

## A Salutary Start for Pathirikai

Elloorum Vanakkam,

Let me welcome you again to this second edition of Pathirikai. At the moment of writing this editorial note, the number of hits to Pathirikai.com has already exceeded 1300. After only two weeks of its launching on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011, readers of Pathirikai crossed already 1000 hits. This shows a sign of good health and gives us lot of hope for the future of this young e-paper. The Tamil community in Mauritius and abroad is eager of sharing their thoughts and they find in this tool, a perfect means of doing so. We have been acclaimed by bhaktens in various part of the world, such as France, UK, India, Morocco, Algeria, Sri-Lanka, Indonesia, Singapore and our neighbour Reunion. This has been made possible with the beauty of the Internet technology which renders Pathirikai.com an interactive platform where readers not only take cognizance of happenings but also react to opinions formulated by editors and participate in discussion forum.

We introduce in this edition our logo depicting a betel leaf with a pair of areca nuts and a set of coins. Our elders will recall that invitations in the old days were performed using 'pak – betel' and this was accompanied with a printed sheet of paper of usually yellow colour, referred to as Pathirikai. Thus



the association of the betel leaf with our journal Pathirikai. Pathirikai is therefore an invitation to you to participate and to contribute your share to the community. Never get discouraged and never let yourself down. All effort pays at last. We just don't know when it will pay. Our logo was designed by Miss Vanessree, a young graduate in Graphics Design who has graciously offered her services to Pathirikai. I take this opportunity to express my regards and gratitude to Miss Vanessree (E-mail add. [dayanadost@hotmail.fr](mailto:dayanadost@hotmail.fr)). In this context we are pleased to explain to you the virtues and significance of the betel leaf in our Culture section of this journal. Just as this tradition of betel leaf and areca nuts, there are lots of traditional practices that we are used to, without really knowing its significance. What is your opinion on "un-explained" traditions? One of our writers gives his opinion on this subject.

Tamils are closely associated with their cultures, traditions and its language. In this edition we are focusing on the Tamil language, both spoken and written. If a language is not spoken, it is a dead language. That's why we speak of mother tongue or 'langue' in French to refer to the speaking organ. In this context, Dr Jeeven Chemen, Chairman of the Tamil Speaking Union, has gracefully accepted our invitation for an interview. We note with admiration that Dr Chemen is doing a marvelous work in promoting the Tamil Spoken language in Mauritius. In his interview carried out by Mrs Kobashni Pillay, he talks about the challenge he took months ago in carrying a mass training programme across Mauritius which has been attended by hundreds of people of various origins. We have also put some notes on Tamil Language and its integration in the Mauritian context. For instance, did you know that 'Catamaran' emanates from the tamil language? Likewise there are many words that we use every day without knowing that they offshooted from the Tamil dialect. Tamil is one of the longest surviving classical languages in the world. It has been described as "the only language of contemporary India which is recognizably continuous with a classical past" and having "one of the richest literatures in the

world". Mrs Sandana Vellien, holder of a Master in Tamil, explains to us the risks associated with our tamil mozhi and what awaits us ahead.

Pathirikai, being a comprehensive journal, also addresses other concerns of the community. In this edition we talk about measures to be taken by cardiac-risk patient. Mr Shiv Narainen, a cardiac nurse specialist, working in the UK for decades, explains to us the Aspirin Therapy and its incidence on heart attacks, strokes, and blood clot formation. As we have always been advised-physical exercise will do us more good than harm, we are enclosing a guide on physical exercises for our elders. Mr Soopaya Caulee, who is a physical instructor, has kindly accepted to contribute his expertise to Pathirikai.

For the young, now that exams are over, some of you will be trying your luck for some jobs. We recommend that you read carefully our advice on attending interviews and how to put all the chances on your side. As promised in our previous edition we talk about training opportunities for those not opting for high-level university courses. And for those who are fond of mysteries, we explain the mysterious date that just passed by 11<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2011. Is it really a mystery? Is it linked to the Mayan Prophecy or is it just another date gone by like the year 2000? Read about these in this edition of Pathirikai.

We wish you good reading. Don't forget to bookmark the address!

Vazhga Pathirikai!

Nandri Vanakkam.

D. Venethethan

Chief Editor

[chief.editor@pathirikai.com](mailto:chief.editor@pathirikai.com)