

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

# MADRAS MUSINGS

Vol. XXIII No. 13

October 16-31, 2013

## INSIDE

- Short 'N' Snappy
- Tamil Journalim's focus
- Cricket's coffee breaks
- Laugh with Ranjitha
- The Heritage Act

# Built heritage gets an Act

— But when does implementation of it begin?

(By The Editor)

It may come as a revelation of sorts to many of our readers that our State does have a Heritage Commission Act. Certainly, we were taken by surprise when a casual perusal of the Government of Tamil Nadu's website (<http://www.stationeryprinting.tn.gov.in/extraordinary/2012/145-Ex-IV-2.pdf>) revealed the

existence of such an Act. Known as the Tamil Nadu Heritage Commission Act of 2012, it is Act 24 of that year and, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly, it received the Governor's consent on May 31, 2012. It has since remained on paper.

Conceptually, it is a step in the right direction and is on the lines of what conservationists have been asking for. It recognises the fact that there

are several historic buildings in the State outside the purview of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Acts of the Centre (enacted in 1958) and the State (1966). It specifically aims to establish a "Statutory Authority to advise in the matters relating to identification, restoration and preservation of heritage buildings and in the matters relating to the development and engineering operations which are likely to affect any heritage building." It then goes on to create a Heritage Commission, which will fulfil these responsibilities.

All perfect thus far. But, thereafter, the proposed Commission has an identical composition as the existing but largely inactive Heritage Conservation Committee of the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA). Out of 16 members, 15 are Government nominees and one solitary representative, speaking for non-governmental interests, will be from INTACH. The functions

of the Commission have been detailed in the Act. And these too are more or less identical to those of the CMDA's HCC. The fundamental difference is that the proposed HCC will cover the entire State while the

(Continued on page 3)



Today's barricaded Schmidt Memorial.

## Will Schmidt Memorial become a mere memory?

It is raining even as these lines are being written. The Schmidt Memorial on Elliot's Beach must also be exposed to these rains. With the monument already in bad shape, and with a vigorous monsoon predicted this year, it is anybody's guess as to whether the structure will survive till 2014. In the meanwhile, official apathy continues to hold sway, as there appears to be no action forthcoming to save or strengthen the edifice.

Inaugurated on November 29, 1931, the structure commemorates the valour of K.A.J. Schmidt, a Danish shipping executive, who drowned on December 30, 1930 while trying to save the lives of others. The then Governor of Madras, Sir George Stanley, ordered its construction. Built without a stone foundation, it is essentially a simple brick and lime mortar structure. The design, which provides for a huge arch and trelliswork on the sides, is, however, a most apt one for a beach-fronted edifice. Letting the wind pass through these openings has ensured that the monument has weathered many a cyclone. A landmark at

what was once fairly open country, it is an enduring symbol of our city.

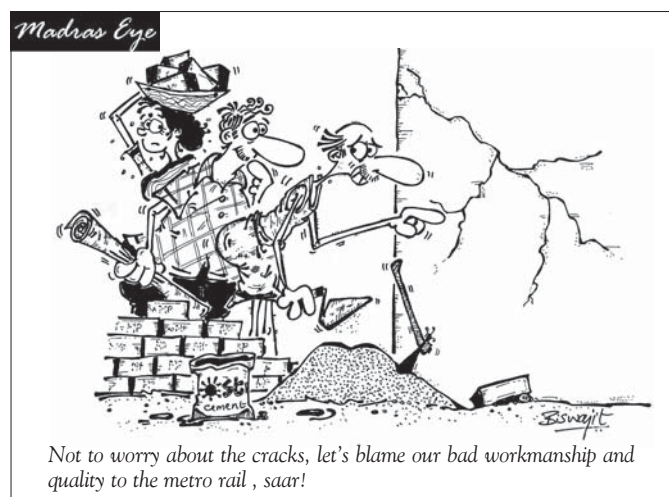
With practically no maintenance of any kind, however, the structure has become weak. A huge crack has developed on the arch and this has travelled right down to the base. The monument is, therefore, in danger of toppling over and has remained that way since early this year. The Chennai Corporation was quick to announce action

ter commence. That was in May. There has been complete silence ever since.

The next step has been only to cordon off the monument. The Corporation did this in August in what it claimed had become necessary to "protect visitors from the monument." Rather ironically, it is the monument that has required protection from visitors, having suffered increasingly at their hands! For years, it has borne the brunt of graffiti, defacing and vandalism. It has been a tippler's haunt and the area surrounding it is a convenient dump for every bit of garbage from the surrounding areas. Even if the structure survives and is eventually restored, it will have to be provided some security cover if it is not to degenerate again, such being our citizenry's civic mindedness. That said, it must be pointed out that fencing off the structure in the immediate short-term was a sensible decision as any thoughtless vandalism can trigger a collapse and consequently cause injuries or loss of life.

(Continued on page 6)

See pages 7&8 for main features of the Act



Not to worry about the cracks, let's blame our bad workmanship and quality to the metro rail, saar!

# 'Goremment' teas and loos

'Tis the season of dolls and *The Man from Madras Musings* ought to be writing about it, imbued as he usually is with festive spirit. But this year, what with MMM having committed himself to several projects, most with tight deadlines, he is forced to speak of darker deeds. The Chief is not likely to be amused, but to be fair to the Chief, he did warn MMM, rather in the manner of Cassandra, not to get involved in those projects.

Chief among these is one to do with the Government. And as MMM gets deeper and deeper into the innards of bureaucracy, the more he appreciates the way those living north of the Vindhyas speak of the powers that rule as 'Goremment', thereby indicating that dealing with it is gory business.

Leaving aside the slowness and sloth, MMM also has much to say about the 'Goremment's toilets and teas. Both conform to a certain uniform standard and both are inter-linked. Let MMM first hold forth on the tea. He is fairly certain that somewhere deep

tary but the tea boy who turns the wheels of Government.

Be that as it may, MMM has to say that tea is on tap at these Government offices. Consequently, MMM has been drowning in tea, while waiting for other things to happen. And as you all know once tea is downed by the gallon, nature begins calling and asking what's up. Which meant MMM had to go in search of the other great Government institution – the loo around the corner. Now if MMM had gone to meet some ordinary functionary he would have been airily dismissed to go relieve himself behind some tree or the other. But here was MMM, honoured guest of the great poobah himself. That necessitated an escort and what's more a man trained in proper bureaucratise – he addressed MMM continuously in the respectful plural third person. "Sir we would like to go to toilet, yes? Sir let us go." And so off we went, and by 'we', MMM means the escort and MMM.

was waiting for the floating (pun fully intended) of a tender too. The escort thought for a while. He then brightened and said there was one more loo in the next floor and we could try that. And so off we went.

This time all went well. The loo was relatively clean, though conforming to overall regulations. The escort opened the door with a flourish and having sent MMM in, firmly shut it. MMM went about his business and while at it took a look around. He could see that this was a toilet that was rather differently structured as compared to any public convenience he had used. It was not designed for the differently abled but it was somehow different. MMM could just not put his finger on it.

In the meanwhile there appeared to be considerable commotion outside. There were raised voices, mostly in a soprano while the escort's voice was coming through as a powerful bass. Suddenly the opera reached a crescendo with the escort's voice moving from A flat to F sharp. He

## SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

down in the rulebooks, there is one that stipulates the way tea is to be made. No doubt there is Rule XIII B, Subsection 91, Sub-clause D11 that states that notwithstanding Rule XX G, Subsection 62, the tea shall be of brick red colour, watery and overly sweetened, though at the same time having a bitter aftertaste. This is served over and over again and guests are forced to drink it. To refuse is to incur the wrath of babudom which, as defined in another standard text, has an eye like Mars to threaten and command.

That reminds MMM of a story that is worth retelling no matter that all of you have heard it before. Do you know of the man-eating tiger that hid itself in a Government office? Everyday it devoured a Secretary or two and nobody noticed. But came a day when it foolishly devoured the boy who dispensed tea. By 11.30 a.m. a full-scale departmental enquiry was launched, the tiger found and handed over to the local zoo. There is a version that it was killed but these are more sensitive times and even Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty have different endings for the stepmother. Even Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is now re-titled as the Light Pigmented and the Seven Vertically Challenged. Moral of the tea story – it is not the Minister or the Secre-

### Loo of the Law

MMM expected no surprises from the toilet. Like the tea, these too are governed by standard codes. The floor is always a watery mess, the taps in contrast will be dry though the pipes will drip. Cobwebs will abound and a broken WC or two will be lying around. Everything will be stained. But life is a great teacher and MMM was to learn a thing or two that afternoon.

The first toilet had its door firmly locked and what's more, appeared to have been locked ever since the day a Minister inaugurated it. The escort smiled and said that "we" should try the one on the next floor. And so off "we" went.

This loo was open but as to what lay beyond was a great mystery. It was pitch dark and the only sound of life was a roaring torrent of water that appeared to be building into a whirlpool of sorts. Taking one look, MMM quailed and refused to take the plunge (pun intended). The escort was momentarily nonplussed and muttered something under his breath about lily-livered poltroons. He then assembled a regulation smile and said something about how the bulb had fused a couple of months earlier but a tender had not yet been floated for a replacement. MMM did not ask but he assumed that the waterfall inside

became a tenor in an instant. This was followed by complete silence.

MMM emerged. The escort was nowhere to be seen. MMM went down the staircase and was puzzled to find everyone staring at him with a mixture of awe, fear and hostility. On reaching the ground floor, MMM found his escort, mopping his brow and giving all indications as to having emerged from a trying experience. MMM asked him as to what happened but he would not reply for quite a while. After repeated cajoling he came out with it. He had taken MMM to the ladies' toilet as it "was the only one suited to men of stature like us." MMM has since not gone back to that particular office.

### Tailpiece

This story is not on loos, for a change. It deals with a job application that *The Man from Madras Musings* has received. It runs thus: 'Please find my CV in the attachment. I am looking forward for an opportunity to expose my potentiality to bring forth my knowledge in different dimension in the position that I been placed.'

And so, on that happy note, have a good Dussehra and a happy Deepavali.

– MMM

# Politics, crime, – the road taken by

(Continued from last fortnight)

The path shown by *Dina Thanthi* has been followed by many other Tamil dailies. The most common features have been: a) wide coverage of political warfare in Tamil Nadu; b) dominance of crime, sex and cinema; c) multiple editions.

*Dinakaran* followed this path and added more good investigative stories. It is published from multiple centres. Unlike *Dina Thanthi*, it has an editorial. It has a good circulation and one reason for its popularity is said to be its anti-establishment posture.

Another daily which has made its mark is *Dinamalar*, established by T.V. Ramasubba Aiyer, a Congressman of Tirunelveli. It was started in 1951 in Trivandrum and played an active role in the agitation for the merger of Tamil areas in Travancore with Tamil Nadu and was very popular for that reason. At one stage, the paper's office was raided by the police and its copies were seized. This happened when Pattom Thanu Pillai was the Chief Minister of the State.

After the success of the agitation and when Nagercoil and Kanniyakumari were merged with Tamil Nadu, Ramasubba Aiyer moved to Tirunelveli where *Dinamalar* in 1960 concentrated on the problems of the local people and in getting the people's grievances redressed. Its circulation went up and an edition was started in Tiruchi in 1966 followed by one in Madras in 1979 and in Erode in 1984. *Dinamalar* introduced offset printing in 1981 and adopted other modern techniques of printing. A feature of the paper is its photographic coverage which gives it a unique place in Tamil journalism. During the Pope's visit to Madras in 1986, it came out with a four-page photo feature of the Pope's engagements in the city.

A Tamil daily which was the result of cooperative efforts is *Makkal Kural*, which appeared in Madras in 1973. It came to life on the ashes of *Navamani*, founded by a cooperative society, which got into trouble with the DMK Government and had finally to close down. One of its leading journalists, Shanmuga Vel, floated the Newsmen Associates in 1972 and the *Makkal Kural* came into being the next year. It had an able and experienced editor in T.R. Ramaswami, who was formerly connected with *Patriot* and *Link* of New Delhi and with the Federation of Working Journalists. TRR, as he was known to his readers, had a powerful pen and a head for facts and figures. In 1982, he started an evening English daily, *News Today*.

By end-2012, *Dina Thanthi* was the largest-read daily in Tamil Nadu. According to the Indian Readership Survey Q-4 2012, it occupies the seventh position in the top ten publications of the country. Hindi daily *Dainik Jagran* tops the list. *Dina Thanthi* is followed by *Dinakaran* and *Dinamalar*. Among the Tamil magazines, *Kumudam* is the largest circulated. It occupies sixth position in the list of top ten language magazines in the country. Malayalam periodical *Vanitha* tops the list.

Newspapers across the country and languages have had political leanings, some overtly and some covertly. But an interesting feature of Tamil journalism is that it has had distinct in-your-face political leanings. Several newspapers were open and vocal about their leanings. In the pre-Independence era, it could be divided into three groups: the Dravidian Press, the Nationalist Press, the Muslim Press. Post-Independence, the trend continues; albeit with different rallying points.

### Outside India

Tamil language newspapers have been published from outside the country from the pre-Independence era. There was a Tamil newspaper titled *Tamil Nesan* founded in Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, in 1924. It was the lone Tamil newspaper in Malaysia till *Tamil Osai* was launched in 1981. Later it was rechristened *Makkal Osai*, which in English means 'People's voice'. Thamizhavel G. Sarangapani launched *Tamil Murasu* in Singapore in 1935. By mid-2012, it was the only Tamil language newspaper in Singapore.

Several Tamil language newspapers have been published from Sri Lanka, the best known being *Virakesari*. It was first published on August 6, 1930 by P.P.R. Subramanian, an entrepreneur and journalist from Avanipatti village in Tamil Nadu. Subramanian guided the publication for over 20 years, during which the publication focussed on the rights and grievances of the plantation workers, capturing the attention of the Tamil-speaking population. By mid-2012, it was the most widely circulated and read newspaper by the entire Tamil-speak-

(Continued on page 3)

# sex & cinema

## Tamil journalism

(Continued from page 3)

ing population in Sri Lanka. In 2005 *Virakesari's* e-paper was launched, which it claimed was the world's first Tamil e-paper.

Among other Tamil language newspapers published from Sri Lanka were *Eelamurasu*, *Eelanadu* and *Uthayan* (all the three papers were published from Jaffna, a Tamil majority area). *Uthayan* was founded in 1985 by journalist Nadesapillai Vithyatharan. *Thinakkural* was founded by Pon Rajagobal, former editor of *Virakesari*, in 1997, and *Sudar Oli* was founded in Colombo on September 10, 2000 as a weekly newspaper. It became a daily newspaper on October 29, 2001. Nadesapillai Vithyatharan became the paper's editor in 2002. Almost all Tamil language newspapers in Sri Lanka suffered heavily during the conflict beginning with the early 1980s. Besides Sri Lanka and Malaysia, Tamil newspapers are also published in countries like UK, Canada, Australia and several countries in West Asia.

### Other media

**Radio:** Radio broadcasting was pioneered in India by the Madras Presidency Radio Club in 1924. The Club ran a broadcasting service for three years, but owing to financial difficulties gave it up in 1927. That same year, some enterprising businessmen in Bombay started the Indian Broadcasting Company with stations in Bombay and Calcutta. This company failed in 1930; in 1932 the Government of India took over broadcasting. A separate department known as Indian Broadcasting Service was opened.

### A history of Tamil Journalism by MRINAL CHATTERJEE

The service was later designated All India Radio (AIR) and was placed under a separate ministry – the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. AIR is controlled by a Director General, who is assisted by several deputy directors and a chief engineer. The first FM broadcasting in India began in 1977 in Madras. By mid-2011, Tamil Nadu had two AM and ten FM radio stations, operated by All India Radio and private broadcasters. Chennai-based Anna University has the distinction of running India's first campus community radio station, which was launched on February 1, 2004.

**Television:** TV broadcasting in Tamil Nadu began in 1974 after Doordarshan set up its Madras station the same year. Currently, the public broadcaster runs three terrestrial television channels in Tamil Nadu – DD Chennai (DD-1), DD News (DD-2) and DD *Podhigai*, and one satellite television channel, *Podhigai TV*, from its Chennai centre. Tamil Nadu has witnessed tremendous growth of private TV channels after 1991. Major private TV networks operating in the State are Sun TV, Raj TV, Star Vijay, Jaya TV, Makkal TV, Kalaigarnar TV, Thamizhan TV. Chennai is the first city in India to have implemented the conditional access system for cable television.

**New media:** Tamil Nadu was at the forefront of new media revolution. *The Hindu*, which has its headquarters in Chennai, was the first newspaper in India to go online in 1995. Regional newspapers made their online presence by the late 1990s. By early 2013, almost all major newspapers and periodicals had their presence in the cyber world with several having e-papers. There are hundreds of Tamil-speaking population-focussed news sites and subject-specific websites. (Courtesy: *Vidura*, published by the Press Institute of India)

(Concluded)

### 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.madrasmusings.com](http://www.madrasmusings.com)

THE EDITOR

## OUR READERS WRITE



### There's knowhow

The H.R.&C.E. Department has an engineering wing which is involved in the maintenance of temple structures in addition to the construction of new buildings. The engineers are drawn from the PWD and Highways Department. In the past they have restored several temple *rajagapurams* as also ancient temple structures. To my knowledge they restored the *rajagapurams* of Madurai Mee-nakshi temple, Srivilliputhur temple and also, more recently, the Kancheepuram Ekambareswar temple. One of the retired engineers of the PWD was involved in the construction of an ISKON temple in Chennai.

So the PWD cannot shirk its responsibility by claiming ignorance of restoring heritage structures. In fact, the buildings in Madras Medical College, Museum complex, *Ripon Buildings* and famous heritage government buildings in several district headquarters were built using traditional materials such as lime, *surkhi* mortar etc. for which the specifications were available in ancient manuscripts.

It is not known what prevents the restoration of these heritage structures.

One of the solutions is that the building complex at Chepauk (MM, October 1st) could be leased out to some organisation to convert them as heritage hotels and use the new structures built for the Secretariat and Anna library to locate the offices at Chepauk.

S.N. Mahalingam  
Superintending Engineer,  
Tamil Nadu PWD (Retd)  
santhri@rediffmail.com

### Triplicane details

As MMM has pointed out (MM, October 1st), we cannot but be wary of modern day researchers and their 'quick-fix' history. Now that in their blissful ignorance they have metamorphosed Triplicane into Murugan of 'Concert' Tank fame and his consort, they should bear with the following correction. It is on record that Thiru Alli Keni was known from as early as the time of Nandivarma Pallava (8th Century CE). Both Peyazhwar and Thirumangaiyazhwar in later centuries have eulogised

this sacred Vaishnavite site. Peyazhwar was specifically praise of the "white waves venerating the coral and shell adorned beach" in the vicinity.

Rev. Philip K. Mulley  
Anaihatti Road  
Kotagiri - 643 217, The Nilgiris

### S.S. Vasan the great

It was interesting to read the coverage relating to life of the great S.S. Vasan by Sriram V. I am currently in California and therefore not able to access the book. From my school days I dreamed of visiting Gemini Studios (MM, October 1st).

While seeing movies children always used to look for the "pe pe pe pey..." appearing before and at the end and this was a powerful selling point for Vasan films.

When I visited Chennai, I took number 9 or 17 route bus and got down near the Gemini Studios; no flyover at that time. S.S. Vasan's daughter's marriage was a milestone event in Madras life of those days.

Ganesh K.N.  
(Camp Fremont, US)  
B13, Sangeeth Apartments  
137, Vandikaran Street  
Velachery, Chennai 600 042

### OUR ADDRESSES

For matters regarding subscriptions, donations, non-receipt of receipts etc.: CHENNAI HERITAGE, 5, Bhattad Tower, 30, Westcott Road, Royapettah, Chennai 14.

*Madras Musings* now has its own email ID. Letters to the editor can be sent via email to [editor@madrasmusings.com](mailto:editor@madrasmusings.com). Those who wish to intimate change of address can also do so provided the subscription number is quoted.

For non-receipt of copies, change of address, and all other circulation matters: Madras Musings, C/o Lokavani Southern Printers Pvt. Ltd., 122, Greames Road, Chennai 600 006. On editorial matters: The Editor, *Madras Musings*, No. 5, Bhattad Tower, 30, Westcott Road, Royapettah, Chennai 600 014.

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

# Act to save built heritage

(Continued from page 1)

current one has Chennai alone under its jurisdiction. Given that the existing body has done nothing, largely owing to its bureaucratic set-up, it is quite likely that the planned entity may have a similar track record.

But what is even more surprising is that the Act has remained on paper for more than a year. It is reliably learnt that the Government is unable to make up its mind on the nominees and that a file with suggested names is pending with the authorities. The Act has already created considerable confusion in Government circles with the status of the functioning (if it can qualify as that) HCC becoming unclear in view of the newly planned body.

Whatever be the merits and demerits of its composition and the statutes governing it, the new HCC has to be given flesh and blood by the Government immediately. There are scores of heritage structures all over the State that need immediate attention.

It was only a few weeks ago that there were reports of demolition of a part of the historic Mangammal Palace in Madurai. Within Chennai, there are many endangered buildings – *Gokhale Hall*, the *Madrassa-e-Azam* and the *Bharat Insurance Building* being a few.

Perhaps the worst casualty is Chepauk Palace, one wing of which burnt down in January 2012. It is understood that Government was moved to legislate this Act only after that fire. But, sadly, with no subsequent action, Chepauk Palace has suffered a worse damage when a part of its roof in the other wing collapsed last month. The Government needs to wake up to the loss of heritage in its own backyard and take immediate steps to make the proposed Heritage Conservation Commission a thriving and dynamic body. Only then will the heritage structures of our State have any hope of survival in the long term.

# In Tamil country, it's coffee breaks!

(Continued from last fortnight)

Cricket is probably the only game in the world with a break for tea. Read coffee in Tamil country. We Tamils like our coffee at breakfast, lunch and tea, but it is a rare commodity at many cricket venues outside the South. I still remember the sheer look of terror on the face of the poor bearer when my senior and former Test captain S. Venkataraghavan gave him a tongue lashing for having made the mistake of serving him tea during a match somewhere beyond the Tamil Nadu-Andhra border.

Chepauk is perhaps the only cricket venue in India to cater to the needs of every visiting player – it could be *chai*, *lassi* or *bagara baigan* – with a smile. In contrast, I once asked for buttermilk at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium, only for the minor functionary (who of course hailed from no doubt distinguished Maratha lineage) to wither me with a look of utter contempt. "Not on the menu," he said. Of course, such experiences never deterred a hardy, self-respecting Tamil cricketer from asking for coffee at every opportunity.

"Mr. Ramnarayan must have his coffee." The deep voice from behind me startled me. It was former India captain and my Hyderabad senior Tiger Pataudi's. At matches at Hyderabad's Lal Bahadur Stadium, I had this private contract with Francis, one of the bearers at the Fateh Maidan Club, where we had lunch during match days. He would quietly bring me coffee after the others lunching had left for the dressing room. That afternoon, Pataudi had been

kind enough to stay back to bring me some good news. (I started my first attempt at writing a cricket book some 25 years ago, with the very words Pataudi spoke to me.)

Speaking of Pataudi, I remember that, in November 1975, the Hyderabad cricket team, of which I was a member, was staying at Admiralty Hotel, Mandaveli (incredibly the Indian hockey team, which went on to win the inaugural World Cup in Madras that month, was staying at the same hotel, where the autograph hunters ignored them completely to goggle at the cricket players). The day before our Ranji Trophy match against Tamil Nadu at Chepauk, Tiger, our wicketkeeper Krishnamurthi, and I went to the Marina cricket ground, where the Indian hockey team was playing ICF in a practice match. We sat under a tree in the western end of the ground and watched the match for

realm of fairy tales. Imagine a Test player walking down the street.

That same evening at the hotel there was an autograph hunter originally from Hyderabad who asked Pataudi, "Nawab Saab, is it true that you can't play Venkat and Kumar? They say you are their bunny."

Pataudi muttered under his breath and I politely showed the visitor out.

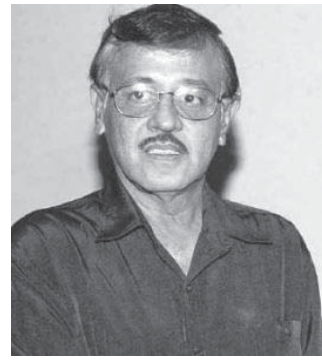
Pataudi then told our captain, "Jai, I'm opening the innings tomorrow."

*Jaisimha*: Like hell you will.

*Pataudi*: I'm dead serious, Jai. I'm going to score a double hundred. Bunny, indeed!

*Jaisimha* (by now mellow): Okay, Tiger, have it your way. You can open the innings tomorrow.

The next morning, the mood in the Hyderabad dressing room was electric, with three batsmen padded up to open the innings. Pataudi was all set to go in first,



S. Venkataraghavan.



Tiger Pataudi.

tating or recording on tape either still in the future or forbidden by the *guru*, your aural memory was the only way of recording what you learnt. Today, the tape recorder, writing down notations, and Skype have turned the learning process upside down.

Two major aspects of the Carnatic *cutcheri* are imports from the West: 1. the violin as an indispensable part of it, and 2. the microphone. In fact, the very idea of concerts in a proscenium setting was a natural by-product of the Westernisation brought about by British rule. Before that, music belonged to the temples and royal courts.

Of course, the violin too has its own colonial cousins like the

We all know how cricket has evolved in the subcontinent. From a fairly somnolent pastime of spin doctors, maiden overs, straight drives and the defensive forward block, it first changed post-1983 (when India won the World Cup for the first time) into a faster, more aggressive game of fast bowling, acrobatic fielding, coloured clothing, floodlights and attacking batsmanship. In recent years, with the advent of T20 cricket, it has been completely transformed into a dramatic spectacle of thrills and spills, reverse sweeps, switch-hits, the dilscoop and cheerleaders.

Cricket coaching and mentoring have undergone a sea-change, with video technology a key component of the process of learning and course correction in the career of a cricketer. Several coaching academies, including specialised institutions like the MRF Pace Foundation, have helped spread the game far and wide.

We old timers, however, have fond memories of the BS Nets organised by the TNCA, where great coaches like A.F. Wensley, T.S. Worthington, both pros from England, our own beloved A.G. Ram Singh and K.S. Kannan made a huge impact on our cricket.

And coffee? It is still an essential part of the lives of Carnatic musicians and cricketers of Chennai; only it has moved out of Udipi restaurants to new age coffee shops, where you are as likely to run into jet-setting, tech-savvy *bhagavatars* as the trendy cricketers of the new generation.

What is the future of cricket, Carnatic music and coffee in Chennai? I had the pleasure of watching the recent Oval Test in London, where a friend asked me, "When did you last have a full house for a Test match in India?" I was happy to inform him that we continue to get excellent crowds for a Test match at Chepauk. Likewise, the December season of music, when music lovers from all corners of the planet descend here, is living proof that Carnatic music is alive and kicking, for all the popularity of A.R. Rahman and Beyonce. And as for coffee, you can still get a cup of good old '*digiri*' coffee side by side with the fancier Capuccinos and Lattes so popular today.

(Concluded)

## V. RAMNARAYAN continues his tale of Cricket, Carnatic music and Coffee

about 45 minutes, then decided to go back to the hotel. As we left the ground and looked for a taxi, I made bold to ask Tiger, "Have you ever done a bus ride in India?" Saying no, he then sportingly agreed to take a bus to Foreshore Estate or thereabouts and then to take an auto to Admiralty Hotel. Unfortunately, soon people on the street recognised and surrounded him. "Shall we do it some other time?" he said and we hailed a taxi. Today, such an episode would belong to the

to the surprise of the regular openers Abbas Ali Baig and Jayantilal. It took all of *Jaisimha*'s persuasive skills to get him to agree to bat at No.3, still three places ahead of his usual batting position.

When his turn to bat came, Pataudi turned on the old magic. He raced to his hundred, playing strokes all round the wicket.

Pataudi was not satisfied with a century that day. He took fresh guard and dug himself in. When he finally returned to the pavilion to a tumultuous ovation, he had made 198. Just two short of his own prediction. None of us knew it then, but that was Pataudi's last innings at Chepauk. At the end of that season, he announced his retirement from first class cricket.

\* \* \*

Cricket, of course, came to Madras thanks to our British masters. While there can be little doubt that cricket and coffee are colonial cousins, Carnatic music is clearly indigenous in origin, though concert music, as we know it today, even the way it is taught and transmitted, had its origins in British times. In the past there ruled the oral tradition of *guru* and *sisya*, with the pupil going to live with his teacher, and learning more by osmosis than by structured lessons. With no-

### 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 2013-14.

● 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: .....

.....

.....

All cheques to 'Chennai Heritage'. DD/Cheque should be sent by Speed

Post only.

● **Smile-a-while with Ranjitha Ashok**

*There will be an answer...*

hi ma  
How much?  
hw dd u no?  
I'm a Mom.....that's how  
\* \* \*

Call  
y  
Because I say so  
ok, ma – SMH  
Hey, you know only actual words work for me...  
L  
Even worse  
\* \* \*

HI  
y r u shouting?  
I'M NOT....  
APPA... USE LOWER CASE  
\* \* \*

Hggdggmbha  
hi ma  
Hwww  
i'm the stupid kid who bought you that over-sensitive  
phone, that's how....  
\* \* \*

How to SMS?  
er...like you did just now, ma  
\* \* \*

H E LLL ooo  
hi thatha  
Yowre Pasyi wanydd ro kjmo of yoi are estunb ok  
tell paati i'm eating ok  
\* \* \*

Post-menopausal woman walks up to hunky swimming  
coach and...  
MA!  
Oops! Sorry... was forwarding to my gang and included  
your number by mistake...  
\* \* \*

Spinach?  
potato  
Potato yesterday  
so?  
Fine – come home and do the cooking  
not an issue – cereal for dinner ok?  
\* \* \*

ma, how to say: 'come back by 2.30' in hindi?  
Seriously? You did Hindi in school, remember?  
so?  
So ... didn't you learn anything?  
got thru, no?  
Point  
\* \* \*

MY PHONE CHANGES MY WORDS  
appa, told you – turn off 'dictionary' option....AND  
USE LOWER CASE...  
WHY ARE YOU SHOUTING?  
oh dear God....  
I DOUBT EVEN HE CAN UNDERSTAND THESE  
STUPID PHONES  
\* \* \*

Terrible phone  
what now?  
Rang yesterday at Music Academy didn't know what to  
do  
ma, i taught you how to put it on silent  
Forgot and that too 'Badtameez Dil' at my age  
LOL!!  
Not a bit. Everyone glared – thinking of giving up  
membership  
\* \* \*

Panda says menu will bring venom today  
ma, told you, turn off autocorrect  
\* \* \*

Hello?  
Amma?  
How come you're calling on this phone?  
Ma, all ok?  
Yes, of course, why?  
Why are you and Appa not picking up your cells?  
Huh?  
Your cells. Why aren't you answering? We've all been  
trying to reach you for the past half hour.  
Oh... Appa took his hearing aid off because it was irri-  
tating him. TV was on, and my cell ... my cell is ...  
Ma, where is your cell?  
Er...it's there only....  
Where?  
Inside...  
Inside where, Amma?  
Godrej locker....  
Ma...  
What?  
Nothing.  
You children worry too much. And hello...?  
Yes, Ma?  
Nice to talk to you on a real phone after so long.... in-  
stead of one of those....those...things.  
\* \* \*

ma, what does it mean when veggies turn all squishy  
and have things on them?  
Run – the aliens have landed in your 'fridge  
funnee, ma  
\* \* \*

ma, not sure if i really want to be a mom  
Bit late, no? Your daughter is almost a year old ...  
why do i feel like you're grinning .....?  
Because I am ... revenge is sweet ....  
nassssty, ma  
\* \* \*

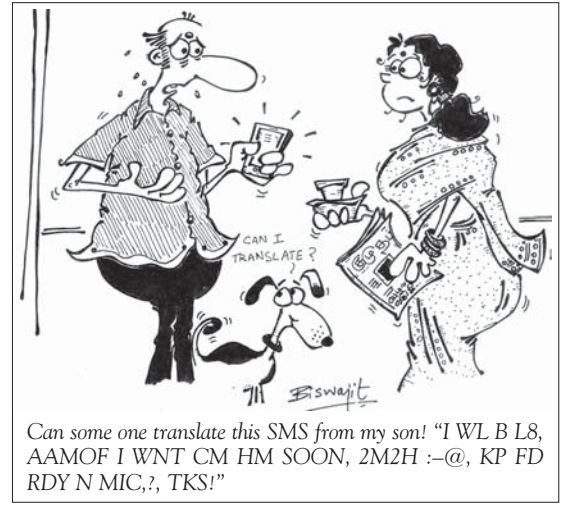
ma, give me your onion sambar recipe  
Awww....  
ew – don't get all senti now, please...  
\* \* \*

What's roffle?  
What?  
Roffle....your brother uses it whenever he messages,  
which isn't as often as he might  
he does his best, ma  
Could do better  
tell him then, not me  
So, what's roffle?  
think u mean ROFL – it means Rolling on the Floor  
Laughing  
Really? The things you kids come up with...then what's  
something that goes WT something?  
ma, maybe u skip that one?  
Really? Even in SMSes? YKR2M  
huh?  
You Kids Are Too Much .... hey, how's this:  
WWTTON  
ma....  
Whatever Will They Think Of Next  
let it go, ma  
\* \* \*

ma, paapa just swallowed a lot of bath water. Is that  
bad?  
Send him here – I'll keep my grandchild with me till he  
turns 18, it's safer  
\* \* \*

Hume for sinner?  
Ha ha, sorry, meent hume fir dinner  
Sorry, leant home for finner  
Sorry again –  
ma, stop, yes, am home for dinner  
\* \* \*

Am sending some biscuit pudding over, smiley face  
ma, needn't spell it out



Can some one translate this SMS from my son! "I WL B L8, AAMOF I WNT CM HM SOON, 2M2H :-@, KP FD RDY N MIC,?, TKS!"

Biscuit pudding?  
NO.... 'smiley face'. You text it  
How do I find it in my phone?  
then use punctuation  
Oh you mean like colon, bracket and all?  
never mind. just send the pudding – fed-up face  
Very funny  
\* \* \*

Find I love to goggle  
midlife crises, ma?  
Oops! Meant Google....and watch it, kid!  
\* \* \*

ma, stupid potatoes change colour as soon as I cut them  
Peel, slice or chop, then place in water....it's all in the  
recipes I wrote out for you...this means you don't  
listen whether I talk – or write ... Wow!  
never miss a chance, do you, ma?  
What can I say? It's what I do best!  
\* \* \*

hey  
hey  
thought u wre so smart teaching amma/appa to SMS  
i know – big, big mistake – i got a message from hr at  
3.15 mrng  
serves u rite, u no amma has a hrd tme wit time zones  
\* \* \*

ma, remember that curry you used to make?  
Which one?  
used to be red and chunky  
Good God – what were we feeding you kids?  
ha ha....well, this was one of the better ones  
'one of the', eh? Very well, this is a secret I take with  
me, then  
come on, ma  
\* \* \*

appa, need the car this evening  
Ask your mother  
did so.... said to ask u  
Ok – she said she needs car 6 to 8....I need it at 7.30,  
we're working that out....  
will u be back by 9?  
Should be  
i'll take it then  
Troop movements must be easier, I'm sure  
\* \* \*

Cold better?  
yup  
No fever?  
don't know....  
Why haven't you checked your temp?  
i'm ok, ma, don't fuss  
What are you eating?  
ma, sleepy....will call later  
Don't forget – plenty of fluids  
ok ma ok  
Wait till you have your own kids – then you'll know  
and on that day i'll msg you  
Fine – act smart ....i'm only your mom...  
seriously!!! isn't that old card totally frayed by now!!!  
Sniff!!  
you're kidding ....even via sms....?  
\* \* \*

outfit's a little more than 14....too much?  
Way too much....it's a 'no'  
hmmm – we'll see....and i'm switching the phone off for  
a bit....  
\* \* \*

(Continued on page 9)



(Current Affairs questions are from the period September 16th to 30th. Questions 11 to 20 pertain to Chennai and Tamil Nadu.)

1. Which video game recently became the fastest single entertainment product to reach sales of \$1 billion?
2. Who was recently named the PGA Tour's 'Player of the Year' for a record 11th time?
3. To whom did the Department of Posts allot the first 'customised pin code' (110 201)?
4. After which bird is Google's new Search Algorithm named?
5. With which global airlines group is Tata's planning to set up a new full-service airline in the country?
6. Which online giant has sent waves amongst the medical community with its announcement of California Life Company (Calico), a company that will focus on health and well-being, in particular the challenge of ageing and associated diseases?
7. Which UNESCO World Heritage Site in Delhi was reopened after a six-year refit, by the ASI and Aga Khan Foundation, that have seen it restored to its original form?
8. With which neighbouring country did India recently conduct 'Surya Kiran', a joint military exercise that focussed on counter-insurgency operations?
9. Name the Union Government's new skill development scheme, in partnership with the private sector, launched for the youth of minority communities.
10. Fairfax Financial has reached an agreement to take over which struggling smartphone maker for \$4.7 billion?

\* \* \*

11. What imposing structure in Madras measuring 84 feet, that completed 170 years recently, was designed by Capt. T.J. Smith of the Corps of Engineers?
12. What is now situated on what was once the house of Peter Massey Cassin and then The Exchange?
13. What first did Nathaniel Higginson achieve in the 'governance' of Madras?
14. Who was the first Indian to have a statue on the Marina?
15. The spouse of a person awarded the Bharat Ratna owned the film studio Chandraprabha Cinetone? Name this couple.
16. What is the contribution of Prof. R. Krishna Rao to the 'identity' of the State?
17. Who was the first and the only non-elected Chief Minister of the State?
18. Who created Sirippu Thirudan Singaravelu, Munjakkarthai Mutthanna and Rettaival Rengudu characters in the pages of *Ananda Vikatan* and made us laugh?
19. Whose motto was "When the bugles blow, there will be a show"?
20. Who was the last left-handed batsman from Tamil Nadu to play Test cricket for India?

(Answers on page 10)

# The life & times of Dr. K.N. Kesari

The waves of the Bay of Bengal almost lapped the Fort St. George, British flags were aflutter, soldiers with their weapons marched in open grounds and young women, generally afraid of them, sat inside their houses when they passed by. Till 1910 gaslights illuminated streets, workers pilfered kerosene and, as a result, streets were plunged in darkness. The gullible public were conned by men who worked in tandem first raising a hue and cry that someone had fallen into the Cooum, and then others quietly relieving people in the crowd of their money and fountain pens and escaping. The first cheat would pretend to go after his own partners and narrowly escape. "Old Chetty people, Nayudus and Mudaliars wore turbans. The turbans were long and broad and were in different colours. There were three people to tie this on one head and they were given 1 or 2 annas. In George Town, a fat dark man named Ramdas used to give baths to others. He would give a clean bath chanting the *kirthanas* of Ramdas and his charges were only four annas. His services were, however, not available for everyone." Before the advent of trams and cars, horse-drawn coaches and bullock carts were in vogue in Madras. The carts came by the name of Rekhla, Madras Coach, Brougham, Bombay Coach, and horse-drawn carriages were called Phaeton, Landau and Landulet. Madras vignettes such as these and more find place in the *Life and Times of Dr. K.N. Kesari* released this year.

"All the high buildings in Madras were built during my time. The High Court building was erected when I was studying in the Govindappanayakkar High School belonging to the Pachaiyappa's College. One Perumal Chetty took the contract to construct the building. It was built with black stones. Lifts were used to take the stones up. Schoolchildren used to watch the lift with amusement. If I felt lazy to attend school or if I had not studied my lessons, I also was in the habit of spending time near the building and one could say it was built under my 'supervision'! The Old High Court was situated in the Collector's office," writes Dr. Kesari.

The editor of the book K. Balakesari writes on his grandfather that Dr. Kota Nara Kesari was not merely an Ayurvedic physician who founded the Kesari Kuteeram in 1900, but also an educationist who set up the Kesari Schools of Chennai, a patron of arts and culture (the Music Academy in the campus of his bungalow *Kesari Kuteeram* in Royapettah and, incidentally, noted singer P. Unnikrishnan is his great



Dr. K.N. Kesari with daughter Vasantha Kumari and grandson.

grandson). He was also the publisher of Telugu magazine *Gruhalakshmi* and a patron of Telugu women writers and artistes.

While being a straightforward autobiography of a multifaceted personality, it draws attention for other reasons. The

● by  
T.K. Srinivasa Chari

book was first recorded in Telugu by the author between 1948-50 when he was in his early 70s, and published under the title *Chinmanati Muchhatlu (Memories of My Early Days)* in 1953. It was translated in English over a period of time by his younger daughter the late Vasantha N. Menon when she was a high school student. Being a faithful rendering of the Telugu original, the English version retains the style of Kesari following a first person narrative. One of Dr Kesari's grandsons K. Balakesari (his first daughter Sarada Devi's son) chanced upon his aunt's English translation in the latter part of 2002 and between February and June 2003 circulated by email the contents of the manuscript to the close descendants of the senior Kesari to get them to know the life story of their illustrious kin. After a decade, it was decided to publish it as a book with photographs from yesteryears too. Kesari's daughters were born from his second marriage to Madhavi of Kerala. She was well versed in Ayurveda, and helped in the growth of Kesari Kuteeram.

One of the chief reasons for Kesari to write his memoirs was to set right the then misapprehension that he was born in a wealthy family and

his ancestors were learned men, when he actually belonged to a poor family and lost his father when he was five months old. But by the time of writing the memoirs, Dr. Kesari's Kesari Kuteeram Ayurveda Oushadashala started in 1900 was well established in Madras and Trichur with agents selling medicines in Bezwada (Vijayawada) and Bangalore (all the four southern regions of the country had been covered). His story, therefore, is a rise to eminence from poverty. His father died in 1875 leaving his mother 10 annas (a little more than half rupee).

Kesari had a troubled childhood in his native Inamavalloor near Ongole even having to resort to begging before his distraught mother had enough money. Even while she skipped her meals, she fed him with what she earned by stitching blouses. When her suffering became too much to bear, Kesari set off to Madras walking all the way and traversing the Buckingham Canal by boat. In later years, when there were still no trains, Kesari writes fondly of the 10-day journey to his village by boat at a cost of a rupee. The salty breeze stirred the appetite of the boatmen and travellers; the latter carried food with them while the former cooked their own food. The journey was spent in singing songs and telling stories.

When Kesari first reached Madras from Inamavalloor, he stayed in an *agraharam* in Kothwal Chavadi along with other Brahmins who came from



Dr. Kesari (inset) and his Kesari Kuteeram in Royapettah.

the north and eked out a living by performing pujas and begging and eating at *dharmasalas*. But disgusted with the way he was living, he went to a teacher called Ramanujachari in Bandar Street in George Town, and learnt stories from the epics. Then, he moved on to Hindu Theological High School where he got a scholarship to study English, Telugu and Sanskrit. But with help for his education hard to come by, he started looking for work and apprenticed under Ayurveda physicians like Mahadeva Sastry and Pundit D. Gopalacharyulu of the Kanyaka Parameswari Ayurveda Dharma Vaidyasala. Soon, he started his own clinic, Kesari Kuteeram. He recalls how he issued his first advertisement in the *Andhra Prakasika* published from Mount Road. At a cost of Rs. 5, the advertisement (published in full in the book) is a dialogue between two women, one consoling the other and recommending that she have an ayurvedic pill for a happier married life. Following the publication, the pill 'Tamboolaranjani' started earning a daily revenue of Rs. 100 for Kesari Kuteeram.

In his epilogue, the author acknowledges another medicine formulated for women's uterine problems. 'Lodhra,' brought him all his wealth. The narrative reflects the contentment of Dr. Kesari who rose in life the hard way, building many meaningful relationships and institutions that rekindle interest in his life and times.

## The Schmidt Memorial

(Continued from page 1)

As for the restoration, the silence of the Corporation, which is the agency responsible for it, is baffling. If it is facing problems with respect to the necessary expertise, it must come out in the open and ask for help. There are plenty of trained conservation architects in the city

who in turn can suggest artisans qualified to take on the task. If it is a question of funding too, it can be reasonably assured that there are private organisations who will be most willing to help. What is needed is immediate action. What is the point in simply agreeing that something needs to be done and not doing anything about it?

# An Act to save built heritage

• *Madras Musings* which from its inception over 20 years ago has been clamouring for an Act to save the State's built heritage, particularly structures not covered by a Central Act of 1958 and a State Act of 1966, is happy to publish key extracts from the Act to protect built heritage which the Tamil Nadu Government passed over a year ago but which it has kept under wraps.

The following Act of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly received the assent of the Governor on the 31st May 2012 and was published for general information in a *Tamil Nadu Government Gazette Extraordinary*.

ACT No. 24 of 2012

THE TAMIL NADU HERITAGE COMMISSION ACT, 2012

*An Act to constitute a Heritage Commission in the State and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.*

WHEREAS Tamil Nadu is known for its rich heritage and cultural properties and it is needless to emphasise that these have to be preserved and protected at all costs and for the posterity;

AND WHEREAS, it is necessary to protect the buildings or premises not covered under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (Central Act 24 of 1958) and the Tamil Nadu Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1966 (Tamil Nadu Act 25 of 1966);

AND WHEREAS, it is necessary to constitute a Statutory Authority to advise in the matters relating to identification, restoration and preservation of heritage building and in the matters relating to the development and engineering operations which are likely to affect any heritage building;

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tamil Nadu in the Sixty-third Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

## CHAPTER-I

### PRELIMINARY

1. (1). This Act may be called the Tamil Nadu Heritage Commission Act, 2012.
- (2). It shall come into force on such date as the Government may, by notification, appoint.
2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—
  - (a) "building" includes any structure or erection or part of a structure or erection which is intended to be used for residential, industrial, commercial, cultural or other purposes whether in actual use or not;
  - (b) "building operations" includes rebuilding operations, structural alterations of or additions to buildings or other operations normally undertaken in connection with the construction of buildings;
  - (c) "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Commission;
  - (d) "Commission" means the Tamil Nadu Heritage Commission constituted under section 3;
  - (e) "development" with its grammatical variations means the carrying out of building, engineering, mining or other operations in or over or under land or the making of any material change in any building or land, and includes re-development;
  - (f) "engineering operations" includes the formation or laying out of means of access to a road or the laying out of means of water supply or drainage;
  - (g) "Government" means the State Government;
  - (h) "heritage building" means any building or one or more premises or any part thereof which requires preservation and conservation for historical, architectural, environmental or cultural importance and includes such portion of the land adjoining such building or any part thereof as may be required for fencing or covering or otherwise preserving such building and also includes the areas and buildings requiring preservation and conservation for the purposes as aforesaid;
  - (i) "local authority" means any municipal corporation or municipal council or panchayat union council or village panchayat constituted or to be constituted under the relevant law for the time being in force;
  - (j) "member" means a member of the Commission;
  - (k) "monuments of heritage importance" means any building, structure,

erection, monolith, monument, mound, tumulus, tomb, place of interment, cave, sculpture, inscription on an immovable object or any part or remains thereof, or any site, which the Government, by reason of its heritage association, considers it necessary to protect against destruction, injury, alteration, mutilation, defacement, removal, dispersion or falling in to decay;

- (l) "notification" means a notification published in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette;
- (m) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (n) "public amenity" includes road, water supply, street lighting, drainage, sewerage, public works or such other convenience as the Government may, by notification, in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette, specify to be a public amenity for the purposes of this Act;
- (o) "regulation" means a regulation made by the Commission;
- (p) "rules" means rules made by the Government under this Act.

## CHAPTER-II

### CONSTITUTION OF THE TAMIL NADU HERITAGE COMMISSION

3. (1) The Government shall, by notification, constitute a body to be known as the Tamil Nadu Heritage Commission.
  - (2) The Commission shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal with power to acquire, hold and dispose of property and to contract and shall, by the said name, sue or be sued.
  4. (1) The Commission shall be chaired by an eminent person with concern and commitment for Heritage Conservation to be nominated by the Government and shall consist of not more than sixteen members, as follows:—
    - (a) the Secretary to Government in-charge of Tourism and Culture, ex-officio;
    - (b) the Secretary to Government in-charge of Housing and Urban Development, ex-officio;
    - (c) the Secretary to Government in-charge of Municipal Administration and Water supply, ex-officio;
    - (d) the Secretary to Government in-charge of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, ex-officio;
    - (e) the Secretary to Government in-charge of Law Department, ex-officio;
    - (f) The Commissioner of Museum, Chennai, ex-officio;
    - (g) the Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Chennai circle, ex-officio;
    - (h) the Commissioner of Archaeology, Chennai, ex-officio;
    - (i) the Director, School of Architecture and Planning, Anna University, ex-officio;
    - (j) the Director of Environment, ex-officio;
    - (k) the Chief Engineer (Buildings), Public Works Department, Chennai, ex-officio;
    - (l) the Senior Architect from Public Works Department, Chennai, ex-officio;
    - (m) one person nominated by the Government, who is conversant with Archaeology;
    - (n) one representative from Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage;
    - (o) one person nominated by the Government from any Non Government Organisation involved in Heritage Management and cultural affairs;
    - (p) a nominee of the Institute of Town Planners (India), Tamil Nadu Region;
  - (2) The Government shall, in consultation with the Commission, appoint a Secretary of the Commission who shall hold office for such period as may be prescribed.
  6. (1) The Chairman and every member of the Commission shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for a further period of three years.
  7. The Commission shall meet, as often as may be necessary, at such time and place and observe such rules of procedure as may be provided in the regulations:
- Provided that the Commission shall meet at least once in three months.

## CHAPTER-III

## POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF COMMISSION

11. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, all local authorities shall refer anything related to identification, restoration and preservation of any heritage building or any other development or any engineering operation which is likely to affect preservation of any heritage building for advice.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (1), the functions of the Commission shall be, —
- to advise the Government on preparing a classification of buildings in certain grades of heritage buildings after scrutinising applications and proposals received, including supplementing the existing list of buildings as well as all other matters relating to heritage conservation;
  - to advise the Government on any alteration, modification or relaxation of any law for the time being in force for development, control and conservation of any heritage building;
  - to advise Government whether to allow commercial or other use of heritage buildings and if so, when to prohibit such use;
  - to advise the Government on framing of special regulations for such heritage buildings as may be listed by the Government;
  - to advise the Government on guidelines to be adopted by private parties who sponsor beautification schemes in this State;
  - to advise the Government on the penal measures for defacing or destroying a heritage building;
  - to advise the Government and the local authorities on the making of provision for restoration of heritage buildings;
  - to advise the Government and the local authorities on documentation of records of heritage buildings;
  - to advise the Government on the steps to involve public opinion in mobilisation of efforts for creating awareness, preserving or maintaining heritage, and the consciousness of its visible architectural and natural evidences, so as to foster the creation of a popular mandate for heritage preservation;
  - to advise the local authorities, where necessary, on the policy of the grant of any certificate of right of development of any heritage building;
  - to advise the local authorities to regulate the installation of advertisement and display structure in respect of heritage buildings;
  - to advise the local authorities on the cost of repair of heritage buildings and the policy to be adopted for raising repair-funds from private sources;
  - to advise the local authorities to prepare special designs and guidelines for heritage buildings controlling the height and essential characteristics and to suggest other aspects of conservation and restoration;
  - to advise the local authorities on the provision of incentive by exemption from payment of rates or taxes or fees for supply of water or any other charge in respect of heritage buildings;
  - to advise the Government on any other matter relating to restoration or preservation of building of heritage importance as may be entrusted by the Government to the Commission.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, no local authority shall take any step for identification, preservation, conservation or restoration of any heritage building, not consistent with the determination or advice of Commission.
12. If any local authority is aggrieved by any advice of the Commission in respect of any building operation, engineering operation or development proposal referred to the Commission under sub-section (1) of section 11, such local authority may, within sixty days from the date of advice by the Commission, prefer an appeal to the State Government, and the State Government may pass such order thereon as it deems fit.
13. (1) Nothing contained in this Act shall preclude the Government from calling for and examining, on its own motion, if the Government consider it necessary to do so in the public interest, any case of advice by the Commission under sub-section (1) of section 11 and passing such order thereon as it thinks fit:

14. The Commission while inquiring into any matter under this Act shall have the same powers as are vested in a Civil Court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, in respect of the following matters:—
- summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him;
  - requiring discovery and production of any documents;
  - receiving evidence on affidavits;
  - requisitioning any public record or copies thereof from any office;
  - any other matter which may be prescribed.
15. (1) Subject to the other provisions of this Act, the Government and every local authority shall accept every advice of the Commission to the Government or the local authority, as the case may be and shall take action for prompt and effective implementation of such advice.
- (2) The Government may for the purposes of sub-section (1) give such directions to a local authority as it may deem fit and thereupon such local authority shall act according to the directions as aforesaid.

## CHAPTER-IV

## FUND, ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT.

16. (1) The Government shall pay to the Commission by way of grants such sums of money as the Government may think fit for being utilized for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) The Commission may spend such sums as it thinks fit for performing the functions under this Act.
- (3) The honorarium and allowances payable to the Chairman and members and the administrative expenses, including salaries, allowances and pensions payable to the Secretary and to the officers and other employees referred to in section 10 shall be paid out of the grants referred to in sub-section (1).
17. (1) The Commission shall have its own fund, and all sums which may, from time to time, be paid to it by the Government and all the receipts of the Commission including any sum which the Central Government or any other authority or person may handover to the Commission shall be credited to such fund.

## CHAPTER-V

## MISCELLANEOUS

23. The Chairman, members, the Secretary and other employees of the Commission shall be deemed, when acting or purporting to act in pursuance of any of the provisions of this Act, or any rule or regulation or order or direction made or issued under this Act, to be public servant within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.
24. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any member of the Commission or officer or other employee of the Commission or any person acting under the direction of the Government or of the Commission, in respect of anything which is done in good faith or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or any rule, regulation, order or direction made or issued under this Act.
25. The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.
26. (1) The Government may make rules for carrying out all or any of the purposes of this Act.
- All rules made under this Act shall be published in the *Tamil Nadu Government Gazette* and, unless they are expressed to come into force on a particular day, shall come into force on the date on which they are so published.
  - All notification issued under this Act shall, unless they are expressed to come into force on a particular day, shall come into force on the date on which they are so published.
27. The Commission may, subject to any rules made by the Government and with the previous approval of the Government may make regulations for carrying out the powers and function of the Commission under this Act.

(By order of the Governor)

G. JAYACHANDRAN,  
Secretary to Government,  
Law Department.



“Southwest Monsoon is soon approaching, when will the fishing ban end, when can we venture into the seas again?” were the questions in our minds ever since the winter migrants started leaving earlier this year. We wanted to explore the offshore waters during the SW monsoon as our previous trips have been just before the NE monsoon (October-November). From field guides to journal articles, the data on pelagic birds’ migration in the Bay of Bengal is highly deficient and it was our hope that these journeys would contribute to filling this gap.

In early July, we were able to secure a passenger boat at a reasonable cost and at the time we wanted. Despite numerous attempts to start the trip from Pondicherry, we had to settle for a day trip off the Chennai coast in August. A predetermined route was planned and was suggested to the boat’s captain. We were to travel East for a distance of approximately 30 nautical miles. The continental shelf off the Chennai coast ends at about 40 miles. And it is here that we expected to see much of the large schools of fishes and the birds that prey them. In contrast, the continental shelf ends much closer off the Marakkanam and Pondicherry coast.

# Bird-watching in offshore waters

Thirteen participants from Bangalore, Madurai and Tuticorin joined us in this trip, some arriving in Chennai just before the departure. Despite lack of sleep, due to either travel or work or emergency circumstances, both enthusiasm and anticipation were high. Previous trips had yielded just a handful of pelagic birds; most of us had a gut feeling that this time would be much better. Armed with GPS-equipped smartphones and watches to track our route, we departed at 6:15 a.m. The boat was capable of 9 knots and the captain was urged to push ahead to reach the predetermined spot before 10 a.m.

We decided not to stop for any of the non-pelagic terns that are found close to the shore and the crew was also asked to help us in spotting other birds. A few of the participants started feeling sea sick due to the choppy waters as well as fumes from the diesel engine’s exhaust. Small cups of lemon tea helped the others cope and remain active in the front of the

boat. Soon enough we started seeing Caspian terns, common terns and a single Greater crested tern. A few bridled terns started appearing, which re-kindled excitement. But, it was the beautiful gliding action of the flying fish there that completely enthralled us all.

At about 10:15 a.m, a small black bird was seen in-between the waves. Drawing closer, we saw the hovering action of a Wilson’s storm-petrel. Clear

## ● by A Special Correspondent

views of the white rump and hovering action was seen, Flight shots of it revealed the rather squarish tail with legs projecting behind the tail. At 10:30 a.m. ‘dolphins’ was the call from the front and soon we were surrounded by a pod of bottlenose dolphins, estimated to be around 30 individuals. Traveling further, we started noticing the larger species of flying fish. We also noticed larger predatory fish pursuing the flying fish. It wasn’t long before the first

Shearwater was seen, but at times it was hard to track their presence when the waves rose high. Soon we saw a pair of flesh-footed Shearwater, noticeable by their bi-coloured beak and pink foot. Closer to noon the air was still and it was hot and the sightings were fewer, but suddenly a large greyish-brown gull-sized bird approached us head on, “Skua” was the call. The plumage wasn’t familiar; clearly it wasn’t either the Pomarine or Parasitic that we were expecting. The Skua went past us and banked right to inspect a fishing trawler nearby. It wasn’t until much later that the bird was identified as a South Polar Skua. Congratulations were in order and the participants felt relieved having sighted their first Skua.

Thoughtfully, the crew had started preparing a noodle lunch to celebrate our Skua sighting, but then what is a boat trip without eating fish. The crew soon obliged by going close to a fishing boat and bartered for two small sized tuna fish with a loaf and a pack of bis-

cuits! Delicious fish curry and rice was a second course for lunch.

As we crossed the 25-mile mark, the seafloor depth was at 120 metres and there weren’t any fishing trawlers, nor were there any birds. The crew advised that we return to the 60 m depth area. Since the water currents were flowing west, they felt that the best sightings were to be had in that area. We decided to head north by north-west and return to the coast by 5 p.m. in a south-south-west direction. True to the crew’s words the birds started appearing closer to the 60 metres depth line. Many more storm petrels were seen, and at one location a completely dark storm petrel was seen chasing a Wilson’s storm-petrel close to a catamaran. Photos revealed that it was the Swinhoe’s storm-petrel. Its flight was clearly more graceful and effortless. A few more shearwaters were sighted and we managed to get close to a small flock of flesh-footed Shearwaters and take pictures from fairly close distances.

The return course to Kasimedu fishing harbour was planned via the Ennore port area where we expected to see terns resting on the large buoys. But sadly, not many were seen and we headed back to coast (Courtesy: *Madras Naturalists’ Society Bulletin*).

# Six novels, the Great Revolt their theme

It all started with some rumour about animal fat being used to grease cartridges. The soldiers revolted as biting such cartridges for use went against their religious faith. And all hell broke loose.

The year was 1857. The place was Meerut, India. The rebelling soldiers who revolted belonged to the Indian Army. The event? The Sepoy Mutiny or just The Mutiny. That the spreading rebellion led to the dissolution of the East India Company in 1858 and also led to the British to reorganise the army, the financial system and the administration in India, is something all us have studied in our History textbooks. Reading about the Sepoy Mutiny today is an exercise in refreshing our history facts, a reminder of the times that were and is a reflection of the times we are in. But, it can also provide a fascinating read.

What the Mutiny also did was to inspire people to write books... about it, with it as the backdrop and much else. It is for their readability and lively pictures of an era that ‘The Mutiny Novels’ brought out by DC Books are commended. Edited by Pramod K. Nayar, the series comprises six books. The relationship between the British sahibs and mems with the locals, their lifestyle and the society at large come under focus here. Yes, these novels are told from a British point of view, but they also look at the Indian counterparts with clarity of thought and a certain candidness.

The novels are not just about Indian history but English history as well as England’s cultural history all of which have been irrevocably connected with what happened here at that time. While some of the situations may seem dated, there is nevertheless a wealth of information to be found on the general mood of the time, especially with respect to caste and cultural clashes, living conditions, treatment of women and the social structure.

Here is a brief description of each of the six books which come with an attractive jacket each:

**A Brave Girl: The Beginning of Trouble – Louise Frances Field (Mrs. E.M. Field)**

This adventure tale revolves round two young sisters

Joan and Sara. While tomboy Joan loves to tempt fate, Sara is the quiet one who keeps her home shipshape. This story is about how, when faced with riots and unrest, the girls move to a safe place and learn to adjust. This is a story which is told from a woman’s point of view.

\* \* \*

**Bryda: A Story of the Indian Mutiny – Louise Frances Field (Mrs. E.M. Field)**

The story is told through young eyes. Little Bryda arrives in India to join her parents when the Mutiny breaks out. She is protected by Wazir Ali, her friendly servant, and the bond they form strikes a stark contrast to the horror of the fighting around them.

\* \* \*

**Eight Days: A Tale of the Indian Mutiny – R.E Forrest**

This is a violent narrative based on a true incident with British heroism of the female variety as its key premise. The story, which happens between the 8th and 15th of May, 1857, is set around the palace of Bahadur Shah Zafar. Beatrice, Lilian, May and Maud play pivotal roles... they are brave, quintessentially English women who suffer with dignity and courage.

\* \* \*

**In The Heart Of The Storm – A Tale of Modern Chivalry – Maxwell Grays**

The social set-up of the British in India comes under the scanner here. The three protagonists – Jessie, her adopted brother Philip Randal, and the wealthy Claude who falls for Jessie – fight for love, loyalty and, above all else, survival.

\* \* \*

**Lost In The Jungle: A Tale of The Indian Mutiny – Augusta Marryat**

A tale of survival, here Mrs. Brisbane from Britain has to face the inimical Indian landscape, the Indians and some fearsome political upheaval before she tastes freedom. In her courageous journey, she finds a com-

panion in a young boy Harry. This is their story, told with a feminine perspective.

\* \* \*

**The Red Year – A Tale of The Indian Mutiny – Louis Tracy**

‘Red Year’ became synonymous with the Mutiny in British India. This is a love story of Lt. Frank Malcolm and Miss Winifred Mayne, set against the backdrop of the Mutiny which is what this story begins with. You also meet some real-life characters such as Sir Henry Havelock, Henry Lawrence, Nana Sahib, Roshnara Begum and Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last of the Mughal rulers.

(Some of these books are available for download on the eReader.)

– Savitha Gautam

## There will be an answer...

(Continued from page 5)

Reached?  
ya  
Journey comfy?  
ya  
Did you eat?  
ya  
Tired?  
na  
Caught campus transport?  
ya  
Ok then, will talk later...stay safe...  
ya

\* \* \*

And then of course – the Kid-Klassic:  
All ok?  
ya

Sometimes – that’s all you need to know.

● The thirteenth in a series of profiles by V. RAMNARAYAN of cricketers who may have made an all-time Madras\* squad.

# A captain's dream player

Those who took part in the TNCA league during the 1983-84 season will remember the excitement a young tear-away fast bowler from Trinidad created when he came to play for the Madras Cricket Club, courtesy Akbar Ebrahim, the club's talented opening batsman. Akbar had met Robindra Ramnarayan Singh in Trinidad when he had gone to play there on a private tour. Impressed by the young cricketer, Akbar invited him to play for his club in Madras.

Robin Singh was a phenomenon, a bundle of energy and athleticism we had never imagined in our local cricket. As a right arm pace bowler, he was probably as quick as T.A. Sekar, our fastest then, and so aggressive that he invariably came within wrestling distance of the batsman in his follow-through. His appeals and screams of rage and frustration were terrifying war cries that reverberated around the near empty stadium, which by then had become normal in local cricket, unlike even during the 1960s and 70s, when crowds thronged league matches. Robin brought the crowds back.

Robin had played for the Trinidad Youth side along with a left-hand batsman of promise called Brian Lara. Born in Trinidad to Indian parents whose ancestors had migrated from India, Robin Singh probably realised that with his fast medium bowling, he was never going to make it to the West Indies team, then dominated by

some of the greatest fast bowlers in the world. In Madras, he created quite a sensation with his (what was to us) raw pace, spectacular fielding, and solid left-handed batting, marked by sound defence and powerful stroke play. However, with his bottom-handed approach and partiality to backfoot punches on both sides of the wicket, often through the aerial route, he was never known for grace, but he time and again proved that he could turn a match on its head with his daring and self-belief.

Robin settled quickly in his new environment, quite at home on the matting wickets he encountered outside Chepauk. He joined Pachaiyappa's College and within a couple of years he was playing for Madras University. He was soon one of its outstanding players. In the 1986-1987 Rohinton Baria tournament, he scored 380 runs and took 23 wickets.

Selected for the State's Ranji Trophy team the next year, he made a tremendous impact with his consistent all round displays and played a vital role in the team's triumph in the Ranji Trophy in the 1987-88 season after a lapse of 33 years.

Starting with an eleven-wicket haul against Kerala, Robin finished that season on a dream note scoring successive hundreds in the Ranji Trophy semifinal and final matches. His 152 against Punjab and 131 against Railways, along with outstanding performances by all its leading batsmen, clinched



Robin Singh.

the trophy for Tamil Nadu. Besides his 555 runs for the season, Robin also took 17 wickets and held ten catches.

That memorable season earned Robin a place in the Indian squad that toured the West Indies next season. On that tour, he had few opportunities, not playing in any of the Tests, and making a quiet debut in ODIs at Port of Spain. (In fact, Robin played only one Test in his career, at Harare against Zimbabwe in 1998-1999.)

That Robin had to wait for seven long years before being selected to represent India again, is now part of Indian cricket lore. Through his years of waiting, Robin never gave up hope. He kept himself extremely fit, training hard, running ten or more laps round the ground regularly. He was Tamil Nadu and South Zone cricket's Mr Reliable throughout the period, and led the State side by example. His marriage to a South Indian girl helped him settle down comfortably in Chennai. It also brought him

the solid support base of a family and friends who cared, even as the call to play for India took forever to materialise.

It was for the Titan Cup tournament in October/November 1996, involving India, South Africa and Australia, that the selectors finally recalled Robin Singh. By then 33 years old, he was nevertheless fitter than most players far younger. His bowling had mellowed into an intelligent medium pace, yards slower than in earlier years but more accurate. His batting had matured considerably, but he could belt the ball really hard when needed. In fact, he could be quite explosive. And his fielding in almost any position was brilliant.

His extraordinary batting feats in the triangular series involving India, South Africa and Zimbabwe in South Africa, enabled India to qualify for the finals there against all odds. This was the indication that with Robin Singh around and a few wickets in hand, no target was unattainable in one-day cricket. He hit huge sixes against some of the quicker bowlers in the world and was one of the rare batsmen to dominate off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq completely. His bowling too turned a few matches upside down.

Robin Singh's contribution to the team effort made him a permanent fixture in the one-day team, in which he was one of the most flexible options, someone who could bat as a pinch-hitter at one drop or chase near-impossible targets,

batting at no. 7 or 8, and going berserk at the death. Time and again, he proved to be an expert finisher. Add to this his clever changes of pace as a bowler and acrobatic fielding, and he was every captain's dream player.

His playing days now over, Robin continues to be associated with the game as a coach. Besides heading the MAC Spin Academy for a few years after V.V. Kumar called it a day, he has carried out several coaching assignments in India and abroad, including Singapore, the West Indies and the USA. Despite his stints as a fielding coach with the Indian team and the Mumbai Indians being the most high profile of his assignments, Robin Singh continues to go about his job with quiet dedication as he has always done.

\* Madras Province/State/Tamil Nadu.

## Answers to Quiz

1. Grand Theft Auto V; 2. Tiger Woods; 3. Supreme Court; 4. Hummingbird; 5. Singapore Airlines; 6. Google; 7. Humayun's Tomb; 8. Nepal; 9. 'Seekho aur Kamao' (Learn and Earn); 10. Blackberry.

\* \* \*

11. The second lighthouse of the city, the Doric column inside the High Court compound; 12. The Fort Museum; 13. Mayor of the city; 14. V. Krishnaswami Aiyer; 15. M.S. Subbulakshmi and T. Sadasivam; 16. He designed the State's logo/seal; 17. Rajaji; 18. Madhan; 19. Gemini Studios; 20. Abhinav Mukund.

Madras Musings is supported as a public service by the following organisations



Amalgamations Group



ASHOK LEYLAND  
ENGINEERING YOUR TOMORROWS

**Bata**

Bata India Limited



Brakes India Limited



Go Placidly



F.L. Smidth Limited

THE HINDU  
The Hindu  
Group of Publications



LARSEN & TOUBRO

It's all about Imagineering



murugappa

NIPPO



Rane Group



SAINT-GOBAIN  
The future of glass. Since 1665.



SUNDARAM FINANCE  
Enduring values. New age thinking.



Sundram Fasteners  
Limited



TAJ  
Hotels Resorts  
and Palaces



TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES



TVS MOTOR COMPANY



UCAL AUTO  
PRIVATE LIMITED



YAMAHA  
MUSIC SQUARE

Since 1856,  
patently leaders  
— A WELLWISHER