

APRIL | 2024

TORONTO TAMILARGAL

PHILOSOPHY | TEAM | SERVICE | MISSION



MEETUPS
CHITHIRAI THIRUVIZHA 2024
WHY TORONTO TAMILARGAL



WWW.TORONTOTAMILARGAL.ORG

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT



Tamil Language is one of the oldest surviving classical languages in the world, with a history dating back over 2,000 years. Tamil civilization expanded beyond the Indian subcontinent, influencing Southeast Asian cultures through trade and cultural exchanges. Tamil inscriptions dating back to the 3rd century BCE have been found in places like Tamil Nadu (India) ,Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia, indicating the spread of Tamil culture and language.

Toronto Tamilargal , a Community identified in unifying people based on Tamil Language in Toronto and sets a platform for Oneness and brotherhood.

Tamil Language serve as a **unifying** factor that **transcends** racial and ethnic boundaries. People who share a common language feel a sense of belonging and connection based on shared cultural experiences, values, and traditions.

**அன்பும் அறனும் உடைத்தாயின் இல்வாழ்க்கை
பண்பும் பயனும் அது**

Valluvar, emphasizes the foundational role of love (அன்பு) and virtue (அறன்) in a household's life (இல்வாழ்க்கை). When a family or domestic life is rooted in these two core principles, it naturally blossoms with good character (பண்பு) and usefulness or benefits (பயனும்).

WHO ARE TORONTO TAMILARGAL ?



Tamil unites people globally through its rich cultural heritage, language, and shared traditions. Despite diverse backgrounds and geographic locations, Tamils worldwide are connected by a deep sense of identity, pride, and belonging to their language and culture. Cultural events, social media, and digital platforms serve as avenues for maintaining connections and fostering a global Tamil community. The language's ancient literary tradition, vibrant arts, and music contribute to its universal appeal, transcending barriers and bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds. Through shared language and cultural bonds, Tamil fosters a sense of unity and solidarity among its global diaspora.



WHY TORONTO TAMILARGAL ?



Tamil's identity transcends geography due to historical migration, diaspora communities, cultural influence beyond Tamil Nadu, rich literary tradition, and modern global connectivity. Tamil culture and language have spread worldwide, influencing neighboring regions and countries with diaspora populations. The language's ancient literary heritage and digital connectivity further strengthen its global presence, fostering a vibrant global Tamil community united by language, heritage, and shared traditions. Tamil's essence lies not in a specific geographic location but in its universal appeal and enduring legacy across borders and cultures.

**TORONTO TAMILARGAL = GLOBAL
INCLUSIVE TAMIL COMMUNITY**

CHITHIRAI

Thiruvizha

2024

Highlights



Famil Vendor Market





Mary Ng - Hon'ble Minster of International Trade
Shrid - Ontario Care Giver Foundation/Health Ministry
Neethan Shan - Politician, founder of Tamil Civic action
- Trustee Toronto District School Board
Canada Vijay Makkal Iyakkam

Tamil Fashion Show



Hon'ble Associate Minister of Housing, CANADA- Vijay Thanigachalam











Performance from Kalakruti and Natyaveda







Our Proud Team



THIRUKKURAL



Thiruvalluvar and Thirukkural are integral to Tamil cultural identity. The work reflects the values and principles that have been cherished by the Tamil people for centuries, fostering a sense of cultural continuity and pride.

Thirukkural covers a wide range of topics, offering valuable insights into human behavior, relationships, governance, and more. It serves as a source of practical wisdom and is often studied for educational purposes.

Thirukkural is considered a secular work that transcends religious boundaries. It contains universal ethical principles that are applicable to people of all faiths, making it a source of moral guidance for a diverse population.

அன்பிற்கும் உண்டோ அடைக்குந்தாழ் ஆர்வலர்
புண்கணீர் பூசல் தரும்

உள்ளத்தில் இருக்கும் அன்பைத் தாழ்ப்பாள் போட்டு அடைத்து
வைக்க முடியாது அன்புக்குரியவரின் துன்பங்காணுமிடத்து,
கண்ணீர்த்துளி வாயிலாக அது வெளிப்பட்டுவிடும்

இனிய உளவாக இன்னாத கூறல்
கனிஇருப்பக் காய்கவர்ந் தற்று

இனிய சொற்கள் இருக்கும் போது அவற்றை விட்டுக் கடுமையான
சொற்களைக் கூறுதல் கனிகள் இருக்கும் போது அவற்றை விட்டு
காய்களைப் பறித்துத் தின்பதைப் போன்றது

அகழ்வாரைத் தாங்கும் நிலம்போலத் தம்மை
இகழ்வார்ப் பொறுத்தல் தலை

தன்னை வெட்டுவோரையும் விழாமல் தாங்குகின்ற நிலம் போல்,
தம்மை இகழ்வாரையும் பொறுப்பதே தலையான பண்பாகும்

WOMENS DAY MEETUP

Women's Day celebrates the achievements, resilience, and contributions of women. It's a reminder of the ongoing struggle for gender equality, advocating for women's rights and empowerment. By honoring women's accomplishments and highlighting gender disparities, it promotes a more inclusive and equitable society for future generations.



In 2023, the Toronto Tamilargal community in Mississauga came together to organize a series of vibrant events, weaving a tapestry of cultural celebration, communal bonding, and joyous gatherings. Each event, with its unique charm and warmth, played a crucial role in strengthening bonds and showcasing the rich Tamil heritage in our city.

Kicking off the year was the uplifting Women's Day Meetup at Kwaliti Grand Indian Buffet. It was a delightful blend of delicious cuisine and meaningful networking opportunities. The event provided a platform for women to connect, exchange stories, and honor their achievements in a supportive and empowering environment.

It was truly inspiring to see women from diverse backgrounds come together, sharing their experiences and celebrating their individual and collective successes. The atmosphere was filled with positivity and camaraderie as attendees forged new friendships and strengthened existing ones.

From sharing laughs over scrumptious food to engaging in thought-provoking conversations, the Women's Day Meetup was a testament to the power of unity and solidarity among women. It underscored the importance of creating spaces where women feel valued, heard, and supported in their personal and professional endeavors.

"IMPACTFUL LEADERS SURROUND THEMSELVES WITH PEOPLE SMARTER THAN THEY ARE." - JOHN C. MAXWELL

As we reflect on this memorable event, we are reminded of the strength and resilience of women in our community. Their stories inspire us to continue championing gender equality and creating opportunities for women to thrive. We look forward to many more empowering gatherings that celebrate the diverse talents and contributions of women in our community.



Women's Meet up - March 2024





Ah, summer in our Toronto Tamilargal community was truly something special! We kicked it off with not one, but two fantastic Summer Meet and Greet events that brought everyone together for some unforgettable fun.

Picture this: June 24th, the sun shining, laughter filling the air as families gathered for our first summer event. There were games galore, opportunities to connect with old friends and make new ones, and let's not forget the thoughtful gifts that put big smiles on our children's faces. It was a day filled with warmth, laughter, and pure joy.

But wait, the summer fun didn't stop there! On August 5th, we came together once again for another epic gathering. This time, it was all about the potluck feast - a delicious spread of homemade dishes that showcased the culinary talents of our community. And of course, no Tamilargal event is complete without some incredible performances by our talented children. Their dance performances stole the show and filled our hearts with pride.

As the day went on, we immersed ourselves in engaging games and activities that brought out the competitive spirit in all of us. But more than that, these events nurtured a sense of unity and belonging among us. Whether we were sharing a meal, cheering on our kids, or simply enjoying each other's company, it was clear that our community bonds were stronger than ever.

Summer may have come and gone, but the memories we created together will last a lifetime. Here's to many more summers filled with laughter, love, and unforgettable moments with our Toronto Tamilargal family!

CUP OF COFFEE



**Harinee , Digital Entrepreneur
Co-Founder - DIGIIVA**

A unique addition to the year's events was the Cup of Coffee series, an online women-only meetup held every second Friday of the month. These virtual gatherings allowed women to share stories, play games, and foster connections from the comfort of their homes. Each month, three entrepreneurs were promoted, who, in a gesture of appreciation, presented gift cards to three participants. This initiative not only encouraged networking but also supported local entrepreneurship within the community.



Why "Cup of Cofee" ?

- Sharing with others lightens up and can lead to a sense of relief and relaxation.
- Verbalizing emotions allows individuals to release pent-up feelings, reducing emotional tension and stress.
- Feeling understood and accepted can contribute to a feeling of relaxation and emotional relief.
- Knowing that someone cares and supports you can create a safe and comforting environment, promoting relaxation.
- Discussing concerns or challenges with someone else may lead to problem-solving or gaining a new perspective.
- Humans are social beings, and sharing emotions is a fundamental aspect of human connection.
- Opening up emotionally requires a level of trust. When individuals feel safe enough to be vulnerable, it can lead to a deeper sense of relaxation as they trust the person they're sharing with.

“நீ வெற்றிகக்காக போராடும்போது வீண்முயற்ச்சி என்று சொல்பவர்கள்,நீ வெற்றி பெற்றபின் விடாமுயற்சி என்பார்கள்” - Kannadasan

MISSISSAUGA

SUMMER MEET



MEET UPS



In a nutshell, let us tell you about the amazing year we had with the Toronto Tamilargal community in Mississauga in 2023. It was like a whirlwind of cultural celebrations, community involvement, and simply enjoying each other's company. Every event we organized had its own flavor, but they all added up to a year that we'll never forget.

From lively festivals to heartwarming gatherings, each event brought us closer together and reminded us of the beauty of our Tamil culture right here in Mississauga. Whether we were dancing to traditional tunes, savoring delicious Tamil cuisine, or simply catching up with old friends and making new ones, there was always a sense of warmth and belonging in the air.

Looking back, it's clear that these events weren't just about having a good time – they were about building connections, fostering a sense of community, and celebrating our shared heritage. As we move forward, let's carry the spirit of togetherness with us and continue to showcase the vibrant Tamil culture that makes Mississauga feel like home.

ஆறுவது சினம்

Anger is momentary; do not take decisions during times of anger (in haste)

-- Avvaiyar

DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

An unforgettable Diwali Meetup on November 5th! It was like stepping into a scene straight out of the Festival of Lights. Families came together, bringing with them the essence of Diwali traditions in the form of homemade sweets that filled the air with irresistible aromas.

But that's not all - the children were busy crafting diyas, adding their own special touch to the celebration. And to top it all off, every family went home with a beautiful hand-painted artwork, a unique memento of the festivities that added an artistic flair to our Diwali celebrations.

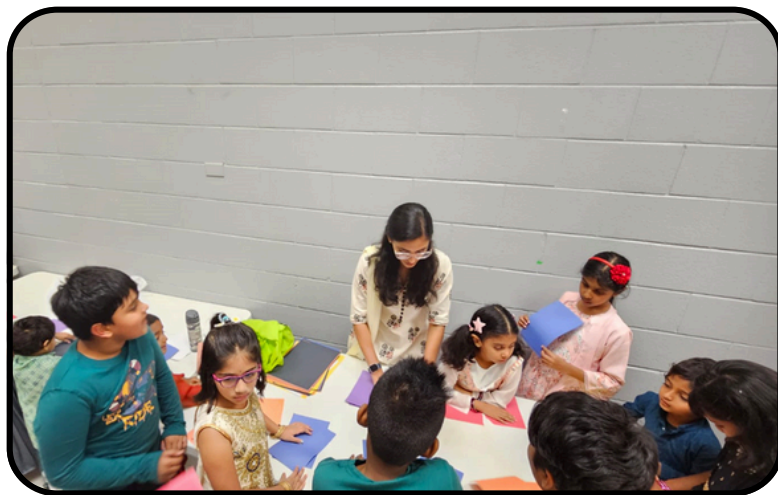
It was a day filled with laughter, love, and the warmth of togetherness as we honored the traditions of Diwali and created lasting memories with our Toronto Tamilargal family. Here's to many more celebrations that bring us closer together and remind us of the beauty of our culture!

WHY EXCHANGE SWEETS ?

Exchanging sweets during Diwali, known as the Festival of Lights, holds profound cultural significance. Sweets symbolize the sweetness of life and the joy of sharing blessings with others. By offering and exchanging sweets, individuals express gratitude for prosperity and abundance while fostering goodwill and unity within their communities. This tradition also honors the customs and rituals passed down through generations, reinforcing cultural heritage. Additionally, the act of sharing sweets is believed to bring happiness and ward off negativity, aligning with Diwali's theme of triumph over darkness. Overall, exchanging sweets during Diwali enriches the festival experience, strengthening bonds and spreading happiness.



SOME OF THE CLICKS FROM MISSISSAUGA ..



LONDON

FAMILY PICNICS & POTLUCK GET-TOGETHER



A cornerstone of our community-building efforts has been the organization of family picnics and potluck get-togethers. These events have created a warm and inclusive environment for families in London, Ontario to connect from the far end of the cities, share delicious meals, and create lasting memories. The laughter, camaraderie, and shared experiences during these gatherings have become a hallmark of Toronto Tamilargal's community outreach.

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS



Toronto Tamilargal has been a steadfast advocate for small businesses within our community. Through our events, we have not only provided a platform for local entrepreneurs to showcase their products and services, but also invited businesses out of London giving our community a unique shopping experience and one place. By featuring small business vendors, we have not only stimulated economic growth but also fostered a sense of community support that goes beyond transactional relationships.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL TAMIL BUSINESSES:



At the core of our achievements lies a strong spirit of collaboration. We've built valuable partnerships with local Tamil businesses and NGOs, fostering a mutually beneficial relationship that uplifts both our community and entrepreneurial ventures. Through our events, we provide a platform for these businesses to shine, allowing direct interaction with our community members. Take, for instance, Pizza Roma in London, Ontario - a prime example of this collaboration. Additionally, we're proud to team up with NGOs like the one spearheading the Coat for Kids Drive, showcasing our collective commitment to social responsibility and community welfare. Together, we're making a tangible difference in people's lives.

SHOWCASING KIDS' TALENTS:

At the heart of our community lies a deep commitment to nurturing the talents of our next generation. We take immense pride in providing a platform for the incredible skills and creativity of our children to shine. These events aren't just about showcasing their artistic abilities; they're about celebrating the vibrant spirit of our youth. By giving them a stage to express themselves, we not only inspire confidence but also instill a strong sense of pride in their cultural heritage. It's truly heartwarming to witness the growth and talent of our young ones as they embrace their cultural identity and showcase their talents to the world.



STUDENT SOCIAL INTEGRATION EVENTS:

One of our most cherished achievements has been our initiative to bring Tamil international students together, especially those who are far from home. We wanted to create a space where these students could not only find a sense of belonging but also forge meaningful connections with fellow Tamil speakers in London. Through social gatherings, events, and networking opportunities, we've been able to bridge the gap and provide a support system for students .



ALARMATHI

IMPLEMENTATION SPECIALIST - DOXIM |
OWNER/SEAMSTRESS - NOOLYAAPPU



CULTIVATING COMMUNITY: VOLUNTEER ONBOARDING TRIUMPHS

At the heart of everything we do is a strong sense of community involvement. We've made it our mission to bring people together, and welcoming volunteers with open arms has been key to turning our vision into reality. Their dedication and enthusiasm have breathed life into our initiatives, making them more impactful than we ever imagined. From organizing events to supporting outreach programs, our volunteers are the backbone of our community, driving positive change and fostering a sense of belonging for everyone involved. Together, we're making a real difference, one step at a time.

INITIATIVE TO BRING TAMIL WOMEN TOGETHER

Our dedicated efforts to organize activities and get-togethers for Tamil women have not only created spaces for meaningful connections but have also contributed to the personal and collective growth of our community. Here is a list of activities ,

Women's day Kollywood Themed Party :

- Swimming meet
- Group Hikes
- Casual Lunch

DEEPAVALI MARKET



It was nothing short of phenomenal! Picture this: we kicked off the festivities with a sweet exchange that filled the air with the irresistible aroma of homemade treats. Then came the cultural performances - vibrant dances, melodious music, and captivating acts that brought the spirit of Diwali to life. And to top it all off, we had a Tamil talk show that was both informative and entertaining. The event was an absolute hit, bringing our community together in a celebration of light, love, and togetherness.



WOMEN'S DAY KOLLYWOOD PARTY



At the core of our mission lies a strong belief in collaboration and unity, not just within our own community, but extending across regions as well. We're all about supporting one another, whether it's lending a hand at events in person or showing our solidarity online. It's all about coming together as a collective force, pooling our resources, and amplifying each other's efforts for the greater good. Because when we work together, there's no limit to what we can achieve!

HOLI CELEBRATIONS



It was a riot of colors as we gathered together to celebrate this joyous festival. Picture friends and family laughing and smearing each other with bright hues of gulal, creating a kaleidoscope of colors that filled the air with excitement and cheer. It was a day of pure fun and camaraderie, where people of all ages came together to embrace the spirit of Holi and make unforgettable memories. From playful water fights to dancing to energetic music, it was a celebration like no other!

DURHAM - AJAX, WHITBY, OSHAWA, BOWMANVILLE

FAMILY PICNICS & POTLUCK GET-TOGETHERS



Durham, with its picturesque landscapes and charming small towns, offers a tranquil retreat amidst nature's beauty. From lush greenery to rolling hills, it's a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. Quaint villages, historic sites, and vibrant communities add to its allure, creating a perfect blend of rural charm and modern amenities.

Let me tell you about the fantastic Meet and Greet event that Toronto Tamilargal organized in Oshawa Town! It was a delightful evening filled with laughter and camaraderie as Tamil families from all around came together to connect and have a good time. We kicked things off with some fun games that got everyone involved and energized. Then, we had interactive question and answer sessions that sparked lively conversations and shared insights. But the highlight of the evening? Exchanging hot beverages and snacks while sharing stories and creating memories - it was a perfect blend of warmth, laughter, and togetherness!



SCARBOROUGH

MEET AND GREET



A warm summer evening in Scarborough, where the air is filled with laughter and the scent of delicious food. That was the scene at Milleken District Park on July 15, 2023, as our Tamil community came together for an unforgettable Meet & Greet event. Our goal was simple yet profound: to provide a space for our Tamil friends in Scarborough to mingle, forge new connections, and deepen the sense of community that makes our neighborhood so special. And let me tell you, it was a gathering like no other! We were joined by a diverse group of individuals, each adding their own unique flavor to the vibrant tapestry of cultures that makes Scarborough a true melting pot. From shared stories to shared snacks, it was a night of connection, camaraderie, and unforgettable memories.



NORTH YORK



On the warm evening of June 25, 2023, Tamil community came together for an unforgettable Meet & Greet at IRVING PAISLEY PARK.

In North York, the Tamil community thrives with its rich cultural heritage and diverse interests. From vibrant cultural celebrations to educational initiatives, Tamil people in North York actively engage in preserving their traditions and fostering community connections. Interest in Tamil arts, literature, and music is evident through participation in cultural events and performances. Additionally, there's a strong focus on education and career development, with many Tamil individuals pursuing higher education and professional opportunities.

OAKVILLE



In Oakville, the Tamil community contributes to the town's vibrant cultural tapestry with their rich traditions and diverse interests. From celebrating Tamil festivals to participating in cultural events, Oakville's Tamil residents actively engage in preserving their heritage while embracing Canadian culture. Many are involved in community organizations, fostering connections and providing support to newcomers. Oakville's picturesque lakeside setting, bustling downtown, and excellent schools make it an attractive destination for families. Its vibrant arts scene, recreational amenities, and diverse culinary offerings add to its appeal, creating a welcoming environment for all residents, including the Tamil community.

BRAMPTON

MEET AND GREET



Brampton is renowned for its vibrant cultural diversity, with a thriving South Asian community contributing to its dynamic atmosphere. The city hosts an array of cultural festivals and events, celebrating traditions from around the world. Its lush parks, scenic trails, and recreational facilities offer ample opportunities for outdoor activities and leisure. Brampton's diverse culinary scene, bustling shopping centers, and vibrant arts and entertainment venues cater to residents and visitors alike. With excellent schools, convenient transportation links, and a growing economy, Brampton continues to attract families, professionals, and entrepreneurs, making it a vibrant and welcoming city to live, work, and explore.

**கற்க கசடறக் கற்பவை கற்றபின்
நிற்க அதற்குத் தக**

Thiruvalluvar emphasizes the importance of thorough learning and the application of knowledge.

Learn thoroughly what needs to be learned, and then live up to your learning.

HAMILTON

MEET AND GREET



Hamilton, Ontario, is a city bursting with character and charm. Nestled between the shores of Lake Ontario and the picturesque Niagara Escarpment, it offers stunning natural beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities. Known as the "City of Waterfalls," Hamilton boasts over 100 waterfalls, making it a paradise for nature lovers and hikers. Its vibrant arts and culture scene, anchored by institutions like the Art Gallery of Hamilton and the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, provides endless entertainment options. With a thriving culinary scene, diverse neighborhoods, and historic sites like Dundurn Castle, Hamilton is a dynamic city with something to offer everyone.



HAMILTON DEEPAWALI KONDATTAM

Deepawali, also known as the Festival of Lights, holds profound significance across India and in Hindu communities worldwide. Rooted in mythology and spirituality, Diwali symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

The festival commemorates the return of Lord Rama, along with his wife Sita and brother Lakshmana, to their kingdom of Ayodhya after fourteen years in exile and their victory over the demon king Ravana. It signifies the triumph of righteousness and the restoration of dharma (cosmic order).

Beyond its religious significance, Diwali is a celebration of renewal and prosperity. People clean their homes and decorate them with colorful rangoli patterns and light oil lamps (diyas) to ward off darkness and invite the blessings of wealth, happiness, and good fortune. It marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year and is considered an auspicious time for new ventures and investments.

Diwali is also a time for family gatherings, feasting on delicious sweets and savory dishes, and exchanging gifts. Communities come together to celebrate with fireworks displays, music, dance, and cultural performances, fostering unity and camaraderie.

Moreover, Diwali transcends religious boundaries and is celebrated by people of various faiths and backgrounds, promoting inclusivity, diversity, and social harmony. It serves as a reminder of the universal values of love, compassion, and the triumph of light over darkness, resonating with people around the world as a symbol of hope, joy, and renewal.



WINDSOR



Windsor, situated on the southern tip of Ontario, is a bustling city known for its diverse economy and thriving business landscape. With its strategic location along the Canada-US border and proximity to major cities like Detroit, Windsor serves as a gateway for international trade and commerce. The city's business sector encompasses a wide range of industries, including automotive manufacturing, advanced manufacturing, agribusiness, healthcare, and tourism. Small businesses and startups also flourish in Windsor's entrepreneurial ecosystem, supported by initiatives promoting innovation and economic growth. Overall, Windsor's dynamic business environment offers ample opportunities for Tamilargal .

AJAX



Ajax, nestled within the vibrant Durham Region, boasts a strategic location with easy access to major transportation routes and proximity to Toronto. This makes it a prime destination for businesses seeking growth and expansion opportunities. The city's diverse economic landscape includes thriving sectors such as advanced manufacturing, technology, healthcare, and logistics. Ajax's business-friendly environment, supported by robust infrastructure and supportive government initiatives, attracts both local entrepreneurs and multinational corporations. With a skilled workforce and a focus on innovation, Ajax continues to play a significant role in driving economic development and prosperity within the Durham Region and beyond.

CHITHIRAI THIRUVIZHA 2023



Lighting the Kuthu Vilakku, or traditional oil lamp, holds deep cultural and spiritual significance in Tamil tradition. It symbolizes the dispelling of darkness and the arrival of light, both metaphorically and literally, signifying hope, prosperity, and auspicious beginnings. Lighting the Kuthu Vilakku is a ritual performed during religious ceremonies, festivals, and special occasions, invoking blessings from the divine. It also fosters a sense of unity and community, as families gather around the glowing flame to offer prayers and share moments of togetherness. The act of lighting the Kuthu Vilakku serves as a timeless reminder of the enduring values of faith, positivity, and harmony.





Tamil saree, with its intricate designs and vibrant colors, holds profound cultural significance and serves as a symbol of Tamil identity and tradition. Worn with pride during festivals, weddings, and other celebrations, it embodies elegance and grace, reflecting the rich heritage of Tamil Nadu. Beyond its cultural importance, Tamil sarees have also influenced contemporary fashion trends, inspiring designers globally. With its timeless appeal and versatility, the Tamil saree continues to captivate fashion enthusiasts, bridging the gap between tradition and modernity while preserving a cherished cultural legacy for generations to come.

"அறம் செய விரும்பு.

This quote underscores the importance of righteousness and knowledge, suggesting that true greatness lies in doing good deeds and acquiring wisdom - Mahakavi Bharathiyar



Parai, a traditional drum , embodies cultural heritage, social cohesion, and historical resilience. Used in folk music, dance, and rituals, it fosters community bonding and preserves Tamil identity. Historically, Parai has symbolized resistance and empowerment, serving as a tool for social justice causes. Its rhythmic beats captivate audiences, showcasing artistic expression and skill. Learning to play the Parai promotes discipline and cultural awareness among younger generations, ensuring its legacy endures. Overall, Parai holds profound significance as a symbol of Tamil culture, uniting communities, empowering individuals, and preserving a timeless tradition for generations to come.

Look at the sky. We are not alone. The whole universe is friendly to us and conspires only to give the best to those who dream and work .

- Dr A.P J Abdul Kalam