



## Christmas

**Christmas** (or Feast of the Nativity) is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world. It is also a declared Public Holiday in many parts of the world.

This photo represents what Christmas means as a family.

Grandmother Persis is explaining to the three year old granddaughter Gabby the significance of the crib. Back then the families had to register a new born baby in their historical tribal town rather than where they lived. This also meant that Joseph and very pregnant Mary had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem, as this was the town that Joseph’s family (the royal family of David) originally came from – journey of about 112 kilometres. This journey was made with Mary sitting on the back of a donkey and Joseph following her by the side.



Baby Jesus was born in a stable at Bethlehem, to this Blessed Lady named Mary. When she gave birth to this Baby, Joseph her husband, sheep and shepherds, and cattle were around the stable. A little cradle was made with straw and wood to keep baby Jesus comfortable and warm. The baby was wrapped in swaddling clothes. Christians believe there was a very special star radiating beams of light on the crib highlighting the significance of birth of Christ.

On the feast of Epiphany celebrated by Christians in January, the three kings visited the crib with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They found their way to the manger following the guiding radiant beams from the heavenly star. This may sound like a fairy tale, but this is what the Christians believe.

The reason for celebration is the significance of birth of Christ, Baby Jesus. Roast turkey, ham, cheese, Christmas plum pudding, Christmas rich cake, shortbread, special sweet treats and many other delicious Christmas food are on Christmas dinner tables. The traditional exchanging of well wishes and gifts are also carried out.

Christians display a nativity scene in their homes during Christmas season.

Despite these small details, a Christmas nativity scene is a wonderful reminder of what happened the night Jesus was born.

Ever since Adam and Eve’s sin, our relationship with God has been marred and broken ([Genesis 3](#); [Romans 5:12](#)). Out of love, God sent His Son in human form “to seek and to save the

lost” ([Luke 19:10](#)). To that end, Jesus Christ was born in the town of Bethlehem. Modern Christmas nativity scenes help to proclaim Christ’s birth and the true “reason for the season.”

**Persis Ranasinghe** – is a retired Personal Assistant and worked as an Administrative Officer at Mater Hospital for 33 years. Her interests include gardening, cooking, volunteer work, reading and writing, including her writing classes with U3A which gives her an opportunity to write about a variety of topics.



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## New President of Engineers Australia - Dr Raj Aseervatham



Engineers Australia has announced the appointment of Dr Raj Aseervatham, an Australian of Sri Lankan descent, as the new National President and Board Chair.

Dr Aseervatham has more than 35 years of professional experience, commencing his career as a civil infrastructure engineer in local and state government. He has worked in two ASX 50 mining companies and one ASX 50 energy company, consulting and audit/assurance firms in Australia and overseas. He is a twice-published author on organisational leadership.

“I am excited to lead Engineers Australia as we continue to deliver on our current strategy; one that is designed to take us well into the next decade,” Dr Aseervatham said.

Engineers Australia CEO Romilly Madew AO said that Dr. Aseervatham was well-equipped to lead the organisation. “Raj brings extensive engineering knowledge and leadership experience to the role. He is an accomplished senior executive with a long Australian and international career and is an experienced board director.

Dr Aseervatham has Sri Lankan ancestry but now lives in Brisbane. Although mostly schooled in Malawi, Zambia, and England, he was at St. Patrick’s College, Jaffna, for one year when he was 5. He is the son of a proud father Mr Aloysius Aseervatham who is a resident of Brisbane. Mr Aseervatham Senior is a prolific author and has written over twenty books on various subjects including mathematics, languages, religion, astrology, and Sri Lankan Cuisine. A write-up about the Senior Aseervatham was in our Dæhæna Newsletter (July 2012). Details of his books can be obtained by visiting his website [www.aseervathambooks.com](http://www.aseervathambooks.com)

Aloysius's father Mr. M.V. Aseervatham was well known for his Graduated Arithmetic book series (with a higher-level book published in all three languages of Sri Lanka which was popular in many Sri Lankan schools in the 50s to 70s.



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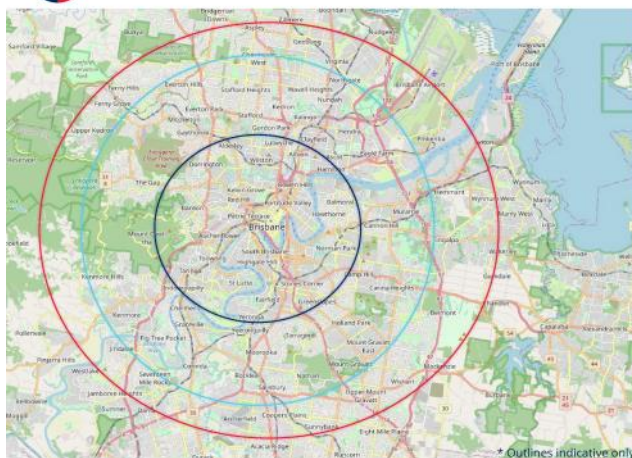
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## The History of Arrack

As lovers of Scotch whiskies, Belgian beers, wines, Mexican Mezcal and other spirits, we have always thought very highly of Ceylon Arrack.

Arrack is produced by taking the raw ingredient of coconut palm liquid known as Toddy. Toddy tapping is an exquisite art involving the use of intricate instruments, blades, and ropewalking levels of skill simply to reach the palm. Incidentally, the art and science of toddy tapping is quite developed in South India and it is likely that these arts were transferred to Sri Lanka over millennia of cultural exchange between the regions.

Once tapped, the toddy is stored for a brief time before being distilled to produce a high alcohol liquid known as Arrack. The already fermenting toddy is often stored in Teak and Trincmalee Wood (Halmilla) which impart their own unique flavour to this fascinating spirit.

Unlike many global spirits, such as whiskies, wines, and even some beers which are aged in oak barrels, Sri Lankan Arrack is aged in Halmilla barrels and aged for up to 15 years! Finally producing exquisite amber coloured Arracks of great nuance and complexity.

Considering the incredible diversity of environments on the islands of Sri Lanka the importance of "terroir" and soil influencing the flavour of arrack should also be considered an important part of the uniqueness of this spirit.

Arrack is a uniquely Sri Lankan drink that also connects our islands to the entire world through its history, production, and consumption.

The term Arrack itself is thought to come from the Arabic term *Araq* عرق which roughly translates as "perspiration" and hints at the ancient Arabian science of refining distillation. It is noteworthy that descendants of these ancient Arabs travelled to and settled in ancient Ceylon, becoming the ancestors of the Ceylon Moor community.

But it is little known that Arrack is a common spirit throughout South East Asia, the Middle East as well.

In Lebanon it is known as Arak and distilled from dates and figs, In the Philippines, it is known as Alak and distilled from palm sap.

In Indonesia it is known as Arrack (pictured above) is distilled from rice and sugarcane and widely consumed.

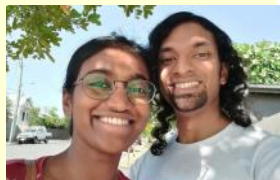
Arrack connects Sri Lanka to the Ancient Arabian communities of the Middle East, Philippines as well as Indonesia. All these regions have featured prominently in the genetic and ethnic makeup of Modern Sri Lanka.

Like with many cultural artefacts in Sri Lanka, little recognition is given to the uniqueness of Sri Lankan Arrack and its place as a global spirit. Often hypocritically viewed with simultaneous disdain and used as an intoxicant, this unique spirit is yet to gain the global recognition it deserves.

I hope to one day see Ceylon Arrack receive the recognition for the unique global spirit that it is.

### *Randika Jayakody & Jerome Perera*

*Among Randika and Jerome's many interests is a deep passion to understand Sri Lankan history and culture.*



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Stories Behind Names of Places in Sri Lanka

THAMBAVITA

There is a popular saying and a belief in the Sri Lankan community that the country will prosper under noble rulers where justice prevails. There is another saying "Rain God will bless the nation with timely rain when dedicated rulers govern". These beliefs and sayings are based on real life experiences of our people in the olden days. That is how rituals and a culture come to exist.

Our history of the nation contributes to establish these beliefs with facts. A glaring example is from the period the great King Dutugemunu ruled the country. This is a period the nation thrived tremendously with economic, social and cultural development.

There are reports of finding gold in the country and silver and gems in our soil to help his development work. The story behind the village we talk of is also linked to the period of the King Dutugemunu.

The word "Thamba" is for Bronze. "Thanbavita" is located in the Sabaragamuwa province in the Kegalle district. This was a remote village during the time of King Dutugemunu. People here lived simple lives happily engaged in agriculture. They came to the "Ovita", the marshy land, to collect the green leaves "papa" for their daily food. It is then that some began to observe a different colour in the water and the soil of the place.

Then they informed the village chief of there observations and the message was conveyed to the Korale and higherups . They investigated and got to know that it was nothing but BRONZE and the news reached the King. It is believed that this happened at the time the King was building "Ruvanveli maha seya"

The place was called "Thamba Ovita" and over time it evolved to "Thambavita".

By Dr Nimal Sedara

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



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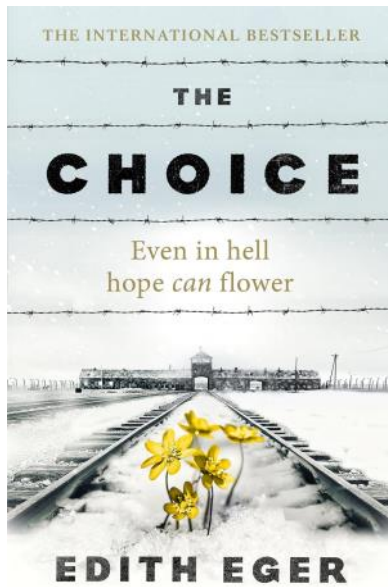
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## “The Choice” by Dr. Edith Eva Eger

At the age of sixteen, Edith Eger was sent to the Nazi death camp Auschwitz along with her parents and one of her sisters. Hours after he ordered her parents' death, Nazi officer Dr. Josef Mengele, nicknamed the “Angel of Death”, made Edith, a trained ballerina, dance for his amusement and her survival. At Auschwitz, Edith witnesses and experiences the horrors of the dehumanising effects of prejudice.



In 1945, Edith was discovered under a pile of dead bodies when Auschwitz was liberated. She had typhoid fever, pneumonia, pleurisy and a broken back. She will never dance again. Edith went on to become a world-renowned clinical psychologist specialising in post-traumatic stress disorder or PTSD. However, her journey was not a straightforward one.

Edith spends decades struggling with nightmares and flashbacks of Auschwitz and the crippling effects of survivor's guilt, determined to stay silent and hide from the past. “Memory is sacred ground. But it’s haunted too.” writes Dr. Eger. “It’s the place where my rage and guilt and grief go circling like hungry birds scavenging the same old bones. It’s the place where I go searching for the answer to the unanswerable question: “Why did I survive?”

Thirty-five years after the war ended, she returns to Auschwitz. It was during this return trip that Edith confronts a devastating truth that had kept her riddled with guilt and shame, a memory she’d hidden even from herself and was finally able to fully heal and forgive the one person she'd been unable to forgive—herself.

In 2017, at age 90, Dr. Eger published her memoir, "The Choice" which tells the story of her survival and healing, offering profound insights into the power of forgiveness, the human capacity for resilience and the importance of choosing hope over despair.

Dr. Eger weaves her remarkable personal journey with the moving stories of those she has helped heal, making “The Choice” a compelling and inspirational read. Eger's ability to

confront trauma and find meaning in suffering provides readers with a transformative perspective on life's challenges.

Dr. Eger explores how we can be imprisoned in our own minds and shows us how to find the key to freedom. She lives by the words of her mother, spoken in the cattle truck on their way to Auschwitz, “just remember, no one can take away from you what you’ve put in your mind.”



*Nimandra works in the renewable energy industry, and enjoys reading and dabbling in a bit of writing.*

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### Presidential Awards 2023

This year's Presidential Film Awards ceremony holds special importance as it marks a return after a 3 year hiatus. There were no awards given since 2018 and the current awards were for films shown in 2019 and 2020. Some of the main awards for the best performers are presented below. The feature of the awards was the Female Singer award presented to Dr Nanda Malini for the film "The Newspaper". The full list is available at the following site: <http://paper.sarasaviya.lk/News.aspx?>

2019		
Actor	Kamal Addararachchi	Ginnen Upan Seethala
Actress	Samadhi Laksiri	Dekala Purudu Kenek
Film		Ginnen Upan Seethala
Director	Anuruddha Jayasinghe	Ginnen Upan Seethala
Supporting Actor	Priyantha Siri Kumara	Thaala
Supporting Actress	Dilhani Ekanayake	Ginnen Upan Seethala
2020		
Actor	Kumara Thirimadura	The Newspaper
Actress	Neeta Fernando	Paangshu
Film		The Newspaper
Director	Vishakesa Chandrasekharan	Paangshu
Supporting Actor	Jagath Manuwarna	Paangshu
Supporting Actress	Nadee Kammellaweera	Paangshu

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TPD, වාහන අනතුරු, හෝ වැඩපලේ අනතුරු නිමිකම් ලබාගැනීම සඳහා උදව්



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

ඔබ දන්නා, අපි නොදන්න, නිරය පිටපස්සේ 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.



### ඉල් මහේ අපෙන් සමුගත් කලාවිරුවෝ ...!!!

ගෙවී ගිය මාස කිහිපයකම වගේ, ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ කලා ක්ෂේත්‍රය තුලින් අපට අහන්නට, දකින්නට ලැබුණේ ඉතා කණගාටුදායක සමුගැනීම්. ශ්‍රී ලාංකීය කලාවේ ගුණාත්මකභාවය ඉහළ දමන්නට, අපටම කියලා අනන්‍යවූ කලාවක් බිහි කරලන්නට තම මුළු දිවියම කලාවට කැප කළ, බොහොමයක් කලාකරුවන්, කලාකර්තෘණීන්, අපටත් නොකියාම යන්නම ගිහිල්ලා. ඉතිං, ඔවුන් විසින් ශ්‍රී ලාංකීය කලාවට එකතු කළ, ඒ අපූර්ව, මිල කළ නොහැකි නිර්මාණ කුසලතාවය, එම අමිල සේවාව සිහිපත් කරමින් ඔවුන් වෙනුවෙන් අවසන් ගෞරවය, ප්‍රණාමය පුද කිරීමටයි අද 'රස කතා' කොලම වෙන්වන්නේ.

මහදුරු එදිරිවීර සරච්චන්ද්‍රයන්ගේ විශිෂ්ටම රංග කාර්යය ලෙස සැළකෙන 'සිංහබාහු' නාටකයේ මුල් නිෂ්පාදනයේ (1961) 'සිංහබාහු' භූමිකාව පණ ගැන්වූ චාලි ජයවර්ධන ප්‍රචිත රංගධරයාණන්, සිංහ පවුල හැර ගිය කණගාටුදායක ප්‍රචිත පසුගිය නොවැම්බර් 17වැනිදා මාධ්‍යය හරහා හමා ගියේ, අප හදට සෝ සුසුම් නංවමිනි. 'සිංහබාහු' භූමිකාවට අමතරව මහදුරු සරච්චන්ද්‍රගේම වෙස්සන්තර නාටකයේ වෙස්සන්තර නිරිදු භූමිකාවද පන පෙවූ චාලි ජයවර්ධන කාලගෝල, ශ්‍රී වික්‍රම ආදී නාට්‍ය රැසකද රඟ පෑවේය. ජේරාදෙනිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ උපාධිධරයකු වූ චාලි ජයවර්ධන, ශ්‍රී ලංකා පරිපාලන සේවයේ කීර්තිමත් නිලධාරියෙක් ලෙස කටයුතු කළ අතර ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ නැපැල් අමාත්‍යාංශයේ ලේකම්වරයා ලෙස කටයුතු කොට ඇත. ඔහු දිව රඟ මඩලින්, සිංහ ලෙනින් නික්මෙන කළ අසුදෙවන විශේෂී පසු විය. අම්බලන්ගොඩ ධර්මාගෝකයේ ආදි විද්‍යාර්ථියකු වූ චාලි ජයවර්ධන ප්‍රවීණ චිත්‍රපට නළු ඩොමී ජයවර්ධනගේ බාල පොයුරා ය.

චාලි ජයවර්ධන රංගවේදියාණනි, ඔබට නිවන් සුවය අත්වේවා...!!!  
ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ජාතික රූපවාහිනී සංස්ථාවේ සංගීත අංශයේ මුල්ම ප්‍රධානියාවූ කෘතභාෂිත සංගීතවේදී ආචාර්ය පණ්ඩිත් සෝමසිරි ඉලේසිංහ පසුගිය නොවැම්බර් අටවෙනි දින දැයෙන් සමුගැන්නේය. මිය යනවිට අසුහනරවන විශේෂී පසු විය. සිය පිය උරුමයෙන් දායද වූ කුසලතාවන් තුලින්, පෙරදිග සංගීතය ප්‍රගුණ කළ තුරුණු ඉලේසිංහයන්, ඉන්දියාවේ ලක්නව්හී භාත්කණ්ඩ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයෙන් ආචාර්ය උපාධිය ලබා ගත්තේය, ඉන් ඉක්බිති ඔහු වයලීනය තම ආත්මය කොට ගත්තේය. වේදිකාව, ගුවන්විදුලිය සහ රූපවාහිනිය යන මේ ත්‍රිත්වයම වයලීන් වාදනයෙන් හා නිර්මාණ දායකත්වයෙන් පෝෂණය කළ මෙතුමා, ජාතික නාලිකාවේ ප්‍රචාරනී නේමාව හා සැලලිහිණි ගීතයේ අරුත නිවු වන ආකාරයට මියුරු ලයාත්වන නාද රටා නිර්මාණය කරමින් සිය ප්‍රතිභාව ප්‍රකට කළේය. ලොකු පොඩි කා අතරත් ජනප්‍රිය 'බැහැගී කියල, බැහැගී කියල බෑ' කාටුන් වැඩ සටහන් ගීතය ඇතුළත්වූ, රූපවාහිනියේ ප්‍රචාරයවූ, 'පිස්සු පුසා', 'දොස්තර හොද හීන', 'වලස් මාමා', 'සෝරෝ' වැනි කාටුන්වල ගීතයන්හි තනූ නිර්මාපකයා වන්නේ ප්‍රවීණ සංගීතවේදී සෝමසිරි ඉලේසිංහයන්ය. සෝමසිරි ඉලේසිංහ සංගීතවේදියාණනි, ඔබට නිවන් සුවය අත්වේවා...!!!

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුවන් විදුලියේ 'ඒ' ශ්‍රේණියේ සරළ ගී ගායකයෙක් වූ ජේ ඒ ධර්මරත්න ප්‍රචිත ගායන ශිල්පියා, පසුගිය නොවැම්බර් නමවන දින දැයෙන් සමුගැන්නේ ය.

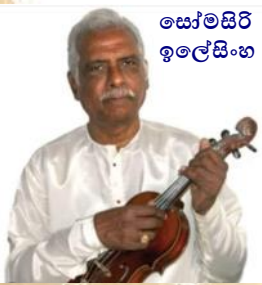
1939 වසරේ හැටත් ප්‍රදේශයේ දී උපත ලද ජයකොඩි ආරච්චිගේ ධර්මරත්න, තුරුණු වියේ සිටම සංගීත ක්ෂේත්‍රයට යොමුව ඇත. පසුකාලීනව සිය මවගේ ගම් ප්‍රදේශයවූ නීලමුහර පදිංචියට පැමිණ ඇත. ඔහුගේ බිරිඳ කලකට ඉහතදී මියගොස් ඇති අතර ඔවුන්ට දරුවන් නොමැත. ජේ ඒ ධර්මරත්න සංගීතවේදියා ගායකයකු, වාදකයකු මෙන්ම දක්ෂ චිත්‍ර ශිල්පියකුද විය. ලූෂන් බුලත්සිංහලයන ගේය පද ලියූ, ඔස්ටින් ඔස්ටින් මුණසිංහන් සංගීතවත් කළ, ඔහු විසින් ගැයූ 'නුවන් කැලුම් වතුරේ - සීතා නොයන් ලදේ' ගීතය 70 දශකයේ ඉමහත් ජනප්‍රියත්වයට පත්වූ ගීතයක් විය. කලක් ගුවන් විදුලියේ සේවය කළ ඔහු, පසුව දිගු කාලයක් පිළියන්දල ලංකා පිඟන් සංස්ථාවේ සේවය කර ඇත. එකල පිඟන් සංස්ථාවේ බිහිවූ බොහෝ සෙරමික් පිඟන් භාණ්ඩ විචිත්‍රව ඇත්තේ ඔහුගේ අතින්ය.

කුමක්දෝ අවාසනාවකටදෝ, ගුවන් විදුලි සරළ ගීයෙන් ඔබ්බට සිය ප්‍රතිභාව මෙහෙයවන්නට අසමත් ව මිළිණුව සැගව ගිය ගායන ශිල්පීන් අතර 'ජේ ඒ ධර්මරත්න' නම් වූ නාමය ද සටහන්වේ. කිසිවෙකුගේ හැච්චරණක් නොමැතිව, යාමට ඒමට, ඉන්න හිටින්නට නිශ්චිත නැතැක් නොමැතිව, අහන අසරණ තත්වයකට පත්ව, පිළියන්දල නගරය තුළ සිඟමන් යදිමින් තම ජීවිතයේ අවසාන භාගය පිළියන්දල පොදු වෙළඳ පොළේ දිවි ගෙවූ බව වාර්තාවේ. දැන් සියල්ල නිමා වී ඇත. ඔහු නික්ම ගොස් ය. එහෙත් ජීවත් වන සියල්ලන් ඒත්තු ගත යුතු කරුණක් ඇත. ඒ, 'මළවුන්ට පුදන මල් වඩමකට වඩා ජීවිතයට දෙන එකම එක රෝස මලක් අගේය' යන වග. ජේ. ඒ. ධර්මරත්න සංගීතවේදියාණනි, ඔබ සාමදානයේ සැනපේවා...!!!

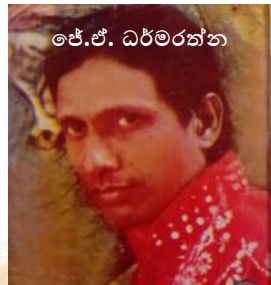
ශ්‍රී ලංකා සාහිත්‍යය වංශ කතාවේ, නූතන යුගයේ බිහිවුණු අග්‍රගන්‍ය කවියෙකු, ගේයපද රචකයෙකු, නවකතාකරුවෙකු, කෙටිකතාකරුවෙකු, ලමාකතා රචකයෙකු, නාට්‍ය රචකයෙකු, චිත්‍ර ශිල්පියෙකු, කංචුක නිර්මාණ ශිල්පියෙකු, තිර රචකයෙකු සේම චිත්‍රපට අධ්‍යක්ෂකවරයෙකු ලෙසද විශිෂ්ට කලා නිර්මාණයන් රැසක් අප හට දායාද කළ ශ්‍රී ලාංකීය කලා ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ මහා සංහිදවූ අභාවප්‍රාප්ත මහගමසේකරගේ පිය බිරිඳවූ, විශ්‍රාමලත් පාඨශාලාවාරී කුසුමලතා මහගමසේකර ගුරු මානාව පසුගිය නොවේම්බර් 21 වෙනිදා තම දිවි සැරිය නිම කළාය. මිය යන විට ඇය 88 වන වියේ පසු වූ නිදරුවමකි. ජේරාදෙනි සරසවියේ ගාස්තු පීඨයෙන් පළමු උපාධිය ලැබූ කුසුමලතා සුරවීර මෙනෙවිය 1962දී ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුරු සේවය තම රැකියාව වශයෙන් තෝරා ගත්තාය. 1963 වසරේදී කුසුමලතා සුරවීර මෙනෙවිය සමඟ යුග දිවි ඇරැඹූ මහගමසේකර කලාකරුවාගේ නිර්මාණ දිවියට ඇය තිබූද අත්වැලක් විය. 'බිරිඳ' නමින් පසුකලෙක ඔහු අතින් එළිදුටු කවි පන්තිය ('පුබුද්ධ' කාව්‍ය සංග්‍රහය) තුලින් එළිදක්වන්නේ, ඇය පිළිබඳව ඔහු තුළ මුහුකුරා ගිය ආදරණීය හැඟීම් විය. 'පාන්දරින් නේ උගුරක් මට ගෙනෙනා බිරිඳ ඔබය දුන් පුතුවන් ආදරයෙන් රැකබලනා බිරිඳ ඔබය හීන් සීරුවේ මා ගැන සෝදිසියෙන් සිටින ඔබය මාත් එක්ක සංසාරේ එකට හිටිය බිරිඳ ඔබය' කුසුමලතා මහගමසේකර මානාවගේ සසර ගමන සුවපත් වේවා, නිවන්සුව අත්වේවා...!!!

මෙම සටහන, ප්‍රසිද්ධ පුවත්පත්, අන්තර්ජාලය තුලින් ලබා ගත ලිපි ඇසුරින් නිමැවූ බව කැණුවෙන් සළකන්න

### සමන්මල් ගුණරත්න



සෝමසිරි ඉලේසිංහ



ජේ.ඒ. ධර්මරත්න



චාලි ජයවර්ධන



කුසුමලතා මහගමසේකර

### International Migrants Day

Every Year on 18 December, the world marks International Migrants Day, to highlight the important contributions they make while recognising the challenges they face.

The UN Migration Agency (IOM) defines a migrant as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of;

- (1) the person’s legal status;
- (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary;
- (3) what the causes for the movement are; or
- (4) what the length of the stay is.

As migrants, 99% of the readers of “Daehaena” may recollect the challenges faced, hard work put in and the rewards enjoyed. There is hardly anyone who would say that it was an all-smooth journey.

Throughout the history of the planet, conflict, war, wanton destruction of social order and economies by those in power, have driven people to migrate. According to the World Migration Report 2022 (WMR), 281 million people were international migrants and over 59 million people internally displaced in their own countries.

According to United Nations “Regardless of the reasons that compel people to move, migrants and displaced people represent some of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in society, and are often exposed to abuse and exploitation, have limited access to essential services including healthcare, and are faced with xenophobic attacks and stigma fuelled by misinformation.

On the other hand, many migrant workers are often in temporary, informal, or unprotected jobs, which exposes them to a greater risk of insecurity, layoffs, and poor working conditions.

Due to persistent lack of safe and regular migration pathways, millions continue to take perilous journeys each year. Since 2014 more than 50,000 migrants have lost their lives on migratory routes across the world.

Despite this, migrants have proven to be a source of prosperity, innovation, and sustainable development to countries of origin, transit, and host countries. Their financial contribution through remittance offers a lifeline to families and spur local markets especially those of Low- and Middle-Income Countries while their role in the labour market remains invaluable as evident on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic response. Their knowledge, networks, and skills have greatly contributed to the development of resilient communities.

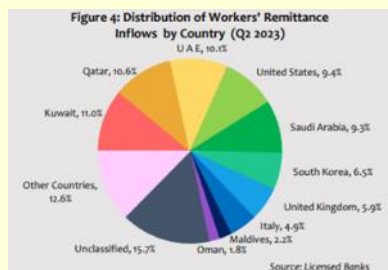


Table 2.18  
Departures for Foreign Employment

Foreign Employment	2020		2021 (a)		2022 (b)	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<b>Total Placement</b>	53,711	100.0	122,264	100.0	311,056	100.0
<b>By Source</b>						
Licensed Agents	18,065	33.6	41,805	34.2	123,420	39.7
Other	35,646	66.4	80,459	65.8	187,636	60.3
<b>By Gender</b>						
Male	32,500	60.5	81,110	66.3	186,965	60.1
Female	21,211	39.5	41,154	33.7	124,091	39.9
<b>By Manpower Category</b>						
Professional	2,957	5.5	8,373	6.8	14,307	4.6
Middle Level	1,496	2.8	4,256	3.5	8,130	2.6
Clerical & Related	2,496	4.6	6,540	5.3	12,134	3.9
Skilled	16,664	31.0	40,174	32.9	92,856	29.8
Semi Skilled	789	1.5	1,930	1.6	4,133	1.3
Unskilled	13,987	26.0	31,676	25.9	105,509	33.9
Housemaid	15,322	28.5	29,315	24.0	74,007	23.8

(a) Revised  
(b) Provisional  
Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

Strengthening the contribution of migrants to sustainable development requires collective effort to improve the governance of migration and addressing the challenges migrants face. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) offers the opportunity and guidance to actualize human mobility and seize the opportunities it presents.”

Lankans are well aware of the thousands who migrate to the middle east in search of a good life, not so much for themselves but for their families. It is interesting to note that more than 50% of these migrants are of unskilled and housemaid categories (Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment) and who are the most at risk of exploitation.

On this day of International Migrants Day, let us recognise the important contribution migrants around the world make and their challenges, particularly those from Sri Lanka.

**Wimal Kannangara**

*Resources*

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/migrants-day#>  
Central Bank of Sri Lanka – Annual Report 2022

## Your Local Real Estate Agent

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**1% + GST**

**Commission**  
**No Upfront Marketing Cost**  
**No Sale No Commission**

**Management ?**  
**5% + GST**

**+ One week letting fees + GST**

**NO other fixed fees**  
**Yes that's right**

**NO monthly admin fees**  
**NO advertising fees**  
**NO yearly statement fees**  
**NO renewal fees**

**For a NO obligation**



**Free Appraisal**

**Nalin Silva**  
**0403 716 237**







## Monthly News Digest: November 2023

01	Cabinet approves decision to hike VAT to 18%	<a href="https://www.dailymirror.lk/top-story/Cabinet-approves-decision-to-hike-VAT-to-18/155-270276">https://www.dailymirror.lk/top-story/Cabinet-approves-decision-to-hike-VAT-to-18/155-270276</a>
01	Bids called for divestiture of Sri Lankan Airlines	<a href="https://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=94497">https://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=94497</a>
02	China secures another strategic investment in Sri Lanka	<a href="https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/China-secures-another-strategic-investment-in-Sri-Lanka/108-270432">https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/China-secures-another-strategic-investment-in-Sri-Lanka/108-270432</a>
06	Veteran singer Athula Sri Gamage passes away	<a href="https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Veteran-singer-Athula-Sri-Gamage-passes-away/108-270716">https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Veteran-singer-Athula-Sri-Gamage-passes-away/108-270716</a>
06	Angelo Mathews dismissal	<a href="https://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=94635">https://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=94635</a>
06/ 07	Sports Minister appoints Interim Committee for SLC Appeals Court issues stay order	<a href="https://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=94623">https://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=94623</a> <a href="https://adaderana.lk/news/94650/appeals-court-issues-stay-order-on-slcs-interim-committee">https://adaderana.lk/news/94650/appeals-court-issues-stay-order-on-slcs-interim-committee</a>
08	Sri Lanka Cricket to be governed by 18-member Board of Directors	<a href="https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Sri-Lanka-Cricket-to-be-governed-by-18-member-Board-of-Directors/108-270875">https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Sri-Lanka-Cricket-to-be-governed-by-18-member-Board-of-Directors/108-270875</a>
09	US DFC commits 0.5b dollars to port infrastructure in Colombo	<a href="https://adaderana.lk/news/94670/us-dfc-commits-half-billion-dollars-to-port-infrastructure-in-colombo">https://adaderana.lk/news/94670/us-dfc-commits-half-billion-dollars-to-port-infrastructure-in-colombo</a>
10	Sri Lanka Cricket suspended by ICC board	<a href="https://www.espnricinfo.com/story/sri-lanka-cricket-suspended-by-icc-board-1408215">https://www.espnricinfo.com/story/sri-lanka-cricket-suspended-by-icc-board-1408215</a>
11	Ruvendrini Menikdiwela new Asst High Commissioner of UNHCR	<a href="https://www.ft.lk/front-page/Ruvendrini-Menikdiwela-new-Assistant-High-Commissioner-of-UNHCR/44-755103">https://www.ft.lk/front-page/Ruvendrini-Menikdiwela-new-Assistant-High-Commissioner-of-UNHCR/44-755103</a>
11	Government announces establishment of new Sports Uni in 2024	<a href="https://island.lk/government-announces-establishment-of-new-sports-university-in-2024/">https://island.lk/government-announces-establishment-of-new-sports-university-in-2024/</a>
12	Veteran editor Gamini Weerakoon passes away	<a href="https://www.sundaytimes.lk/231112/news/veteran-editor-gamini-weerakoon-passes-away-538387.html">https://www.sundaytimes.lk/231112/news/veteran-editor-gamini-weerakoon-passes-away-538387.html</a>
13	Aravinda de Silva ICC Hall of Fame	<a href="https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Aravinda-de-Silva-among-three-inductees-announced-for-ICC-Hall-of-Fame/108-271158">https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Aravinda-de-Silva-among-three-inductees-announced-for-ICC-Hall-of-Fame/108-271158</a>
13	Sri Lankan family left traumatised after 'racist' assault	<a href="https://adaderana.lk/news/94837/sri-lankan-family-left-traumatised-after-racist-assault-in-australia">https://adaderana.lk/news/94837/sri-lankan-family-left-traumatised-after-racist-assault-in-australia</a>
14	Magnitude 6.1 earthquake hits Indian Ocean: No threat to SL	<a href="https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Magnitude-6-1-earthquake-hits-Indian-Ocean-No-threat-to-Sri-Lanka/108-271255">https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Magnitude-6-1-earthquake-hits-Indian-Ocean-No-threat-to-Sri-Lanka/108-271255</a>
14	Mahinda and brothers responsible for economic crisis - SC rule	<a href="https://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=94857">https://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=94857</a>
16	A seating zone in SCG to name after Chamari Athapaththu	<a href="https://www.elanka.com.au/a-seating-zone-in-scg-to-name-after-sri-lankan-star-chamari-athapaththu/">https://www.elanka.com.au/a-seating-zone-in-scg-to-name-after-sri-lankan-star-chamari-athapaththu/</a>
21	Daily Mirror among Magzter on smart reading at airport	<a href="https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Daily-Mirror-among-Magzter-on-smart-reading-at-airport/108-271728">https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Daily-Mirror-among-Magzter-on-smart-reading-at-airport/108-271728</a>
21	ICC shifts Men's Under 19 World Cup from SL to South Africa	<a href="https://www.espnricinfo.com/story/icc-shifts-men-s-under-19-world-cup-from-sri-lanka-to-south-africa-1409945">https://www.espnricinfo.com/story/icc-shifts-men-s-under-19-world-cup-from-sri-lanka-to-south-africa-1409945</a>
21	Masters Athletics Championships	<a href="https://www.dailynews.lk/tag/akila-thirunayaki/">https://www.dailynews.lk/tag/akila-thirunayaki/</a>
22	Madushanka into ICC Team of Tournament	<a href="https://www.dailynews.lk/2023/11/21/sports/244692/madushanka-into-icc-team-of-tournament/">https://www.dailynews.lk/2023/11/21/sports/244692/madushanka-into-icc-team-of-tournament/</a>
28	Athapaththu brushes off draft snub, wins player of WBBL 09	<a href="https://www.cricinfo.com/athapaththu-brushes-off-draft-snub-wins-player-of-wbbl-09">Athapaththu brushes off draft snub, wins player of WBBL 09   cricket.com.au</a>
28	UNP confirms Ranil as Prez candidate of party-led coalition	<a href="https://www.dailymirror.lk/news/94857/unp-confirms-ranil-as-prez-candidate-of-party-led-coalition">UNP confirms Ranil as Prez candidate of party-led coalition   The Morning</a>
28	Sports Shakeup	<a href="https://www.dailymirror.lk/news/94857/sports-shakeup">Sports shakeup   Daily FT</a>



**Sri Lankan Events - Brisbane and SE Qld**

**December 2023**

02	AGM	Sri Lanka Sports Asso.
02	Sri Lankan Movie: Whispering Mountains: රහස් කියන කඳු	Private
09	Christmas Celebration	Silver Fawn Club
16	Sangamitta Day	Forest Lake Temple
31	New Year's Eve Dance	Silver Fawn Club
31	New Year's Eve Dance	Sri Lanka Soc of Qld

**January 2024**

27	Paduru Sajje	SPUR Qld
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**February 2024**

04	Picnic/ Car Rally	Silver Fawn Club
24	Infinity + Wasthi Brisbane Food Festival	Yes Entertainment
25	SAQ Annual General Meeting	SAQ

**March 2024**

02	Concert: Sasara Wasanathuru	Sathsara Entertainment
03	Stage Drama	Radio 4EB SL Group
08	Black Dinner Dance	Aradhana Entertainment
09	Annual General Meeting	Silver Fawn Club
09	FSOQ Musical show	FSOQ
16	Billy 242 Concert	Sathsara Entertainment

**April 2024**

6	New Year Festival Music Concert	Sathsara
14	New Year Festival	SAQ

**May 2024**

25	Vesak Celebration at Acacia Ridge State School	Goodna Temple
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**June 2024**

01	Dance Night: Sarith & Surith	Sathsara Entertainment
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**September 2024**

15	Sri Lanka Day	FSOQ
28	Saralanga 2024	SAQ

**Sri Lanka Sports Association Annual General Meeting**

Date - 2 December 2023

Time - 11am

Venue - 60 Denton Street Wishart Qld

Contact - 0412 719 979 (Sunil)

**Dæhæna (Newsletter) Archives**

Past copies of Dæhæna are found at the following location

[https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1PS0kFSXRCXSga-FrdtDMH\\_WpeReaT1Sn](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1PS0kFSXRCXSga-FrdtDMH_WpeReaT1Sn)

Please email "DaehaenaEditor@gmail.com" if you encounter access issues.

**SPUR QLD PADURU PARTY 2024**

**පදුරු පාටුරු**

**27th January 5:30pm ONWARDS**

**Acacia Ridge State School**  
Nyngam St, Acacia Ridge QLD 4118

Family (2A + 2C) \$80 | Reserved \$50 | Adult \$30 | Concession/Student \$20

Anil | 0416 012 099  
Jayamini | 0469 914 487  
Sarath | 0402 421 530

<https://fb.me/e/12CR2zLL>

**Radio 4EB - Sri Lankan Program Schedule**

Arunella - Sunday 9.00am - 10.00am FM 98.1	
Date	Producer/Panel Operator
03 Dec	Sam Fernando & Nadeeka/Sam Fernando
10 Dec	Lakmini Keerawella & Kasun Karunaratne/ Kasun Karunaratne
17 Dec	Dushan & Chathurika Wickramage/ Dhanushka Bandara
24 Dec	Christmas Program: Derrick Fernando/ Janaka Weerasinghe
31 Dec	Darshika & Himaya/Sameera Samarasinghe
07 Jan	Programming Group - Kasun Karunaratne

Sandella - Wednesday 9.00pm - 10.00pm FM 98.1	
Date	Producer/Panel Operator
06 Dec	Yovun Sandella/ Sameera & Dinesh
13 Dec	Kumara Dissanayake/Samanola
20 Dec	Special Carols Program: Prema Weerawardena and the Team/ Niraj Kariyawasam & Sameera Samarasinghe
27 Dec	Thisara & Randima/Thisara Pathirenehelage
03 Jan	Yovun Sandella/ Sameera & Dinesh

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