

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS

MUSINGS

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INTACH identifies more heritage sites

(By A Staff Reporter)

There was consensus at a recent meeting of the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority's Heritage Advisory Committee chaired by Chief Town Planner and Member, CMDA, Ananda Ranjana Doss, on the Heritage Regulations for the Metropolitan Area drawn up by CMDA planners with inputs from representatives of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, (INTACH) Tamil Nadu Chapter. Doss announced that these regulations would be placed before the CMDA board for approval and adoption at the earliest.

Meanwhile, the Committee has drawn up a list of 157 landmark buildings that will become protected buildings as soon as the Regulations come into force. Most of these are public buildings or buildings belonging to institutions. Several precincts are also listed for protection. In the case of precincts,

both the buildings as well as the campus they are a part of will come under the purview of the Regulations. A number of monuments and natural features in the City have also been listed.

INTACH has recommended that further 39 buildings, precincts and natural features be added to this list. As all these are in line with the first recommendations, their inclusion in the first list is likely, *Madras Musings* learns. Meanwhile, the Committee has taken up the grading of the heritage buildings, precincts and natural features according to the guidelines for gradings formulated by INTACH India, which have been accepted wherever in India Heritage Regulations have already come into force.

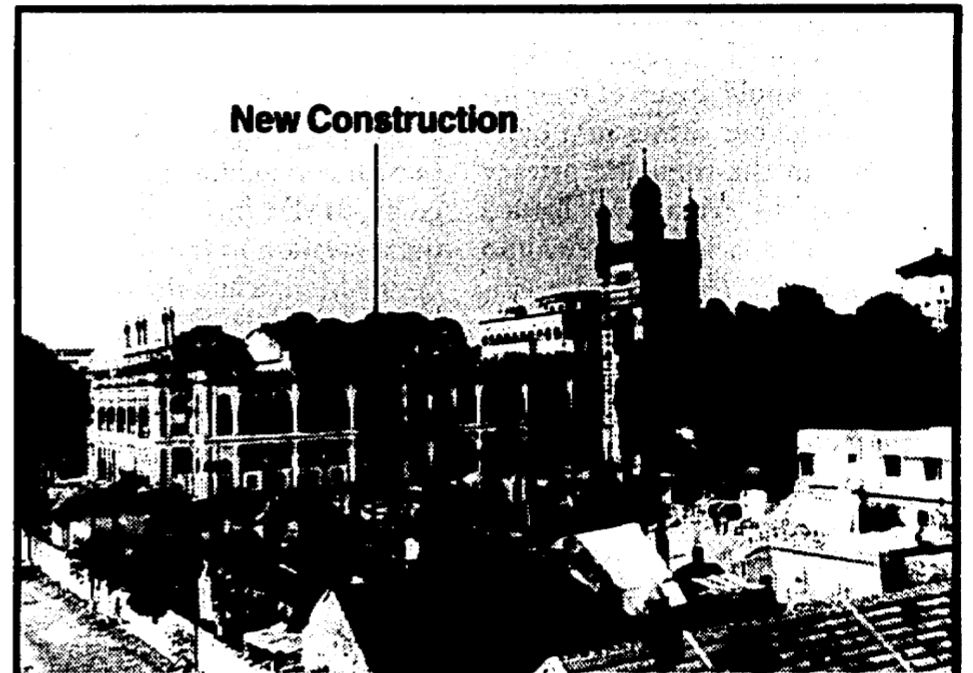
Gradings are based on an assessment of the national and local importance of the building or precinct, its architectural

style, design and materials and methods of construction used. The three Heritage Grades are as follows:

Heritage Grade I: Buildings and precincts of national or historic importance associated with great historic events. Careful preservation and changes to the buildings will be permitted in the interest of strengthening the building for a long lease of life. Minimal changes to the building will be allowed in accordance with the original. All Natural Sites will also fall under this category.

Heritage Grade II: Buildings and precincts of regional and local importance, which contribute to the identity of the region. Extension and addition in harmony are allowed in terms of height and facade.

Heritage Grade III: Buildings and precincts of townscapes, which determine the character of the locality, and are representative of a



The time to act is now

The more the proposed Heritage Regulations are delayed, the greater the danger to heritage precincts and buildings in the City. A typical example of the danger is what is happening in the Chepauk Palace precincts.

The first building in the country to be built in the Indo-Saracenic style, this late 18th Century palace has to be a Heritage Grade 1 building by any standard. Over the last few decades the authorities have been degrading the precinct little by little. Not only has the building not been tended for decades, but every vacant space in its grounds has been built over in a variety of styles. The most recent bit of de-

structive construction was the Department of Agriculture's new building which has hidden what little was left of the front of the Palace.

After that bit of thoughtless construction, it was reasonable to expect that the only striking view of the Palace left, the rear view, would be spared. Apparently that's been hoping for too much; work on building new highrise in what little space there was at the back has begun, and the last view of the splendour of Chepauk Palace is likely to soon vanish.

Isn't there something the CMDA Heritage Advisory Committee can do to stop this construction running wild?

lifestyle of a particular community or region. Extensions and additional buildings are allowed, but these should be in harmony with and not detract from the existing building.

Madras Musings today publishes on page 6 a list of heritage

buildings, precincts and natural features which, it learns, are likely to be protected under the CMDA's Heritage Regulations. Also published with this list are the additional recommenda-

(Continued on page 6)

Swift Sanmar action saves Manali

(By A Special Correspondent)

Madras Musings recently learnt how the toxic leak in Manali (MM, May 1st) could have been much worse than it was. It was timely action by Sanmar Speciality Chemicals Limited (SSCL) that prevented a serious situation developing for a two kilometre radius in Manali.

SSCL's prompt measures helped avert the toxic chemical leak from 76 drums containing

ethyl chloroformate imported from PPG Industries Inc., USA, and stored in a Customs bonded warehouse at Manali. In mid-March, when the drums began to bulge, it became clear that the product was undergoing decomposition, posing a potential hazard to the whole neighbourhood. A major leak could have caused eye irritation, respiratory problems and even fatalities.

An expert team from PPG which flew in, sought local help to carry out the operation necessary to render the chemical harmless, but found to its surprise that there was no active emergency response group like the governmental agencies in the developed world. The PPG team met the Secretary (Public) to the Government of Tamil Nadu and apprised him of the position. The Collector of

Tiruvallur then convened a meeting of all chemical majors in Manali. ARL Chemicals Ltd., a subsidiary of SSCL, which attended the meeting offered to assist PPG in neutralising the hazardous product.

SSCL and ARL personnel accompanied by PPG representatives succeeded in depressurising the drums to mitigate the danger.

After the depressurisation, 21 drums were loaded on to a refrigerated container and the loaded drums were moved to Sanmar's Alathur facility amidst police security after midnight (0030-0330 hours) when there was less traffic and disturbance on the route.

A team then arrived from Boots and Coots, USA, specialists in refinery fire mitigation,

(Continued on page 8)

A beach no longer a city's pride

When was the last time you heard the proud boast that the Marina was one of the best beaches in the world, in fact the second longest? It was the one place the harassed city dweller could go to in the evening, to enjoy the cool breeze, the calming sound of ocean waves, look at the stars, and generally unwind after a hard day's work. Children would run about excited by the vast playing space, or shriek with delight standing on the shore when the waves played come-and-go with them. Young couples would dream of their futures together sitting in a quiet corner in the romantic privacy provided by catamarans hauled ashore after their fishing trips into the sea. The less fortunate visitors from dingy little homes would linger long after dusk, reluctant to end the only pleasure they could afford. Smart little boys who went to school by the day augmented their family income by selling the most delicious *thenga-manga-pattani sundal*. The play area with its swings and slides was a popular spot with children thoroughly enjoying some vigorous fun. Married couples recharged their batteries inhaling lungfuls of fresh air, before they went back to the daily grind. The occasional street theatre group entertained curious bystanders, who often stayed on entranced.

The intrepid morning walkers were a particularly fascinating sight with their sheer numbers and variety — from super fit young athletes through obese over forties pounding the sidewalk, risking bursitis or worse, to ramrod straight septuagenarians.

Over the years, *The Man From Madras Musings* was an onlooker intrigued and moved by the human drama that unfolded before his eyes day in and day out on the Marina. He had to be inhuman not to feel elated and uplifted by the sheer pleasure and air of well being of it all. But it was too good to last; like many of the good things that the gracious city he knew and cherished had lost to mindless development, the Marina as he knew it was fast becoming a thing of the past. True, all the players were still there, but the play was gradually assuming the inevitability of Greek tragedy, reminding him of the Bishop's lament: "Where every prospect pleases, only man is vile." Only here, man is so vile that he is determined to deface and disfigure the very nature that refreshes and invigorates him. *MMM* muses, every time a new pollutant invades the Marina.

A stinking stench

Where else in the world will the residents of a city dump their litter on the shores of such a magnificent stretch of beach as the Marina? Or let out toxic industrial effluents, polluting the waters to hazardous levels and killing marine life indiscriminately? As a recent report in *The Hindu*

pointed out, "all the garbage thrown the previous evening, including vegetable rot and peels, garlands, half-eaten corn pods, broken *matka* pots, chappals, waste paper, plastic bags, covers and even sheets, shredded balloons, disposable coffee and ice cream cups, broken glass, blades and more, will be washed ashore early in the morning."

The smells of the Marina are a combination of those of the sea air, fish, food vegetarian and non-vegetarian, emanating from its many food stalls, and the one odour that sets apart our open public places, that of faeces, both human and animal. As the years have gone by, *MMM* finds a heartbreaking escalation in the stench level on the Marina and the rest of the Chennai coastline.

Children can no longer use the swings and slides without fear of injury, because most of them are in a shocking state of disrepair. The slides are a positive hazard as they are full of ragged edges capable of bruising and infecting their young users. The swings lack seats and the more daring children, invariably fisherfolk living nearby, get their recreation by swinging Tarzan style from these aerial adventitious roots in metal. No parent seeking peace of mind will let his or her child use these ill-maintained play areas.

The territory of the morning walker, that hardy perennial, is getting diminished by the day, *MMM* notes with concern. Encroachments now confine most strolls, jogs or brisk walks to that short stretch between two statues — the Triumph of Labour and Mahatma Gandhi's.

To arrest this slide towards environmental and aesthetic disaster, *MMM* feels that the Corporation should mount a serious campaign inculcating in the citizenry pride in their beach, educate vendors and their clients on the importance of depositing refuse at places earmarked for them for subsequent disposal and not anywhere they like, and take punitive measures on a sustained basis against those using the beach as a toilet. Making the users realise that keeping the Marina clean and beautiful is both a duty and a matter of pride is more important than all the cosmetic embellishments to lawns and pavements.

Education for life

Education is the key, *The Man From Madras Musings* has always felt, to get people to act in a socially responsible manner and function as members of a team rather than as individual islands, fiercely possessive about material wealth and inconsiderate to the

needs of the community. He has long held the view that our education system is bereft of the elements necessary to turn out good citizens or indeed sensible practitioners of enlightened self-interest. In short it is woefully lacking in content aimed at imparting and enhancing life skills. He was therefore delighted to learn of a new initiative launched by a city educational institution — Ashram, the school run by Latha Rajnikanth.

Recently launched was The Ashram Specialised Curriculum (TASC), a stream that runs parallel to the regular curriculum of the school, but which is run independently, without seeking affiliation to any board or university. What is being attempted is an amalgam of academic skills, practical and vocational training, "learning through inference and case studies and shaping natural skills and abilities." The school is quite prepared to include any new subject that may be of interest to students, even if there is only one candidate for the subject.

TASC stream students — from Standard VI to XII — can appear along with other candidates appearing for an entrance exam to a four year undergraduate course developed as part of the TASC programme by Ashram School, *MMM* learns.

The undergraduate course is designed to develop a student's personality fully and help him evolve as a well-rounded human being, rather than as the readymade clerk supplied by the prevailing system. All this is nothing new to India, *MMM* knows. It is what J Krishnamurti's 'Education Without Fear', encouraging enquiring minds rather than teaching by coercion and suppression of all original thinking, prescribed. It is what that pioneer of children's education, Maria Montessori, felt when she considered the child well and truly father of the man. What gratifies *MMM* is the news that 16 students, including at least one Corporation School product, and two from the TASC undergrad programme, their parents encouraging them to take part in an experiment unsupported by any university, because they believe that the kind of education offered is more meaningful than the conventional system. *MMM*, however, hopes that while imparting good ethical values and making civic and environmental awareness one of the core purposes of the curriculum, it does not forget the need for practical utility.

Further and said that the quality movement in companies should be a passion, not merely a response to competition. He cited the example of the magnificent Big Temple of Thanjavur, whose builders did not need the external stimulus of competition to impel them towards excellence. Admirable as this advocacy of excellence for its own sake is, *MMM* could not help wondering if competition among the best companies in India and abroad was not the only way of improving the quality of our roads when A Ramakrishna, President (Corporate) of Larsen & Toubro's ECC Group, lamented the practice of giving away road construction contracts to different contractors kilometre by kilometre. He demanded a revolution in road construction, while accepting the award of Outstanding Organisation on behalf of ECC. Even as Chennai is basking in the euphoria of some of its flyovers being completed on time, *MMM* will only be reflecting the majority view when stressing the vastness of the task of improving the condition of our roads and streets that are in gross disrepair everywhere, while at the same time paying attention to an ecological balance. For that will need an army of large and small companies and individuals with the quality aware-

Quality people

That Indian industrialists are becoming more quality con-

scious is a heartening aspect of the changing business environment post economic liberalisation. It is a matter of considerable pride for Tamil Nadu that so many of its captains of industry are determined to make their enterprises world class companies and insist on excellence at all levels of labour and management.

Two scions of the TVS family, Venu Srinivasan of Sundaram Clayton, and Suresh Krishna of Sundram Fasteners, for instance, have won international awards of excellence. *The Man From Madras Musings* is happy to learn that a third member of the TVS family, K Mahesh, CMD of Sundaram Brake Linings, has recently been adjudged the Outstanding Quality Man by the National Institution for Quality and Reliability (NIQR).

Accepting the award, Mahesh welcomed competition from abroad, a welcome change from the pleas by industry in the past for level playing fields and some measure of protectionism. Only exports would make Indian industry more and more quality-conscious and the accent should increasingly, therefore, be on exports, Mahesh added. Chief Guest at the awards function, R. Seshasayee, Managing Director of Ashok Leyland, went one step

ness of Sundaram Brake Linings, ECC, and the other two award winners, Alpump (Best Small Scale Industry) and Peter Martin Roy of Anna University (NIQR Student Award), *MMM* feels.

Sri Lanka, again

The Man From Madras Musings is only too aware of the apathy shown by the majority of us to the ramifications of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, particularly to the endemic inflow of refugees. The recent release of a book entitled *Between Fear and Hope: Sri Lankan Refugees in Tamil Nadu* was a timely reminder of the grimness of the problem to posturing politicians and members of the general public who take one or the other side in the Sri Lankan tragedy, based on ignorance and prejudice rather than an empathetic understanding of the problem.

The book "contains a series of inter-related chapters on the global refugee phenomenon and the Indian experience...and the causes and consequences of the Sri Lankan presence in India." Both in the book and during a recent discussion on it at the Madras Book Club, the authors stressed the need for the enactment of a refugee law "which reflects humanitarian concerns about the refugees as well as the security interests of the Indian State". According to Prof Suryanarayan, a specialist in South and Southeast Asian studies, there could be an influx of refugees into Tamil Nadu if Jaffna fell to the LTTE, non-LTTE Tamils being the first to arrive. When the Chief of Mission in India of UNHCR, Augustine Mahiga supported the enactment of a new law for refugees, to provide a consistent method of dealing with the refugee problem instead of the present ad hocism, *MMM* could not agree more with him. *MMM* knows only too well the plight of the refugees already here, who are still covered under the Foreigners Act of 1946!

In brief

★ *The Man from Madras Musings* will be watching keenly the Tamil Nadu Government's plans to introduce computer education in higher secondary schools throughout the State. Some 1200 schools will benefit from a scheme which will involve a number of players besides government-established computer training institutes, software and hardware vendors, network solutions providers and even Intel. The IT training firms that will run these computer centres will also be allowed to take in outside students after school hours. These centres will also act as nodes in the community Internet access project of the State government. Here is one instance of industry-institution-government interaction that can bring about an IT revolution in the State. *MMM* keeps his fingers crossed.

MMM

OUR READERS WRITE



Mosquito control

In the World Health Report, 1998, *Life in the 21st Century — A Vision for All*, Mr Hiroshi Nakajima, Director General, WHO, observed that, "The desire for a healthier and better world in which to live our lives and raise our children is common to all people and all generations".

The report also observed that "the occurrence of major vector-borne diseases is closely related to naturally existing environmental conditions. Government policies and programmes which will vary according to the prevailing value system, change the direction and/or magnitude of driving forces and can therefore alleviate or exacerbate a broad array of environmental health trends".

In this backdrop, the reported statement by our Health Minister that the recommendations on mosquito control by the expert committee formed last year, would be implemented during the next financial year after proper study is disappointing.

While almost every locality of our City is reeling under the menace of mosquitoes, thanks to the reckless use of carry bags that clog the sewers, poor sanitation, uncovered septic tank pipes and what not, should we wait for the next financial year for something to be attempted to contain the deadly mosquitoes?

Though the initiative of our Government in constituting an expert committee to control mosquitoes needs to be lauded, Government should act, right now, without delay.

V. Rajagopalan
Flat-F, Bagmar Flat
20, 8th Street Extn.
New Colony
Adambakkam
Chennai 600 088.

GOs in Tamil script

Should not the Tamil Nadu GOs be in Tamil script as well as in Roman script too along with English? The language of the High Courts and the Supreme Court is English only. If English is made the national language of India, the entire vexatious language issue could be solved for all times.

Moreover, textbooks have to be written in the vernacular. Till such time, let us continue with English, which will soon be the universal world language.

Let us not be foolish and discard English at our peril.

C.A. Reddi
57, Rundalls Road
Vepery, Chennai 600 007.

Save the estuary

A visitor to the Vedanthangal bird sanctuary, while generally appreciating the facilities, has suggested that binoculars be made available to the tourists who would not mind paying for their temporary use.

In such locations in foreign countries, coin-operated binoculars

are available that can be used by visitors. These binoculars are fixed to pedestals at appropriate locations. The binoculars can be moved sideways, upwards and downwards. Upon the insertion of a coin the slots of the binoculars open and remain open for a minute or two.

The authorities may consider installing such binoculars after getting them fabricated locally or importing them if necessary. This will enable tourists to get a close-up view of the birds and may encourage more visitors to the sanctuary.

This idea may be considered for the Adyar estuary. Presently there is a proposal to develop the Elphinstone Bridge (the old Adyar Bridge) into a promenade. This proposal has been pending for a long time but has not taken off due to lack of sponsorship. Hopefully, coin-operated binoculars will encourage more people to visit the area and result in saving the Adyar estuary.

MM has reported on this issue in great detail. It is for us, the people, to save Adyar estuary. How nice it would be if the area could be developed into a mini-Vedantangal.

B. Gautham
122 Wallajah Road
Chennai 600 002.

Roads get narrower

Chennai now has a large number of flyovers. Are they going to be useful to road users?

Crores of rupees spent on this project might have been utilised for broadening major roads instead of making wide roads narrower, as in the case of the Royapettah and Cathedral Road flyovers.

Visu
29, Swamy Pillai Street
Triplicane
Chennai 600 005.

Advice wanted

Ours is a housing complex with 24 families and we always face a water problem. Rainwater harvesting will indeed be of great help to us.

We would like to have details regarding rainwater harvesting, how to go about it, the approximate cost involved, etc.

Mrs. J. Edwards
Secretary
Vishwashanthi Apartments
Residents' Association
75, LDG Road
Little Mount, Saidapet
Chennai 600 015.

Editor's Note: *Madras Musings* will be happy to publish in its columns the names and addresses of those who could provide the public with above information and help with water harvesting.

Metrowater's strange ways

Valasaravakkam on the outskirts of the city is blessed with abundant ground water. Senior residents of this *panchayat* who have been residing here for over thirty years say that even during the drought years of the early eighties or late seventies, their wells did not

You, I and India

You say that our government is inefficient.

You say that our laws are too old.

You say that the municipality does not pick up the garbage.

You say that the phones don't work, the railways are a joke, the airline is the worst in the world, mails never reach their destination.

You say that our country has been left to the dogs and is the absolute pits.

You say, say and say. What do you do about it?

Take a person on his way to Singapore. Give him a name — yours. Give him a face — yours. You walk out of the airport and you are at your international best. In Singapore, you don't throw cigarette butts on the roads or eat in the stores. You are as proud of their underground links as they are. You pay \$5 to drive through Orchard Road (equivalent of Mahim Causeway or Pedder Road) between 5 pm and 8 pm. You come back to the parking lot to punch your parking ticket if you have overstayed in a restaurant or a shopping mall irrespective of your status and identity. In Singapore, you don't say anything. You do.

In Dubai, you wouldn't dare to eat in public during Ramadan.

In Jeddah, you would not dare to go out without your head covered.

In London, you would not dare to bribe an employee of the telephone exchange at 10 pounds a month to "see to it that my STD and ISD calls are billed to someone else".

In Washington, you would not dare to speed and then tell the traffic cop, "Do you know who I am? I am so and so's son. Take your two bucks and get lost".

On the beaches of Australia and New Zealand, you wouldn't chuck an empty coconut shell anywhere other than the garbage pail.

go dry. Large pumpsets used to run continuously to irrigate the paddy fields in the sixties and earlier. All this should give an idea of the vast ground water potential of the locality. Even now almost all the residents of this area are dependent on their wells to meet their water requirements, though in some colonies for drinking purposes they draw water from Metrowater supplied via Sintex tanks. Huge multi-storey complexes have come up and even they draw ground water. It is true that ground water got contaminated in some locations of this township mainly because of the effluents of a nearby brewery being pumped and also because of the so-called fishpond of Udayar. Both these sources of contamination have since been stopped and it is expected that the ground water is likely to improve over time in these places.

Why don't you spit paan on the streets of Tokyo?

Why don't you use examination jockeys or buy fake certificates in Boston?

We are still talking of the same you.

You, who can respect and conform to a legal system in other countries, cannot in your own.

You who will throw papers and cigarettes on the road the moment you touch Indian ground.

If you can be an involved and appreciative citizen in an alien country, why can't you be the same here in India?

Once in an interview, a famous ex-Municipal Commissioner of Bombay, said: "Rich people's dogs are walked on the streets to leave their affluent droppings all over the place. And then the same people turn around to criticise and blame the authorities for inefficiency and dirty pavements. What do they expect the officers to do? Go down with a broom every time their dog feels the pressure in his bowels? In America, every dog owner has to clean up after his pet has done the job. Same in Japan. Will the Indian citizen do that here?"

He's right.

We go to the polls to choose a government and after that, forfeit all responsibility. We sit back wanting to be pampered and expect the government to do everything for us whilst our contribution is totally negative. We expect the government to clean up, but we are not going to stop chucking garbage all over the place nor are we going to stoop to pick up a stray piece of paper and throw it in the bin.

We expect the railways to provide clean bathrooms, but we are not going to learn the proper use of bathrooms.

We want Indian Airlines and Air India to provide the best of food and toiletries, but we are not going to stop pilfering at the least opportunity.

With the city facing a severe water shortage and the storages at dangerously low levels due to the failure of the monsoons, we expect Metrowater authorities to make the best use of the resources available like ground water. But strange are the ways of our authorities! In Valasaravakkam, they have built huge storage tanks of a million litres capacity and massive overhead tanks to bring Krishna water to the residents of this *panchayat* and are maybe others too. On enquiry, we are told that the ground water is unsuitable. It is not known if tests have been done on ground water samples from different areas to ascertain quality. What can be so wrong with the ground water (at present being used by most of the residents) that cannot be treated by flocculation, filtration and chlorination, methods well known to the

water supply department to make it potable? The residents wonder why such huge tanks are installed, at astronomical costs. Will the authorities wake up and make use of the ground water potential of this area?

What is worrying at present is that the ground water is being drained off at a fast rate using big pumps to flush out the tanks and the long pipelines. The pumps are running continuously and we are concerned that precious ground water is being wasted. Till Metrowater is ready to supply water to us we are dependent on our ground water, maybe even after that, as we are never sure of supplies from Metro water.

When it comes to burning social issues like those related to women, dowry, girl child and others, we make loud drawing room protestations and continue to do the reverse at home. Our excuse? "It's the whole system which has to change, how will it matter if I alone forego my son's rights to a dowry?"

So, who's going to change the system? What does a system consist of? Very conveniently for us, it consists of our neighbours, other households, other cities, other communities and the government. But definitely not you and I!

When it comes to actually making a positive contribution to the system, we lock ourselves along with our families into a safe cocoon and look into the distance at countries far away and wait for a Mr. Clean to come along and work miracles for us with a majestic sweep of his hand.

Or we leave the country and run away. When New York becomes insecure, we run to England. When England experiences unemployment, we take the next flight out to the Gulf. When the Gulf is warstruck, we demand to be rescued and brought home by the Indian Government. After a six-month holiday during which derogatory comments about India and Indians are made and sheepishly accepted, we are ready to leave for Australia because their old age benefits and pension schemes are lucrative.

Bribery, tax evasion, unethical business, unethical practices, etc., have not reached the same dimensions anywhere as in India, thanks to each citizen's sense of involvement with the country. Everybody is out to abuse the country. Nobody thinks of feeding the system. Our conscience is mortgaged to money.

Ask what we can do for India and not what India can do for us.

Let's do what India needs from us.

S. Jagadisan
48A, Tarachand Nagar
Virugambakkam
Chennai 600 092.

R. Jayaram
Plot 102, Ramakrishna Nagar
Chennai 600 087.

The poet and the scientist

I was recently reading some poems by Laurence Hope, who has been mentioned on a number of occasions in *MADRAS MUSINGS* in the past. Laurence Hope was the pseudonym adopted by Mrs. Flora Adila Nicholson, whose husband, a general, retired in Madras.

Her best love lyrics from India were brought together and published in *The Garden Of Kama* in 1901. The majority of the British writers on India during the days of the Raj attempted to render the East (India etc) in terms of the West. But Laurence Hope was a true poet like Sir Alfred Lyall who wrote a beautiful poem called 'Shiva'. Laurence Hope wrote immortal verse on India and Indian scenes. She understood the real soul and spirit of India and succeeded in truly interpreting the Indian mind. In her poetry there is fervour and to spare; passion beats and palpitates in almost every line; the feeling is vigorous and irresistible. There is a fresh open-air spirit about it which is natural and compelling.

She brings to her task a considerable command over various rhythms and a delicate gift of melody and sensuous beauty. Here are a few lines called 'Till I Wake'

When I am dying, lean over me tenderly, softly,
Stoop, as the yellow roses droop in the wind from the South

So I may when I wake, if there be an Awakening,
Keep, what lulled me to sleep, the touch of your lips on my mouth.

Mathew Arnold was right when he said that all great literature is a true criticism of life. Like all creative writers in the 19th Century, Laurence Hope reacted to the evils of the day with great humanity and sensitivity. Most of her poems were composed between 1890-1900.

In February 1898, Ronald Ross (Indian Medical Service, 1881) was put on special duty by the Government of India to investigate malaria. Malaria was a great killer in her day and a dreaded disease. He received inspiration and initial guidance from Patrick Manson. Manson was a trend-setter in the sense he was one of the first to speculate upon the possibilities of 'insect-borne transmission of dis-

ease' while practising medicine at Amoy and Hong Kong during the 1880's. Based on his investigation, Ronald Ross established the link between malaria and a mosquito called Indian Anopheles. This revolutionised the treatment and control of malaria not only in India but other parts of the world.

Manson's paper in the *British*

Malaria

He lurks among the reeds, beside the marsh,
Red oleanders twisted in His hair,
His eyes are haggard and His lips are harsh,
Upon His breast the bones show gaunt and bare.

The green and stagnant waters lick His feet,
And from their filmy, iridescent scum
Clouds of mosquitoes, gauzy in the heat,
Rise with His gifts: Death and Delirium.

His messengers: they bear the deadly taint
On spangled wings aloft and far away,
Making thin music, strident and yet faint,
From golden eve to silver break of day.

The baffled sleeper hears th' incessant whine
Through his tormented dreams, and finds no rest
The thirsty insects use his blood for wine,
Probe his blue veins and pasture on his breast.

While far away He in the marshes lies,
Staining the stagnant water with His breath,
An endless hunger biming in His eyes,
A famine unassuaged, whose food is Death.

He hides among the ghostly mists that float
Over the water, weird white and chill,
And peasants, passing in their laden boat,
Shiver and feel a sense of coming ill.

A thousand burn and die; He takes no heed,
Their bones, unburied, strewn upon the plain,
Only increase the frenzy of His greed
To add more victims to th' already slain

He loves the haggard frame, the shattered mind,
Gloats with delight upon the glazing eye,
Yet, in one thing His cruelty is kind,
He sends them lovely dreams before they die;

Dreams that bestow on them their heart's desire,
Visions that find them mad, and leave them blest,
To sink, forgetful of the fever's fire,
Softly, as in a lover's arms, to rest.

Today, even more threatening than the mosquito menace in India is the severe drought that has hit states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and parts of Orissa. TV programmes graphically depict the sufferings of the people in these areas every day. In the

Famine Song

Death and Famine on every side
And never a sign of rain,
The bones of those who have starved and died
Unburied upon the plain.

What care have I that the bones bleach white?
Tomorrow they may be mine,
But I shall sleep in your arms tonight
And drink your lips like wine!

ish *Medical Journal* in June 1898 entitled 'Surgeon-Major Ronald Ross's recent investigations on the mosquito-malaria theory', secured for Ross his place in medical history as the discoverer of the link between the insect and the disease. "You have done a great work," wrote Manson to Ross "and your deed will not be forgotten. You will see from the last *British Medical Journal* that I have secured your priority in discovery, and have nipped what may have been an attempt at stealing." Ronald Ross was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine for 1902.

Many great writers were vitally influenced by the discovery of Ronald Ross. Laurence Hope, who had seen thousands die of malaria in the then Madras Presidency, wrote the following poem on what she had seen:

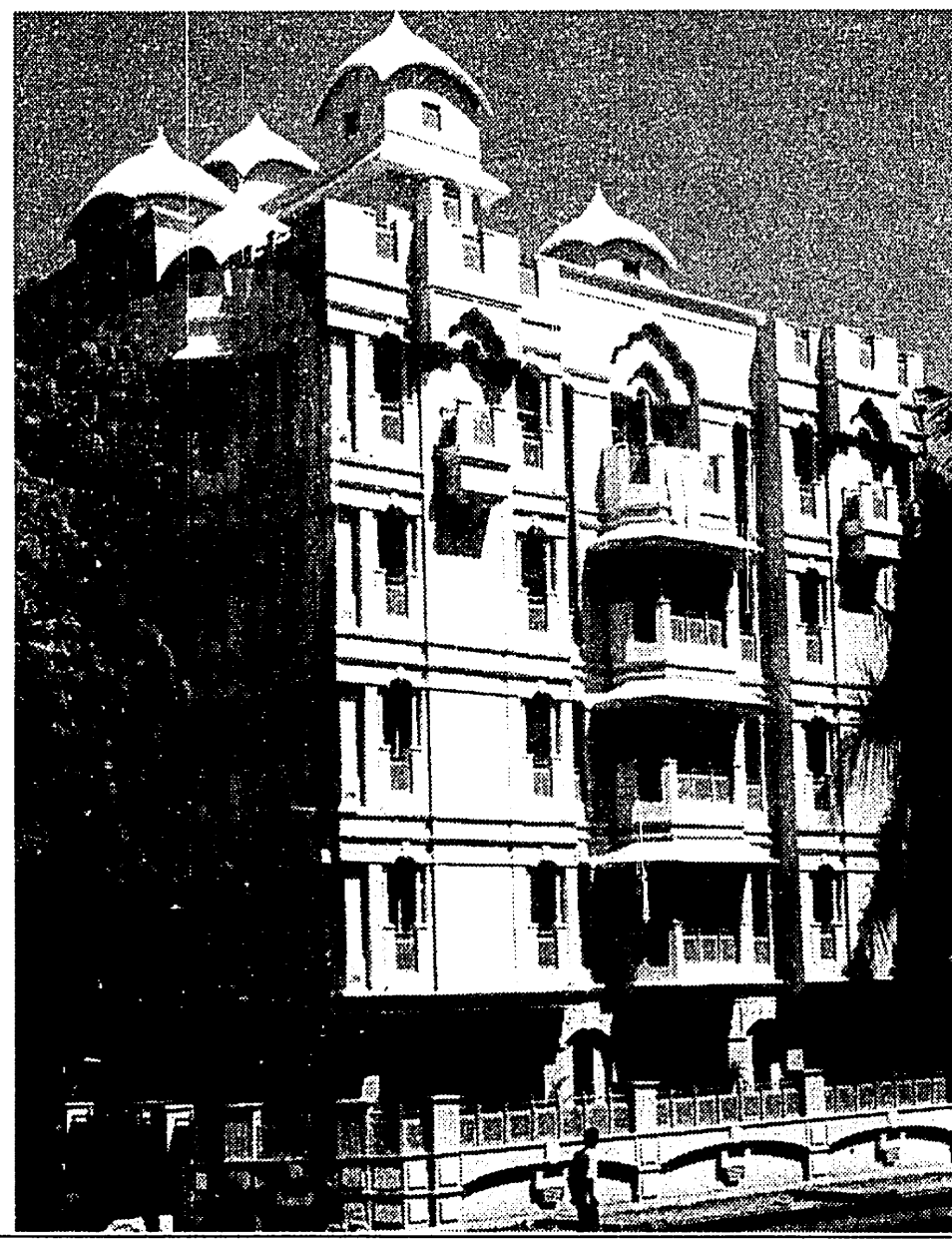


Chennai's best-known buildings in the Jaipuri style of architecture are the Art Gallery and the YMCA building on NSC Bose Road. It's been nearly a hundred years since any kind of construction in the Jaipuri style was attempted in the City. But in the last decade or so, Jain's Housing and Constructions have used this building style in a few of the apartment complexes they have been developing. And creating something different from the run-of-the-mill blocks of flats being raised in the City.

Our OLD is Jain's Shanthi Vijay apartment block built in 1995 on Jagadambal Street in T' Nagar. Its arches and jali screens are typical Jaipuri features that dominate the building. But now, Jain's have taken the resemblance to the Jaipuri style even further. The NEW is Jain's

Shashi Griha, a corner highrise right next to Shanthi Vijay. The several typical Jaipuri domes surmounting the building, the profusion of traditional arches, numerous balconies with shades, plentiful jali and jorokha work give this apartment block the appearance of a princely haveli.

Though the two buildings stand side by side and display a common heritage, they are also quite a contrast because of the greater Jaipuri elaboration done in the latter. (Photographs and text by RAJIND N CHRISTY).



Cholera, Riot and Sudden Death
And the brave red blood set free,
The glazing eye and the failing breath, —
But what are these things to me?

Your breath is quick and your eyes are bright
And your blood is red like wine,
And I shall sleep in your arms tonight
And hold your lips with mine!

V. Sundaram

A 'goonda' in the Miller menagerie

The Miller family had a large menagerie as some of you readers may know by now. Among these was a most delightful honey-badger called Goonda.

My father, Harry Miller, an Englishman, had an extraordinary perception of the Indian way of life. He didn't let my mother design and decorate the house on her own. Mummy being Indian, Daddy reasoned that we would not only be having English guests (his friends), but Indian guests as well.

For that reason, the house had a western toilet, and an Indian toilet as well. And as for the decor, there were a settee and two chairs for the western guests, and two mattresses on the floor, bound with thick black cloth and arranged with nice silk bound cushions for the Indian guests. No trouble so far.

But one fine day, who should enter our house, but an adorable, affectionate, intelligent animal — Goonda the honey badger (also known as ratel). We named him Goonda, as his only aim seemed to be the destruction of our household.

Goonda would sleep on the mattresses meant for our Indian guests in the living room. Fine, if not for the fact that he had to have a cushion to hug as well — which by the morning would be torn to shreds. But Goonda chewed and ripped the cushions in the living room.

He also had some social habits. In his friendliness he would embrace any passer-by, coil his sturdy frame around their ankles preventing their escape and chew away at their ankles. As a result he had to go into a cage unlike the other animals in our household, which were free to roam as they pleased. We put him into one of the two snake pits we had for pythons. I was about seven or eight then and I spent hours inside the pit trying to comfort him, but he was inconsolable, for he longed for our company and his freedom. Yet, when we took him out for walks in the evenings, he was immediately at the ankles and cushions again.

My father taught me all I know about ratels, also known as honey badgers because they eat honey. They have long powerful claws on their paws which they use to dig at the bee-hives and to dig holes to live in. They have a very thick skin so that the bees can't sting them, and

to add precaution to safety, they also have a thick short fur. The fur is white on the back, including the head, and black underneath.

They are very affectionate, and will play for hours. And Goonda was no exception. My brother Robin and I spent many happy hours playing with Goonda, who like many animals, loved to be tickled on his tummy.

The ratel has an interesting relationship with a bird called the honeyguide. Honeyguides are small birds which live in Africa and Southern Asia. They show the ratels the way to the bee's nest, drawing the attention of the ratels and even men, by calling and displaying the tail. After guiding the ratel to the tail he has had its fill, and then go and feed on what is left. Africans imitate the growls of the ratel so that the honeyguide will lead them to the bee's nest. Once there they will take the honey, but leave some for the honeyguide.

— Nisha Miller

Corporate quizzing is in, in Chennai

Since November 1999, there has been a flurry of corporate/business quizzes in Chennai—the Brand Equity Quiz, the MMA quiz, the Ad-Club quiz and quiz organised by ITM (Institute for Technology and Management), the first National Management Quiz (NMQ).

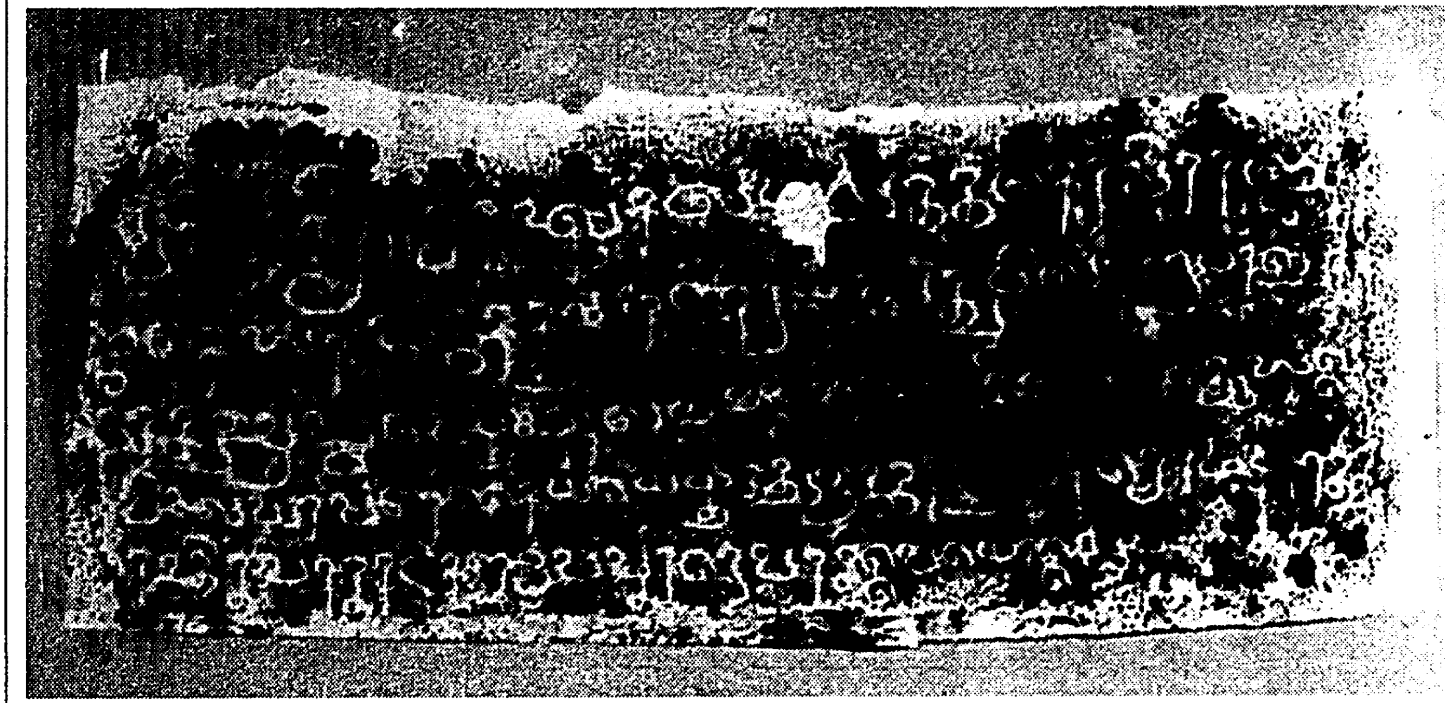
The first Business Quiz of the new millennium was organised by the Ad-Club.

Quiz Master Suresh Kumar's questions in the prelims which saw over 30 teams vying for the six spots in the final — ranged from the simple to the sublime.

The lively final had a mixture of dry questions and visuals. To sample a few:

- Which was the first paints company to be set up in India? (Shalimar Paints in 1902)
- Who was voted the advertising icon of the century? (Marlboro Man)
- What was unique about the first issue of the *Playboy* magazine? (It did not contain any date since Hugh Hefner, the founder, was not confident whether there would be a second issue at all!)
- "Experience a new high" is

Chola inscriptions discovered



The Tamil Nadu Archaeological Research Institute has discovered four important Chola inscriptions from Srinivasa Peruman temple and one inscription written in *grantha* character on the rear of a hero stone from K. Alampalam in Kallakurichi taluk of Villupuram District. The president of the Institute, Natana Kasinathan, treasurer, Pulavar Muthu Ethirajan, and Villupuram District Secretary, Veeraraghavan, discovered epigraphs while exploring for artifacts in the area.

K. Alampalam is about 6 k.m. from Kallakurichi, a tiny village which has a small Vishnu temple known as the Srinivasa Peruman temple. It appears to have been built recently by using old and new granite stone. On the outer walls there are stones bearing typical Chola engravings.

Of the ten inscriptions, three were apparently written in 13, 14 and 15th of the reign of Rajaraja the Great. Another one was engraved in the fifth regnal year of Veerarajendra while all the others are in a mutilated condition. Rajaraja's two inscriptions start with the words 'Salai Kalamarutta' and the third with the usual 'Thirumakal pola'.

The four inscriptions throw valuable light on the antiquity of this village and the Perumal temple. They refer to the village as Alampadam and inform us that it was a Chaturvedi Mangalam included in Palur Kurram of Maladu, a big territorial division during Rajarajan period. In the time of Veerarajendra, grandson of Rajaraja I and son of Rajendra I, Maladu seems to have been renamed as Jananatha Valanadu.

The main deity of the Vishnu temple in mentioned as 'Ayodhyai Alwar' in an obvious reference to Lord Rama. A merchant known as Kuriparan is said to have gifted one hundred and twenty five sheep for lighting the *Nonda Vilakku* in that temple. Another individual, Kiliyur Malaiyaman Perumal alias Vikkirama Chola Malaiyakularyan is said to have endowed one *veli* of land for the maintenance of the said temple.

The above epigraphs are significant since they reveal that there was a Rama temple at Alampadam (Alampalam) about a thousand years ago and continuously patronised by the royal personages of the Chola dynasty and the Malayaman chieftains.

Natana Kasinathan

uity quiz, the prelims opened with Derek's standard 'local' question: Which Chennai-based company started as Madras Motor Company and entered into a collaboration with a UK-based cycle manufacturer? (Answer: Enfield). Some more sample questions from the prelims:

- In the bottling business, define the measure 0.568 of a litre. (Pint)
- Which company advertises its product as 'the original sports watch since 1860'? (Tag Heuer)
- www.beeb.com is the website of which organisation? (BBC)

In the final, questions were framed to test the quizzers' knowledge of industry, management jargon and general business trivia and their ability to think laterally. For instance, a visual of Michael Eisner was shown with the music of Alladin accompanying it, the teams being asked to connect the two. (Disney. Mike Eisner is the CEO of Disney and the music was that of a Disney production.)

- Other questions included:
 - Which company pioneered the concept of horsebreeding in India on a professional

level? (Poonawalla Farm Houses)

- Which ad agency in India recently completed its 25th year of existence? (Rediffusion)
- In relating, what is OLS? (Original Levis' Store)
- Which airline employs the line: "You take care of your business; we take care of your flying?" (Lufthansa)
- Why was Burger King controversially in the news in the context of Pokemon? (Burger King had tied up with Pokemon for promotion in the USA. Plastic toys of Pokemon characters were distributed along with burgers. The toys had to be withdrawn when it was found that some children had choked on the toys)

The last round was on the buzzer and featured business jargon, at the end of which Blue Star, building on an early lead, won comfortably. By answering the question "What do you call books which top the charts of the leading newspapers? It is a two-word answer, the second word of which is a funny actor's surname." (Answer: Bestsellers — Peter Sellers), Sanmar finished second in a tense last round — (Courtesy: Matrix).

INTACH IDENTIFIES HERITAGE SITES

(Continued from Page 1)

tions of INTACH Tamil Nadu. Once this list is finalised on completion of the gradings, it will form part of the Heritage Regulations. Thereafter, additional heritage sites will be added to the list from time to time, *Madras Musings* understands.

Listing of heritage buildings, Precinct and Natural Features in CMA:

Adambakkam
Nandeswara Temple Precinct

Anna Salai
Bharat Insurance Building – (Opp. Poompuhar)
Cosmopolitan Club Building
Govt. Arts College for Women – Precinct
Government Estate Precinct
Higginbothams Building
Madrasa-i-Azam Building
Old Government House Building (part of Government Estate)
Old Madras Club – Precinct (Express Estates)
P.Orr & Sons Building
State Bank Building
Thousand Lights Mosque Building (old)

Adyar
Adyar Estuary
Elphinstone Gate Bridge
Madras Club – Precinct (present Adyar Gate Road)

Besant Nagar
Theosophical Society Main Building – Precinct (Besant Avenue)
Schmidt Memorial – Building (Elliots Beach) – Besant Nagar

Barracks Street
Anjaneyar Temple – Precinct

Cathedral Road
St. George's Cathedral & Cemetery
The Agri-Horticultural Society Building – Precinct

Chintadripet
Zion Church

E.V.R. Salai
Buckingham Canal
Central Station – Precinct
Govt. College of Arts & Crafts – Precinct
Madras General Hospital – Precinct
Madras Medical College (Rest of GH)
Ramasamy Mudaliar Choultry – Building
Ripon Building
Siddique Sarai – Building
Southern Railway Headquarters – Building

St. Andrew's Church – Precinct
St. George Schools – Precinct
Victoria Public Hall – Building & Precinct

YWCA – Building
Egmore
Dhayananda Ashramam

Egmore Station – Precinct (Gandhi-Irwin Road)
Tamil Nadu Archives – Precinct (Gandhi-Irwin Road)
Maternity Hospital & Precinct (Pantheon Road)
Museum Complex – Precinct (Pantheon Road)
Ophthalmic Hospital – Building & Precinct (Marshall's Road)

Flowers Road
Egmore Benefit Fund Building
George Town/Parrys Corner
High Court and Law College Campus – Precinct
Anderson Church – Building (NSC Bose Road)
Pachiyappa Hall Building (NSC Bose Road)
Sri Sivasubramaniaswamy Temple – Precinct (NSC Bose Road)
YMCA (Esplanade) Building (NSC Bose Road)
G.P.O. Building (Rajaji Salai)
Hong Kong Bank Building – Building (Rajaji Salai)
State Bank of India – Building (Rajaji Salai)

Sri Anjaneyaswami Temple – Princts – (Kothawalchavadi)
Sri Kannika Parameswari Temple – Building (Kothawalchavadi)
Sri Vallabha Vinayagar Temple – Building (Kothawalchavadi)
Nimishambal Eswari Temple – Building (Sowcarpet)
Sri Adhi Adipadai Prasanna Vinayagar Temple – Building, (Sowcarpet)

Thillai Vinayagar Temple – Building (Sowcarpet)
Uttukattamman Temple – Buildings (Sowcarpet)
Sri Mallikeswarar Thirukoil – Precinct (Lingichetty Street)
Kandasamy Koil – Precinct (Rattan Bazaar)

Memorial Hall – Building (Evening Bazaar)
Sri Chenna Kesava Perumal Temples Princts (Chenna Devaraja Mudali Street)
Sri Kachaleswarar Koil – Precinct (Armenian Street)
Armenian Church Building
Sri Adikesava Perumal Temple – Precinct

Greenways Road
Anna Institute of Management
Brodie Castle – Precinct

Guindy
Anna University Guindy Engg Campus – Precinct (Sardar Patel Road)
Gandhi Mandapam Building (Sardar Patel Road)
Kamarajar Memorial Building (Sardar Patel Road)
Raj Bhavan – Precinct

Kotturpuram
Ellaiyanman Temple – Building
Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal Temple – Precinct

Mangadu
Kamakshiamman Temple – Precinct
Mariamman Temple – Precinct

Vaikunda Perumal Temple – Precinct
Valliswaran Temple – Precinct

Mylapore
Anjaneyar Temple – Precinct (Luz)
Luz Church Precinct (Luz)
Chengaluneer Pillaiyar Temple Building
Dharmarajar Temple-Precinct
Gyana Jyothi Nardana Vinayagar Temple – Building
Gyana Sundara Vinayakar Temple – Building

Kapaleeswarar Koil & Tank outside the temple – Precinct
Karaneeswarar Temple – Precinct
Kesava Perumal Temple Precinct (Chittrakulam)
Kolavizhi Amman Temple – Precinct
Madhava Perumal Temple – Precincts

Malleswarar Temple – Precinct
Mundakanniamman Koil – Precinct
Sri Apparswami Temple – Precinct
Thiruvalluvar Nayanaar Temple-Precinct

Vaileeswarar Temple – Precinct (Valeeswarar Koil Street)
Vaileeswarar Temple – Building (South Mada Street)
Varasiddhi Vinayagar Temple – Building
Vedanta Desikar Temple – Precinct

Veerabhadraswami Temple – Precinct
Venkatesa Perumal Temple – Building
Virupatcheeswarar Temple – Precinct

NSK Salai
Vadapalani Andavar Koil Building

Nungambakkam
Anderson House Building (Anderson Road)
Church of Christ the King – Building, Loyola College Main Building & Campus
Doveton House Building (College Road)
Madras Literary Society (DPI Campus) – Precinct (College Road)
Office of the Director of Public Education – Building DPI (College Road)
Sterling Gardens – Precinct (Sterling Road)
Valluvar Kottam Building (Tank Road)

Polichalur
Agatheeswara Temple – Precinct
Kalliamman Temple – Precinct

Poonamallee
Vaitheeswaran Koil – Precinct
Varadaraja Perumal Temple – Precinct Poonamallee

Royapettah
Ameer Mahal – Precinct (Pycrofts Road)
Wesley Church – Building

Royapuram
Royapuram Railway Terminus – Building

T. Nagar
Kalaivaniamman Koil – Building (G.N. Chetty Road)
Kamarajar House (Thirumalai Pillai Road)
Shiva Vishnu Temple – Building (South Usman Road)

Thirusoolam
Sri Brahma Pureeswara Temple – Precinct

Thiruvanimiyur
Marundeeswarar Temple – Precinct

Triplicane
Fort St. George Precinct (Kamaraj Salai)
War Memorial – Building (Kamaraj Salai)
Iron Bridge (near) Library Buildings

Anna Samadhi – Precinct (Kamaraj Salai)
Dr. M.G.R.Samadhi – Precinct (Kamaraj Salai)
Madras University (Chepauk Campus) – Precinct (Kamaraj Salai)
Chepauk Palace (PWD & Old Agri. Dept) – Precinct (Kamaraj Salai)

PWD Offices – Precinct (The Marina)
Presidency College Building (Kamaraj Salai)
University Examination Hall (Chepauk)

Vivekananda Illam – Building (Kamaraj Salai)
Lady Willingdon Govt. Higher Secondary School Building
Queen Mary's College – Precinct (Kamaraj Salai)
DGP Office – Precinct (Kamaraj Salai)

Santhomé Basilica – Precinct (Santhomé High Road)

Parthasarathy Temple – Precinct (with tank outside)
Davana Utsava Bungalow of Parthasarathy Temple
Pandurangar Temple Building
Triplicane Mosque Building (Triplicane High Road)
Wallajah Big Mosque Building (Triplicane High Road)

Arasadi Karpaga Vinayagar Temple -- Building
Bharathy Illam
Ellaiamman Temple – Building
Kadumbadi Amman Temple – Precinct
Kamala Kameswarar Temple – Precinct
Ramanujan House
Curzon & Company Building – Building (Wallajah Road)

Velachery
Dandeeswarar Temple – Precinct
Selliannan Koil – Precinct
Yama Teertham (Tank) – Building

Pallavaram
Cave Temple – Precinct (entire hill)

Names of buildings, Precinct, Natural Features, to be included:

Armenian Street
Binny Building – Buildings

Egmore
Police Commissioner's Office (Pantheon Road)
Maternity Hospital & Precinct
Traffic Commissioner's Office – Precinct (Poonamallee High Road)

George Town
Minerva Theatre

Guindy
Guindy Park – Precinct
Kings Institute

Island Grounds
Armenian Cemetery
St. Mary's/War Graves Cemetery

Lloyds Road
Jewish Cemetery

Law College Campus
Hynmer Obelisk & other tombs

Mount Road
Addison & Company (Building)
Agriculture Mansion (Buildings)
Gaytry Theatre
Madras Mahajana Sabha Philatelic Bureau
Simpson & Co. (Buildings)
VST Motors (Gove Building)

Mint Street
Jain Temple

Nandambakkam
War Graves Cemetery

Basin Bridge
Salt Cotaurs (Near Basin Bridge)

NSC Bose Road
Dare House (Parry & Co)
Esplanade Boundary Pillar (Parry & Co.)

Old Jail Road
Old Jail (Bharati Women's College)
Old Town Hall

Perambur
Railway Quarters
Perambur Railway Works

Purasawalkam
Roxy Theatre

Rajaji Salai
Cornwallis cupola
Magistrate's Court
YMIA (Second Line Beach)

Saidapet
Teachers Training College

Santhomé
St. Lazarus Church

St. Thomas Mount
OTA Buildings & Cantonment
Arch & Footsteps leading to the Mount

Swami Sivananda Salai
Cooum House

Triplicane
Gosha Hospital & Precinct
Victoria Hostel & Precinct

Tambaram
Madras Christian College Campus

Thanjavur style of Harikatha

In South India, prior to the advent of the Marathi *keertan*, there were mainly three kinds of story-tellers. In *prasangas* in Tamil, the oduvurs expounded the *Kamba Ramayanam*, *Kandha Puranam*, *Villiputoovar Bharatam* and the like, interspersing them with passages from *Tevaram*, *Tiruvachakam* and *Tirupugazh*. The pauranikas narrated Valmiki's *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata* and *Bhagavatam*, with quotations from *sruti*, *smriti* and musical excerpts. The *bhagavats* blended the two styles and performed *kalakshepa*, with the assistance of sidemen. Some eminent pauranikas also included music in their *pravachanas*, which were full of literary allusions. Others performed *kalakshepa* and *bhajana* and included *ashtapadis*, *tarangas* and other compositions in their performances. These *kalakshepas*, which highlighted *dharma* and *moksha*, as well as philosophical truths, perhaps did not provide much entertainment value.

Themes
The themes for *kalakshepa* are generally drawn from the *puranas* and the *itihasas* which offer plenty of scope to the performer to insert into his presentation a number of songs in varied tunes and different languages. Sugar-coated advice is conveyed through these songs and the narration. Story lines focussed on Purandaradasa, Bhadrachala Ramadas, Tyagaraja, Kabirdas and Tulsidas provide plenty of scope to render many of their compositions.

Music in kalakshepa
The *Harikatha* performance has two connected aspects namely, the narrative and the music. The *niroopana* or the story-book format of every *Harikatha* consists of these two aspects. Though musically rendered verses are an important component, it is the narrative portion that enables ordinary people to comprehend the story. But the songs are important because the entire story is woven on the basis of verses taken from various *puranas* and epics which are set to tune in forms like *saaki*, *dindi*, *abhanga*, etc. The various stages of a story are found in these songs and the discourses which follow these songs act only as explanations.

Enter the Marathi keertankars

The Maratha rulers of Thanjavur were great patrons of art and, were scholars and musicians of a high calibre. During their rule, many *keertankars* from Gwalior and Pune came to Thanjavur at their invitation. The colourfully dressed *keertankars* were accompanied by performers on instruments. They used the *chipla* (castanet) and the *jabra* (cymbals). They sang short and lively metrical songs in simple and catchy tunes. The music did not dampen the tempo of the narrative, but added lustre to it. The *navarasas* were portrayed through the songs and narrations. The *keertankars* kept moving hither and thither, while speaking and singing and also danced in devotional ecstasy. All these features made the *keertans* very novel and interesting to all sections of the audience. *Keertan* performances became immensely popular in the Thanjavur, Pudukottai and Tiruvananthapuram *samsthanams* and other places like Bellary, Bangalore, Vellore and Arni.

Since the *kalakshepa* form, with its emphasis on philosophical content, did not have wide appeal, there was a need to modify it and make it more appealing. And the man who effected the change was Thanjavur Krishna Bhagavata and what influenced him was the Marathi *keertan* tradition.

Even as a young boy, Krishna Bhagavata attended many *keertan* performances of Morkar Bava and, on many occasions, also provided violin accompaniment in his performances. He gradually imbibed the special features of the *keertan*. He also knew Marathi. In the event, he decided to blend the good aspects of the *kalakshepa* with the appealing elements of the Marathi *keertan* and the result of this synthesis was the birth of a new style of *kathakalakshepa*. In time, he came to be hailed rightly as the architect and the father of the Thanjavur style of *kathakalakshepa*.

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Traditional Marathi songs are an integral part of the *kalakshepa* and they carry the story ahead. The other songs provide links to the situations in the story. They were either composed by the performers themselves or were learnt from senior performers along with the *niroopanas*. In the early days, a successful new *niroopana* was eagerly borrowed by other performers who also learnt the songs belonging to the *niroopana*.
Apart from these integral musical forms, the *kritis* of

nium was adopted as an accompaniment probably following the practice of the *keertan-kars*.

During those days, *kalakshepa* artistes were very well versed in both the Hindustani and Carnatic styles and rendered both in a pure and authentic manner. *Bhajans* and *abhngas* were a common feature in both *kalakshepa* and *bhajana* programmes.

The Harikatha orchestra

The supporting musical ensemble in a *Harikatha* performance used to consist of the *tambura* or *sruti* box, a harmonium or violin and one or more percussion instruments, as well as the *chipla* and the *jabra*.

The *kalakshepa* exponent not only played the *chipla* himself, but also wore ankle-bells. The employment of the *mridanga*, the *chipla*, two pairs of cymbals (one with the main performer and the other with the *upagayaka*) and the ankle-bells all helped establish the dominant role of rhythm in a *Harikatha*.

Today, the *kalakshepa* orchestra in Tamil Nadu consists of a drone, a *mridanga*, and a violin or harmonium. There may or may not be an *upagayaka*.

In an *upanyasa*, a scholar recites selected *shlokas* on the chosen theme and expounds the meaning with suitable quotations and *upakathas*. A discourse of this kind, based on epics and *puranas*, is presented by a single scholar without any accompaniment, since music is not part of it.

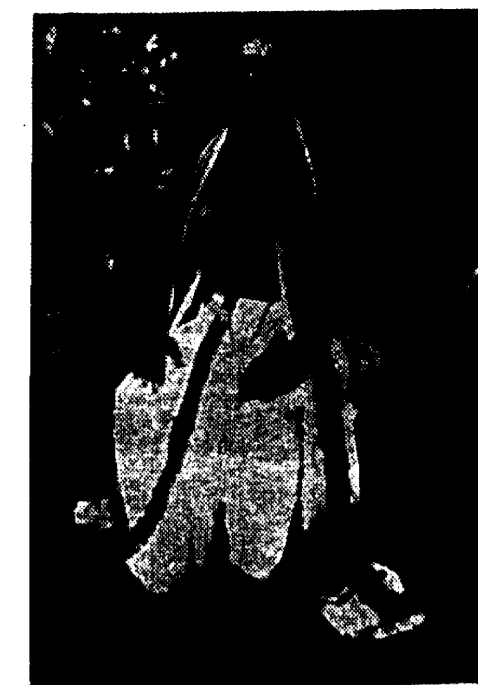
Generally the melody element in *kalakshepa* can be said to have its basis in five types: classical Carnatic music; classical Hindustani music; folk music; English notes; and Parsi theatre songs. Whenever the bhagavats rendered musical compositions of these types, they adhered to the authentic style and way of rendering.

Classical Carnatic music has always been given importance in *kalakshepa* performances and the performers have been proficient in regard to both *raga* and *tala*. The *ragas* were rendered in their essence including the key-phrases and this earned the respect of distinguished musicians for the *kalakshepa* performers.

Harikatha has been one of the most important and popular media through which many Hindustani *ragas* were introduced to audiences in the South. Apart from the essential forms such as *saaki*, *dindi*, *abhanga* and *pada* rendered in Hindustani *ragas*, some other types of compositions like *tarana*, *dhruvad* and *bhajan* presented in Hindustani concerts were also included in *kalakshepa* following the *keertan* pattern. A musical form known as the Parsi tune, traceable to the Parsi theatre, also entered the *Harikatha* repertoire. There seems to have been a happy mix of the northern and southern styles of singing. The harmo-

Early stalwarts

Krishna Bhagavata, who incorporated some of the features of Marathi *keertan* in *kalakshepa*, has rightly been acclaimed as the architect of the new style — the Thanjavur style — of *Harikatha*. His mentor Venkatadasa, popularly known as Periana, deserves a share of the credit. A minister in the court of the Maratha rulers, it was he who first noticed the increasing popularity of the *keertan* and concluded it would be good to synthesise the good



Panchapagesa Sastri

aspects of the *keertan* with those of *kalakshepa* as was being practised in Tamil Nadu. He himself was not a *kalakshepa* artiste and therefore he needed to find one whom he could guide to achieve his objective. In the event, he selected Krishna Bhagavata, who he judged possessed the requisite talent and attitude and made arrangements to bring him up as an accomplished *Harikatha* artiste. He engaged *pundits* in many languages as tutors for Krishna Bhagavata and also made him learn dance from Abhinayam Appadurai Iyer, father of Panchapakesa Bhagavata. Pandit Lakshmanacharya was an erudite scholar of the *vedas* and the *sastras*. He was also an *asukavi* and a *satavadhani*. He was an expert in expounding the *Bhagavad Gita* which earned him the title of Citacharya. He had no skills as a musician but he wished to perform *Harikatha* after listening to Krishna Bhagavata; so he enlisted the services of musicians like Palakkad Anantharama Bhagavata to learn his discourses with the yeast of music aspects along with his scholarly *pravachana*.

Tirupazhanam Panchapakesa Sastri, already a successful *pauranika*, initially borrowed a few *niroopanas* from Krishna Bhagavata and later developed his own style which came to be known as the Sastri style. He was a good Sanskrit scholar and this enabled him to excel in discourses on the *Ramayana*. He was perhaps the earliest to have given a series of discourses on the *Ramayana*. Sastri also composed nearly 200 compositions in Sanskrit, Tamil and Telugu for use in his *kalakshepas*. Krishna Bhagavata, Lakshmanacharya and Panchapakesa Sastri could be termed the *Harikatha* trinity. Other performers down the line were either their disciples or were drawn to the art inspired by them.

Ladies also entered the field. Notable among them were C. Saraswati Bai, Banni Bai, Tirugokarnam Kanakambujam, Padmasani Bai, Tripurasundari, and Salem T. Gnanambal. These exponents also held the torch of *Harikatha* aloft with undiminished lustre. – (Courtesy: *Sruti*)

So near yet so far

Tamil Nadu in the Ranji Trophy

Tamil Nadu is one of the most talented combinations in the national cricket championship, yet unable to fulfil its potential for a variety of reasons. The team was particularly unlucky to lose to Mumbai in the semifinal in the season just concluded after sailing into the penultimate round. That Mumbai entered the final by virtue of a slender first innings lead must have been bitterly disappointing for the losing semifinalist.

Encouraged by the greenness of the Wankhede Stadium wicket, both Tamil Nadu and Mumbai went into their match with only one full-time spinner each in the playing eleven. Well as the Tamil Nadu seamers and off spinner Aashish Kapoor bowled, the side might have fared better in the field with an additional spinner. As it turned out, after being put in to bat and losing early wickets, Tamil Nadu recovered through a brilliant counter attack launched by lefthanders Hemang Badani and Robin Singh. Had an early slip chance offered by Sachin Tendulkar, who scored a double century, been taken advantage of victory could have been Tamil Nadu's.

Of the youngsters who failed

to get into the eleven in the semifinal, Vasanth Saravanan — whose splendid rearguard hundred against Andhra saved Tamil Nadu much embarrassment — and Vidyut Sivaramakrishnan — who made an impressive debut with five wickets in the same match — were unlucky not to get too many opportunities. All-rounder Rajat Bhatia was another youngster whose absence was felt against Mumbai. Team balance was

Hemang Badani started the season with a string of poor scores, but gradually improved his form as the year progressed. The left hander proved to be a man for the big occasion with his positive, authoritative batting against Mumbai. He was unlucky to be adjudged out when going great guns in each innings. With 225 runs in the two semifinal innings, he is certainly knocking at the doors of international cricket.

Sriram scored more than a thousand runs in the season enhancing his reputation as a solid batsman. The bowlers were consistent with S Mahesh and Gokulakrishnan often providing early breakthroughs. Mahesh bowled with fire and Gokulakrishnan struck vital blows at crucial junctures. Rajat Bhatia proved to be a useful all-rounder and Vidyut Sivaramakrishnan a left arm spinner of promise. Senior bowler Aashish Kapoor, who quietly pouched 50 wickets in the season, could well be a serious contender once again for national

● by V. Ramnarayan

the reason cited for the lack of exposure these players suffered from, but there must be a way of nurturing young talent by persisting with them.

With S Ramesh and Robin Singh firmly entrenched in the Indian team in the two different versions of international cricket, Tamil Nadu supporters were optimistic when T A Sekar became a national selector. They were not disappointed when first T Kumaran and later S Sriram graduated to international cricket. Many were however disappointed that left hander S Sharath, for whom time is running out, was consistently overlooked by selectors.

honours, if only he would iron out his flaws.

Among those waiting in the wings, Sunil Viswanathan is an efficient left hand batsman who led Madras University and South Zone Universities in the Rohinton Baria and Vizzy Trophy tournaments. Anand George and Tanveer Jabbar are talented batsmen who were in and out of the eleven but both have to prove their staying power and consistency. Off spinner Ganesh Kumar looked promising some years ago but seems to lack opportunity, guidance and perhaps the application needed to move on to the next stage of his career. M R

Badani gets the nod

Badani's exquisite sense of timing was confirmed by his brilliant batting and fielding against Mumbai. This talented left-hander, out of form earlier in the season, came good when it mattered and impressed everyone on the big stage. Sachin Tendulkar and Chandu Borde were all praise for his display. It was not surprising, therefore, when his name figured in the Indian squad for the Asia Cup currently being contested at Dacca.



Srinivas is a good medium pace prospect. Satyajit Medappa is a useful team player while his brother, the more talented Siddharth, seems to have faded away, despite some good performances.

"Nothing seems to have changed," commented a veteran watcher. He believes that the old failings of complacency

and inability for constructive introspection still haunt the players and officialdom. Coach Bharath Kumar made a fair impression, with the way he handled the team this year, winning the players' confidence. He and captain Robin Singh have a job on their hands if they wish to mould their side into a fighting, cohesive unit.

SWIFT SANMAR ACTION

(Continued from Page 1)

and moved the remaining depressurised drums into two refrigerated containers to be taken to Alathur. By this time, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) had officially permitted ARL Chemicals Limited to carry out the neutralisation operation. The treated effluent from the neutralised chemical was discharged according to standard norms.

SSCL complimented

The action has been commended by the Collector, Tiruvallur, the DIG of Police and the TNPCB. SSCL had received the fullest support from all the official agencies concerned, including the police who helped in the preliminary

phase of the action when they cordoned the area off.

The Chairman of the TNPCB and Member Secretary visited the Alathur facility and complimented the factory team "for carrying out the work successfully and helping the city of Chennai and the government to manage such a crisis effectively."

The episode was an eye-opener, revealing the general lack of preparedness to meet such situations. The way chemicals were stored in the godown — and there must be hundreds and thousands of such godowns in the country — was shocking, with no safety sheets maintained and no attention paid to the compatibility of chemicals stored together, it was pointed out by experts.

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