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Volume 17 Issue 02 Dæhæna - Monthly e-Newsletter February 2022

Radio 4EB Sri Lankan Group

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Message on the occasion of the 74th Anniversary of the Independence of Sri Lanka

It gives me great pleasure to convey greetings and best wishes to all citizens of Sri Lanka living in Australia on the happy occasion of the 74th Anniversary of Independence of our motherland, which falls on 4th February 2022. On this solemn occasion, we pay our tribute to the brave war heroes who sacrificed their lives and underwent great hardships to preserve our nation's independence and sovereignty. We also respect all the leaders from the Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim, Burgher and other sections of the population who made various sacrifices to win the independence of our motherland.



At a time when the whole world is sailing through an unprecedented era in the face of COVID-19 pandemic situation, Sri Lanka, as a nation with a unique identity continues to strive to live up to the best values of humanity. We are grateful for the assistance that has been extended by the Government of Australia as well as the Sri Lankan community in Australia to the Government of Sri Lanka and its citizens in the aftermath of this global pandemic.

In 2022, Sri Lanka and Australia celebrate the great milestone of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Underpinned by shared values and mutual respect, the friendly and multifaceted bilateral ties between Sri Lanka and Australia have continued to flourish promising further expansion into multiple spheres of shared interest.

The Government of Sri Lanka is committed to redouble its efforts to meaningfully develop the country with a view to increasing productivity and connectivity and creating a firm foundation for all Sri Lankans to emerge as a strong nation.

The task of nation-building is one that requires dedication, determination and commitment of all Sri Lankans living both in Sri Lanka and overseas. I wholeheartedly invite all Sri Lankans living in Australia to contribute in strength to build an inclusive and prosperous Sri Lanka.



Dharmapala Weerakkody
Acting High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in Australia

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World Radio Day: 13 February

Radio plays a critical role at global level and form the most widely consumed medium forming democratic channels to communicate information, transmission and revitalisation of languages and celebrate humanity.



World Radio Day is dedicated to celebrate and mark the importance of radio to the global community. World Radio Day was proclaimed in 2011 by the Member States of UNESCO and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 as an International Day. Since then communities

around the world celebrate world radio day on February 13th. This day was selected as the World Radio Day as it corresponds to the date of creation of the United Nations Radio on 13 February 1946.

According to leading global reports radio continues to be the most trusted and accessible media in the world. Therefore, this year's edition of the world radio day celebration is devoted to "Radio and Trust".

For over a century, radio has been a huge part of human life and has been a vehicle for development in communications and community education. Without using any visual content, radio is the only broadcast medium that delivers entertainment, local news, sports updates, discussions, music and is still an effective way for marketing. For these pivotal reasons it is time to celebrate radio not only on 13 February, but every day of the year. Tune in to 98.1 4EB radio today and enjoy!



Dr. Himaya S.W.A.

Dr. Himaya S.W.A is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland



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Where numbers and knowledge meet

Youth Corner

Passions

Passion is a phenomenon which many try to interpret through psychological, spiritual or a behavioural lens. It is something we as humans all understand, but there is still so much which goes unknown. Where does passion come from? Does it feel the same for everybody? And why do many of us need passion to be a component of our careers?

As a 22-year-old who has just graduated from university, I have come to understand the complex nature of passions. Through a variety of conversations, I have realised that some people are able to pursue the same passions that they had when they were children and turn this into a career. While others, like myself, often reach a point in their life, where they don't have the same passions that they used to have and find themselves searching and trying to understand what they are passionate about. I personally find this a particularly interesting concept. If passion is such a strong emotion, why don't we know exactly what ours is?

Growing up, I was passionate about one thing and one thing only: Cricket. All I wanted to do was to someday play for Sri Lanka. As a young boy, I could push through the toughest of training sessions, matches and setbacks, because I was passionate about achieving my goal. But as I grew older, this passion wore off.

This led me to a time in my life where I couldn't find a clear passion. While I certainly found a lot of happiness in my day-to-day life through family, friends, hobbies, and (sometimes) my studies, I was still searching for that deep emotional connection towards something, to give me some sense of purpose.

Over the next few years of studying, I came across many people with clear and strong passions. A lot of university students are there pursuing their passions, which I think highlights a key aspect. Passions enable us to apply ourselves wholeheartedly through struggles, to achieve an overarching goal. Are students passionate about staying up until 3am studying for exams? Or writing 10,000-word papers? No. But a medical student for example, is passionate about saving lives, so they will be willing to acquire the knowledge even though that process can often be very challenging.

For me personally, I came to realise my passion through a volunteer trip to Cambodia. We did very basic work - aiding in simple construction & refurbishment, teaching English, feeding animals etc. But the most significant part of that trip was being able to experience the purest form of gratitude on a daily basis. That's when I understood my passion. Helping people.

The gratitude that is felt when one is helped by someone with pure intention, and the joy that is brought upon by helping someone with pure intention is something very special to me. It makes me think that it is deeply rooted in our existence as human beings and is how we are supposed to live our lives. Applying this passion, however, can be somewhat complicated.

When you look at it, almost every occupation involves helping someone at some level. Whether it be your co-workers, boss, your community, or the greater society. Currently, I am trying to fathom out the best method of applying this passion in my career. I think it is something that many people face throughout their lives. The world is constantly changing, perspectives are always challenged, and finding clarity in your passion can often point you in the direction you need.



Sajith Meepe

Sajith is a Griffiths University Graduate

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වේදිකාව, රිදී කිරිය, පුවි කිරිය, එහෙම නැත්නම් කවියක්, ගීතයක්, කෙටි කතාවක්, නව කතාවක් වැනි කලා කෘතියක් නිර්මාණකරණයේදී හමුවන විවිධාකාරවූ රසවත් සිද්ධීන් එමටයි. මෙම කතා බහ අහ දැනගන්න, බෙදා හදාගන්න, මං දන්නවා කලාකාමී අපි හැමෝම කැමැත්තක්, රුවකත්වයක් දක්වනවා කියලා. කෙලින්ම නොකීවට, අපි කවුරු කවුරුත් gossip අහන්නත් මනාපයි නේ.

ඔබ දන්නා, අපි නොදන්න, කිරිය පිටිපස්සේ ඇතිවන රසවත් සිද්ධීන්, බෙදා හදා ගැනීමේ උත්සාහයක් හැටියට මෙම කොලම ඔබට විවෘතයි. සමහර වෙලාවට මේ අතරේ ඉතා අනුවේදනීයවූ, දුක්මුසු කතා බහත් තියෙනවා. කතාවේ මුණ ගැහෙන, ඒ කාටවත් උපහාසයක්, අපහාසයක් නොවන විධියට, අපි ලියමු.



‘වියෝගී ගැයෙනා හදේ - ආදර මල් නොමියේ’

ශ්‍රී ලාංකේය සංගීත වංශ කතාවේ, පසුගිය දසක හත අටක පමණවූ කල පරාසයක නිර්මාණයවූ සුබාවිත ගීතය හෙවත් ‘Art Song’ ප්‍රිය කරන ශ්‍රී ලාංකීය රසික හදවත් තුළ සදාතනිකවූ ගායකයෙක්, ගායිකාවක් වූයේ නම් ඒ ස්වල්ප දෙනෙකි. අතලොස්සක්වූ මේ අතරින් විශාරද නීලා වික්‍රමසිංහයන්ට හිමිවනුයේ සුවිශේෂී ස්ථානයකි.

ශ්‍රී ලාංකේය රසික සිත් සහත් තම මිශුරු, මනහර ගී නදින් සුවපත් කළාවූ ඒ රත් ස්වරය, හඬ පෞර්ෂය සදහටම අප හැර ගොස්ය. නීලා වික්‍රමසිංහ ගායන ශිල්පිනිය, සංගීතවේදිනිය, පාසල් ගුරුවරිය, දිරිය කාන්තාව පසුගිය ජනවාරි 17වෙනි දින දැයෙන් සමගන්නය.

ප්‍රවීන, ජනප්‍රිය මෙන්ම සම්මානනීය ගායිකාවක ලෙසින් අප කාගේත් ආදරයට පත්, මා ඉතා දැඩි ලෙස ප්‍රියකරන, ගායිකාවක්වූ නීලා වික්‍රමසිංහන්, මෙසේ අකාලයේ මියෙන තුරුත්, ඇය ගැන, ඇයගේ දයාබරවූ මානව සත්කාරය ගැන, කෙටියෙන් හෝ යමක් ‘රස කතා’ කොලම තුලින් ඇගයුමට ලක් කරන්නට නොහැකිවීම ගැන මට ඇත්තේ දැඩි පසුතැවිල්ලකි. මේ කෙටි සටහන එතුමියට උපහාරයක්ම වේවා...!!

“ජීවිතයේ නොයෙකුත් හැලහැප්පීම් වලට මුහුණ පාමින්, දුක හා සතුට විඳිමින්, නින්දා ප්‍රසංසා වලට ලක් වෙමින් යන මේ සසර චාරිකාවේ, මා ලද මෙම ජීවිතය තාවකාලික නවාතැන් පොලක් යැයි මට හිතෙනවා, එවන්වූ ජීවිතය මෙතරම් දුරක් හෝ රැගෙන ආවේ ගීතය විසින්මයි කිව්වොත් නම් බොරුවක් නෙවෙයි, ඒ සහතිකම, ඇත්තම ඇත්ත. එබැවින් මගේ ජීවිතය හා ගීතය දෙකක් නොව, ඒ දෙකම එකක් බව මම ඉතා සතුටින් කියමි.”

සංගීතය හා වෙලුණු තම ආත්මීය සබඳියාව ගැන, වරෙක නීලා විසින් මාධ්‍යය වෙත පවසා සිටියේ එසේයි.

“මගේ වයස අවුරුදු තුනක් වෙනකොටත්, මට ඇවිදීමේ හැකියාවක් තිබුණේ නැහැ, ඒ වෙනත් හේතුවක් නිසා නොවෙයි, මම ඉපදිලා, හය මාසයක් ගතවෙනකොටත්, මට පෝලියෝ රෝගය වැළඳිලා හිටියේ. ඉතින්, අම්ම තමයි මගේ සියළුම ඒවා කම් සොයල බලල, මගේ ආවේනවකම් ඉටු කරල තියෙන්නේ..”

“මම උපන්නෙ වත්තල. මගේ පියා වෙළෙඳ ව්‍යාපාරිකයෙක්. උපතින් කනෝලිකයෙක් වූ ඔහු ගී ගැයිමේ හා රහපෑමේ දස්කම් ඇත්තෙක් වුණා. මගේ අම්ම, පිළියන්දල, පොල්ගස් ඕවිටට නුදුරු කෝදුරාව ගමේ උපන් බෞද්ධ ගැමි ලදක්. මගේ මවට ගැමි කවි ආදිය ඉතා අලංකාරයට ගැයිමේ සහජ හැකියාවක් තිබුණ මට මතකයි. අපේ පවුලේ අක්කයි මමයි විතරයි. අක්කාටත් මටත් ගී ගැයිමේ හැකියාව ලැබුණේ අපගේ දෙමව්පියන්ගෙන් කියලයි මම හිතන්නේ. මට යාන්තමට මතකයි, මම මුලින්ම පාසලට ගියේ වයස අවුරුදු තුනේදී, ඒ පහළ බාලාංශයට. මට ඒ වෙනකොට ඇවිදින්න බැරි හන්ද, කිරිමැටියාගාර විදුහලට අම්ම මාව වඩාගෙන තමයි අරන් ගියේ හැමදාමත්, අක්කාත් අතින් අල්ලගෙන.

ඊටපස්සේ, අපි වත්තලින් අම්මගේ ගමට ආව, පොල්ගස්ඕවිට. අක්කයි මමයි දෙන්නම කැස්බෑවේ රජයේ ප්‍රාථමික මිශ්‍ර පාසලට ඇතුළු වුණා.”

“ඒ තමයි, මගේ ජීවිතය ගීතය සමඟ එකතුවීමේ ආරම්භය. ක්‍රමයෙන් අනිකුත් විෂයයන්ට වඩා සංගීතය මගේ පීරියතම විෂයය බවට පත්වූයේ මටත් නොදැනීම. සංගීත පාඩම් ඉතා ඉක්මණින්ම මගේ මනසෙහි රැදුණා, වරක් හෝ දෙවරක් ගැයූ සැණෙකින් ගීත කටපාටම් හිටියා. මේ කලේ වෙනකොට මට තරමක් හොඳට ඇවිදීමේ හැකියාව තිබුණා. ඒත්

ඉතින්, දවසට සිය වතාවකටත් වඩා වැටුණු හැටි තවමත් මගේ මතකයෙන් ඇත්තොවෙන්නේ නෑ. එහෙම කොතරම් වැටුනද, තුවාල උනාද, මම ‘මිහි’ නොකිය විද දරා ගත්තා, ඒ අනෙක් ළමුන් මෙන් ඇවිදින්නට තිබූ ආසාව නිසාමයි, නැතුව නොරිදුනු නිසා නම් නොවේ..”

පසුව, තම මවගේ ආශීර්වාදය සමඟින් විශාරද වින්සන්ට සෝමපාල ගුරුතුමා යටතේ, ඇය තම සංගීත චාරිකාව ඇරඹි අතර සරත් දසනායකයන්, ආනන්ද ජයසිංහ සහ ගුණසේන රාජපක්ෂයන්ද ඇයගේ ගුරුවරුන් වූහ. එහි අගුණා ප්‍රවීපලය වූයේ, 1963, 1964 සහ 1965 වර්ෂවල සමස්ත ලංකා ඒකල ගායනා ශාස්ත්‍රීය අංශයෙන් ප්‍රථම ස්ථානය දිනා ගැනීමට නීලා වික්‍රමසිංහ ශිෂ්‍යාව සමත්වීමයි.

අනතුරුව, 1966 දී පුවත්පතක පළවූ දැන්වීමක් අනුව කැලණියේ සරසවි විශ්‍රාගාරයේ පැවති වික්‍රම පසුබිම් ගායිකාවක තෝරා ගැනීමේ තරගයකට සහභාගිවූ නීලා, තරඟකරුවන් පන්සිය පනහක් පස්දෙනකු අභිබවමින් වික්‍රම පසුබිම් ගායිකාවක වීමේ වාසනාව හිමි කරගත්තාය.

1967 දී ගුවන් විදුලියේ පටිගත කල, ඩෝල්ටන් අල්විස් මහතා විසින් ලියන ලදුව ලයනල් අල්ගම මහතා විසින් සංගීතය නිර්මාණය කරදුන් ‘සැඳෑ අඹරේ නිශා මල් යට’ ගීතය ඇයගේ මුල්ම ගුවන්විදුලි ගීතය ලෙස හැඳින්විය හැකිය.

70 දශකයේ මුල් අවදිය තුළ ගුවන්විදුලි ජන සංගීත පර්යේෂණ අංශයේ සී. ද එස්. කුලතිලකයන් විසින් ඉදිරිපත් කළ ‘උදා ගී’ වැඩ සටහන් මාලාව තුලින් ඇය තම කුසලතාවන් කළ එළි දැක්විය.

මුලින්ම, සරත් දසනායකයන්ගේ සංගීතයට අනුව ‘සිතිජය’ වික්‍රමයේ කවි දෙකක්ද, ප්‍රේමසිරි කේමදාසයන්ගේ සංගීතය යටතේ ‘දෑස නිසා’ වික්‍රමයේ ‘නිදි පැදුරෙන් පිටවී - අතරමං ව රැදුන හීන - මම කවදා දකිමිදෝ’ යනුවෙන් ඉතා කුඩා කොටසක්ද ගයන්නට ඇයට අවස්ථාව ලැබිණ. ‘කළුදිය දහර’ වික්‍රමය සඳහා ‘මාස්ටර් සර්’ ගීතය ගයන්නට ලැබුණේ ඊට පසුවය.



‘වියෝගී ගැයෙනා හදේ - ආදර මල් නොමියේ’ මහාචාර්ය සුනිල් ආරියරත්නගේ ගේය පද රචනයට නිමල් මෙන්ඩිස්ගේ සංගීතයට ‘ගැහැනු ළමයි’ වික්‍රමයට නීලා ගැයූ මෙම තුන් කුළුපුල් ගීතය මගින් ඇය තරුණ පරපුරේ ආදරය දිනා ගත්තේය. සුමිත්‍රා පිරිස්ගේ මුල්ම වික්‍රම අධ්‍යක්ෂණය වගේම වසන්ති චතුරානිගේ මුල්ම රංගනය ඇතුළත්වූ මෙම ගීතය, නීලා විසින් වික්‍රමයක් සඳහා ගැයූ මුල්ම ඒකල ගායනය (තනිවම ගැයූ මුල්ම වික්‍රම ගීතය) විය.

බටහිර ආරට නැඹුරුව ගැයූ ‘මාස්ටර් සර්’ සහ ‘වියෝ ගී’ ගීත තුළින්, ජන ගී ආර මෙන්ම බටහිර ආරටද ගැයිමේ හැකියාව තමා මා තුළ ඇති බවට විශ්වාසයක් ගොඩනැගීමට මෙම ගීත ඉවහල්වූ බව ඇය පවසා සිටියේය.

වරක් නීලා වික්‍රමසිංහගේ සහභාගිවූ මාධ්‍යය සාකච්ඡාවකදී තම සහෝදර ගායිකා ඉන්ද්‍රානි පෙරේරා ගැන මතකය අවදි කළේ, “දවසක් ගුවන් විදුලියේදී හමුවූ ඉන්ද්‍රානි අක්කා මට ගමනක් යන්න කතා කළා, ඇගේ වාහනය නතර වූයේ මාරදානේ නවීන පන්නයේ සපන්තු සාප්පුව ඉදිරිපිට. ඒ මගේ කකුලට ගැලපෙන විශේෂ සපන්තු කුට්ටමක් මට හදවල දෙන්න.”

“සැබෑ කලාකරුවා යනු අනුන්ගේ දුක තමාගේ දුක ලෙස සිතන සියුම් හැඟීම් වලින් යුත් තැනැත්තෙක් බවත්, එවන් කලාකරුවන් අප අතර ද සිටින බවත් මම එදා තේරුම් ගත්ත”

මේ වන විට වික්‍රම හැත්තෑපහකට පමණ පසුබිම් ගීත ගයා ඇති නීලා වික්‍රමසිංහ කලාකාරිනිය ජනාධිපති සම්මාන, වනිතා සම්මාන, සුමති ටෙලි සම්මාන මෙන්ම තවත් වටිනා සම්මානයන්ගෙන් බුහුමන් ලැබීය, වසර ගණනාවක් පුරා හැලහැප්පීම්, මානසික පීඩා, ප්‍රශංසා, ගැරහුම්, සතුට, කදුල සමඟ ඇය ආ ගමන, ස්වකීය දෙපයින් නැගී සිටීමට යම් අයෙකුට ආදර්ශයක් වන බව මම තරයේ විශ්වාස කරමි.

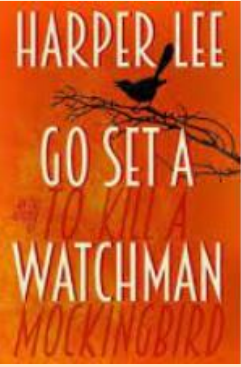
සදාදරණීය නීලාවෙනි , ඔබට උතුම්වූ නිවනින් සැනසීම ලැබේවායි අපි පතමු.

සමන්මල් ගුණරත්න

මෙම සටහන ප්‍රසිද්ධ පුවත්පත්, අන්තර්ජාලය තුලින් ලබා ගත් ලිපි ඇසුරින් නිමවූ බව කරුණාවෙන් සලකන්න.

Book Review: Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee

Harper Lee was the author of the classic of modern American literature "To kill a Mockingbird". It was released in 1960 and won the Pulitzer Prize.



"Go set a Watchman" was actually Harper Lee's first manuscript, initially discarded but re-discovered later in a safety deposit box. Published in 2015, it is set twenty years past the 'Mockingbird' era and features many of the iconic original characters. The title is derived from a Biblical verse.

Located in Maycomb, Alabama, twenty six year old Jean Louise Finch returns to her hometown to visit her ageing father Atticus. Readers may remember Atticus as the defending lawyer in 'Mockingbird'. Set against the backdrop of political turmoil and civil

rights tensions that were transforming the Deep South, Jean Louise's homecoming turns bittersweet when she learns disturbing truths about the close-knit family, the town and people dear to her. Memories from her childhood flood back and her values and assumptions are thrown into doubt. It captures a young woman and a world in painful yet necessary transition out of the illusions of the past – a journey that can be guided only by one's own conscience.

Jean Louise discovers that her beloved father Atticus who defended a Black man in 'Mockingbird', is now a segregationist. She is confused and devastated by her father's positions as they are contrary to everything he had taught her. Her uncle Jack, a retired doctor and one-time mentor is now more of a rationalist believing that the Blacks of the South are not ready for full civil rights. Her childhood sweetheart Henry, who now works for Atticus, although claiming that he is not a racist, attends meetings dominated by White suprem-

acists. She visits her former Black maid Calpurnia and is treated politely but coldly. All these acquaintances have changed during the period Jean Louise was away in New York. She is disappointed and furious wanting to pack her bags to leave town. Her uncle reminds her that she had fastened her conscience to her father's, assuming that her answers would always be her father's answers. However she is surprised when Atticus tells her how proud he is of her and was delighted that she stood for what she thought was right. She reflects that she did not want her world disturbed but that she tried to crush the man who was trying to preserve it for her. On departing, a burden is lifted when she tells him she loves him very much while silently welcoming him to the human race.

'Watchman' in contrast to 'Mockingbird' explores the alienation of a native daughter who moved from a small town to a City. While the City provided the opportunity to expand her thinking, the home town retained its racial and class prejudice, the people's enmity and hypocrisy and small-mindedness. 'Watchman' is a novel of humanity, wisdom, passion and humour – wonderfully evocative of another era and relevant to our own times.

George Somasundaram

George Somasundaram is a resident of Brisbane

Australia Day Awards



Dr Harold Gunatillake, a well known community worker and the author of many articles on health topics was awarded the Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division at the Australia Day Awards for his service to medicine and the Sri Lankan Community of New South Wales

Dæhæna congratulates Dr. Gunatillake on this well deserved recognition.



TRICO FREIGHT

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පෙට්ටියක් යවමුද ?

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The Fascinating Sri Lankan Archipelago

What connects the pristine Pigeon Islands, the jovial sounding Great Sober Island, and the ominous Bone Island? These are not Caribbean islands from a pirate movie but are in fact islands of Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka is often viewed as a single island and this belief occludes the appreciation of the archipelago in its entirety. An archipelago is a collection of islands and a fastidious look at a map of Sri Lanka will reveal a wealth of history dotted around the main isle.



Each island has its own rich history and millennia of stories representing an important part of our shared history. Ile du Soleil was named after the “Sun King”, King Louis XIV, during Sri Lanka’s association with France. Fort Hammenhiel was named as the island was thought to resemble a leg of ham and was a quarry, garrison, prison and now a hotel. Delft, Leiden, and Enkhuizen islands were named after various locations and ports in the Netherlands.

Delft Island is the last location in Sri Lanka where wild horses may be found, along with a historical Dutch fort and a thousand-year-old Chola temple which attest to the rich layers of multiculturalism suffused into local islands. Caes dos Elefantos (Portuguese for Elephant Quay) is an island on the North-West of Sri Lanka which was ultimately known as Kayts, was famed as a shipping point from which Sri Lankan Elephants were exported to southern India.

The multicultural and multi religious Velanai Island, formerly known as Leiden after the Dutch City continues to produce evidence of sophisticated civilisations predating recorded history. The Pigeon Islands, now a national park are known for their large population of rock pigeons. The pristine coral reefs on these islands have made them a safe haven for a various endangered turtle species.

The intriguing sight of Baobab trees in Sri Lanka, a plant iconic to the plains of Africa surely indicates that you are on Mannar Island. Ancient Arab traders trading between African continent and Ceylon planted Baobabs on Mannar as they settled the island. These Baobabs, the youngest of which are over 500 years old attest to a rich and vibrant history of connection between Ceylon and Africa through the Middle East.

Many more fascinating narratives likely lie undiscovered on the islands surrounding Sri Lanka and we encourage readers to explore these islands on their travels to the archipelago or through Google Earth.

Among Randika and Jerome’s many interests is a deep passion to understand Sri Lankan history and culture. This has been facilitated through exposure to multiculturalism through their travels and living experiences in multiple countries.

Randika Jayakody and Jerome Perera



Among Randika and Jerome’s many interests is a deep passion to understand Sri Lankan history and culture. This has been facilitated through exposure to multiculturalism through their travels and living experiences in multiple countries.

Legendary Singer Desmond de Silva Passes Away

Veteran Sri Lankan singer and entertainer Desmond De Silva passed away at the age of 77 in Melbourne, Australia.



He had reportedly passed away due to a sudden heart attack.

Regarded as the ‘King of Baila’, the legendary singer was born in Matara in 1944. He launched his career in popular music in 1963 as the lead vocalist of the Fire-Flies.

He also performed with leading Sri Lankan pop groups – ‘Spitfires,’ ‘Gabo and the Breakaways,’ and the ‘Jetliners.’

In 1976, he decided to form his own band, “Desmond and the Clan”, which performed in various countries in Southeast Asia, including the Maldives. Known for his popular renditions of Sri Lankan ‘baila’ music, Desmond celebrated 40 years in show business in 2019.

He has had a string of baila hits including: ‘Polkatu Hande,’ ‘Yaman Bando (Wally Bastiansz),’ ‘Chuda Manike,’ ‘Mamma No,’ ‘Miss Sri Lanka,’ ‘Hai Hui Bubby Achchi (Wally Bastiansz),’ ‘Rajasangabo’ ‘Komali Pane,’ as well as popular recordings of anonymous baila songs.

He has performed his hits in several major cities around the world including Los Angeles, New York, London, Auckland, Dubai, Bahrain, New Delhi, Singapore and Melbourne, where he had been living for the past couple of years.

Courtesy: <http://www.adaderana.lk/>

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Nazareth Lutheran Church
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Brisbane Sinhala School

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ඇල්ෆ්ඩ් වටපුළුව විශ්‍රාමික විදුලි හා යාන්ත්‍රික ඉංජිනේරුවෙකි. කවි හා සාහිත්‍යය කෙරෙහි ඔහු තුළ ඇති ඇල්ම ඔහුගේ විශ්‍රාම ජීවිතය ක්‍රියාශීලී කරයි.

Stories Behind Names of Places in Sri Lanka: How “Nivithigala” got its Name

Nivithigala is a well-known place in Sri Lanka. A voting electorate is known by this name in Sri Lanka. It is in the district of Ratnapura and a short drive from the Gem City: Ratnapura. It is also famous for its gem pits. Further, Nivithigala is an important centre in the Mid Country tea growing map, a place I have travelled often visiting some of my dear friends in the Lions Movement.

May I look at the word “Nimithi” in a few directions. “Nivithi” is the Sinhala word for the vegetable Spinach. But, “Nivithigala” is not named after that vegetable. “Nimithi” is a Sinhala word for features. There are good omens and bad omens in our culture. I quote from “Salalihini Sandesaya” of the Kotte period. “BALA SU-BA NIMITHI PERAMAGA LAKUNATHA VEDI”. I sight a few examples of “Nimithi” here to elaborate.



A glass filled with milk is brought to the newly married couple as they step down from the poruwa as a good omen. Seeing someone coming in your direction with a water filled pot when you are going on some important mission is considered a good omen. The cow too is considered a good omen. Incidentally, meeting a Buddhist monk is a bad omen.

Sri Lanka in every way had a great influence from India. Buddhism, Hinduism and even the arrival of Vijaya was from India. Astrology too came from India. The name NIMITHIGALA is supposed to be linked to an astrological incident. “Nimithi Baleema” is done even today in Sri Lanka. Even in and around the capital city of Colombo, there are places to get a “Nimithi reading” to get guidance to overcome problems.

For instance, “Nimithi reading” is often done to trace lost items or to trace people who are responsible for robberies. Generally, people go for these readings when they are desperate to trace a source responsible for bad incidents such as thefts, lost or misplaced items, missing animals or people.

So, an expert with this skill had come from India and resided in the area we now call NIVITHIGALA”. He took shelter in a rocky (GAL SAHITHA) hilly place and performed his predictions. His readings became so accurate people came from all parts of the country. Hence there was no name to identify the place to give directions to the people coming to see him directed them to the GALA on the hill.

Over time, people called it NIMITHIGALA which evolved to be called NIVITHIGALA.”



Dr. Nimal Sedera

Dr. Nimal Sedera is a journalist, poet, motivational speaker and an author of over 70 books.

App of the Month

LastPass: Password Manager



Losing your passwords which offer someone access to sensitive and confidential information is a nightmare that we don't wish even on our worst enemies. You can use an app like LastPass, a password manager and password locker which saves your information. It has a master password which handles the rest of them.

With two-factor authentication like mobile pin unlocks and fingerprint login, you can certainly expect your passwords to be safe. All your passwords are saved in its cloud-based storage which is secured with encrypted security systems. The app even allows you to import data from your browsers and other password manager apps.

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Veteran Singer Neela Wickramasinghe Passes Away

Veteran Sri Lankan singer and musician Neela Wickramasinghe passed away at the age of 71 in Milan, Italy, on 17 January 2022.



Wickramasinghe was recently appointed as the Consul General of Sri Lanka in Milan.

Known for her popular hits such as ‘Master Sir’ as well as duets sung with T.M. Jayaratne, she was a former teacher in music. She graduated in 1974 with a Sangeeth Visharada Degree after studying North Indian Classical Music.

With over 55 years of experience in the industry, Wickramasinghe has contributed to over 60 films as a playback singer while she has also contributed to hundreds of songs.

She has won the Sarasaviya Award thrice, Presidential award, Sumathi tele award, Zonta award and Vanitha award.

Courtesy: <http://www.adaderana.lk/>

Veteran Actor Robin Fernando Passes Away



Veteran actor Robin Fernando has passed away on 8 January at the age of 84 years.

He was an actor, as well as a stunt coordinator in Sri Lankan cinema. He debuted in ‘Chandiya’ by renowned director Titus Thotawatte in 1965, and rose to prominence with lead roles.

Fernando has acted in more than 80 Sinhala films including ‘Hathara Kendare’, ‘Ran Onchilla’, ‘Bindunu Hadawath’, ‘Sagarika’, ‘Sihassana’, ‘Sikuruliya’, ‘Nivena Ginna’, ‘Bambara Geethaya’.

Courtesy: <https://www.sundaytimes.lk/>

International Mother Language Day: 21 February

International Mother Language Day was proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in November 1999. The UN General Assembly welcomed the proclamation of the day in its resolution of 2002.

International Mother Language Day recognizes that languages and multilingualism can advance inclusion, and the Sustainable Development Goals’ focus on leaving no one behind.



UNESCO believes education, based on the first language or mother tongue, must begin from the early years as early childhood care and education is the foundation of learning.

Last year’s observance was a call on policymakers, educators and teachers, parents and families to scale up their commitment to multilingual education, and inclusion in education to advance education recovery in the context of COVID-19. This effort also contributes to the United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032), for which UNESCO is the lead agency, and which places multilingualism at the heart of indigenous peoples’ development.

It is heartening to note that several Sinhala and Tamil schools serve the community in Brisbane. Dæhæna acknowledges the diligent work of the teachers and those parents who take these children to the classes.

Courtesy: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/mother-language-day>

13 NIGHTS 14 DAYS TOUR OF SRI LANKA

ACCOMMODATION

- Amagi Arla, Negombo (4*)
- Habarana Village by Cinnamon (4*)
- Cinnamon Citadel, Kandy (4*)
- Galway Heights, Nuwara Eliya (4*)
- Cinnamon Wild, Yala (5*)
- Cinnamon Bay, Beruwela (5*)
- Cinnamon Lakeside, Colombo (5*)

Tour Itinerary

- 01 ARRIVAL
- 02 NEGOMBO CITY TOUR
- 03 COOKERY DEMONSTRATION
- 04 HABARANA | DAMBULLA CAVE TEMPLE
- 05 POLONNARUWA | MINNERIYA
- 06 SIGIRIYA | HIRIWADUNA
- 07 KANDY
- 08 TEMPLE OF THE SACRED TOOTH RELIC
- 09 NUWARA ELIYA
- 10 HIGH TEA AT GRAND HOTEL
- 11 YALA
- 12 DOWN SOUTH
- 13 COLOMBO
- 14 DEPARTURE

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Inclusions

- 13 nights 14 days accommodation as mentioned above
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- 01 High tea experience at the famous Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya
- 01 Local 30 Min Cocktail Masterclass in Colombo
- Arrival and Departure transfers
- Entrance fees at the above-mentioned sites
- Services of Professional English-speaking Guide
- 04 UNESCO world heritage sites
- Portage fees
- Government Taxes

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Fax: (07) 3133 3388

Validity Period
03rd NOVEMBER 2022 TO 31st OCTOBER 2022
*This package is not valid from 20th December 2021 to 10th January 2022 & 01st August 2022 to 15th August 2022

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Monthly News Digest: January 2022

01	Colombo stock market ends 2021 at its best ever	https://www.ft.lk/front-page/Colombo-stock-market-ends-2021-at-its-best-ever/44-728512
02	Sri Lanka Coronavirus vaccinates 63-pct of population, 18-pct gets third dose	https://economynext.com/sri-lanka-coronavirus-vaccinates-63-pct-of-population-18-pct-gets-third-dose-89209/
02	Re-elected Sri Lanka Olympic chief claims no more wild card entries	http://www.sundayobserver.lk/2022/01/02/sports/re-elected-sri-lanka-olympic-chief-claims-no-more-wild-card-entries
02	Oxford trailblazer in SL to help set up more nanopore sequencing facilities	https://www.sundaytimes.lk/220102/news/oxford-trailblazer-in-sl-to-help-set-up-more-nanopore-sequencing-facilities-467676.html
03	President bestowed with honorary title of 'Sri Lankadheeshwara Padma Vibhushana'	https://www.ft.lk/news/President-bestowed-with-honorary-title-of-Sri-Lankadheeshwara-Padma-Vibhushana/56-728532
03	Finance Minister announces several relief measures	http://www.adaderana.lk/news/79618/finance-minister-announces-several-relief-measures
04	Susil Premajayantha removed from state ministerial post	http://www.adaderana.lk/news/79625/susil-premajayantha-removed-from-state-ministerial-post
05	Rumesh Ratnayake named Sri Lanka's interim coach for Zimbabwe series	https://www.espn.com/story/sl-vs-zim-rumesh-ratnayake-named-sri-lanka-s-interim-coach-for-zimbabwe-series-1295407
07	SLC lifts ban on Dickwella, Mendis and Gunathilaka	http://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=79707
09	China Foreign Minister arrives in Sri Lanka amid tested ties, forex crisis	https://economynext.com/china-foreign-minister-arrives-in-sri-lanka-amid-tested-ties-forex-crisis-89428/
09	Military deployed for organic farming	https://www.sundaytimes.lk/220109/business-times/military-deployed-for-organic-farming-2-468179.html
09	First woman ASP of the Special Task Force	http://www.adaderana.lk/news/79751/first-woman-asp-of-the-special-task-force
09	Colombo-KKS luxury train service launched	https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking_news/Colombo-KKS-luxury-train-service-launched/108-228653
10	Academic activities at schools normalized from today	http://www.adaderana.lk/news/79760/academic-activities-at-schools-normalized-from-today
12	INTERPOL launches 'Operation Flycatcher' to disrupt Sri Lanka's terrorist networks	http://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=79814
13	Sri Lanka says no to IMF bailout, seeks new China loan	https://www.ft.lk/front-page/Sri-Lanka-says-no-to-IMF-bailout-seeks-new-China-loan/44-729128
14	India extends critical forex support of over \$ 900 m to SL	https://www.ft.lk/front-page/India-extends-critical-forex-support-of-over-900-m-to-SL/44-729135
15	Aktha pathra presented to Amarapura Maha Nayake Thera	https://island.lk/aktha-pathra-presented-to-amarapura-maha-nayake-thera/
15	Hand Grenade Found at All Saint's Church in Borella	https://lankanewsweb.net/archives/1963/hand-grenade-found-at-all-saints-church-in-borella-video/
15	Dulanga Sampath crowned new 'Derana Dream Star'	http://www.adaderana.lk/news/79914/dulanga-sampath-crowned-new-derana-dream-star
15	Second phase of Central Expressway, Mirigama to Kurunegala, declared open	http://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=79901
15	Uninterrupted fuel supply: Near impossible: Energy Minister	https://www.themorning.lk/uninterrupted-fuel-supply-near-impossible-energy-minister/
17	China donates shipment of rice to Sri Lanka	https://island.lk/china-donates-shipment-of-rice-to-sri-lanka-2/
18	Former SLAF Commander, Air Chief Marshal P.H. Mendis passes away	http://www.adaderana.lk/news/79974/former-slaf-commander-air-chief-marshal-ph-mendis-passes-away
19	Kelanitissa power station shuts down completely	http://www.adaderana.lk/news/79993/kelanitissa-power-station-shuts-down-completely
19	China steps in, grants 1 million metric tons of rice to SL	https://www.themorning.lk/china-steps-in-grants-1-million-metric-tons-of-rice-to-sl/
20	Special gazette on extending retirement age of public servants issued	http://www.adaderana.lk/news/80013/special-gazette-on-extending-retirement-age-of-public-servants-issued
21	Treasury releases funds to import essential medicines	http://www.adaderana.lk/news/80057/treasury-releases-funds-to-import-essential-medicines
22	Sri Lanka's inflation rises to 14% YoY in December 2021	http://www.adaderana.lk/news/80077/sri-lankas-inflation-rises-to-14-yoy-in-december-2021
23	Susal and Niklesha crowned new Chess King and Queen	https://www.sundaytimes.lk/220123/sports/susal-and-niklesha-crowned-new-chess-king-and-queen-469464.html
24	Sri Lanka Customs launches CEO/AEO program	https://www.ft.lk/shippingaviation/Sri-Lanka-Customs-launches-CEO-AEO-program/21-729516
27	New guidelines issued for travellers arriving in Sri Lanka	http://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=8018

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<https://vangoghalive.com.au/brisbane/>

International Cricket Council (ICC) Awards 2021

Daehaena congratulates the Sri Lankan players who have won the ICC Awards 2021.



Dimuth Karunaratne

ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year – for the best overall performer in men's Test cricket during 2021

Dimuth Karunaratne

ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year – for the best overall performer in men's T20I cricket during 2021

Wanindu Hasaranga



Wanindu Hasaranga

International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's Test team of the year

Dimuth Karunaratne

ICC Men's ODI team of the year

Wanindu Hasaranga

Dushmantha Chameera

ICC Men's T20 Team of the year

Wanindu Hasaranga



Dushmantha Chameera

Courtesy: <https://www.icc-cricket.com/>

Cricket**Sri Lanka Tour of Australia, 2022 Schedule**

Date	Match Details
Fri Feb 11 19:00 local 08:00 GMT	Australia vs Sri Lanka, 1st T20 D/N Sydney Cricket Ground, Sydney
Sun Feb 13 18:10 local 08:10 GMT	Australia vs Sri Lanka, 2nd T20 D/N Sydney Cricket Ground, Sydney
Tue Feb 15 18:10 local 08:10 GMT	Australia vs Sri Lanka, 3rd T20 D/N Manuka Oval, Canberra
Fri Feb 18 18:10 local 08:10 GMT	Australia vs Sri Lanka, 4th T20 D/N Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne
Sun Feb 20 15:30 local 04:30 GMT	Australia vs Sri Lanka, 5th T20 D/N Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne

Courtesy: <https://www.cricschedule.com/>

**Sri Lanka Sports Association
Annual General Meeting 2022**

Date Sunday, 06 February 2022
Time 5.00 pm - 7.00 pm
Venue Garden City Library
Garden City Shopping Centre
Mount Gravatt

**Gold Coast Sri Lankans
Annual General Meeting 2022**

Date Thursday, 17 February 2022
Time 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm
Venue Nerang Bicentennial Community Centre
833, Southport - Nerang Road, Nerang

**Sri Lanka Society of Queensland
Annual General Meeting 2022**

Date Sunday, 27 February 2022
Time 4.00 pm to 6.30 pm
Venue Toowong Community Meeting Place,
Josling Street, Toowong
Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP for catering purposes.
Contact - Sandhya Abeysekera, any committee member or secretary@srilankansqld.org.

**Sinhala Association of Queensland
Annual General Meeting 2022**

Date Sunday, 06 March 2022
Time 10.00 am to 12.30 pm
Venue Mount Ommaney Library Hall
171 Dandenong Road, Mt Ommaney.

Refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to Uditha Manage (0402 143 051) or Nandasiri Tennakoon (0423 845 669) by 25th February 2022 for catering purposes.

**Silver Fawn Club
Annual General Meeting 2022**

Date Saturday, 12 March 2022
Time 6.00 pm
Venue Mitchelton Senior Citizens Centre
30 Tel-El-Kebir Street, Mitchelton

There will be dinner following the AGM which must be pre-ordered. Cost to Members will be \$10.00 (balance subsidised by the Club). Per QLD Health Covid rules, members are required to wear masks and proof of double vaccination will need to be provided.

To order please contact: Laurensz 0408 414 973, Gerard 0407 453 535, Denis 0432 411 383 or Susan 3878 4782 no later than 4th March.

Sri Lankan Events Brisbane

Please check the latest status of the events with the relevant organisations

February 2022

05	Commemorating the 74th Anniversary of Sri Lankan Independence	Forest Lake Temple
06	Annual General Meeting	Sri Lanka Sports Association of Qld
06	RMOBAQ Charity Walk 2022: POSTPONED	Richmond Mahinda OBA
20	Valentines Day Lunch: CANCELLED	Silver Fawn Club
17	Annual General Meeting	Gold Coast Sri Lankans
27	Annual General Meeting	Sri Lanka Society of Qld

March 2022

06	Annual General Meeting	Sinhala Assn. of Qld
12	Annual General Meeting	Silver Fawn Club
26	New Meditation Centre Opening	Forest Lake Temple
26	Fund Raising Event	Goodna Temple
27	32nd Annual General Meeting	Forest Lake Temple

April 2022

09	Sri Lankan New Year Festival	Lanka Lions
16	Sinhala & Tamil New Year Celebrations	Forest Lake Temple
16	Cerebration of Sinhalese & Hindu New Year	Goodna Temple
24	Bak Maha Ulela: New Year Celebrations	Sinhala Assn. of Qld
29	Annual Camp	Silver Fawn Club

May 2022

14	Vesak Festival: Special Sermon, Bhakthi Gee and Lantern Parade	Forest Lake Temple
14	Vesak Festival at Goodna Temple	Goodna Temple
21	Dinner Dance	Sri Lanka Sports Assn.
28	Vesak Celebration at Acacia Ridge State School	Goodna Temple
28	Gypsies Dinner Dance	Aradhana Entertainment

June 2022

11	Poson Festival: Mihindu Sangamitta Perahera and Mihinthalgala Display	Forest Lake Temple
11	Poson Pinkama at Goodna Temple	Goodna Temple
25	Poson Dansala	Goodna Temple

July 2022

09	Vas Aradana	Goodna Temple
09	Vas Invitation Ceremony	Forest Lake Temple
16	Fund Raising Event	Goodna Temple
23	Vas Aradhana	Gold Coast Buddhist Centre

Continued from Column 1

July 2022

16	Fund Raising Event	Goodna Temple
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August 2022

27	Annual General Meeting	Goodna Temple
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September 2022

03	Stitching of Katina Cheevara	Goodna Temple
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October 2022

8&9	Annual Katina Ceremony & Dana	Forest Lake Temple
15	Annesley Malawana with Indrani Perera and Corrine Almeida	Aradhana Entertainment
21,22	Pirith Chanting and Katina Pinakama	Gold Coast Buddhist Centre
22,23	Katina ceremony - Pirith Chanting & Dana	Goodna Temple

November 2022

12	Thesatta Nana Puja	Goodna Temple
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December 2022

10	Sangamitta Day	Forest Lake Temple
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Program Schedule

Arunella - Sunday 9.00am - 10.00am FM 98.1

Date	Producer/Panel Operator
06 Feb	Samanmal Gunaratne/ Sameera Samarasinghe
13 Feb	Nawroos Naeem/ Samanmal Gunaratne
20 Feb	Himaya S.W.A/ Kasun Karunaratne
23 Jan	Kanthi Wijesoma/ Kasun Karunaratne
27 Feb	Ananda & Nayana Samaratinga/ Ananda Samaratinga
06 Mar	Sam Fernando/ Sam Fernando

Sandella - Wednesday 9.00pm - 10.00pm FM 98.1

Date	Producer/Panel Operator
02 Feb	"Yowun Sandella" Shyam, Pulith, Shamma, Chathurika, Darshika, Mithila/ Niraj Kariyawasam
09 Feb	Thisara Pathirennehelage & Guest/ Thisara Pathirennehelage
16 Feb	Kumarasinghe Dissanayake/ Sandun de Silva
23 Feb	Prema Weerawardena/ Niraj Kariyawasam
02 Mar	"Yowun Sandella" Shyam, Pulith, Shamma, Chathurika, Darshika, Mithila/ Shyam Kottegoda

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