

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS MUSINGS

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Aiyo, aiyo, why is he singing with so much kolaveri !!

Veri too much

No, not easy being a P-I-P (Person in Charge) these days.

Flying shoes, slaps... citizens are on the ready, expressing disenchantment with word and gesture.

And now ... smash hits that sing of 'Veri'.

Dangerous word - 'Veri'.

Could give people ideas - always a possibility when creative types fire the imagination of the many-headed.

Dangerous thing - Imagination.

Starts people thinking ...

Then who knows where that will lead?

Given that there's so much to be 'veri-ed' about, perhaps they'll go: *Why only, why only, why only ONE veri, di?*

(You'll now have to do the beat in your heads, guys.)

Garbage pile-o-pile,

Potholes very danger,

Water everywhere, but not in tap-u,

Encroachments ignored-u,

But nice buildings threatened-u,

Traffic rules-u

Non-existent-u

Prices rising

Simply no limit-u

Honest peoples no have money

But whom we trusted

Simply galtha-fy-ing-u

So very, very, very much to be veri-ed about, di ...

Hmmm ... word on the street is that authority figures are nervous, while crowned heads apparently sleep uneasy these days.

Well, that's what happens when promises aren't kept.

Will this New Year at least bring enlightenment?

The realisation that 'Good Leader' is a title to be earned ... not merely won like a prize in a contest?

Hopefully...

Then, life will be very good, and veri-less, no?

Ranjitha Ashok



Pulicat Lake.

A tragedy that could have been averted

(By The Editor)

What happened on Christmas Day bringing tears to the eyes of many when news filtered through of the death by drowning of 22 people in what was to have been a joy ride at Pulicat Lake could well have been averted if only successive Governments had paid heed to suggestions, proposals and project reports by several organisations to make Pulicat a major tourist destination. But having paid no attention to these recommendations, all it can now do is to make the usual excuses - safety standards ignored, absence of life-jackets, etc. The Government has gone on to make predictable moves - announcement of solatiums, rushing of ministers and top-ranking officials to the site, and promises of action. But will all this result in any change as far as ground reality is concerned? Can Pulicat become a tourist destination of international standards? Rather ironically, the disaster has come just weeks after the State Government announced a package to boost tourism in Tamil Nadu.

Pulicat Lake is one of the oldest waterbodies in this region. Some put its age as over a million years. Its historicity is more recent, beginning when the Dutch made it their chief Bay of Bengal base around 500 years ago. It has, therefore, ruins and archaeological finds in addition to natural beauty. It also happens to support a fragile eco-system with locals practising agriculture and fishing. There is a bird sanctuary in the

Andhra Pradesh side of Pulicat and the lake supports aquatic vegetation of various kinds. It also hosts flamingos in their thousands during the seasons. There is a beach and sand dunes. Thrown in historic temples, mosques and churches, you have an ideal mix for tourism. Yet, very little has been done to exploit it, though for nearly twenty years there has

(Continued on page 6)

Let's make Music Season a city festival

(By A Special Correspondent)

The December festival today does not begin from December 15th and end on January 1st as it did a couple of decades ago. It now spans the period mid-November to the middle of January, even dragging on after that. With the weather being tolerable at this time of the year in our city, it has become a season for tourists and NRIs as well. All this makes it an ideal festival package to market all-India as well as internationally. Yet nothing has been done about it.

Last heard, it was in 2006 that the Government mulled over such an idea and even announced that it would work with the Music Academy in bringing out a paper on the subject. What happened to that project is not known. An earlier attempt promoted by the Confederation of Indian Industry did not go beyond a few tea sessions, largely because there was little attempt at getting the event a broader base and wider public and trade participation. Writing about this in February 2002, the Editor of this journal had urged that the group needs to "stop talking and get down to look at some of the suggestions made for such a festival." Some of the suggestions then given included:

- An art, heritage and theatre festival on Pantheon Road. The Museum Complex, with the Art Gallery and the Museum Theatre, would be a perfect venue for this. Shopping and eating out will be added attractions here.
- Nungambakkam High Road, Cathedral Road-Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai as a stretch for a food and music festival. The stretch has some of the best and most frequented hotels, restaurants and food stores in town. The Music Academy could serve as the venue for music concerts and visitors could move about the long stretch to savour the food of their choice.
- A beach music festival on Kamarajar Salai with the Marina as the backdrop.

All these suggestions hold good even today and no doubt, can be implemented fairly easily if only some thought is given to the methodology.

What the Government ought not to do would be to start off one more music festival and join the bandwagon of *sabha*-s dishing out awards and concert opportunities. What it needs to do is to facilitate the conduct of the cultural season by providing

(Continued on page 7)

TN needs State Capital Region

Metropolitan cities are generally found to grow fast and, as a result, influence the adjoining areas, causing rapid change in land use patterns, demand for infrastructure, and rapid immigration. This leads to changes of municipal corporation limits so as to improve the life of the people.

Chennai is no exception to this. Its municipal corporation limit has been extended several times. Recently, more areas have been added to the city.

The Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA) has been delimited to an extent of 1180 sq.km prior to the First Master Plan and has been unchanged for planning during the Second Master Plan period.

Whatever be the planning, the CMA is not able to cope with the demand, and the gap between the requirements and what is being provided is widening. Hence, there is need to look for a better approach and base for planning and development.

A new approach has been found in the case of Delhi, with a National Capital Region (NCR) created in September 2005. The NCR conurbation, comprising the National Capital Territory of Delhi, a Haryana sub-region, a Rajasthan sub-region, and an Uttar Pradesh sub-region was planned with a total area of about 33,578 sq.km.

A similar scheme has been contemplated for some time for the Chennai Metropolitan Planning Area. Steps were taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu to constitute a Metropolitan Planning Committee for Chennai under the 74th Constitutional amendment to prepare an investment plan for the CMA. But the committee that would provide budget allocation and co-ordination between

• by K.R. Thooyavan

the various agencies, which obviously involves implementation of plans and programmes in the CMA, is yet to take off.

According to the latest census, Kancheepuram District witnessed a population growth rate of 39 per cent compared to 19 per cent in the previous census. For Thiruvallur, it has been 35 per cent versus 23 per cent. These are much higher than 13 per cent for Chennai. Given this fact, these two districts may have to be included in the region being considered.

The question now is how to evolve a region that will lead to an integrated approach for an entity comprising the city municipal corporation and metropolitan planning area, along with portions of two districts. A critical issue may be the decision on rural areas like Oothukottai and Madhuranthagam, whether to include or exclude them from the mega region while planning conurbation.

The aim of the plan for a mega region, viz. the State Capital Region for Tamil Nadu (SCRT), should be promotion of growth and balanced development of the whole region, providing an economic base for urban and rural settlements, efficient transport network, development of physical infrastructure, rational land use pattern, and an improved environment and quality of life. All the requirements could be taken care of by good capital budgeting for integrated development, which is possible by a single Authority to be formed for the SCRT – (Courtesy: *Our Building and Construction*).

MADRAS MUSINGS ON THE WEB

To reach out to as many readers as possible who share our keen interest in Madras that is Chennai, and in response to requests from many well-wishers – especially from outside Chennai and abroad who receive their postal copies very late – for an online edition. *Madras Musings* is now on the web at www.madras-musings.com

THE EDITOR

The canteen cutcheri-s

The Music Season is at its peak even as *The Man from Madras Musings* is putting finger to keyboard (by which he means the keyboard of his computer and not the musical variety). At every *sabha*, even as MMM pounds away on the keys like a percussion artiste trying his best to impress everyone at a concert, someone is even now singing. And more importantly, at many *sabhas*, there are chefs supreme producing their best fare at the canteens.

MMM is aware of some *sabhas* that do not offer culinary delights but he prefers not to have any contact with them. For, come December, MMM and good lady (also known as She Who Must Be Obeyed), shut kitchen and dining room and prefer to eat out and also entertain at these canteens.

Now those of you who have never been to such places should not imagine that what they have to offer is cordon bleu or something out of some guide to fine dining. And as for imbibing any libations, forget it, the best you can hope for is coffee, and that of the finest

another aspect of the canteen. Food here is ever-fresh for such is the daily turnout of patrons (no matter that the *sabha* may be near-empty inside) that there is no question of any leftovers. What more can you ask for?

Plenty really. Some better hygiene for one. Most of these places have no provision for disposal of food waste. And so, as the Season progresses, MMM finds that all the refuse is collected in plastic bags and kept to one side. This is in the cleanliness-minded *sabhas*. The garbage trucks come in once every few days and clear it all up. But the sight of the bags piling up is not an appetising one. In the lesser places, waste is simply tipped into the closest drain, which soon clogs up. You then have the familiar sight of the drain-cleaning machine in action, of which MMM has written in graphic detail several months ago. The end result is a small mound of sewage, which has been removed from the drain. This smells to the high heavens, where if you recollect Shakespeare, music is also present.

in which flotsam and jetsam are clearly visible.

That said, there is no record of anyone falling ill after eating in a *sabha* canteen. There must be a musical god in charge of small things.

The name game

This never-ending sport of the Government is on in full swing once again, or so *The Man from Madras Musings* learns from his moles that are close to the action. There is talk in the air of renaming roads and areas. Presumably, with health-care having taken care of the more visible memorials of the previous regime, focus has shifted to the intangibles.

In this context MMM wonders as to what purpose all this serves. He would also like to point out that existing street names are badly mangled and would not a better service be done if these are restored to their former glory so to speak? The other day someone asked MMM who MK of MK Amman Koil Street was. Striking clear of any political un-

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

variety. As for the other, and most inferior, namely tea, it is not to be had at these places. You are probably better off having it at one of those way side joints where the concoction is perpetually on the boil and is often filtered through the same rag that is used to wipe the table and if you object to that, then probably an old sock.

But to get back to the canteen, this is where you get South Indian vegetarian food at its best. That is food of which you do not know what the ingredients were or are, how they were sourced (inorganic, organic or genetically modified) and how they were prepared (cholesterol-free oil and some saturated fat), but which tastes good to the palate and that is all that matters. Almost everything here is deep-fried but, as all that is good in life is either sinful or fattening, there is very little you can do about it.

And as for the prices, rock bottom would not be a sufficiently indicative expression. MMM is not exaggerating when he says that five people breakfasting at a canteen would probably be paying as much as one person in an up-market restaurant for food that was probably re-heated and served from the previous day.

And that brings MMM to

The cloth with which the waiters wipe the tables after patrons have left (and South Indian food is messy) may have begun life spotless white (and MMM has his doubts) but as time wears on it transforms itself to a brown and then a grey, rather like a skin-whitening cream working in the reverse. It also acquires an odour of its own which becomes all permeating. You can smell it on the dishes, the steel tumblers and also on the table surfaces. But perhaps that too is part of the joy of eating in canteens.

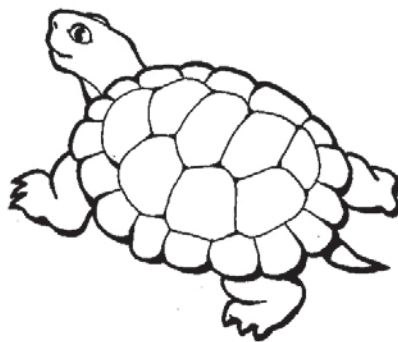
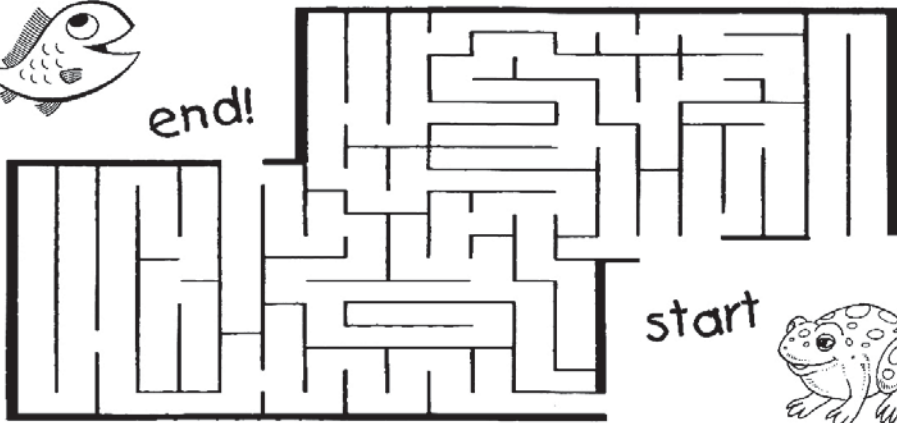
The 'hand wash', as MMM believes the expression is, is another area that leaves much to be desired. Given our habits, most patrons believe this to be a place where they can clean every possible orifice in the body that is above the waist (thankfully), with a lot of accompanying noise. And the drain spots at these places could be a lot better to put it mildly. At one place, MMM was surprised to find a largish vessel being filled with water from one of the taps in the 'hand wash'. MMM asked with some trepidation as to whether this was the drinking water that was served. "Oh no," came the answer. "We use it to make ice!" MMM fled. Close to the 'hand wash' is also the space where the vessels are washed. This becomes a kind of inland lake, a Sargasso sea,

dertones, MMM had to clarify that MK stood for Mundagakkanni, a Goddess for whom a fairly old temple stands on the same thoroughfare. She, said MMM, was clearly above politics. Similarly, try asking any auto or taxi to take you to Rajah Annamalai Puram. You draw a blank. It is only when you say RA Puram that they realise what you are talking about. Similarly there is a signboard that states CV Rama Road. If such personalities are being forgotten, what price any fresh name changes.

New hopes

Time is fast running out for 2011 and *The Man from Madras Musings* is jolly glad that he is seeing the last of it. For all that MMM waxes eloquent on nostalgia, he is quite glad to see time marching on. At heart he is an optimist and on every 1st January he puts on rose-tinted spectacles and looks with new hopes. And heaven knows we need a number of new hopes for the coming (or, by the time you read it, the current) year. And so, keep smiling at everyone. It may not change anything, but it keeps you going and, above all, improves your face value.

– MMM



The illustrations above were one side of the invitation. On the other side was the information given below.

The most intriguing invitation Madras Musings has received in a long time has been for

once upon a time

An exhibition on children's literature is organised by the Arts Management Students of Madras Craft Foundation. The exhibition will trace the path of children's literature in India from the past to the present day. It will also explain how Indian traditional art forms have been used in books as illustrations. The exhibition is on till January 31, 2012 at DakshinaChitra (for details: 2747 2603/2747 2783).

CHENNAI HERITAGE

No. 5, Bhattad Tower, 30, Westcott Road, Royapettah, Chennai 600 014

I am already on your mailing list (Mailing List No.....) / I have just seen **Madras Musings** and would like to receive it hereafter.

● I/We enclose cheque/demand draft/money order for Rs. 100 (Rupees One hundred) payable to **CHENNAI HERITAGE, MADRAS**, as **subscription** to **Madras Musings** for the year 2011-12.

● As token of my support for the causes of heritage, environment and a better city that **Madras Musings** espouses, I send Chennai Heritage an additional Rs..... (Rupees) Please keep / put me on your mailing list.

Name :

Address:

Note: Overseas postage Rs. 550/year extra. Cheques for overseas postage alone payable to M/s. Lokavani Southern Printers Pvt. Ltd. All other cheques to 'Chennai Heritage'.

S M T W T F S S M T W T F S
Dates for Your Diary
 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
 26 27 28 29 30 31

The Mylapore Festival

The Sundaram Finance Mylapore Festival opens on January 5th. The four-day festival of the arts and heritage will be held in the Sri Kapali Temple precincts as usual.

A new production titled *Vanna Mayil* will be premiered during the Festival. *Vanna Mayil* has dance and creative choreography by Guru Revathi Ramachandran and centres on the less known communities who have enriched the life of the Mylapore region. Using dance, narration, visuals and music, the production will feature neighbourhood artistes and will be staged on all four evenings of the Festival at the main stage in Sannidhi Square. The annual Kolam Contest will be held on North Mada Street during week-end. For registration call Sharadha at 94457 64499 (10 a.m. to 1 p.m. only).

This year, Andhra Pradesh-based traditional puppeteers led by Guru Ramanna will perform stories from the *Ramayana* on two evenings. This has been made possible by DakshinaChitra. Another well-known puppeteer, Guru Selvaraj, will present *Bhakta Prahlada* on two other evenings in Sannidhi Square. At the same venue, the Anusham Dance Group led by Narendra and Anusha will present *Shakthi*, a dance ballet on Saturday evening (January 7th).

Another new dance drama that will be staged at the Fest is *Margazhi Neerada Magizhthelorempavai* by students of Vaneer Kalalaya, Chennai, with Guru Vaneer Gayathri Bala in the lead. This one-hour-long show will be staged on Sunday, January 8 evening, at Sannidhi Square.

This year, the hugely popular Art Street will be in the street along the tank of Sri Kapali Temple, with entry from South Mada Street. Students from Stella Maris and NIFT will set up stalls to showcase their creative works and sell products. Closeby, members of Self Help Groups funded by the Government of Tamil Nadu will sell products they produce or source.

New at the Food Street will be the Kerala specials with cooks from Palghat present. Celebrated artisans who create handicrafts in wood, stone and metal have been invited through the Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Corporation to present demos during weekend. This will take place alongside the theradi.

A series of workshops and contests for children has been lined up too. The hugely popular contests in *pallankuzhi* and *dayakattam* are also scheduled. There are also four Walks – all on Sunday, January 8.

The Festival will be curated by Vincent D'Souza; the Fest Director R. Revathi is the Fest Coordinator.

For further information, www.mylaporefestival.com or e-mail at mylaporefestival@yahoo.com

* * *

Till January 31: A retrospective of P. Perumal's paintings and drawings. Perumal is an impromptu painter who emerged from the Madras College of Arts and Crafts in the 1960s, having trained under KCS Paniker, Roy Chowdury, Dhanapal and others (at DakshinaChitra).

hscs2012@gmail.com. For more information log on to website: <http://cms.goethe.de/ins/in/che/kue/en8508383v.htm>

* * *

Nizhal Marghazhi tree walks

These are family walks, and Nizhal would like every adult to bring at least one child below 15!

Each walk will last about an hour.

Note: Guindy Children's Park and Semmozhi Poonga charge an entrance fee, and participants must buy their own tickets. The walks are otherwise free.

For further details and for registration, please contact 90030 11372 or 98400 16872 between 10 am and 5 pm.

Semmozhi Poonga – RK Salai
 January 7, Saturday 10.30 am

Children's Park – Guindy
 January 8, Sunday 4 pm

Till February 2: The Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan, Chennai, Habitat Forum Berlin, School of Architecture and Planning, Anna University, and City Connect, Chennai, are organising an architecture contest titled *Human Space – Cultural Space*.

This is an idea competition for an MRTS Station in Chennai and is open for participation between November 29, 2011 and February 2, 2012. Open to students or recent graduates from schools of architecture in Tamil Nadu, the University of Technology, Berlin, and its Indian partners. Application forms to:

Quizzin'
with
Ram'n'an

(Current Affairs questions are from the period December 1st to 15th. Questions 11 to 20 pertain to Chennai and Tamil Nadu.)

1. Name the legendary Indian actor-producer-director, called the 'eternal romantic', who passed away in London recently.
2. Which team regained the Davis Cup by beating Argentina at home?
3. The 70th anniversary of which infamous attack, which led to the US entering World War II, was commemorated on December 7th?
4. Which country signed an accession treaty to the European Union on December 9th, to become the 28th member state on July 1, 2013?
5. In which African city was the 2011 United Nations Climate Change Conference held recently?
6. Which game recently became the fastest selling entertainment product of all time by passing \$1 billion in sales in just 16 days?
7. *Time* magazine's 'Person of the Year' is...?
8. Why was December 15th important in the chronicles of the Iraq War?
9. Cambridge University has put online the notebooks of which celebrated scientist on which much classical science is based?
10. Which co-founder of a cyber-giant is to build the largest plane ever that is capable of launching rockets?
11. The first exclusive university for women in the country is in Tamil Nadu. After whom is it named?
12. Whose large statue is at the Whannel's Road junction near the Egmore Station?
13. Who is the current Chief Justice of the Madras High Court?
14. Name the two districts in the State whose names start with the 16th letter of the English alphabet.
15. Which *sabha* came about after a 'censure' of Mysore T. Chowdiah?
16. Who was the Governor of Madras when India got its Independence?
17. In whose honour was 'Poochi' Srinivasa Iyengar's *Satatatmu brovumayya chakravartini* composed?
18. Name the first missionary of the Church of Scotland after whom a 156-year-old place of worship in Chennai is named.
19. Who, along with Dorothy Jinarajadasa and Margaret Cousins, founded the Women's Indian Association in 1917?
20. In which street near the Chenna Kesavaperumal temple can you buy *kungumam*, *manjapodi* and similar items in bulk?

(Answers on page 7)

From Tamil into English

The Madras Literary Society & Auxiliary of the Royal Asiatic Society (MLS-ARAS) appointed a sub-committee comprising Walter Elliot, W.H. Bayley, and M. Norman to explore ways of writing Indian words in Roman characters in early 1858. The Elliot Committee submitted a report (#. 32) to MLS-ARAS, which was published for the public. The cover page of the report indicates that this was printed by H. Smith at the Fort Saint George Gazette Press in 1859. The report was also formally presented at a meeting of the Philological Society (of London?) chaired by F. Pulszky on February 9, 1860.

At the start of the report, a note explains that Bayley and Norman had to leave India because of ill-health before its publication but goes on to state that, before their departure, the Elliot Committee had come to a unanimous conclusion. Nonetheless, the bulk of the text refers to 'I' (first person, singular), and, therefore, I felt the major contribution to the report was by Walter Elliot's.

The objective of the Committee was to lay down a scheme of orthography, which would provide the exact representation of every word occurring in Indian languages. The driving purpose was that MLS-ARAS had recognised that Government reports referred to Indian names and other attributes badly; this report indicates – as an example – that the Murshadabad Survey Register cited Ibrahimpur as either Berahimpoor or Biharipoor.

been talk of developing it as a tourism destination and a heritage town.

In 2008-09, the Union Ministry for Tourism sanctioned Rs 2.6 crore for the development of Pulicat. The State Government sanctioned Rs.70 lakh for the purpose, which included the building of a children's park, carparking facilities and a restaurant. None of these came to fruition owing to bureaucratic delays. If all this had happened and Pulicat had become a government-monitored tourist destination, the recent tragedy may not have happened. As it is, Pulicat is an unregulated tourist destination. Tourism of a kind flourishes in the area. While there are no eateries of any standard worth

Transliteration as seen by Walter Elliott in Madras in 1859

To achieve the best outcomes, the Elliot Committee self-prescribed the following dictates (p. 3): "(i) That a distinct Roman character as far as practicable be employed to express each established oriental letter; (ii) that the same character should always represent the same letter and should never be employed without

port that pertain to Tamil words being transliterated into Roman characters.

The section on The Dravidian Alphabets (pages 10-13) includes the following: "All the Southern races have adapted the Arian (sic Aryan) phonetic system except the Tamil people, and they while retaining their own peculiar system of letters,

• 'Pages from History' by DR. A. RAMAN,

Charles Sturt University,
Orange, New South Wales, Australia.

some distinguishing sign to designate a second; (iii) that two or more letters should never be employed where a single character could be made to suffice; (iv) that diacritical marks should only be resorted to in the last necessity, and should be of simplest description; (v) that varieties of type, as capitals, italics, black letters, should be considered inadmissible; and (vi) that the scheme should be founded on the system of Sir W. Jones."

The report starts with extensive remarks on transliterating Dévanagari script, but considering the focus of *Madras Musings*, I shall restrict my notes and annotations to sections in the re-

have formed a second alphabet, founded on the Arian, for Sanscrit literature, which has been extensively cultivated among them. This is called the Grantham character." From an angle of comparative linguistics, this section includes fascinating remarks on the letters specific to Dravidian languages, some of which have fallen out of use over time. The report refers to the letter *zha* – the vexata litera of the Dravidian – which has been retained in Tamil and Malayalam only.

Referring to Tamil (pages 20-27), the report particularly refers to *ṣa*-, *ṣṇ*-, *ṣṇa*-, and *ṣṇa*-. It says that *ṣṇa*-, also common in other southern Indian lan-

guages, is originally a Sanscrit sound. It is a hard *-l-*, which the report suggests be marked by a point below, *-ḷ-*. For *-ṣṇ-*, the report suggests use of *-ṣṇ̣-*. Referring to *ṣṇa*-, the report says this letter is a genius of the Tamil language and can be represented as *-n-*. The letter *-ṣṇ-* represents a sound peculiar to Dravidian languages. It is a combination of *j*, *l*, and *r*. To represent *-ṣṇ-*, Ziegenbalg (1714) used either *rl* or *rhl*, Beschi (1728)–*lj*; Ellis (1816)–*zh*; Wilson (1855)–*l* (Tamilz), *r* (Malayalam); *-ṣṇ-* represents a sound altogether sui generis; and according to Wilson "the enunciation is singularly obscure, and cannot be precisely represented by any written characters."

The sound '*-ṣṇ-*' creates is by no means unique to Dravidian languages, says Elliot; it occurs in the aboriginal Indo-Chinese tongues of the *Himalaya* and *Tibet*, it has an equivalent in *j* as used in French (e.g., *jeu*). Page 25 lists randomly chosen 15 Tamil words that include *zh* and compares how these words have changed in Malayalam, Kannada, and Telugu. One example is: *ézhu* (seven) (Tamil), *ézha* (Malayalam), *édu* (Telugu), *élu* (Kannada). In subsequent sections, Elliot goes on to discuss the movement of the letter that sounds *zh* into *la* (e.g., *uzhundu* → *ulundu*). For the '*-ṣṇ-*', '*ṣṇa*-' transpositions Elliot draws an affirmation from Sabda Manjari (the Tamil version of Pānini's phonetic grammar).

The following occurs in page 21: "... to provide for differences of sound of the same letter, under different circumstances, as in the cases of '*-ṣṇ-*', '*-ṣṇ-*', '*-ṣṇ-*', '*-ḷ-*', and '*-ḷ-*', which may be read respectively as *k* and *g* and *ch-t* and *d-t* and *d-p* and *b-r* and *t*. But several of these depend on the position of the particular letter in relation to others, which every Tamil scholar learns by practice."

The end of this monograph includes a memorandum signed in Bangalore by M. Norman (dated March 21, 1859) that was to accompany the proposed scheme of representation of native words in English characters. Pages 57-64 include an extensive list of alphabets (vowels and consonants) in Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, and Persian followed by the proposed Roman equivalents, with supplementary remarks.

A fascinating, but a forgotten (ignored?) monograph, it includes valuable remarks on the comparative linguistics of Indian language, besides the transliteration effort it has attempted to provide.

A PREVENTABLE TRAGEDY

(Continued from page 1)

mentioning in the place, seafood as cooked by the locals is a speciality. And so is boating in flat-bottomed craft. It is a common sight to see locals flagging cars even on the highway and asking Pulicat-bound tourists if they want to enjoy a boat-ride. But these excursions are sans any safety gear, which has resulted in the present tragedy.

The focus now has to shift to what can be done with Pulicat. Interestingly, the old Danish settlement of Tranquebar can show the way. That was also a completely forgotten spot till the tsunami of 2004. Then a whole host of development measures, with Danish help, was put in place and now the town is well on its way to become a major tourist attraction. There is no reason why Pulicat cannot develop along the same lines – with Dutch help.

But if the Government gets round to it, it would do well to keep the local requirements in mind. Going back to the earlier plan, a carparking facility ought to probably be the last on the list. Good, clean accommodation and dining facilities, public toilets, and non-intrusive shopping areas ought to top the list. Boating if introduced, ought to be of the non-motorised variety to ensure minimum disturbance to the local habitat of birds and fishes. Cleanliness of the beaches and sand dunes must be ensured. And, above all, the local populace needs to be trained and given employment in support these efforts. That way, the project will be adopted by them as one of their own and will be an assured success.

The ball is now clearly in the Government's court. We need some action quite soon.

Crores due to Kapali Temple

(By A Special Correspondent)

The Kapaleeswarar Temple officials have managed to recover one of its properties in R.A. Puram, located near the Sai Baba Temple in Greenway's Road. This was rented to a film company in 1958. The company has, in turn, been renting the place for film shootings but failed to pay the rent, according to A.T. Paranjothi, Executive Officer of the Temple and Asst. Commissioner. The property, five grounds in extent and with a building on it, is worth Rs. 25 crore.

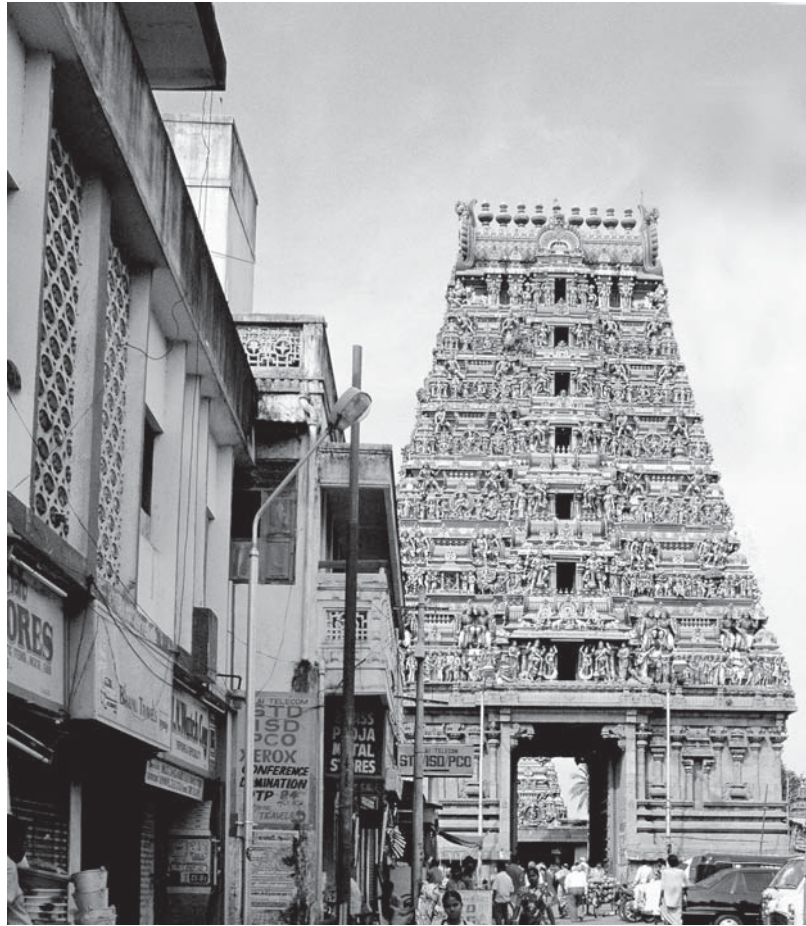
The authorities moved the court when the residents failed to pay the rent.

After several attempts to execute the order, the authorities recently managed to take over the property.

The Cholas, Pandyas, Pallavas and Nayak kings donated many pieces of land for temple use. These were primary agricultural land and later became

residential and commercial property.

There are nearly 500 tenants residing in the temple's property. About 60 per cent of them, residential and commercial, are



Kapaleeswarar Temple

defaulters. "The Government has urged us to track these defaulters and recover the property. Some of them have not paid a single rupee from the time they occupied it," says Paranjothi.

Certain pieces of land have been encroached on and we are trying to evict the squatters, he added.

About 25 grounds opposite Kamadhenu Theatre, i.e. from the Mylapore Club compound to the Pallakkumanyam Street, "have been illegally encroached." This place belongs to the temple and was given on a 99-year lease to Parthasarathi Iyengar in 1901. The lease

ended in 2000, but the property has been encroached on. Commercial establishments have been built and they pay no rent. "We have approached the courts and will soon evict them," say officials.

Similarly, about 76 grounds were rented to the P.S.H. School in 1928. The contract was renewed in 1979 and from then on the temple has been receiving only Rs. 1250 per annum as rent payment.

Dues from 32 defaulters on rent and lease agreements range from Rs. 6.5 crore to Rs. 2.5 lakh each. The total dues are over Rs. 15 crore. — (Courtesy: Mylapore Times)

Leave the dogs alone

This is a question that pops up in the minds of some daily walkers at Nageswara Rao Park nowadays.

'Let sleeping dogs lie' is the old adage, but not everyone who comes across the pack of dogs that has recently made its home in what is Mylapore's biggest (and favourite) park wants to nod in agreement.

"If people stop feeding the dogs they will move out in course of time," say some.

Others say, "A park is a place not only for people to go for a walk or for children to play. It is a place where we can associate ourselves with nature.

"A park is complete only with its components of plants, trees, chirping birds, little insects and a few loyal friends (dogs) here and there. So, steps need not be taken to send the dogs out of the park, as we as human beings have a moral duty to provide protection and shelter to dogs."

There are those who say the dogs are friendly and do not harm anybody.

And one Luz resident says, "Two of those dogs literally act as watch dogs during night hours in the lonely Raga Sudha stretch of Luz Avenue. On two occasions those dogs thwarted chain-snatching attempts and helped patrol-police to apprehend the culprits."

The dogs at the park certainly seem to be on the minds of many walkers but not all agree to the view to get rid of them from the park. — (Courtesy: Mylapore Times).

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We look forward to all readers of Madras Musings, and those newcomers who want to receive copies, sending in their subscriptions.

— THE EDITOR

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No personal visits or telephone calls, please. Letters received will be sent from these addresses every couple of days to the persons concerned and you will get an answer from them to your queries reasonably quickly. Strange as it may seem, if you adopt the 'snail mail' approach, we will be able to help you faster and disappoint you less.

— THE EDITOR

Let's make Season a Festival

(Continued from page 1)

infrastructure and that would mean some of the following things:

1. A common inauguration of the festival on the beach which will cut the clutter of so many individual inaugurations with the same trite speeches, largely played out to empty seats.
2. Better transport arrangements which will enable the public to move from *sabha* to *sabha* and thereby savour more music.
3. Becoming tourist friendly by improving the city's public manners, getting its signage to be more user-friendly, and also handing out detailed brochures and maps.
4. Advertise the music season abroad and in travel and hotel magazines. Get this campaign into operation at least six months before the Season so that everyone has ample time to plan.
5. Induce the trade to participate by asking hotels, restaurants and traditional shopping areas (like Panagal Park) offer special discounts. The New Woodlands Hotel and several service apartments benefit immensely from the Season. Why can't the others also cash in?
6. Broadbase the event by getting other organisers, such as those of the Other Festival and Mylapore Festival, to be a part of it. That way, there would be something on offer for just about everyone.
7. Integrate Pongal celebrations with it.

There is a lot more that can be done from December 15th to January 16th if there is a will to do it. Is anyone listening?

Answers to Quiz

1. Dev Anand; 2. Spain; 3. Pearl Harbour; 4. Croatia; 5. Durban; 6. 'Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3'; 7. The Protestor; 8. The US flag was lowered to mark the end of US military operations in the country after nearly nine years; 9. Sir Isaac Newton; 10. Paul Allen of Microsoft.

* * *

11. Mother Teresa; 12. Veeran Azhagu Muthu Kone; 13. M.Y. Eqbal; 14. Perambalur and Pudukkottai; 15. Indian Fine Arts Society; 16. Sir Archibald Edward Nye; 17. King George V; 18. Rev. John Anderson of the Anderson Church fame; 19. Annie Besant; 20. Devaraja (Mudali) Street.

Business notes by
S. VISWANATHAN
Editor
Industrial Economist

MIDS & Malcolm

Dr. Malcolm Adisheshaiah was a colourful, multi-faceted personality. An academic, who started life at the Madras Christian College, he became an international civil servant who rose to the position of Deputy Director General, UNESCO, and was instrumental in expanding the areas of education in Asia, Africa and Latin America. When he was Vice-Chancellor of Madras University, he brought about several structural reforms in university education. He was a Rajya Sabha MP and presented mid-year reviews of the economy. As a philanthropist, he liberally donated for establishing the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS).

Dr. Adisheshaiah focussed a lot on applied economics, a subject that did not receive much focus earlier in Tamil Nadu in contrast to the several illustrious institutes focussing on this in Delhi!

MIDS and the Malcolm and Elizabeth Adisheshaiah Trust present awards in the name of Malcolm Adisheshaiah for distinguished contributions in social sciences. This year it was presented to Prof. Rajeev Bhargava, Director, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies.

I have interacted closely

with Malcolm (I had done a four-hour interview with him for the All India Radio archives) and have been covering MIDS right from its inception. I used to admire the regular lectures, seminars and discussions as well as its sound focus on economics and development. Past directors like Dr. C.T.

Kurien, S. Guhan and Dr. A. Vaidyanathan directed MIDS to focus on emerging development issues.

I notice with disappointment the focus being given in recent years on social issues with much less stress on development issues. Last year, the award was on the impact of caste. This

Masters of 20th Century Madras science

— An occasional article in a series by Dr. A. RAMAN

A profound mathematician-physicist



Alladi Ramakrishnan, about whom a book has recently been released, belonged to a small but eminent group of Indian mathematical physicists who worked closely with Chandrasekara V. Raman, Homi J. Bhabha, and Prasanta C. Mahalanobis and contributed significantly to theoretical physics, in Madras.

Ramakrishnan, born in 1923 in Madras, was the son of Justice Alladi Krishnaswami, the eminent Madras jurist. Ramakrishnan's illustrious career in mathematical physics began in 1947; during his lifetime, he wrote more than 150 scientific papers in leading journals on topics ranging over Stochastic Process, Elementary Particle Physics, Matrix Algebra, and the Special Theory of Relativity. He also regularly lectured as a visitor at leading scientific institutions in the United States, Europe and Japan.

In 1947, he joined what was then the fledgling Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, whose Director was Homi J. Bhabha. Bhabha introduced the young Ramakrishnan to Cascade Theory and the Fluctuation Problem of Cosmic Radiation, which led to Ramakrishnan inventing the correlation densities, which he called Product Densities, a terminology current even today. In 1949, he went to England to do his PhD with M.S. Bartlett at the University of Manchester. On his return to India, he joined the University of Madras.

When Ramakrishnan was on the academic staff of the University, he was transferred to the extension centre in Madurai in 1959. He frequently travelled to Madras from there on his own account and held a series of theoretical physics seminars at his family home, *Ekamra Nivas*, in Mylapore, which persons of global eminence, such as Niels Bohr, Mohammed Abdus Salam, Murray Gell-Mann and Vladimir Jurko Glaser, addressed stimulating the minds of the young and the old interested in theoretical physics, in Madras.

In 1960, the physicist Niels Bohr, NL*, visited India as the guest of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. When Nehru asked him what his impressions about science in India were, Bohr

pointed to two significant contributions: (1) Bhabha's dream institute – the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Bombay, and (2) the small group of students under the tutelage of Alladi Ramakrishnan in Madras.

Impressed with his scholarship, Nehru supported Ramakrishnan's plan to create an institute solely dedicated to the study of mathematical sciences on the lines of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. The late C. Subramaniam, Education Minister in the Kamaraj Ministry, played a key role in the establishment of the Institute (popularly known as the Matscience Institute), which was born in 1962. Subramanian Chandrasekhar, NL*, inaugurated it in the Presidency College in Madras.

A profound mathematician-physicist, Ramakrishnan was avidly interested in attracting young minds. By speaking on the foundations of theoretical physics in schools and colleges, Ramakrishnan fulfilled his desire. During the Einstein centenary celebrations in Madras, I had the pleasure of listening to Ramakrishnan, who spoke on the theories of relativity with extraordinary mastery, presenting the complex ideas in simple English, intelligible even to a person such as me. He revelled in, until his end, finding new ways of understanding and presenting principles of complex subjects such as relativity. Ramakrishnan died in Florida in 2008.

Ramakrishnan's article on probability and stochastic processes in *Handbuch der Physik* (Springer Verlag, Germany, 1958) is an insightful treatment, which triggered applications in diverse fields of physical, biological and other sciences. He wrote *Elementary Particles and Cosmic Rays* (Pergamon Press, UK, 1962), *L-Matrix Theory or the Grammar of Dirac Matrices* (Tata McGraw Hill, India, 1972) and *Special Theory of Relativity* (EastWest Books, India).

* NL = Nobel Laureate

year, the topic was how Indian secularism was radically different from the Western/European model. Even the monthly programmes appear to deal with social issues and not so much on hard core, current economic issues.

There are plenty of issues crying for attention, such as ur-

ban transportation, inflation, stagnation in agriculture, slow-down of investment, the denial of a fair share of natural gas to the State, etc. Discussion on these issues will bring MIDS closer again to what it was established as, an institute dedicated to development (Courtesy: *Industrial Economist*).

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