

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS

MUSINGS

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Vol. X No. 03

FREE ISSUE

May 16-31, 2000

Ennore's voices of concern

When the first Public Hearing was held on the proposal by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corpora-

tion to set up a Petrochem Park in an area encompassing the Ennore villages of Kattupalli, Kalanji, Puzhuthivakkam and Voyalur, over 300 persons attended, representing a range of interests. And all made their presence felt in what was one of the most participatory of such hearings held in the State.

S.K. Prabhakar, District Collector, Tiruvallur, presided over the proceedings and gave all the stakeholders a chance to be heard in a hearing that went on for about three hours.

The fisherfolk of the villages likely to be affected were loudest in the condemnation of the projects. They maintained that if the project was commissioned, it would ruin their livelihood. They requested officials reporting on the EIA to accompany them in their catamarans to Ennore Creek and see for themselves the gravity of the situation with dead fish and polluted water creating health hazards. They also pointed out that the fish shoals found in the Kattupalli, Ennore and Pulicat regions could well vanish if the petroproduct effluents were let into the sea, damaging the existing ecosystem.

A submission by NEERI officials that water in the Buckingham Canal did not contain zooplanktons and that the water was not contaminated, was challenged by Prof.

(Continued on page 6)

The Petroleum Park as TIDCO sees it

(TIDCO's Executive Summary summarised)

The TIDCO Petrochem Industrial Park is to be located 35 km from Chennai adjoining the Ennore Port, which would house the terminals for oil, gas and chemicals. The Park will be sited in and around the villages of Kattupalli, Kalanji, Puzhuthivakkam and Voyalur on either side of the Buckingham Canal.

The Rs.6000 million Phase 1 involves acquisition of 7155 acres of land, of which 3792 acres will be allotted for industrial use. TIDCO has sought Government permission to acquire a further 2350 acres for Phase 2, of which 1777 acres will be for industrial use. The project profile states that the rest of the land, 3363 and 573 acres respectively, will be treated as part of the Coastal Regulation Zone and Common area. Bunds are to be raised to protect the Canal and the CRZ. One bridge will cross the Canal, one the backwaters and a third both.

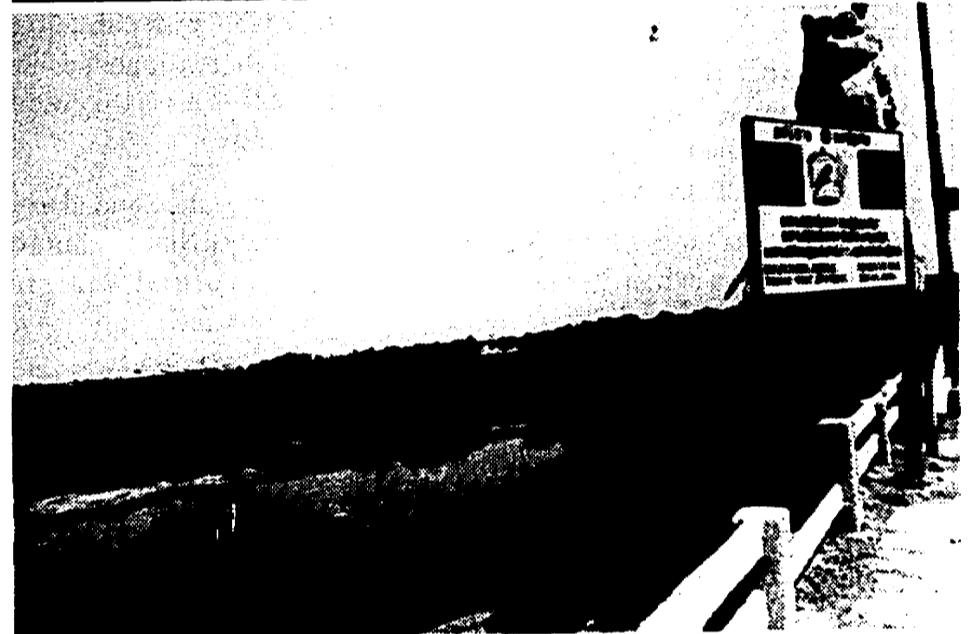
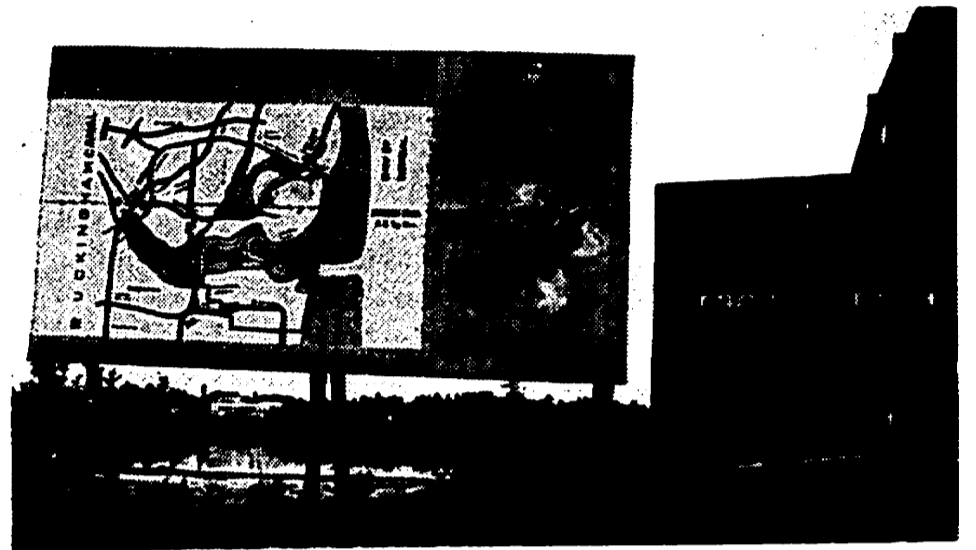
The common area development work comprises jungle clearance, bulldozing, levelling the undulating terrain, earth filling, murrum topping etc. over an area of 700 acres. 32 km of roads, for four-lane and two-lane traffic, are to be laid on raised embankments. A green belt of 1200 acres is envisaged and it is proposed that the planting of saplings and nurturing will be carried out by employing the displaced population. About 600 families will be displaced by the Project and government is committed to rehabilitating them.

Metrowater is projected to supply 18 to 20 Mgd of freshwater in the first phase, in two stages of 10 Mgd each. In the initial stages, when cooling requirements are limited, freshwater is to be used for cooling. A seawater system will be introduced as larger industries are set up. The demand of seawater is expected to be 30 Mgd.

All liquid effluents will be treated, then collected in earthen guard ponds suitably film- and concrete-lined before being discharged into the sea through pipelines. Expected load: 11 Mgd in three modules.

Each industry is expected to pre-treat its solid waste and remove all oil contained in it. The treated sludge has to be stored in a secure landfill or incinerated within the premises of the individual industry.

The Tamil Nadu Petrochem Park will initiate proceedings to get environmental clearance for the Petrochem Park site as a whole, but individual industries will have to obtain separate environmental clearances, to set up in the Park, after following the regular procedures, including public hearings.



The OLD is a favourite picture of ours. It's a sign put up by the State Forest Department many years ago by the entrance to the Elphinstone Bridge in Adyar. The sign featured a map which clearly showed what the extent of the protected Adyar Estuary area was. It was a sign that gave hope that one day the entire area

would be declared a sanctuary. Then one fine day, the sign vanished and has never been seen again. Our NEW, just below the OLD, shows a new sign that has recently come up in the same spot. The sign,

which hardly says anything worthwhile, if it is compared with the OLD, nevertheless is welcome, for it would appear to indicate that the Tamil Nadu Forest Department is again taking some interest in the Estuary. More heartening is a sign that's come up at the northern end of the Estuary, on San Thomé High Road, just by the landfill. This sign is much more explicit and calls the Estuary a 'Protected Wildlife Area'. Does that description extend to protection from all the construction that is going on in the Estuary? (Photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)



Call for action to save Adyar Creek

A campaign to save the Adyar Creek and its fragile ecosystem was launched by the Exnora Naturalist Society recently. "We need to stop what is happening right now! We do it now, or we lose the Creek for ever," says the Society. It was voicing its concern over the increasing development of the

Creek area and the pollution being caused by the dumping of solid waste and sewage in the Creek.

Private and public buildings are replacing mangroves and natural vegetation in the Creek area and endangering it.

Reducing the Creek area to nothing could prove disastrous

(By A Special Correspondent) for the local people during heavy rains, since it would lead to severe flooding, says the Society. This has been happening periodically in the Kotturpuram flood plains.

The recent Orissa disaster has been attributed to the

shrinking mangrove cover along the east coast, points out the Society and adds, while the Central Government has been drawing up plans for massive mangrove afforestation all over the country, we are turning a blind eye to the coastal degradation right in our city!

Fishermen have also been

losing their livelihood. Twenty years ago, the fisherfolk of Srinivasapuram caught not less than 50 baskets of fish everyday. This is now reduced to two or three baskets a day, pushing 500 families to poverty, according to the Society.

(Continued on page 8)

A workshop that didn't work

Citizens' Alliance for Sustainable Living (SUSTAIN) is another of those people's partnerships that former administrators are trying to form in the City, to nudge the Government into action on a wide range of civic issues. This one is being prodded into life by a few administrators who have in more recent times been associated with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) which had tried to get the Sustainable Chennai Initiative going and didn't find the political will needed to breathe life into it.

What has been common about all these initiatives are the numerous workshops, seminars and discussions organised by them. *The Man From Madras Musings* has faithfully attended a large number of these during the last five years. And he is still waiting for something concrete to come out of them except for a repeated stress on the people's needs and an even more repeated call for action to meet those needs. Every time MMM hears views expressed at the meetings, usually by former bureaucrats, he wonders about several things:

- ONE, didn't they ever express these views when in service and, if not, why not?
- TWO, if they have always held these views, why didn't they stir with them the political leadership whom they were duty-bound to advise?
- THREE, and most important of all, are the views expressed on these occasions unique and if not, surely these are views the political leadership is also aware of but can't or won't do anything about. In which case, what is the point of spending hours speaking of the same thing from several platforms?

Far be it for MMM to belittle the efforts of those connected with such programmes that talk of stirring the citizenry into some kind of action. After all, we all know what little drops of water, little grains of sand can do. But most times, they do it after millions of years. Surely that's not the kind of timeframe the organisers of such programmes envisage when they repeatedly call the people to action? What is the timeframe they are looking at for the dreams of organisations like SUSTAIN to become a reality? Without a commitment to a timeframe, talking about any "action agenda" or even drawing one up is a waste of time.

Anything new?

Take what SUSTAIN wants to do. Is there anything new in this? And if there isn't, why didn't it work before and why do the organisers think it will work now? *The Man From Madras Musings* suggests that you spend a few minutes reading what SUSTAIN says and what it wants to do. Make no mistake about it; this is not the voice only of

SUSTAIN; indeed, all similar organisations speak in voices that sound like this:

"The word 'Sustainability' is fast emerging as a 'mantra' to be ritually chanted at every forum, seminar, conference or meeting dealing with Development and Environment... As usual, at the end of the day it boils down to macro-level pontifications and preachings that Governments should do this and do that to reduce pollution and promote clean technologies, obviously with borrowed money and imported technologies."

While Sustainable Development at macro level is being debated and deliberated at national and international forums, at micro level the quality of life of citizens both in urban and rural areas is degenerating and deteriorating by the day. Let alone development, the very living is getting unsustainable with even the basic necessities of human existence — clean air, potable water and quality power — increasingly becoming inaccessible. This is largely due to three reasons:

- Crass negligence and glaring inefficiency in harnessing and usage of natural and produced resources.

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

- Callousness and casualness in the approach and attitude of Civil Society to the continuous decline in the quality of life.

- The above two factors resulting in a system of environmental governance which is bereft of efficiency and sensitivity.

Citizens' Alliance for Sustainable Living (SUSTAIN) is aiming to achieve this through a process of provoking, awakening and persuading the Civil Society to realise its responsibilities towards Mother Earth and its children both present and future and act purposefully to stem the engulfing rot.

An action agenda and activity schedule towards this (is suggested)... The main thrust of the action agenda would be:

- a) Identifying ways and means to achieve efficiency and optimisation of resources, particularly energy and water.
- b) Integrating efforts and directing action towards achieving resource efficiency.
- c) Designing and operationalising an institutional mechanism for sustainable living with the participative involvement of Civil Society and Government.

There is not one word mentioning a timeframe in all that. Presumably 'identifying', 'integrating' and 'designing' can go on *ad infinitum*. An accompanying note to this vision of SUSTAIN speaks of a force "of Youth, by Youth and for Youth... to preach, promote and practise efficiency in the utilisation of natural resources to bring about SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT" and "to advocate and advance efficiency in the working of the government and the economy in order to improve the quality of life and accelerate generation of employment". Is this a call for revolutionary action by what SUSTAIN calls its 'Green Force'? Or is this another attempt at awareness building that has been spoken of so often for so long, without one step being taken to make such studies a compulsory part of the Kindergarten to High School Leaving syllabus?

MMM has long held that inefficiency, the inability to sustain anything, the callousness and casualness that have become a way of life today are all the result of an education system that's wrong and needs radical change. It's time more time was spent on teaching about the quality of life than on

the lectures meandering along without any care for time, there was no opportunity for the invitees to make themselves heard or, as in one or two cases, deliver their personalised lectures. With the flight of some speakers, there was also no opportunity to ask questions. What there was, were angry expressions among several of the invitees.

In the end, the action agenda of SUSTAIN remained. MMM looks forward to what it is going to do to take it forward. Some of the language of the thinking behind it is the language of revolution. Will SUSTAIN, hopefully, display a form of aggression so far lacking in getting people "clean air, potable water and quality water"? Or will these words too be written on water as were those at the workshop on water held some weeks ago and talked about in this column on February 16th?!

Being specific

If *The Man From Madras Musings* was not exactly happy with the general tenor of SUSTAIN's workshop, he did consider some of the suggestions or thoughts expressed worth discussing at greater length at other

— Overenthusiasm for the protection of the environment often leads to pushing back human development. What the Centres suggested earlier needed to focus on is how we could have BOTH environmental sustainability AND sustained human development.

— Sustainable solutions are not those which tackle the problems of only today; they must have answers for tomorrow too. The future needs to be factored into all planning; building flyovers which will need to be reviewed ten years from now or less, is not an example of sustainability.

— Saving the biodiversity of rain forests (or any other area) cannot be looked at in isolation; wise and sustainable urban development is as important and both must go hand in hand.

In brief

★ Mumbai and Delhi are planning to clean up their traffic act starting NOW! Can *The Man From Madras Musings* expect Chennai to follow with such measures as those being examined in the country's two biggest metros? Such as:

- Scheduling conversion to clean fuel within the next two years.
- Scrapping of ageing vehicles after specified ages are notified for each category of vehicles.

— Reduction of road traffic by 20 per cent by banning the use of cars with certain numbers on certain days.

— Banning of all processions that disrupt traffic.

When do we get going in Chennai?

★ A new alternate road to Ooty, via Karamadai, Vellian-kadu (where the hills start), Gundur (a tribal village), Mulli, Pillor and Parali and then, on the higher slopes, through the Sambar, Palmyra and Colacombay estates to Coonoor is NOT being looked at with favour by environmentalists, *The Man From Madras Musings* understands. Not only is the road an eco-threat, but it will endanger small fauna as well as elephants who use stretches of it as their traditional migratory corridor from Tamil Nadu to Kerala. Why not develop the Mettupalayam-Kotagiri-Ooty route, the environmentalists ask; it already exists, they say, all it needs is improvement.

— MMM

OUR READERS WRITE



Water wasted

I have been watching the reports on the big shows (what else are the seminars?) on water preservation, rainwater harvesting and the like for the last few months. No one seems to have given a thought to the causes of the current water crisis in the city — a man-made one due to sheer mismanagement of water supply by the authorities.

Has anyone thought about the thousands of litres of water which is being used for the concrete works of the ten mini flyovers in the city? Why could not the authorities have taken up these jobs slowly, say two at a time?

That would have certainly saved a lot of trouble for the people at large.

Ms Agnisha Thyagarajan
26, Ayyavoo Gramani Street
Verkadalai Swami Madam
TVK Nagar, Perambur
Chennai 600 011

Anti-people project

It was recently announced in the State Assembly by the Minister of Environment and Pollution Control, Pongalur N. Palanisamy that the Tamil Nadu Government has prepared a blueprint to discharge 250 lakh litres of treated effluents from about 600 tanneries in the Vellore District directly into the sea through long pipelines.

You might remember when the Chairman of the Council for Leather Exports in India (CLE) had announced to the press a proposed project to drain the tannery effluents of Vellore District into the Bay of Bengal through pipelines at a cost of Rs. 225 crore, the CLE contributing only 2.25 crore rupees, I had vehemently opposed the project on several grounds. I had pointed out the pollution likely to be caused to the sea water and the loss of innumerable species of fish and others there. My letter was published in *Madras Musings* about six months

ago. I had also referred to a report which revealed the discharge of effluents from 90 tanneries into the Adyar Coom and other waterbodies in the City.

The present proposal is anti-people and anti-ecology and must be stopped in the initial stage itself.

P.S. Subrahmanian
Advocate
47, Phase I, TNHB
Vellore 632 009.

Dirty Marina

The Marina Beach is one of the world's longest beaches. Heritage buildings, in whatever shape, line up its entire length — the DGP's office, the Ice House (now *Vivekanandar Illam*), the Examination Hall, Presidency College, the Palaces of the Nawab of Carnatic, Senate House and the University buildings.

But when we look at which part beach-goers would go to enjoy the golden 'sandy beach' we are faced with another prospect. Almost every part of the beach is dirty, with bird refuse, fruit peels, and in many places, faecal matter.

Now that the Corporation of Madras has taken steps to clear garbages in and around Mylapore, they can request the same agency to keep the beach neat and clean and bring back its old glory.

P.A. Ranganathan
16, New No. 24
Vedachala Garden
Mandaveli, Chennai 600 028.

Senior citizens' plight

Senior citizens, especially those retired from private service, are now badly hit, because they get no pensions and they have no earning capacity due to their advanced age. They depend entirely on the meagre interests received from bank deposits or company deposits on amounts invested decades ago. The value of their deposits is eroding day by day. To compound that, Government is hiking prices and gradually cutting interest rates on bank deposits. At the same time, many of the private non-banking companies have defrauded a gullible public.

What does a senior citizen do to make ends meet?

P.V. Rama Rau
2, Crescent Street
Seethamma Colony
Alwarpet
Chennai 600 018.

Consumer protection

Further to your story on consumer protection (MM, May 1st) 'Goods once sold cannot be taken back' should be removed. So should familiar weapon: E.&O.E. — Errors and Omissions Excepted occurring in cash memos. It is applied for the benefit of the vendor. It should be made clear that it safeguards the customer as well.

* * *

An officer and scholar

S.M. Diaz (MM, April 1st) — "the only police officer among scholars and the only scholar among police officers" — was the first Prabusan, "the architect, deviser and founder member" of the portmanteau word PROBUBS. Paying its homage to him at a

A golden opportunity lost at workshop

The Citizens' Alliance for Sustainable Living, UNCHS (Habitat) Centre conducted a workshop on 29.4.2000 to prepare an Agenda for Action to Promote Sustainable Living. At the workshop attended by more than 50 specialists from various disciplines, Dr. M. Anandakrishnan struck the right note in his keynote address when he spoke of a blueprint for action and the establishment of a task force to focus on Chennai instead of talking global.

The workshop did exactly the opposite, failing to work out an action programme with specific objectives. UNCHS lost a golden opportunity of obtaining the advice and cooperation of the assembly and embarking on a real action programme. The workshop comprised a series of classroom lectures with almost no time for the participants. Even if ten of the assembled members had been allowed to voice their suggestions for action, the workshop would have produced a more suitable agenda for action.

Instead, a Proposed Agenda for Action (PAA) was thrust on the participants. Just consider one part of it. Para 2 of PAA states that "In resolving the drinking water problem, ... efforts should be directed towards affordable solutions such as rainwater harvesting and community tubewells with treatment and recycling facilities where necessary. Campuses, residential complexes could be targeted to be the beneficiaries. For this purpose, suitable modules and kits should be developed and propagated."

In this connection, I would like to point out that every water supply project, however big or small, is different. Each project requires a different approach and different design. For example, if someone were to construct an exact copy of my home, he would be able to copy the building but he would not be able to copy the water supply arrangement in my home. The Metrowater distribution main is different. The

hydrogeology of the area is different. Therefore, a structured design as suggested in the PAA cannot be adopted.

If the participants had been allowed to voice their opinion, the PAA would probably have focussed on the following questions instead of the vague PAA proposed by the organisers:

1. What is the PAA for making Metrowater, TNEB and Chennai Corporation implement suggestions for sustained living?
2. What is the PAA for rainwater harvesting?
3. What is the PAA for utilising the waters of the Adyar and Cooum?
4. What is the PAA for treating waste water to required standards before discharging it into the rivers?
5. What is the PAA for maintaining a pressure of 12m in the distribution system?
6. What is the PAA for TNEB fixing meters in all the services, where meters have gone out of order?
7. What is the PAA for preventing theft of electricity?
8. What is the PAA for promoting use of energy-efficient electrical equipment?
9. What is the PAA for increasing production of electricity?
10. What is the PAA for ecology improvement by use of electricity?
11. What is the PAA for utilising waste heat from many institutions?
12. What is the PAA for production of energy and other products from solid wastes?
13. What is the PAA for recycling?
14. What is the PAA for preventing contamination of food in wayside hotels?
15. What is the PAA for preventing mosquito breeding? I could go on and on ...

M. Susikaran
Consulting Engineer
8, First Street, Nandanam Extn.
Chennai 600 035.

Bit notices

The 20s and 30s before Tamil newspapers became popular, there used to be in circulation a printed item called 'Bit Notice'. Any happening in Madras city used to be immediately printed on a bit of paper and sold in the streets for ¼ or ½ anna, its availability announced by beating of drum.

My mother had a small trunk full of these bit notices but unfortunately not realising their value, I threw them away when I moved and went away. one bit notice read:

எட்டன் குரூட்ட குண்டு குண்டு
எந்த லாங்க் இரண்டு இரண்டு

We used to chant these two lines when playing.

N. Shanmugasundaram
Flat No. A6, 'Ivory Towers'
21, Lake View Road
West Mambalam, Chennai 600 033.

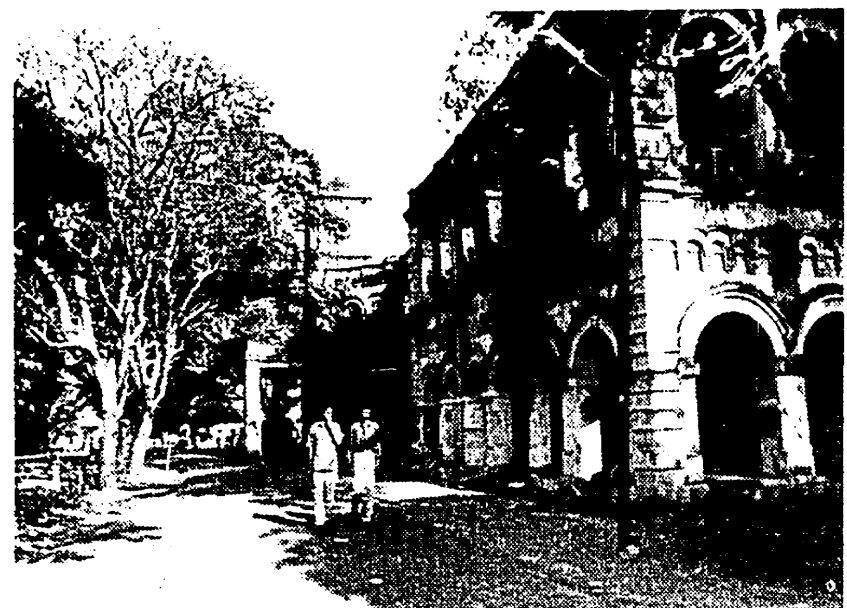
special meeting, the Club recalled that he had last visited the Club on 2.11.1999 as Chief Guest to honour Probubians over 75.

N. Dharmeshwaran
21, Kumaran Nagar
Guduvanchery 603 202.

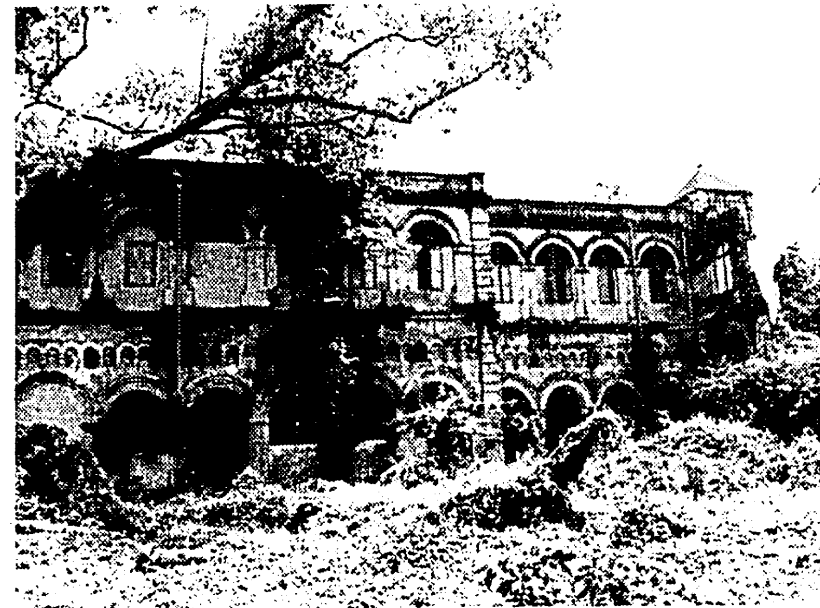
Peanuts the yield

Dr. Shankar Dev's proposal (MM, May 1st). At 15 km and 50 km per litre of petrol and much more on diesel, the levy of 25P. and 30P. on fuel will be peanuts! You can expect 'Dunkers' (pardon the expression) to promptly remit it to RTO. The 'revenue' will be less and 'recovery' negligible.

Daya Shankar
Dhoodu Sagar
9, Plain Street
Tambaram
Chennai 600 045.



The ill-kept Centenary Building of the Teachers' Training College, Saidapet with its tower block on left, as seen from the north.



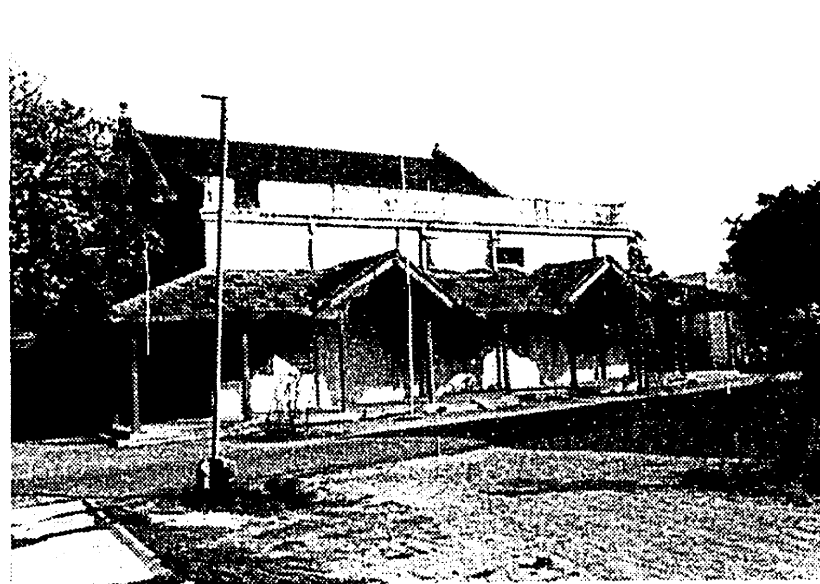
Look carefully at the area on the right, behind the tower block of the Centenary Building. A whole section of it has collapsed!



A closer view of the part of the Teacher's Training College's Centenary Block which has collapsed and where vegetation has begun to take over.



The rear of what used to be the residence of the Principal of the Teacher's Training College. It is now being temporarily used by the Mother Teresa Women's University as its Research and Extension Counter while awaiting new premises.



A rear view of a hostel building on the campus.



The Science Block - another threatened building on the campus.

Heritage plans - and a sorry campus

At the last meeting of the CMDA's Heritage Committee, chaired by Chief Urban Planner and CMDA Member Ananda Ranjana Doss, it was recommended that, implementation of the following projects be facilitated:

- Beautifying and putting to use as a promenade the old Adyar (Elphinstone) Bridge.
- Restoration of the Lighthouse in the High Court campus
- Restoration of Victoria Public (Town) Hall and an integrated plan for its surroundings including Central Railway Station, My Lady's Garden, the 'Lily Pond' market complex and the stadia.
- The restoration of buildings on the Teachers' College Campus in Saidapet which is in a sad state.

The sprawling teachers' college campus in Saidapet with its buildings of another era cries for restoration.

Meanwhile plans are being drawn up to put up new buildings for the Mother Teresa Women's University Research Extension Counter which at present functions out of the old Teachers' College Principal's bungalow. The proposed building is planned at the site where the Centenary Building is and for which a tablet was laid by C. Subramaniam, Minister for Education in 1956.

The Centenary Building, a part of which has collapsed, and

the Science Block besides it await the wreckers' hammers.

The Teachers' College was started in February 1856 as the Government Normal School. The first principal of the school was J.T.Fowler, a wellknown Inspector of Schools. The Normal School was situated in Vepery. Students attending the school were selected by a process of examination and were trained for two years, after which they

● by A Special Correspondent

served government as teachers for five years. A practising school was also attached to the institution. In 1859, a Teachers' Certificate Examination was instituted and was a precursor to a Licentiate of Teachers Degree Examination.

In September 1862, the Normal School moved to a site on Mount Road occupied by the Army Clothing Department what later became the MES headquarters and which is now no more.

In 1875, lectures in Agriculture commenced for the first time, with the student required to attend practical class at the Saidapet Agricultural College. In 1877, students from the Military Normal School at Bangalore joined the Madras institution for additional training.

In 1886, the Normal School was again reorganised to suit the

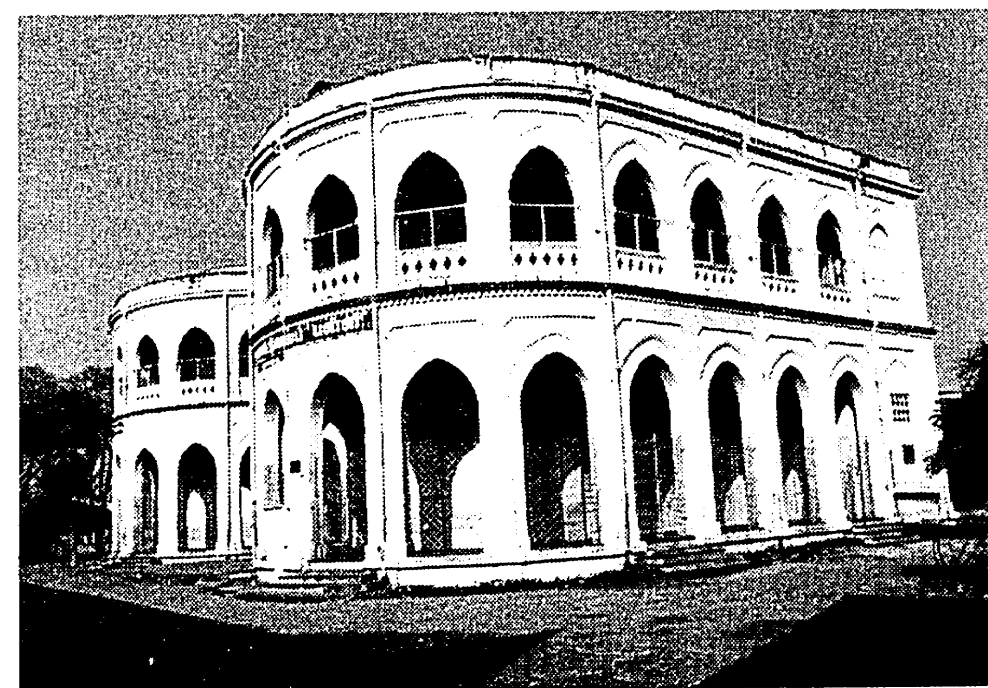
requirements of the newly instituted L.T.(Licentiate of Teaching) Examination. In addition, the designation of the school was changed to Teachers' College. J.H. Stone became the first principal in 1887. The College was affiliated to the Madras University.

The College was transferred in 1887 to its present site in Saidapet and was located in the newly built upstairs storey of the Agricultural College. The Government High School at Saidapet was converted into the practising school.

In 1890, the new buildings were completed for the College. In 1893, the Practising School was amalgamated with the College. At the end of 1894, the first College Day was celebrated. In 1897, a student hostel was built within the college campus.

In 1918, T.V. Sivakumara Sastriyar became the first Indian principal. The L.T. was re-designated Bachelor of Training in 1944. The University of Madras later renamed the BT as B. Education. In 1981, the Teachers' College was renamed as the Government Educational College.

Today, about 250 students are in the College. The Government Model School and Jai Gopal Garodia Girls' High School functioning within the campus serve as the venues for practical training. In 1990, the College was upgraded as the Institute of Advanced Studies in Education.



The intriguingly shaped Government Model School, Saidapet, where the teachers practise their skills. A coat of paint is something this school gets more frequently than most in Chennai.



The Jai Gopal Garodia Girls' High School by the side of the Government Model School, Saidapet. It's the boys of the latter who, however, have the benefit of the playground. (All photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)

Want to muse with MUSINGS?

If you would like to be put on Madras Musings' mailing list, just fill in the form below (use block letters/type) and post it to M/s. Lokavani Hall-Mark Press Pvt Ltd, 62/63 Greames Road, CHENNAI-600 006.

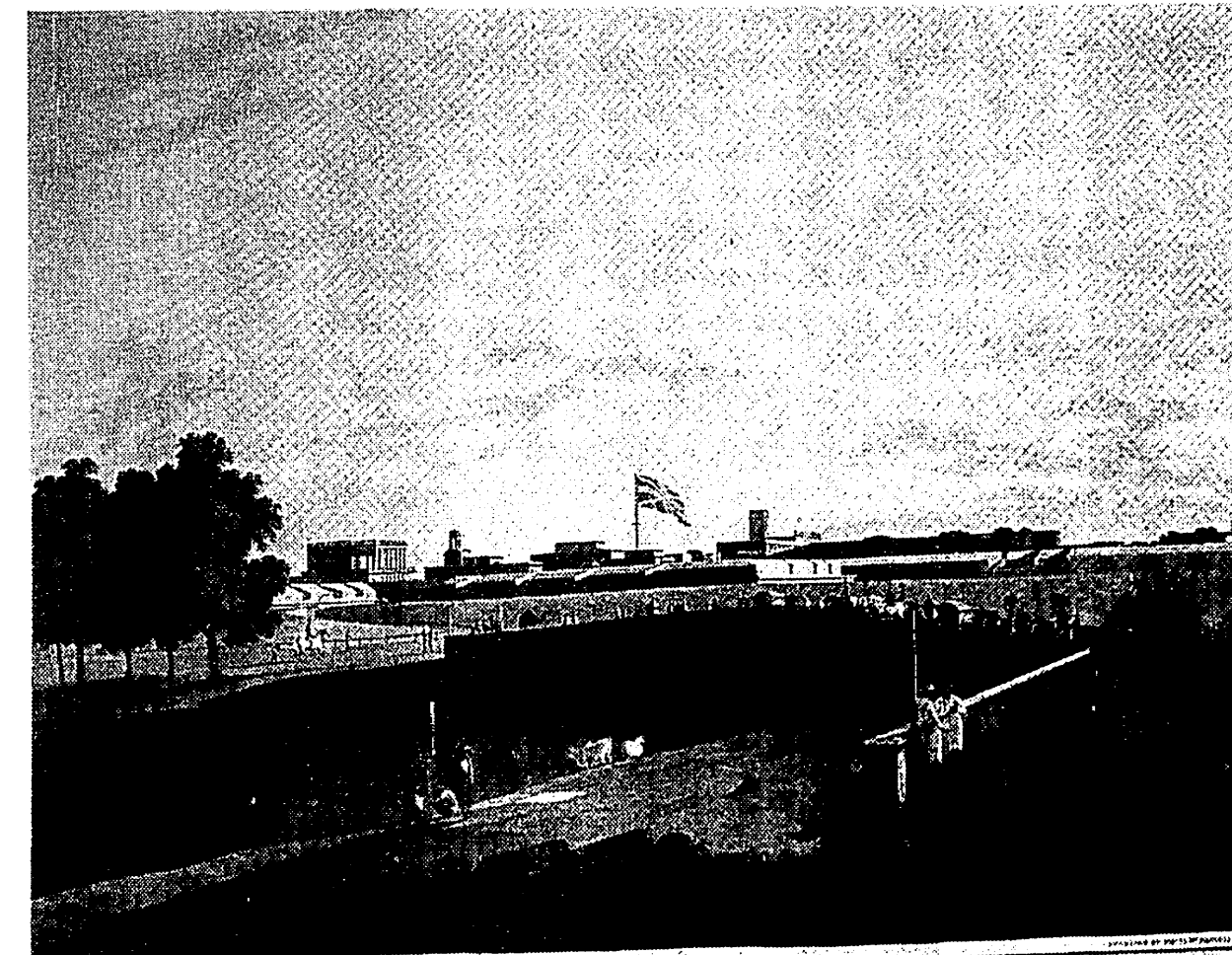
Name

Address

.....

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Note: Overseas postage extra. Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Gulf: Rs. 375/year. US & Europe: Rs 425/year. Cheques payable to M/s. Lokavani Hall-Mark Press.



The Government House, Fort St. George (Abbey 420 no.35; Archer II, pl.9) Western Entrance of Fort St. George (Abbey 420 no.38; Archer II, pl.11) hand-coloured aquatints, March 1798, September 1798 [watermarked 'J. Whatman 1794'], on thin paper, very light occasional spotting to second plate, affecting sky area and plate margin. each P.740x550 mm.

March 1792: "The Government House is within the Fort; here the business of the English East India Company is transacted, but the residence of the Governor is at the distance of a mile and a quarter from Madras." Madras, the first of the important British settlements of the Company, was founded in 1639. Within the small fort, the Government House was erected.

£800-1,200 US\$1,300-1,900

The Assembly Rooms on the Race Ground, near Madras (Abbey 420 no.37; Archer II, pl.11) hand-coloured aquatint, September 1798, [watermarked 'J. Whatman'], on thick paper, very occasional light spotting, not affecting image.

P.532 x 673 mm.

The view of the Race Ground was sketched on their return from their tour in January 1793. The Mount of St. Thomas can be seen in the distance.

£600-800 US\$970-1,300

● It came as a gift to your Editor from Josephine Felton of Gloucester, a heritage buff with old Madras links. It's a gift I'll treasure, this Christie's catalogue of their 'Vision of India' auction held in October 1999 in London. What a treasure of reproductions of old Indian paintings and photographs, mainly of the Raj era, it was!

In 1999, 312 lots of paintings, drawings, water colours, books and paintings and photographs were offered at the sale. In June 1998 a similar auction offered 256 lots and the total value realised (including premium) amounted to £971,825 (over Rs. 6.8 crore!). We didn't receive the 1999 figure.

We publish today a sampling of the material with a Madras focus that is featured in the catalogue. This material includes the following: A note on the Second Tour by the Daniells; the catalogue material on the page featuring the 'Western entrance of Fort St. George'; the catalogue material on the illustration on the Musnud of His Highness the Nabob the Carnatic; and the catalogue note on Gantz's view of Brodie Castle.

- The Editor

Madras at Christie's

The Second Tour by Thomas and William Daniell: "The South", March 1792 to February 1793

The lottery of pictures in Calcutta planned by the Daniells, which was announced on 5 January 1792 and drawn on 1 March 1792, was particularly successful. From the proceeds, the Daniells were free to arrange their second journey on a grander scale. They planned to tour the South of India, an area less well known than Upper India and one that was particularly topical. The Third Mysore War, which broke out in 1790 while the Daniells were in Bhagalpur, was creating enormous interest in Britain. By the time the Daniells were preparing to sail for Madras, Lord Cornwallis, after taking Bangalore and secur-

ing Tipu Sultan's hill-forts, was preparing to attack Seringapatam, Tipu's capital.

On 10 March 1792, the two artists embarked for Madras, where they arrived on 29 March. With a train, this time, of 48 servants, and travelling in two palanquins, they followed the route by which the Grand Army had set out a year before.

Heading west, they passed through Perambur, Kanchipuram and its "most considerable temple", Vellore and its fort, and by the 20th April reached the spectacular Baramahal Hills, arriving in Bangalore via Kolar on 2 May.

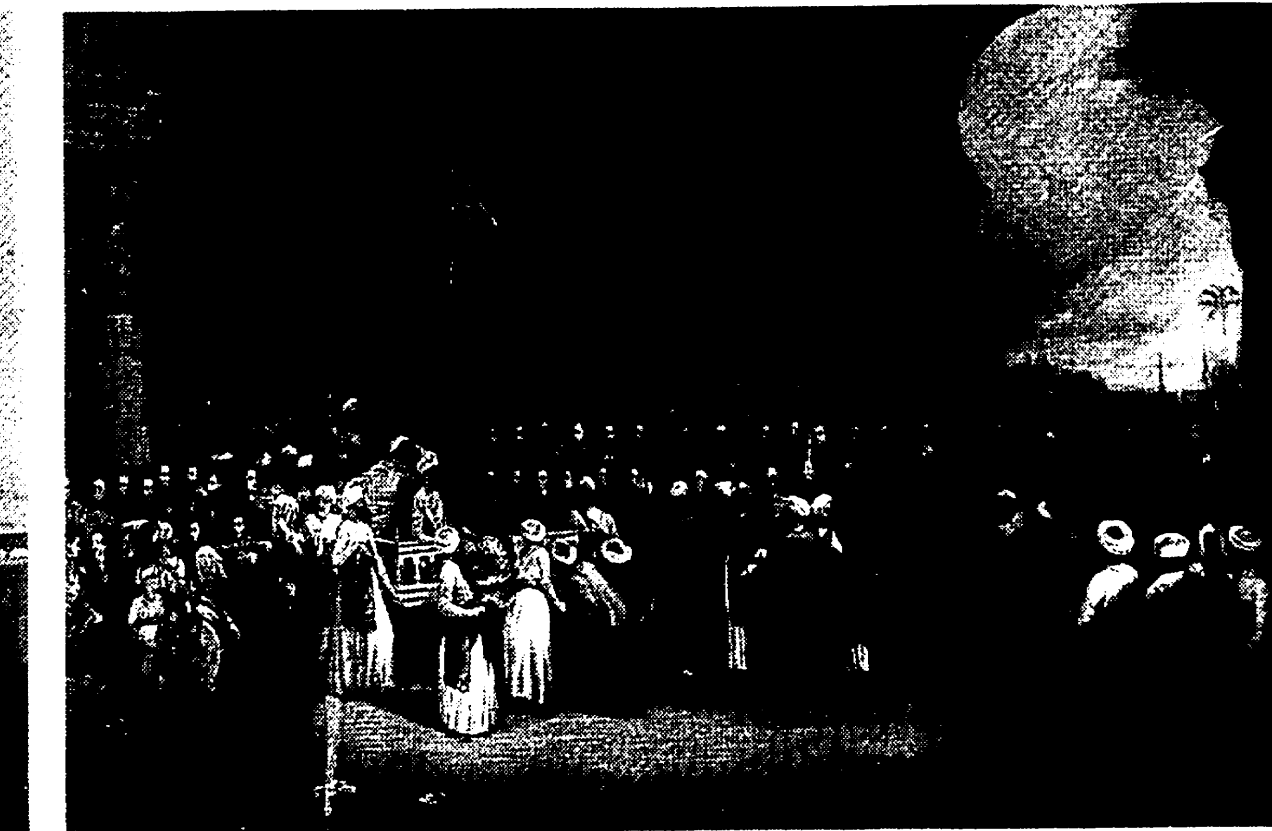
During May, they travelled through the dramatic hilly region south of Bangalore, visiting all the hill-forts recently held against the British by Tipu's forces, among which were Rayakottai, Verapadrug, Jagdeo,

and, most impressive of all, Sankaridrug. The next month was spent visiting picturesque architecture. Arriving in Trichinopoly on 5 June 1792, they then travelled south to Madurai by way of Dindigul and Atura. They arrived at Madurai on 3 July, where they felt overwhelmed by the plethora of temples and palaces such as the Thousand-Pillared Hall. In the next stage of their journey, they moved into territory outside British control, into the Tinnevely district, an area unmapped by Europeans. The scenery, however, was majestic: the hill lines of Srivilliputtur and Sivagiri offered them a perfect background for their sketches, whilst they were deeply impressed by the magnificent waterfalls of Kuttalam and Papanasam. They then made their way to Cape Comorin, returning to Madras

Justinian Gantz (1802-1862)

View of Brodie's Castle, from Mr. Huddleston's Garden, Madras signed and dated 'Just Gantz '52'. (lower centre) and inscribed Brodie Castle from Mr. Huddleston's Garden' (on the reverse)

Pencil, pen and brown ink and watercolour, unframed 10 3/8 x 16 1/2 in. (26.4 x 41.9 cm.) Justinian Gantz was employed as a draughtsman by the East India Company. The family owned a lithographic press in Popham's Broadway, Madras, and also practised as architects. £1,000-1,500 US\$1,700-2,400



Frederick Christian Lewis (1779-1856) and Charles George Lewis (1808-1880) after Frederick Christian Lewis (1813-1875)

The Installation on the Musnud of His Highness the Nabob of the Carnatic, 1842 mezzotint and engraving heightened with bodycolour, published by F.C. Lewis Senior, London, 1845.

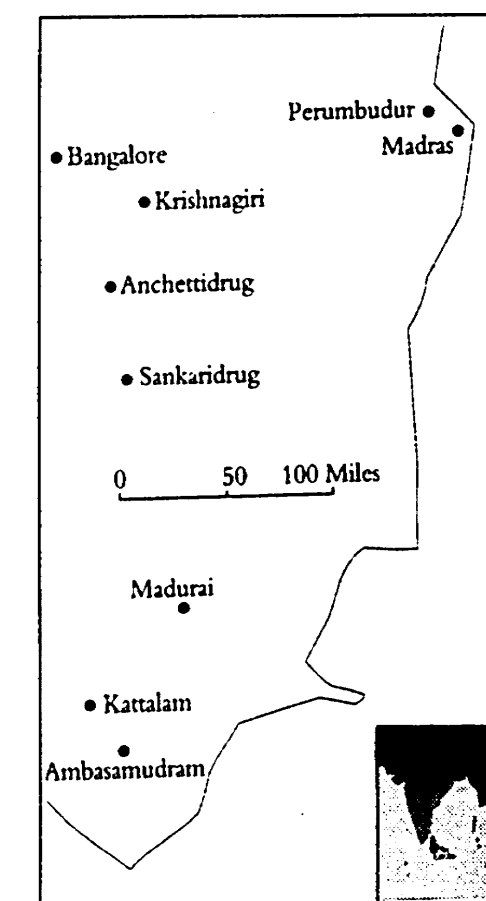
Image : approximately 552 x 715 mm

Framed and glazed, unexamined out of frame

AN EXCEPTIONALLY FINE AND RARE MEZZOTINT BY LEWIS, THIS THE ARTIST'S HEIGHTENED TOUCH-PROOF BEFORE LETTERS. The heightening is almost certainly the work of F.C. Lewis Senior executed possibly with the assistance of his father, F.C. Lewis Senior. Shortly after the former arrived at Madras he was commissioned by the Nabob (or Nawab) to paint in the installation ceremony, which took place at the Chepauk Palace on 25 August 1842. Lewis was paid Rs.5,515 for his work. The painting is now in the Fort Museum. The figures depicted are identified in an engraved keyplate now in the Oriental and Indian Office Library at the British Library. The principal Indians and English are seated to left and right of the Nabob, seated on the Musnud, and among the high ranking officials depicted, from all departments of the colonial administration, are Lord Elphinstone, Governor of Madras, General Sir Robert Clark, Commander-in-Chief, Sir Edward Gambier, Chief Justice, members of the judicial bench, the Board of Revenue, gentlemen agents and residents, and local Indian princes and potentates. The keyplate identifies most of the sitters and notes that those not identified were members of the Nabob retinue and Durbar. C.G. and F.C. Lewis Junior were the second and third sons respectively of F.C. Lewis Senior.

£4,000-6,000

US\$6,500-9,600



along the Eastern Coast. After visiting Ramesvaram, they were very impressed by Tanjore's Brihadisvara's temple.

Continuing North, they passed through Gingee, Mahabalipuram and its richly engraved excavated sanctuaries, and eventually arrived back in Madras in November 1792, where they began reworking their sketches.

A second lottery was advertised in the Madras Courier on 20 and 27 December 1792, and drawn on 18 February 1793. With its 68 oil paintings and 8 drawings, the sale was a great success.

Be good, be kind, his motto

(Continued from last fortnight)

Lodd Govindas, the only son of Krishnadas and Bhagirathi Bai, started his education in a pial school where he learnt Telugu under the guidance of Sheshiah. He joined Govindappa Naicken School and proved a good student. His thirst for knowledge continued and his study was once stacked with 5000 books on various subjects. He translated the Bengali novels *Kasiyathra Charitra* and *Vallabhacharya* into Telugu. His commentaries on Patanjali's *Yogasutras* were considered a great work. He also published books under the banner 'Lodd Govindoss Jnanodaya Series'. They included a *Pilgrim's Guide to Benares*, *Proverbs of Different Nations*, *Radha Rani*, *Gopala Tapani*, *Krishna Upanishads* and *Sreemat Bagavatgita Pandanukramanika*, *Life of Sree Vallabhacharya*, *Sree Krishna Sandhya* and *Sri Jaganatha and Kshetra Mahatmayam*. He was fluent in Gujarati, Marathi, Persian, Malayalam, Urdu and Tamil, apart from Telugu. He learnt Sanskrit and composed Sanskrit *slokas*. He was a *Saptabhasha Pravina*, a title conferred on him by the pundits.

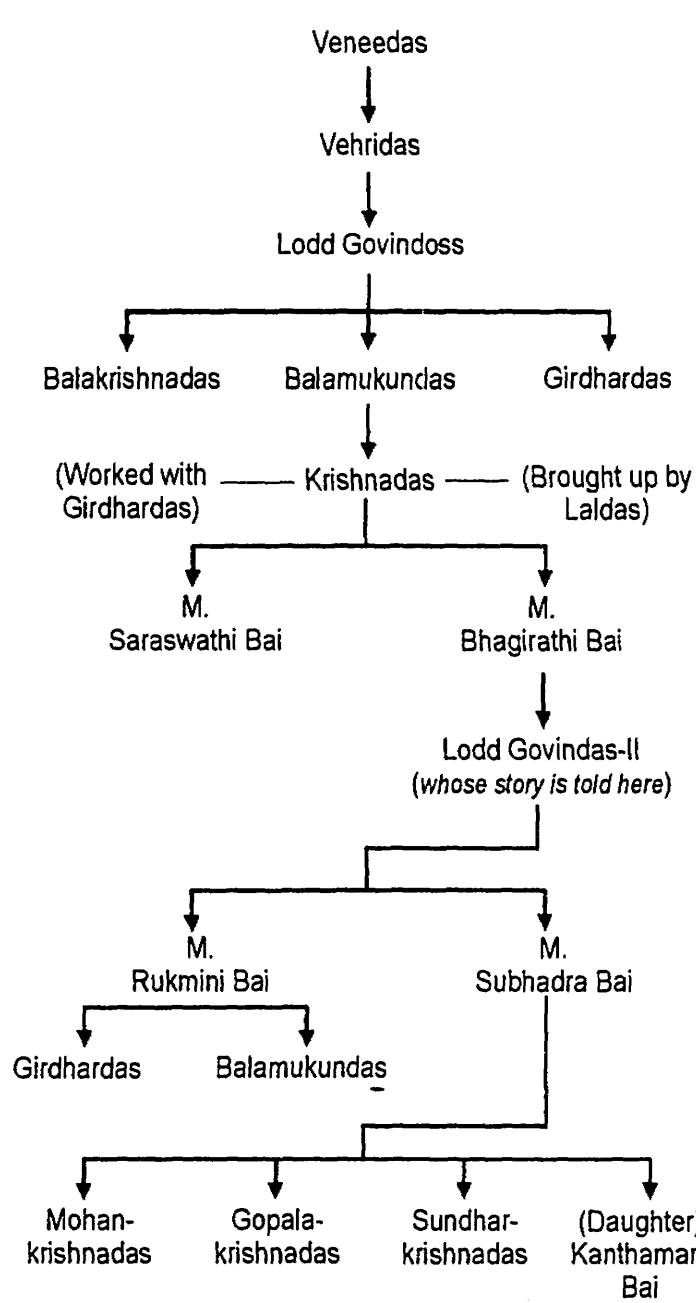
Lodd Govindas was 14 when he married Rukmini Bai in 1887. Rs. 1,25,000 was spent on the wedding. They had two sons, Girdhardas and Balamukundas. Some years after the death of Rukmini Bai, also known as Radha Bai, he married Subhadra Bai. They had three sons, Mohankrishnadas, Gopalakrishnadas, Sundharkrishnadas and a daughter, Kanthamani Bai. Today, the eighth and ninth generations of the family are several in number. But careers have changed with time and many of the younger generation have opted to become professionals.

Lodd Govindas was an active member of the Indian National Congress. He also helped many charities like the Gujarati Boys and Girls School opened in 1899 in Ekamabareswara Agraharam Street, the Lodd Govindas Girls' School started in 1900, and the Gujarat Vernacular Society he started in Ahmadabad. He was a trustee of the Hindu Theological School and funded the Central Hindu College in Benares, paying the staff, apart from making several donations. He also established a Vedic School and the Lodd Govindas Literary Institute in Kancheepuram in 1900, to unify the ideas of the East and West.



The original caption for this picture read "The unique Prapautrotsavam. The happy combination of 4 living generations. Sriman Lodd Govindas with his eldest son Lodd Girdhardas, his eldest grandson Lodd Vijaya Narayandas and his eldest great grandson Lodd Govindkrishnadas (baby) in 1940. (All old photographs copied from Biography of Sriman Lodd Govindas Maharaj, published in 1942.)"

THE FAMILY TREE OF THE LODDS



Note by author: I have not been able to trace fully the 8th and 9th generations.

Lodd Govindas took a great interest in public activities and was the President of the Madras Municipal Corporation. He was also the founder President of the Landlords' Association.

When Lodd Govindas offered to build a hospital for the SPCA, he insisted on one condition, that no animal would be put away there. This was not agreed to and the offer was withdrawn. Nevertheless, he contributed Rs. 10,000 to estab-

lish the Veterinary College. He built several shelters for animals, the first of which Sir George Moore laid the foundation for near the Collector's Office on First Line Beach. He also constructed water troughs for animals in Kancheepuram, Madurai, Trichy, Srirangam, Dindigul, Ooty and Tirupati.

When Arbutnot and Company crashed in 1906, he helped in the setting up of the Indian Bank in 1907, lending

his name as the first director, subscribing Rs. 25,000 and receiving the first share certificate. While V Krishnaswamy Iyer got the support of the Nattukottai Chettiars, he got the Gujarati support and within six months, they had got Rs. 30 lakh subscribed.

He was a keen sportsman and his collection of Arab horses, Australian ponies and Kathiawar horses with yellow eyes reflected his interest in riding. Apart from this, his favourite pastime, he was interested in the flying of kites, cricket, tennis and football. He started an organisation called Dusserah Tournament League in 1896 and it held its inaugural sports meet in People's Park. A member of the Cosmopolitan Club, from 1892, he enjoyed his billiards there. He was associated with the Madras Athletics Association and the South Indian Athletics Association. He also built several choultries, for visitors to Madras. He enjoyed

music and played the *mridhangam*, *tabla* and *dholak*. He learnt Western music and enjoyed dancing. He started the Govinda Guna Gana Sabha Society for musicians in 1899.

Lodd Govindas lived in Mint Street in a palatial house reflecting the Gujarati lifestyle. When he wanted to get away from it all, he would go to *Patter's Gardens*, particularly during the 'Summer'. Among those he entertained here were Swami Vivekananda, Rajahs and Zamindars and the highest officials of the Crown.

It was in *Patter's Gardens* that he constructed a *samadhi* for himself before he died and created a trust to administer it, the Lodd Govindas Samadhi Memorial Trust. He died in 1944 and was buried in the *samadhi*. Tell the Truth, Be Good, Be Kind, was the motto Lodd Govindas left on it.

(Concluded)

Rajind N Christy

VOICES OF CONCERN

(Continued from page 1)

S.K. Sundar Raj, Zoology Department, Madras Christian College. Speaking to *Madras Musings*, he said one of his research students had found 32 different kinds of zooplanktons in the Buckingham Canal and Pulicat Lake. He added that when the students monitored the quality of the water let into the Canal from the North Chennai Thermal Power Station, the temperature of the water was about 40°C. If this continued, it could harm aquatic life in the region and eventually have an impact on the Canal and the Pulicat Lake. The groundwater will also be affected. This was a view echoed by the World Wild Life Fund for Nature-India.

Prof. Sanjeeva Raj points out that Pulicat Lake, north of the Ennore Island where the petroproduct park is proposed to be set up, is an ecologically sensitive place. The Lake, the second largest lagoon in India, is a major wetland and a nursery for prawn, crab and fish. There is also the Pulicat Bird Sanctuary here, which has CRZ 1 rating under the Coastal Management Plan of Tamil Nadu. From Ennore in the south to the mouth of the Lake in the north is also a Sea Turtle breeding site. The Buckingham Canal is an interstate waterway and Andhra Pradesh will undoubtedly also have views on its fate. He feels that effluents let out to the sea would drive the fish several kilometres from shore and the catamaran fishermen will be the losers. He also questioned the wisdom of destroying the biodiversity and then growing an artificial green belt. Another EIA needs to be done by an Inter-Disciplinary Expert Committee before a final decision is taken on the Petroproduct Park, insists Prof. Sanjeeva Raj.

Speaking to *Madras Musings* about the public hearing, Dr. P.J. Sanjeeva Raj of the Centre for Research in The New International Economic Order (CRENIEO) said that the hearing was a step in

the right direction, but while the Executive Summary of the project (see box) was made available to the stakeholders beforehand, the report of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) conducted by NEERI was not. This assessment needs to be assessed, he feels, in the light of studies made by various groups in Chennai, including a team from Madras Christian College.

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Rajind N Christy

Moments of worship at the Akademi

(By a Special Correspondent)

India, with one of the oldest continuous civilisations, and more than six thousand years old, has given birth to four major religions: Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism and Buddhism. The first three have remained cornerstones of Indian thought and development, while the fourth, Buddhism, lost its hold in India as it spread north, east and south into Nepal, Tibet, China, Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka.

Meeting God: Elements of Devotion in India an exhibition to be held from May 18th to June 3rd at the Lalit Kala Akademi, explores the first three: the belief systems of the Hindus, the Jains and the Sikhs, each different in focus, yet drawn together by many similar attitudes and approaches. It features the photography and comments of Dr Stephen P Hayler, an American art histo-

rian and cultural anthropologist. The exhibition's purpose is to inform and provide foreigners with a basis for understanding these three religions and to suggest to Indians some of the underlying common denominators that unify these complex and diverse belief systems. Dr. Hayler has made India his second home. Over the past 28 years he has spent an average of four months each year travelling in the Indian subcontinent conducting a survey of ritual art and culture. A prolific writer and photographer, he has produced four books on the subject. His latest, *Meeting God: Elements of Hindu Devotion*, was just published by Yale University Press in September, 1999, and is intended to complement this exhibition. In an easily approachable and enticing manner, the book describes many of the facets of popular Hinduism, portraying the ways in which this massive religion affects the daily lives of hundreds of millions of people. Most of the images in this exhibition are Hindu, portraying many of the beliefs and rituals of this majority. Both the Jain and Sikh religions are derived in part from Hinduism and they share with it many fundamen-

tal qualities, which are also featured.

Several million adherents to these indigenous Indian faiths live overseas, in the United States and Canada, in the Caribbean, in South America, Britain, Europe, Africa, Australia, and western and eastern Asia. It is unfortunate that many of the underlying tenets and beliefs practised by these people are misunderstood by those of other faiths. The original purpose of the exhibition was to travel to museums throughout the West in order to offer access to a deeper understanding and to pave the way for more empathetic intercultural communication. As the people of India are made increasingly aware of the customs and lifestyles found in the West, it is equally important that Westerners have access to well-balanced information about India and her cultures. If we are to keep pace with international developments (political, social and economic), then we must provide a means for understanding human diversity.

Prayers are pervasive in India, influencing every moment of the day — from rising early to acknowledge the sacred elements at dawn, to honouring the spirits within the tools with which one works, to praying to



Till May 31: 'Affordable Art' (Art for all), an exhibition of paintings, drawings, sculptures and prints by various artists (from all over India). At Vinyasa.

Biotechnology park for women

(By a Special Correspondent)

The M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in collaboration with the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, and TIDCO is establishing a biotechnology park for women in Chennai. The State Government has allotted 20 acres of land for the eco-friendly construction of the biotechnology complex.

Dr Manju Sharma, secretary, DBT, says the primary aim of the project is to train women to make them skilled workers. "The purpose of the programme is to support more women scientists. Eighty per cent of women scientists have taken biology as their career. The park would offer a synergy of all aspects. For women entrepreneurs interested in setting up industrial modules, this is a great opportunity."

The main thrust would be transfer of technology free of cost to women entrepreneurs. Dr Sharma hopes that the success of the project would lead to its implementation in other states. "The proposed park will open up greater avenues for women. The primary aim of the

park is to develop products and technologies through biological resources to generate employment for women. There is a major imbalance in the training arena and through this biotechnology complex, women can be technologically and economically empowered," explains Dr Sharma.

The Biotechnology Park, coming up in suburban Kelambakkam village, near the proposed IT Park, has identified four key areas for research: agricultural biotechnology, food biotechnology, medical biotechnology and quality control.

"Training is an integral part of the programme and will benefit rural women to a greater extent. This is one of the major areas for support from the DBT for fundamental research," says Dr Sharma.

The Park will be governed by a board with Dr Swaminathan as chairman. The project cost is estimated around Rs. 6.5 crore: the DBT has granted Rs. 4 crore and the rest will be mobilised to make the project financially independent.

At present 65 women entrepreneurs have shown a willingness to join the Park as members and producers. These entrepreneurs will set up industrial modules in food biotechnology, floriculture, medical diagnostics, pathological testing facilities, hatcheries for ornamental fish and herbal products — (Courtesy: *Industrial Economist*.)

Footnote: When fully developed, the Biotechnology Park for Women would consist of industrial incubation centres and an ultra-modern multimedia information complex besides quality verification reference laboratory. At present, it has 20 shed modules of 1,000 sq. ft. in 3,000 sq. ft. land and 44 land modules with basic amenities like water and power. The first phase of the park will be ready for occupation in August this year.

The park is being developed with an integrated approach involving technical identification, incubation, dissemination, training and retraining and development of necessary techno-infrastructure through feasibility studies using criteria of value addition and market demand.



In a ritual requesting good health for their children, two Jain men, dressed in the traditional white cotton clothes of devotion, pour holy water from a silver vessel over the solid gold image of the saint Gomateshwara. The ceremony is taking place in one of Jainism's most sacred sites, Shravanabelagola, Karnataka, a temple containing a tenth century colossal stone statue in similar form to the gold image. The enormous size of this statue is indicated by his right big toe seen just behind the two men.

the deities that protect the home from harm at night. The 84 Cibachrome photographs convey the breadth and vitality of the reverential experience in India: within the house, on the roadside, in temples, and in festivals. They enable us to see directly into the heart of belief: that essential moment of worship known as *darshan*, literally translated as 'seeing and being seen by God'. It is that very personal action, individual to each of hundreds of millions of devotees, that enables him or her to shut out the persistent noise, confusion, and demands of life. The photographs leave a lasting impression and a deeper understanding of these religions that are vital to such a large part of humanity in South Asia and overseas.

In 1996, an exhibition entitled *Puja: Expressions of Hindu Devotion*, opened in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian Institution's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery. As co-curator and inceptor of *Puja*, Dr. Huyler chose sacred objects from the reserve collections at the Smithsonian. Working with museum staff, he created a series of shrines to display the images as they were originally intended to be seen, rather than exhibiting them purely as art objects. Members of the local Hindu community, who were involved with every facet of the show, helped to design the shrines, with priests dressing and adorning the sculptures on display. Still on display, *Puja* has received a large popular response, extensive media coverage, and prestigious awards within the field. Sackler Gallery's Education Department published a well-researched teacher's packet that they mailed to hundreds of schools around the country, along with the professional video that was produced for the show. Their staff hosts regular hands-on school programmes at the Museum, while their well-

trained team gives tours through the show to all who are interested.

Puja remains a great success in Washington but the objects are not permitted to leave the museum. In the interest of disseminating the material more widely, Dr. Huyler spent two more years in India gathering more information and photographs. Meeting God is the result of that work, combining strong new documentation with his extensive experience of putting together the show at the Sackler.

In the West, the photographs in this new travelling exhibition are accompanied by twelve interactive wooden shrines interspersed throughout the show, each from a different part of India, each quite different from the next: Hindu, Sikh and Jain. On approaching a shrine, the museum viewer unfastens a latch to open old wooden doors revealing the sacred objects of worship inside. In India, the images in shrines are often luminescent, lighted by lamps, gleaming with oil and intense vermilion, and dressed in iridescent silks and vibrant jewels. These shrines in the Museum convey that luminosity by using large back-lit transparencies of divine images that enable us to feel the consecrated presence. They give us glimpses into the actual experience of *darshan*, of 'meeting God'. As in India, that experience is heightened by the sacred objects used in devotion that are placed in front of the images. Each of these shrines contains the appropriate lamps, offering plates, bowls for holy water and, when appropriate, other sacred sculptures and/or framed prints of deities that relate to the principal image. Together the shrines and framed photographs in the Western travelling exhibition create an entire atmosphere that transports the viewer into the experience of devotion in India. They leave a lasting impression and a deeper understanding of these religions that are vital to such a large part of humanity in South Asia.

The greatest success of the *Puja* show has been in the way it has been embraced and heralded by the Hindu community in the greater Washington area. *Meeting God* was similarly welcomed during its display in Houston, Texas, in the autumn of 1999. As it travels, it is intended to reach out in a similar way to members of all three religions in communities in India and throughout the world. Its purpose is to inform those who know little or nothing about these indigenous cultures of India and to create a place for prideful self-identification for those who have been fortunate enough to grow up in families that adhere to these age-old and innovative traditions.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Our Quizmaster V.V. Ramanan is on holiday. His quiz will be resumed on his return.

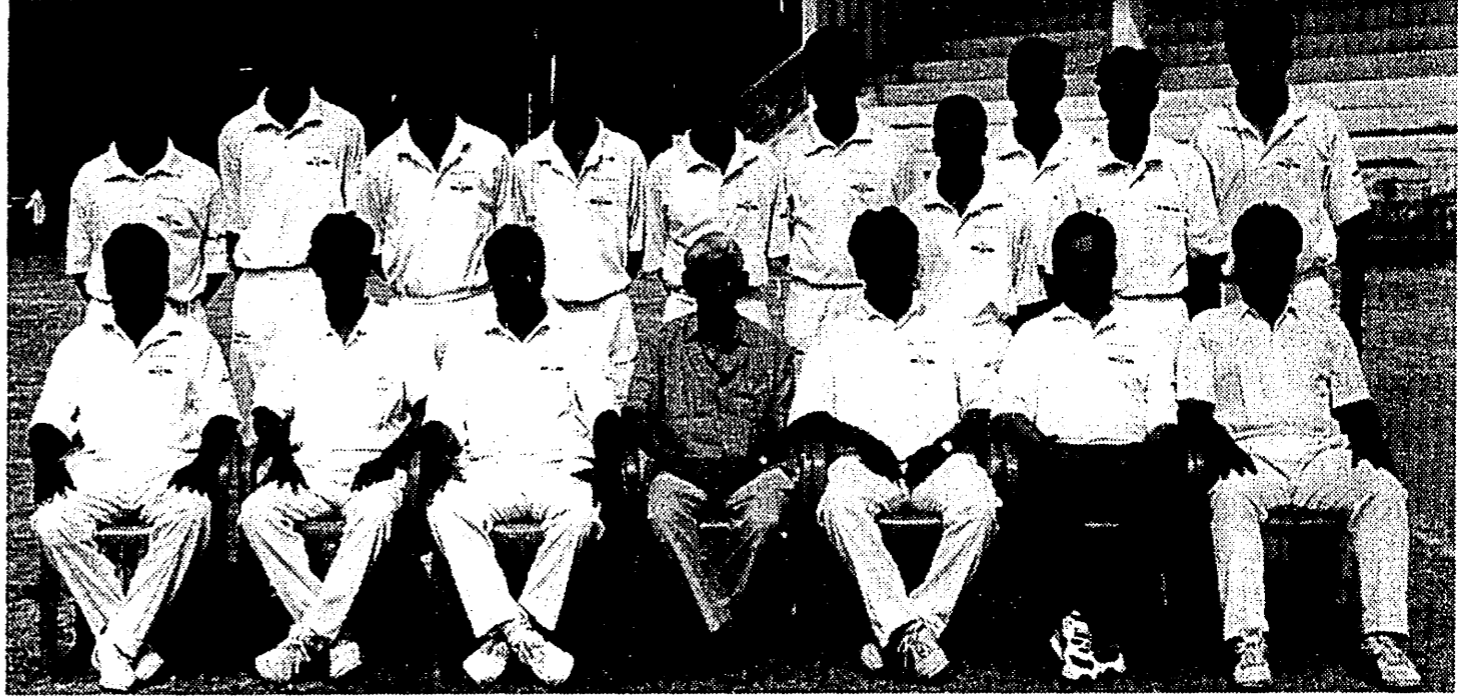
Mosquitos back in big league

Jolly Rovers, Eccentrics, Free Lancers and Bunts are among the more unusual names in the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association league, but none of them can match Mambalam Mosquitos for sheer originality. According to P S Chander, the younger of the two brothers who founded the club in 1944—the late P S Shanker was the other—"it was one of the best instances of selecting an appropriate name. For, not only did all the new club players, according to boxing standards, belong to the mosquito class, their suburb was notorious for the nuisance caused by the ubiquitous, winged, nocturnal visitor."

To old timers, who mourned the exit of Mambalam Mosquitos from the league in 1961 following continued losses of manpower to job opportunities outside Madras, the team's re-entry into the championship some years ago and its steady progress thereafter gave much satisfaction. Its latest success, emerging as the Second Division Champion and earning promotion to the First, is more than satisfying; it is an occasion for rejoicing.

In the past, the Mosquitos had won the Second Division title once, in 1948-1949 and it entered the First Division, where it participated with keen amateur enthusiasm and com-

petitiveness. Among those who brought the team to the senior division were Shanker and Chander, their brother Narasimhan, G Ramanathan, T Ram Shastri, S Balakrishnan and P N Venkatraman, consistent performers all. The youngest of the brothers, P S Babu, has also turned out for the club. Balakrishnan and a later addition, left hander R Raghavan, were members of Balu Alaganan's Ranji Trophy-winning Madras squad. Other Mosquitos to represent the state were K Krishnaswami, T Harihara Shastri, P C Prakash, D Girish and R Venkatesh,



The Mambalam Mosquitos, always a team without great corporate support, has made it BACK to the First Division of the TNCA League after 40 years in lower leagues. The team which won the second division league comprised sitting l-r, S Sivakumar, D Girish, P S Mukund, P S Chander (Secretary), P C Prakash (captain), Premkumar (manager), and R Venkatesh, and, standing, l-r, Sunil C Reddy, L Balaji, C Sanju, E Sundar, J Jayasankar, B Balaji, B Arumugam, Francis Albert, G Venkat Kumar and S Sudarsan. Not a star amongst them!

petitiveness. Among those who brought the team to the senior division were Shanker and Chander, their brother Narasimhan, G Ramanathan, T Ram Shastri, S Balakrishnan and P N Venkatraman, consistent performers all. The youngest of the brothers, P S Babu, has also turned out for the club. Balakrishnan and a later addition, left hander R Raghavan, were members of Balu Alaganan's Ranji Trophy-winning Madras squad. Other Mosquitos to represent the state were K Krishnaswami, T Harihara Shastri, P C Prakash, D Girish and R Venkatesh,

league. Chander has been bravely bearing the financial burden except for the last three seasons, when first HCL Computers and, later, an individual cricket lover who wishes to remain anonymous have sponsored the team.

Mosquitos owes its success to its sensible blend of youth and experience. Former IOB all-rounder T S Mukund has been

easier than staying there. The absence of Prakash, a recent emigrant to the US and the expected unavailability of Girish owing to his professional commitments, will be severe blows. To attract young recruits in competition with companies will be next to impossible. Even in the Second Division, Mosqui-

tos had to pay as much as Rs 3,000 a month to some of its players. It will be a familiar tale if the club struggles to retain its place in the First Division, but with the kind of commitment Chander and friends have shown, Mambalam Mosquitos may yet surprise us all.

● by V. Ramnarayan

the last three assisting the team in the season just concluded. Ram Shastri played for Orissa and S Lokender for Hyderabad in the national tournament.

No praise can be too high for the determination with which the Club has fought its way through the league in recent years, given the difficulties confronting private clubs struggling to stay afloat. If running a club is an expensive proposition, with bats costing upwards of Rs 5,000 each, retaining players is even more difficult, as the better ones are grabbed by companies which offer them handsome salaries to represent them in the

in the forefront of the club's bowling attack with his effective leg spin and R Venkatesh has an excellent foil with his off spin. The accomplished P C Prakash, Chander's son, has been commitment personified while his brother-in-law D Girish is another senior among the runs. Among the younger batsmen C. Sanju of Kerala and medium pacer Francis Albert have performed well.

After the initial excitement of qualifying for the senior league after a gap of thirty years, Chander is a worried man, because he knows that entering the first division is

CALL TO SAVE ADYAR CREEK

(Continued from page 1)

More recently, during the past two months, there has been large scale dumping of debris in the Creek and the wetlands around it. This will lead to eventual filling up of the area, which will then be built upon. A road is being laid along the bank of the Creek which will be disastrous for the ecosystem. Mangroves (both natural and planted) are being affected in the process.

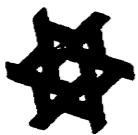
The Society wonders what has happened to the Public Interest suit filed by a citizens' group in the High Court against construction activities in the Creek area.

The Society has, as a first

step, launched a massive Letter Writing Campaign, with letters to be sent to the heads of state, ministers for environment and senior bureaucrats. The print medium and the mass media are also being sensitised to the value of the Adyar Creek and its biodiversity.

The Adyar Creek supports about 70 different species of flora and many species of insects. Over 200 species of migratory birds were once recorded in the Creek area. Today, the numbers have come down alarmingly to less than 100. The Creek also served as a spawning ground for aquatic life. It also helped in recharging the ground water. It was, above all, a flood mitigator.

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