



## World Run Day

For many people around the world, running is more than just a form of exercise! This type of activity is a celebration of the human spirit, a testament to human endurance and a universal language that transcends borders and cultures. This is the essence of World Run Day, an annual event that brings together runners from all corners of the globe to celebrate their shared passion for running. This day is not just about the physical act of running, but it's also about the community, the camaraderie, and the common goal of promoting health and wellness.

## #SAFETY GUIDELINES

# Safe and Healthy Wali Diwali

Here is your guide on how to play a safe Diwali.



Diwali is one of our country's most widely recognized celebrations. This light event is full of energy and draws people together. Diwali was an exciting time for us as children, and it is the same for the generations ahead. Sweets and savouries, dazzling outfits, and bursting crackers make this event worth the wait every year - but only if you know how to place safe diwali.

With little care and taking precautions one can assure that the festival of light which can be a breeding ground for mishappenings must be avoided or eliminated altogether by taking certain measures beforehand. Knowing how to play safe diwali is an additional joy as the celebration continues without interruptions.

### Checking the materials of clothes

It is advised that you wear fitted cotton clothing and avoid synthetic clothing. Loose-fitting clothing is also a terrible idea since it may quickly catch fire. These should be avoided at all times when enjoying the holiday.

### While bursting Crackers

You must buy authorized firecrackers and read the instructions before bursting them. High-quality firecrackers can help to lessen the likelihood of a disastrous catastrophe. Preferring green crackers can be a lot healthier.

- Consider some of the dangers posed by noise pollution.
- Hearing impairment
- Heart attack
- High blood pressure
- Sleeping disorders
- Deafness, either temporary or permanent

### Green Crackers

This year, green crackers will emit 30% fewer pollutants. Green crackers will have barium and strontium as components, resulting in fewer polluting particles. Such measures will ensure that a clean

and green Diwali is celebrated in the future, as well as a significant pollution reduction.

### Sensitising youngsters

Before putting your children out in the open to burst crackers, you must teach them about firecrackers and the precautions that must be taken while handling them.

One of the most critical things you can do to ensure your children's safety is to supervise them when they burst crackers. This will not only encourage them to learn how to play safe diwali but also, create an environment where safety is considered as a prevention before cure.

Using firecrackers that don't make too much noise or smoke is the first step toward being nice and tolerant of your neighbors. Seniors, little children, and pets will be unable to tolerate such loud noises.

### Redefining celebrations

Inform children, adults, youngsters and elderly about the significance of green Diwali and encourage them to use no or fewer crackers. Safe Diwali includes sharing the joy and celebration, engaging in decorating house, visiting neighbours, playing games and mingling around. With taking current scenario in account taking time off from screens, say no to all kind of screen time of your family this Diwali.

### Planning for emergencies

It is also critical to have a fire extinguisher nearby while exploding firecrackers. In an emergency, a bucket of sand or water might also be useful. Keeping handy the number of fire fighting team of your locality.

For health emergencies keep in touch with the first aid to treat the burns. A first-aid kit should be kept in every home.

Keep your house safe with intrusions from burglars or robbers. Tightly bolt down the lockers, jewellery and double-check all the locks during festive season.



# Reaping Benefits Amidst Mughal-Maratha battles

In 1690, a faction of the Marathas, led by Shivaji's son Rajaram, sought refuge at the fort of Jinji, 155 km southwest of Fort St George. As it happened, they were soon besieged by Mughal forces led by Zulfikar Khan, the first Nawab of the Carnatic, and Swarup Singh Bundela. Zulfikar Khan was increasingly frustrated when the British of Madras refused to present him the demanded amount. He attempted to destroy the trade of the colony by seizing its goods and imposing stringent customs. He even gave orders to the Havaldar of Thiruvallur to mobilize his troops in case of war. The Council of Fort St George met on 31 October 1696 and conveyed their outright rejection of the Nawab's demands even if it meant going to war. The siege lasted eight years. During this time, Higginson chose a position of careful neutrality. He refused to mediate when the Marathas captured Ali Mardan Khan, a Mughal general, and the Armenian traders asked the English to step in. Nor did he pick sides when Zulfikar Khan imprisoned Mohammad Kam Baksh, Aurangzeb's son who had tried to negotiate with the Marathas on his own.



Zulfikar Khan. Credit: Wikimedia Commons.



## Nathaniel, the first Mayor of Madras

Nathaniel Higginson (11 October 1652 - 31 October 1708) was an English politician and a scion of the Higginson family of Salem, Massachusetts who served as the first Mayor of Madras, and later as the President of the colony from 3 October 1692 to 7 July 1698. He was born at Guilford, Connecticut Colony in a family of American pioneers. His grandfather Francis Higginson was the first Minister of the First Church of Salem, Massachusetts from 1629 to 1630 while his father Rev. John Higginson served as Minister of the First Church from 1660 to 1708. Rev. John Higginson was a leading investigator in the Salem witch trials of 1692-1693 which witnessed the prosecution of his own daughter and Nathaniel's sister Ann Deliver on charges of practising witchcraft.

Nathaniel Higginson graduated in M.A. from Harvard College in 1670. In 1674, he moved to England where he worked for seven years in service of Lord Wharton as steward and tutor to his children. In 1681, he was employed at the Mint in the Tower where he served till 1683, when he joined the service of the

British East India Company and travelled to Madras. Soon, he was appointed to the Council of Fort St George. In 1687, when the Corporation of Madras was created, Nathaniel Higginson - who was the Second member of the Council - became the first Mayor. Nathaniel Higginson married Elizabeth Richards in 1692.

The plan for setting up a corporation in Madras was first detailed by Josiah Child, the President of the Board of Directors of the British East India Company in a letter addressed to the factors at Madras on 28 September 1687. Three months later, Josiah Child and his deputy had an audience with James II, and as per the ensuing discussions, a Charter was issued by the king on 30 December 1687 which established the Corporation of Madras. The charter came into effect on 29 September 1688, and Nathaniel Higginson - who was then the second member of the Council of Fort St George - took office as the Mayor of Madras. Nathaniel Higginson resigned as Mayor of Madras after a short term of six months, and was succeeded by Littenon.

Mussalman)." Four years later, as the second most important member of the Council, he found himself elevated to president of Fort St George when Yale conceded his position. That same year, he married an Englishwoman, Elizabeth Richards, whose father had been a Company trader in Balasore in the east. The couple went on to have nine children, four of whom died in childhood. It could be argued that Higginson had his reasons to maintain non-partisanship. He couldn't afford to antagonise the Mughals since he was the nawab, as the emperor's representative, who issued farmans or land grants and the English wanted the nearby villages of Egmore and Purasawalkam. In 1687, the English nearly clashed with the Mughals as Higginson vacillated over extending a loan to Zulfikar Khan. An advancing Maratha army from Thanjavur and Aurangzeb's clear instructions to resume the siege at Jinji averted the showdown. In early January 1698, the Jinji fort was finally breached. Six months later, Higginson relinquished his presidency. Higginson's tenure at Fort St George saw a number of successes for the East India Company. As president, he had the task of securing the Company's fortunes, strategically and financially. Pirates were threatening its ships on the high seas and Armenian traders, who had been welcomed into the

fort, were known to have dealings with them. Wielding the authority of his position, Higginson convinced the Armenians to toe the Company line, solving one problem. To consolidate finances, he imposed regular customs duties on goods entering and leaving the fort and convinced merchants - mainly Hindus - to form a joint-stock company instead of operating via one chief merchant. Crucially during his time at Fort St George, Higginson worked to balance the interests and sentiments of various religious groups. When a dispute arose between two priests over a mosque in Triplicane (now Thiruvallikeni), he stepped in to mediate. When the bishop at Senthome had to sanction a pastor at Cuddalore, he ensured the appointment conformed to the interests of the Company. And when a Yale-appointed committee overseeing the revenues of two temples ("pagodas") found itself in dispute, Higginson turned things over to the original group of merchants. In 1697, he supported British traders in their efforts to secure Anjengo (now Achuthengo), an important trading outpost off the Malabar coast, after Umayyama Rani, the queen at Attinjai, withdrew trading privileges granted in 1693. The British staved off a blockade and resumed the fort's construction that boosted trade in pepper and cotton.

## Volley of charges

Despite these triumphs, the spectre of Elihu Yale loomed large over much of Higginson's time at Fort St George. Yale was accused of conspiring with Katherine Nicks, a female private trader, to steal Company goods. There were also accusations that he had allowed the construction of ramparts and fort walls without authorisation from the council. He also benefited dubiously from undeclared profits of the China trade made by his brother Thomas. Following the mysterious death of three English members of the council, suspicious fingers were

pointed at Yale, who in turn complained of being held against his will. Higginson strongly refuted the allegations in letters to London. The charges and counter-charges were finally buried when Yale left India in 1699, having made a substantial fortune in diamond trade. Higginson was succeeded by Thomas Pitt, a former pirate whose fortune helped him win a parliament seat. Pitt's grandson and great-grandson went on to become British prime ministers: William Pitt the Elder and William Pitt the Younger.

## Pain of separation

Higginson left India with his young family in early 1700 and stayed in London the next 10 years. He always intended to return to America, especially after he was "invited" to consider the governorship of Massachusetts in place of the unpopular incumbent, Joseph Dudley. His long stay away worried his father and brother. Their letters to him detailed the precarious lives of the ever-growing Higginson family amidst the wars with France. The tone of the letters varied: earnest and cajoling on some occasions, resigned and bitter on others. His brother was keen to set up trade with the East Indies. In one

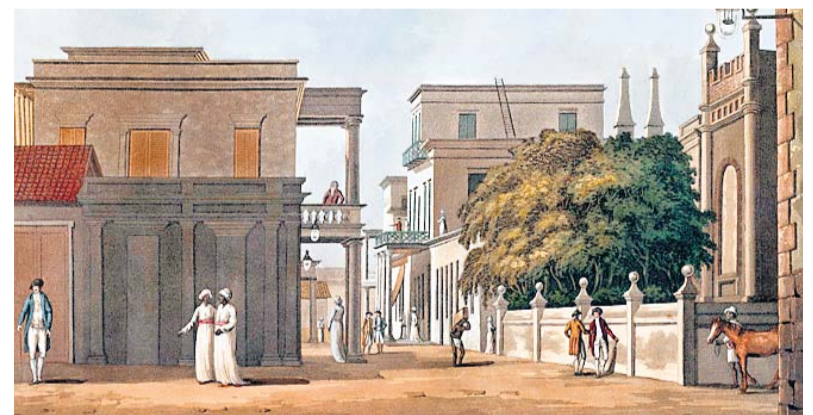
letter, he wrote: "Dear Brother, Let not the distance of place be a means to make us forget each other. Remember the good days and reciprocal affections we once enjoyed; and let me be again happy in your company here." His father reiterated the hope that Higginson would do his bit for his family. In a long letter, giving him news of people who had passed away, he wrote dolefully: "But what is our life? It is but a vapour that appears for a little while, and then vanishes away." Yet Higginson never did make it home. He died of smallpox in London in October 1708. His father passed away two months later.

## Later life

Nathaniel Higginson returned to England with his wife and four children in the year 1700 and established himself as a merchant in London. In 1706, he affixed his signature to a petition against Joseph Dudley, the Colonial Governor of Massachusetts. But Dudley discarded Higginson's petition with contempt as a complaint from someone

who "may be presumed to nothing of the country". The allegations were similarly discarded by the Council as a "wicked and scandalous accusation". Alienated from his home country, Higginson spent the rest of his life in England and died of smallpox on 31 October 1708.

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A View Of Part Of St. Thome Street, Fort St. George, by Francis Swain Ward, London, 1904.



Anjali Sharma  
Senior journalist & wildlife enthusiast

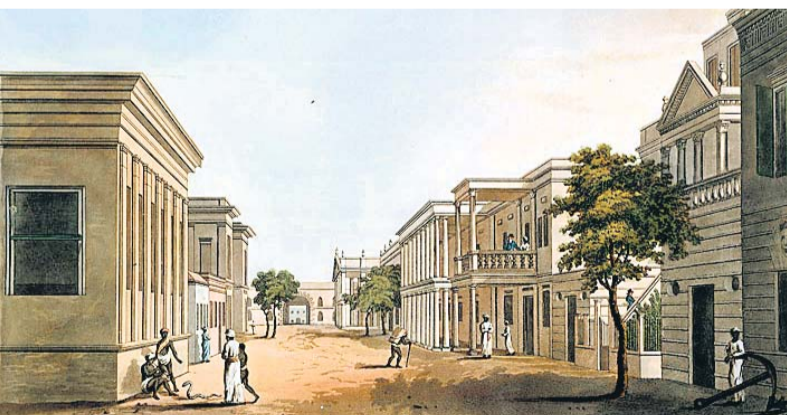


Chennai, then Madras was born when a small piece of land was handed over by the local Nayak rulers to the British East India Company. One of the most important events during the Governorship of Yale was the institution of a Mayor and Corporation for the City of Madras. The creation of a Corporation of Madras, is the earliest of its kind in British India. In Sept. 1688, the Corporation of Chennai was inaugurated - Nathaniel Higginson, an English politician and a scion of the Higginson family of Salem, Massachusetts was the first Mayor of Madras. The history of Madras (modern day Chennai - olden Madraspatnam) is one of three centuries of growth and tons of historic significance, though no big battles were fought here. Obviously, the present day expanded City and

Greater city had existed before in the shape of scattered villages and settlements - but not under a common name or rule. Along the coast, people moved in Coehrane's canal, then known as North river and Coovum river - these with exception of Adyar river are no longer navigable rivers - more of stagnant pools of water at places.

Many places which were referred to by colonial names, have slowly faded into oblivion - example being George Town area. Streets like Godown street which perhaps had its origin from the bulk traders have remained more or less the same. The colonial rule spread with the obtaining of small villages, later acquiring other areas in the vicinity.

An alderman is a member of a municipal assembly or council in many jurisdictions founded upon English law. The title is derived from the Old English title of ealdorman, literally meaning "elder man", and was used by the chief nobles presiding over shires. The Court of Aldermen is an elected body forming part of the City of London Corporation. The Court of Aldermen is made up of the twenty five aldermen of the City of London, presided over by the Lord Mayor (who is one of the aldermen).



A View In The North Street Of Fort St. George.

## #FIRST MAYOR OF MADRAS



Fort St George, 1736. Yale Center for British Art/ Look and Learn [Public Domain Dedication (CC0 1.0)]

## Tenure as President of Madras

It was during Higginson's tenure that the British East India Company obtained a firman from Nawab Zulfikar Khan for the settlements of Egmore, Purasawalkam and Triplicane. In July 1694, there broke a dispute between two chief Muslim clerics of Blacktown over the division of revenues which Higginson helped settle in an amicable way. In February 1696, Elihu Yale petitioned the Court of Directors once again over the unjust way in which he had been tried by the Council of Fort St. George. Higginson responded by replying to the Board of Directors refuting Yale's allegations of injustice. In November 1694, Nawab Zulfikar Khan proceeded from Wandiwash where he was

encamped and took Chungramon Fort. However, dissent broke out in the ranks of the Mughal army and there were rumors of royal orders being dispatched to Daud Khan Panni to capture Nawab Zulfikar Khan. In March 1696, Nawab Zulfikar Khan sent messengers to Madras demanding one-lakh pagodas. In 1690, a faction of the Marathas, led by Shivaji's son Rajaram, sought refuge at the fort of Jinji, 155 km southwest of Fort St George. As it happened, they were soon besieged by Mughal forces led by Zulfikar Khan, the first Nawab of the Carnatic, and Swarup Singh Bundela. Zulfikar Khan was increasingly frustrated when British of Madras refused to present

him the demanded amount. He attempted to destroy the trade of the colony by seizing its goods and imposing stringent customs. He even gave orders to the Havaldar of Thiruvallur to mobilize his troops in case of war. The Council of Fort St George met on 31 October 1696 and conveyed their outright rejection of the Nawab's demands even if it meant going to war.

The siege lasted eight years. During this time, Higginson chose a position of careful neutrality. He refused to mediate when the Marathas captured Ali Mardan Khan, a Mughal general, and the Armenian traders asked the English to step in. Nor did he pick sides when Zulfikar Khan imprisoned Mohammad Kam Baksh, Aurangzeb's son who had tried to negotiate with the Marathas on his own.

However, Madras was saved when fresh orders were received by Zulfikar Khan in late 1696 from the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb to proceed to Gingee. Thus, a major face-off was averted. Zulfikar Khan, meanwhile, concentrated his energies against the Marathas and won a decisive victory at Gingee returning to Wandiwash only for his marriage in 1698. Nathaniel Higginson sent him rich marriage presents and a congratulatory message on his victory over the Marathas.

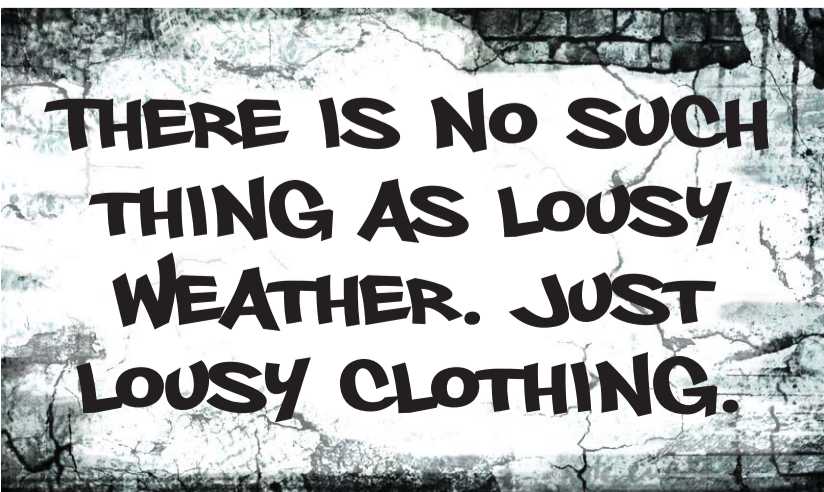
Throughout his tenure, despite being a Protestant, Higginson was fairly tolerant towards his Hindu subjects as well as the Roman

Catholics of St Thome. He repealed the extortionary taxation system which his predecessor Elihu Yale had introduced in the revenue system of the Hindu shrines of Blacktown and Triplicane. He also maintained regular correspondence with the Roman Catholic bishop of St Thome.

It was during Higginson's Presidency (in 1693) that the Madras Secretariat was constructed to host the offices of the Council of Fort St George. It was also during this time that a channel was cut in order to interlink the North River with the Coovum. It was this interlinking of the two rivers which created "the Island".

Higginson's Presidency came to an end on 7 July 1698, and he was succeeded by Thomas Pitt.

## THE WALL



## BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

## ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman