad Limited, Tobago Tourism Agency Ltd, TD Bank Group, Morgan Williams, Chubbys, Toronto Chow Fest, Grace Foods, the NCC of Trinidad and Tobago, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Toronto Education Workers, Canadian Building Trades Union, Carpenters Local 27, United Local 46, LiUNA Local 183, and the United Trinbago West Indian Association.

Financial assistance was also provided by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, highlighting the significance of the festival in Toronto's cultural landscape.

With its vibrant blend of music, dance, and food, the Trinbago Toronto Festival has now cemented its place as a must-attend and key Toronto summer event for its celebration of the rich culture and indomitable spirit of the Trinidad and Tobago community in Canada.

As Ramsubagh-Mannette and Marchan have both aptly expressed, it is more than just a festival – it is a proud proclamation of heritage and identity.

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Editorial

A rising tide

Our Caribbean homelands are facing an existential threat from climate change that extends beyond weather patterns. The challenges that nations such as Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Guyana, and Jamaica are facing today will only escalate in the coming decades, and with severe consequences for critical sectors such as tourism, agriculture, and infrastructure.

Rising sea levels threaten coastal communities, and increasing temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns undermine agricultural productivity and water supplies. Meanwhile, tourism, a key economic driver for many Caribbean nations, is at substantial risk. Hurricanes, coastal erosion, and coral bleaching are not only damaging the attractions that draw us back home as part of the Caribbean diaspora, but they are also making these destinations less accessible and less appealing to tourists.

Climate change-related phenomena – such as flooding, droughts, and dangerous heat waves – are already affecting daily life and infrastructure. Some islands may eventually become uninhabitable due to these threats, as their high coastline-to-land ratio amplifies the effects of rising seas, storm surges, and extreme weather.

The Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados, among others, are already feeling the impacts on their agricultural lands and infrastructure, which are leading to increased costs and diminished economic resilience.

The economic impact of climate change is expected to worsen significantly in the next decade. According to a study by Climate Analytics, climate damages in the Caribbean could rise from five percent of regional GDP in 2025 to over 20 percent by the century's end. This escalation is due to both the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events and slow-onset changes, such as sea-level rise and ocean acidification.

The agricultural sector, which employs many Caribbean residents, is likely to be severely impacted by droughts, hurricanes, and flooding, further threatening employment and food security in a region that already relies heavily on imports.

Simultaneously, critical infrastructure – essential for economic activity and disaster response – will face more frequent damage from extreme weather events. Rising temperatures and sea levels could disrupt transport networks, energy systems, and housing, increasing the financial burden on governments to maintain and rebuild essential infrastructure, according to the World Bank.

Looking ahead to 2040, the cumulative effects of climate change could push the Caribbean into a deeper crisis. Without significant adaptation measures, the economic costs associated with climate disruptions could reach \$22 billion annually by 2050, the CFR has noted.

To address these challenges, coordinated efforts are required at both global and regional levels. Globally, stronger commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are vital. Developed countries and major emitters must accelerate their transition to clean energy, fulfill their financial commitments under the Paris Agreement, and provide financial support to vulnerable regions like the Caribbean to adapt and mitigate climate impacts.

At the regional level, Caribbean governments and bodies such as Caricom must enhance their capacity to manage and finance climate resilience initiatives, such as pooling resources to reduce costs, and improving local governments' ability to access international climate funds.

Additionally, Caribbean governments should prioritise integrating climate risks into national planning and budgeting, promoting renewable energy use, and phasing out fossil fuel subsidies to create a sustainable economic model.

The fight against climate change in the Caribbean is a fight for survival. The future of our homelands depends on our collective ability to adapt to rapidly changing conditions and build resilience against the looming threats.

While global support is indispensable, our Caribbean nations must also take bold, proactive measures to protect their economies, environments, and people from the existential and escalating impacts of climate change.

Time has come for us to tell our stories via film

Toronto was recently a hub of Hollywood's top talents as it hosted the annual Toronto International Film Festival. It was an opportunity for film buffs to have a preview of what to expect on the big screen in theatres across the world.

TIFF is special due to its global reach, diverse programming, and significant impact on the film industry. It provides a vital platform for filmmakers, engages with a broad audience, and plays a crucial role in the international film landscape.

Amidst the celebrities and big blockbusters are several independent films, or those that are made on small production budgets. At times, these movies are more captivating, providing an opportunity to learn more in an untold story.

Film is a powerful medium for capturing and conveying the essence of ethnic culture and community. Through its combination of visual storytelling, sound, and performance, film offers a nuanced and immersive experience of diverse cultural landscapes.

Also, it provides a platform for ethnic communities to present their own stories, identities, and experiences. By centering on characters and narratives from specific ethnic backgrounds, films can offer authentic portrayals of cultural practices, values, and traditions.

These productions often document and showcase traditional customs, rituals, and practices, preserving them for future generations. By capturing events such as festivals, ceremonies, and everyday life, films provide a visual record of cultural practices.

Serving as an educational tool by providing audiences with insights into the histories, struggles, and achievements of ethnic communities, documentaries can offer in-depth explorations of social issues, historical events, and cultural practices.

For decades, in the Indo-Caribbean community, there has been an absence of our stories being seen and told in film. As a community, we have held a connectivity with Bollywood and blockbuster films from India.

Bollywood films have garnered a significant following in the Caribbean, especially in countries with large South Asian communities, such as Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and Suriname. The colourful storytelling, music, and dance of Bollywood resonate with Caribbean audiences, many of whom share cultural and historical links with India.

The historical migration of Indian labourers to the Caribbean during the period of indentureship established a strong cultural and familial link between the Caribbean and India.

The shared cultural heritage and traditions between the Indian diaspora in the Caribbean and Bollywood films have

For us youngsters, every 'windball' was a windfall

Five decades have passed, yet I still see the evening's gold dust rising off the dirt-packed track back home where we played cricket on the road as boys.

Our bats were crude and homespun, fashioned from discarded scraps of wood. Deftly wielded, a cutlass roughed out the blade, and purloined sandpaper smoothed out splinters on the handle.

Sometimes our ball was an immature coconut, barely the size of an orange – as if it too had been rejected by its siblings, and had been heaved over the rim of the nest.

But sometimes we were lucky to come into possession of a 'windball' – a scuffed-up, found tennis ball, its bounce now reduced to a limp.

Now here was a treasure, a bird in hand, so to speak; and to speak to power, the windball's journey into our possession was as much a game as playing cricket itself.

Indeed, said windball came into our hands "from the other side"; via penetration of a hedge, a boundary that we could not cross, and which kept us out from the tennis courts where the owners and the overseers played.

Those courts lay beyond our village, in the wealthier plantation settlement, where the elite lived in houses that stood tall on stilts, gazing imperially down over the sugarcane fields like well-fed sentinels.

Perched on their lofty posts, these houses were framed with meticulously manicured lawns, its lengthy driveways lined with majestic Palmiste trees, their thick trunks whitewashed like soldiers in ceremonial dress and standing in parade formation.

Everything about these houses spoke of an order that felt imposed upon the very ground we stood on – trimmed bushes, shiny ceramic lawn ornaments that lifted their noses high above the indigence in the village that was our side of the divide.

We played cricket on the road barefoot and shirtless, wielding our unpolished bats with imaginations that smoothed out its rough surfaces. Like our homemade cricket bats, our world was rough and simple.

But then in a world that was short steps away, just beyond and behind the boundary of the delineating hedge, resided a study in luxury. The contrast was as stark as the black mud that

facilitated a natural connection. Themes of family, love, and celebration in Bollywood films resonate with Caribbean audiences, who often share similar cultural values.

Further, the connection is demonstrated through Bollywood music, which has influenced Caribbean music and dance styles. Songs from Bollywood films are popular in Caribbean dance parties and cultural events, demonstrating the crossover appeal of Indian music.

As a community, we have relied on Bollywood to connect with, and to see ourselves. However, the emergence of filmmakers has introduced distinct opportunities to share our stories.

In spring this year, *Doubles* by Trinidadian-Canadian writer and director Ian Harnarine premiered at the Canadian Film Festival.

Doubles is a movie that shares the story of a Trinidadian street vendor who must travel to Toronto to decide if he will help save his estranged father from dying.

I was fortunate to be at the premiere, and simply put, this film felt like home.

The story of an Indo-Caribbean individual travelling to Canada, adjusting to winter, and trying to fix a family issue in a hostile and foreign environment is relatable to many of us.

However, the visual of a distinct Indo-Caribbean narrative on screen itself was unique in many ways, and it was absolutely refreshing to see our community purely reflected in a carefully professional manner.

And soon, audiences will again be provided the opportunity to experience the beautifully crafted story of a short film that delves into the rarely explored intersection of Indo-Caribbean and Muslim identity in North America.

Writer and director Yazmeen Kanji is proudly ready to unveil her latest creation, *One Day*.

Starring *Netflix* sensation Rebecca Ablack, *One Day* takes place in a suburb just outside of Toronto's downtown core, sharing the story of Adeela, an Indo-Caribbean Muslim teenager navigating the complexities of her identity.

Once again, the Indo-Caribbean community has been treated with our story being shared on screen, as *One Day* further delves into the diversity of our community, and brings to the surface untold stories.

Film is a beautiful medium to capture the stories of people. Despite the connectivity of the Indo-Caribbean community for decades to Bollywood, our time has come to witness our distinct stories shared on the big screen, thanks to a new generation of emerging movie makers from Canada's Indo-Caribbean community.

For us youngsters, every 'windball' was a windfall

coated our legs when we retrieved the windball from a gutter to the whitewashed bases of those Palmiste trees that lined their driveways. It was a division not just of space, but of the very ground we walked upon; and the very air we breathed.

Behind the fence, a small army of 'Yardboys' kept the overseer's grounds immaculate; here the grass was greener on the other side, and like the fairytales we were being taught about in school, the flowerbeds were always in bloom.

The 'Yardboys' were grown men who came from our village. Cast in roles as gatekeepers, grasscutters, fetchers of water, they were made to stand ready to serve in designated spots, reduced to being life-sized lawn ornaments themselves.

We peeped through gaps in the thorny hedge, our eyes wide with curiosity and longing. Here a swimming pool glistened, its water so blue it seemed to be a piece of sky, liquid luxury cool and still, as if its owners too had colonised a piece of heaven, and had stolen it away and brought it down to earth.

We gasped at the aura of luxury in the lounge chairs, so casual in their disarray. And there were the tennis courts, with their high wire fences – a reminder that for us some worlds were unscalable; that there were some games beyond the reach of our crudely-made, two-by-four cricket bats.

And through the gaps among the stems and leaves, sometimes we espied a 'windball' that had soared too close to the sun, and now lay with broken wings outside the tennis court. But for us, a fallen fruit in an orchard that we were forbidden to enter.

But we entered, our moving shadows among the frozen ornaments alerting the guard dogs. Hurling their bodies against the hedge, the commotion attracted the watchman, who brandished his baton at our fleeing backs.

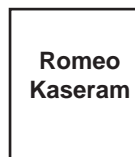
"Don't let me catch you, I'll put a lash on your little tails!"

But we had our prized windfall, even as the annoyed dogs reasserted their invaded territory, drawing yet another line in the sand that we could not cross.

But not for long; it was part game, part pushing the envelope, a testing of the barriers before we pushed it down; an early assertion that we would neither be contained outside boundaries, nor kept out by hedges and insurmountable wire fences.



Ryan Singh



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/Photographers: Vidur Dindayal, Bernard Heydom, Dwarka Lakhan, Dhanpaul Narine, Ryan Singh, Nalini Mohabir, Ramesh Ramkalawan, Russell Lutchnan. Contact Information: Indo Caribbean World Inc. 312 Brownridge Drive, Thornhill, Ontario. L4J 5X1 (905) 738-5005; indocaribbeanworld@gmail.com Website: www.indocaribbeanworld.com



A mosquito prevention fogging exercise in Region Two, Guyana

Call for prevention after dengue outbreak

Dear Editor,

There is deep concern over the outbreak of the dengue disease in Guyana. The reported cases for January and February, 2024 of over one million in neighbouring Brazil (with which Guyana shares the south-western border), and where there exists cross border travel and trade, heightens the people's anxiety.

Guyana has gone through the trauma of Covid-19, and did exceptionally well to control that disease, but does not want to walk again on a similar track.

Naturally, Guyanese are also worried about the outbreak of dengue, for which there is no specific treatment in Guyana, other than infected persons taking medication for pain and fever.

Dengue is spread by the *aedes aegypti* and the *aedes albopictus* mosquitoes. The *aedes* mosquito also spreads Zika. Symptoms of dengue are usually high fever, headache, vomiting, and rash.

It is estimated by World Health Organisation that between 100 million to 400 million people are infected per year. Guyana as of August 24, 2024 had 17,042 cases (8,389 new cases and 8,653 old cases in 2024).

The Ministry conducted RDT tests on 31,669 persons, and a positive rate of 26 percent was recorded. The number of infected persons hospitalised as of August 24, 2024 was 909 (or 5.3 percent of reported infected cases), while five persons died.

I need to give context to this health challenge. The PPP/Civic government recognises that physical infrastructural growth (roads, bridges, hotels, and so on), must be accompanied by significant changes in the social sector like education, health, legal, and social welfare. The way how people view these sectors is how they would embrace the changes taking place.

It is vital, therefore, that they are prepared to change old attitudes that would not be compatible with the new ones emerging out of modernisation.

Changes in attitudes are fundamental. With respect to the legal system, for example, I

Why so many foreign players in Guyana cricket?

Dear Editor,

Where are the Guyanese cricket players? If our homegrown players do not have an opportunity to play in a small country like ours, where will they get an opportunity to develop their skills?

People will say that Guyana has to import talent to win. They will say that Guyanese cannot win on their own strength. Obviously, we the Guyanese people do not believe that!

We are the land of Rohan Kanhai, Alvin Kallicharran, Lance Gibbs, Clive Lloyd, Roger Harper, Carl Hooper, Shivnarine Chandernpaul, and counting. We have inter-county cricket so we may see who is best. Why the need to bring in foreign players? It is no longer the Guyana Amazon Warriors that we are witnessing if foreign players are representing the team.

paraphrase Karl Marx's famous dictum: "You cannot make old laws [and attitudes] the foundation of a new social development any more than these old laws [and attitudes] created the old social conditions."

The weekly grassroots mobilisation, combined with modernising of the education sector, and the thrust to make Guyana a world class provider of health care services (producing healthier workers and families) are part of the process to get people to accept attitudinal changes.

It is for this reason that the government is creating a modern healthcare system and has allocated in 2024 the second biggest budget sum of (G) \$129.8 billion. Given that there is no specific medication to treat dengue, the question is: "How would the government control the spread of dengue and allay the public's concern?"

Health Minister Dr Frank Anthony says that much work, therefore, has to focus on prevention. The Ministry has distributed 50,000 medicine-laced mosquito nettings that last for three years to people who live in the high risk areas of region 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 10.

They also would spray and disinfect the surrounding neighbourhoods (a process called fogging), where pools of water or open receptacles exist that favour the breeding of mosquitoes. One mosquito could lay as much as 200 eggs per day.

At the institutional level, Anthony says that responsibility for mosquito control is being devolved unto the NDCs, which are in a better position to monitor and to implement preventive measures.

The Health Ministry is providing the tools and supplies (fogging machines, mosquito nettings, insecticides, and so), and training. It will continue to monitor the overall situation and offer technical assistance.

To control any infectious disease also requires citizens' behavioural change. In this way, Guyana will control dengue as it did with Covid-19 and other infectious diseases.

Dr Tara Singh, New York, via email.

Do you see foreigners representing another country at the Olympics? Cricket is our Olympics! If this is the approach, then the team will eventually be known as only the Warriors. Give our Guyanese players an opportunity to develop their skills with CPL cricket.

At the end of the day, the West Indian team is made up of local players. The foreigners will eventually go back to representing their countries in World Cup Cricket, and the victories gained will mean nothing because the experience lost will not be recovered.

Lose or win, at least our team will do their best with what we have to offer. Then we can all raise our flags in full support of "Our Team", and be able to offer more players for a stronger West Indian team.

Jamil Changlee, Guyana, via email.

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RE/GUYANA

GUYANA PROPERTY MATTERS

What to do with inherited property in Guyana

Anyone who has inherited property in Guyana should act to ensure the property is effectively administered, all fees and taxes due to the Guyana Revenue Authority are paid, the grant of probate is obtained, and the property is transferred to the new owner. Failure to act in a timely manner introduces the opportunity for property fraud as it is known by more persons that a property owner has passed on and their heirs are absent.

The documents required for the probate process would include the death certificate, the will of the deceased, a list of assets, and a valuation of the inherited land at the date of the death. The probate process usually takes approximately 6-12 weeks, and is best managed by an experienced attorney who prepares the necessary documents, manages the submission process with the Guyana Revenue Authority, and determines the applicable process fees and taxes.

Once a certificate of payment is obtained from the GRA, the application for probate is prepared and filed by the attorney, and the execution of the will and the transfer of the property can proceed. The cost associated with the probate process and transfer of ownership can be estimated by the attorney managing the case, and would be based on several factors including the value of inherited property.

In cases where multiple heirs are involved, the proceeds from the sale of the property would be distributed according to the will, or upon collective agreement by the heirs. Where the objective is to sell the property, it is possible to plan the sales process to coincide with the probate process so that the property is transferred directly to the buyer.

Many are torn between selling their inherited property or keeping it in light of Guyana's rising economic fortunes. For those that don't need the money, consider retaining ownership. Many have modernised their ancestral homes in Guyana into shared vacation properties used by the entire extended family. Others have renovated and rented out their properties, and receive significant incomes. Hanging on and renovating Grandpa's old house in the village may be one of the smartest investment decisions you might make.

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



Police prepare for an exercise in Port-of-Spain

Results needed in war on crime in TT

Dear Editor,

With the many media conferences, discussions, and police town hall meetings on crime over the years, is Trinidad and Tobago any better off than when we started?

It is not that the police are not trying, but things are not really getting any better when it comes to reining in criminal activities.

Recently, Tobago House of Assembly Chief Secretary Farley Augustine forcefully expressed his feelings about the situation in Tobago. This small paradise is now overrun with crime. Murders are at an all-time high, close to 25 for the year so far. Tobagonians are certainly not pleased with what they are seeing.

It is clear the present strategies are failing to achieve the desired results. We hear about guns being removed from the streets by the police. However, if arms and ammunition continue to enter the country by whatever means, then we will not be able to bring crime under control.

How many innocent lives have been lost

over the years through heinous crimes, including children? The statistics do not lie. Grief, pain, and sorrow are still in the homes of many citizens who have lost loved ones. Some are still waiting for closure, for justice. How can that be right?

To those who have the mandate to protect our citizens, hear the cry of the people and see their pain. You simply need to do better. We need to put aside the politics, dislikes and all that divide us, and work together to restore sweet Trinidad and Tobago to a paradise.

If the current strategies do not bring the required results, could it be that we need external help? I see nothing wrong with that. It does not matter from where it comes, once we get results.

I believe our soldiers have a more active role to play in the crime battle. Let us get them out there confronting the heavily armed criminals.

Arnold Gopeesingh, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.

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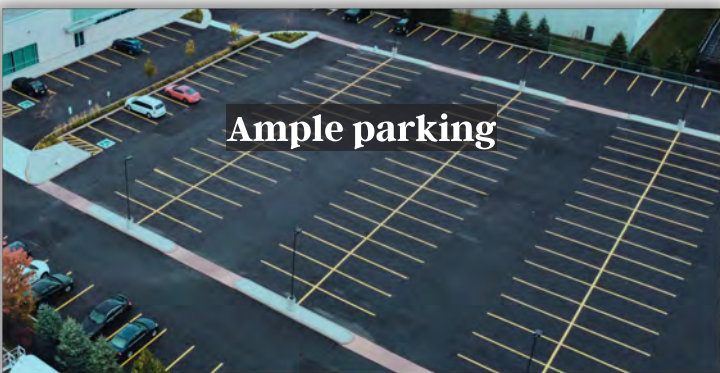
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Guyana's smuggling woes: From mafia to foxes in the henhouse

For more than a quarter of a century, Guyana has been struggling to control the narcotics trade and gold smuggling, both of which have now reached crisis proportions. In spite of repeated government commitments to put measures in place to curtail these illegal activities, they have continued to flourish.

Arguably, there are many official reasons for the flourishing narcotics trade, which is inextricably linked to money laundering and gold smuggling. In fact, the US State Department labelled Guyana as a major transshipment port for narcotics more than a decade ago. Nothing has changed since, with the exception that the US is now more active in helping Guyana capture drug smugglers.

The 2013 US Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Country Database report stated that Guyana "continues to be a transshipment route for South American cocaine and heroin destined for the United States and for cash returning to South America".

The report noted that "historically weak law enforcement and judiciary systems coupled with endemic corruption and increasing organised crime activity contribute to a favourable climate for significant money laundering in Guyana". Narcotics trafficking and corruption are alleged to be the primary sources of laundered funds, the report stated. In addition, the country's porous borders, and lack of resources to monitor drug trafficking, added to its inability to stem the problem.

However, there are also unofficial reasons for these illegal activities. According to unconfirmed sources, there are "too many foxes in the henhouse", and "you can't put a cat to watch over milk". The reality is, there appears to be some credibility in these assertions.

For instance, when the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned two members of one of Guyana's wealthiest families, Nazar Mohamed and his son, Azruddin Mohamed, together with Mae Thomas, former Permanent Secretary in both the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Labour, for their roles in public corruption, neither did it forewarn the government of Guyana of its actions, nor did it provide details of the case. It can, therefore, be concluded that it was a matter of trust for the US government. Apparently, it simply did not want to alert the foxes in the henhouse.

Historically, while large quantities of cocaine originating in Guyana have been seized overseas, there have been relatively few domestic drugs busts of significance within the country. Rather, arrests have been limited to individuals with small amounts of marijuana, crack cocaine or powder cocaine, usually on charges of possession for the purpose of trafficking. The failure to make any significant drug-related arrests or seizures in recent years at the domestic level is apparently directly related to corrupt foxes.

There are numerous cases of foreign seizures of drugs originating from Guyana or associated with Guyana. More recently, the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has been directly involved in large cocaine seizures. On August 31, Guyanese authorities, working with information from the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), discovered an illegal airstrip where they seized 4.4 tons of cocaine hidden in camouflaged pits in the Barima-Waini region.

This record discovery dwarfs the total 85 kilograms of cocaine seized in 2023, and the 1.6 tons seized in total since the beginning of 2020. However, with increased involvement of

the DEA and other law enforcement agencies, 2024 has been remarkably successful in seizing illicit drugs. It is worth noting that Guyana had officially requested the DEA's assistance, which is a positive indication of its willingness to curb drug trafficking.

Earlier this year, Guyana's Customs Anti Narcotic Unit (CANU) and its coast guard seized another large load of 536 kilograms on March 29, after stopping a go-fast boat by the north-central region of Essequibo Islands-West Demerara. In addition, the US Navy seized 2.4 tons aboard a narco submarine 150 miles from Guyana that was headed toward Spain on March 21, 2024.

As well, foreign authorities have also seized significant amounts of cocaine from vessels that had departed Guyana in recent years. Spanish police discovered a ton of cocaine aboard a Guyanese-registered fishing boat off the coast of Cape Verde in September 2023. And Belgian officials in Antwerp found 11.5 tons of cocaine in a scrap metal shipment sent from Guyana in November 2020. In this case, it was alleged that either the scanning equipment in Guyana did not work properly, or that documentation was altered through corrupt practices.

In this case, Bob Van Den Berghe, coordinator at the United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) and World Customs Organisation's Container Control Programme, is reported saying that while the country has access to scanning equipment, such machines have not always been used in an optimal way to detect illicit loads. He added "in this case, the vast quantity of cocaine exported would have likely been detected prior to its departure from Guyana".

In June 2020, Germany, authorities discovered 1.5 tons of cocaine hidden between sacks of rice in a container that had arrived at the city's port from Guyana at the end of June.

And *Diálogo*, a digital US military magazine, reported that at the end of 2012, Malaysian authorities intercepted \$7.1 million worth of cocaine in sealed tins of coconut milk shipped from Guyana.

At a more criminalised level, a billion dollar drug smuggling operation linked to the Italian mafia, and dismantled by authorities in the US and Italy, had established a route between Guyana and the US via Italy, underlining continued criminal innovation in developing new trafficking routes.

The simultaneous raids in both Italy and the US saw members of New York's notorious Gambino Mafia family and southern Italy's 'Ndrangheta among 24 people arrested, as reported by *The New York Times*.

The bust happened as the network entered advanced stages of planning to smuggle half a ton of pure cocaine from Guyana to a port in Calabria, where the 'Ndrangheta is based. The shipment would then have been moved to the US. Italian investigators estimated the drugs had street retail value of \$1 billion after cutting.

According to EFE, a Mexican criminal group with a presence in Guyana facilitated the trade between the two criminal groups. The operation involved a corrupt Guyanese shipping company transporting cocaine and heroin in consignments of tropical fruits and frozen fish.

Guyana does not produce cocaine, but it remains a major transshipment port. According to the US State Department's narcotics control report, Colombian cocaine is typically smuggled to Venezuela and onward to Guyana by sea or air. The drug may also transit land borders and the river network shared by Brazil,



Dwarka Lakhan



CANU head, James Singh



Home Affairs Minister Robeson Benn (right) and CANU's Director James Singh at a recent drug bust in Guyana's Region One

Venezuela, and Suriname before it reaches Guyana. Drugs are then transhipped to various parts of the world.

Given its utility as a transit hub, the nation has attracted large-scale criminal organisations in years past, including the Italian mafia.

In addition, corruption at various levels of government, and among law enforcement officials facilitate the movement of drugs. Following the most recent large-scale seizure on August 31, it was alleged that the local police might have colluded with the traffickers. When questioned about those reports, CANU's unit director James Singh is reported saying: "From all indications, most of the persons involved in this are foreign nationals. There is some speculation that there was some local assistance."

According to a report published by *NewsSource Guyana*, when a probe of illegal

airstrips and the movement of drugs in the region was launched, the police in the area were left in the dark.

"The move by the unit may have been triggered by allegations of police collusion in the movement of illegal aircraft and drugs in the Region One area," it reported.

Effectively, this was done to keep the foxes in the henhouse from leaking sensitive information that would have disrupted the cocaine discovery.

Dwarka Lakhan, BA, MBA, FCSI, FICB is a Member of the Canadian Association of Journalists, and an accomplished financial writer. His book, *Winning Ways, Real World Strategies to Help You Reimagine Your Practice*, is available on Amazon and on winningways101.com. He can be reached at dlakhan@rogers.com.

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Gala's theme on investing in Guyana

From Page 1

to foster trade and investment between Canada and Guyana, and the results now speak for themselves.

Its inaugural gala, which brought together entrepreneurs from sectors like agriculture, finance, manufacturing, and oil and gas, was attended by many key figures, among them Guyana's Finance Minister, Dr Ashni Singh.

At the 2022 event, Singh highlighted the expanding opportunities for business collaboration, rooted in the shared democratic values between the two nations.

Now, two years later, the CGCC is delivering on its promise. According to founding director Winston Kassim, this year's gala theme is centred around investing in Guyana.

Kassim, a Member of the Order of Canada and a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for Volunteerism, is leading efforts to ensure the event showcases the dynamic opportunities emerging in Guyana's evolving economy.

"The conference will highlight what major North American companies are doing to create investment opportunities that benefit both countries," Kassim said, stressing that the gala would also offer unparalleled networking opportunities.

And the CGCC's efforts are already bearing fruit. Kassim shared that two of the group's founding members have launched a new venture aimed at transferring agricultural lands for corn and soya production in Guyana, a strategic move that aligns with the country's push for food self-sufficiency.

"It is a welcome diversification from the oil economy," Kassim noted, adding that the CGCC is "exceptionally excited" to have initiated this endeavor from abroad.

The organisation's holistic approach to growth and investment also includes building strategic partnerships and promoting women in business, ensuring a diverse and inclusive future for the CGCC.

Radharani Rajaram, a board member and co-chair of the fund-raising committee, emphasised the significance of these efforts, stating, "The gala is definitely going to be an exciting event. It provides an opportunity for the business community to network and form strategic alliances."

With the upcoming gala fully booked, the CGCC is poised to further solidify its role as a crucial connector between Canada and Guyana, she further noted.

And as Kisson observed, "We are beginning to see the realisation of our efforts and the meaningfulness of the organisation."

Rajaram echoed this sentiment, noting, "What is happening in Guyana now is both amazing and motivating. It is good for us to have those synergies, and to strengthen the relationship between Canada and Guyana."

As the countdown to October 19 continues, anticipation is building for what promises to be a milestone event in Canada-Guyana business relations. With its sold-out status, the CGCC gala has shown how much it has grown in just two years, and how positioned it is now as a launch pad for future collaborations, bilateral growth, and synergies between two democratic nations and their vibrant economies.



Dr Ashni Singh



The prestigious Woodbine Banquet Hall

CGCC marks excellence, innovation, sustainability

At its sold-out 2nd annual gala on October 19, the Canada-Guyana Chamber of Commerce (CGCC) will celebrate outstanding contributions to Canada-Guyana relations by presenting three prestigious awards.

Set against the backdrop of the luxurious Woodbine Banquet Hall in Etobicoke, this year's awards will recognise excellence in business, innovation, and sustainable development, underscoring the Chamber's commitment to fostering a thriving and responsible business community.

The **Canada-Guyana Business Excellence Award** will be bestowed upon a sponsor that has exemplified leadership and commitment in promoting robust business ties between Canada and Guyana. The recipient will have demonstrated remarkable business acumen, significantly contributing to the economic growth of both nations.

The selection committee will evaluate nominees based on their achievements in business, their role in enhancing bilateral trade relations, and their overall impact on the business community.

In recognition of ground-breaking contributions, the **Canada-Guyana Business Innovation Award** will honour a sponsor

who has driven progress through creativity and innovation. This award will highlight those who have introduced cutting-edge solutions that have reshaped the business landscape, benefiting both Canada and Guyana. Nominees will be assessed on their innovative approaches, market impact, and role in fostering a culture of innovation within the Canada-Guyana business community.

And the **Canada-Guyana Sustainable Development Award** will acknowledge a sponsor committed to environmental stewardship and sustainability. This award celebrates those who have integrated sustainable practices into their business strategies, contributing to greener initiatives and supporting sustainable development goals.

The committee will look at the sponsor's sustainability initiatives, their support for green projects, and alignment with the Chamber's commitment to environmental responsibility.

These awards reflect the CGCC's dedication to promoting excellence, innovation, and sustainability within the bilateral Canada-Guyana business community. As the Chamber prepares to honour these outstanding achievements at the Woodbine Banquet Hall, the gala promises to be a night of celebration, recognition, and inspiration.

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Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn



Yvette Clarke

Anti-migrant disinformation condemned

Caribbean-American legislators in New York have strongly condemned what they describe as a disinformation campaign targeting Haitian migrants, accusing Republican US vice-presidential candidate J.D. Vance of spreading false and xenophobic claims.

The controversy erupted after Vance was reported to have shared “bogus reports” suggesting that Haitian migrants were “abducting and eating” pets.

Democratic Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, who represents the predominantly Caribbean 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, criticised these statements as “truly sickening”.

Clarke is the daughter of Jamaican immigrants. She told the *Caribbean Media Corporation*, “It’s truly sickening to see America’s most powerful prey on its most vulnerable through xenophobic, despicable disinformation.”

She further condemned the perpetuation of these rumors, stating, “Though even acknowledging these heinous, anti-immigrant rumours is beneath our common decency, unfortunately, billionaires and extreme conservatives, aided by their allies in far-right media spaces, continue to give life to these dangerous, disproven lies.”

Clarke emphasised the need to reject such “anti-immigrant prevarications”, which she described as “dangerous and inflammatory”, noting that they “play on bigoted stereotypes that seek to isolate migrant families and foster hatred towards their communities”.

She also highlighted the plight of Haitian migrants, saying, “Haitian migrants who escaped national repression do not deserve to be slandered by racist fear-mongers while seeking safety in America.”

Clarke urged the public to reject false information, and to stand in solidarity with Haitian Americans, asserting, “We each have a moral obligation to stand for the truth, and stand

with our Haitian American neighbours.”

Brooklyn Democratic Party chair Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn, the first Haitian-American to lead a major party in New York City, echoed Clarke’s sentiments, denouncing the “disgusting and blatantly racist fake ‘news’ spread by the Trump campaign.”

She stated, “The Trump-Vance campaign repeatedly trying to spread hate and fear by painting Haitians and other immigrants as dangerous criminals with racist tropes shows why we must keep them out of office.”

Bichotte Hermelyn, who represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn, accused the Trump-Vance campaign of weaponising “absurd online ‘reports’.”

She asserted, “Make no mistake: J.D. Vance is trying to incite hatred from US citizens against Haitians while advancing Trump’s inhumane mass deportation policies.”

She expressed her support for Kamala Harris, saying, “That’s why I proudly support Kamala Harris, a daughter of immigrants, to become our nation’s first woman, first Black woman, and first Asian American president, as she keeps fighting to defend immigrants.”

She continued, “Trump and Vance are using suffering immigrants as propaganda for racist rhetoric.”

Bichotte Hermelyn highlighted the contributions of Haitian immigrants to the US, noting that “Haitians formed the world’s first free Black republic, and their revolution led to the US’ expansion.”

She added, “They shed blood for our nation’s independence as soldiers in the Battle of Savannah, while Jean Baptiste Point du Sable founded Chicago, and, today, Haitian immigrants serve as doctors, engineers, and myriad roles, making America better.”

Concluding her remarks, Bichotte Hermelyn urged Americans to “keep America a beacon of freedom and hope at the ballot boxes”.

Alcohol at funerals final nail for Gonsalves

Kingstown – The Parliament of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has approved a new law making it illegal to consume alcohol during funeral processions, though it has stopped short of prohibiting alcohol consumption at cemeteries due to unclear boundaries surrounding these sites.

As the Caribbean media reported earlier this month, the legislation received support from all 13 government lawmakers, including Attorney General Grenville Williams, and stipulates that violators could face arrest and fines of up to (EC) \$200.

However, the Opposition did not back the bill, arguing that while it does not endorse the consumption of alcohol in funeral processions, the law may create more issues than it resolves.

Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves, who introduced the bill, clarified that the offence occurs only if the alcohol container is opened.

“An offence is committed only if the alcohol

container is unsealed,” he stated, adding, “The powers of the police officer, in addition to being able to charge you for that offence, for having possession or consuming the intoxicating liquor, [allow] you to be arrested without a warrant, if, in the opinion of the police officer, it is necessary to do so for the safety of any person.”



Ralph Gonsalves

Gonsalves emphasised that the law addresses a growing trend where “people are seen with beers, rum drinking, and shouting, and not involved in anything concerning the solemnity of a funeral procession, or even the celebration in song of the life of the person whom we are burying.”

He continued, “This is just a matter of drinking rum and treating the funeral procession as if it is a ‘mas band, that you having Carnival.”

The government believes the law is essential to preserve the dignity of funeral processions, while the Opposition remains concerned that it may introduce unforeseen complications.



Ask Jay...

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IS THE CONDO MARKET IMPLODING?

According to the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board, condo sales dropped by 19.8 percent, while new condo listings climbed by 36.5 percent within the last three months. Low activity, along with an ever-increasing supply of condos, has saturated the rental market, and as a result, rental prices are declining. Investors are bailing out of the condo business because the rent is not enough to cover the condo’s carrying cost. Interestingly, despite little appetite for condos, the selling price remains constant in anticipation that further rate cuts will stimulate the market.

Around 70 percent of condo investors buy pre-sale condos, which developers need before lenders can finance the project. Many of these investors usually sell their pre-sale agreement for a profit, a process known as an assignment sale. Investors sometimes face a harsh reality: they cannot sell their contracts and must close their deals. If they are not in a financial position to do so, they lose their deposit, which is 20 percent of the purchase price, and the developer can sue them as well. The recent increase in the capital gains tax is also counterproductive, leading us to believe that the condo pre-construction market will remain this way for a long time.

The domino effect is downhill because investors are running away from condo investments. As a result, developers cannot reach their 70 percent pre-sold target, cannot get financing, and must postpone construction. New condo sales have been at their lowest since the late 1990s.

Most pre-construction condo sales are among small investors who remortgage their current home and use the equity to buy a pre-construction, hoping to sell their contract for a quick profit. These investors generally buy smaller suites like a bachelor or one-bedroom suite. This is rare among end users, such as families, who want enough space. Many of these small investors are in a financial mess, subsidising their rental property, and at the same time paying a higher mortgage on their principal residence.

The best time to buy a pre-construction condo is now. Most condo sales offices are like ghost towns; builders will grant many concessions to sell their inventory.

With fewer people buying pre-construction, developers are putting their projects on hold, creating scarcity in the future, and as a result, prices climb again. Choose a popular size and layout if you are buying to make a profit. In the condo market, size matters. Invest in GTA condos, and avoid super-saturated markets such as London, Kitchener, and Waterloo. I predict a sharp turn in the new-condo market by 2027. Over the past few years, we have experienced an influx of immigrants, and this group will be shopping for their first home in a few years.

If you bought a pre-construction condo as an investment and hope to sell it as an assignment, there are better times than now. If the closing is about a year or two, wait until the lender gives you occupancy before you sell since the interest rate is decreasing. If you already have an occupancy permit and closing is approaching, closing the deal and renting the suite is best. You may need to subsidise the purchase. As an investment property, the interest on the mortgage, condo fees, insurance and other related expenses are tax deductible. It is crucial to seek the help of an experienced realtor and an accountant to navigate these decisions.

It is one of the best times to invest in resale condos. When buying a resale, look for well-managed buildings in good locations. Older buildings are usually more spacious than newer ones. If you are a first-time buyer with a high-income bracket, consider buying an RRSP and using that as a source of downpayment for the condo.

Despite the current challenges, the pre-construction condo market is still in progress. Those who choose to invest now, when prices are down, will be in a strong position once the market rebounds. Good condos, held over a long term, will appreciate, providing a solid foundation for long-term investment strategies.

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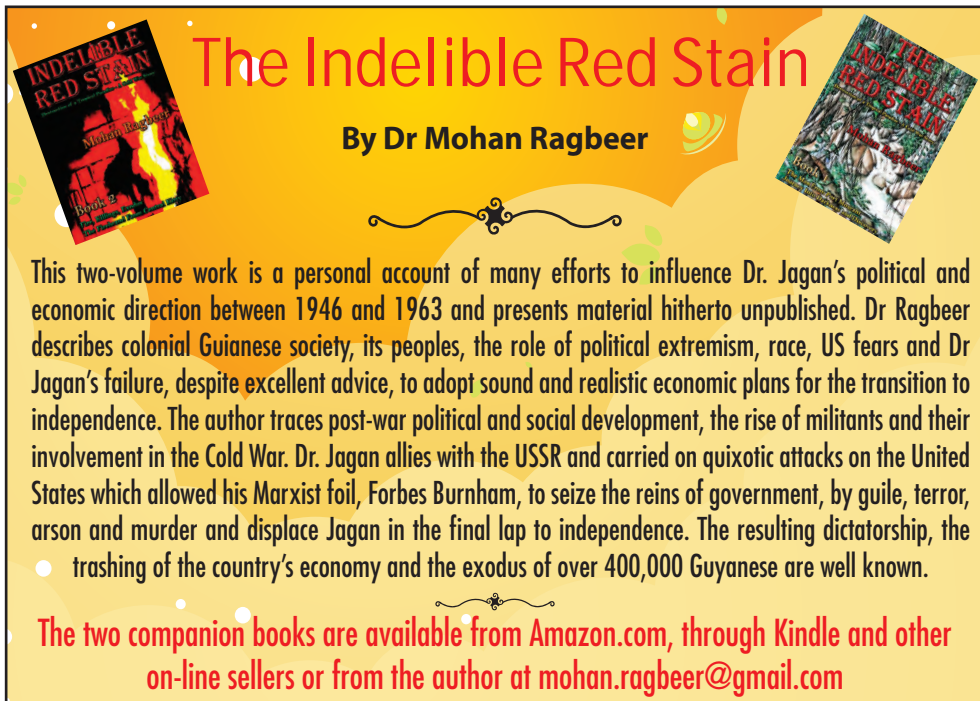


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The Indelible Red Stain

By Dr Mohan Ragbeer

This two-volume work is a personal account of many efforts to influence Dr. Jagan's political and economic direction between 1946 and 1963 and presents material hitherto unpublished. Dr Ragbeer describes colonial Guianese society, its peoples, the role of political extremism, race, US fears and Dr Jagan's failure, despite excellent advice, to adopt sound and realistic economic plans for the transition to independence. The author traces post-war political and social development, the rise of militants and their involvement in the Cold War. Dr. Jagan allies with the USSR and carried on quixotic attacks on the United States which allowed his Marxist foil, Forbes Burnham, to seize the reins of government, by guile, terror, arson and murder and displace Jagan in the final lap to independence. The resulting dictatorship, the trashing of the country's economy and the exodus of over 400,000 Guyanese are well known.

The two companion books are available from Amazon.com, through Kindle and other on-line sellers or from the author at mohan.ragbeer@gmail.com



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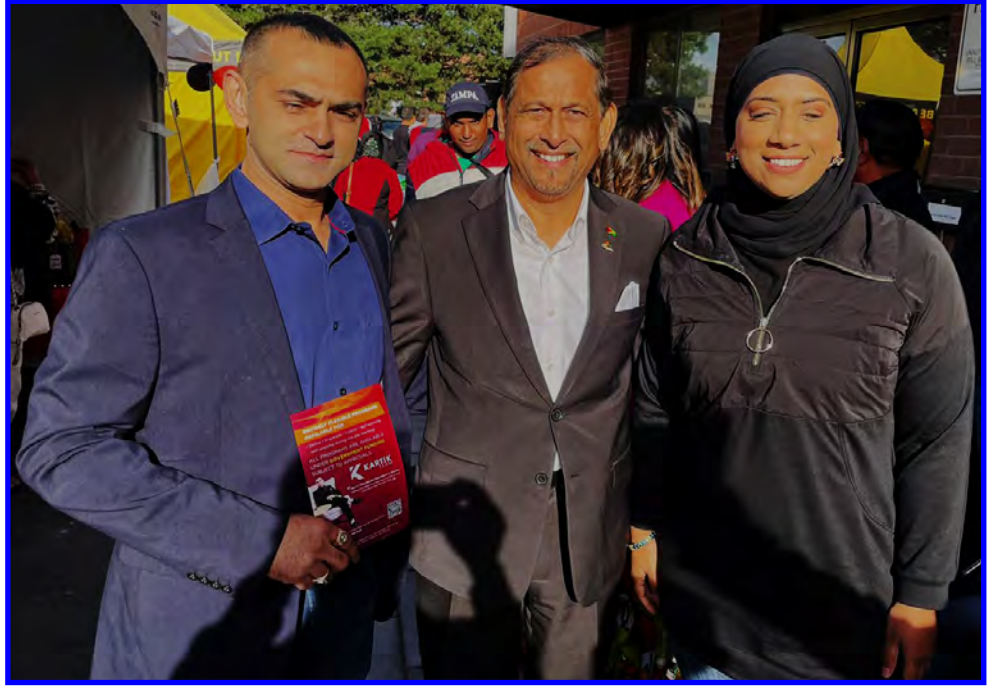
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In a savoury exhibition of curry excellence, and a display of the finer artistry of outdoor, summer cooking, Jamila Habib (centre in photo above) performed a stirring rendition to emerge winner of the One Love Duck Curry Competition 2024 at Curry in de Six, which took place on September 7 at One Love Table's North York headquarters. Also among the cuisine's finest were well-seasoned chefs Bibi Husain (left in photo above), who placed second, with Sue Ann Baksh-Murray at right, who was third place winner. One Love Table's leader, Habeeb Alli, (right in photo below) extended the group's sincere gratitude to attendees, among them the Consulate General of Guyana, Toronto's Honorary Consul, Mani Singh (at centre, top right photo), guest judge Sarah Juman Yasin, food stylist and founder of Grazing Platters in the 6ix, and Bombay Lemonade. Alli also thanked other guests, sponsors, donors, volunteers, performers, and the many vendors, who all made the summer fund-raiser yet another success. **One Love Family Services** is a registered not-for-profit group that aims to provide culturally appropriate food hampers to families in need via curb side pickup, and by volunteers who deliver across the GTA



Guyana's Ali champions global south leadership in climate fight

Georgetown – In a passionate call for action, Guyana's President Dr Irfaan Ali has emphasised the urgent need for coordinated, meaningful efforts to combat climate change while positioning developing nations at the forefront of crafting sustainable solutions.

Speaking last week at a high-level discussion on climate and development at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre in Georgetown, Ali challenged the traditional notion that only wealthy countries can lead the fight against climate change, declaring, "The global south is proving that innovative solutions to the climate crisis can, and are being driven from all corners of the world."

Ali's remarks, which were reported by *DPI Guyana*, highlighted the crucial role of developing countries in leading the charge against climate change, despite facing challenges from climate skeptics and naysayers.

He praised nations in the Global South for their leadership in climate action, investment in renewable energy, and setting ambitious targets, stressing that these countries are not merely victims of global warming, but leaders driving real change.

"It is not just big nations that we must analyse. We also have to look at what small countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America are doing... Rwanda, a leader in forest restoration... [these countries] are showing that size does not limit leadership," he declared.

Ali underscored that these nations are taking innovative approaches to combat climate change, pointing to examples like Costa Rica's achievements in conservation and renewable energy as proof of the Global South's capacity to deliver impactful solutions. He argued that developing countries are no longer willing to be seen as mere "problems" that need solving; instead, they are positioning themselves as pioneers in finding solutions and shaping global climate policy.

And as he pointed out, Guyana itself has taken significant strides through its Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030 (LCDS 2030), a comprehensive plan designed to preserve the



Irfaan Ali

country's vast rainforests, a vital carbon sink, while promoting strategic investments in renewable energy, coastal defenses, sustainable agriculture, and community-based adaptation. He noted this initiative has become a global model for climate action, demonstrating how small countries can lead by example.

However, Ali did not shy away from addressing the significant challenges that developing nations face in their climate fight. He lamented the lack of financing and fair policies, emphasising the need for "more concessional climate financing and equitable approaches" that do not disadvantage these countries.

As he noted, with some concern, "Despite their flourishing leadership the global south's efforts are being stymied... if you look at the translation from pledges to actual financing, it is shocking."

To address these obstacles, Ali reaffirmed Guyana's strong

support for the Bridgetown Initiative, spearheaded by Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, which calls for a comprehensive reform of the international financial architecture that governs climate finance.

He argued that measures like carbon pricing, the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies, particularly in richer countries, and massive investments in clean energy, are essential to "drive meaningful progress in decarbonising the global economy".

Ali also highlighted Guyana's achievements in areas like carbon credit sales, sustainable forestry, and mineral mapping, which support the global transition to cleaner energy. These efforts, he said, prove that "developing countries can deliver real solutions through hard work and partnership", and emphasised the importance of partnerships and international cooperation, citing Guyana's successful alliances with Norway and the UK's Kings Foundation.

The high-level discussion, which focused on "Restoring Ambition for International Climate and Development" also featured insights from international environmental advisor Erik Solheim, a former Norwegian Minister of Climate and the Environment.

Also contributing to the dialogue were Guyanese officials, including Senior Minister with Responsibility for Finance and Public Service, Dr Ashni Singh; Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall; and other cabinet ministers, along with members of the diplomatic corps, regional officials, and representatives from the Guyana Forestry Commission and the Guyana Energy Agency.

President Ali's statements underscored a bold vision for a more inclusive and equitable global climate response.

As he concluded, "The global south is proving that innovative solutions to the climate crisis can, and are being driven from all corners of the world."

This optimism offers a hopeful outlook for a future where all nations, regardless of size or wealth, can contribute to the fight against climate change.

Dark clouds of climate change forming over Caribbean region

An Indo-Caribbean World Special LJI Report

As the Caribbean faces the full force of climate change, nations like Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Barbados, and Jamaica find themselves at a critical crossroads. The impacts are already severe, with projections suggesting that these effects will intensify, threatening both economic stability and the very livelihoods of millions of people.

The economies of the Caribbean are particularly vulnerable to climate change due to their dependence on sectors that are highly sensitive to environmental conditions, such as tourism and agriculture.

According to the World Bank, the region is already experiencing the "tip of the climate change spear", with slow-onset events like droughts and floods and sudden disasters such as hurricanes, disrupting economic activities and livelihoods across these islands.

For instance, in Guyana, where agriculture forms a significant part of the economy, rising sea levels and extreme weather conditions pose a high risk to crop yields and livestock production. According to the World Bank Group's Climate Change Portal (CCP), Barbados faces an increased threat from flooding due to its low-lying coastal plains, where most of the population and infrastructure are concentrated.

In Trinidad and Tobago, rising sea levels threaten key infrastructure, and coastal erosion is expected to become increasingly problematic in the decades ahead. This will inevitably affect economic activities, particularly in areas where tourism and agriculture are central to livelihoods.

Barbados has seen extensive efforts to manage its coastal zones through initiatives like the Coastal Zone Management Unit. However, even with such measures, the island continues to grapple with the impacts of rising sea levels and more frequent hurricanes, which damage critical infrastructure and diminish its appeal as a tourist destination, according to CCP.

Then there is the escalating threat from hurricanes and extreme weather. The frequency and intensity of hurricanes in the Caribbean have increased substantially since the early 1980s, particularly for the most severe storms (Categories 4 and 5). Research indicates that this trend is likely to continue as global temperatures rise.

The Atlantic hurricane season of 2023 was notable for several powerful storms, with seven hurricanes and three major hurricanes recorded. As National Climate Assessment and Our World in Data note, this development marks an increasing trend in the intensity of hurricanes, attributed in part to warmer sea surface temperatures that is driven by climate change.

In addition to the increased intensity, hurricanes are now more likely to undergo rapid intensification, making them more



Hurricane Beryl hit the Caribbean earlier this year

dangerous. For example, between 1980 and 2021, 73 percent of the most costly tropical cyclones in the US, many of which impacted the Caribbean, underwent rapid intensification, a phenomenon closely linked to ocean warming, Climate Central has noted.

Add to these developments rising sea levels, which now pose one of the most direct threats to the Caribbean. Guyana, for instance, is at risk of losing significant portions of its land to the sea, which could displace large numbers of people, and put immense pressure on the government to provide new housing and infrastructure, CCP has reported.

It is a similar situation in Trinidad and Tobago, where rising seas threaten coastal areas, leading to loss of land and impacts on population density and employment opportunities.

The effects are compounded by the increased frequency of extreme weather events. Ocean acidification and tropical cyclones are expected to worsen, further impacting coastal areas and contributing to economic instability. Without significant adaptation measures, the economic costs associated with these disruptions could reach \$22 billion annually by 2050, the World Bank has noted.

Tourism, a major economic driver for the Caribbean, is especially at risk from climate change. In Trinidad and Tobago, the growing intensity of hurricanes, along with sea level rise and coral bleaching, threatens the natural attractions that are vital

to the tourism industry.

Coral reefs, which support fisheries and protect coastlines during storms, are particularly vulnerable to rising ocean temperatures. Since the 1980s, three major global coral bleaching events have occurred, with the most recent (2015-2017) causing widespread damage in the Caribbean.

As World Resources Institute and CCP have noted, coral bleaching not only affects marine biodiversity, but also diminishes the region's attractiveness as a tourist destination, leading to significant economic losses.

Jamaica, another key tourism hub, faces similar threats. Rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns are contributing to more severe weather events, while sea level rise erodes beaches and damages marine ecosystems. These challenges not only deter tourists, but also increase the cost of maintaining and rebuilding damaged infrastructure, further straining national budgets.

Looking forward, the prognosis is grim unless immediate action is taken. Over the next decade, the Caribbean is likely to experience more frequent and intense natural disasters, leading to economic losses and increased poverty levels. By 2040, the situation could deteriorate further, with significant portions of land potentially becoming uninhabitable due to sea-level rise.

To prepare for these forthcoming challenges, both global and regional actions are crucial. Globally, developed nations must strengthen their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide financial support for climate adaptation, and honour their obligations under international agreements such as the Paris Agreement.

As the World Resources Institute has stated, this includes funding for climate-resilient infrastructure, disaster risk management, and innovative financial tools like catastrophe bonds.

At the regional level, Caribbean governments and Caricom must bolster their efforts to manage climate resilience initiatives. This involves pooling resources, enhancing access to international climate funds, and fostering greater regional cooperation on disaster response and ecosystem management.

National policies should also prioritise the integration of climate risks into planning and budgeting processes, the promotion of renewable energy, and the development of climate-resilient infrastructure, the World Bank has stated.

At this time, the Caribbean stands at a precarious point in its history. Without coordinated global support and robust local actions, the region could face unprecedented displacement, economic collapse, and social upheaval.

Preparing for the dire effects of climate change will require a combination of international solidarity and regional innovation, with both global and local stakeholders playing critical roles in safeguarding the future of our vulnerable islands.

Money or mindset - Measuring our happiness index

By Dhanpaul Narine

Happiness is contagious! We all want to be happy. The former Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon defines happiness to mean, “working to end conflict, poverty and other unfortunate conditions in which so many of our fellow human beings live”.

In various UN studies on well-being, it was found that happy people live longer, they earn more, and they are healthier, more productive and loyal. They also heal faster.

Happiness is like a shining star. It radiates and it has the properties to be contagious. Happy people want others to be happy like them. Some psychologists believe that your success and personal growth will multiply with age. However, happiness is a relatively new field of study, and contrary to what some governments may be saying, well-being as a science is not a global oddity.

The idea of happiness has long featured in the world's religions, and many philosophers have spent years trying to explain how one can be happy. But it has remained elusive.

In 1787, a French Revolutionary leader said that happiness was a new idea in Europe. Two years later, the American Constitution stated that people had a number of inalienable rights, and among them were the right to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”.

One of the obvious problems with happiness is the ability to quantify the data. Some social scientists have looked at the economics of happiness in which statistics such as foreclosures, the impact of wars on the economy, and employment and inflation are examined. In order to arrive at some consensus, surveys are carried out across different income groups to find out how satisfied people are with their lives.

As we have seen, the idea of happiness has caught on in public policy and it has become part of the national agenda. Definitions vary; what some may regard as happy may differ in other places.

In India, a farmer with a tiny plot of land and eight children may be considered poor, but he may see himself as well off because his wealth lies in his children. The business tycoon, on the other hand, may have all the outward comforts of life, but he cannot sleep soundly because of security reasons, or because his investments appear to be on shaky economic grounds.

Bhutan is a Himalayan kingdom. In 1972, it tried a novel idea that has made waves across the world. The monarch, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, decided to move away from Gross National Product to Gross National Happiness. The King said Bhutan should spread wealth



Ban Ki-moon

across the country, and at the same time, be in sync with nature. The example of Bhutan has been taken up by other policymakers, and is being discussed internationally.

The Gross National Happiness idea states that one has to think about people in broader terms.

“Material well-being is only one component. That doesn't ensure that you are at peace with your environment and in harmony with each other,” says one observer.

By the year 2000, happiness had begun to feature prominently at the United Nations. It published a World Happiness Report in 2012, and the findings were most surprising. On a scale of zero to ten, it was found that the happiest country was Denmark, followed by Norway, Finland, and the Netherlands. They scored 7.6 on the table.

The least happy countries are the poorest ones, and many of them are to be found in Africa. For example: Togo, Benin, the Central African Republic, and Sierra Leone have scores of 3.4, but it was not just poverty that made people unhappy. There were other factors such as the absence of political freedom, strong social bonds, and corruption.

At the individual level, there were considerations such as mental health, security in employment, and the support of the family.

In view of the politically unstable climate in some countries, national security ought to be on the list as well. It is said that mental health “is the biggest single factor affecting happiness in any country. But only 25 percent of mentally ill persons get treatment for their condition in advanced countries and fewer in poorer countries”.

The other reasons for happiness are stable families and the involvement of parents in the



Jigme Singye Wangchuck

lives of their children. What is striking in the UN survey is that in rich countries, women are happier than men, and it is mixed in poor countries. In 2014, the UN Secretary General described the ecology of happiness to mean the three pillars of sustainable development. They include social, economic, and environmental well-being. Together, according to the UN, they define gross global happiness.

The comments of Bhutan's former Minister of Education remain instructive. He says that although his country is poor the people are happy. How is this possible? According to Thakur Singh Powydel, “It is easy to mine the land and fish the seas and get rich. Yet we believe you cannot have a prosperous nation in the long run that does not conserve its natural environment, or talk of the well-being of its people, which is being borne out by what is happening to the outside world.”

What is happening needs careful attention. A Report from the British Aid Group Oxfam states that, “The share of the world's wealth is owned by the best-off one percent. This has increased from 44 percent in 2009 to 48 percent in 2014, while among the least well-off 80 percent currently own just 5.5 percent.”

How can one be happy with this disparity? There is no question that global inequality is growing fast, and despite the pronouncements at Davos, and elsewhere, no one seems to have the answer to redress the imbalances.

Thomas Piketty in his book *Capital* suggests that what we are seeing is a drift toward the 19th century when capital accumulation was paramount. In discussions on happiness, it was felt that the US with its resources would perhaps be in the top five countries.

But this is not the case as the US is in the middle. Why is it necessary to study happi-

ness since it is subjective? Economists prefer to focus on well-being, and they argue that while hedonic well-being can be measured, evaluative well-being is broader, since it deals with how people think of their lives as a whole.

When these components are measured, a better picture of human welfare emerges. However, the task is to use the data to plan for the well-being of the nation. Can money buy happiness? The answer is that money does matter because it presents more choices. If one accepts this argument, then the US should top the list. But there are other factors that need to be addressed, and they relate to stability, the quality of governance, education and health.

Carol Graham argues that in the US there is insecurity as far as health care is concerned. According to one observer, there are extremes in the US about how happiness is perceived. You have “very unhappy and very happy people”. One reason for this is that you may have choices but if there is insecurity well-being is affected. The Scandinavian countries have done well in terms of personal security, but in the poor countries, personal security is absent. Money is important, but people should learn to live within their means, and when this happens the basis is there for contentment.

What about religion and happiness? There are many persons that read all kinds of self-help books searching for the panacea for happiness. They try different sorts of meditation, and move to warmer climes, make new friends, and even sign up for courses at college. But these seldom work and people turn to religion to find happiness. Does religion make a person happy?

A 1990 study in Europe found that 86 percent of churchgoers reported that they were happy with life. There are two explanations for the relationship between happiness and religion. The first is social support. People are happier when they are around others.

They get comfort, especially the poor and elderly and those in ill-health. Many houses of worship have a number of social programs such as food pantries, health fairs, homework help for children, computer classes, language instruction, and programs that help to keep this sense of wellbeing together.

Then there is religion itself. The feeling that one is in contact with a higher being can be a positive and intense religious experience. It can lead to long-lasting feelings of happiness. If you don't have too much or too little, are in good health, feel secure, are involved in the lives of your family, like people, and are productive, the chances are you are content with your life. You are happy. When you look in the mirror, you will like what you see.

Celebratory evening of tributes, music, and milestones for Jean Augustine

Toronto – Harbourfront Centre Theatre in Toronto was lit up on September 7 with a dazzling celebration that honoured the 87th birthday of the trailblazing Dr Jean Augustine.

The event, which doubled as a charity fundraiser, drew an impressive lineup of special guests. Among the dignitaries attending this landmark celebration were Grenada's Consul General in Toronto, Gerry Hopkin, and Brampton's Deputy Mayor, Harkirat Singh.

Also among the special guests were musical virtuosos Mungal Patasar, Professor Harold Headley, and Suzette Vidale.

The celebration and its accompanying fundraiser was a testament to Augustine's enduring legacy, and was punctuated by a mix of vibrant performances, heartfelt tributes, and an historic proclamation by the City of Brampton.

The event was co-hosted by the CaribbeanTales Film Festival, and featured a screening of *Iconography: Mungal Patasar*, a film that spotlights the renowned sitar player's journey and his innovative fusion of Caribbean and Indian musical traditions.

Patasar is an august and celebrated Trinidadian musician. That evening he took to

the stage alongside his ensemble, *Pantar*, and Professor Headley to blend the exotic tones of the sitar with the rhythmic steelpan and tabla.

The result was an exhilarating tapestry of calypso, jazz, reggae, and Indian raga that filled the theatre, captivating the audience with its overlapping, cross-cultural flair.

The evening also saw Deputy Mayor Singh presenting a proclamation, on behalf of Brampton's Mayor Patrick Brown, from the City of Brampton that declared September 9, Augustine's birthday, as “Dr Jean Augustine Day.”

Born on September 9, 1937, in Happy Hill, Grenada, Augustine carved out a legacy as one of Canada's most respected Caribbean-born community organisers.

Her journey from Grenada to Canada was marked by a series of historic firsts: the first Black woman elected to the Canadian Parliament in 1993, the first Black woman appointed to the Cabinet in 2002, and the first Fairness Commissioner of Ontario in 2007.

Augustine's relentless advocacy for women's rights, immigrant rights, and justice for visible minorities has been a beacon of change at both



Grenada's Consul General Gerry Hopkin with Dr Jean Augustine

the federal and provincial levels. Her efforts culminated in 1995, when she introduced the motion that led to the federal declaration of February as Black History Month in Canada, a landmark achievement in recognising the contributions of Black Canadians.



Dr Jean Augustine (centre) with the City of Brampton's proclamation; at right is Deputy Mayor Harkirat Singh; and at left is community organiser Dewitt Lee.

Photos courtesy the Grenada Consulate General's Facebook page

The celebratory evening also paid tribute to other trailblazers. The Augustine Award of Excellence was presented to maestro Eddie Bullen, while Patasar received the Dr Jean Augustine Lifetime Legendary Award for his eclectic contributions to music and culture.

Latest book from UWI explores freedom, identity, and historical memory

Port-of-Spain – As Trinidad and Tobago celebrated 62 years of Independence on August 31 and commemorated African Emancipation Day on August 1, the conversation around freedom, identity, and historical memory continues to gain new momentum.

In tandem with both national milestones, The University of the West Indies, at its Trinidad and Tobago St Augustine Campus, through its Department of History, has released a compelling new book titled *Independence, Colonial Relics and Monuments in the Caribbean*. This publication probes into the complexities of freedom and autonomy while scrutinising the lingering remnants of colonialism that continue to shape the identity of both Trinidad and Tobago, and the wider Caribbean region.

Edited by Dr Allison Ramsay and Dr Jerome Teelucksingh, *Independence, Colonial Relics and Monuments in the Caribbean* stands as a critical addition to the growing discourse on the Caribbean's colonial past, and its enduring impacts on present-day society.

For the editors, this book is more than an academic exercise; it is a bridge between the past and the present, a reflection on how history's shadows continue to cast its resonating shadows across the Caribbean landscape.

Dr Debbie Mc Collin, Acting Head of the History Department, positions the book within a global context, describing it as an extension of the dialogues sparked by the Black Lives Matter movement.

"As historians, we recognise our responsibility to contextualise the stories of enslaved Africans' resistance, labour, and social protests in the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as the Black Power movement of the 1970s," McCollin remarked.

Her words underscore the book's relevance in contemporary society, offering readers a lens to view historical events that continue to influence today's socio-political landscape.

The publication arrives at a moment when questions about

the representation of identity in public spaces are increasingly urgent. As McCollin highlights, "The movement raised questions about the visible and invisible wounds inflicted by our colonial past, for all groups."

Independence, Colonial Relics and Monuments in the Caribbean delves into these questions, exploring how monuments and relics of the colonial era still shape perceptions and provoke debate in a post-colonial Caribbean context.

A Senior Lecturer at The UWI, and the book's co-editor, further emphasises the complexities involved in dealing with the colonial past.

While acknowledging the calls for the removal of colonial relics as a step towards new beginnings, Teelucksingh also points out the nuanced reality of such actions

"We live in an era with the words 'cancel culture,' 'woke,' and being 'politically correct.' We are living in a historical moment that will affect the future," he stated, urging readers to consider that history, whether embraced or contested, cannot simply be erased.

Teelucksingh argues that the process of re-evaluating history must go beyond symbolic gestures, such as the removal of monuments.

"The connected history – be it good or bad – may remain, even after their removal," he declared, while issuing the reminder that memory and history are intertwined, complex, and often resistant to simplification.

Echoing a similar sentiment, Dr Allison Ramsay, another co-editor, asserted the importance of grounding Caribbean students in their regional history from an early age. "History often follows patterns involving injustice, inequality, and strategies of resistance," she explained.

At the same time, she also emphasised the educational value of the new book, and encouraged readers from diverse backgrounds to engage with the text, describing it as "an enjoyable read suitable for a wide range of audiences".

Ramsay also noted that it will serve as a valuable resource for secondary and tertiary students, as well as for anyone interested

in history, heritage, and post-colonial studies.

The book also features contributions from voices across the Caribbean, including secondary school teacher Shian Albert, whose chapter, *The Survival of Hinduism: In the Case of Temple in the Sea, Triveni Mandir, and Brothers Road Hindu Mandir*, spotlights the unsung heroes behind these cultural monuments.

Albert's perspective as an educator and author brings a personal touch to the narrative, bridging the gap between academia and the public.

"As a young student myself in the past, it was always difficult to find established literature about my community and the villages surrounding it. So I used this chapter to fill that grey area," she noted.

This inclusive approach extends across the book, which gathers contributions from a diverse group of seasoned and

emerging scholars from Barbados, Curaçao, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. Each chapter sheds light on the historical and cultural significance of monuments across the Caribbean, offering fresh perspectives on familiar narratives.

Independence, Colonial Relics and Monuments in the Caribbean is a timely and thought-provoking work, encouraging readers to re-examine their understanding of the Caribbean's past, and its implications for the future.

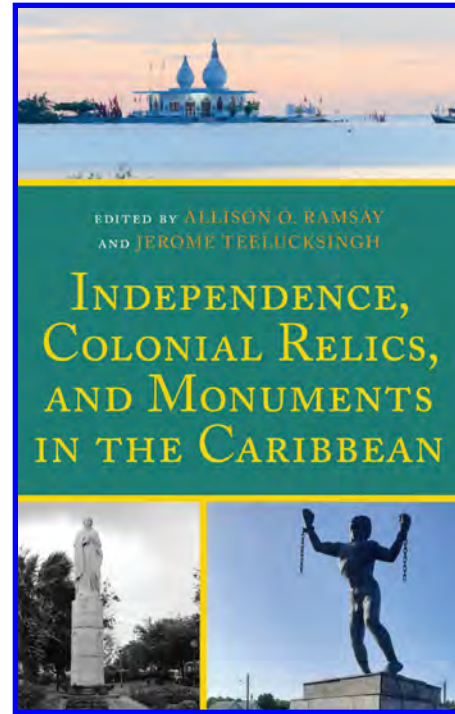
As Trinidad and Tobago marked its 62nd year of Independence last month, *Independence, Colonial Relics and Monuments in the*

Caribbean emerges from the erudition of The UWI's academics as a beacon, guiding the ongoing journey toward reclaiming and understanding a rich and complex heritage.

At the same time, it challenges readers to move beyond the surface, to confront the legacies of Trinidad and Tobago's and the Caribbean's history, and to imagine a future that honours the full scope of a shared colonial past.



Dr Jerome Teelucksingh (left) and Dr Allison Ramsay with their text, *Independence, Colonial Relics and Monuments in the Caribbean* at its launch



While working from home, Dolores set up her workstation at the kitchen table to keep an eye on two-year-old Dillon, who watched TV in the living room. During her two o'clock mid-afternoon break, she gave Dillon a snack and a bath before putting him to sleep in his room. She glanced at the baby monitor on her desk every time she heard a sound or detected a movement.

At four o'clock, Dolores closed off her workday and turned the monitor to face her while she prepared supper. Adam usually returned home from work at 5:30 and the family had supper around 6:00 every evening.

While standing at the sink, a movement at the corner of her eyes through the back window grabbed her attention. She gasped when she saw the back of a child wearing Dillon's clothes staring through the fence at the house behind their home.

A dash to Dillon's room and a glance at the open window above his empty playpen confirmed her worst fears. She darted out the back door while calling his name, but he continued to stare through the chain link fence in a trance-like state. She scooped Dillon up. As soon as she entered the house, he went limp in her arms. She put the sleeping child back to bed and left the door open.

Dolores jumped at three loud bangs on the back door. Her blood ran cold when she arrived at the door and saw a little girl of about four years old with long scraggly shoulder-length hair and a tattered once white knee-length nightgown that exposed muddy lower legs and feet.

"I want to come in now." Her smile revealed missing upper front teeth. Dolores gasped when the latch turned and the door opened on its own and the little girl vanished. A cold chill ran up and down her spine. Fighting off the fear that she was going crazy, she stepped out and glanced around the backyard, but there was no sign of the girl.

When she re-entered the house, she clutched her throat when



The Supernatural Reality Check

Dillon's laughter, accompanied by deep adult female screeches echoed around the house. Halfway through her scamper to the nursery, the door slammed shut. She yanked it open just in time to see the girl fade away from her vision, but remained visible to Dillon, who lay on the floor in the middle of the nursery with his eyes open as if staring at something that hovered above him.

"Leave my child alone!" Dolores screamed at the invisible entity. She scampered into the room. She snatched Dillon off the floor and turned to leave but a force through the open door repelled her. Her legs collapsed and she fell to her knees, hugging Dillon with one arm. She sobbed in agony and despair when her two knees and one hand on the floor failed to propel her forward. The unseen entity taunted Dolores by daring her to escape through the wide open door.

Exhaustion sucked the breath out of Dolores. She hugged Dillon and curled into a fetal position before she blacked out.

When Adam arrived home, he stood in the nursery's doorway. Dolores stared at him in shock. Her husband looked cloudy and she saw through him at a shadowy figure standing behind him. When Adam moved aside, he beckoned to the woman standing beside him. A dark-haired woman about 70 years old with a string of beads in one hand and a book in the other stepped forward with a slanted head and motherly smile at Dolores and Dillon.

"Hello Dolores and Dillon, My name is Rosemarie. I am a healer. I met Adam in the hospital and he communicated to me that he wanted me to help him and his family." She stepped into the room and sat cross-legged in front of Dolores and Dillon.

Adam appeared again in the doorway. He was flashing between becoming visible and invisible. "Dolores, you and Dillon are in no danger." She opened her book. "Let me tell you what happened so that you can understand your confusion, okay?"

Rosemarie told Dolores that she was gifted with psychic abilities and spoke with Adam who was in the hospital in a coma. She told Dolores that she was reliving the last moments of her life and was confusing days and periods while she was stuck in limbo between the living and the dead. She said that Adam wished for his family to let go and move on, and the only way to accomplish this desire was to make everyone aware of the reality of their family situation.

"It's been three years and that little girl lives here now." Rosemarie pointed behind her. "You saw her outside after she was finished playing in her sandbox but once she entered the house, you were no longer able to see her or her family." She took a breath. "The family has allowed me into their home to release you so that both families can move on."

Rosemarie told Dolores that the flame in the gas heater in Dillon's nursery had gone out and the carbon monoxide had taken his life. She said that when Dolores came into the room, she had also succumbed to the fumes. When Adam returned, he opened the window which let fresh air in, but just had enough time to call emergency before he too collapsed.

"The child you saw peering through the fence was the current homeowner's son who was watching for his friend in the back house." Rosemarie asked Dolores for them both to hold the chain of beads while she read a verse from the book.

"Hello, my family." Adam turned solid and Rosemarie vanished while he strode into the room with outstretched arms. Dolores rose to her feet and hugged Adam with Dillon between them. The absolute bliss the family felt in the afterlife could never be imagined in their life on Earth.

Adam flatlined on his bed at the hospital.



Kamil Ali



United Youths Sports & Cultural Club held its second annual *Escape On De Lake* cruise on September 1 on the sailing ship the *Enterprise 2000*. Hosted by SKF Champ, aka the versatile Sheldon Francisc, the event saw delicious food catered by Dave's Roti and Doubles in Scarborough, with music by DJ Shiva, DJ Frontline Sounds, DJ Arnel, and others. The sold out event was a fund-raiser for the United Youth Sports, which is well-regarded for its All Fours team. Supporting the event were team members from the Metro All Fours league, and from the charitable group, UNI-TnT. *Photos by Russell Lutchman*



Legacy of melody, mentorship: Iconic musician Roy Cape passes away

Port-of-Spain – Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean, and the diaspora are mourning the loss of a distinguished musical legend, Roy Cape, who passed away on September 5 at the age of 82 after suffering a fatal stroke.

Known affectionately as ‘Pappy’ and ‘The Man with the Golden Locks’, Cape’s influence on Trinidad and Tobago’s music scene – and the wider Caribbean – spanned over five decades.

His daughter, Jo-Ann Cape Julien, confirmed his passing in a heartfelt message on Facebook.

“At this time, the family of Dr Roy Cape would like to confirm his passing. This is a very difficult time for the family. Please keep us all in your prayers. As soon as details are arranged, we will notify the public,” her post stated.

Tributes then poured in from fellow musicians and admirers who were touched by Cape’s music and mentorship.

Calypsian Kurt Allen reflected on their shared history, stating, “We have shared great memories to last lifetimes, and I will be forever thankful for the opportunities that you provided since I was the age of 17. Walk Real Good!!!!”



Roy Cape

Soca legend Austin ‘SuperBlue’ Lyons also expressed sorrow, stating, “This is a very sad night for me. When I hear the passing of my

great and loving friend Dr Roy Cape, this one hit me very hard. Every week we talk and laugh about the old times we had travelling and performing all over the world. May you Rest In Peace, Fly with the Angels above. Until we meet again.”

Cape’s musical journey began in the 1960s when he started playing the saxophone with several bands, including Clarence Curvan’s orchestra and the Sparrow Troubadours. His talent was not limited to the saxophone: he also played the clarinet, and the steel pan, showcasing his versatility across Trinidad and Tobago’s rich musical landscape.

In 1980, he formed the *Roy Cape All Stars*, a band that became synonymous with excellence in Caribbean music. The group, later renamed *D’All Starz* in 2017, served as a launching pad for many successful artists, and significantly contributed to the evolution of soca and calypso music.

Cape was not just a musician, but also a mentor and leader. His commitment to nurturing young talent was evident through the establishment of the Roy Cape Foundation in 2014, aimed at bringing healing to communities through music education.

“He was a good man; an honest and humble man,” said Ray Ryan, nephew of Cape’s wife Cheryl.

Ryan added, “We knew he was ailing, but the stroke sent him home.”

Cape’s influence extended beyond the stage. In 2011, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus, recognising his substantial contributions to Caribbean music and culture.

Trinidad and Tobago’s Minister of Tourism, Culture, and the Arts Randall Mitchell offered his condolences.

In a news release, Mitchell said, “With his career spanning over half a century, Cape’s

work was truly a labour of love. We celebrate his life, filled with hard work, resilience, and patriotism. The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is grateful for Cape’s contributions, which have created positive change and provided a platform for musical development and growth. His influence will impact future generations forever. May his soul rest in peace.”

The Trinbago Unified Calypsonians Organisation also mourned his passing.

“Dr Roy Cape, fondly known as ‘Pappy’, possessed an exceptional spirit, an enduring passion for music that has left an indelible mark on the cultural landscape of our nation. Throughout his distinguished career as a musician, composer, and mentor, Dr Cape inspired countless artists, and was instrumental in shaping the sound of calypso, soca, and Caribbean music,” TUCO’s Vice-President Ras Kommanda (Steve Pascal) said.

Cape’s close friendship with the late calypso legend Black Stalin (Leroy Calliste) was well-known. Stalin’s widow, Patsy Calliste, shared her memories.

Said Calliste: “I was at home looking at cricket – the news blew me away. I got the sad news around 8 p.m. All my pores raised. From the time I called him and I said ‘Hello’, he would start to sing ‘Black man got to keep on jammin’”, referring to one of Stalin’s many hits. He would talk about how his life story was intertwined with Leroy’s. ‘Leroy is a brother’, he would say.”

Cape is survived by wife Cheryl, son Roy Cape Jr., and daughter Joanne. Another son, David, tragically died in a car accident in New York several years ago.

Capturing the collective sentiments of Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean region, and the diaspora, SuperBlue issued a respectful send-off to Cape, stating, “May you Rest In Peace, Fly with the Angels above. Until we meet again,” he stated.



A forensic team processes a crime scene in Trinidad

Govt, Opposition divided over SoE for crime

Port-of-Spain – As Trinidad and Tobago grapples with a surge in violent crime, government and Opposition MPs agree that action is needed, but are divided on whether a state of emergency (SoE) is the right solution.

So far, Trinidad and Tobago has recorded close to 440 murders for the year. Last year at this time the rate stood at 410 reported. The escalation in homicides has sparked widespread alarm along with calls for decisive measures.

The recent spate of murders this month has since intensified public concern, with some business leaders expressing support for a limited SoE in crime hotspot areas, similar to strategies that are being employed in Jamaica.



Khadijah Ameen

In Trinidad and Tobago, Opposition MP Khadijah Ameen acknowledged that the SoE implemented in 2011 had some impact, but criticised the current government for lacking innovative solutions.

“When we speak about these issues, it is because we are on the ground with people who are feeling the pain – children, adults, and pensioners alike,” Ameen said.

She added, “The government needs to get serious about crime. They have not shown any clear understanding of what is happening, what is driving the crime, or any intention of addressing its root causes.”

She added that the lack of confidence in the justice system is fueling more criminal activity. “The government is clearly out of its depth, showing they have no answers. The population, however, has one answer: to vote,” she stated.

On the other side, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government Faris Al-Rawi defended the government’s approach,

emphasising that significant legislation has been enacted to combat crime, but positive changes will take time to materialise.

“A state of emergency is not something that should be deployed lightly; it carries serious consequences,” Al-Rawi said, recalling the negative outcomes following the 2011 SoE. “What is needed now is exactly what the Minister of National Security and the National Security Council are advocating for: heavy policing and strict enforcement of the law,” he maintained.

He highlighted reforms introduced during his tenure as attorney general, notably during the Covid-19 pandemic that saw virtual courts, the abolition of preliminary inquiries, plea bargaining, and judge-only trials.

“While citizens may not feel safer immediately, change is on the way because of the work the government is doing to address crime,” he assured.

Minister in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development Adrian Leonce acknowledged the severity of the crime situation, and called for unity beyond politics. “We have been introducing a suite of legislation in an effort to gain support and move forward. I believe it is time to set politics aside and start implementing measures to effectively fight and suppress this scourge that we are all experiencing,” Leonce said.

However, Caroni Central MP Arnold Ram believes that an SoE is a viable option, noting that it was used successfully in 2011, and has worked in parts of Jamaica.

“It is either that option or some form of a limited state of emergency that needs to be considered,” Ram suggested.

CONFERENCE ON
HINDU ISSUES IN THE
CARIBBEAN & THE DIASPORA

THEME:
CARIBBEAN HINDUS:
CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

Arthur Chung Conference Centre
Georgetown, Guyana

SATURDAY, 19TH OCTOBER 2024
8.30AM - 4.30PM

Cultural Presentations : 6:00pm - 8:00pm

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS:
PRESIDENT DR MOHAMED IRFAAN ALI

FEATURE ADDRESS:
PROFESSOR DR. PRAKASH PERSAD

Plenary Session
Panel Discussions
Dinner & Cultural Presentations

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The Golden Years of Indian Cinema

Ashok Kumar: 'An inspiration for many generations of actors'

By Vidur Dindayal

An exploration of *Wikipedia* reveals a goldmine about Ashok Kumar, who I will look at in this edition, with Leela Chitnis to follow in the next.

Ashok Kumar was regarded as one of the greatest actors of his era. Before 'playback', Ashok Kumar himself sang in movies.

Famous for his roles in the first Indian cinema blockbuster *Achhut Kannya*, then *Kismet*, *Mahal* and *Pakeezah*, Ashok Kumar was called 'Dadamoni', meaning, elder brother – a term of endearment. He was that to many in the film industry.

Renowned throughout India, he is probably India's first superstar. He inspired many of his younger contemporaries, including Dilip Kumar, Dev Anand, Raj Kapoor, Shammi Kapoor, and Raaj Kumar.

Ashok Kumar appeared in Box Office India's 'Top Actors' list eight times. In 2022, he was placed in *Outlook India's* '75 Best Bollywood Actors' list.

He received numerous awards and honours, apart from individual film awards. These include: 1959 – Sangeet Natak Akademi Award; 1962 – Padma Shri by the Government of India; 1988 – Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's highest award for cinematic excellence; 1994 – Screen Lifetime Achievement Award; 1996 – Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award; 1999 – Padma Bhushan by the Government of India; 2001 – Awadh Samman by the Government of Uttar Pradesh; 2007 – Screen Special Award; and a postage stamp was issued in his honour in 2013.

Ashok Kumar was born on October 13, 1911, at Bhagalpur, in the old Bengal Presidency, (present-day Bihar, India). Born Kumudlal Ganguly to a Hindu Bengali Brahmin family, his father Kunjlal Ganguly was a lawyer; mother, Gouri Devi, was a housewife.

Kumudlal was the eldest of four children. His only sister, Sati Devi, a few years younger, married Sashadhar Mukherjee. Next was brother Kalyan (born in 1927), with screen name Anoop Kumar. Youngest was Abhas (born in 1929), screen name Kishore Kumar, the successful playback singer. Although the eldest, Ashok Kumar outlived all of his siblings.

Still a teenager, the young Kumudlal was married to Shobha Devi, a cousin of actress Chhaya Devi, a girl of his own community, in the usual Indian way – a marriage that was arranged by their parents. Their lifelong marriage was conventional; the couple lived a very middle-class life, bringing up their children with traditional values in a simple home. They were parents to son, Aroop Ganguly, and three daughters, Bharati Patel, Rupa Verma, and Preeti Ganguly.

Ashok Kumar's sister Sati became the matriarch of a large "film family". Their five sons, Rono Mukherjee, Joy Mukherjee, Deb Mukherjee, Shomu Mukherjee, and Shubir Mukherjee followed into the industry. Joy and Deb were both actors. Deb's daughter Sunita is married to director Ashutosh Gowariker.

Shomu became a director and producer. He married Tanuja, actress sister of Nutan. They are parents of actresses Kajol and Tanishaa.

Kajol is married to actor Ajay Devgan. Sashadhar's elder brother Ravindramohan Mukherjee's son, Ram Mukherjee, was a film director. He had two children, actress Rani Mukerji, and Raja Mukerji, who is a producer. Rani is married to film director, Aditya Chopra.

Ashok Kumar was educated at Presidency College, University of Calcutta. There he studied to become a lawyer, but he was more interested in cinema. He dreamt of working in films as a technician.

In the early days of the Indian film industry, when Ashok Kumar entered it, Bombay Talkies was a famous film producing studio. It was founded in 1934 by Himanshu Rai and his wife Devika Rani. Sashadhar Mukherjee, Ashok's brother-in-law worked in the studio as an assistant sound-engineer, while Ashok Kumar worked as a technician.

The movie *Jeevan Naiya* was being produced with Rai's wife Devika Rani as the leading lady. Due to an affair between her and the leading man, Rai sacked the leading man, and cast the reluctant Ashok Kumar instead. This marked the debut of Ashok Kumar's seven decades-long career in films.

Jeevan Naiya was released in 1936. The film featured the famous song *Koi Humdum Na Raha*, sung by Ashok Kumar.

Rai died in 1940. Sashadhar Mukherjee produced the studio's biggest hit *Kismet* in 1943. He then left Bombay Talkies to form Filmistan Studio in partnership with Rai Bahadur Chunilal, Ashok Kumar, and Gyan Mukherjee, with fund's given by Osman Ali Khan Nizam of Hyderabad in 1943.

Devika Rani eventually moved away from Bombay and films.

Ashok Kumar and Sashadhar Mukherjee made a bid to revive Bombay Talkies, and produced the big hit in *Mahal*. Bombay Talkies went out of business in 1953.

In 1958, Sashadhar left Filmistan to establish his own studio,



Ashok Kumar

Filmalaya. Filmistan Studio was sold by Sashadhar Mukherjee and Ashok Kumar in the late 1950s.

Ashok Kumar was active in movies from 1934 to 1997. He acted in over 320 movies.

His breakthrough in 1936 was with movie *Achhut Kannya*, featuring a Brahmin boy falling in love with a girl from the so-called 'untouchables' in Indian society.

He starred with Leela Chitnis in *Kangan* (1939); *Bandhan* (1940), and *Jhoola* (1941), which were all hits.

In 1943, Ashok Kumar starred in the blockbuster movie *Kismet*, the first Indian film to gross ten million rupees. It ran in Kolkata's Roxy Cinema for a record 184 weeks.

The patriotic song *Aaj Himalay Ki Choti Se*, written by Kavi Pradeep, was highly successful.

The mass hysteria *Kismet* created made Ashok Kumar the first big star of Indian cinema. He became so popular that he was mobbed wherever he went. Traffic would stop and often police would use *lathis* to disperse his fans.

Here are notes and highlights of Ashok Kumar's brilliant career, successful movies, hits, and his many super hits.

Chal Chal Re Naujawan (1944); *Humayun* (1945); mystery movie and blockbuster *Mahal* (1949); *Mahal's* soundtrack established the career of Lata Mangeshkar, with the superhit song *Aayega Aanewala*.

Late 1940s, early 1950s saw the advent of younger stars Dilip Kumar, Dev Anand, and Raj Kapoor. Ashok Kumar starred in 1950 blockbusters *Samadhi* and *Sangram* opposite Nalini Jaywant.

The year 1951 saw the superhit *Deedar*, with co-stars Dilip Kumar and Nargis; 1952 saw *Bewafa*, with co-stars Nargis and Raj Kapoor; in 1953 he produced and starred in *Parineeta* with Meena Kumari; 1956 produced the blockbuster *Ek Hi Raasta*, co-starring Meena Kumari and Sunil Dutt; also, *Bhai-Bhai* and *Inspector*.

In 1957, there was the major hit *Ek Saal*; 1958, the blockbuster, musical comedy *Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi*, with brothers Anoop Kumar and Kishore Kumar, gained cult status. Its soundtrack was by S.D. Burman with hit songs, *Babu Samjho Ishaare*, *Ek Ladki Bheegi Bhaagi Si*, *Hum The Woh Thi Aur Sama Rangeen* and *Haal Kaisa Hai Janaab Ka*.

In 1958, *Howrah Bridge*, the crime thriller super hit, co-starring Madhubala, with the forever popular dance numbers *Mera Naam Chin Chin Chu*, which was sung by Geeta Dutt, and which brought Helen to fame; and *Aaiye Meharban*, sung by Asha Bhosle.

At the start of the 1960s, Ashok Kumar opened up all kinds of roles. Saved from being type-cast, he played in the hit courtroom drama, *Kanoon* (1960), with stars Rajendra Kumar and Nanda. It won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film (Hindi).

The year 1961 saw lead roles in box office hits *Rakhi*, and *Aarti*. Then in 1962 he received his first Filmfare Award for Best Actor, for portraying a doting brother in *Rakhi*.

In 1963 there was the romantic thriller superhit *Gumrah*, co-starring Sunil Dutt, Mala Sinha, Shashikala, and Nirupa Roy. It received a nomination in the Filmfare Award for Best Actor, and Ashok Kumar won his first BFJA (Bengal Film Journalists' Association) Award for Best Actor (Hindi); then there was suc-

cess in *Mehrbani*, for which he was nominated in the Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor.

In 1963, there were co-stars Rajendra Kumar and Sadhana in the blockbuster *Mere Mehboob*; Naushad music dominated the charts as the second best-selling Hindi film music album of the 1960s.

In 1964, Ashok Kumar played in semi-hits, *Pooja Ke Phool*, and *Phoolon Ki Sej* with Dharmendra and Manoj Kumar in lead respectively; in 1965 there was the hit *Bheegi Raat*.

The 1966 blockbuster *Mamta* saw leads from Dharmendra and Suchitra Sen; Afsana won the Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor. There was also success in *Bandini*, with awards from Filmfare – Best Director; National Film Award – Best Feature Film; and Filmfare – Best Film.

Ashok Kumar starred in two biggest hits of that year: *Jewel Thief*, and *Mehrbani*, and was nominated for the Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor.

In 1968 saw huge success in *Aashirwad*, with the portrayal of a loving father. Its song *Rail Gaadi Chhuk Chhuk Chhuk Chhuk*, sung by Ashok Kumar himself, is considered the first rap song of Indian cinema. He won Filmfare Awards Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor, and National Film Awards for Best Actor and BFJA Award for Best Actor.

In 1969, Ashok Kumar co-starred with Sanjay Khan and Sadhana in the superhit, *Intaqam*; then there was a guest appearance in the blockbuster *Aradhana*, which made Rajesh Khanna a superstar. *Satyakam* won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film (Hindi).

The 1970s saw domination by a new generation of stars, among them Rajesh Khanna, Dharmendra, Amitabh Bachchan, Manoj Kumar, Shashi Kapoor, Jeetendra, Vinod Khanna, and Rishi Kapoor. Ashok Kumar worked with them in various successful films.

In 1970 he played important roles in the superhits *Sharafat* co-starring Dharmendra and Hema Malini; and in *Safar*, with leads Rajesh Khanna, Sharmila Tagore, and Feroz Khan. Also, 1970 saw him with Manoj Kumar as director in the patriotic drama *Purab Aur Paschim*, a blockbuster in India and overseas.

He had a hit with *Naya Zamana* in 1971. In 1972, he starred in the massive blockbuster *Pakeezah*, starring Meena Kumari and Raaj Kumar. It was Kumari's final film appearance, as she passed away few weeks after its release.

Ashok Kumar then appeared in role of doting grandfather in blockbuster *Anuraag*, and a crook in superhit *Victoria No. 203*, for which, in 1973 he was nominated for the Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor.

In 1975 there was the superhit *Chori Mera Kaam*, co-starring Shashi Kapoor and Zeenat Aman. He appeared with Amitabh Bachchan and Jaya Bachchan in *Mili*. There were two major hits in 1976: *Chhoti Si Baat*, and *Suntan*, and was nominated in 1977 for the Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of a retired colonel in *Chhoti Si Baat*.

The year 1977 saw successful films of the decade that included *Dream Girl*, *Anand Ashram*, *Anurodh*, *Chala Murari Hero Banne*, and *Safed Jhooth*. In 1978 there were *Dil Aur Deewaar*, *Anpadh*, and *Khatta Meetha*.

Ashok Kumar began next decade with supporting roles in the hit films *Khubsoorat*, *Jyoti Bane Jwala*, *Sau Din Saas Ke*, and *Judaai*.

In 1981 there were commercial successes with *Maan Gaye Ustaad*, and *Jyoti*. In 1982 he played the lead role in *Shaukeen*, which was a box office success, and is now considered a cult classic. In 1983 he appeared in the acclaimed *Pasand Apni Apni*, which was a remake of the British film *Happy Go Lovely*.

In 1984, Ashok Kumar co-starred with Dilip Kumar and Rishi Kapoor in the drama *Duniya*, and television debut with the soap opera *Hum Log*.

And 1985 saw supporting roles in the commercial hit *Tawaif*, and the mystery thriller *Durgaa*.

Towards late 1980s, Ashok Kumar's workload slowed due to declining health. In 1986, he played the title role in the highly acclaimed TV show *Bahadur Shah Zafar*. The year 1987 saw supporting roles in three hits: *Mr India*, *Watan Ke Rakhwale*, and *Jawab Hum Denge*. He then appeared in films *Inteqam* (1988), *Clerk* (1989), *Majboor* (1990), *Begunaah* (1991), *Humlaa* (1992), *Aasoo Bane Angaarey* (1993), and *Return of Jewel Thief* (1996).

There were more successes in television, with the shows *Bheem-Bhavani* (1990), and *Tehkikaat* (1994).

Ashok Kumar quit acting after making an appearance in the romantic drama *Ankhon Mein Tum Ho*, starring Sharad Kapoor, Suman Ranganathan, and Rohit Roy.

He died at the age of 90 in Mumbai on December 10, 2001 of heart failure at his residence in Chembur. The then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee described him as "an inspiration... for many generations of aspiring actors".



Ekta Kapoor



Deepika Padukone



Perna Arora

Bollywood's road to equality long and winding

The Indian film industry, often characterised by its glitz and glamour, has long grappled with an underlying issue of gender disparity and unequal pay for male and female actors. Despite the progress made over the years, the industry remains largely male-dominated, with many women still struggling to carve out a meaningful space for themselves.

Recent statements from prominent actresses and filmmakers have brought renewed attention to these issues, underscoring both the persistence of old prejudices and the emergence of new possibilities.

For decades, Bollywood has been a male-centric domain where female-driven narratives often take a back seat to films led by male stars. As producer Perna Arora remarks, the journey for women in Bollywood has been arduous.

"We have come a long way, but even today, women-led films continue to receive unequal treatment in terms of resources and support compared to big-budgeted films that are led by heroes," she stated, reflecting on her experiences in the industry.

Nevertheless, Arora remains optimistic about the industry's future, pointing to the increasing presence of women both in front of and behind the camera.

"There was a time when film sets didn't have a single female; today, at least 30-50 percent of the crew are women. More females are telling their stories."

Arora's sentiment captures a dual reality in Bollywood: while change is underway, it is often slow and uneven.

Female filmmakers like Ekta Kapoor, Rhea Kapoor, Guneet Monga, and Arora herself have supported and amplified the push for gender equality. The recent success of films such as *Crew* highlights the growing acceptance of female-driven stories, a phenomenon that would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

Crew was written by Nidhi Mehra and Mehul Suri. A comedy-thriller from director Rajesh Krishnan, it stars Tabu, Kareena Kapoor, and Kriti Sanon. When the movie premiered in India in March, it swiftly became the third-highest-grossing Hindi film of 2024, and one of Bollywood's top-grossing women-led films.

"Even if there's a long way to go, we've reached halfway," Arora adds, suggesting a cautious yet hopeful outlook on the industry's trajectory.

Yet, the discussion around pay parity remains a contentious issue, with many female actors openly addressing the significant wage gap that still exists.

Actress Lara Dutta, in a recent interview, lamented the persistent pay disparity, stating, "We work as hard, if not harder, than most of our male counterparts in the business, but most women still get paid, if they are lucky, one-tenth of what the actor gets paid," she stated.

Dutta's assertion brings to light the financial inequalities that women continue to face, despite their substantial contributions to the film industry.

Sonam Kapoor, another leading voice on gender equality in Bollywood, echoed similar concerns during her appearance at the Creative Industries and Cultural Economy Summit at London's Nehru Centre. According to *Variety*, Kapoor pointed out that although Bollywood is evolving, the changes are not happening quickly enough.

"The gender pay gap is humongous. And I don't think that will be narrowing very soon, unfortunately, but the roles are getting meatier for sure," she stated.

Kapoor also praised her contemporaries, such as Alia Bhatt and Deepika Padukone, for pursuing roles where they could play the central character, highlighting a trend towards stronger female representation on screen.

Bollywood's gender pay gap has also been addressed by global star Priyanka Chopra Jonas.

Speaking to the *British Broadcasting Corporation*, Chopra Jonas revealed, "I've never had pay parity in Bollywood... I would get paid about ten percent of the salary of my male co-actor. [The pay gap] is large, substantially large."

Chopra Jonas' candid admission underscores the pervasive nature of the problem, even for high-profile actresses with substantial influence and fame.

Actress Jacqueline Fernandez added her voice to the debate, expressing cautious optimism about the progress being made.

In a recent interview, she acknowledged the growing representation of women in Bollywood, but stressed the need for more significant strides.

"We have strong female representation now, which is such a relief! But we can push the envelope a lot more," she commented, urging continued efforts to support female-centric films and encourage women to take on leadership roles behind the camera.

However, the issue of gender bias in Bollywood extends beyond pay parity. Actress Raveena Tandon recently highlighted the different ways male and female actors are treated in the industry, a point noted by *The Bombay Times*.

Tandon criticised the media's tendency to categorise female actors by age, or the era they belong to, while male actors are often spared such labels.

"You don't say 'Superstar of the 90s Aamir Khan,' but you do it with actresses like Madhuri Dixit,"

Tandon stated during the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit 2022. She argued that such language diminishes the accomplishments of female actors, and restricts them to a specific period, whereas male actors continue to be celebrated regardless of their age.

Tandon's remarks bring to light another dimension of gender discrimination in Bollywood, where actresses often find their careers stunted once they reach a certain age. This contrasts sharply with their male counterparts, who enjoy sustained careers and opportunities well into their later years.

As *The Bombay Times* noted, this has been a recurring issue in the industry, reflecting a broader societal tendency to marginalise older women while celebrating men.

However, despite these challenges, the tide is slowly turning. With more female filmmakers, actors, and crew members stepping into the spotlight, Bollywood is beginning to reflect a broader range of stories and voices.

While the road to full gender parity may be long, the progress made thus far is undeniable. As more women take charge and redefine the narrative, the industry is evolving into a space where everyone has a chance to shine, irrespective of gender.

While Bollywood still has a long way to go in terms of achieving true gender equality, the signs of change are promising. With more women telling their stories, occupying leadership positions, and challenging entrenched norms, the future of the Indian film industry looks brighter.

The hope is that these conversations will continue to pave the way for a more inclusive, equitable Bollywood, where talent and hard work inside a meritocracy, not gender, determine success.

Mizra speaks to gender bias

Bollywood actress Dia Mirza recently opened up about the systemic gender bias and the grueling work conditions faced by women in the industry. In an interview with the *Times of India*, Mirza discussed the immense pressure on female actors to meet unrealistic standards and called for changes to better accommodate women.

Reflecting on the oppressive expectations, Mirza shared how these pressures deeply affected her.

"I was hurt. I was horrified. I was intimidated. I was filled with fears because that is what was fed to us by the media, by the industry. *Aurat ho, toh aapki shelf life hoti hai* (You have a shelf life because you are a woman). Be in your 20s," she stated, highlighting the pressure young actresses face to conform to specific age and appearance standards.



Mirza emphasised how female actors are often sidelined unless they fit a shapely mold. "You will not be cast with the stars. The male superstars need you to be a certain age. You have to look a certain way. You have to be a certain weight," she explained, reflecting on the industry's unwritten rules.

"Every single actress who came into the industry in the early 2000s was told that you have to be a certain weight, look a certain way, and be single."

Mirza also called for changes to accommodate women better in the industry. She pointed out the demanding nature of film shoots, stating, "[Women] in the workplace are also running their homes. And if you absorb them into film shoots for 12, 14, 16 hours, then it leaves them very little time to be able to do much else."

She argued for a return to shorter workdays, emphasising, "Certain rules should apply to both men and women where work time should not be extended more than eight hours. We should have eight-hour days like we used to in the old days. Nobody shot beyond eight hours. There used to be a shift, a maximum of 1.5 shifts. Now we work up to 2.5 shifts, which is very difficult."



Preeti Jhangiani (second from right) and husband Parvin Dabas (right) with Mumbai police

Jhangiani dials up success

In a story that underscores the importance of staying connected, Bollywood actress Preeti Jhangiani has praised the Mumbai police for their swift and efficient efforts in recovering her lost phone. The actress, known for her role in the 2000 blockbuster *Mohabbatein*, took to social media to express her gratitude, highlighting the exemplary service of the police force.

Jhangiani shared her experience on X, posting a photo alongside her husband, Parvin Dabas, and Mumbai police. She commended the officers involved, stating, "Thank you, Sr PI Sanjay Marathe sir, API Vijay Acharekar sir, PC Ravi Gayakwad, and PC Sanghapal Lahane for the fantastic, prompt action in finding my phone. Within 2 hours, the phone was in my hand. Mumbai Police is the best @CPMumbaiPolice."

Her post quickly arrested online attention, with social media lauding the Mumbai police for their efficiency and dedication. The actress' experience was read as a testament to the commitment by Mumbai's police to serving the public, even in seemingly small matters as a top actress losing her phone.

Jhangiani first captured attention with her debut in *Mohabbatein*, and has since appeared in films such as *Chehraa*, *Jaane Hoga Kya*, and *Waah! Tera Kya Kehna*.

Most recently, in 2023, she starred in the Sony LIV web series *Kafas*. Beyond her acting career, Jhangiani is also an entrepreneur, running Swen Entertainment and the Pro Panja League.

Jhangiani and husband, Parvin Dabas, met on the sets of *With Love Tumhara* in 2006, and have been married since 2008. They have two children, Dev and Jaiveer.

Her latest social media post not only highlighted a positive interaction and outcome with law enforcement in Mumbai, but also set the stage for connecting with her fans on how to dial up community support in a time of crisis.



Marketing poster from the movie *Crew*



Pooran (left) signs a West Indies jersey after joining the bmobile family as a brand ambassador, while TSTT acting CEO Kent Western looks on

Pooran makes masterstroke off the pitch

Port-of-Spain – In a masterstroke both on and off the pitch, Nicholas Pooran – one of the world’s premier T20 batsmen – has joined forces with telecommunications giant bmobile to drive a different kind of innings: one that transcends the boundary ropes and touches communities across Trinidad and Tobago.

At just 28, Pooran’s cricketering career is already the stuff of legend. Now, with bmobile’s backing, he is set to extend his influence beyond the cricket field, inspiring the next generation to aim high, both in sports and life.

“My goal is to finally lift the CPL trophy and make Trinidad and Tobago proud,” Pooran said.

At this time, his determination is evident as he continues to dominate the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League for the Trinbago Knight Riders.

“We’ve got a strong team, and I’ll do whatever it takes to get us over the line,” he added.

But right now while his sights are firmly set on cricketering glory for TKR, Pooran is equally committed to making a difference off the field through his new partnership at the wicket with bmobile.

This collaboration with the telecommunications company, announced on September 16, is not just another sponsorship, but a strategic alliance aimed at social change.

For this objective Pooran expressed his enthusiasm, saying, “I’m truly excited about this partnership with bmobile. I believe it will help motivate the upcoming generations, not only on the cricket field, but in every aspect of their lives.”

He added, “With the support of bmobile, I’m confident we can make a meaningful difference in communities across the country.”

As the newest ambassador for bmobile,

India prepare for rigorous cricket ahead

India’s Test squad hit the ground running in Chennai last week as the team gears up for a long season ahead that will test both new talent and seasoned veterans.

With two Tests against Bangladesh, three against New Zealand, and five against Australia on the horizon, India’s preparation has been intense, blending strategy with a touch of familiar faces – both on and off the field.

In the searing heat of the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Virat Kohli returned to the red-ball format after nearly nine months, while Rishabh Pant readied himself to reignite his Test career after a two-year hiatus.

Under the watchful eyes of team mentor Gautam Gambhir, and captain Rohit Sharma, India’s batters, including rising stars Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill, navigated between specialised pitches.

One was designed to replicate conditions with rough footmarks, and the other prepared

Pooran steps into a role that complements his growing status as an international sports icon. Joining the ranks with Trinidad and Tobago’s two-time Olympic medallist, Keshorn Walcott, Pooran embodies the core values that bmobile strives to promote.

“Both athletes embody the values of hard work, determination, and excellence – qualities that align with bmobile’s commitment to recognising and nurturing sporting talent at all levels,” the company noted.

Kent Western, Acting CEO of TSTT, hailed Pooran as a “global role model,” praising his exceptional achievements and dedication.

“Nicholas Pooran is not just a cricketer; he is a global role model. His exceptional achievements and determination resonate with what we, at bmobile, strive for – pushing boundaries, inspiring greatness, and building a better future for the next generation,” said Western.

“We believe this partnership will produce match-winning performances, creating pathways for aspiring athletes across the nation,” he added.

Reflecting on his expanding role beyond the boundary, Pooran remarked, “It’s humbling when young cricketers say they want to be like me. I never saw myself as a role model, but it’s important to be one both on and off the field. This partnership will help me further contribute to developing the next wave of cricketering talent in Trinidad and Tobago.”

For bmobile, this partnership is part of a broader commitment to corporate social responsibility.

It added, “Our collaboration with... Pooran is not just about cricket. It’s about recognising his potential to inspire greatness and helping build a brighter future for our communities.”

with a balance of pristine and roughed-up areas – each offering unique challenges meant to sharpen their skills against left-arm spin threats like Bangladesh’s Shakib Al Hasan.

Jasprit Bumrah, making a spirited return to the nets after his last appearance in the T20 World Cup, combined powerful strokes with rigorous fitness drills. Meanwhile, fast bowling prospects like Yash Dayal were put through a demanding session, building toward a crucial showdown later this year.

As India’s players move into full gear, the countdown is on for the first Test against Bangladesh in Chennai on September 19, marking the beginning of their bid to maintain the top spot in the World Test Championship standings.

“We are starting after a long time actually,” Sharma acknowledged, aware of the challenges of a packed schedule, and the strain it places on the team, especially the bowlers.

Citing fading light, Ali calls it a day

Moeen Ali declared his innings over on the international pitch earlier this month, bringing an end to a career that saw the off-spinner all-rounder flourishing with bat and ball across all three formats of the game for England.

The 37-year-old spin-bowling all-rounder, known for his deft flicks off the pads and his devilish turn, announced, “I’ve done my part,” after being left out of England’s squad for the upcoming white-ball series against Australia.

For Ali, the decision to step back and play a defensive shot was not just about not making the pick; it was also about knowing when to step away from the crease.

“I’m 37 years old and didn’t get picked for this month’s Australia series,” he stated.

Additionally, “I’ve played a lot of cricket for England. It’s time for the next generation.” His exit coincides with England undergoing quiet, tectonic reshuffling that have since seen head coach Matthew Mott shown

the door, and other senior players like Jonny Bairstow stepping aside, signaling the end of an era.

Ali, who wore many hats for England – from vice-captain to pinch-hitting opener, from key middle-order anchor to occasional frontline spinner – indicated an understanding that the time had come where the bat must be handed over to younger players eager to take their guard.

“I could hold on and try to play for England again, but I know in reality I won’t,” he admitted. “It’s about being real to myself.”

With 68 Tests, 138 ODIs, and 92 T20Is on his cumulative scorecard, Ali leaves behind a

legacy that includes 204 Test wickets and five Test centuries – not bad for a player who was often shuffled up and down the order.

“I’m especially proud of taking 204 Test wickets. I’m also proud of getting five Test hundreds. It’s only five, but it means a lot, especially when I was often down the order,” he said.

But Ali is not quite finished with cricket. He still has the appetite to take on the challenges of franchise cricket, and has his sights set on the coaching box, he stated.

“Coaching is something I want to do – I want to be one of the best,” he revealed.

He added, “I can learn a lot from Brendon McCullum. I hope people remember me as a free spirit. I played some nice shots and some bad shots, but hopefully, people enjoyed watching me.”

His career has been a scorecard dotted with many memorable moments: among them, he was a key part of England’s World Cup-winning teams in 2019 and 2022; then there was a brief retirement from Tests in 2021, only to answer the

call of the Ashes in 2023, and a swan song in the T20 World Cup semi-final against India.

Ali’s innings in the game was anything but predictable, much like his unpredictable off-breaks that often left batters shuffling with wonderment.

In a tribute, Phil Tufnell, the former England spinner, praised Ali’s elegance and impact, saying, “Moeen was a silky smooth batter, and a destructive batter as well. His cover drive was a thing of beauty – not a lot of foot movement, just absolute timing.” Tufnell added,

“He was one of those guys where you could throw him the ball in the fourth innings and he could do a job – more than a job – beautifully.”



Moeen Ali



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Australia women celebrate following their 2024 World Cup win

ICC closes Women's T20 World Cup pay gap

In a decisive delivery, the International Cricket Council has leveled the playing field, announcing that the champions of the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup will pocket an unprecedented [all currency in USD] \$2.34 million – matching the prize money awarded to their male counterparts earlier this year.

This landmark decision, revealed on September 17, marks a 134 percent increase from the US \$1 million Australia earned for their victory in 2023, signaling a new era for women's cricket where financial equity is no longer a distant dream, but perhaps a present reality.

The overall prize pool for the upcoming tournament, set to kick off in the UAE on October 3, swells to a robust \$7.95 million – a staggering 225 percent rise from last year's US \$2.45 million.

This increase not only highlights the ICC's commitment to fostering growth in the women's game, but also positions the 2024 World Cup edition as the first in history to offer prize money equity, a milestone reached seven years ahead of the ICC's original 2030 schedule.

"The ICC is committed to accelerating the growth of women's cricket," the governing body said in a statement, emphasising its strategy to provide equal prize money for comparable events.

It added, "The only difference in prize money this year is due to the number of teams and matches in the men's event."

While the men's tournament featured 20 teams, the women's event has ten, a factor that contributes to the slight difference in the pay-out figures.

India, winners of the 2024 Men's T20 World

Cup, walked away with \$2.45 million following their victory in that edition. In contrast, the women's champions will receive \$2.34 million, underscoring the ICC's bold step towards parity in the sport.

The financial windfall extends beyond the champions. The runners-up of the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup will receive \$1.17 million – more than double the \$500,000 South Africa earned as losing finalists in 2023.

Semi-finalists will now take home \$675,000 each, up from \$210,000 last year, while every one of the ten participating teams is guaranteed a minimum of \$112,500, ensuring financial recognition across the board.

The commitment to fairness also reshapes the distribution for other stages. During the group phase, each game-winning team will earn \$31,154, with a total of \$1.35 million allocated for teams eliminated before the semi-finals, a substantial increase from the \$180,000 pool shared in 2023.

Teams finishing third or fourth in their groups will receive \$270,000 each, while those finishing fifth will pocket \$135,000.

The ICC also announced a change in the schedule of games in Sharjah on October 5. Previously, Bangladesh and England were playing the afternoon game, with Australia and Sri Lanka playing each other in the evening. In the revised schedule, Australia and Sri Lanka will play in the afternoon, and England will take on Bangladesh in the evening.

The 2024 Women's T20 World Cup begins in Sharjah on October 3, with Bangladesh playing Scotland, and Pakistan taking on Sri Lanka.

Rain washes out NZ-Afghanistan game

It was a case of the heavens opening up to let loose incessant rain, the five day down-pour putting a damper on the much-anticipated one-off Test between New Zealand and Afghanistan in Greater Noida, India.

For the eighth time in Test cricket history, and the first on Indian soil, not a single ball was bowled, leaving both sides marooned by the weather.

New Zealand head coach Gary Stead lamented that the week had been spent playing "hallway cricket", far from the ideal preparation for their crucial upcoming World Test Championship matches against Sri Lanka and India.

Stead expressed his disappointment, saying, "It's frustrating for us... The most disappointing part is that we've lost that ability to be match-hardened and match-ready."

New Zealand had been eager to face Afghanistan, a team they have battled fiercely in recent World Cups, but the voluminous rain turned preparation into an exercise in patience.

"It was an opportunity to play Afghanistan... They have some unique bowlers," he

added, underscoring the significance of the lost match.

Afghanistan's coach, Jonathan Trott, echoed a similar sentiment, noting that player safety took precedence over any hopes of salvaging the match with a limited-overs game on the final day.



Gary Stead

"There's obviously a huge desire to play cricket, but the safety of the players... you've got to take that into account," Trott said.

He also pointed to the unprecedented weather, remarking, "The amount of water that has come down is unprecedented for this time of year, or the last three days."

As the sodden pitch was unveiled on the fifth morning, well after the Test had been abandoned, and it confirmed what everyone feared: a soaked surface unfit for play.

Trott reflected ruefully on the missed opportunity, saying, "The real sad thing is, it was going to be a really good pitch and a good contest."

In the end, both teams left Greater Noida with the shared disappointment of a match that never had a chance, a stark reminder of the game's vulnerability to the whims of weather.

Cricket Schedule

(Matches ALL TIMES LOCAL)

<p>Sunday September 15, 2024 Australia tour of England, 2024 England vs Aus., 3rd T20I, Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester, 6:30 PM</p> <p>Wednesday September 18, 2024 Afghanistan v SA in UAE, 2024 Afghanistan vs SA, 1st ODI, Sharjah Cricket Stadium, Sharjah, 10:00 AM NZ tour of Sri Lanka, 2024 Sri Lanka vs NZ, 1st Test, Day 1, Galle Int. Stadium, Galle, 10:00 AM</p> <p>Thursday September 19, 2024 Bangladesh tour of India, 2024 India vs Ban., 1st Test, Day 1, MA Chidam. Stadium, Chennai, 9:30 AM Australia tour of England, 2024 England vs Australia, 1st ODI, Trent Bridge, Nottingham, 11:00 AM NZ tour of Sri Lanka, 2024 Sri Lanka vs NZ, 1st Test, Day 2, Galle Int. Stadium, Galle, 10:00 AM.</p> <p>Friday September 20, 2024 Bangladesh tour of India, 2024 India vs Ban., 1st Test, Day 2, MA Chidam. Stadium, 9:30 AM Afghanistan vs SA in UAE, 2024 Afghanistan vs South Africa, 2nd ODI, Sharjah Cricket Stadium, Sharjah, 4:00 PM New Zealand tour of Sri Lanka, 2024 Sri Lanka vs New Zealand, 1st Test, Day 3, Galle International Stadium, Galle, 10:00 AM</p> <p>Saturday September 21, 2024 Australia tour of England, 2024 England vs Australia, 2nd ODI, Headingley, Leeds, 11:00 AM Bangladesh tour of India, 2024 India vs Ban., 1st Test, Day 3, MA Chidam. Stadium, Chennai, 9:30 AM New Zealand tour of Sri Lanka, 2024</p>	<p>Sri Lanka vs NZ, 1st Test, Day 4, Galle Int. Stadium, Galle, 10:00 AM</p> <p>Sunday September 22, 2024 Bangladesh tour of India, 2024 India vs Ban., 1st Test, Day 4, Chidam. Stadium, Chennai 9:30 AM Afghanistan vs SA in UAE, 2024 Afghanistan vs South Africa, 3rd ODI, Sharjah Cricket Stadium, Sharjah, 4:00 PM New Zealand tour of Sri Lanka, 2024 Sri Lanka vs New Zealand, 1st Test, Day 5, Galle International Stadium, Galle, 10:00 AM</p> <p>Monday September 23, 2024 Bangladesh tour of India, 2024 India vs Ban., 1st Test, Day 5, Chidam. Stadium, Chennai, 9:30 AM New Zealand tour of Sri Lanka, 2024 Sri Lanka vs New Zealand, 1st Test, Day 6, Galle International Stadium, Galle, 10:00 AM</p> <p>Tuesday September 24, 2024 Australia tour of England, 2024 Eng. vs Australia, 3rd ODI, Riverside Ground, Chester-le-Street, 12:30 PM</p> <p>Thursday September 26, 2024 New Zealand tour of Sri Lanka, 2024 Sri Lanka vs New Zealand, 2nd Test, Day 1, Galle International Stadium, Galle, 10:00 AM</p> <p>Friday September 27, 2024 Bangladesh tour of India, 2024 India vs Bangladesh, 2nd Test, Day 1, Green Park, Kanpur, 9:30 AM Australia tour of England, 2024 England vs Australia, 4th ODI, Lord's, London, 12:30 PM New Zealand tour of Sri Lanka, 2024 Sri Lanka vs NZ, 2nd Test, Day 2, Galle Int. Stadium, Galle, 10:00 AM.</p>
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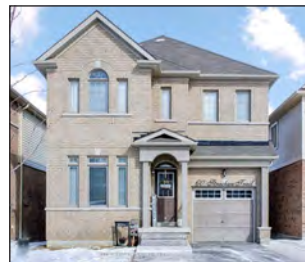
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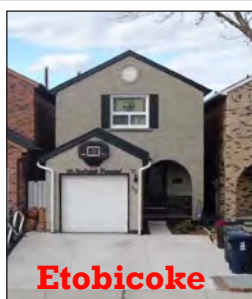
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Financial Advisor
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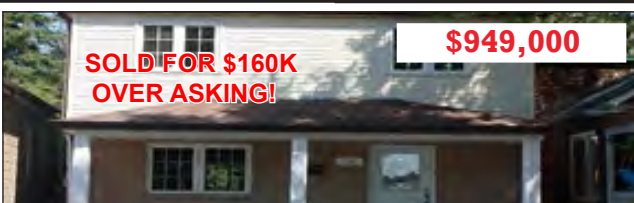
CityPointe Heights starting @ High 400s

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



Essa For Lease \$2,995

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



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

Narrative Condos

STARTING FROM LOW \$300s



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



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