

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS

MUSINGS

INSIDE

- Fight to preserve water-body
- The Chennai yuppie
- A chapel lost
- Music pioneers
- IOB in sports

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FREE ISSUE

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Action to save heritage

Other metros show Chennai the way

(By A Staff Reporter)

Mumbai would seem to be the most desirable destination among Indian cities for anyone starting a good news magazine on heritage conservation and legislation, with Calcutta, Delhi and even southern neighbour Bangalore, gaining a distinct lead over Chennai when it comes to municipal action, public awareness, corporate support and quality of debate.

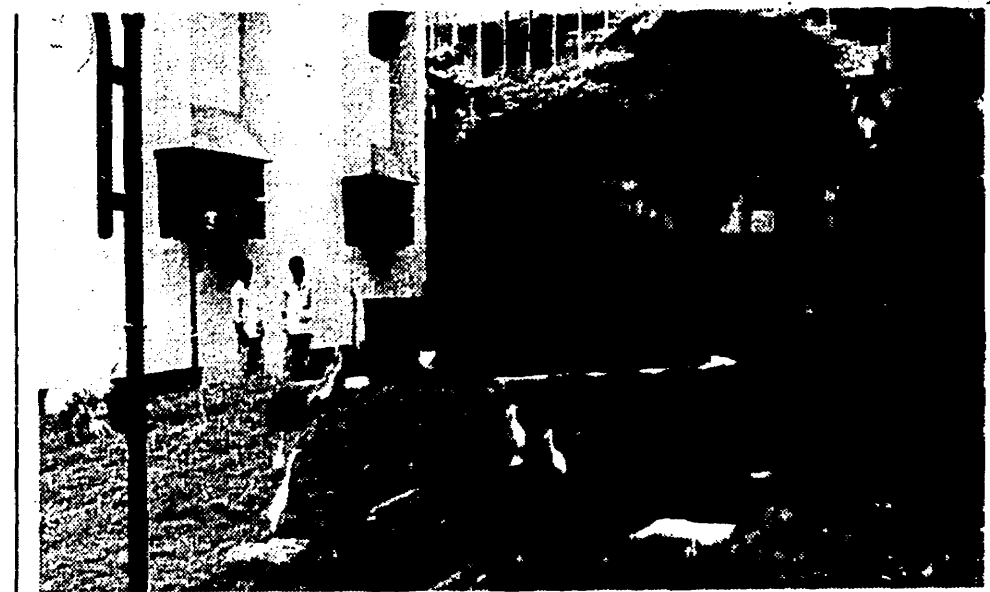
Take the Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Road area of Mumbai, for instance. The road was declared a heritage streetscape of Grade II A by the Heritage Regulations for Greater Bombay 1995. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Heritage Society has recently commissioned a conservation architect to prepare documentation and a design handbook to provide "a regulated streetscape with well designed shopfronts" reflecting the architectural heritage of the area. With the help of the handbook, it is intended to give the area a facelift, restoring heritage facades and identifying sponsors for the restoration of the streetscape.

Consider Mumbai's oldest business district of Ballard Estate. Laid out between 1908 and 1914 by reclaiming the foreshore, it was one of the earliest planned corporate districts in Mumbai. Now, the Ballard Estate Welfare Organisation, which includes corporate occupants of space in the Estate like Reliance, L&T and Hindustan Lever, will join hands with the Urban Design Research Institute (UDRI) to restore heritage buildings in the area. It will be India's first Business Improvement District.

Meanwhile, the UDRI recently reviewed the five year old draft regulation for heritage buildings in Mumbai at a two-day seminar it organised and strongly recommended that the legislation should evolve further to "respond to the contemporary aspirations of the city." The seminar called for strong participation by public organisations and private individuals, citizen groups, architectural associations and heritage groups to lend greater strength to the heritage movement.

In Calcutta, the corporate sector has swung into action by forming a trust to beautify a part of the Hooghly riverbank. While almost all leading companies in India have been approached for donations, TISCO will put up the steel gates, CESC will do the electrification and engineering, ONGC has donated the cost of equipment for a children's park, the Apeejay group will fund an open air theatre, and the Baidyanath group an ayurveda park inside the area being developed.

In Delhi, the Oberoi Hotel and the Aga Khan Trust are funding a project undertaken by the Conservation Society to revive the water channels of the Humayun's Tomb complex and bring back its Mughal gardens replaced by the British. The Eicher group is involved in an initiative to map the city and list its heritage monuments. Industrialist O P Jain heads the INTACH's effort to bring out a publication listing the built heritages of Delhi, expected to be completed in a couple of months.



Moulded plastic birds and imaginative landscaping grace the Director General, Income Tax Investigation buildings on Mahatma Gandhi Road, the IT Department's attempt at beautifying its precincts. Their enthusiasm has not stopped there but has 'attached' the pavement, which too has been beautified and floodlit, but where will the pedestrians go? - (Photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)



Comes news from Bangalore that Infosys has adopted the Jayalakshmi Mansion in Mysore. A plan to renovate the century old building estimated the cost at Rs. 1.17 crore and Infosys handed over 1,000 shares of the company to Mysore University, which owns the building. The first round sale of 200 shares has produced Rs. 52 lakh and work has begun. The architectural cell of ACC Ltd., Mumbai, will do the renovation work.

Even as the compilation of

the list of heritage buildings and sites in Chennai by INTACH is underway, the city has shown comparatively little interest in preserving its monuments. Corporate support for preservation efforts in the city have so far been lukewarm. If and when any major initiative is launched to renovate heritage buildings or revive heritage sites in Chennai, positive action as has been the case in other metros will be needed in large doses from Chennai business houses.

Traffic pollution

Chennai can take a leaf out of Mumbai book

A high court-appointed panel headed by the transport commissioner has made sweeping recommendations to contain vehicular pollution in Mumbai, many of which can be beneficially adopted by Chennai.

In an attempt to regulate diesel vehicles, the committee proposes an immediate halt to new registration of diesel taxis

and autorickshaws, an additional tax of Rs. 20,000 on new private diesel vehicles and a one-time cess of Rs. 10,000 on existing private diesel vehicles. Only four stroke engines will be allowed in both two and three wheelers coming up for registration after October.

Some of the other measures recommended are:

1. The compulsory conversion

(By A Special Correspondent)

to clean fuel of old taxis, 3-wheelers, private vehicles and BEST buses.

2. Mandatory compliance with Bharat Stage II or Euro II emission norms by heavy commercial vehicles and light goods vehicles.

3. Emission warranty a must for new private vehicles.

4. Compulsory fitting of Catalytic Converters (CC) for government, semi-government and local authority vehicles, and all petrol vehicles registered prior to April '95.

5. Conversion of BEST and private buses to switch over

to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

6. October 2000 deadline for BEST and Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation buses to become Euro II compliant.

The panel has stipulated specific dates for compliance with all these requirements and

(Continued on page 6)

Residents fight to preserve city water body

Singara Chennai will remain no more than a pipedream unless the residents of the city come together to tackle many of the problems standing in the way of clean neighbourhoods, hygiene and health confronting them, and often of their own making. The *Man From Madras Musings* is disheartened by the apathy shown by the city's dwellers in matters of cleanliness in public places, though vocal critics of the Corporation and its conservancy workers they may be. The abject neglect of the city's tanks and lakes, and the systematic reclamation of many of them for commercial and residential development by both the administration and the administered, have been a woeful saga of dereliction of civic responsibility. In the midst of the general gloom, therefore, it cheers MMM no end to find the exception, a residents group taking up cudgels against an unresponsive government or municipal body. Residents of Velacheri have shown rare public spirit in putting up stiff resistance to development projects that have the potential to harm the environment. They have strongly opposed the degradation being caused to the Velacheri Lake. Also opposed are plans for Pallikaranai marsh, some 1100 hectares in extent and two km long, stretching from the Velacheri bus terminus down the Tambaram road. Covered by tall green reeds, it provides nesting places to a wide variety of birds. It is an important catchment area during the monsoon, which transforms it into a sanctuary for migratory birds. Nearly a hundred out of the 300 odd species found in Chennai reside here or visit the marsh after the rainy season. Some 10,000 birds make the swamp their home in winter.

According to the Madras Naturalists' Society, the common resident birds here are purple herons, yellow bitterns, Indian moorhens, cormorants, cattle egrets, pond herons and kingfishers, and the visitors may include the golden plover, common swallow, snipe, marsh harrier, green sandpiper, and teal from as far away as Central Asia, Siberia and the Arctic circle. Exclusive to the Pallikaranai marsh are the purple heron, water cock, large Indian pratincole, streaked weaver, large reed warbler, Indian courser and white nested stork. Among the winter visitors could be the red-necked phalarope, long toed stint and short toed lark, and open billed and painted stork. It is this rare diversity that will be lost if the Rs. 520 crore development project of the CMDA is environmentally cleared to make way for an industrial estate at the marsh, say the Velacheri residents.

The marsh performs the vital role of charging the ground water aquifers of the area. Any attempts to reclaim land here will lead to acute water shortage for the neighbouring residents. According to them, the Velacheri Lake, the last of the water bodies in the

city, is in danger of disappearing, thanks to the encroachments, which have reduced its area by one-sixth. Hut dwellers relocated for the benefit of the MRTS project are the occupants of the land reclaimed and developed by the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. Here the land has been raised by about three metres and is being plotted for residential construction. The widening of the Velacheri-Tambaram road has resulted in dumping of waste including non-biodegradable chemicals and plastics. Industrial activity along the Old Mahabalipuram Road has brought pollution with it, dumping and burning of waste along the Kandanchavadi-Perungudi stretch threaten the existence of the marsh.

In the circumstances, MMM is heartened by the persistence of Velacheri residents, who as members of the Exnora Innovators' Club, have been pursuing with municipal authorities the issue of preserving the lake. According to them, the lake water is no longer fit for use, as the sewage from several areas is let into it. A scheme to connect the storm water drain network at West Velacheri to the main drainage along the by-pass road, approved in 1997, and a proposal to renovate a temple tank at Dhandeswararnagar, now reduced to a dumping ground, are both yet to materialise. These

involvement of all the stakeholders concerned is being planned from the early stages of the project. The local Administration Minister of the State Government presided over a recent brainstorming session to which he invited local officials, municipal heads, corporation mayors, company representatives and NGOs. MMM welcomes this initiative of the government and wishes it every success.

Green schools

The *Man From Madras Musings* had commented at considerable length on the deliberations of a seminar organised by SUSTAIN, an NGO advocating sustainable living and development (MM, May 16, 2000). The NGO has now announced 'a teacher-trainer workshop with international collaboration' aimed at facilitating the promotion of the concept of "Green School and Eco-Campus", to promote awareness of efficient use of energy resources among teachers and students. Green Force is the "teacher-student" movement initiated by SUSTAIN towards this end. According to a press release of the NGO, the Green School Campaign was undertaken in four schools in the last academic year and will cover 15 more schools in 2000-2001.

will be eager to participate because it is so much fun in addition to being relevant and crucial to their futures.

Second innings

MMM has always been fascinated by people who after a successful official or business career, take time off to pursue their interests that had remained dormant all those years, and achieve success with their new passion. He was highly impressed by a recent exhibition of paintings by Mary Raj Callemeyn, a Belgian who studied art at the Belgian Art Academy, but took to fashion designing as a career. Now, with other members of her family taking over the management of the business, she has found the time to sketch and paint. Her paintings during her stay in India were on display at the Alliance Francaise; they reflected a deep interest in faces and dance of India, with particular emphasis on the costumes and drapery, obviously seen with her fashion designer's eye for detail. Callemeyn will donate the proceeds of the paintings to charity.

Crawling over

The worst fears of *The Man From Madras Musings* may

row on top, especially the diversion towards LB Road, the use of the flyover may be staggered to accommodate north-bound traffic in the morning and south-bound traffic, in the evening, thus bringing down two mangoes with a single missile, as they say in Tamil.

At the Royapettah flyover, MMM was intrigued by the slow pace of the buses traversing it, until he received some clarification from an MTC bus driver. "With so many fellows clinging to the footboard, how can I risk one of them dashing against the sidewalls or even toppling over the bridge?" asked the harried driver. In fact, bus drivers on Peter's Road have to negotiate two flyovers in quick succession and they dread the thought of that. True, the fear of the drivers could be more psychological than real, but it is nevertheless, a bottleneck to normal movement of buses on the flyovers.

While getting the job done on target is an achievement that may make the Chennai Corporation stand tall, and MMM hopes it is an example that will be followed hereafter, MMM still feels flyovers are not the answer. Road discipline is. The total lack of discipline on the parts of road users, from cyclists and pedestrians to buses and lorries, is frightening. Contrary to popular misconceptions, owner driven cars contribute as much to the general disorder as the other vehicles do. MMM remains convinced that the only way to make any traffic system work is to enforce rules strictly, especially when road users tend to be unruly if left to themselves.

Whither the Club?

The continued existence of yet another Old Madras Institution seems to be threatened by recent developments. The Mylapore Club, a hundred year old club on Luz Church Road, which was started by some of the most distinguished legal luminaries of Madras, is facing eviction when its lease comes to an end in August 2000. The price recently demanded for the land by the Kapaleeswarar Devasthanam, the owners of the property, if the club desired to buy it, was almost double the market price, *The Man From Madras Musings* is told. Even worse, the devasthanam in a recent missive, actually demanded the grounds back for its own use — ostensibly to build housing quarters for its staff. The club may try to raise the finances to negotiate the retention of some, if not all of the land it now occupies or it may seek legal remedy and the case can drag on for years, but the ideal solution, MMM feels, is to arrive at a compromise acceptable to all, with the club coming forward to do something for the community in return for continued occupation by it of the premises. Remember the sagacity with which the Chepauk cricket ground was rescued decades ago from being acquired by government for a housing project?

MMM

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

projects will be a major help in recharging the groundwater in the area.

Green belt plan

The latest grandiose announcement to attract *The Man From Madras Musings'* attention is that of government's intention to plant 7.77 lakh saplings in urban areas all over the state to combat carbon dioxide emissions. MMM is assured that this time around, the tree planting will be more than a target-meeting exercise, that it is in fact a programme evolved scientifically. He is also told that it will be a people's movement. As always, MMM is rather sceptical of such claims made by government departments, but he still feels any afforestation effort should be encouraged. In a five-year span, tree planting in league with elected local bodies is expected by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to cut down considerably the harmful effects of CO₂ emissions. MMM learns the programme will cover the districts of Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore, Salem and Tirunelveli. Later, Tiruchi and 94 municipalities will also be covered with 300,000 more saplings to be planted there. What gives MMM some hope this time around after the failure of earlier tree planting adventures, is the

actually be realised, to go by the first indications of Chennai traffic patterns after the first phase of flyover construction. The flyovers not only may not have solved the traffic problem to the extent expected by the planners, but may have created new problems. At least that's what the experienced at the Adyar and Royapettah flyovers suggests. Returning to Adyar in the evening is sometimes a nightmare, even more so now than in the pre-flyover days. The stretch from the V turn towards Greenways Road and the Adyar bridge has become a crawler in the evening rush hour, with cars, scooters, autorickshaws and buses forming seven to eight unruly lanes and getting caught in a nasty bottleneck until the bridge is crossed. MMM's experience in the morning rush hour has been no better, either. Again, traffic from Adyar towards the Andhra Mahila Sabha hospital crawls, while the flyover is almost empty, with hardly any traffic towards Adyar. As this flyover, like most of the new ones in Chennai, is one-way, all the morning traffic away from Adyar towards Mylapore is concentrated in the service road below (for want of a better term). Here's a clear case for two-way traffic on the flyover, but as the road may be considered too nar-

Collaborating with Alliance to Save Energy, Washington, D.C., the NGO which promoted the concept of Green Schools, SUSTAIN will run the campaign for 8 to 10 weeks, imparting activity based knowledge "to enable students to be effective communicators in society to advance the cause of Energy Efficiency." To prepare teachers and resource persons to carry out the campaign SUSTAIN is organising a Green School Workshop from June 27th to July 1st, in which in addition to the trainers, "eco-volunteers" interested in spreading the message of sustainable living will also take part. Noble as the sentiments and the goals of SUSTAIN seem to be, MMM cannot help wondering with not a little amusement, why foreign collaboration is considered necessary even in preparing articulate student ambassadors of a movement in support of sustainable development and growth in Indian urban life. Be that as it may, MMM sincerely hopes the students are not driven away from the movement by what they often tend to view as boring lectures and the proselytising zeal of the people behind the movement, as it happens so often however sincere and dedicated they may be. If it is not too much to expect, the Green School Campaign should be made an adventure in which students

OUR READERS WRITE



Snakes and ladders

While spending my summer vacation as a child in my grandmother's house, in Tirunelveli I used to pass many hours playing a Tamil version of the board game called 'Snakes and Ladders' taken from the centre pages of an *Ananda Vikatan* Deepavali issue of the 1940s. The two pages were A4 size. Each square would have a small cartoon with an action. For example square 37 would read 'pick-pocketing' with the head of a snake going right down to square 3 which would read 'beatings'. There were a total of 100 squares with many carrying messages with overtones of the freedom struggle. Can any reader place the year of issue and even better, produce a copy that can be reproduced?

Pradeep Chakravarthy
"Deeptha"
27, Gopalakrishnan Road
Chennai 600 017.

Upkeep of subways

The subways in most parts of the city are in a deplorable and appalling state. They were constructed at a phenomenal cost for pedestrians. Unfortunately most of them are dirty and smelly. ONYX, who are already performing a commendable job on the streets may be deployed to clean the subways.

P.K. Sridharan
2, East Circular Road
Santhome
Chennai 600 028.

Post office essential

M.G.R. Nagar, a part of K.K. Nagar, is a thickly populated busy area. It has many flats and shopping complexes, schools and Central and State government offices. Yet, even to get a postcard, the residents of the area have to go either to Ashok Nagar Post Office or to K.K. Nagar. For the convenience of the public, will the postal department consider opening a post office at the earliest here?

M. Kannan
13, Kalaivanar Street
M.G.R. Nagar
Chennai 600 078.

N. Dharmeshwaran
Plot 21, Kumaran Nagar
Guduvancherry 602 202

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 Greaves Road, CHENNAI-600 006.

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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.

Bridge across the Porur tank



The National Highway Authority of India is in the process of constructing a bridge over the Porur tank to connect the 19 km phase one Tambaram-Poonamallee bypass. The U.P. State Corporation Limited is building the bridge. Work on the 462-metre bridge begun in May 1999 is expected to be completed by July 2000. The bridge which will rest on 16 pillars, sunk upto a depth of about 7-8 metres is founded on well foundation. A steel bridge has also been temporarily put up to facilitate easy moving of the machinery and workforce. The bridge when completed will have a 12-m carriageway inclusive of pedestrian space. This is the U.P. State Corporation's second bridge in Tamil Nadu after the first bridge at Chengalpattu.

Rajind N Christy

Not quite unsung

In his letter (MM, May 16, 2000), written in response to 'The Human Side of Genius', Mr. N. Fajagopalan says, "Mozart could not pay for the burial of his wife and mother and faced the same fate himself — unhonoured, unwept and unsung." It is necessary to examine facts before these observations are allowed to stand.

Mozart was just twenty-two years old when his mother Anna Maria nee Pertl died. His father, Leopold, was fairly well established by then, and it is the father's status that we should consider while assessing whether the lady had been given a dignified farewell.

As for Mozart's wife, Constanze nee Weber, she did outlive her famous husband by a little over half a century. A decade after Mozart's death, Constanze was still working on the publication of her late husband's works, living at 'Kleines Michaelerhaus' with Georg Nikolaus Nissen, a Danish diplomat, whom she subsequently married.

The circumstances surrounding Mozart's own funeral have been the subject of highly imaginative debate and speculation. On reading a few of the very many melodramatic narrations, one gains the impression that the frail body of Mozart was just flung into a pauper's grave. Facts would impress otherwise. At the time of his death in 1791, funeral regulations were designed to do away with and prevent the recurrence of any form of ecclesiastical pomp and circumstance associated with funeral rites. These regulations were resented by the population, but it wasn't until 1807 that a court decree restored the privilege of individual graves 'for persons of exalted status or merits'. What was accorded to Mozart, therefore, was not a pauper's funeral but one that complied in every detail with the funeral regulations of his time. His corpse was laid out and consecrated with the appropriate ecclesiastical rites of St. Stephen's Cathedral. It was at the church ceremony that all mourners said farewell to the deceased. Coffins were not allowed to be transported by hearse to cemeteries before nine in the evening during summer and six in the evening during winter. The body was then, therefore, deposited in the mortuary chapel. After dark, coffins

from the mortuaries of various churches were taken by hearse to cemeteries, unaccompanied by mourners. Individual graves were not permitted. Each communal grave could take five adult coffins or four adult and two children's coffins as prescribed by regulations. No priest was present at any grave when undertakers lowered the coffins into the graves the morning after their arrival. In 1791 no funeral in Vienna was different from the one that Mozart had while he was laid to rest in the cemetery of Sankt Marx, a few miles east of Vienna. Had the court decree of 1807 been issued as early as 1791, Mozart would, by virtue of his acknowledged status as a person of exalted merit, have been granted the privilege of an individual grave.

While endorsing several other observations made by Mr. N. Fajagopalan I may add that in the year 1989 a four-page letter in Mozart's hand, describing his journey to Prague, fetched 1.54 million Austrian Schillings, and further that the distinguished music critic Joachim Kaiser has estimated that if Mozart were today paid royalties for every performance of his music on every stage, in every radio and television programme, on every recording worldwide, he would be in a position to purchase the whole of Austria — every square inch of the country together with every single building.

Lancelot Thomas
6/219, Wynad Road
Calicut 673 001.

Median hazards
The hide and seek games played by the police and the two wheelers regarding the medians (loose boulders) near Ram Theatre on Arcot Road is a result of the illogical diversion of over 2 km for west bound vehicles just for the sake of a short 100 metre one way traffic. Instead, the IRR at the South Sivan Koil Road may be opened for west bound light vehicular traffic with a 24 hour policeman or traffic signals. Then the whole stretch of Arcot Road from Doraiswamy Road to Ambedkar statue can be provided with permanent medians to avoid the traffic hazards posed by the loose boulders. But the civic authorities and police should be cautioned that South

Sivan Koil Street and the corresponding streets near Kamala Theatre must first be made fit for regular light vehicular traffic. By this the opening near Vadapalani temple which is a highly accident-prone opening in IRR can be closed permanently.

Prof. D.R. Kiran
Durbhasadan
181, III Main Road
Natesan Nagar, Chennai 600 092.

Relief for refugees

I fail to understand why the Union Government has never approached the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for relief funds ever since the ethnic conflict arose in Ceylon.

The Kashmir problem could be solved for all times, if both the Indian and Pakistani Governments agreed to a neutral Kashmir Government. Kashmir could sustain itself with tourist income. But will the vested super powers allow a neutral Kashmir like Switzerland?

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

Learn Hindi

Our country has several languages, and so it is necessary to gain knowledge of the national language in our state. Japanese and Chinese use their own languages as official languages, but it is not possible in India because of its varied languages. Our neighbouring states have made the national language compulsory upto SSC. That does not mean that they do not love their mother tongue.

P. Unni Prathap
24, Bharat Street
Minjur 601 203

A clarification

My letter which you published under the heading You, I and India (MM, June 1, 2000), was reproduced from a circular letter received from a friend, as indicated by me in my letter. I am not the author of the subject matter. Please clarify to your readers.

S. Jagadisan
48-A, Tarachand Nagar
Virgumbakkam
Chennai 600 092.

The Chennai yuppie loves IT

Pradeep works for an IT company, his first job. He gets less than three hours as free time on a working day. His aspirations are high and as a result, perhaps, his job satisfaction is only average. Pradeep loves luxury cars and one of his dreams is to own a Ford Ikon.

Pradeep is the typical young Chennai executive, as *Project Janus*, a *Business Line* - Indica Research Survey of young executives in Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai and New Delhi, revealed. The survey provided an insight into the mind of the young executive and threw up several interesting points.

According to the survey, the young executive is 'not necessarily a person with a professional qualification... the term has wider implications in keeping with the changes in the nature of the work and broader

whom stick to their first jobs. Quite expectedly, across the cities surveyed, monetary compensation emerges as the most important aspect in taking up a job. 50 per cent of executives said so, while 67 per cent of those already employed agree that pay is vital for job satisfaction. The type of organisation is also seen to be important. Other reasons like non-monetary perks, an unhappy previous job, informal work atmosphere, flexible work timings, opportunity for self-development etc., came lower down the order.

Head hunters love Chennai

More than 40 per cent of young executives in Chennai (the highest percentage among the cities surveyed) fall prey to head-hunters. Lack of job satisfaction is the possible reason stated in the report. Job satisfac-

Nearly 32 per cent of young executives in Chennai, where the attraction for IT is the highest among the metros, work in IT jobs, more than in Bangalore (29 per cent). One reason for the high level of interest for IT jobs in Chennai, the survey adds, is probably because career options in the South are still limited. Although the IT sector is undoubtedly the favourite destination, 30 to 40 per cent of youngsters grab the first job that comes their way, out of sheer anxiety.

The survey also highlights the earning, spending and saving patterns of young executives. A fourth of the respondents earn less than Rs. 5,000 a month while over 20 per cent earn more than Rs.10,000. The young Mumbai executive, on an average, earns Rs. 2,000 more than his Southern counterpart, and leads a marginally superior life style as well. While the average monthly emoluments for young executives are around Rs.10,000 a month, freshers earn as much as Rs.7,700 a month. Young women executives receive lower salaries than their men counterparts.

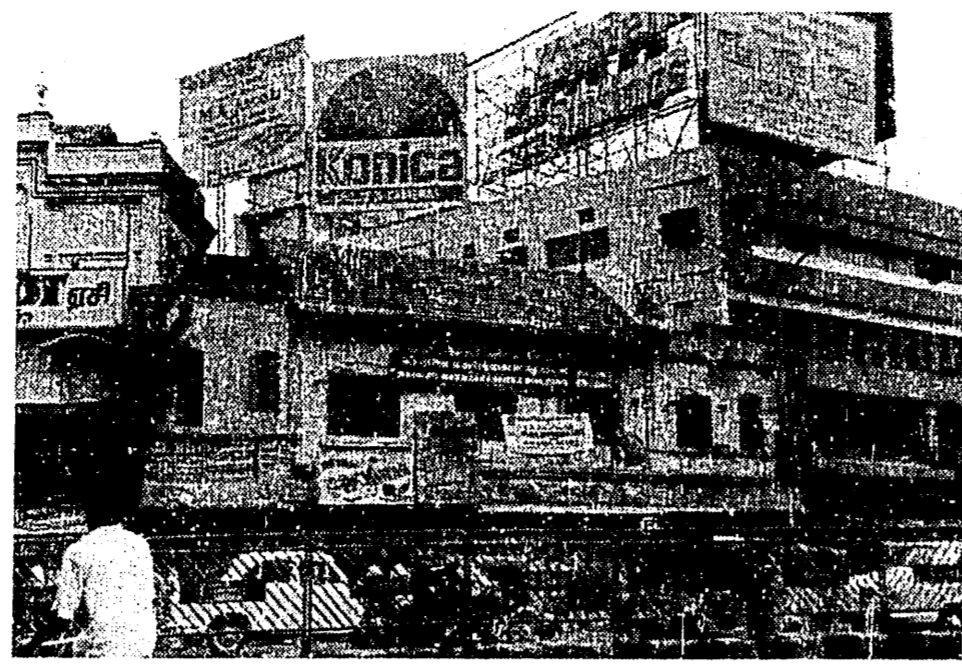
Over 70 per cent of the respondents across the cities surveyed spend more than Rs.3,000 a month on food and provisions. The same number of respondents spend Rs. 800 a month on eating out, clothing and footwear. The other major expenditure was on taking care of the needs of parents and other dependents.

According to the survey, only 42 per cent of the respondents claim to save every month. While 17 per cent save for tax purposes, more than 50 per cent save in addition to this. Most young executives believe in saving only after marriage, with the money earned earlier spent on vehicles, music systems, computers and other gadgets. Surprisingly, insurance is a serious issue only for the 35-plus male. NSC and PPF schemes, however, are very popular.

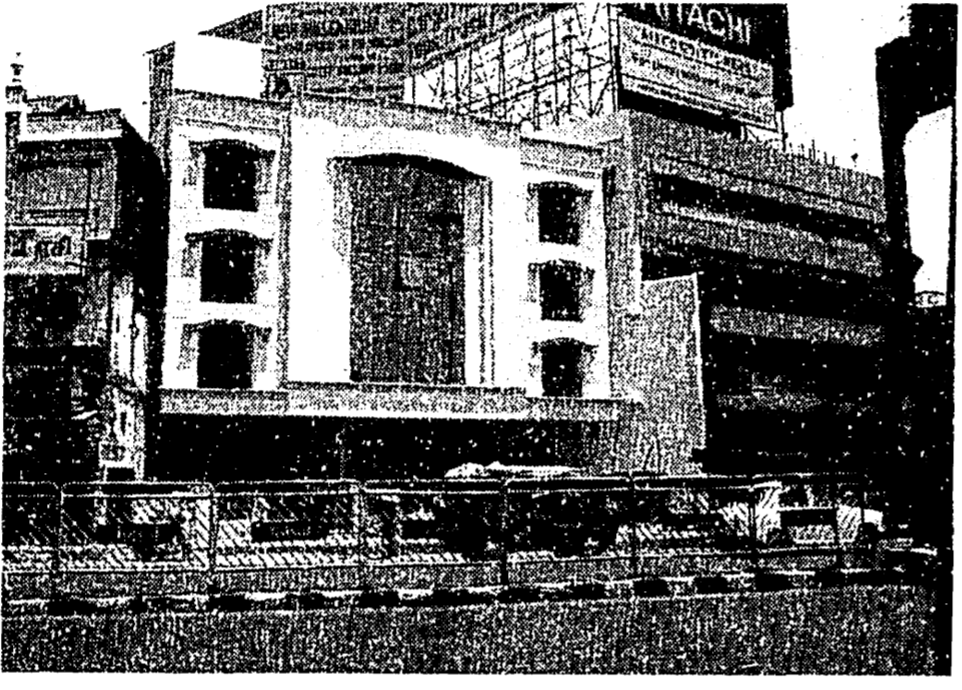
Cellphones top the list of status symbols in the minds of young executives of both sexes across the four cities. Luxury cars come second, followed by residential flats and credit cards. A large number of young executives in Chennai are interested in the security of having a home of their own.

According to the survey, only 23 per cent of young executives take regular breaks from work - the rest seem busy finding ways to climb the corporate ladder. Out of the first lot, 81 per cent take short-term weekend trips.

Peter England is the most preferred formalwear brand of young Chennai executives, with over 50 per cent voting for it. Arrow, Park Avenue, Van Heusen and Louis Philippe followed, in that order. The need



The OLD is Madras Mahajana Sabha founded in 1884 and brought down in 1997/98. In its last days it housed an Accountants' firm. Madras Mahajana Sabha was one of the country's oldest political institutions born of the theosophical convention. During the first few years, this voice of the public functioned from The Hindu's 100 Mount Road office before moving into the present place. This was also the place where the meeting to found the Indian Bank was held. After Independence, the Sabha reduced its political links with the Congress and became a cultural body. Today, the Sabha occupies an old building behind the LIC's tower block on Mount Road, where the Sabha's office, reading room and the library function. The NEW replacing the landmark is the glass-plated commercial complex below. (Photographs and text by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)



to be recognised for what one is wearing is high. In the casual dress category, *Flying Machine* emerges as the most popular brand in Chennai. Young executives in Bangalore, Mumbai and Delhi prefer dressing casually outside their work place.

The survey goes on to say that young executives keep themselves abreast of emerging trends and are very selective about the products they buy. Brand, style, variety and price influence purchase. For example, *Titan*, with its innovative watches and international styling, completely dominates the market segment of young executives. However, in the footwear segment, *Bata*, one of India's oldest brands, figures at the top of the list as the choice of the young executive - a whopping 77 per cent in Chennai, the highest percentage among the cities surveyed, say that they wear *Bata* footwear.

Over 60 per cent of young executives in Chennai own *Citibank* cards. And 50 per cent of the respondents in the city prefer alternate entertainment activities like bowling and pool. Across the cities, 93 per cent rate going to the movies as the popular leisure activity. Attending plays and concerts is popular with 57 per cent of the respondents. Cyber cafés figure at the bottom of the entertain-

ment options of young executives, possibly because most have a PC at home.

The Hindu leads

While over 90 per cent of young executives in Chennai read *The Hindu*, an average of 45 per cent across the cities surveyed read *The Times of India*, making it the most widely read English newspaper among young executives in India. *The Economic Times* is read by 23 per cent of the respondents in Chennai. Among magazines, *India Today* is still a hot favourite. The magazine occupies top slot in all the cities, with 95 per cent (the highest) readership in Chennai.

The Business Line-commissioned *Project Janus* study covered two segments: executives with one year's experience and those with four/five years' experience. The respondents were drawn from technical and management streams from both the public and private sectors. The average age of the respondents was 27 years, with 90 per cent of them falling in the 21-30 age group. The study went through a three-stage process with both qualitative and quantitative components. The views of over one thousand respondents from different industries were gathered through detailed interviews supplemented by several focus group discussions.

A chapel lost to commerce

A recurring feature of *Madras Musings* is the forcefully argued case for the preservation of buildings of historical or architectural significance over which hangs the threat of demolition. From time to time, additionally, readers will be reminded by detailed and well-researched articles that other buildings have already been allowed to disappear from the streets of Madras, swept away by the bulldozer of progress. Most often, perhaps, in recent years they have gone because, for any number of telling reasons, the fight to save them has been lost. Occasionally, however, it seems that they have been allowed to go because no one raised his voice for their retention.

The Chapel of the Madras Christian College which used to stand on the north side of the Esplanade, now NSC Bose Road, is believed to have been just such a case. From the beginning of the twentieth century the original elegantly steeped building dating from 1862 was subjected to any number of subsequent disfiguring extensions and alterations. Finally, in the late 1930s or early 1940s, it was entirely pulled down and replaced by the stodgy offices of the State Bank of Mysore. Perhaps because the demolition attracted little concern at the time it may be argued that its demise was not mourned by many. As far as the present writer can see no properly orchestrated attempt was made to keep it.

It may be said that very few details of the Chapel have survived to the present day. What would be more accurate, however, would be to suggest that very little by way of photographs, drawings and written material seems to have been published on it either prior to or following its destruction. The same may be said about the College as a whole. Was this not one of the most handsome ranges of nineteenth century buildings in the whole of Madras and, as such, was it not supremely worthy of a proper and detailed record being made of it while it was still there, lining almost the full extent of the eastern part of the Esplanade? Even now it would constitute a most rewarding subject for study by someone on the spot with access to archives, books and newspaper libraries.

As it must be becoming acutely obvious, the writer of these notes is not in a very good position to construct any kind

of detailed and comprehensive picture. The customary format of *Musings* as a vehicle for disseminating information which could be of use to the reader does simply not apply in this case. It is being turned on its head and something akin to a quiz substituted in its stead! In an attempt, even at this late stage, to cobble together a reasonably complete portrait of the Chapel and the people associated with it, readers are sincerely requested to help the author fill in many gaps in the story. Please dip into your old Madras books and newspapers, trawl the City archives and talk to members of the older generation about their recollections of what stood there on the site all those years ago. Some of you may be former students of the schools and College.

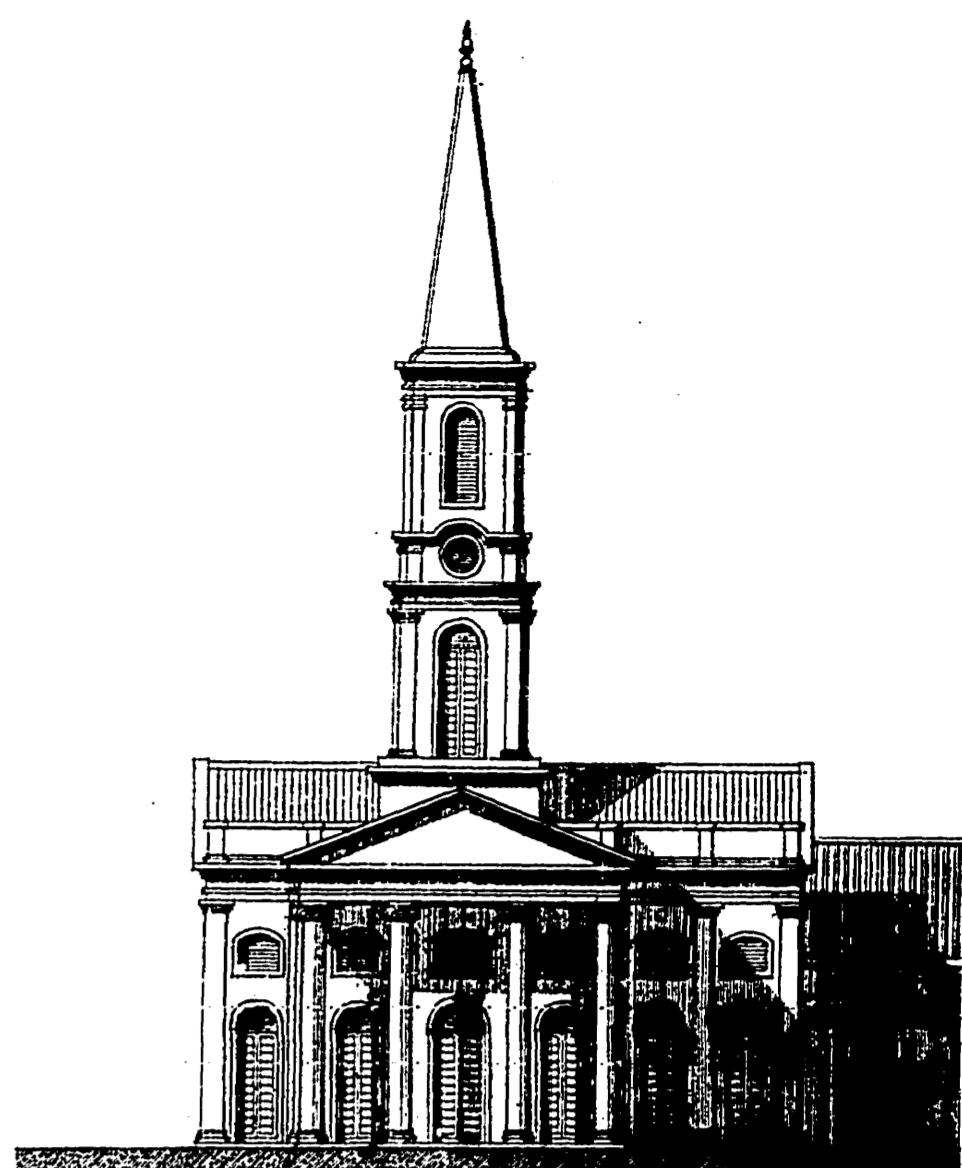
By the standards of non-domestic buildings, the Chapel enjoyed a very brief life, at the most seventy years. The author is aware of only two photographs which show the building in its original condition but he is convinced that other photographs of both the interior and exterior are still in existence.

Sometime in 1881 an enormous panoramic photograph was taken of the entire frontage of College buildings, including the Chapel and the Anderson Hall, Parry's and a good deal besides. This photograph is not only wide, it is wonderfully clear and detailed. It shows many of the roofs of prominent buildings in George Town and also late nineteenth century steamers at anchor in the harbour. What is immediately striking is that the picture was taken from an unusual viewpoint, up in the air! It is guessed that the intrepid exponent of the huge mahogany and brass camera needed for such large format work was able to take advantage of the presence of a captive balloon moored in the Esplanade Park. This was possibly provided to give small groups of Madras residents a view of their city, from above. A framed copy of this panorama, and another facing Fort St. George, are to be found under the gallery in St. Mary's Church in the Fort. They are also reproduced in the end papers of S. Muthiah's book *Madras - Past and Present*, an indispensable collection of 'then and now' pictures taken from glass photographic plates, mostly well before the close of the last century.

The second photograph was taken at an angle to the Espla-

nade and is one of two almost identical ground-level pictures taken over the rough ground of the Park. They were discovered by Mrs. Anne Dayananden, the Archivist of the College. One was a plate in the *College Magazine* of December 1937, and is entitled 'The College Buildings in 1890'. Apparently the picture was included to fill a space and is not supported by a description in the text. As the foundation stone of the High Court had been laid in 1889, and building work would soon have been under way, it is quite likely that the photographer snatched this possibly last opportunity before the Chapel and College buildings became obscured from view from the Esplanade Park. The other photograph is less precisely dated as being pre-1910 but could not have been taken much later than the 1890 version. It appeared in an old *College* calendar.

The author suspects that one reason for the scarcity of records is that by the closing years of the nineteenth century the Chapel and College buildings would have been felt to be out-of-date and thus unworthy of attention. An enormous variety of exciting new buildings was appearing in Madras streets and this was very comprehensively covered by the cameraman. In the face of competition for space, especially in George Town, the City's primary mercantile district, a small chapel would be deemed by some to be occupying a valuable site. Besides it is almost certain that it was thought to be out-of-date stylistically even when it was completed back in 1862; the gothic revival movement had become very strong by the middle of the century and its practitioners were certainly busy in India. But this is a different story, well worthy of an article of its own. Again, shortly after it began to be used as a chapel detractors pronounced that it was 'unsatisfactory' in certain regards, but what their grounds for criticising the building were based upon is not yet clear. Perhaps it suffered as a result of being swapped in role with its neighbour, the present Anderson Church. This church still stands at the corner of NSC Bose Road and Thambu Chetty Street and was erected not as a building exclusively for worship but as a multi-purpose college hall; sometimes it was known as the Evangelistic Hall. The Chapel was not large. From the 1881 photo-



The South elevation of the Anderson Hall (c. 1881), as illustrated by Tom Inglis, which served as a multipurpose hall (above), and the view of the Anderson Church today (below) after reconstruction. (Photograph by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)



graph it can be seen that it was much the same in overall size as Anderson Church. It appears to have been, from the photographic evidence presently available, a building of distinction; that is, in its original form. It was built in the neoclassical style in vogue forty years earlier, and was thus somewhat ditto-looking when compared, for example, with Holy Emmanuel Church, (now St Thomas's Syrian Orthodox Church), with which it was exactly contemporary. Look, however, at Christ Church, Mount Road (Anna Salai), for there are some likenesses in detail, if not in actual concept. It was the Chapel's nearest stylistic relative and was finished ten years earlier, in 1852. Altered and added to, the Chapel survived,

presumably as the College Hall, until the 1930s or early 1940s. The College moved out and very shortly afterwards the demolition gang moved in! The building suffered the way of many others which stood in the way of big business. It was pulled down to make way for the stodgy semi-modern block of the State Bank of Mysore to which the land and building had been sold. The secondary school which was associated with the College, and from which it had originally sprung, stayed until 1950 and then moved to a relatively short distance, to Chetput.

(To be concluded next fortnight)

Tom Inglis

Quizzin' with Ram'nan

Questions 1 to 12 are from the period May 16 to 31. Questions 10 to 12 pertain to Chennai. Questions 13 to 20 relate to Tamil Nadu.

1. Which tennis star earned the 'hooby prize', for being the most difficult and miserable player on the international tennis tour, from a panel of tennis journalists?
2. With the help of which website did Manoj Prabhakar shoot with his clandestine videos the conversations of cricketers regarding match fixing?
3. How did Janet Simons' resumé create havoc in the e-world recently?
4. Which club regained the prestigious UEFA Champions League title at Paris on May 24?
5. Which two Pakistani cricketers have been banned for life for match fixing?
6. Name the celebrated 'queen of romantic fiction' who passed away recently.
7. Which film won the Golden Palm for the best feature film at Cannes recently?
8. Name the three Indian technocrats who figure in *Asiaweek's* '50 most powerful people'.
9. Who led the coup which ousted Fiji's PM, Mahendra Chaudhry, an Indian ethnic, recently?

* * *

10. Name the popular mambo artiste who performed in the metro recently.
11. Which company is laying optical fibre cables in the city as part of the State's Community Internet Project?
12. Which Chennai-based player recently made it to the Asia Cup cricket team?

* * *

13. What is the new parental income limit for the award of scholarships to school and college students belonging to BC, MBC and de-notified communities?
14. Name the sitting AIADMK MP convicted in the high profile colour TV purchase case.
15. Which organisation is to maintain the 167 km long East Coast Road running from Chennai to Cuddalore?
16. What is the Annual Plan allocation for Tamil Nadu for the year 2000-2001?
17. In the days of the Raj, how was Ooty jocularly referred to?
18. If Aapams were 'Hoppers', how was Idiappam referred to?
19. If Sivaji is called *Nadigar Thilagam*, who was called *Nadigar Thilagam*?
20. Where in Tamil Nadu can one see the *Jala Durg* (Fort in water) with a large moat surrounding it?

(Answers on Page 8)

Trees for Chennai

Every year for the last four decades, I used to get invitations from the City Corporation, Government Departments and numerous NGOs to help them plant trees. I remember that the number of trees they promised to plant in those distant years was small. But today the numbers have increased and crossed the six digit mark. Looking back I feel that if we had planted all those trees we were supposed to have planted, Chennai would by now have become a green haven.

Where did all those trees go? The riddle reminded me of a small write-up of mine in *The Mail*, an evening daily Madras loved and which ceased publication a few years ago:

'The Green Revolution'

The members of the Mangamma Memorial Ladies Club were busy that day. They were getting ready to celebrate *Vana Mahotsava*. In the evening a Minister's wife was coming to plant a sapling in the compound of the Club. Incidentally MMLC is the only organisation in the city to celebrate the annual tree planting ceremony without a break for the last 15 years.

Sheeloo Appaswamy was in complete charge of the function. She meticulously arranged the photographers, reporters, loudspeakers and other requirements for the tree planting ceremony. The pit for planting the tree and the tree sapling etc. were left in the capable hands of Munuswamy the head gardener of the Club. In the afternoon, Sheeloo went to check every detail and with pride writ large on her face returned to the office room to once again read the speech she prepared for the occasion.

Strange as it may seem, the Minister's wife arrived in time. She was received inside the Club sitting room by a confused array of young girls with 'arati' and was taken to the platform. Sheeloo came running and struggling for breath read out her thought-provoking speech.

It is for want of trees, Sheeloo read, that we are not getting enough rain. More trees mean not only more rain but also more monkeys and more monkeys ensure an increase in foreign exchange. Tracing our traditions she touched upon Sri Rama's victory over the *Rakshasas* of Lanka which she said became possible only through the help of his *vanara sena*. If we have such *senas* we could easily repulse the incursions into our land by unfriendly

neighbours. Sheeloo entreated everyone present to celebrate *Vana Mahotsava* with gusto to make the country green, prosperous and strong.

The Minister's wife gave a suitable reply. The last meeting she attended was one to popularise family planning among villagers and so she remembered the speech her husband's private secretary prepared for her. She spoke in detail about the need to practise family planning to save the country from certain doom. In the end she uttered a few words about tree planting and concluded her speech by saying that trees and not new born babies were the crying need of the day.

Miss Pervin Muttaiwala gave a sweet little vote of thanks. She thanked everybody on behalf of herself and the Club for accepting the invitation and by their presence making the function a great success.

Sheeloo then escorted the chief guest to the *Vana Mahotsava* square. In front of the gaily decorated pit she made all the members stand in a row with the chief guest holding a sapling high with both hands and she herself with a crow-bar forcefully held in her right hand. Cameras clicked and then the chief guest dropped the sapling in the pit. Leaving the sapling to the trustworthy Munuswamy all members and guests walked towards the main hall where tea was served under the supervision of Kumari Indira Rangaswamy B.A. and her enthusiastic assistants.

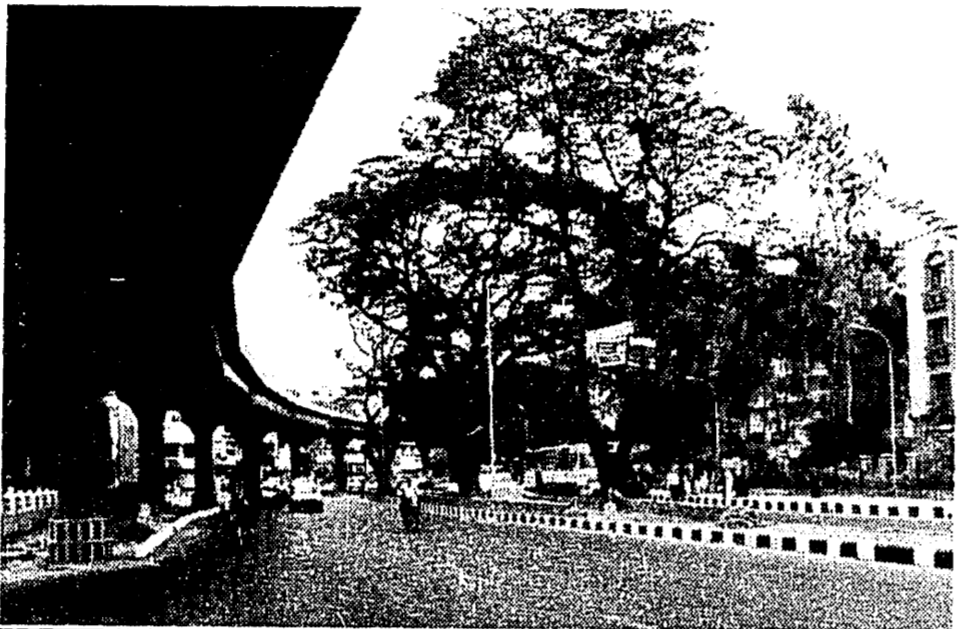
Most of the papers the next day reported the function in detail and some carried photographs. As the reports said the country badly needed selfless workers like the members of the MMLC. A column writer even recommended national awards to two of the members, one of them being the indefatigable Sheeloo.

Mangamma Memorial Ladies Club thus celebrated *Vana Mahotsava* for 16 years without a break. Those who attended the function knew that the tree planting habit has come to stay in MMLC. The resourceful ladies have even made a permanent *Vana Mahotsava* square in the Club compound under the spreading tamarind trees. It was here in the six metre square raised ground with the pit in the centre that the members of the Mangamma Memorial Ladies Club celebrated *Vana Mahotsava* all these years and will celebrate hereafter.

O.T. Ravindran



The Adyar flyover area, before and after. However, authorities promise a tree-planting drive to make the city green again.



TRAFFIC POLLUTION

(Continued from page 1)

phasing out all vehicles not conforming to them.

Among other measures recommended by the panel are the reduction of the sulphur content in diesel, making adulteration of fuel a criminal offence, strict monitoring of naphtha and kerosene sales, a marker system to detect adulteration, reduction in the price gap between diesel and petrol, setting up a full-fledged lab in the city to test samples of fuel and lubricants by mobile testing vans.

Vehicle manufacturers will have to buy back old vehicles and guarantee emission compliance through an annual maintenance contract. The manufacturer thus becomes an accountable participant in vehicle maintenance. Reduction of sales tax and octroi and concessional rates of interest on loans will be offered as incentives to autorickshaw and taxi drivers to convert to cleaner vehicles.

Synchronised traffic signals, exclusive bus lanes, removal of unauthorised speed breakers, banning of *morchas* and a traffic restraint system are all part of the comprehensive reforms recommended by the panel. Disallowing vehicles with registration numbers ending with specific digits (like 1 and 2 on Monday, 3 and 4 on Tuesday etc) is a major initiative proposed to reduce the traffic by about 20%.

Road digging activity will be controlled by a high powered city committee and not decided by individual agencies without reference to others.

The panel pleads for waivers of customs duty, sales tax, excise and octroi on CNG kits as well as the amendment of the development control rules to enable setting up CNG filling stations. Besides the impetus sought for CNG, the panel also wants emission norms to be tightened.

Editor's Note: *Madras Musings* has for long been advocating the adoption by Chennai of the several interesting measures being attempted at by other Metros, Mumbai in particular. With road users giving and paying no more than lip service to following emission norms, we have always called for stricter enforcement of existing rules and regulations. There are salutary lessons to be learnt from the proposed Mumbai experiment, and the following steps could be straightaway introduced in Chennai with considerable benefits to the health and comfort of all concerned:

1. Stricter enforcement of emission control requirements.
2. Disallowing vehicles with specific registration numbers (last digits) on the roads on certain days of the week.
3. Exemplary punishment of traffic offenders including polluters.
4. Compulsory conversion to cleaner fuels, starting with buses and taxis.

Unless urgent steps are taken, Chennai threatens to join other metros on the list of most polluted cities.

Century-makers in Carnatic Music

Vocalists

Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar (1890-1967)

Ramanuja Iyengar moulded the concert format that has prevailed until today. While brevity was the soul of his *bani*, the hallmark of this format is variety. Additionally, Iyengar enriched the then limited concert repertoire with a large number of compositions.

Kanchipuram Naina Pillai (1889-1934)

This 'upstart' from Kanchipuram, as he was initially viewed by the stalwarts of the Kaveri delta, is often thought of only as a *laya*-oriented vocalist, but he was in fact a 'complete musician', excellent in every department. He was a model musician of his times, noted particularly for upholding the integrity of the notes amidst *gamaka* usages.

Semmgudi Srinivasa Iyer (b. 1908)

This giant of a musician has remained a hallmark of standard during a career spread over 75-plus years, in that he has shown how to gain and retain an audience without compromising on the integrity of art music. He was primarily responsible for popularising the compositions of Swati Tirunal.

G.N. Balasubramaniam (1910-1965)

A brilliant musician fired by intellect, he was an innovator par excellence within the broad confines of tradition. A musician who understood *raga* music and projected it outstandingly, he blazed a new trail and established a *bani* that has hundreds trying to emulate it or assimilate it.

M.S. Subbulakshmi (b.1916),

D.K. Pattammal (b.1919),
M.L. Vasanthakumari (1928-1990)

MS, DKP and MLV — each one of them an outstanding musician — together busted the male domination of Carnatic music. They have shown that women musicians can be as good as any male musician — and even better. Their victorious demonstration of the fact that music has no gender arena to hundreds of female musicians.

M. Balamuralikrishna (b.1930)

Reckoned as the first among the 20th century musical prodigies of Telugu country, Balamuralikrishna is a maverick as well. He has applied his musical

genius to strike a new path. He has composed *raga*-s with three or four notes only and given new twists to old compositions.

T.N. Seshagopalan (b.1948)

Ask the young musicians of today and they will point to this vocalist as their own source of inspiration. It seems this brilliantly endowed vocalist fits this bill more than stalwarts of older generations because of his proximity to them in time and space.

Instrumentalists

Veena Seshanna (1852-1926)

The best-known *vainika* of Mysore, he is credited with forging the Mysore *bani* in its pristine form and taking it to its pinnacle. He developed new methods for veena practice, which included items like *chitta tanam*.

Veena Dhanammal (1867-1938)

Dhanammal was not really a concert artiste, but she imparted a new dimension to music as a whole in which sinuous melody, suffused with *gamakas*, stood out. She had a tremendous impact on an entire generation of cognoscenti, as well as many musicians' perception of beauty.

Karaikudi Subbarama Iyer (1883-1936) and Karaikudi Sambasiva Iyer (1888-1958)

The Karaikudi brothers modernised the Thanjavur style of veena-play. In their exposition, it was characterised by expansive *raga alapana* and *tana* fired by great musical imagination.

Emani Sankara Sastry (1922-1987) and S. Balachander (1927-1990)

These two *vainika*-s can be bracketed together because they both pioneered new techniques to bring veena music closer to vocal music. In both cases, the handling of *gamaka*-s was the route to fame.

Sankara Sastry, who used a contact microphone, was the first to exploit the full potential of the veena.

Balachander introduced the use of the magnetic pickup which picks up the vibrations directly from the strings. This enabled the maestro to evolve the technique of playing many notes with a single *meetu* or pluck, and as well elicit a sound close to the human voice. Balachander mediated the transformation of a chamber music instrument into a concert hall instrument.

● Concert music as we know today, seems to have come into vogue towards the end of the last century, or at the beginning of this century. Some scholars have averred that this combination was pioneered by flautist Sarabha Sastry (1872-1904); others give credit to Coimbatore Raghava Iyer (1826-?). Whoever it was that invented this combination was a pioneer, a pathfinder, a century-maker.

We feature some of these century-makers here.

Mysore Doreswamy Iyengar (1920-1997)

Doreswamy Iyengar modified the Mysore *bani* to suit modern tastes and popularised it during his career of five decades plus, even while retaining the essence of the style.

Tirukodikaval Krishna Iyer (1857-1913)

Others might have pioneered the use of the violin in Carnatic music, but Tirukodikaval Krishna Iyer, maternal uncle of Semmgudi Srinivasa Iyer, is acknowledged as the first successful violin soloist in the concert arena.

Lalgudi Jayaraman (b.1930)

Lalgudi Jayaraman has given a new dimension to violin-playing by giving voice to the dumb instrument — by giving importance to the learning to sing the lyrics in the first place and taking care to articulate the lyrics in performance.

Tiruveezhimizhalai

Brothers:
Subramania Pillai (1895-1984) & Natarajasundaram Pillai (1900-?)

Among the most famous pairs of nagaswara vidwans of their time, Subramania Pillai and Natarajasundaram Pillai stood out for the clarity of the *sahitya*-s of the *kriti*-s they played.

Tiruvaduturai N. Rajarathnam Pillai (1898-1956)

T.N. Rajarathnam, a genius of a musician, revolutionised nagaswara-playing. A pied piper with first the *timiri* and then the *bani* versions of the instrument in his bejewelled hands, he had a legion of admirers who adored his boundless imagination as he explored the images of a host of *raga*-s.

T.R. Mahalingam (1926-1986)

The Indian bamboo flute had been played like a harmonium until Mahalingam, another genius known as Flute Mali, came on the scene and,

even as a boy prodigy, changed it all. He used the same flute as the others did, but what he produced with it was different and awesomely beautiful — fluid in its melody, often intricate in its rhythm and especially striking in slow-speed presentation.

U. Srinivas (b.1970)

The Andhra prodigy who has graduated into a mature but still a brilliant musician, is another solo instrumentalist deserving the sobriquet of genius. Choosing the mandolin as his vehicle, he has shown how a foreign instrument with limitations can be used to produce Carnatic classical music in all its brilliant hues. Also, with his unbounded imagination, he stands out as an exceptional exponent of *raga* music.

Malaikottai Govindaswamy Pillai (1879-1931)

Govindaswamy Pillai offered such an excellent combination of musical acumen, admirable sense of *laya*, technical expertise and professional integrity that he was regarded as a yardstick of standard and a role model.

Mysore T. Chowdiah (1894-1967)

Chowdiah could produce a dominating volume with his seven-stringed violin, but he always played to enhance the quality of the vocal (and flute) concerts in which he participated. For this reason, the 'main' artistes wanted him on their side.

Kumbakonam Rajamanickam Pillai (1898-1970)

His huge frame dwarfed the violin in his hands and, unlike Chowdiah, he did not produce spectacular sound, but he was a model sideman in that he used his musical acumen to support and even prod the artistic imagination of main musician.

* * *

Percussionists

Pudukottai Dakshinamurthy Pillai (1875-1937)

Most of us have not heard this yogi of a percussionist play either the mridanga or the *khanjira*, but according to Semmgudi Srinivasa Iyer, this exponent of the Pudukottai style was an exemplary sideman with a magnificent sound that matched his heart.

Thanjavur Vaidyanatha Iyer (1895-1947)

Thanjavur Vaitha, came to be respected as a great teacher of the *mridanga*, even though he was also a concert artiste. He honed the Thanjavur style to perfection and trained outstanding *mridanga vidvans* like Palakkad Mani Iyer, T.K. Murthy and Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman to spread its glory across the globe.

Palani Subramania Pillai (1909-1962)

Palani Subbudu played both the *mridanga* and the *khanjira*

in a distinctive personal style within the Pudukottai tradition. He introduced technical improvements which helped him produce beautiful sound. He offered highly intricate *laya* patterns, as well as easily enjoyed *sarvalaghu* patterns and gaits. None provided better rhythmic accompaniment to *kriti*-s.

Palakkad Mani Iyer (1912-1981)

Mani Iyer became a legend in his own lifetime. Torchbearer of the Thanjavur style, he was the mridanga vidwan against whom all others were measured. With his technical skills and profound understanding of the basic values of Carnatic music, he lifted the level of any concert in which he took part. He never flaunted his mastery of *laya* and masterful skills at the expense of aesthetics, though his method of playing for the song was not welcomed by everyone and led to unhappy results at the hands of others who tried to emulate him.

T.H. Vinayakram (b.1942)

There were stalwart *ghata* vidwans before him but it was Vinayakram that globalised the humble pot with a dexterous application of his *laya* imagination, palm play and fingering techniques. Thanks to him, the *ghata* has found a place not only in Carnatic classical music, but also in North-South *jugalbandi*-s, international ensemble music and even film music in the West, not to mention commercials.

Needamangalam Meenakshisundaram Pillai (1894-1949)

Meenakshisundaram Pillai lifted *tavil*-play to a new level and his exemplary performances inspired others to excellence. He is said to be the first *tavil*dar to be featured as Special *Tavil* in a nagaswara melam — the phrase indicating the role given to him as a specialist player of the twin-headed drum, in addition to the regular *tavil* players of the party.

Valayapatti A.R. Subramaniam (b.1940) and Haridwarangalam A.K. Palanivel (b.1948)

Palanivel and Subramaniam stand out among contemporary *tavil*dar-s with their stunning *laya* perceptions and expert handling of the most intricate rhythms. Both have added new dimensions to *tavil* play and taken it to new heights, as evidenced not only in traditional nagaswara *kutcheri*-s but in other musical expressions too, like Subramaniam providing percussion support to violinist Kunnakudi Vaidyanathan and Palanivel participating in *jugalbandi*-s and ensemble music of various kinds. — (Courtesy: *Smti.*)

(To be concluded next fortnight)

An all-rounder among sportspersons

The large corridor in front of the GM's office at the Indian Overseas Bank's regional office is thronged by sportsmen waiting to shake their benefactor's hand. It is obvious from the smiles and cheerful expressions on their faces that they have returned from a tournament success. Indeed, they are the members of the IOB team which recently won the Rajiv Gandhi Memorial National Basketball Championship at Robinson Park, Chennai.

To achieve this spectacular victory, the IOB team came through one of its toughest campaigns against teams like Vijaya Bank and South Central Railway. It was the third major national title the team had won in the last month, following successes in an all India tournament held in Periyakulam and the Nachimuthu Gounder Cup in Coimbatore, where too IOB had beaten some of the most formidable sides in the country. "The main focus of our sporting activities includes promotion and participation in games at all levels," says Aezaz Ahmad, the officer in charge of sports in IOB. He

points out that the Bank's participation in major events started from the early 1970s with the full approval of the management. "We have been involving ourselves in six major sports for the last three decades and in most of them we have an excellent record," explains Aezaz.

The six sports he mentions are: basketball, volleyball, cricket, hockey, football, and badminton. The bank's basketball team has maintained supremacy in the state, winning the championship for the second year in succession. It is the first team from Chennai to represent the country at the International Club Championship held in Uzbekistan where it lost to the eventual qualifiers from its group, the Uzbekistan Army.

IOB's volleyball squad, which comes a close second to Cochin Port Trust in domestic competition, has five players who were part of the Indian team that won the gold in the Kathmandu SAF Games. "Though our hockey team does not have stars, it has won the city's senior division league for the past three years and our

cricket team too is faring well against an increasing corporate dominance," says Aezaz pointing at the Palayampatti Shield, which its cricketers won last year after a gap of 15 years.

The bank hires the best footballers in the city for its team which has qualified for Division B of the National Football League. Besides this, last year the team also entered the Federation Cup for the first time. The badminton team has a formidable record, contributing five players to the state team.

In all its six sports, IOB has established and upcoming players. Most of the star players belong to their basketball and volleyball teams: Robinson, who captained the Junior Indian team at the Asian Basketball Championship at Calcutta in 1996, C. Gopinath, member of the Under-22 Indian basketball team to the Asian championship at Shang Hi in China in 1996, Sridharan, captain of the Indian junior team to the Asian Championship in Malaysia and a tournament in Boston, along with Shivashankar, another member of the Indian junior squad and Shabeer Ahmad. These five were members of the Tamil Nadu side which won the National championship at Delhi last year, and also the recently-concluded Rajiv Gandhi Memorial National Championship. "We also have senior players like Swaminathan, Prem Kumar and Balakrishnan, who have years of international experience,

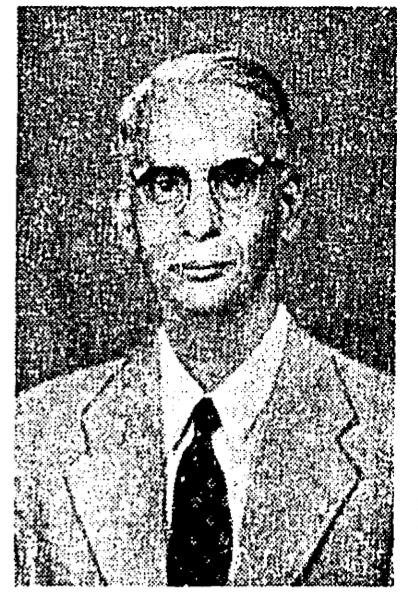
and still play for the team," says Aezaz.

Other notable current IOB sportspersons are K.N. Anantha Padmanabhan, the veteran leg spinner from Kerala, Senthil its hockey right extreme, Jobi Joseph and M. S. Rajesh, both members of gold-medal-winning volleyball teams in the SAF Games of 1995 (Chennai) and 1999 (Kathmandu). "Our priority is to give the players as many opportunities as we can to play while they are in their youth and prime", explains Aezaz, and adds that the management allows its players to take part in all important tournaments with full pay, flexible working hours and out-of-turn promotions. It organises facilities like grounds, gymnasiums, etc., for them to maintain their fitness and to remain in top condition. "We have leased six grounds in the city, including the Pachaiyappas College ground for hockey and football, the St. Bede's School ground for cricket and the Loyola College ground for basketball. We also get our players enrolled as members in gymnasiums near their residences to enable them to go for workouts at convenient times," Aezaz explains.

The 90 sportsmen who represent the bank, state and country are from team sports and all men. Aezaz says that the government's policy of reducing bank recruitments and the policy of the bank itself to concentrate on developing team sports has been the reason for not including individual sports like athletics or tennis or including women players. "However, individual sports are included in events we sponsored, such as the ATP tennis tour in 1996, and the National Junior Tennis Tournament in 1998 and 1999", reveals Aezaz.

IOB also sponsors district level cricket tournaments con-

'Subbu' is no more



P R Subramaniam, pioneer in physical education, expert curator of cricket pitches, allround sportsman who took part in cricket, tennis, hockey, athletics and boxing, and highly respected sports personality of Chennai, breathed his last on June 3 at his Kennedy Street, Luz home, at age 95, survived by his wife and a son. Subbu was active till the very end, seen riding a two-wheeler well into his eighties, and always wore a tie and a hat. He was much loved by sportsmen.

ducted by the TNCA. The IOB Trophy remains a coveted cup among the lower division teams in the TNCA league. The trophy was constituted with the objective of sporting young cricketing talent in the state. The bank was the official banker for the Wills World Cup, 1996, and the main sponsor for the four-nation Independence Cup in 1997, the India-Pakistan hockey test played in Chennai the same year, and again the main sponsor of the Inter-School Kiddies Athletic Championship conducted by the Don Bosco Athletic Club. "We are particularly proud of our effort to show all the cricket World Cup matches live on giant screens across the city," Aezaz says.

L. Subramani

Answers to Quiz

1. Yevgeny Kafelnikov; 2. Tehelka.com; 3. It is the name of a virus that attacked many email users worldwide; 4. Spain's Real Madrid; 5. Salim Malik and Atatur-Rehman; 6. Dame Barbara Cartland; 7. Dancer in the Dark; 8. Dhirubhai Ambani of Reliance, Azim Premji of Wipro and Infosys' Narayanamoorthy; 9. George Speight. * * *
10. Lou Bega; 11. WorldTel; 12. Hemang Badani. * * *
13. Rs.50,000; 14. T.M. Selva-ganapathy; 15. Tamil Nadu Road Development Company; 16. Rs.5,700 crores; 17. 'Snooty' Ooty; 18. String-hoppers; 19. Savitri; 20. Vellore.

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