Metro Rail’s impact – on churches...

(By A Special Correspondent)

Tunnelling for the Metro in the Broadway area recently resulted in two historic churches developing cracks. With these being certified as non-threatening to the structures, work has progressed. Metrorail has also promised that it will repair the buildings immediately. All this is to the good. But the week-long drama merely exposed the fact that heritage structures in the city do not have any proactive protection as the following lines will show.

The first building to develop fissures was the Wesley Church. The matter received due publicity in the press. The response was predictable. It is reliably learnt that Metrorail was of the view that such cracks were only to be expected. But with a second church, the Arctot Lutheran, too showing signs of stress, experts from the IIT had to be called in. This was after the parishioners of both shrines expressed distress at what had happened. The IIT certified the fissures were superficial and Metro promised to get them repaired. Matters have ended there now. The Heritage Conservation Committee of the CMDA, which is supposed to be responsible for the protection of such historic structures, was conspicuous by its silence. Not even a line expressing concern could be elicited. To what purpose is such a body?

What is being forgotten is that Broadway is replete with historic structures and there are at least 16 of them down the principal thoroughfare. Among the listed ones, the Church Missionary Society’s Parish Hall is in a particularly enfeebled condition. It has already required restoration work. The IIT noted, the damage is done. Steps for protection, if any, are taken only after cracks develop and there is a hue and cry. Even now it is not too late. There cannot be more than 100 identified heritage structures along the routes that Metrorail will be taking. Why cannot the HCC insist that Metrorail, together with IIT, undertake a study of each of the structures? The effort must detail what are the weak points in each and identity what steps need to be taken to prevent any structural damage. The recommended safeguards can be put in place before work begins. That way everyone would be happy.

The current episode has, however, thrown up one positive development. This is the first time that Metrorail has acknowledged that cracks are due to its activities. Earlier, when similar incidents took place on Mount Road and the Esplanade, the“The heritage structures are so lucky.”

Why can’t temple tanks be put to good use?

Yet another threatened water crisis has reared its head. With copious inflows in the upper reaches of rivers that run across the State, Chennai too has cause for cheer. In the absence of an immediate crisis, why can we not turn our attention to some long-term preparatory action? Why can’t the various temple tanks in the city be cleaned up and made ready to receive the monsoon waters, as and when the rains come to our city?

Chennai and its environs are blessed with several temple tanks. Barring very few, most are mere cesspits and a shame to a citizenry that is becoming increasingly religious. Several have been filled up in the past and converted into bus termini and shopping complexes. Though that concept has died out thanks to better awareness, civic pride and a passion for maintaining the surviving temple tanks have not yet come. As a consequence, these water-bodies are merely gaping holes in the earth.

A temple tank is not merely something that is used for rituals. It plays an important role in maintaining the neighbourhood ecology. In hot weather spots such as Chennai, it cools the environment and provides fresh breeze. Above all, it recharges the groundwater in the surrounding. With so many glues going for it, why are temple tanks so neglected?

Perhaps the best instance of this is Mylapore. It has no less than five temple tanks. But the only one with water is the Kapiliswar tank. The rest are apologetic. Those within temple precincts, such as the Madhava Perumal tank, are somewhat better off in terms of cleanliness as compared to Chitra Kulam which has remained a glorified puddle for decades. Even the Kapiliswar tank, though it is full of water, has had to be cor

It is reliably learnt, in fact, that several owners will be happy to see their buildings fall consequent to Metrorail work so that they can redevelop their properties. That too is an understandable point of view. In a city where there are no rewards for holding on to heritage, what else can be expected?

Why can’t temple tanks be put to good use?

By a Special Correspondent

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Ballot-time in clubland

By the time you read this, the greatest election that mankind has ever known will be over. The Man from Madras Musings alludes to the battle for the club ballot at one of those gentlemen’s clubs in the city. A hallowed home-away-from-home for over a century and more, it has recently seen more activity in the bar, by which MMM speaks of the legal variety. Accusations of torts and malfeasances hold court, not the least of which is the surfeit of so-called Matters of Honor. But that is the way of all things in Madras—where all is not as it seems.

Anyway, it is not the build-up that led to the present elections, held under the watchful eye of the law that MMM wants to speak about. The behaviour of the electoral hopefuls has, on the other hand, proved that they are of MMM’s mill. Several of these, who invariably looked through MMM all along, have now suddenly become friendly. What was once an eye like Mars’s, is now an eye like Mu’s, full of the milk of human kindness. Having descended from their lofty heights they have begun taking cognisance of lesser beings, of whom MMM is also one.

The hopefuls have been calling up over phone. They have sent letters and emails. One group of applicants has banded together and taken to sending combined appeals. The lone operators are more colourful. Some have printed expensive brochures on themselves, replete with full family details (ideal husband, doting father, good doctor, happiest among books and great guy to have a drink with). But more than all this, it is the personal encounters that they specialise in.

The Cheshire Cat is what comes chiefly to mind. MMM has merely to be in the vicinity of one of these suitors to become aware of a powerful and stealthily grinning presence (is it because of grizzled teeth?) being directed at her. The result is that not a single girlish grinner emerges in full and unabated form. Being ‘adhaared’ is not an easy task. The hopefuls have only to look to their left or right to encounter a more superior being already there.

And, so, off MMM went feeling rather like Childe Roland who came unto the dark tower. Nothing could be closer to the truth. Dark was the night, the room was pitch-black and all was inky black. But the GRIMMER was how MMM saw the world. There was no light to be had in the dark at all. And as for ventilation—permit the thought. If this was the fate of the ‘adhaarables’, those who were doing the ‘adhaaring’ were not much better off. They had the latest air-conditioners, but as far as the rest of the amenities that go to make up an ergonomic workplace, they had to content themselves with what swirled slowly distributed hot air. The only light was from the table lamp. As it was, the seating was something left over from the Chinese torture chambers. Bedrolls strewn all over the place, the ‘adhaaring’ were not much better off.

As to how he plans to make the cut, it is only a question of time. The results are bound to be more sensitive to basic amenities. MMM smiled.

A reader writes...

Medhurst, Elizabeth and Loveless

I am an Australian working on a biography of my ancestor, the English missionary, Dr. Walter Henry Medhurst, and my research required me to recently visit Chennai.

It was particularly interesting to Dr. Medhurst’s wife, Elizabeth, and her early years growing up in South India, because she was to become an important part of the Madras story. Elizabeth was born in Thanjavur in 1794, the daughter of George and Elizabeth Martin, her father being an officer in the Madras Army. She was educated up in South India, because her family other than her son and her husband two sons, the first was her younger sister. She moved to the Medhursts. She was born in 1803, her family was one of three officers who specialised in prison cells. But her family was one of three officers who specialised in prison cells. Whether he died of wounds or from disease or from something else is not certain and answered nature some-
August 16

- **Nizhal Tree Walks.** Nizhal is organising tree walks. The walks will last for about an hour. Rediscover the verdant parks and magnificent trees in your neighborhood with friends and family! The Azhinji at Kotturpuram Tree Park, the Thaandri at Semmozhi Poonga, the Putranjiva at Panagal Park and many more such gems! Online through www.facebook.com/Nizhal.shade
  1st walk: Kotturpuram Tree Park. 5.00 p.m. (Tamil)
  For registrations please call Usha at 97910 29568 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

August 17

- **Exhibition.** Exhibition of photos, books, drawings and assorted items. Supported by Madras Heritage Lovers’ Forum. From 10 am-4.30 pm At St. Joseph’s High School, Erukkenchery (MBK Nagar)

August 17-22

- **Walk into the British Council.** Answer our Trivia questions on Madras to win daily prizes. Organised by the British Council

August 17-31

- **Exhibition.** A photo exhibition on Madras by photographer S. Kanakaraj. At Studio Palazzo Art Gallery, Chetpet

August 18

- **Chennai Heritage Walk.** Adyar and around led by Sriman V. The tour is partly by van and partly on foot and end with breakfast. The tour is charged and prior registration is necessary. Payment details will be emailed on receipt of registration. 6.00 a.m.
  Registration by email at sriram白沙@gmail.com

- **The Mint Food Trail.** A food trail organised to discover the food delicacies of Sowcarpet in and around Mint Street. Start point: Kakada Sweets, New No 348 Old No 343 (Near Jain Temple), Sowcarpet. How to get there: Reach Flower Bazaar police station. Turn left to join NSC Bose Road. Turn into Mint Street on right side, walk for 5 minutes and you will see Kakada Sweets on the left side. The Walk will take you to 4/5 great North Indian snack outlets in and around Mint Street to give you a taste of the rich food offers in this part of our city. You will also get a feel of Mint neighbourhood. No registration charges. But you will need to pay for the snacks you wish to sample. Note: Since this is a very crowded area with no parking facility, we suggest you come by auto and walk to start point.
  Starts at 4.30 pm. Ends at 6.00 p.m. To register, Contact Pratibha Jain: 97910 29568 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Online registration through www.facebook.com/Nizhal.shade

- **Kotturpuram Tree Park.** 5.00 p.m. (Tamil)

August 19

- **Poonga, the Putranjiva at Panagal Park and many more such gems!**
- **The Azhinji at Kotturpuram Tree Park, the Thaandri at Semmozhi Poonga**
- **The Mint Street, Sowcarpet.**
- **The tour is partly by van and partly on foot and end with breakfast.**
- **The tour is charged and prior registration is necessary.**
- **Payment details will be emailed on receipt of registration.**
- **For registrations please call Usha at 97910 29568 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.**
- **Online registration through www.facebook.com/Nizhal.shade**

August 20

- **Springfield, KK Nagar; MAK, KK Nagar; Devi Academy, Valsaravakkam; AVM School, Vadapalani; Karthikeyan Matriculation School, Vadapalani; Government Cariappa School, Vadapalani; and Government School, MGR Nagar. These schools will participate in all the PSBB and MHLF programmes.**
- **For registrations please call Usha at 97910 29568 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.**

August 21

- **The Mint Street, Sowcarpet.**
- **How to get there: Reach Flower Bazaar police station.**
- **Turn left to join NSC Bose Road. Turn into Mint Street on right side, walk for 5 minutes and you will see Kakada Sweets on the left side.**
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August 22

- **For registrations please call Usha at 97910 29568 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.**
- **Online registration through www.facebook.com/Nizhal.shade**

August 23

- **Kokapet, MRC Nagar, 4900 1000. 4.30-6 p.m.**

August 24

- **Kalaa Manjari, Alwarpet, 98404 21305. 4.30-6 p.m.**

August 25

- **Kalaa Manjari, Alwarpet, 98404 21305. 4.30-6 p.m.**

August 26

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August 27

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August 28

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August 29

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August 30

- **Kalaa Manjari, Alwarpet, 98404 21305. 4.30-6 p.m.**

August 31

- **Kalaa Manjari, Alwarpet, 98404 21305. 4.30-6 p.m.**

For more details please visit our Facebook page for weekly winners.
Prior registration required. Limited to first 25 registrations. Contact 98405 44629 – Reveryat for registration. 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. (approx.)

- **Exhibition.** Go Green – Exhibition of products and services for sustainable living organised by Inner Wheel District 323 and The Hindu at Hyatt Regency. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- **Musical Presentation.** Glory of Kartapongal by Kausalya Shivakumar. At Tattvaloka Auditorium, Teynampet. 6-7.30 p.m.

**August 18**

- **Heritage Walk.** Fort St. George Heritage Walk. Led by Vincent D’ Souza. Meeting point – Parking lot opposite the main gate of the Fort. Late comers will not be able to join the walk due to security reasons. Free. But participants should register by sending an e-mail to: themadrasday@gmail.com. Starts at 6.45 a.m. Duration 2 hours.

- **Madras Day Heritage Ride.** The bicycle ride will start from University of Madras (I.C.E Entrance) and end at St. Peter’s Church, Royapuram. Helmet is mandatory. Please wear bright coloured clothing to enhance visibility. The ride is free of cost and has no registration fees. You are responsible for your own safety. Obey all the traffic rules. The road will not be closed for the event. Ensure that your bike is in a good and safe-to-ride condition.

  For more information, details and registrations please visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/cyclingygo/ or contact Senthil Phone No: 9884246822, Mr. Ramanujar Phone No: 9884023123

  Starts at 5 a.m. and ends around 7 a.m.

- **Chennai Heritage Talk.** The Islamic Heritage of Mount Road led by S. Anwar. The tour is partly by van and partly on foot and end with breakfast. The tour is charged and prior registration is necessary by email at srirambts@gmail.com. Payment details will be emailed on receipt of registration. 6.00 a.m.

  **Presentation:** Y.G. Mahendra and A.R. Srinivasan will present a dialogue-presentation on Adventures in Tamil Theatre.

  At Tag Centre, 9.30 am (Open only to members of the South India Heritage group).

- **A Special Musical Nizhal Tree Walk.** The walk will be led by the Nizhal team (Latha Nathan and Dr. Babu) and Carnatic musician Dr. Sowmya along with her disciples. Meeting and assembly point will be the Kalakshetra Road entrance to the campus. 8 a.m. at Kalakshetra.

- **Nizhal Tree Walk.** Anna Nagar Tower Park. For registration please call Usha at 97910 29568 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Online through www.facebook.com/Nizhal.shade 4.30 p.m. (English)

- **Exhibition:** Inauguration of exhibition of C.L.D. Gupta’s “Line drawings of Madras, Queen of the Coromandel”. Inauguration by P. Chellapan. Public lecture by S. Muthiah. Exhibition will be related to Madras Week Celebrations. All children will get participation certificates.

  At the Vennirul Art Gallery, C.P. Art Centre. 10 am to 7 pm.

- **Art Competition and Handwriting Competition.** Children above 5 years can take part in an Art and Handwriting competition to be held at Kaala Manjari between 2-6 p.m. This is open for all NON GLOBAL ART children. The topic will be given on the spot and will be related to Madras Week Celebrations. All children will get participation certificates.

  Kalaa Manjari, 6/12, First Street, Venus Colony, Alwarpet. Register before 16th August. Registration Fee: Rs. 100. Contact: 2431 2676/98404 21305

  Crafting along the Marina – Scrapbook making. Open to children of classes 6 to 9. A walking tour in the statues on the Marina beach starts from Kannagi Statue. At the end of the walk children will get to do a scrapbook on their walking tour. Children need to bring their own pens, colour pencils, sketch pens, scissors and glue.


  At 4.30 p.m. Open only to first 25 registrations. SMS with name and age to 9840544629 for registration on or before August 15.

**August 19-23**

- **Exhibition: Reflections – an exhibition on the heritage and monuments of Chennai, by the students of The Pupil. Organised by Parampara, the Heritage Club of The Pupil has organised Madras Memoirs for the students of neighbourhood schools.**

  Neighbourhood cluster schools include: Loyola International School, Poonamallee; Chennai Public School, Thirumazhisai; Chennai Public School, Annanagar; Sundar Matriculation, Poonamallee; Sana School, Kattupakkam; Schram Academy, Maduravoyal; Christ Matriculation School, Seneerkuppam; National IT School, Mangadu; Devi Academy, Valasaravakkam; PonVidhyashram, Vanalavrakam; Mangadu Public School; PSBB Millenium, Gerugambakkam; Maharishi School, Thiruvanukkodu; Vallamal Vidyalaya, Maduravoyal; Pioneer Matriculation School, Nolambur; Kalakshetra Matriculation School, Kattupakkam; and RMK School, Thiruvanukkodu.

  Prize distribution on August 23, at 1.30 pm. At The Pupil Saveetha Eco School, 4/88, Thiruvanukkodu Road, Seneerkuppam, Poonamallee. 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon. Registration on or before August 12. For more details, Shameem Banu S. 044-26802013/14/15 or 9952399966.

- **Competition.** Identify this iconic place in Madras. Log into www.facebook.com/BritishCouncilIndia. Be the first to identify to win daily prizes. Organised by the British Council.

**August 19**

- **On-the-spot Painting Competition.** Topic: The Place I Like in Chennai. Organised by PSBB and Madras Heritage Lovers’ Forum. Materials to be brought by the participants. Chart paper will be provided by school.

  At Padma Sheshadri Bala Bhavan Sr. Sec. School. K.K. Nagar. 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

- **Katha Kalakshepam.** Alwar or Neyammar. At Padma Sheshadri Bala Bhavan Sr. Sec. School. K.K. Nagar. 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

- **Quiz:** A City, Its People & Places. Std. 7-9. Two teams per school in cluster. Each team: 2 participants. Registration on or before August 12.

  At The Pupil Saveetha Eco School, Poonamallee. 10.30 am to 12 noon. Registration on or before August 12. For more details, Shameem Banu S. 044-26802013/14/15 or 9952399966.

- **Chennai Heritage Talk.** Advertising in Pre-Independence Madras by A.R. Venkatachalapathy. At Chamiers. 6.30 p.m.

**August 20-31**

- **Exhibition.** The Madras Region Before the British. At the Vennirul Art Gallery, C.P. Art Centre. 10 am to 7 pm.

**August 20**

- **Chennai Heritage Talk.** FM in Chennai by Rajeev Nambiar (CEO, Hello FM). The Park. 6.30 p.m.

  **Quiz:** The Madras Dozen, a quiz on the heritage buildings of Madras by S. Muthiah. Organised by Rotary Club of Madras South and two other clubs. Hotel Saveria, 6.30 p.m. Open only to Rotarians.

  **Multimedia Contest on Heritage of Chennai.** Multimedia presentation contest for city schools. Subject: Old Houses of our City. The contest encourages city school students to explore Chennai’s history and heritage and present the subject in multi-media form.

  **Guidelines:** Students must first locate an old house (titled or Madras
terrace house or a bungalow) which is over 60 years old in your area. The house must be a residence. The team must record the location and ownership history of this house. They must photograph all the unique and key features of its architecture, inner spaces and vintage properties used by its residents. The team must gather details about these unique features (roof and walls, rooms and open spaces, etc) and list the purposes they serve to its residents.

Rules: The contest is open to school children studying in classes 8 to 12. A school can send only one team. Each team MUST have three members and all the three members must take turns to make the presentation. (No substitutes please!) Once the house is located for study, please call the organiser Ms. Revathi R at 98405 44629 and get the project approved and team members registered. This must be done before the work on the project is started. The duration of the complete presentation – PowerPoint and Oral – should not exceed 10 minutes. Participants should be prepared to answer questions of the judge/s.

On the day of Contest, the team must bring a copy of the CD to the venue of the contest and get it checked (before 9 am). We advise you to carry a backup digital copy. The organisers will provide a PC and a projector at the venue for your presentation. The best THREE presentations will be awarded TROPHIES, gifts and certificates. All participants will be given certificates. Prizes will be awarded on the same day at about 4 pm. Prizes will be awarded based on quality of research / presentation of pictures-visuals / presentation style.

At Srinivasas Sastri Hall, Luz, Mypalore a.m. to 3 p.m. with 30 minutes. lunch break. This contest is open to the first 20 school teams to register. Registration on first come first served basis. Organised by MsJanasekhara Times. Venue Sponsor: South Indian National Association and Ranaade Library, Luz.

**Quiz on Heritage builds of Chennai** conducted by Mr. S. Muthiah. Organised by Rotary Club of Madras South, Madras Temple City and other clubs. 6.30 p.m., Hotel Savera. Only for Rotarians.

**Designing a T-Shirt:** A Chennai Flavour. One team per school. 3 participants per team. T-shirt designing on a white T-shirt. Registration on or before August 12. Prize distribution on August 23, at 1.30 pm. Required materials to be brought by participants. At The Pupil Saveetha Eco School, Poonamallee. Std. 7-9. Registration on or before August 12. For more details, Shameem Banu S. 044-26802013/14/15 or 9952399966.

**Rangoli:** Colours of a City. Two teams per school. Each team to comprise 3 participants. Required materials to be brought by participants. At The Pupil Saveetha Eco School, Poonamallee. Std. 5-9. Registration on or before August 12. For more details, Shameem Banu S. 044-26802013/14/15 or 9952399966.

**Exhibition:** Photographs, paintings and sketches of important places in North Chennai. Organised by The P.G. and Research Department of Historical Studies, Sir Theagaraya College, Old Washermenpet, Chennai 21

**August 22**

**Music Performance and Lec-dem.** University of Madras’s Music Department organises Nalayira Divya Prabhandham and Multilingual Compositions on Lord Parthasarathy of Triplicane. F50 – Thanthrai Periyar Hall. 11 a.m.

**Pulli Kolam Contest:** 30 minutes. 13 dots. Materials to be brought by the participants. No colour allowed. Organised by PSBB and Madras Heritage Lovers’ Forum. At Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Sr Sec. School, KK Nagar. 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

**Talk:** Musicians of Kalakshetra. Resource/Spokesperson: Dr. Gowri Ramnarayan. Kalakshetra. 4:30 pm

**Chennai Heritage Talk.** Dialects of Madras – Badri Seshadri Amethyts, 6:30 p.m.

**Quiz:** A Madras 25 – a quiz on the heritage buildings of Madras by S. Muthiah. Organised by the Indo American Association. 6.30 p.m. Presidency Club. For IAA members and guests only.

**Talk.** Namma Arcot Road presents The Nawabs of Arcot by S. Anwar. At Namma Veedu Vasanta Bhavan, 100 Feet Road, Vadapalani. 7.00 p.m.

**Poetry Recitation in Tamil.** Heritance in Verse. 2 participants from each school. The Pupil Saveetha Eco School, Poonamallee. Std. 5-9. For more details, contact: Shameem Banu S. at 044-26802013/14/15 or 9952399966.

**Presentation and exhibition of sketches on Madras by The Chennai Weekend Artists.** At Amethyts, Whites Road. From 6.30 pm onwards.

**August 22-23**


**Venue:** PSBB Millennium, Gerugambakkam.

**August 22-September 1**

**Photo Exhibition:** Through the Looking Glass: 1945 at The Gatsby Village, 359, East Coast Road, Neelankarai. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**August 22**

**Seminar:** Wallajah, Pigot and Tanjore: Did they transform trading to expansionism? An all-day seminar. Speakers: Stephan Rowan of the British Council, S. Anvar and S. Muthiah. Organised by the British Council and hosted by Prince of Arcot.

At Amir Mahal. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For invitees only.

**Exhibition.** People and Places in Chennai. Organised by the Department of History & Tourism, Stella Maris College. At the OAT From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. An Inter-departmental Quiz Competition in Room M.01 at 1 p.m. At Stella Maris College. Open only to the students of Stella Maris College.

**Film:** Screening of documentary Sakkizhar Adi-p-Podi by T.N. Ramachandran and Ravi Subramaniam. At Roja Muthiah Research Library. 5.00 p.m.

**Talk.** Envisioning a Pedestrian-friendly and ‘Walkable’ Chennai. Kadambari Badami, Transparent Chennai, talks about achieving the dream through participatory planning, public-government partnerships, citizen empowerment, and the Nanganallur project. Press Institute of India, CPT Campus, Taramani. 5.30 p.m.

**Chennai Heritage Talk.** Panel discussion on Changing Professional Profile of Chennai – chaired by Chandu Nair. Park Sheraton. 6.30 p.m.

**Illustrated Talk/Presentation:** Girls of Ice House – 1914-1928 by Niritha Balaji and Kaveri Bharath. This presentation will be in the form of a narrative with photographs. A set of anecdotes about the girls who lived in the Ice House, when it was a home for child widows. Interaction and discussion will follow.

At Spaces, Besant Nagar. 6.45 pm onwards. For further details Niritha Balaji 98414-96723.

**Drawing and painting:** City of your Dreams. Group 1: Standard 4-6. Group II: Standard 7-9. One team per group Each group comprises 3 participants. Participants to bring white chart paper. At The Pupil Saveetha Eco School, Poonamallee.

**A Travelling Exhibition:** Clean Adyar, Clean Cooum, Solve Madras’s Water Problem at The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation. 10.30 a.m. The exhibition will visit schools and colleges from August 22-30.


**Students’ Seminar.** Evolution of North Madras. Sir Theagaraya College.

**August 23**

**Nithal Tree Walk.** Panagal Park, T. Nagar. 5.00 p.m. (English) For registration please call Usha at 97910 29568 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Online through www.facebook.com/Nithal.shade
August 24

**Chennai Heritage Walk. **A taste of Triplicane led by Sriram V. The tour is partly by van and partly on foot and ends with breakfast. The tour is charged and prior registration is necessary by email at srirambits@gmail.com. Payment details will be emailed on receipt of registration. 6.00 a.m.

**Heritage Tour.** Tracing origin of Madras at Pulicat. Trip cost: Rs.500 includes A/C-bus trip, breakfast, snacks, bottled water and guided walk. Limited seats. For details: 9940079444 email: info@arde.in 6.15 a.m.: Departure from Loyola College rear gate (Mahalingapuram) 8.30 a.m.: Breakfast at Pazhaverkadu (Pulicat) 9 a.m.: Visit to Pulicat Interpretation Centre 9.30 a.m.: Heritage Walk 12.15 p.m.: Departure from Pulicat for Chennai Organised by AARDE Foundation.

**Walk.** The Banyan Walk will take you on a journey of adversity For information contact: Archana at 9840521235. 9 a.m. and recovery, starting at the Transit Care Centre in Mogappair, to the open shelter for homeless men in San Thomé and ending at the Rural Mental Health Programme in Kovalam. You will hear stories of difficult lives, of dreams lost, but also of hope and new beginnings. The Walk will also include interesting stories about the history of the areas where The Banyan is located. 

**Talk:** Madras under the Cholas by Dr. R. Nagaswamy. At the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation. 10.30 a.m.

**Quiz Competition** for school children from 6th standard to 9th standard. Theme: Heritage of Madras. Organised by Amaravathi Nagar Residents Welfare Association. Ambal Matr. School, Arumbakkam. 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. For details contact Dr. K. Thooyavan, Chennai. Cell: 9840645855

**Children and music of Chennai** with Pradeep Chakravarthy. Organised by Association of British Scholars. At Lady Andal School grounds. Between 10.00 and 11.30 am

**Tour:** A tour of Bronze Gallery at Government Museum, Egmore led by Dr. Chithra Madhavan. 2 p.m. Organised by Namma Mypalore. Rs. 250/- per person. To register, contact nammamyapalore@hotmail.com. Registration on a first-come-first-served basis.

**Puppetry Session for Children on Wildlife.** An interactive session on Wildlife of Chennai and their importance with puppets for children conducted by Dr. R. Bhanumathi of Pavai. At Nageswara Rao Park, Mylapore. 4.00-4.30 p.m.

**Nizhal Tree Walk.** Sammoori Poonga, Cathedral Road. 4.30 p.m. (English). For registration please call Usha at 97910 29568 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Online through www.facebook.com/Nizhal.shade

RMRL Public lecture: Thiru Vi. Ka’s Chennai by Prof. A.R. Venkatachalapathy, Madras Institute of Development Studies. At Roja Mutthia Research Library. 5.00 p.m.


August 24: A Piano Evening. A Franco-German tribute to Madras Week features by Christine Chareyron and Anil Srinivasan. At the Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan Auditorium. 7 p.m.

Chennai Heritage Talk. Motorsports in Madras by Ejj K. Unamahesh At Hyatt Regency, Anna Salai. 7 p.m.

August 25

**Madras Day Heritage Ride.** The bicycle ride will start from Univer- sity of Madras (I.C.E Entrance) and end at Sri Kapaleswarer Temple, Mylapore. Helmet is mandatory. Please wear bright coloured clothing to enhance visibility. The ride is free of cost and has no registration fees. You are responsible for your own safety. Obey all the traffic rules. The road will not be closed for the event. Ensure that your bike is in a good and safe-to-ride condition.

Starts at 6 a.m. and will end at 7 a.m. For more information, details and registrations please visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/cyclingyogis/ or contact Senthil Phone No: 9884246822, Ramanujar Phone No: 9884023123

**Heritage Walk.** Fort St. George Heritage Walk. Led by Vincent D’Souza. Meeting point – Parking lot opposite the main gate of the Fort. Late comers will not be able to join the walk due to security reasons. Starts at 6.45 a.m. Duration 2 hours. Free. But participants should register by sending an e-mail to: themadrasday@gmail.com.

**Tour:** A tour of Stone Sculpture Gallery, Government Museum, Egmore led by Dr. Chithra Madhavan. 11 a.m. Rs. 250/- per person. To register, contact nammamyapalore@hotmail.com. Registration on a first-come-first-served basis.

**Chennai Heritage Talk. Chennai Weekend Artists and their works – exhibition and talk.** GRT Convention Centre, 3-5 p.m.

**Chennai Heritage Walk.** Roaming around Royapuram led by Sriram V. The tour is partly by van and partly on foot and ends with breakfast. The tour is charged and prior registration is necessary by email at srirambits@gmail.com. Payment details will be emailed on receipt of registration. 6.00 a.m.


(When coming from Velachery, take the service road along the 2nd Flyover on the Velachery-Tambaram Road and turn left at the junction under the Flyover onto the Velachery-Thoraipakkam Road, travel around 300 metres, and take the U-turn after the Toll Plaza sign and the Office is on the left immediately after the turn. When coming from OMR, the Office is 200 metres after the Toll Plaza.)

**Nizhal Tree Walk.** Nanmangalam Forest Park. 8.00 a.m. (English) For registration please call Usha at 97910 29568 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Online through www.facebook.com/Nizhal.shade

**Nizhal Tree Walk.** Sivan Park, K.K. Nagar. 4.30 p.m. (English) For registration please call Usha at 97910 29568 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Online through www.facebook.com/Nizhal.shade
**August 26**

- **Exhibition** conducted by Madras Heritage Lovers’ Forum, and ‘Reflections of Our Heritage’ by PSPB students. Prizes for all the competitions organised by PSPB and MHLF will be distributed by chief guest Nanditha Krishna, Director, CP Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation. Silver Jubilee Hall, PSPB. 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

- **Presentation.** Heritage Lost: Lessons from Pallikaranai. Nityanand Jayaraman on Chennai’s vanishing wetlands, natural events and national disasters, with pictures by Shajju John. Press Institute of India, CPT Campus, Taramani. 5.30 p.m.

**August 27**

- **Book launch:** The Anglo Indians – A 500 Year History by S. Muthiah and Harry MacLure. Organised by Niyogi Books and Madras Book Club. Book release by Dr. Beatrice D’Souza, former MP. Hotel President. 6.30 p.m. For members and guests only.

- **Book launch:** Master of Arts – A life in dance by Tulsi Badrinath. Chief Guest: Gopalkrishna Gandhi. Organised by the Duchess Club. Hotel Savera. 11.30 a.m. Only by Invitation.

**August 28**

- **Discussion.** Madras Newspapers – the Good, the Bad and the Ugly. A panel discussion moderated by Sashi Kumar, Chairman, Media Development Foundation. Participants: S.R. Madhu, R.V. Rajan, Shreekumar Varma and Dr. Jaya Shreedhar. Press Institute of India, CPT Campus, Taramani. 5.30 p.m.

**August 29**

- **Quiz:** A Madras 25, a quiz on the heritage buildings of Madras conducted by S. Muthiah. Organised by Association of British Scholars. British Council. 6.30 p.m.

**August 30**

- **Talk:** Cricket, Carnatic Music and Coffee – by V. Ramnarayan. Organised by Association of British Scholars. British Council. 6.30 p.m.

**August 31**

- **Memorial meeting** for K.S. Padmanabhan. Organised by Madras Book Club. For members and guests only. Taj Connemara. 6.30 p.m.

- **August 31: Talk:** Ramakrishna Pisipaty speaks on Human Activities in the Early Madras Region – citing recent excavations. At the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation. 10.30 a.m.

**September 4**

- **Book launch:** Degree Coffee by the Yard by Nirmala Lakshman. Organised by Madras Book Club, Taj Connemara. 6.30 p.m. For members and guests only.

**September 7**

- **Madras Quotient ’13.** A quiz organised by the Murugappa Group for schools. Grand prizes. Quiz Master: Naveen Jayakumar. Lady Andal Auditorium, Harrington Road. 2.00 p.m. onwards.

**OTHER COMPETITIONS**

- **Online Writing Contest:** Create a museum on Madras – Online writing contest. Open to students of class 8 to 12. How can we create a museum on our city? What objects can be displayed? The themes that would best classify our city, the dioramas that can be created of the city and how to use technology for such a museum and for what subjects? Put all your ideas together and mail it to:contest@yocee.in

  Rules: The article should not be more than 300 words. Ideas should be in separate paragraphs and under relevant sub-headings. Entries should be submitted only through online form provided at www.yocee.in/madrasweek/

  Prizes for the best 10 entries. 25 shortlisted entries will be compiled as an e-book and will be available for download from Sep. 1, 2013. Last date to submit entries: August 24.

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**Getting Madras Week off to a start – in words.**

**Speaking of heritage at a Sunday breakfast**

Sundays are usually lazy days, at least that is how you feel in the early part of the morning. So, you don’t expect a packed attendance at a Rotary break- fast meeting. There were hardly 15 Rotarians when I arrived in time for breakfast – idli, vada, pongal, sambhar, coffee – about 8.30 am. But in the half hour following, the number doubled and, by the time the hosts draped a ponnamadai around my shoulders, it was house full.

The members were made up of a motley group comprising advocates, professors, builders, teachers, businessmen, students and others. I was introduced by an elderly member and I noticed she had taken pains to scribble two full pages, adding copiously to an email I had sent her about my background. In the event she made several errors, but on occasions such as this is best to let them pass.

A sumptuous breakfast is unlikely to keep you awake for long when you are seated comfortably and, as it turned out, there were a couple of heads suddenly dropping on shoulders and then springing back to attention. But these occurrences were momentary and by large the audience was wide awake. That was enough motivation as I launched into the romance of old – of Andrew Cogan, Francis Day and Beri Thimappu, of Madraspatnam, Chennapatnam and George Town, of St Mary’s Church in the Fort, the oldest British building in Madras, and of some of the early institutions established by governors like Elihu Yale.

And then, about how during the height of Queen Victoria’s reign, the Indo-Saracenic style of architecture was considered the form best suited to convey imperial majesty in the Indian empire, and about the genius of Robert Chisholm, Henry Irwin, and Paul Benfield before them.

About Senate House, its classic restoration and its present sad state, about Bharat Insur ance Building or Kardyl Building built for W.E. Smith, pharmacists, a classic example of neglect, and about the fate that awaits the Royaparam Railway Station, the oldest in India after the others, for the British was long gone. Even as Mumbai’s VT and the Nilgiri Mountain Railway are preserved as heritage structures.

And then the Metro Rail continuing to create a stir in the city on a regular basis – with CSI Wesley Church the latest, and earlier with a building in the Teachers’ Training College campus in Saidapet, with P. Orr & Sons before that, and many other smaller instances.

About the need for a comprehensive Heritage Act with out which buildings will continue to be razed. Like a 164-year-old church in Coimbatore was, and how horticulture of the Mangamal Palace in Madurai was.

I thought I’d get into the details about Khaival Maidan (the one bright spark now) and the Chepauk Palace when I noticed the elderly lady who introduced me nodding her head gently. My time was up and the Rotarians wanted to say their goodbyes and leave. They had given me an hour (much more than the allotted or usual time given to speakers) and now they wanted to catch up on fellowship. For a Sunday morning it wasn’t so bad after all, I thought.

**Why can’t temple tanks be put to good use?**

(Continued from page 1)

Temple has a tank, one side of which has been made over to shops. These have let all their drains into the tank. How can it survive? The Triplicane tank has had its bed cemented over in the mistaken notion that water would thus be saved from percolating into the subsoil. But this move has only sealed the natural spring below. The misguided attempt was in the 1970s. Why can’t the bed be dredged and opened up now?

The city has taken enormous pride in the restoration of the Kapaliswarar temple tank. But it is now high time that we repeated the same success with other water-bodies. Do we have the public spirit to do this?

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**Portuguese San Thomé and Madras Week**

Paolo Aranha and Vera Domingues are two re- search scholars based in two European cities who are en- couraging a small group of us interested in the Portuguese histories of Madras. Paolo, now in Munich, has done some work and published a paper or two on a subject that has links to San Thomé. Vera was here recently to walk around and talk to people in order to enrich her own research. Vera, based in Portugal, has mailed three maps of San Thomé de Meliapor which look fascinating but will send me on a crazy chase if I was to start using them.

But use I will once Vera shares a few more maps and I try to draw a trail of the dozen or more churches that existed in the Portuguese fort and outside it.

That and more will take some time in the making.

The maps and other material and Paolo’s Facebook chats are also providing me the base for a small event that I wish to time with this year’s Madras Week celebration.

A decade ago, some of us floated the idea of the Madras Day to celebrate the founding of the city. We chose a day – August 22.

And we decided that any event focussed on the city would be created, planned and driven by people of this city.

Ten years ago, we hosted a Walk in the Fort and ran a se- ries of events at Rajaji Hall, once the Banqueting Hall of the British Governor.

When it all ended that launch year, well after 9.30 p.m., my colleague Sashi Nair and I who drove these events were exhilarated and exhausted.

Today, over 100 events are held during Madras Week, and these are hosted by many people and groups.

This year the focus is on encouraging more communities in various areas who have held such an event to ideate and drive one.

After all, a Madras Week celebration is complete only when different communities in different areas celebrate it in a way they think is best.

And it can be simple and straightforward.

Let me share last year’s wonderful effort of a group of women of Sowcarpet.

The idea was simple – a Food Trail in their area. There are lots of snacks stalls in that re- gion. All of them offer North Indian specials. And the group knows most of them.

The idea was picked up and the group drew up a route. Six shops, six stops. Five guides, three volunteers.

And the Mint Food Trail at- tracted over 40 people. So the call is going out to you and to your friends. Focus on an idea that makes this city. Draw out an event. Tell your friends and their friends about it. Make it happen.

Vincent D’Souza

Editor’s Note: There is still time till the end of the month. Take a cue from the events listed.
The Gentle Book Man, in his simplicity sublime

V. Ramnarayan adds: "Never before had Priyadarshini given a thought to playing a role at Kalakshetra, but she has for the last couple of years been contemplating cutting down on her performance career, and "giving something back to this art, which has given me so much." Among other things, choreography and training her students for dance productions, and the gainful use of the audiovisual media – given the film industry connections of her family – were distinct areas of interest.

Kalakshetra's new Director

K.S. Padmanabhan

The 1990s saw Priyadarshini's emergence as a leading Bharata Natyam dancer perhaps wedded to her career as never before. She was already married and had two children by then. Her initial successes abroad came in Europe before she made the U.S.A. a regular destination as well.

Priyadarshini is aware of the prevalent view that suggests that her lack of administrative experience and her Bharata Natyam background – so different from the Kalakshetra hani – could be stumbling blocks to her effectiveness in her role as director. "To me the spirit of Kalakshetra is of paramount importance," she says, and adds "the vision of its founder and her values so assiduously nurtured by her successors, I will do my best to maintain that spirit and uphold those values." She has no intention of interfering with the work of the faculty brought up and trained in the Kalakshetra tradition. "The spirit, not the ritual, is important," she reiterates.

According to her, these are early days yet for her to spell out her plans for Kalakshetra. "My first objective is to integrate." She will respect those "who love Kalakshetra, support her, and have a duty, the kind of duty J.R.D. Tata performed when Muluk Raj Anand returned home to Bombay after his prolonged stay in England. The novelist was fired by the ambition to start a magazine that would be a "loose encyclopedia of the arts of India and related civilisations." It was an expensive concept, but it became a reality because J.R.D. Tata gave him a start-up fund along with 'seven advertisements [per issue] and two rooms' in the historic Army & Navy Building.

Tata, it is true, never got the Indian Review of Books. "The time had come for the Indian Review of Books," he said, "We will do better with the money." But his successors would have a duty, the kind of duty he had to play a leading role in the founding of the Club. "You must speak to him first," he said. I told him what Muthiah had said and asked for a date to meet him. Before the meeting could take place Padmanabhan was in hospital and then he had left the world, quietly as was his wont. It's so difficult now to think that meeting wouldn't happen at all, that I have lost a treasure trove of information on publishing in India and his contribution to the history of the Madras Book Club.

Padmanabhan's contribution to writing will be better understood by authors who have worked with him. V. Vishnunath Malaya, a friend and publishing consultant, wrote on Facebook how he was received warmly every time she went to meet him and how she still preserves copies of the Indian Review of Books he had gifted her. Muthiah was his first editor. "A revival of Indian Review of Books would be the best remembrance of Paddu," wrote Muthiah in his tribute.

Priyadarshini Gandhi was interviewed by S.S. Narasimhan of the New Indian Express in Singapore during 'Dance India Asia Pacific,' the last question posed to her was "Do you think artists, or in your case dancers, would make good area administrators?" And she replied: "I think we would make fantastic administrators if we did not dance. If I am performing at the pace that I am doing today, I cannot really teach. If I teach, I should not be a regular professional performer. Similarly, if I want to be an administrator, then I should not do anything else. I should be true to what I am doing. You can always prove that you can do this and that, but whether you are doing justice to either of them is a moot point, and I couldn't do it."

The questions and answers proved prophetic when a month later Priyadarshini was given her appointment as Director, Kalakshetra. Priyadarshini is believed to have sent in her application for the position on 3rd June, the last day for the application. She then left to participate in the Singapore festival.
The gubernatorial life

December 9: They sang in the Cathedral this evening No.379 of Hymns Ancient and Modern.

December 15: I have a new avenue laid out, running from this house to the gate which leads to the Marmalong Bridge. It is formed chiefly of Dillenia spectosa and Anogeissus acuminatus, the latter being seedlings from the very fine tree in the compound of Mr. Price, the Collector of Chingleput, which was probably planted by my maternal grandfather.

December 18: Sir Frederick Roberts had a parade and marchpast of about 2200 men on the Island to-day, which I attended officially.

December 20: The usual ball in the Banqueting Hall – always a pretty sight.

December 27: In the afternoon to the Observatory with Miss Martin, Captain Agnew, and Mr. Webster, the Chief Secretary. We saw the comet of 1812, not at present a very striking object, Venus just now very pretty, and Saturn in great splendour, and Aldebaran. I asked Mr. Pogson how long light took to come to us from him. "Certainly over a hundred years," he replied, "but how much longer, I know not." New to me, too, was the cluster in Perseus – a celestial rendering of the table my Mr. Jacob came. Still more interesting was Alcyone which may, we understood, be the centre round which the universe revolves.

December 30: On the 28th, we transferred ourselves from Guindy to Government House, Madras.

Next morning we went to the Central Station to meet my wife and Clara. Breakfast was hardly over when Dr. Mackenzie came to tell that Davis, my valet, was attacked with cholera, and forthwith returned to Guindy. This we did. The case ended fatally at 4 a.m. to-day. He was a negro from the Gold Coast, and the best valet I ever had, though I have been fortunate in that behalf. He appeared in my room at Parel on 31st October 1881, and I have hardly ever given him an order since. Everything I wanted, while he was there, seemed to happen as I wished it, without anything being said.

A red sunset – clouds half-filling Venus and the crescent moon. The air was cool, in the earlier seventies, and, from time to time, we heard the guttering cry of the great owl, the call of the spotted deer, and the dry rustle of the palmyra.

January 21: We had the stringband up, and afterwards sat in front verandah listening to a very pretty selection of Scotch airs which my wife has made for it. We remembered, as we breathed the soft delicious air, Keats's description of this evening in a northern clime: "St. Agnes' eve, – Ah bitter chill it was!"

We sat down to dinner, a party of twenty-eight.

The house and gardens of Guindy were illuminated every night, while on the 11th we had a concert directed by Dr. Maclanee, and on the 12th a ball. My wife also held a reception on the 11th in the grounds of Government House, Madras, after the Viceroy's levee, which took place at half-past four in the Banqueting Hall. On the 10th, I went with the Viceroy to the Convent, and thence to Vespers and Benediction.

On the 11th, he received a variety of formal visits; I, those of the Maharajah of Myore and the Princess of Tanjore, besides which there were all the usual accompaniments of Viceroyal or gubernatorial progress – interviews, inspections, addresses, and the like.

The only contretemps was the illness of Lady Ripon, who was unable to appear at all either on the 11th or 12th, and had to be portent. I remembered "The Grand Old Ballad of Sir Patrick Spens."

March 1: To the Observatory, soon after sunset. The newest object to me was Mars. I could not distinguish the snow which my wife saw distinctly at one of his Poles.

I looked again at Venus, but, as Mr. Proctor happily observes, "there is an amazing glare and much false colouring about the lovely lady."

March 3: I spent the last hour of daylight in a remote part of the Park, where our botanical plunder was much greater than in the excursions of last week, for, besides being before it to be recorded here; but I note, anything being said.

The foliage of the pretty little doves belongs rather to our morning rides than to our evening walks.

As we walked in the Park this evening, we came across the harmless green snake, Pseudechis mystacinus, in a bush of Acacias Sandera. He allowed both Cavendish and myself to touch him gently, without moving. One was caught the other night, and doomed to be preserved in spirits as a specimen; but we ruled that he was far too pretty, and he was allowed to escape into a tree.

Kept one of the species without food for three months, and thought, though thinner(!), he was quite lively when he was liberated at the end of that time. A few mornings ago, a man brought a fine specimen of the large, but non-vomous, Pyus maculosus. A Russell's viper was slain in the Park, supposed to be our friend of the 22nd February, and a fine adder was preserved in spirits as a specimen; but we ruled that he was far too pretty, and he was allowed to escape into a tree.

To the Observator-
Madhurst, George and Loveless

(Continued from page 2)

In 1817, a young Walter Madhurst arrived in Madras from London, en route to Malacca where he was to set up a printing works for the Society. Due to the reluctance of the East India Company to take missionaries on their ships, Walter was delayed for three months in Madras and during this time he lodged with Mr and Mrs Loveless, the missionaries in George Town. He wrote back to London to inform them of his change of plan:

“Yesterday I entered into the Holy State of Matrimony with Mrs Elizabeth Braune, widow of the late Captain Braune of the 15th Madras Native Infantry, who resided in the house of our brother Loveless for these nine months. She speaks Tamil fluently and can also talk in Telugu. Born and educate in Madras, she is the greatest part of her people living in tents under a scorching sun, she is more likely to endure the terrors of an eastern climate than one of our English ladies.”

Thus commenced a partnership which embraced missionary work in Penang, Indonesia and China and involved the establishment of churches, schools, orphanages and hospitals, some of which are still operating today. Madhurst published numerous reference works and he played a key role in translating the Bible into Chinese.

In visiting Chennai, I wanted to find out if the Church in which Walter and Elizabeth met and married still exists and if I could locate it. My researches I was delighted to find that the William Charles Memorial Church was very much alive and that it had attended a service while I was in Chennai. The invitation turned out to mean a lot more than just attending a service. The welcome I received and the hospitality of the Bishop, the настоятель and the congregation were astonishing. They were so appreciative of having someone visit who was connected with their history and I could assure them that I shared those same feelings. It was really gratifying to see that this Church is as vibrant today as it must have been in 1817.

During my visit I became aware that the Church did not have a picture of its founder to display among its other historical information. As a result of some of my hotel-based research I was aware that the National Portrait Gallery in London had a picture of William Charles Loveless. When I thought I might be able to source a copy from it. I am happy to report that I was able to obtain a copy of the portrait and give it to the Church as a small token of my appreciation. Hopefully this will add to the history which is portrayed so well on the walls of this wonderfully restored Church.

John Holliday
A G Kripal Singh was perhaps the wittiest, most cerebral Madras cricketer in my experience, way ahead of his time in strategic thinking and articulation of ideas. In addition to his undeniable class as a batsman—not to mention his shrewd off-spin bowling—his challenging field settings, his expert handling of his bowlers, his ability to read wickets and his bold declarations not only made him a respected captain of the Madras team, but also, briefly, a candidate for the Indian captaincy. Certain unfortunate off-the-field incidents, however, denied him any real chance of that top honour.

"The eldest son of A.G. Ram Singh was an outstanding batsman, arguably the finest right-hander produced by Madras, ahead of such fine batsmen as his younger brother Satvinder Singh, Michael Dalvi, C.D. Gopinath and T.E. Srinivasan," his younger brother Satvinder Singh was an outstanding batsman, his ability to read wickets and expert handling of his bowlers, challenging field settings, his shrewd off-spin bowling—he was an outstanding batsman, his ability to read wickets and expert handling of his bowlers, challenging field settings, his shrewd off-spin bowling—his cerebral Madras cricketer in my memory of Kripal's death as his captain—especially whenever India might succeed Pataudi as captain—"I was in the presence of a future star. Arjan did his late father proud that day and for some years thereafter, though he did not quite fulfil his potential."

The name of A.G. Kripal Singh will certainly go down as one of the greats of Madras cricket, second only to his illustrious father in stature amidst an extraordinary family of cricketers whose ancestors came from Amritsar to Madras in the early years of the 20th Century and completely integrated into Tamil society.