

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

# MADRAS

## MUSINGS

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### INSIDE

- Short 'N' Snappy
- Slow renewal
- Madras Week – 8 pages
- Letters across the seas
- Madras fabric

## Vanishing water

(By The Editor)

There can be no denying that the Muttukadu Estuary is one of the most scenic spots near our city. But all that may not be for long, given the rampant construction activity going on in its vicinity. But what is worse is the unchecked extraction of groundwater by all the establishments in the area – chiefly IT companies, hotels and housing complexes. This is drying up one of the chief aquifers of the city and it does not bode well for a metro that is perennially water-starved.

It is not as though we lack the laws. Since the 1980s, construction had been banned in this area, chiefly to protect the groundwater, which could be drawn by the city in times of need. This ban was, however, lifted in the last decade, mainly to cater to the demand of the IT sector. The considered opinion in the 1990s was that with rainwater harvesting schemes in place within Chennai, it might no longer need the water from Muttukadu. That has, however, proved to be a false assumption, for successively weak monsoons and the lack of proper implementation of rainwater harvesting have ensured that the city is once again searching for fresh sources of the precious liquid.

As is usual when such bans are lifted, the stakeholders involved were all consulted. The qualifying remarks of Metrowater were a classic instance of bureaucratese: "Any major developments in the proposed tourism corridor should take into account the unique hydrological ecosystem of the area." With that mild caution in place, everything was set for rapid 'development' of the estuary and its surroundings, with the present result. Groundwater extraction, however, is not the only issue. Disposal of sewage is a bigger problem. Many of the establishments here are draining their effluents into the estuary. It may not be long before the water body begins to resemble the Cooum. Experts are of the view that the groundwater in the area has already been irreversibly contaminated.

The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority and the Corporation of Chennai are being

blamed for the present situation. A majority of the structures – be they hotels, offices, residences or amusement parks – in the area have been built in violation of construction codes and CRZ regulations. The two regulatory bodies have chosen to turn a blind eye, despite being armed with some of the strictest laws in the land. As we have said in some of our earlier articles connected with building violations, the lethargy of our civic body when it comes to enforcing its rules is amazing. We have already seen the kind of havoc this has caused within the city in places like T'Nagar. The same situation appears to be developing in the outskirts also.

With so many buildings coming up, the demand for water has skyrocketed in the area. This has resulted in more and more borewells being installed, each with increasing depth to tap the water that is fast receding. Many of the housing complexes have more than one borewell and some of these are drying up within one or two years of drilling – an indication of how fast we are using up the water. These complexes have in turn begun depending on water tankers, which in turn are bringing in water from wells dug

## Madras Landmarks – 50 years ago



• Today it is a nondescript structure that houses the showroom of V.G. Panneerdas & Co, the company that retails white goods and introduced hire purchase. But in its time, Victory House, Mount Road, was a landmark address. Interestingly, the building's beginnings go back to another merchandiser of consumer products. In the 1890s, Whiteaway, Laidlaw's, 'Furnishers and General Drapers', were as much into textile retailing and tailoring as they were into selling a whole range of household requirements. The firm had branches throughout British India as well as in the capitals of many of the other British colonies in the East. As to who designed the structure is not clear, but it did bear features of the work of William Pogson who specialised in buildings for retail establishments in the city. High Court documents of the 1980s state that the building was more than 100 years old at that time, thereby giving an idea about its date of construction.

Founded by Thomas Whiteaway and (later Sir) Robert Laidlaw, the firm's best years were till the Great War. It was also known as 'Right away and paid for' because of its no credit policy. By the 1940s, with independence in the air, the firm was closing its Indian operations though it continued in the Far East till the 1960s. The Madras premises were sold to the Swadesamitran – the leading Tamil daily of the time. The paper was begun in 1882 as a weekly by G. Subramania Iyer, who had six years earlier co-founded The Hindu. After leaving The Hindu he was to focus on the Swadesamitran, making it a daily in 1899. After him, A. Rangaswami Iyengar of The Hindu was to also serve as editor of the Swadesamitran. It was during his time that Subramania Bharati joined the paper for a second and short tenure, ending with his death in 1921. In 1928, C.R. Srinivasan took over as editor and proprietor of the paper and it was under him that the paper scaled great heights in circulation.

Srinivasan purchased the Whiteaway and Laidlaw property after World War II and named it Victory House. Some great names in Tamil writing were to work in the building for the paper. Following Srinivasan's death in 1962 and the change in the tastes of the reading public, the paper declined. In 1977, the paper was sold to the Silver Jubilee of Independence Trust controlled by the Congress Party. It lingered on till 1985 when it stopped publication. It had since then changed hands as a paper and there were sporadic attempts to revive it. During the 1980s, a fire broke out in the building, destroying much of the newspaper archive and nearly all the photo negatives – a 100-year history was lost in one evening.

Victory House was rented out to various commercial establishments from the 1970s. The ground floor, all 7000 sq ft of it, was occupied by VGP who moved in in 1971. In the early 1980s, the then owners decided that the building needed to be demolished and rebuilt, the existing structure showing signs of weakness. All tenants barring VGP vacated and litigation followed which ended in 1987 with the High Court of Madras ordering the tenant to vacate. What followed next was VGP purchasing the entire property and constructing a modern showroom-cum-office space in place of old Victory House.



**Celebrate the 375<sup>th</sup> birthday of MADras!**

(Continued on page 12)





Pelicans nesting at Nelpattu.

# Revitalising conservation traditions

Delivering the Pupul Jayakar Lecture hosted by INTACH in Delhi, Prof. Madhav Gadgil said, "A community involves not only human population but other beneficent elements such as hills and rivers, woods and trees, birds and monkeys, and according such beings respect, even veneration."

"India's rich heritage of conservation traditions evolved in a society that instinctively respected nature in India. Let us not forget that," he said.

Prof. Gadgil pointed out that "scientific practices of nature conservation in no way represent a real advance over the traditional folk-knowledge-based systems. All that has happened is that the spatial scale of efforts to conserve biodiversity has changed along with enlargement of resource catchments or footprints of modern societies." He felt our scientific understanding of complex ecological systems is in fact still very limited. At present there are no universal laws to guide ecological management comparable to the laws of physics and chemistry, for example, that enabled Man to land on the moon.

The professor spoke at length about the destruction to nature and people's livelihood so widely prevalent in our times. The most glaring example he cited was the Vedanta site in Odisha where forested slopes and flowing streams of the Niyamgiri hills provide a living to the Kondh tribes. The rich biodiversity of the Niyamgiri massif critically links a series of forests and wildlife sanctuaries. Today it is threatened by mining operations. The Vedanta site is one of the main sources of Vamsadhdhara River, and mining operations would result in a hydrological disaster, destroying the very integrity of its ecosystem. It also severely disturbs 7 sq. km of wildlife habitat wrecking its ecology. The Kondhs are agitated because they believe their survival is at stake.

The Government of India Forest Rights Act (FRA) vests recognisable community and habitat rights, with its preamble clearly stating that forest dwellers are "integral to the very survival and sustainability of the forest ecosystem." The FRA further authorises the Gram Sabhas to ensure that their habitat is preserved from any destructive practices affecting their cultural and natural heritage.

The Forest Rights Act, however, has not been formalised to date, with the result, the District Administrations have often failed to act either fairly or firmly to protect the rights of the Kondhs. In fact, the State Government has already taken a decision to transfer tribal land to the mining group. Dr. Gadgil pointed out: "Not only is the transfer of community resources for mining without seeking their informed consent unfair, it is also illegal after the enactment of the FRA."

Prof. Gadgil spoke about many other instances of rights being blatantly violated in other States as well. He cited Karwar which was incorporated into Karnataka in 1960 under the *Linguistic Reorganisation of States*. Some villagers learned that their land would be taken over and so quickly razed it to the ground in just 2 weeks. The case dragged on for many long years, till eventually the High Court ordered that the land be given back to the villagers.

Concluding his talk by describing many other such instances of FRA violations, Prof. Gadgil posed a devastating question: Should our biodiversity wealth be surrendered to moneyed mining interests, just to serve a capital-intensive economy that is so wasteful of natural resources? The Western world could afford to do it once upon a time as they had successfully accumulated large capital stocks through colonisation. India cannot afford this extravagance. This question needs to be posed in all Indian States. And also needs to be responded by the new Government. (Courtesy: Virasat – the journal of INTACH)

# Slim-don't-fits

There comes a day in the life of *The Man from Madras Musings* when he realises that he has nothing to wear. This, by the way, is every other day, for MMM has just one weakness – he likes his clothes, in which aspect he markedly differs from the Chief, who chugs along maintaining that it is comfort that counts and not style. Not that the Chief does not turn out in the best of Savile Row when he wants to. It was only the other day that MMM saw the Chief at a Consulate reception all suited and booted and being the life and soul of the party.

But to get back to the sad tale of MMM's apparel – and how sad it is. Knowing MMM's propensity to lament about the lack of suitable wear, his good lady periodically hauls him upto the various malls that dot the city.

There, under her eagle eye, MMM tries out various shirts and trousers, only to have her reject most of them. After having worn everyone down during the course of a longish afternoon, MMM and good lady depart, having made some purchases.

But nothing in Chennai can proceed smoothly and one of these is the size of these clothes. They are no longer what they used to be. Those

been a second home to Julius Caesar, for he, as you remember, wanted to have men around him that were fat. The same applies to the women of Chennai as well, but of that MMM will not speak, for he, does not bandy about with women unnecessarily.

And, so, given this tendency to put on weight, no doubt due to widespread availability of junk food and increasingly sedentary lifestyles, how are fellow Chennaiites coping with these drain pipe trousers and slim fit shirts? Very well, apparently, for even as MMM stood and watched, several outsized men grabbed several of the trousers and shirts and wheezed their way to the payment counter. MMM wonders as to how they can fit in. He assumes that they buy two of each and then gets them stitched into one.

## Indian Stretchable Time

Come Madras Week and *The Man from Madras Musings* suddenly begins getting phone calls from newspaper correspondents, radio jockeys and TV anchors. MMM is generally quite happy to talk to them but there is one variety that gets his goat – the one that does not do its homework before calling. He is therefore,

went ahead with other work. A good two hours later, he had a call. The TV anchor was on the phone apologising profusely. Her cameraman had gone out for lunch and just returned and so could they come then? They were, she also added, just around the corner from MMM's office. MMM secretly wondered as to why this call could not have been made when the cameraman did not return at the appointed hour but he held his counsel and agreed that they could come immediately.

The corner that they had to negotiate to reach MMM's office was evidently one of those long ones, for, after half an hour or so, there was no sign of anyone even remotely resembling a cameraman who had fed well or a TV anchor who was eager to get MMM's views on heritage.

It was late in the evening, long after the Ra in the heavens has set, that the trio – interviewer, cameraman and general helper – trooped in. They were ushered in to a conference area where they were asked to set up their equipment and then call MMM when ready. A good 45 minutes later, the all-clear was blown and the cry went around for MMM to duly appear.

## SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

who know MMM personally will agree that he is built on what are known as generous proportions (known in Delhi as *healdhee* type). He is broad where he ought not to be, and that means clothes that allow for certain roominess, especially in leg wear. That is, however, sadly no longer the case, for some madness has gripped all the designer labels in the city which are now churning out only slim fits. These begin with a waist size approaching zero and then go on to narrow legs. Imagine MMM's plight when he has to try and struggle into them. He made bold to ask as to what had happened to the older and broader fits and was given a contemptuous glance by the sales help at one of the outfitters. The good lady shushed MMM firmly by asking him to change with the times. MMM would love to, but his figure no longer can change.

What surprises MMM is that the slim fit has hit the racks just when Chennai is going through one of the most obese phases in its existence. All around him MMM sees men with paunches hanging out, waists ballooning from trousers, and necks disappearing behind bulging jowls. Just by looking at them you can guess that our city would have

usually very short (and snappy) with the kind that calls and asks him to tell "all that he knows about Buckingham Canal" or, for that matter, "the Beach". To these he responds by tersely informing them that Google would be the best source for what they require. Several of this kind never call back after that, but some of the more persistent ones do and these need to be humoured.

One of the last named kind was recently in touch with MMM. She, it transpired, was from a TV channel that takes its name from Soleil who lights up our day. In terms of channels, this would qualify as THE channel of channels and MMM was loath to give her short shrift. She said she was keen to get my views on some aspect of heritage and so could she call on me at the earliest? MMM agreed and we fixed a time. MMM also warned the correspondent that he had a fetish for punctuality and that his time was not his own. So could she please make it on time? The woman agreed and said that she and her team would be at MMM's office by 3.00 pm sharp.

The time came and went and not a sign of the team from the sun god's own channel. MMM did not bother and

MMM went across to be met by a beaming anchor, a cameraman who was all burps, and a surly helper who no doubt had not had his lunch. MMM extended a wintry smile and asked them as to what did owe the pleasure of the visit. "We came to discuss clock towers with you, Sir", gushed the anchor. "We want to know why most of them don't work and why those that do are not keeping the correct time. And also are they relevant today when everyone has watches to remind them of the time and the necessity for punctuality?" So much for heritage!

## Tailpiece

Has *The Man from Madras Musings* heard of Kisholam, asked a junior reporter from a famed national newspaper. MMM had not. The caller was astounded. How could MMM, who had worked so closely with the Chief who literally drips history, not know of Kisholam the architect whose death centenary falls this year and about whom one of the Chief's side-kicks was giving a talk? It was quite a while after he had hung up that MMM realised that the reporter was talking about Chisholm ('Chishum' for the uninitiated).

– MMM



• **Chepauk Palace, National Art Gallery**

# How slow can renewal get?!

(By A Special Correspondent)

Three fires – one major and two minor – two roof collapses, horrendous neglect and a restoration plan that is taking even longer to begin than the original construction – this is the state of Chepauk Palace today. Historians and conservationists may tout it as the first example of Indo-Saracenic architecture, but our Government doesn't appear to appreciate that. How else can you explain the sad track record of the 'restoration' of the heritage precinct?

It is now two-and-a-half years since the first major fire broke out. That happened on Pongal Day in 2012. The *Khalsa Mahal* was gutted in the incident. A few months prior to that, we in *Madras Musings* had written about the way Chepauk Palace was being maintained – old files, rotting furniture, frayed electrical wiring, rubbish dumps everywhere, and a family of squatters in the front portico who were cooking meals. We had even then mentioned that a disaster was waiting to happen. Not that our observations made any difference to those in charge of the place. So, sure enough there was a fire accident. What followed was a hasty announcement by a Minister that the building would be razed to the ground and a new structure built instead. This was later retracted, following protests by historians and heritage activists. A committee of three, with not one conservationist among them, then studied the damage and recommended that what was needed was restoration. While this may have come as a relief, what has happened since then makes us wonder about the Government's sincerity in its expressed commitment to take up that task. While we have heard that an architect has been appointed for it, there has been no action since. The gutted portion remains open to the sky and is weakening by the day.

The story of the other wing of the palace – *Humayun Mahal* – is no better. A year ago we wrote about how this section was in an equally precarious condition. One of the floors had collapsed and Government departments and officers continued to function all around the crater that it had left behind! Old papers and junk abounded, as did shoddy electric wiring. Since then, we have had two fires, both minor, but the second one caused a partial floor

collapse, perhaps because the structure was anyway damaged thanks to the earlier fall. The second and more recent fire was attributed to old wood and wires being stored in the building. Is this how heritage structures are to be looked after?

With this, we have now effectively damaged both wings of the Chepauk Palace, with only its central tower, built a hundred years after the original construction, standing intact. The restoration project that is on the anvil does not cover *Humayun Mahal* and is related only to *Khalsa Mahal*. The former, therefore, is at present facing a question mark as to its future.

The *Humayun Mahal* complex is not alone in this. The National Art Gallery (formerly the Victoria Memorial Hall) is yet to see any activity, two years after restoration was announced and six months after funds were released for it. The dome here is said to be in a pre-

(Continued on page 12)

## Hope for Kelly

Indian civilisation never had toilet culture. Men defecated and urinated wherever they liked. River beds and canals served to wash themselves, Coconut groves and mango groves also served as toilets. Some four or five decades ago, you could see people washing their bottoms in canals or rivers after defecating and a few yards away people washing their clothes and further down many bathing.

Crude toilets were provided for women in the backyards of their houses to ease themselves. The excreta would be collected manually by scavengers early mornings. Visiting villages was a nightmare for city dwellers as they were unused to easing themselves in open. Not that city toilets were any better. They had walls and roofs. That was all. Flushouts were unheard of.

When people migrated to big cities in search of jobs, they had no option but to defecate in open in the absence of toilets. They felt shy for some time, but nature's calls were too compelling and they would slowly shed their inhibitions. Women were not so lucky. That was Indian civilisation.

Things are definitely improving. The concept of regular toilets has taken root and the

## OUR

## READERS

## WRITE



need for cleanliness and hygiene is now part of early school education and we can already see youngsters sticking to decent methods. Only the old people still cling to ancient ways. More and more conveniences are being provided all over the country.

Kerala has a better cleanliness consciousness and the State is much cleaner compared to Tamil Nadu or Andhra. Karnataka is also better. Tamil Nadu is incorrigible. It takes time for a civilisation to change itself after years of habits. The only thing uppermost in Indian minds was realising God and speculating about souls and hereafter. Nothing else mattered. Seal Paul Kelly (MM, July 16th) will find a better India, say, after fifty years.

T. Santhanam  
tyagasanth@gmail.com

## Getting it straight

• It was Dr. Krishnamoorthy Srinivas, who was quoted in the article on the VHS (MM, July 16th), and not his son Dr. E.S. Krishnamoorthy, who is a Professor in the academic department. Further, Dr. Srinivas will

be completing 50 years at VHS only in January 2015.

The errors are regretted.

– Shobha Menon

\* \* \*

• The preface to the article on the American who danced with the Travancore Trio (MM, August 1st) says: "New Hampshire (USA), based Betsy Woodman, an alumna of Woodstock School, Mussoorie, is the author of three children's books set in North India." Betsy Woodman is a novelist, not a writer of children's books! Her three books, the series on the adventures of Jana Bai, are set in a 'fictional' town in northern India. The latest book *Emeralds*

*Included* was released in the U.S. in July 2014.

Also, her mother Ruth did not learn Bharata Natyam from the Travancore sisters, but along with them from their dance guru.

– Vijaysree Venkatraman

\* \* \*

• The article Decentralise waste management (MM, June 16th) was written by Harsha Anantharaman of Transparent Chennai, and not by Sushila Natraj.

Avni Rastogi  
Transparent Chennai  
24, Kothari Road  
Nungambakkam, Chennai

Editor's Note: We regret the error.

# A Commercial Break

The last time...  
The last time what...  
Don't interrupt. The last time we had breakfast...  
We have breakfast every day...  
Allow me to speak. The last time we had breakfast...  
Was yesterday. Last morning...  
Will you allow me to speak?  
OK. Go ahead.  
The last time we had breakfast it was ...  
Toast and eggs and the eggs...  
You bought them.  
No I didn't,  
You bought them from the new store at the corner  
So what? It's a brand new store and...  
Maybe it's a brand new store but the eggs were...  
What was wrong with the eggs?  
I didn't say anything was wrong...  
Then what did you want to say?  
What I wanted to say was...  
That the eggs were ...  
Don't interrupt me...  
That the eggs were...  
Rotten? I didn't say that. Don't you put words into my mouth.  
Then what did you want to say?  
What I wanted to say was that the eggs you bought at the new store round the...  
Be brief please ...  
I never interrupt you when you speak. So allow me to speak – What I wanted to say was that the eggs you bought from the new store round the corner were...  
Rotten?  
Not rotten. Don't put words into my mouth.  
Did I ever say rotten when we last had breakfast?  
No, you didn't.

The eggs that were made into omelettes were...  
Not made properly?  
You're putting words into my mouth again  
What I was about to say was that the omelette was good...  
Then what's your complaint?  
Allow me to complete...  
Go ahead, go on...  
The omelette was excellent but the...  
If the omelette was good the eggs couldn't be bad. Stands to reason  
Allow me to explain. You are always interrupting  
OK. So the omelette was good but the eggs were...  
The omelette was good, the eggs bought at the new store were good but...  
Come to the point. What's your complaint?  
I'm not complaining. Just stating a fact. If you allow me to speak.  
Go ahead, state your facts and be brief.  
Don't interrupt. I never interrupt you when you speak. What I was saying was when you kept interrupting me that the eggs were good, the omelette was good but...  
Just then the doorbell rang. The expected visitors had arrived.  
The two siblings listened to their parents with amusement.  
One said, "This comes from watching TV debates all the time."  
The other said, "Mercifully, our parents have been forced to slip into a break because of the visitors."

– Radha Padmanabhan

Editor's Note: Ranjitha Ashok appears to have got everyone talking (or is it writing?) in verse.

## CHENNAI HERITAGE

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Address: .....  
All cheques to 'Chennai Heritage'. DD/Cheque should be sent by Speed Post only.



# A walk in the Fort

As another Madras Week gets underway, I recall another August day seven years ago when a large group of us stood in front of Fort St. George, waiting to join a Heritage Walk, an excellent concept put together by a group of hard-working people united by love for their city and its history, and their dedication to share it with the world at large.

We were a truly mixed group, and it was heartening to see a good number of North Indians and even more encouraging to see a healthy scattering of college students, who had clearly come of their own volition.

A clap of the hands, and we were brought to order. We were reminded that parts of the Fort St. George housed the Tamil Nadu Government, parts of it belonged to the Army, and a small portion was under the control of the Archaeological Survey of India. Plus, it was historic property.



The crenellated walls.

Therefore we had to behave ourselves, not touch what was not to be touched, and not stray from the group.

We passed the old Governor's House, now the Tamil Nadu Secretariat and ministers' offices. This handsome building, with its lovely portico, has as its most striking feature 20 granite pillars, made of the best Pallavaram granite. Sadly, whoever was in charge of "restoring" the appearance of these pillars decided that the best way to do it would be by giving them a coat of shining black paint, thus condemning the lovely granite to be forever hidden from view. These pillars have travelled and seen places – built in 1732 as part of a 32-pillar colonnade, they were spirited away to Pondicherry in 1746 by the French, and made their way back to Madras in 1762, when they were placed back in their original site. A few demolitions and renovations later, they were incorporated in the early years of the 20th Century into the portico of the building that is now the Secretariat.

In the growing heat, our group walked on, our steps not quite as brisk and peppy as before. A few minutes later, we spied, looming close by, the clean, simple lines of the spire of the St. Mary's Church, said to be the oldest Anglican church east of the Suez. We paused awhile in the heavenly shade outside, enjoying the unlikely sounds of organ music in this bastion of Carnatic music. Within its walls – four feet thick and bomb proof – there had worshipped a veritable who's who of the British Raj.

The last notes of the organ died away, and we entered St. Mary's Church. I love the atmosphere in an old church, the hushed stillness, the pure serenity, everyone wrapped up in a bubble of their own thoughts and prayers. And when I walked into St. Mary's, it was no different. But there was something else in the air, and as my eyes adjusted to the darker interior and my body rejoiced at the coolness within, I realised what it was. The ghosts of history. The spirit of the Raj. A sense of being in another era, one of gallantry and chivalry, one filled with hope and despair and suffering and cruelty and fantastic expectations and perilous seas and homesickness and disease and longing for a faraway land and loved ones.

I am one of those who believes that, in bal-



Clive House.

ance, the British Raj caused more harm than good in India. But that morning, in the church, something of the romance of the Raj, captured in so many books and movies, touched me. The church was filled with tombstones, many of them with very moving epitaphs, as they told of young men and women who died young in the cause of serving their Empire, people who toiled in conditions their bodies, accustomed to cool Northern climes, simply could not cope with. Something of their sincerity of purpose, their hard-working dedication to empire-building, the harsh conditions they had to endure, came through in these inscriptions.

There were other treasures, too: the teakwood balustrade, the organ, the altar piece, a huge painting of *The Last Supper*, simple but lovely stained glass windows. Here, Elihu Yale got married, the first marriage to be celebrated in St. Mary's, and Robert Clive was married here, too. Outside, the lush gardens were cool and quiet, and the only sounds were the songs of the birds and the rustle of the trees in the wind. It was enchanting.

The spell was broken when we left the church and walked towards Clive House (first called Admiralty House). We climbed up a flight of steps into a large room with high ceilings and many pillars along the side. The room was a mess – dusty, decrepit, with peeling paint, and monstrous-looking construction equipment flung haphazardly around. It was a sad sight, even sadder, considering the grand times the building had seen. It was originally the site of the Court of Admiralty, where those merchants and traders who dared bypass or disobey the East India Company and its licensing requirements, as well as an assortment of pirates, fugitives and mutineers, were tried and punished for their crimes. Later Robert Clive and his bride moved in, and there must surely have been some grand balls and parties in that stately mansion, the fabled pomp and splendour of the British Raj.

We walked on past the Grand Arsenal (apparently some sort of a top-secret location, but nobody seemed to know, or want to reveal why, and we were only allowed to gaze at it from a respectful distance – not that there was much to gaze at – and not take photographs), and then towards the north-eastern part of the complex, where the walls that surrounded the Fort complex still stand. Beyond these thick walls lay Black Town, where the Natives lived their supposedly unopious and heathen lives. These walls, 6 metres high, are crenellated, for gun placement and use, mostly against the never-say-die French. The views were magnificent, but you also got the sense of being in a garrison, of being enclosed within a place that afforded protection from outside elements and the many dangers that those within the Fort must have felt and faced.

We walked down the steps, and, hugging the northern boundary of the complex, passed many army barracks, including the Kings Barracks which, with over 10,000 square metres of space, is the largest of its kind in India (I think). Today, it houses the Army's cafeteria and canteen although, gazing through their gates, it was easy to imagine a thousand high-spirited, or lonely, or friendless or popular young men who lived there, cheek-by-jowl with their mates, like in any college dormitory today.

# The Armenians too join the celebrations

It is that time of the year when friends and rookies working at the city newspapers call me for leads and itsy-bits on our city. You must be aware that August is the time when we celebrate this city, from Madras Day to Madras Week ([www.themadrasday.in](http://www.themadrasday.in)).

It is a time when I must prepare to lead a cub reporter to a stone that lies alongside the Marmalong Bridge in Saidapet, with an Armenian legend tarred into the earth. Or help the rookie negotiate the pavements in San Thomé to another Armenian tablet on the outer wall of a church which now stands inside the local school campus.

Yes, this city has lots of Armenian history. Earlier this year, I played host to two Armenian sisters who now live in France. Satenig, a scholar, was here to complete her study of the Armenian who, while in this city, dreamt of a constitution for a free Armenia state.

Yes, a visit to the Armenian Church was on. This must be among the Top 5 places of tranquillity in our city. If you are here on a Sunday, time it for 9.30 a.m. when caretaker Trevor, who has lots of Old George Town stories to share, rings the bells. Six of them, 18th Century vintage. And a form of weekly prayer at a church where a lone lit lamp stands on the altar and few really pray.

Satenig and a group of Armenians from France and in India are now curating events for Madras Week.

A decade and more since this unique idea got rolling, Madras Week seems to be taking on a fascinating life of its own.

At local levels. Internationally. And in other forms. All this is good for the future.

The stamp Armenia published in 2001 to celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the proclamation of Christianity as state religion in Armenia.



The stamp released in 1994 to celebrate the bicentenary of the Azdarar (*The Monitor*), the first Armenian periodical, by H. Shimavonian in Madras.

curate a seminar on settlements on the city's waterways.

Last week, a group undertook a tour alongside the Cooum and this project has the potential for documentation and study.

Research, study tours, writing and literature on this city must be encouraged. Small beginnings in little backyards will make this possible. (Courtesy: Adyar Times)

Vincent D'Souza



In 1794, Azdarar, the first Armenian periodical headed by Haruthyun Shmavonian, was published in this churchyard.

Slowly, academicians are also tuning in. Sundar from the famed Roja Muthiah Library in Taramani says that among the talks listed for this occasion is one by Dr. Perundevi Srinivasan who will present a paper on 'Mariyamman at the interface of Science and Religion'. And Dr. Karen from the Madras Institute of Development Studies in Adyar says that her institute plans to



The Cornwallis cupola.

Finally, we stopped to admire the cupola where the statue of Cornwallis had once stood (now protected against the elements in the Fort Museum), and at the many intricately carved cannons that still face seaward.

Where the Fort Museum is today once stood a house belonging to a merchant. The East India Company "acquired" it

(Continued on page 11)





# Madras Week '14

August 17 to  
August 25

Updated till August 14th

## During August

- Trips in sail boats (with fishing included) off the coast of Adyar are being arranged by **Adventure 'n' Nature** to celebrate 'Madras 375'.  
Dipankar Ghosh 99403 55521
- **Exhibition:** A rare collection of old Madras photographs will be on display throughout the month. There will also be special Madras tiffin combos at **Blu Hickey Bistro Restaurant** at Rs. 500 nett per person.  
Radisson Blu Hotel GRT, GST Road, 11 am.-7 p.m.

## August 15-22 (7 outlets), 17-22 (7 more outlets)

- **Promotion:** All **Hot Breads** outlets will have a celebratory look with iconic structures of Madras/Chennai as entrance arches. Special Madras Week counters/products/special 375 promos in each outlet.

## August 15, 2014

- **CD Release:** CD-release function of the **Madras Youth Choir**. Welcome by P.C. Ramakrishna. Songs by children, and release of the children's CD by Leela Samson. Followed by:  
**Talk: Madras and Music. Dr Ghatam Karthik**, well-known musician and ghatam exponent, will speak on the history of Carnatic music, its luminaries, the various sabhas of our city, the happenings of the December music season etc. Organised by **South India Heritage Programme**  
9.30 am to 11.30 am at TAG Centre. Only for member and their guests.

## August 16 and 17

- **Films:** Documentaries on Madras-based artists organised by **DakshinaChitra**. *Echoes of freedom* – R.B. Bhaskaran. 30 mins; *Red Symphony* – Achuthan Kudallur. 40 mins; *Deskilling of Art* – Banner artists. 40 mins; Films by **Gita**.  
DakshinaChitra. 11 am-1 pm. Details: 98417 77779
- **Exposition: Eco Spots of Chennai: Know Them, Sustain Them**, Interactive sessions with public on various Eco Spots. Organised by the **Madras Naturalists' Society** (MNS).  
SPACES, 11 a.m.-7.00 p.m. on both days

## August 16

- **Heritage Walk: Looking back at Lloyd's Road** – walk led by **Mohan V Raman** and **Sriram V**. Walk requires registration (at editor@madrasmusings.com) and payment in advance. Ends with breakfast. Organised by **Chennai Heritage**.  
6.00 to 8.30 am. Register at editor@madrasmusings.com
- **Quiz: QFI Chennai Qfiesta**. Registration fee: Rs150/-. Organised by **The Quiz Foundation of India**  
9.30 am onwards. IIT, Madras. Details: qfichennai@gmail.com
- **Talk: Madras to Chennai: A Strategic Hub** by **Dr. Uttam Kumar Jamdhagni**, Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, Madras University, followed by an open discussion. Organised by **Observer Research Foundation**. Intending participants should confirm their interest by email: orfchennai@orfonline.org and also warn-in for lunch.  
11 am-1 pm. A1 Towers.
- **Talk: Biodiversity of Chennai** by **Dr. R. Bhanumathi**. Organised by **MNS**  
11.45 a.m. SPACES
- **Photowalk:** Organised by **YOcee** inside **Adyar Poonga**.  
3-4.30 p.m. Limited to 30 children studying in Classes 4-10.  
Meet at Adyar Poonga gate, 2.45 p.m. editor@yocce.in
- **Talk: Bird Sanctuaries: Pulicat and Vedanthangal**. by **Dr. T. Murugavel**. Organised by **MNS**  
4.00 p.m. SPACES

- **Talk: Institutional Habitats: Theosophical Society, IIT-M and MCC, Tambaram** by **Preston Ahimaz**. Organised by **MNS**  
05.15 p.m. SPACES
- Madras meets Korea at the **Korean Bazaar**. Organised by the **Korean Consulate-General** and members of the Korean community in and around the city. Food stalls too  
San Thomé HSS San Thomé 3.00-7.00 p.m.
- **Walk: Mint Street, Sowcarpet Food Walk:** Notable items include dhokla/kachori/jalebis/vada pav/lassi/chats/samosa/fafda/Kulfi/pav bhaji/badam milk. Contact: **Sridhar Venkataraman**: sridharve@gmail.com, https://www.facebook.com/sridhar.venkataraman  
Meet at Mehta Brothers, 5 p.m. 2535 0689

## Aug 17, 23 and 24

- **Food Demonstration:** Chettinad cookery demonstration by an expert at each venue. Items to be demonstrated are: **Day 1:** Kavan arsi, capsicum mango mandi, paniyaram, varamuligai chutney and meen kolumbu; **Day 2:** Kandarappam, potato karuvattu poriyal, iddiyappam thalichadu and kosamalli, chicken pepper fry; **Day 3:** Kuzhi paniyaram, kadamba chutney, pal kozhakottai, milagu kolumbu and mutton uppukari. Organised by **M. Mahadevan** of Hot Breads  
At copper Chimney, The Marina, Bombay Brasserie on all days.

## August 17-24

- **Exhibition: Armenians in Madras (17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries)** curated by the **Society for Armenian Studies, Paris**. There will also be various talks during the Week.  
Armenian Church
- **Food Festival: Chettinad Virundhu**. Cooks from *The Bangala*, Karaikudi will provide a full plated menu at lunch. Different menu on each day. At dinner, a special menu with a few dishes from the lunch menu of the day. Organised by **M. Mahadevan** of Hot Breads  
Armenian Church Restaurant
- **Food Festival: Dinner buffet: Madras Curry Week at Buzz**.  
Details: 6680 2500  
Taj Gateway Hotel

## August 17-25

- **Exhibition: Books on Madras**. On all days except the 19th.  
Madras Club Members only, 10.00 am – 7.00 pm

## August 17

- **Heritage Ride: The Perambur Ride** will start from Madras Veterinary College, Vepery, and finish at Sir Baden Powell Scout Training Centre, Perambur. In between, see churches that are a century old, the Railway Hospital that was opened in 1820, a plaque dating to the 19th Century. Students from the KRM Public School, Perambur, will participate.  
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 bicycle is in a good and safe-to-ride condition. Ride route is subject to last minute changes.  
For registration and other information log onto Cycling Yogis fb page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/cyclingyogis/ or call Senthil Tel: 98842 46822 or Ramanujar Tel: 98840 23123  
5 a.m. to 7 a.m.
- **Heritage Walk: Coursing down College Road** – walk led by **Sriram V**. Walk requires registration (at editor@madrasmusings.com) and payment in advance. Ends with breakfast. Organised by **Chennai Heritage**.  
6.00 to 8.30 am
- **Photowalk: 'S' Walk @ Velachery aka Vedasreni**. From Guru Nanak College to Vijayanagar junction. Walk Leader: **Hari Meiyappan**, ph: 99629 29206. No need for registration. Just join the walk at the starting point.  
Meeting point Guru Nanak College, 6.30-9.30 a.m
- **Heritage Walk: Perambur Walk** conducted by Girish, K. 100 year old institutions are in the list of 10 places of interest. Two-hour walk. No fee. Report at Perambur Railway Station near Advance Reservation Counter. Open to 30 participants only.  
6.30 a.m. Contact 9884132136. To register email: girishkgb@yahoo.com, with name & phone no.

Check [www.themadrasday.in](http://www.themadrasday.in) and Madras Week App  
for up-to-date programmes.

Promotion and Publicity:  
PRISM Public Relations.

- **Heritage Walk:** Fort St George Walk led by **Vincent D' Souza**. Report by 6.45 am for security check. Registration not required. Starting point: Parking lot opp. main gate of Fort. Starts at 7 am; 2hrs.
- **Walk:** Heritage Walk in the Madras Club with **S. Muthiah**. 9.30 am at Madras Club. Members & guests only
- **Quiz:** QFI Chennai Qfiesta, Two quizzes, morning and afternoon Registration fee: Rs150/- per quiz. Details: qfichennai@gmail.com Organised by **The Quiz Foundation of India** 9.30 am and 2.30 pm at IIT, Madras
- **Heritage Tour:** Bronze Gallery tour at Madras Museum led by **Chithra Madhavan**. Organised by **Namma Mylapore**. The fee for the tour will be Rs.250/- (entrance ticket included). From 11 am to 1 pm. To register nammamylapore@hotmail.com
- **Talk:** *Coast of Chennai* by **Dr. T.D. Babu**. Organised by **MNS** 11.45 a.m., SPACES
- **Talk:** *Forests of Chennai: Guindy NP and Nanmangalam Reserve Forest* by **Vikas Madhav**. Organised by **MNS** 04.00 p.m SPACES
- **Talk:** *Wetlands of Chennai: Pallikaranai, Siruthavur, etc.* by **Gnanaskandan K.** Organised by **MNS** 05.15 p.m. SPACES
- **Commemoration:** Release of Special Postage Cover. Theme: *Transport in Madras*. Hosted by **Chennai Heritage Lovers Group** and the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** At Clive Hall, ASI, Fort St George
- **Talk:** Chennai Heritage Lecture: *From Madras to Mandalay*. **Geeta Doctor** looks at the Madras-Myanmar connect through conversations with **S Muthiah** and **Visalakshi Ramaswami**. Readings from the book *A King in Exile*, a short film by Shylaja Chettur and a special menu presented by Chef Rajesh of The Park The Park, 6.30 p.m.

#### August 18-23

- **Exhibition:** *Print culture in Cennaipattinam*. Organised by the Roja Muthiah Research Library (RMRL) Roja Muthiah Library, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Exhibition:** Photo exhibition on *North Madras – Then and Now*. Organised by **Avvai Kalai Kazhagam**. Avvai Kalai Kazhagam, 10 am-5 pm

#### August 18

- **Multi-events:** An all-day programme by students of the **Department of Indian Music, University of Madras**. Clock Tower Building, University of Madras Group Rendition of *Vintage Tamil Film Devotional Classics* by the students of the Department 10.15-10.30 a.m. Workshop on *Harikatha Compositions* learnt from C. Bannibai by **Dr. Premeela Gurumurthy**. 10.30-11.15 a.m. *Tiruvallikkeni Vina Ramanuja* and his Sangita Sarvartha Sara Sangrahamu by **Dr. Rajshri Sripathy**. 11.15-12.00 noon *Veena Dhanammal, Madras Lalithangi and Kanchipuram Dhanakoti Ammal* and their musical excellence by **M.Subhasree**. 12.00 noon-12.45p.m. *Malaiakkottai Govindasamy Pillai* and his grandson T.K.Ramamurthy of Viswanathan Ramamurthy fame by **Dr. R. Hemalatha**. 12.45-1.30 p.m. Vintage Film: *Kalki's Parthiban Kanavu*. Jubilee Films. Star Cast: Vijayantimala, Gemini Ganesan, S.V. Ranga Rao. 02.30 p.m (By Invitation)
- **Talk:** *Story of the English Press in Madras* by **S. Muthiah**. Organised by the Press Institute of India. Press Institute of India (PII), 5 pm
- **Walk:** A heritage walk and presentation to discover how the *Ice House* on the Marina became *Vivekanandar Illam*. Organised by **Nithya Balaji** and **Kaveri Bharath**. Duration: one hour and thirty minutes. Maximum participation: 40, first-come first-served.

Assemble by 5 p.m. at the Illam. Registration by email only: kaveribharath@gmail.com

- **Talk:** Chennai Heritage Lecture: *A Piece of the Past – Mementoes from 18<sup>th</sup> Century Madras* – Talk by **Dr. Swapna Sathish**, Dept. of Fine Arts, Stella Maris College. A Charles Wallace India Trust grant helped her do post-doctoral research in the UK on art and artifacts in the homes of British 'nabobs' with Madras connections. Her talk derives from the visit. GRT, T'Nagar. 6.30 pm
- **Exhibition:** *158 years of forest conservation in South India*, focussing on H.F.C. Cleghorn, R. Wight and E.G. Balfour. Studio Palazzo, Chetpet
- The INTACH Parampara Heritage Club of the Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Matriculation HSS, Tiruvanmiyur, will conduct the following activities at the school. **Exhibition:** Organised by students of Std. VII and VIII depicting the uniqueness of Chennai City. **Films:** Visitors to the exhibition from neighbouring schools will also see films shot by members of the Heritage Club. **Inter-School Competitions: Painting** (Std. VII & VIII) Two participants from each school. Topic: *On the spot*. **Oratorical** (IX & X): Two participants from each school. Topic: *If I were...* Duration: 2 mins. (Each student can imagine herself/himself to be a place/animal/monument/food item etc. native to Chennai, but must reflect on its heritage value and significance). 10-11 am

#### August 18-September 20

- **Exhibition:** *MADras!* An exhibition of 375 cartoons on the city and its people by **Biswajit Balasubramanian**. Forum Art Gallery, 10.30 am to 6.30 pm

#### August 19-23

- **Exhibition:** *Shoot Chennai* – An exhibition of selected entries to photo contests conducted by the **Photographic Society of Madras**. Hotel Ambassador Pallava, 9.00 a.m. - 9.00 p.m.

#### August 19

- **Talk:** *Temples in and around Chennai*: A presentation by **Chithra Madhavan**. Organised by the PII PII, 5 pm
- **Talk:** Chennai Heritage Lecture: *The Indo-Saracenic Man* – A tribute to Robert Fellowes Chisholm on his death centenary. A talk by **Sriram V**, entrepreneur, writer and Associate Editor, *Madras Musings* Hyatt Regency. 6.30 pm

— **Quiz:** *Women of Chennai*, conducted by Sushi Natraj. Organised by **Rotary Club of Madras South**.

Savera Hotel, 6.30-8 p.m. Members and guests only

- **Workshop:** A unique opportunity for children to learn the art of making miniature models from old Madras photographs. Organised by **DakshinaChitra** DakshinaChitra For more Information and to register, contact 98417 77779
- **Contest:** Power Point Presentation for City schools. Theme: *Temples of Chennai*. Partners: **Mylapore Times & South India National Association**. Sastri Hall, Luz

#### August 20-23

- **Exhibition:** Art works and photographs of Classic Madras and Contemporary Chennai by **Chennai Weekend Artists** and **Chennai Weekend Clickers**. On display will be collages of printed art works and photographs of various locations in Chennai by artists and photographers who explore Chennai every week. Their original or printed sketch books and photographs will also be displayed. Shilpa Architects, Tiruvanmiyur

#### August 20-30

- **Exhibition:** *Once Upon a Time... in Madras*. Organised by **C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation**. Vennirul Art Gallery

#### August 20

- **Panel Discussion:** *100. Centenary of World War I – New insights about the present and future*. **Sriram V** and **A.R. Venkatachalapathy** will discuss this cataclysmic event and the artistic and literary movements of the era, with special focus on Madras. Moderator: **Helmut Schippert** Organised by **Goethe-Institut** 11.30 am-1 pm, Asian College of Journalism



- **Talk:** *Madras and the American Connection* by **S. Muthiah**. Organised by RMRL.  
RMRL, 5 p.m.
- **Talk:** *Revisiting colonial history: What if Lally had defeated the English in 1761?* by **Sumitra Muthukumar**. Organised by the PII.  
PII, 5 pm
- **Talk:** Chennai Heritage Lecture: *From LA to Madras in search of music*. Well-known film critic and writer **Baradwaj Rangan** in conversation with young and fast-rising Carnatic musician **Sandeep Narayan** Chamiers Anokhee. 6.30 pm
- **Walk:** Walk for **Hindusthan College of Technology** students on the Marina conducted by **Nandini Arun**  
The Marina Beach, 7.00 am

### August 21

- **Talk:** *The hidden gems of Madras* by **S. Venkataram** aka Poochi Venkat. Organised by the PII.  
PII, 5 pm
- **Walk:** *Purasawalkam Food Walk*: Notable items include vada pav/pav bhaji/chats/murukku sandwich/gola/ sambar idli/sambar vada/chutneys vada paav Contact: **Sridhar Venkataraman**: sridharve@gmail.com, https://www.facebook.com/sridhar.venkataraman  
Meet at Mehtaas , 5.30 p.m.
- **Talk:** *Madras – First City of Modern India* by **S. Muthiah**. Organised by TIE.  
Raintree, St. Mary's Rd 6.30 p.m. For members and guests only.
- **Talk:** Chennai Heritage Lecture: *Foodpreneurship* in Chennai – Panel discussion anchored by entrepreneur **Chandu Nair**. Panelists – **Kiran Rao** of Amethyst, **Vinit Chordia** of Dinein.in and **Bhuvanesh** of Donut House.  
Amethyst, 6.30 p.m.
- **Talk:** *The Lesser Temples in and around Chennai* by **Chithra Madhavan**.  
7.00 pm. Madras Club Members & guests only.

### Till August 22

- **Exhibition:** *Magic of the Muse: Madras*, an exhibition of paintings by Diane de Valou.  
At Apparao Galleries.

### August 22-September 6

- **Photo talk:** Programmes for schools being organised by **Parent Circle** magazine.  
For Primary Classes – Parent-Child: **Photo talk:** *Madras then and now – by Poochi Venkat: How our daily activities are affecting the environment; DIY activity on Recycling – Don't throw that away – Takeaway* on how to restore and preserve our beloved city  
For Middle School – Parent-Child: **Photo talk:** *Chennai's Waterways* – by **Poochi Venkat** on *Then and now*; **Debate:** *Can the Coovum regain its lost glory?*  
Both programmes will be conducted in Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar Matriculation School, Tiruvottriyur end of August; Al Qamar Academy, Tiruvanmiyur – August 23; Bamboola, RA Puram – August 22; Headstart Learning Centre, Karanai (near Shollinganallur) – 1st week of September; KRM Matric Hr Sec School, Perambur – end of August/1st week of September; Aloha International School, Neelangerai – end of August/1st week of September.

### August 22-September 22

- **Exhibition:** *Chennai Nalla Chennai* – a photo exhibition featuring photographs from **S.A. Ramesh**, Chennai. Organised by India Cultural Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Think City, and George Town Festival (Penang) Star Building, Penang, Malaysia

### August 22-23:

- **Market:** *By Hand from The Heart*, an artisan and farmers' market that will present all things handmade and wholesome. The market will have makers of exclusive handcrafted jewellery, stationery, bags and more. Organic food – mangoes, rhubarb preserves and sun-dried tomatoes – also on sale.  
Hanu Reddy Residences, 10 am-8 pm

### August 22-24

- **Exhibition:** *Buckingham Canal – Maps, pictures, notes*. Hosted by **Chennai Heritage Lovers' Group** and the ASI  
Clive Hall, Fort St George. 10 am-5 pm

### August 22-30

- **Exhibition:** *Women artists of Chennai*. Curated by **Premalatha**. Also, a talk on restoration of art works by **Aparajitha**, and a one-day art camp by some of the participating artists. Organised by **Association of British Scholars**.  
Art Houz, Alwarpet

### August 22

- **Walk:** *Mylapore Food Walk*: Notable items include adai/bonda/onion samosa/vazhakka bajji/chutney/filter coffee/rose milk/badam milk/goli soda. Contact: **Sridhar Venkataraman**: sridharve@gmail.com, https://www.facebook.com/sridhar.venkataraman  
At 4.30 p.m. Meet at Mylapore Head Post Office, Kutchery Road.
- **Talk:** *The Origin of Chennai/Madras* by **Prof. J.B.P. More**. Organised by RMRL.  
RMRL, 5 p.m.
- **Talk:** *Chennai that was Madras*, in song by **Uma Vangal**. Organised by the PII.  
PII, 5 pm
- **Book Release:** *Tales of Old and New Madras* and 7th Edition of *Madras Rediscovered* (revised and expanded) by **S. Muthiah**. Also the second edition of *Madras Rediscovered* in Tamil (translated by **Karthik Narayanan**). The translation is of the 7th English edition. Also sale of books on Madras. Organised by **Westland**.  
Vivanta by Taj at Connemara 7 p.m. Invitees only.
- **Commemoration:** 375<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dinner/Dance.  
7.30 pm. Madras Club Members & guests only.
- **Film:** Screening of prize-winning short films on Madras architecture. The competition open to all schools of architecture was organised by **Dr. K.R. Thooyavan**.  
School of Architecture and Planning, Anna University
- **Competition:** A folk dance competition for college students organised by **DakshinaChitra**. Colleges can send in groups of six to ten students. The theme would be on traditional folk performances. The best three folk performing teams will be given prizes and certificates. There is no participation fee for the competition.  
At DakshinaChitra For information and registration call 98417 77779
- **Exhibition:** *Namma Anna Nagar* featuring photographs by you which represent the essence of Anna Nagar. Age no bar. To be mailed on or before 10 am, August 22. Register for the venue details. Organised by **Anna Nagar Social History Group**  
Registration annanagarshg@gmail.com, 98404 95717

### August 23 and 24

- **Films:** Documentaries on Madras-based artists organised by **Dakshina-Chitra**. *Shilpi speaks* – Ganapathy Sthapathy. 60 mins; Film by **Bala Kailasam**  
DakshinaChitra. 11 am-1 pm
- **Competition:** Drawings on *Anna Nagar*. Day 1: 3-10 years; Day 2: 11- 15 years. Register for the venue details 98404 95717  
Organised by **Anna Nagar Social History Group**. 2.30 pm. Registration annanagarshg@gmail.com

### August 23

- **Heritage Walk:** *The Gujaratis of Sowcarpet* – walk led by **Karthik Bhatt**. Walk requires registration (at editor@madrasmusings.com) and payment in advance. Ends with breakfast. Organised by **Chennai Heritage**.  
6.00 to 8.30 am
- **Heritage Tour:** *Trace Origin of Madras: Tour of Pulicat*. **AARDE Foundation** conducts a heritage tour of Pulicat (Pazhaverkadu). 8.30 a.m. – Breakfast at Pulicat Interpretation Centre; 9.00 a.m. – Heritage Walk 12.30 p.m. – Lunch; 1.00 p.m. – Departure from Pulicat; Fee: Rs. 845, incl of A/c bus trip, breakfast, lunch, water & snacks  
6.30 a.m. from Loyola College rear. Contact: 42139961 Email: info@aarde.in; www.aarde.in
- **Tree Walk:** *Trees and melody in Carnatic music*. Musical tree walk with **Vidwan R.K. Shriramkumar** and **Latha Nathan**. Organised by **Nizhal**. For registration: nizhal.shade@gmail.com or message www.facebook.com/nizhal.shade or call 90030 98613 97910 29568, or 9940061810  
Kotturpuram Tree Park, 7.30 a.m. to 8.30 a.m
- **Heritage Walk:** *A day at Fort St. George*. Assemble at the parking lot opposite main gate of Fort between 8.45 a.m and 9 a.m. Limited to 30 children studying in Classes 5-12. Participants should carry a photo Id card or School Id card. There will be a short guided heritage walk, a

scrapbook making session and a map reading session, an art contest and a Madras word game. Organised by **YOCee**

9 a.m. to 12 noon. To register [editor@yocee.in](mailto:editor@yocee.in)

- **Quiz: Anna Nagar: When? How? Why?** Age 15 and above. Teams of two. Register for the venue details 98404 95717 Organised by **Anna Nagar Social History Group**  
10 am. Registration [annanagarshg@gmail.com](mailto:annanagarshg@gmail.com)
- **Quiz: Heritage quiz for college students on The Madras Presidency.** Organised by **INTACH Chennai**. For registration [rajvignesh@xpressminds.com](mailto:rajvignesh@xpressminds.com), [intangibleheritage1@gmail.com](mailto:intangibleheritage1@gmail.com), [youngintachchennai@gmail.com](mailto:youngintachchennai@gmail.com), [intachchennai@gmail.com](mailto:intachchennai@gmail.com)  
TAG auditorium Anna University, 10 am-2 pm
- **Talk: The Anglo-Indians- A 500-year history** by **S. Muthiah**, followed by an open discussion. Organised by **Observer Research Foundation**. Intending participants should confirm their interest by email: [orfchennai@orfonline.org](mailto:orfchennai@orfonline.org) and also warn-in for lunch.  
A1 Towers 11 am – 1 pm.
- **Heritage Tour: Stone Gallery** tour at the Madras Museum led by **Chithra Madhavan**. Organised by **Namma Mylapore**. Fee for the tour Rs.250/- (entrance ticket included).  
From 11 am to 1 pm. To register [nammamylapore@hotmail.com](mailto:nammamylapore@hotmail.com)
- **Quiz: Madras Quiz** (in Tamil). Open to school registered teams from Tamil medium schools ONLY. Teams of two can participate. Each school can send 3 teams. Registration of teams must be made by the schools, not individuals at 98405 44629. Organised by **Mylapore Times**.  
P.S.Hr.Sec.School campus, Mylapore 1.30 p.m. onwards
- **Photowalk: W' Walk @ Aminjikarai aka Amaindha Karai**; From Toll Gate to Ampa Skywalk. Walk Leader: **Ramaswamy Nallaperumal**, 94440 62684. No need for registration, just join the walk at the starting point.  
Meeting Point: Aminjikarai Tollgate 4 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
- **Talk: Mariyamman at the interface of Science and Religion** by **Prof. Perundevi Srinivasan**. Organised by **RMRL**.  
RMRL, 5 p.m.
- **Quiz: Open quiz** organised by **INTACH Chennai** on *Madras*. Quizmaster: **Kunal Savarkar**, Delhi. Details: [intachchennai@gmail.com](mailto:intachchennai@gmail.com)  
The Marina restaurant, 5 pm
- **Tree Walk. Siddha medicine tree walk** with **Dr. K.V. Abirami** and **Chithra Viswanathan**. How have the Naaval, Nuna, Putranjiva and many other such trees been a part of Siddha medicine down the ages. Organised by **Nizhal**. For registration: [nizhal.shade@gmail.com](mailto:nizhal.shade@gmail.com) or message [www.facebook.com/nizhal.shade](https://www.facebook.com/nizhal.shade) or call 90030 98613, 97910 29568, or 9940061810  
At Panagal Park, T Nagar. 5 p.m. to 6 p.m..
- **Walk: Triplicane Food Walk**: Notable items include bread bajji/mysore bonda/goli soda/aloo bonda/all bolis/masala paal/samosa & jalebis/sambar idli Contact: **Sridhar Venkataraman**: [sridharve@gmail.com](mailto:sridharve@gmail.com), <https://www.facebook.com/sridhar.venkataraman>  
Meet at Parthasarathy Temple (entrance near tank) At 5.00 p.m.
- **Walk: Discovering Mylapore**. Starts at Luz Church and ends at The Children's Club, V.M. Street, Mylapore. Children need to bring their own pens, colour pencils, sketch pens, scissors and glue to make their scrapbooks. Resource person **Kalyani Narayanan** of Snapshot Memories. Open to first 25 registrations. Organised by **YOCee**  
5 pm to 7 pm SMS name and age to 98405 44629 R. Revathi Register on or before Aug. 19, 2014
- **Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture: A birth centenary tribute to T.S. Baliah**, veteran comedian and character actor. Talk by **Mohan V Raman**, actor and entertainer.  
Sheraton Park 5.30 pm
- **Talk: The American Connection** by **S. Muthiah**. Organised by the **Indo-American Association**.  
6 p.m. Stella Marris College.
- **Talk: Temples around Chennai** **Chithra Madhavan**. Organised by **Namma Mylapore**.  
Tattvaloka, Eldam's Road at 6 pm
- **Book Release: A Guide to some Urban Fauna of India**. Published by **Madras Naturalists' Society**. Chief Guest: **Venu Srinivasan**. Guest of Honour: **M.V. Murugappan**. Special address on *Living with Urban Birds*: **Dr. V. Santharam**, Director, Rishi Valley Institute of Bird Studies and Natural History  
5.00 p.m. Asian College of Journalism

- **Walk: Walk and Make Madras Scrapbook** – organised by **YOCee**. Children will be taken for a walk on a short stretch and at the end of the walk they will have to make a scrapbook. Open to children from Classes 5 to 9 and restricted to 25 participants. Prior registration required. To register, SMS name and age to 98405 44629 on or before August 20.  
IIT, evening

## August 24

- **Heritage Ride: The East Coast Road**. Ride will start from Madhya Kailash (opp: Kasturba Nagar MRTS Station) and finish at the Madras Square (Cafe-Art Gallery, Neelankarai). Heritage places to be covered during the ride are Tiruvanmiyur, Covelong (Kovalam) and Tiruvidhanthai. The ECR ride will finish with a talk by **Jahiram Janakiram** at the Madras Square. He will share his experiences about cycling in Madras during 1975 and 1990.  
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 bicycle is in a good and safe-to-ride condition.  
Ride route is subject to last minute changes. For registration and other information log onto Cycling Yogis fb page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cyclingyogis/> or call Senthil Tel: 98842 46822 or Ramanujar Tel: 98840 23123  
5 a.m. to 9 a.m.
- **Heritage Walk: Touring around Triplicane** – walk led by **Sriram V**. Walk requires registration (at [editor@madrasmusings.com](mailto:editor@madrasmusings.com)) and payment in advance. Ends with breakfast. Organised by **Chennai Heritage**.  
6.00 to 8.30 am
- **Nature Walk: Pallikaranai Marsh**. Organised by the **Madras Naturalists' Society**.  
6.15 a.m.  
Group size: 30; How to reach reporting place: 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 m. 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 m. after the Toll Plaza.  
Reporting Place: Forest Dept. Office on Velachery-Thoraipakkam Road  
For details: Vijay 98400 90875
- **Heritage Walk: St. Thomas' Mount**. Duration: 2 hours. Rs. 500 (inclusive of breakfast) For registration: **Richard O'Connor**: 98402 07283.  
From St. Patrick's Church Time: 6.30 a.m.
- **Walk: Photowalk for children** led by **N. Ramaswamy** of Chennai Daily Photo. Organised by **YOCee**. Limited to first 25 children from Classes 5-12. From AMM School gate on Gandhi Mandapam Road, Kotturpuram to Kotturpuram MRTS Station. Children should bring their cameras (any type). Parents welcome  
6.45 a.m. to 8 a.m. For registration R. Revathi 98405 44629
- **Heritage Walk: Fort St George Walk** led by **Vincent D' Souza**. Report by 6.45 for security check. Registration not required. Start point; Parking lot opp. main gate of Fort.  
Starts at 7 am 2 hours.
- **Tree Walk. Putranjiva tree walk** with **Dr. T.D. Babu**. From Banyans to the Pala Indigo Tree, explore the magnificent trees in their sylvan setting. Organised by **Nizhal**. For registration: [nizhal.shade@gmail.com](mailto:nizhal.shade@gmail.com) or message [www.facebook.com/nizhal.shade](https://www.facebook.com/nizhal.shade) or call 90030 98613, 97910 29568, or 9940061810; 7.30 a.m. to 8.30 a.m.  
At Rostrevor Gardens Railway Colony, Teynampet, Anna Salai
- **Exhibition: Annual parade of vintage cars** followed by a display of the cars. Organised by **The Madras Heritage Motoring Club**  
9 am to 12.30 pm Don Bosco School
- **Quiz: Madras Quiz** by **Sriram.V**.  
12.00 noon. Madras Club members & guests only.
- **Quiz: Open Madras Quiz**. Quizmaster **Dr. Sumanth Raman**. Sponsor: **Murugappa Group**.  
1.30 pm Hotel Ramada, Egmore
- **Tree Walk. An Insect tree walk** with 'Poochi' **Venkat** and **Rajani Shankar**. Visit the magical world of insects and the trees that they inhabit. Organised by **Nizhal**. For registration: [nizhal.shade@gmail.com](mailto:nizhal.shade@gmail.com) or message [www.facebook.com/nizhal.shade](https://www.facebook.com/nizhal.shade) or call 90030 98613, 97910 29568, or 9940061810  
5 p.m. to 6 p.m. At Nageswara Park



- **Talk:** Chennai Heritage Lecture: Screening of **Karan Bali's** feature length documentary film *An American in Madras*, on the life of Ellis R Dungan. Co-hosts: Cinema Rendezvous. The director will be present for there a discussion post-screening  
Savera 6.30 p.m.
- **Heritage Walk:** *Living Statues of Marina Beach*. Brief dramatic enactments of six historical figures (Kannagi, NSC Bose, Thiruvalluvar, GU Pope, Bharathidasan, and Avvaiyar). Tamil and English. If anyone would like to perform one or more of these characters in the format, for example, "I am George U. Pope, and this is my story..." contact <http://www.storytellinginstitute.org/28.html>. You are welcome to modify these scripts (and translate them into Tamil). Also, they are invited to recite or read aloud poetry by Thiruvalluvar, Bharathidasan, and Avvaiyar (in Tamil, and in English translation). No admission fee. Organised by **World Storytelling Institute**. Contact: [www.storytellinginstitute.org](http://www.storytellinginstitute.org)  
7.30-8.30 a.m. Meet at the Kannagi Stature, Marina Beach (Bharathi Salai) 98403 94282
- **Competition:** *Madras: As we see it today*, a collage contest organised by **Namma Arcot Road**. Each team will comprise a child in the 6-10-year age group, and a parent. Contest open to the first 20 teams that register. There is no participation fee. Participants must bring their own materials. Call or SMS 99404 10271 to register.

### August 25

- **Workshops:** A workshop by the **Association of Geography Teachers of India**, Chennai Chapter, for taxi and tourist taxi operators and their drivers who are new on the job and are not so familiar with the geography and history of the city. Conducted by **Balaji** and **Visvanathan** of the AGTI  
2-4 pm Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam, Alwarpet
- **Talk:** Chennai Heritage Lecture: *My memories of Madras* – Veteran artist, art director and designer **Thotta Tharani** speaks  
The Accord Metropolitan, 6.30 pm
- **Quiz:** *How well do you know your Madras?* – A quiz by **S. Muthiah** for Rotary Central and four other clubs.  
Savera Hotel, 6 p.m. For members and guests only
- **Film:** *Bhowani Junction* will be screened by **The Forum of Anglo-Indian Women**. There will be a short introduction by **Dr. Beatrix D'Souza** on the Anglo-Indian/Madras connection.  
6 pm Ambassador Pallava
- **Film:** *An American in Madras*. Documentary on Ellis Dungan by **Karan Bali**.  
8.00 pm. Madras Club. Members & guests only.

### August 26

- **Walk:** *Kapaliswarar Temple Walk* for **Rotary Club of Madras Temple City**. Conducted by **Pradeep Chakravarthy**  
6.30 am. for members only.
- **Competition:** Inter-school contest on *What I like in my Madras?*, organised by **United Way Chennai** with *The Times of India* for students in classes 6-12.  
The students can express their views through posters, chart work, banners, thermocol models, graffiti, fabric art, paper craft, woodwork, clay artifacts, photographs, recycled waste-art or any out of the box-medium. They can also have an audio-visual, a Power Point presentation or even interactive games/dance and activities on the theme.  
9.30 am-7 pm Registration from 6 am onwards. Valluvar Kottam
- **Talk:** *Temples of Chennai*, by **Chithra Madhavan**. Organised by **Rotary Club South of Madras**.  
Savera Hotel 6.30-8.00 p.m. Members and guests only

### August 27-September 7

- **Exhibition:** *Centenary of the Emden Spirit: 100 Years of Shared Military History*, a commemorative exhibition by the **Australian Consulate-General for South India**. The story of the German Cruiser *Emden* which shelled Madras in 1914 and was later sunk by the Australian cruiser *Sydney*.  
Hyatt Regency, Mount Road

### August 27

- **Exhibition:** *Evolution of Tamil Cinema: Down memory lane*. Also prize distribution for music, oratorical, poster and *kolam* contests held during the first two weeks of August at **Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Sr. Sec. School**, as part of its Madras Week celebrations.  
10.30 am. at Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Sr. Sec. School, K.K. Nagar.
- **Talk:** **Capt. D.P. Ramachandran** speaks on *The Madras Soldier* at the **Madras Book Club**.  
Vivanta by Taj at Connemara 7.00 p.m. Members and guests only

### August 29

- **Film:** Produced by **INTACH Chennai**, a film on *The Story of Madras – The First City of Modern India* with a recorded talk by city chronicler **S. Muthiah**. Copies of the film are to be distributed to schools in Chennai to increase awareness and appreciation of the heritage of the city we live in. The film will be released by the Prince of Arcot, **Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali**, and screened at the venue.  
5 pm *Amir Mahal*. By invitation only.

### August 30

- **Talk:** *Madras: Trade, Business and Industry – Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow* by **Sushila Ravindranath**, Consulting Editor, *Financial Express*, followed by an open discussion. Organised by **Observer Research Foundation**. Intending participants should confirm their interest by email: [orfchennai@orfonline.org](mailto:orfchennai@orfonline.org) and also warn-in for lunch.  
11 am-1 pm. A1 Towers
- **Talk:** **Fr. Anand Amaladoss** speaks on *The Jesuit Presence in Madras* at the **Madras Book Club**.  
Vivanta by Taj at Connemara 7 p.m. Members & guests only

### August 30 and 31

- **Films:** Documentaries on Madras-based artists organised by **DakshinaChitra**. *Golden Flute* – Alphonso Arul Doss. 30 mins; *Perumal's People* – P. Perumal. 30 mins. **Films by Gita** DakshinaChitra. 11 am-1 pm

### August 31

- **Heritage Walk:** **Perambur** Meeting Point: Lourdes Shrine. Rs. 500 (inclusive of breakfast). For registration: **Harry MacLure** 98413 97502  
From Lourdes Shrine, Time: 6.30 a.m. Duration: 2 hours
- **Talk:** *Art Deco in Madras*. **Sujatha Shankar**, architect, planner and interior designer and Convenor, INTACH-Chennai, will speak on the popular international design movement that flourished between the 1920s and 1940s in India.  
Residency Towers, T. Nagar, 6.00 p.m.
- **Walk:** Walk in and around the Royal Madras Yacht Club (RMYC), led by **Sriram V** followed by sailing tracking the *Emden's* course. Fee for those who want to leave after walk and breakfast: Rs. 500. Sailing or motorboat option: Rs. 450 extra. RMYC will organise breakfast, boats, harbour passes, port permissions and life jackets. Participants are free to stay on at the Club till 5 pm exploring its various trophies, press material and photographs. Snacks, beverages, lunch will be available at RMYC at extra cost.  
7.30 am, RMYC For details [captviki@gmail.com](mailto:captviki@gmail.com)

### September 6

- **Quiz:** *Madras Quotient Quiz* for school teams organised by the **Murugappa Group**. Quizmaster: **Navin Jayakumar**.

### September 14

- **Run:** Chennai Heritage **Marathon** conducted by the **Prastara Trust**. Contact [rajini@prastara.in](mailto:rajini@prastara.in) for further details.  
6 pm QMC

### Till September 28

- **Exhibition:** *The Urban Story* – an exhibition of photographs organised by **Apparao Galleries**. **George K** at Sandy's (Cenotaph Road) and **Deidi Von Schaeuwen** at Sandy's (Nungambakkam)

### Other events / opportunities

- ♦ The **British Council** holds a daily online blogging competition (August 18-22) on the subject of *Madras and World War I*
- ♦ **Literature:** Prose, poetry and essay reading (English and Tamil) Organised by **Alliance Francaise of Madras**.
- ♦ **Screen savers for Madras Week:** **B.R.S. Sreenag**, a talented photographer of Chennai, has captured various moments in our city's life through his lens. He is offering these pictures as screensavers for computers and laptops as free downloads from this link: <http://www.sreenagpictures.com/calendar-wallpapers.html>
- ♦ **City facts:** **Sriram V**, Associate Editor of *Madras Musings*, has been tweeting facts on the city since the end of July. He hopes to send out 375 facts by end August. Follow him on Twitter - @srirambs or on FB - [www.fb.com/sriram.venkatakrishnan.9](http://www.fb.com/sriram.venkatakrishnan.9)
- ♦ **Wear Namma Chennai:** Pick up a T-shirt and cap commemorating Madras Day. While the tee will feature this year's winning design – monochrome silhouettes of the city's landmarks – the cap will be emblazoned with the line *Chennai: My city is 375*. Designs by the runners-up may also be available. Available from August 15, in medium and large

size from the website: themadrasday.in

Organised by **Mylapore Times**.

- ✦ **Special Madras dishes** Lunch and dinner buffets at **Madras Pavilion** and Tiffin Appreciation at **Cafe Mercara Express**.  
ITC Grand Chola. Tel: 2220 0000
- ✦ **Savouries made by Maami** for Madras Week. Boxed takeaways available. Sheraton Park. Tel: 2499 4101
- ✦ **YoCee** runs a news website for children ([www.yocce.in](http://www.yocce.in)) where school students are trained in reporting and writing. The site now plans to get senior student reporters to do a project on schools in Chennai that are a century and older. A soft launch of the project at an internal meeting of YoCee is planned during Madras Week.
- ✦ As this is also the 25th anniversary of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, a calendar of paintings and aquatints of Old Madras is being released. It will be a collector's item, to be ordered individually or in bulk. The money earned will be used to plant and sustain trees – in Madras (if some place is found in the city!), or elsewhere in Tamil Nadu.
- ✦ **Savera Hotel** celebrates Madras Week with several food-oriented and other activities.

**Piano**, its multi-cuisine buffet restaurant, will showcase Madras Anglo-Indian cuisine at the *Madras buffet* in a new ambience on August 22nd at lunch and dinner. Lunch deal (come as 3 and pay for 2, come as 5 and pay for 3.)

**Malgudi**, the southern cuisine *a la-carte* restaurant brings you the best of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra as well as a special Anglo-Indian menu. August 17th to 24th at lunch and dinner.

**Bay 146** is organising *The Madras Pub Quiz* which plans to be a fun event. The questions will be about everything you see and hear in and around Madras. The Quiz aims at being a fun night of indulgence in trivia, food and beverages on August 21, 9 p.m. onwards. The quiz is brought to you by **Berty Ashle, T.V. Abhinav, Surya Venkat** and **Abishek Swaminathan**.

**Cake cutting:** A birthday cake wishing Madras on its 375th birthday will be cut by all the **Savera's** F&B outlets. The cake-cutting is planned for the peak hours when there are the most number of guests at a given time.

## Contests

### Heritage of Chennai – Multimedia Presentation Contest

The contest encourages city school students to explore Chennai's history and heritage and present the topic given to each team in multi-media form.

The contest is on August 19 from 9 am to 3 pm

**Theme:** *A city temple with great heritage and architecture.*

Venue: Srinivasa Sastri Hall, Luz, Mylapore

Please avoid the Sri Kapali Temple, Sri Parthasarathy Temple, Sri Marundeeswarar Temple – because we want presentations on less known temples.

Contest open to schoolchildren studying in Classes 8 to 12.

The best THREE presentations will be awarded trophies, gifts and certificates. All participants will be given certificates. The prize giving function will be held on the same day at about 4 pm.

This event is supported by **Mylapore Times** and the **South India National Association (SINA)**, Luz.

### Shoot Chennai – Photo Contest

The **Photographic Society of Madras (PSM)** is organising the contest for two groups: 1. Students only; 2. Open The themes are as follows: 1) **My Madras:** The photographer's personal tribute to Chennai, depicting what it means personally to him or her. Including typical Chennai views like beaches, eat-outs, city life, cityscapes, scenes against which day to day life in Chennai plays out. 2) **Monuments of Madras:** From the architect's scrapbook, capturing the magnificence of the city's architecture, from the oldest to Art Deco and the modern architecture of the city. 3) **Unusual Madras:** Strange and unusual happenings in the city. Also the unexpected that breaks tradition and contradicts stereotypes. 15th August is the deadline for entries.

### Navin's Photo Contest

Navin's, a leading real estate developer is hosting a photo contest *Inspirational Madras*, for all the camera lovers. Participants can send their entries to Navin's official id – [info@navins.in](mailto:info@navins.in)

Participants are expected to focus on capturing utility and functionality aspects of landmark buildings across Chennai. Each photograph should be supported with a brief write-up which defines why the building is inspirational to the photographer. The entries will be shortlisted and exhibited at a common venue. The winners will be announced on the Madras Day (August 22, 2014) at the exhibition by an eminent jury. The winners will grab exciting prizes worth over Rs. 15,000 and an attractive

opportunity to work on a portfolio project for Navin's.

For more details about the photo contest kindly visit, Navin's official Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Navins/366181446727437>.

### Anna Nagar Social History Group contests

1. Teams of 2 to 5 persons above 16 years of age to make presentations on how your family moved to Anna Nagar, when, why? How your family history is related to Anna Nagar.  
Doubts, queries and registration at [annanagarshg@gmail.com](mailto:annanagarshg@gmail.com)
2. For children of 8 to 12 years of age. Start with a four generation (minimum) family tree, add pictures, plan of your house (before and now), write stories, add function invitations, postcards, sketches. Add information on how your family moved to Anna Nagar, when and why and how your family history is related to Anna Nagar. Selected works will be displayed and felicitated at an exhibition in August.  
Registration at [annanagarshg@gmail.com](mailto:annanagarshg@gmail.com)

### YoCee Contest

*Enga area* – a photo essay contest for children (online). Open to children studying in Classes 7-12. Research the history, heritage and the everyday life of your neighbourhood. Walk down the area and shoot unique features, heritage landmarks, historical spots, old houses and anything that you feel proud of in your area.

Last date: August 20 Send the presentation to [yocce.in@gmail.com](mailto:yocce.in@gmail.com)

Login to <http://docs.google.com/presentation/with> your Google account. Create a presentation of the story of your area in photographs. Add short descriptions of each photograph in the same slide. Remember to make the presentation also visible to the public under the visibility option. Number of slides should not exceed 20. The best three presentations will receive prizes on August 23, 2014. Winners will be informed about the time and venue through email.

### Addresses for the venues

**A1 Towers:** Fifth Floor, Conference Hall, 89, Dr Radhakrishnan Salai; **Adyar Poonga:** Greenway's Road, gate next to Ambedkar Mani Mandapam; **Amethyst:** Next to Corporation Bank, White's Road, Royapettah; **Aminjikarai Tollgate:** Opp. V. Seshiah Diabetes Hospital on PH Road; **Apparao Galleries (Sandy's):** 2/15, Ganapathy Colony Main Road, Teynampet and 16/2, Wallace Garden, 2nd Street, Nungambakkam; **Art Houz Fine Art Gallery:** No 41, Near Onkyo Showroom, Kasturi Ranga Road, Alwarpet; **Asian College of Journalism:** 2nd Main Road, Taramani; **Avvai Kalai Kazhagam,** 15/9, Somu Chetty 4th Street, Royapuram; **Chamiers Anokhe:** 106 Chamier's Road, R.A. Puram, (diagonally opposite Sheraton Park); **DakshinaChitra:** East Coast Road, Muttukadu. **Don Bosco School,** Casa Major Road, Egmore; **Forum Art Gallery:** 57, 5th Street, Padmanabha Nagar, Adyar. **Hanu Reddy Residences,** Poe's Garden, Teynampet; **Lourdes Shrine:** Paper Mills Road, Perambur; **The Marina:** 39, College Road, Nungambakkam. **Mehta Brothers:** 310, South Mint Street; **Mehtaas,** 22/9, Raja Annamalai Road; **Press Institute of India:** Second Main Road, Taramani, CPT Campus, (behind M.S. Swaminathan Foundation); **Roja Muthiah Research Library:** 3rd Cross Road, Rajiv Gandhi IT Expressway, CPT Campus, Taramani, (opposite Indira Nagar MRTS Station); **SShilpa Architects,** L20, VSI Estate, near SRP Tools Junction (OMR), Tiruvanmiyur; **SPACES,** across from Besant Nagar beach; **Studio Palazzo:** 14, Harrington Road, Chetpet; **Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam,** Ambujammal Road, close to Alwarpet post office, TTK Road. **Srinivasa Shastri Hall,** Luz Church Road, Mylapore, Chennai. **Vennirul Art Gallery:** CPRAF, Eldam's Road.

### A mobile app for Madras Week

As the number of events being held for celebrating the founding of our city keeps increasing, we at *Madras Musings* realise that it becomes difficult for many of you to keep abreast. There may be many events that you may want to be a part of or you may simply want to know of events that are taking place in your neighbourhood. We are therefore launching a mobile app. Developed by **Broadgate Technical Services Pvt Ltd**, the app has been sponsored by **Sundaram Finance Limited**, who have been one of the staunch supporters of all activities connected with heritage in this city.

Titled **Madras Week**, it is a free download from Android stores and app stores. It is compatible with Android and ios phones. So go ahead and remain up to date with Madras Week events using this app.





## Penang recalls Madras birthday

• The photo exhibition *Chennai Nalla Chennai* by S.A. Ramesh from Chennai has 68 photographs covering the various facets of Chennai, a city which has a special resonance in Malaysia. The exhibition is a visual feast of Chennai, its way of life, customs and people, landmarks, quirks and what makes the city tick. The photos capture the soul of the city. Also on display are some extraordinary temple compositions. The exhibition's title is a take on the popular 1967 Tamil movie song *Madras Nalla Madras*.



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## A WALK IN THE FORT

(Continued from page 4)

from him (eminent domain of the 18th century?), demolished it, and built the present building in the late 1780s. Initially, this was the Madras Bank, and upstairs was the Public Exchange Hall, the hub of all trading activities for several decades. Later still, until the 1940s, it served as the Officers' Mess. In 1948 the building was made into a museum to house numerous colonial-era treasures. Today, it is a wonderful surprise.

Why do I care so much about Madras? I was born there. I attended school and college there. Most of my close family members live there. I now live far away in New York, but like a homing pigeon I make my way there at least once a year.

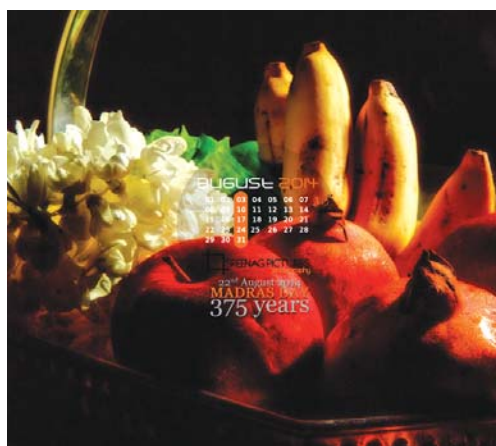
I love the place with an irrational ardour. Irrational, because, yes, the place drives me crazy with its traffic which gets worse every time I go there, the potholes, the water problems, the pollution, the shenanigans of its revenge-hungry politicians, the heat, the mosquitoes, the ridiculously ugly buildings that are sprouting like warts on a witch's nose, the filthy beaches, the lack of civic sense, the lack of discipline, the growing rudeness and the "Delhi-

isation" of the city. Do I sound enough like a nose-up-in-the-air NRI?

But I am not one. Everyone I know who lives in Madras says the same things. And I say them, too, because I love Madras. I need it to recharge my batteries and rediscover my humanity. I love its gossipy *maamis* and the jasmine flowers, the sense that this is one big village where everyone knows everyone else, the *Kanjivaram pattus* and the *golus*, the music season and *Kalakshetra*, *Dakshina-Chitra* and *Murugan Idli Kadai* and (god help my soul) the Madras Club, the softness and the graciousness and the kindness and the genuineness of the people, the old-fashioned courtesy and charm which are still there, Delhi-isation or not. It is a mad, crazy, chaotic city, but it has a real heart and soul. And this will not vanish.

I am now certain that whatever else is happening in Madras, there is a bright nugget of hope. The Heritage Walk proved that. I know that now there are people who care enough for Madras that they will fight tooth and nail to preserve something of the character and history of the place. And that is something to cheer about.

## Remember Madras Week with these screensavers



• B.R.S. Sreenag, a talented photographer of Chennai, has captured various moments in our city's life through his lens.

He is offering these pictures as screensavers for computers and laptops as free downloads from this link:

<http://www.sreenagpictures.com/calendar-wallpapers.html>

The series of photos is of what is enjoyed in Madras. A cup of Madras filter coffee with the morning paper (yes, India beat England at Lords), sundal (a timeless favourite) and, lastly, something that Madras has always been famous for – a temple visit.

Please check [www.madrasday.in](http://www.madrasday.in) and Madras Week App for daily update of programmes.



### Quizzin' with Ram'n'an

(Current Affairs questions are from the period July 16th to 31st. Questions 11 to 20 pertain to Chennai and Tamil Nadu.)

1. How did an Army officer Dalbir Singh make news on July 31st?
2. Name the two Indian woman weightlifters who started the gold rush for India at the Commonwealth Games on July 24th.
3. Internationally July 29th was observed to celebrate which endangered majestic animal of which there are only 1706 (2010 census) left in the country?
4. *One Life is Not Enough* is the autobiography of which former diplomat and External Affairs Minister that has created big news for its views on the Gandhis.
5. Which Tata Group company, on July 23rd, became the first Indian company to achieve a market capitalisation of Rs. 5 lakh crore?
6. How did the Ukrainian village of Grabovo make world headlines on July 17th?
7. Which legend became only the second Indian, after Kapil Dev, and the 47th member of the prestigious Laureus World Sports Academy?
8. Where in Brazil was the latest BRICS summit held, where the member-nations agreed to create a \$100 billion development bank and emergency reserve fund?
9. Italian Vincenzo Nibali won the 101st edition of which very prestigious Europe-based sporting competition on July 29th?
10. Which home-grown e-retailer recently announced that it has raised funds worth \$1 billion (over Rs.6,000 crore), the largest-ever by an Indian e-commerce firm?
11. In Chennai, what now stands on what was once *Osborne House*, home of the Rajahs of Venkatagiri?
12. Who was the co-founder of Vidya Mandir, Vivekananda College and MIT?
13. Founded in the 1960s, National Cafe on Mount Road and Cafe Zum Zum on Second Line Beach are examples of which distinct type of tea stalls?
14. What 'sound' institution, now on Kamarajar Salai, was inaugurated on June 16, 1938 on Marshall's Road by Rajaji, the then Premier of Madras Presidency?
15. The township of Madras is said to have effectively been born on March 1, 1640. Why?
16. What do the initials in the street name T.P. Koil Street in Triplicane expand to?
17. Which institution on Poonamalle High Road was founded by Alexander Hunter, a surgeon, in 1850?
18. What was established by one Kanthasamy Mudaliar in 1905 on Bazaar Street in Mylapore?
19. For what profession was/is Chengam Bazaar (in)famous?
20. In 1840, which popular Dickensian work got an anonymous sequel in *The Lighthouse*, a Madras-based publication?

(Answers on page 13)

## • Remembering the compiler of 'Lists of Inscriptions on Tombs and Monuments of the Madras Presidency'

# J.J. COTTON – Recorder non-pareil

Colonial history of India, insofar as the English are concerned, can be read from the inscriptions of the tombstones which are available in plenty in India. In the then Madras, Julian James Cotton (1869-1927) in his short life of 58 years collected tombstone inscriptions and published them with commentary. In the collection there is mention also of a couple of stones on Indians.

His obituary in *The Times*, London (June 22, 1927) says, "J.J. Cotton, of the Madras Civil Service, who was a great authority on the history and records of British India, died suddenly in Madras on June 20 in his 58th year. Mr. Cotton came of a family whose unbroken record of Indian service is believed to be unique."

Julian James was born at Krishnagar (Bengal) on October 3, 1869, second son of Sir Henry Cotton (1845-1915), earlier Chief Commissioner of Assam and, later, a Liberal MP. His elder brother, Sir Evan Cotton, was the first President of the Bengal Legislative Council under the reformed Constitution.

Educated at Sherborne and Corpus Christi College, Oxford, J.J. Cotton was known, even as a student, for his extraordinary qualities in learning. After graduation, he was selected for the Indian Civil Service and was posted to Madras, where he arrived in 1893.

Most of his service was in the judicial branch. He was a first grade District and Sessions Judge. Known for his meticulous handling of records, he was appointed Curator of the Madras Records and Editor of the *Provincial Gazetteer*.

The post had been lying vacant from the end of 1923 when Professor Henry Dodwell left. The post was revived specially for Cotton, to whom the work was most congenial. Cotton was known as an authority on the history of British and Indian relations of the period from 1757.

His list of inscriptions on tombs and monuments in Madras possessing historical or archaeological interest (first published by the Government of Madras in 1901) is a mine of information and has frequently been quoted by authors of the history of Madras. As a member of the Indian Historical Records

Commission, of which his elder brother was for some time President, it must have been handy for him to collect all the information he needed.

The family had association with India in one form or another for an uninterrupted period of 160 years, a fact believed to be without any parallel. The connection started with Joseph Cotton (1745-1825) who, serving the East India Company, made his first voyage in 1769, commanding the *Indiaman Royal Charlotte*; he commanded the ship from 1776 to 1782. He served from 1795 to 1823 as a director of the East India Company. His second son, John Cotton. (d. 1860),

• by K.R.A. Narasiah

was in the Madras Civil Service from 1801 to 1830. His son, Joseph John, and the latter's son, Henry, followed each other in the MCC. And then came Henry's son Julian who represented the fifth generation in direct unbroken succession in the service of the Company and the Crown (from 1769-1823). The link continued later too with his cousin, William Bensley Cotton, who was appointed to the United Provinces Civil Service.

J.J. Cotton wrote in his collection, "This volume contains a select list of monumental inscriptions relating to Europeans buried in the Madras Presidency. It includes all epitaphs of adults earlier than 1800 and such entries of later date as possess historical or local interest. Numerous translations from foreign languages have been added, and due attention has been paid towards annotating the names of persons and places of importance."

What prompted Julian Cotton? He notes, "At the beginning of the last century an attempt to form a similar collection was made by William Urquhart of Madras in his *Oriental Obituary*, printed at the Journal Press in 1809. This "Impartial Compilation," as it is termed in the title page, was originally projected in three volumes, but only two were published. An advertisement to the first number contains the announcement that 'Volume II is preparing and will be put to press so soon as paper can be

procured, at present there being none in Madras which could possibly answer the purpose.' It is believed that only two copies of this curious book survive, one in the library of the late Archbishop Goethals in Calcutta and the other in the private collection of Edward Wenger of the Bengal Secretariat, who has lent his copy for the purposes of the present work. The British Museum possesses a copy only of the first volume. Urquhart's precursor had been Asiaticus, whose *East Indian Chronologist* (1801) 'from the commencement of the East India Trade by David and Solomon,' and *Monumental Register* (1803) were printed at the Hircarrah Press, Calcutta. Many of *Asiaticus'* gleanings were reproduced in 1815 in M. DeRozario's *Complete Monumental Register of Epitaphs in or about Calcutta*.

Cotton goes on to write, "The history of old Madras is in no small measure written upon its tombstones. Especially interesting are the memorials of the Company's earliest servants. They and their families lie buried in every coast town, and often a ruined cemetery is all that remains of a famous factory. Their Puritan names such as Ordonicus and Tryphena are landmarks which bind

together successive generations. Like the Pilgrim Fathers, who colonised America, our stout-hearted forbears in the Land of Regrets were all of them true-born Englishmen of credit and renown. Indeed, pioneering would seem to be the peculiar province of the Anglo-Saxon all the world over. The Scotchman follows at a later stage in the race. Our original Cape Merchants, Levant Traders and East India Venturers were typical sons of John Bull; men of London, Bristol, Devon, and the Home Counties. As we travel down the centuries, there are associations with many names that have won recognition at home. A descendant of Cromwell in the person of John Russell was President at Fort William in the days of Queen Anne. Another, Nicholas Morse ruled as Governor in Fort St. George almost at the same time that Milton's grandson, Caleb Clarke, was parish clerk of St. Mary's, Madraspatnam. In the shadow of the towers of the High Court sleeps little David, the four-year old son of Elihu Yale. His father is remembered as the founder of an enlightened university and forgotten as the Governor of a benighted presidency. Every schoolboy knows that Thackeray was the son and grandson of Bengal Collectors; but the tomb at Ootacamund of Sir Henry Davison, the Madras Chief Justice, to whom he dedicated the *Virginians*, is as unremembered as the grave of his uncle."

This introduction was written by Cotton in 1905.

J.J. Cotton's other published book is *A Book of Corpus Verses* in which we find a poem on the Dutch cemeteries and another mentioning Narasapatnam.

## VANISHING WATER

(Continued from page 1)

further away. What is clear is that this is a vicious cycle that we would do well to get out of.

The key to that rests with the CMDA and the Corporation. They do know about the illegal buildings here to begin with. They need to crack the

whip on these and get them out of the way. That would be good enough as a beginning. We would then need to introduce strict norms on the wells that can be dug and the quota of water that can be consumed by each establishment. Let's face it, we are a water-scarce city. The sooner we wake up to that, the better.

## HOW SLOW CAN RENEWAL GET?

(Continued from page 3)

curious state and architects agree that restoring it would be a tricky exercise if it were to collapse.

But our bureaucracy, with its classic sloth, does not appear to have a sense of urgency.

Opaque tendering processes, outmoded specifications that have nothing to do with heritage conservation, and an appallingly slow way of functioning are the principles on which these projects are being handled. So what if a heritage building or two (or three or five) vanishes in the interim?



# Letters across the seas

## ● More about the Madras years of Everett and Ruth Woodman from the blogs of their daughter.

Ninety-five per cent of Indians marry within their own ethnic, religious and cultural communities, said Dr. Shashi Tharoor, member of the Indian Parliament, in a recent speech to the Indian Institute of Management in Kolkata. It's fair to guess, also, that a big percentage – probably most – marriages in India are arranged by parents or family elders.

Wandering Americans don't fit into this picture very often, but strange things do happen. A Woodstock School alumna told of an encounter she had in Mussoorie with a breathless middle-aged woman who came running up to her on the street, and asked if my acquaintance would be interested in marrying one of her four sons.

My dad, Everett Woodman, had at least two experiences related to the marriage mart. Once, in Madras in 1950 he was invited to be a go-between in arranging a marriage between two people he knew. The mother of the would-be bride asked if he would put out feelers to the family of the young man. There was a problem – the boy and girl were of different castes – but, nonetheless, my dad cautiously went ahead. No dice! The boy's parents put the kibosh on the idea. Eventually, both the boy and the girl married people carefully selected by their families.

The second experience I learned about only on reading the correspondence of my dad with his retired schoolteacher friend, P.A. Thiruvengkatachari, his dear 'Mr. Patch.'

Patch, a Tamil-speaking Brahmin, had been married in 1900, and certainly in the traditional arranged way. He was seventeen years old and his wife was twelve. They were married for seventy-two years, until his death in 1972.

In contemporary Indian slang, 'Tam-Bram' connotes orthodoxy and adherence to Hindu tradition. But Patch was a free-thinker, who had an openness and curiosity and sympathy for all people of the world. There was a deep intuitive bond between him and my dad, who was thirty-four years younger. Patch wrote to my grandfather calling my dad "a model for the present generation of youngsters". To my dad, Patch wrote, "You are a good BOY."

At age eighty-nine, Patch paid my dad the supreme com-

pliment. "I have a curious idea in my mind," he wrote. Since Everett and he felt almost as close as family, "Why not realise it in fact. You know I have a grandson, eldest boy of my first daughter."

The grandson was studying for a Ph.D. at New York University. "The boy is fair and nice to look at, a very calm speaker.... Why not think of an alliance with a good Brahmin family? If you think it worth the while, you may meet him and study him. What do you think, my old boy. If this is too much to think of, you may drop it leaving ourselves in status quo. The old tie of Everett and Patch would be unassunderable."

My dad wrote back, "You know I would have no objection to a good Brahmin-Unitarian match, for to me the similarities

My dad and his dear friend Patch are now both safe, and their correspondence still is, for me, a major treasure.

When on July 21, 1954, Mr. Patch penned his first postcard to my dad, he was 71 years old, long retired, and a library cardholder at the United States Information Service Library in Madras. My dad, Everett Woodman, then 38 years old, was a cultural affairs officer for U.S.I.S.

"Dear Dr. Woodman," wrote Mr. Patch. "Our friend Mr. T.V.S. Rao tells me that you carry a very old head on your young shoulder. I wish to verify if it is so.... Do not laugh at my words...I am not suffering (from) dementia praecox. I have pieced together...my reflections and I shall bring with me a few of them. Let me

## From the blogs of Betsy Woodman

are far greater than the differences, so if you want to continue to scheme from Cupid's corner in Chromepet, give me your next suggestion and maybe I can manoeuvre."

But no introductions were ever made, no interviews conducted with Patch's grandson. After that, no more letters came from Patch. A few weeks later, my dad received a letter from Patch's son.

"My father," the son wrote, "and your friend, philosopher and guide is no more.... The end was calm and peaceful.... He was not sick or ailing and maintained his health, poise and cheer to the end.... As per the Hindu almanac, he died at the most auspicious hour of the most auspicious day of the year.... He was conversing with me till 3:45 AM...it is given only to a fortunate few to be by the deathbed of divine beings like him."

My dad wrote back immediately. Referring to his correspondence with Patch of almost twenty years, he said, "The full file of his letters to me will remain a major treasure...his every message (was) helpful and inspirational.... Patch lives on because of his great spirit...he was truly a master guru of the highest order. He was also uncomplicated and of delightful good humour, and the essence of the humane qualities that he conveyed so naturally to us all. I am happy that he is safe, and enriched by my memories, and he is in our hearts for always."

explain things more comprehensively in person.... Yrs sincerely, P.A. Thiruvengkatachari."

And he did explain things more comprehensively, over the next eighteen years, in at least fifty letters and cards. Since only six carbon copies of letters my dad wrote back are in existence, most of his replies must be inferred from Mr. Patch's comments. But the idea comes through, clear as day, of a very special friendship between the two.

In one of his letters, my dad asked Patch for some basic facts about himself. Patch replied: "Since you are rather curious to know the milestones in my life, I should please you by saying: I was born on Dec 23, 1882..."

By 1882, the British were firmly established in India, but elsewhere the British Empire was still growing. It wouldn't hit its peak for another forty years, when it ruled over roughly a fifth of the world's population. When the British finally left India in 1947, Patch was in his 65th year. He saw that empire and others rise and fall.

He also lived through a dizzying range of inventions, events and transitions: the airplane, the motorcar, two world wars, the global depression, the atomic bomb, decades of struggle for Indian independence, Independence Day (August 15, 1947), and the assassination of Mahatma



Mr. Patch and Everett Woodman (right) (Photo credit: Colby-Sawyer College Archives)

Gandhi.

Back to the correspondence. At one point, my parents were awaiting the birth of their fourth child. The family joke was that my dad wanted a baseball team and instead got a ballet troupe. Mr. Patch wrote, "I should be very glad to hear by the next mail that brings me a letter, that you have a boy; not that I discriminate. As the rhyme goes, 'tis ever a joy to have a boy."

Patch himself had two sons and three daughters. From what he mentions about their education, it seems that he really **didn't** discriminate in this area. One son was a doctor; so was one daughter. In the 1950s, his sixteen-year-old granddaughter was already headed for medical school, with Patch's full approval. In his matter-of-fact attitude towards women in medicine, he was decades ahead of many Westerners, including my own family.

My mom gave birth to her fourth daughter, and Patch consoled my parents: "In the modern world a girl is in no way a discountable affair nor a boy a countable one. Children come into this world of their own

accord and not according to our desire. Boy or girl, each one has a purpose to subserve in this world and the parents are only the means to help them in that. We need not discuss any more, but see the newcomer is facilitated in her further stages till she leaves your roof."

Mr. Patch could be crusty. I guess he figured that his advanced age gave him the right to be so, and temperament played a role as well. "I am in the habit of making no mental reservations of any kind," he wrote. "I speak as it comes out of my mind."

One issue on which he was very outspoken was language. He scorned Hindi. He called it a "hybrid Cockney...(with) neither its own characters nor much literature."

Patch spoke much more kindly about English. "It is sweet," he wrote, "easy to learn, full vocabulary and universal, being international...It is God's gift for one to know English." Nonetheless, he qualified this. "English is a very dangerous language...Some words may mean more than what the writer means, causing interpretations more than one."

## Answers to Quiz

1. He is the new Chief of Army Staff; 2. K. Sanjita Chanu; 3. Tiger; 4. K. Natwar Singh; 5. Tata Consultancy Services; 6. Malaysian Airlines flight MH-17 was shot down over it; 7. Rahul Dravid; 8. Fortaleza; 9. Tour de France; 10. Flipkart.

\* \* \*

11. Satyam Cinemas; 12. M Subbaraya Iyer; 13. Irani; 14. AIR Madras Station; 15. It was the date on which the East India Company began construction of Fort St. George; 16. Thulasinga Perumal; 17. Government College of Fine Arts (or the Madras School of Arts as it was formerly called); 18. The popular Crown Bakery; 19. It was a traditional red light area; 20. *Pickwick Papers*.



# Madras fabric

When I went to the University of Strasbourg (France) to pursue my Ph.D. in the early 1980s, my Guadeloupian-French professor, Madame Roberte Bronner, asked me, "Connais-tu que les 'Madras' est largement utilisé lors d'occasions formelles en Guadeloupe?" ('Do you know that 'Madras' is used extensively during formal occasions in Guadeloupe\*?'). I drew a blank. I could not answer her question either meaningfully or prudently; so naïve I was.

With my current interest in Madras's cultural history, I could only now track down an answer to Madame Bronner's question of the 1980s, which I share here.

The Madras fabric was sent to the French Caribbean colonies as early as the 17th Century from Madras. French women living in Guadeloupe and Martinique used the Madras as a headpiece. In recent times, the Madras is essentially reserved for use for decoration and adornment during special occasions, such as weddings. That is what Madame Bronner referred to in her question to me in 1981. The Madras is not only associated with women of particular age brackets, but also with many other social dimensions. In modern times, children and men also wear trousers and shorts made of the Madras. I understand that a sort of 'rum' is also referred to as 'Madras' in Guadeloupe. The Madras (amber) rum gets its name after the ship *Madras*, a full-rigged boat built by John Peat & Co. at Maryport, Cumbria, England, and launched on August 9, 1827, and not after Madras city. (Ed: Though the ship may have

got its name after the city.)

The Madras handkerchief, popularly referred to as 'the Madras', owes its name to Madras city. It is indicated in a paper on the Indian contribution to Guadeloupe and Martinique that the Madras was produced in a village known as Paliaka and identified as being two miles northwest of Madras and that the French obtained this product from here. I consulted Professor P.J. Sanjeeva Raj, who indicated to me that *Paliaka* is highly similar to *Palea Catta*, the Dutch name of Pulicat (Pazhaverkkadu). He clarified that 'checked' cotton fabric was

to their countries to be made into headpieces. When the Europeans came to India during the Age of Exploration, they quickly fell in love with the local, high-quality cotton goods. During the 17th and 18th Centuries, the demand for the delicate cloth was so high that it was considered a precious commodity, and was shipped over by the boatful! This website refers to *karuvela maram*, which is *Acacia nilotica* (now *Vachellia nilotica*). Dr. P. Ravichandran (Professor of Botany, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Palayamkottai) tells me that the skin

## • Dr. A. Raman

Charles Sturt University  
Orange, New South Wales Australia

produced in *Palea Catta* from the 17th Century and the Dutch exported it to its island possessions in the East (now Indonesia) where it was used for sarongs. Of course, the distance mentioned as '2 miles' northwest of Madras does not match, although the direction is nearly the same. The distance should be 35 miles and not 2.

The following words from <http://roadapparel.com/History.php> provide a brief outline of the history of the weaving industry in Madras: "It is believed that the first cloth in the Madras region was made of yarn spun from the tip-skin of ancient trees, called *karvelem patta*, which have been found at archaeological sites inhabited around 3,000 B.C.E. African and West Asian importers saw value in Madras cotton in the 12th Century and brought them

(=bark) of young stems of *Acacia nilotica* can naturally shred into slender fibres used extensively by Indians in different ways over the centuries. Barks of these trees include secondary plentiful metabolites, such as water-soluble tannins, which could have been used in dyeing cotton fabrics in later years.

In the 1700s, more refined block-printed Madras pieces with various floral and temple motifs and designs came into the market. The Scots were amazed to see the spectacular 'tartan' plaids produced by the Madras weavers in the 1800s, which came to be known as the 'Madras Checks' in later years. ('Tartan' is a pattern consisting of criss-crossing horizontal and vertical bands in multiple colours. Tartans originated in woven wool, but now they are made of many other materials.



The Madras headwear... and the renaissance panel.



Tartan is particularly associated with Scotland.) I am not sure whether Madras cotton plaids were used in making Scottish kilts, although the design is similar.

In the early- and mid-20th Century, the 'Madras all-cotton lace curtains' were popular in Scotland. But these materials were created using Scottish looms. In later years, with the discovery of polyester and powerlooms, the production of Scottish cotton lace curtains was no more 100 per cent cotton material and came to be known as Scottish Nottingham Laces. The Madras muslin professed a fine weave with fuzzy edges that soften the design, whereas the Nottingham lace provided precise and sharp edges to figures. Both textiles can be woven into intricate patterns of similar refinement, although the surface effect that caught and reflected light differed. Plain and figured muslins were fashionable fabrics for curtains from the early to the mid-19th Century. Machine lace briefly overtook muslin in popularity in the later quarter of the century but, for high-end decorating, the fashion for muslins,

particularly figured muslins, revived in the late 1800s. The name 'Madras muslin' was adopted by the trade reflecting the popularity of this fabric in the export market of Madras. For aesthetic and arts & crafts designers, the heritage of figured muslin had a particular appeal. By the early 1880s, Madras muslin was popular in the UK as the 'simple fabric in vogue' and William Morris, an eminent name in this art and trade, created delightful patterns for this textile. This form of fabric has had various names in the textile trade, including 'leno-weave muslin' and 'leno gauze'.

Since the early 20th Century, the Madras muslin has been commonly called 'Madras lace'. Confusion on technical terms caused C.L. Clifford, author of *The Lace Dictionary* (New York, 1913), to write emphatically, "Madras, a commercial term for a curtain material, not a lace." J.R. Burrows & Company (Massachusetts, USA) uses the original Victorian term 'Madras muslin' for its products even today.

\*Guadeloupe and Martinique are islands that are French colonies in the Caribbean.

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