

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS MUSINGS

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FREE ISSUE

October 1-15, 2000

Will Act curb hoardings?

(By A Staff Reporter)

There is the promise in the air of a comparatively hoarding-free City in the future. On September 12th, the Government of Tamil Nadu brought into force amendments to the relevant Acts pertaining to the regulation of hoardings in urban areas. Hoardings "visible to traffic" in the city will no longer be permitted.

Before initiating legal action against existing hoardings contravening this Act, Government has appealed to all those who have erected such hoardings to remove them. If they are not removed, action both for removal and punishment is promised.

While welcoming the amendments to the relevant Rules of August 1998, which superseded all pre-

vious Acts on the licensing of hoardings, *Madras Musings* is pleased to publish today the salient features of the new Act, Act No.26 of 2000, as they pertain to Chennai City:

'After Section 326-I of the Chennai City Municipal Corporation Act, 1919, the following section shall be inserted, namely:-

"326-J. Prohibition of erection of certain hoardings. — Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or in any other law for the time being in force, or in any judgment, decree or order of any court, tribunal or other authority,

(a)(i) where any hoarding (other than traffic sign and road sign) visible to the traffic on the road is hazardous and disturbance to the safe traffic

movement, so as to adversely affect free and safe flow of traffic and which is in existence immediately before the date of the commencement of the Tamil Nadu Municipal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2000. (hereafter in this section referred to as the amendment Act), the Commissioner shall, by notice in writing, require the licensee or any person in possession of such hoarding, to remove such hoarding within such time as may

be specified in the notice: Provided that such time shall not exceed fifteen days from the

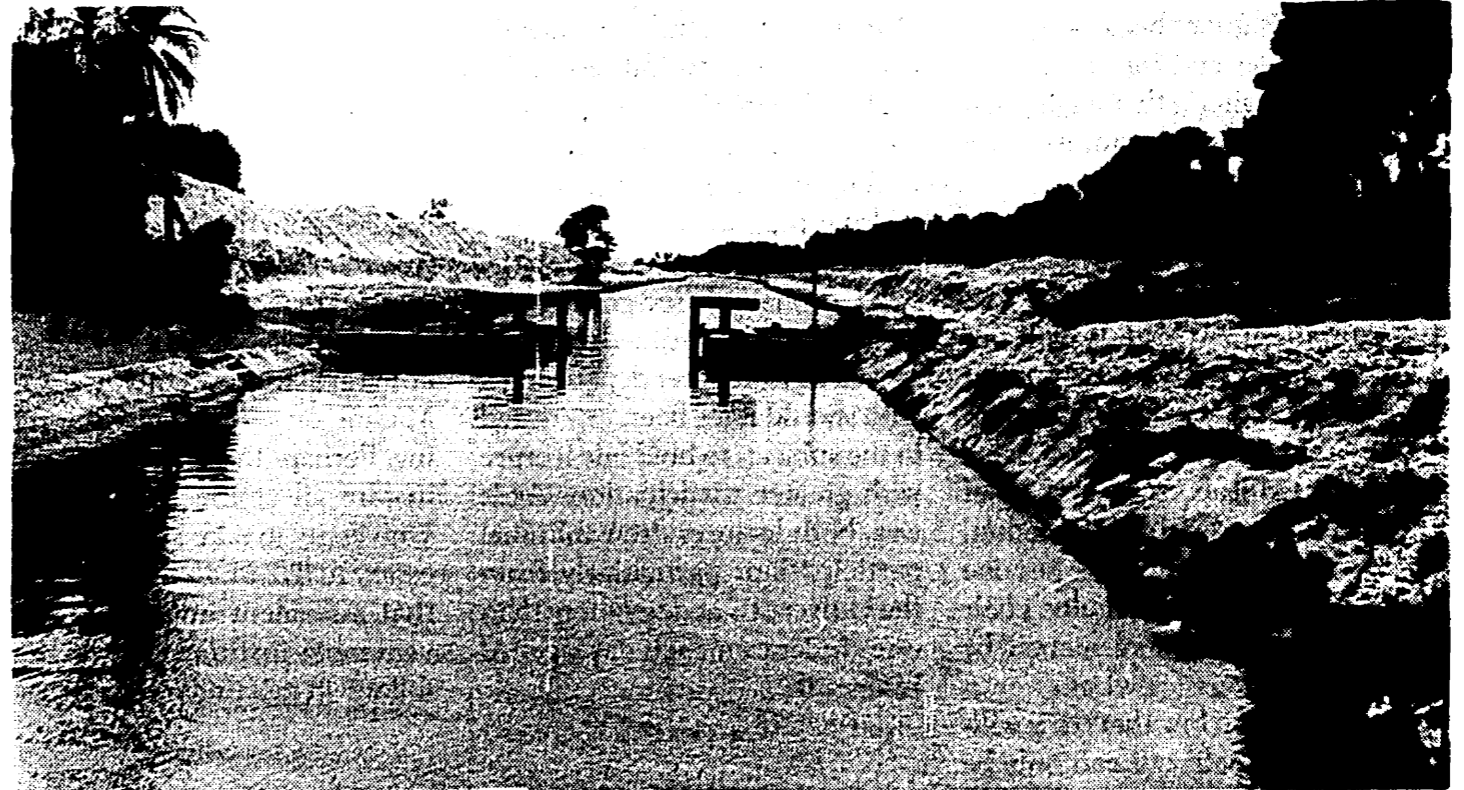
date of issue of such notice;

(ii) where the hoarding referred to in sub-clause (i) is not removed within the time specified in the notice, the Commissioner shall, without further notice, remove such hoarding and recover the expenditure for such removal as an arrear of land revenue;

(b)(i) where the Commissioner is satisfied that the erection of any hoarding (other than traffic sign and road sign) visible to the traffic on the road is hazardous and disturbance to the safe traffic movement so as to

(Continued on Page 3)

**ALSO
SEE
PAGE 7**



The Buckingham Canal past Muttukkadu is now ready for partial navigation for a distance of about 14 km. In stretches, as in the picture below, a catamaran 'service' operates to ferry passengers across widths that not so long ago they were able to walk across at times of the year. The picture above shows one of the locks of the canal. Piled high on the left is excavated sand. Of concern, however, is the erosion that has begun in stretches, as in the right foreground; with the sand on the newly built banks being returned to the Canal, silting up again is a worrying possibility. — (Photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)



Now what do we do with this cleaned-up stretch?

A stretch of about 14 km of the Buckingham Canal, from Thorapakkam to Muttukkadu Backwaters, has been made navigable. The original width of 6m and depth of 2m below mean sea level has been restored. PWD officials say pleasure boating can now be introduced here, but for transport boats to ply in the canal, the depth will have to be increased.

Boating in the Muttukkadu backwaters continues to be popular, but few ply in the Buckingham Canal.

The Buckingham Canal, local inhabitants say, was knee-deep before desilting and they could cross the canal with ease, but it was unnavigable. Things are quite different now.

The earth removed from the Canal has been dumped on both banks and some of it is being used to fill low-lying areas. But this is not being done fast enough. As a consequence, with erosion eating into the banks, the excavated sand is being deposited in the Canal again.

The Lattice Bridge to Thorapakkam stretch, where MRTS work is under progress, is to be desilted without disturbing the railway encroachment by using a pumping method, say PWD officials. They however regret that institutions located on the Buckingham Canal's banks continue to contribute to polluting the water, by discharging their effluents, sewage and garbage into it, making the cleaning and desilting operation a thankless job.

The Muttukadu to Mamallapuram stretch will be taken up, officials say, after the tidying up of the stretches already cleaned.

Rajind N Christy

U.P. model for heritage?

Will Tamil Nadu
privatise its
historic buildings?

(By A Special
Correspondent)

Here's a thought for the government of Tamil Nadu and those in the State concerned with built heritage to team together on.

The Uttar Pradesh Government has decided in principle to allow private sector corporates to 'adopt' 50 historical monuments owned by the State Archaeological Department in order to promote tourism. It thus becomes the first State Government to privatise the monuments, acting on the recommendations of the CIT Tourism Committee. However, such national heritage sites as the Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri will not be privatised.

Several companies in the travel and tourism industry, multinationals, banks and pharmaceutical majors have shown an interest in adopting historic monuments. The rules and regulations relating to privatising are to be finalised, but the model will be based on the

(Continued on Page 7)

The stars twinkle for staffless departments

The Man From Madras Musings is as delighted as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras that one of the country's three oldest universities has been given a FIVE-STAR rating by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council. MMM was very happy to hear the Vice-Chancellor state that "the entire university worked as a single unit to achieve this end".

However, MMM wonders about the criteria the NACC used for making this judgment. MMM raises this query because he has heard of several internationally accepted criteria that might look at the following examples as a matter of concern.

By one of these criteria, every department of an university should have adequate staff and equipment. MMM learns the University of Madras has at present 240 staff vacancies and has just begun after years to make efforts to fill about 25 per cent of them. Because of this situation, several departments have just one or two permanent faculty. Their staff strength is supplemented by guest lecturers for whom remuneration is so low that their willingness to help out can only be considered an act of social obligation. If the paltry remuneration interests them, then the less said of their quality the better.

Apart from this faculty shortage, MMM is aware of equipment shortage in several departments. He knows of private colleges where there are enough computers for EVERY student in a computer class to use for at least a few hours every day. At the University of Madras, in a department where every student SHOULD use a computer as part of his training in the field, there was only ONE computer when MMM last peeped in — and he hasn't heard of that number increasing by very much in the last year. This department also needs much other equipment if its students are to be trained for suitable employment after graduation. MMM has seen none of this equipment in the department. This department, when MMM last heard of its state of health, had only one permanent faculty member and this person had absolutely no practical experience in a subject that needed much field experience. The situation is not very different in a couple of other departments MMM knows of. Presumably the several departments like these can be rated five-star because their one or two faculty must be brilliant to teach ALL the subjects their wards require for their degree — and do so without adequate equipment through their rare communication skills that make theory come alive!

Team work

It was heartwarming to hear that the entire University pulled together to ensure that everything went smoothly when the NAAC team visited the campus and that this joint effort resulted

in impressing the inspectors with what team spirit had achieved.

The Man From Madras Musings does not know how many departments in the university work together offering their students the benefit of inter-disciplinary studies, or at least exchanges of views. But whenever MMM has attended seminars and workshops at the University, he has found them generally being held in isolation.

Take MMM's most recent visit to the University. It was to attend a couple of lectures on the Indian Ocean by an Australian academic who was one of the fathers of the Indian Ocean Rim concept. Both lectures, titled rather similarly, leading to the visiting professor making presentations that were not very different, were held by two University-based groups who could have easily teamed together, as well as with other departments who should have been interested in the subject, to hold one lecture with greater participation. As it was, both lectures drew minimal participation, particularly from the University, and not more than one student on each day opened his mouth.

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

As MMM sees it, the subject of political relations in the Indian Ocean should have interested the following departments if they exist in the University: Geography, History, International Relations, Political Science, South and Southeast Asian Studies, Ocean Studies, Defence and Strategic Studies, Ethnic Studies and Anthropology. MMM learnt that the handful of students silently present did not come from more than one or two of such departments on each day.

MMM wonders whether a five-star University shouldn't have active vocal participation by students, whether there shouldn't be greater inter-disciplinary cooperation and studies, and shouldn't the faculties of such linked departments spend more time on academic teamwork than ivory tower isolation? But then perhaps the NAAC's criteria for five-star excellence might well comprise ivory tower cogitation, faculties that don't mix lest they waste too much time enjoying coffee with each other, and silent students who don't create waves with their argumentativeness!

Spruced up buildings

Judging by the point made in reports on the granting of the five-star rating to the University of Madras, the NAAC inspectors were presumably impressed with the "repair and renovation work (that) was started to spruce up the physical image of the Varsity".

What, The Man From Madras Musings wonders, did they think

of the state of Senate House, once the pride of the University, and the Comtrust bricks for it that have been lying in the open, behind barbed wire fencing, for over a year now? What, MMM wonders, did they think of the technique of repair and renovation that called for the daubing of red paint on surfaces where bricks were meant to be individually picked out? And what did they make of the toilets and the state of the furniture and other fixtures in classrooms?

Perhaps a generally dilapidated, crumbling look as befits an institution heading for its 150th birthday is what the NAAC inspectors consider the look of aged wisdom that would warrant five-star rating!

But that's enough of a tale that could go on and on! And so, congratulations, University of Madras, on getting a five-star rating. Perhaps that assessment will inspire all connected with the University to take the steps necessary to live up to the challenge that assessment imposes on the venerable institution. If action follows in meeting the challenge,

figures were Kalinga, Pallava or Chola? Where was there information about the 'Indian'-named places and how they got their names? Where was there even a historical narration of the Indian-Southeast Asian connection in a timeframe the audience could relate to?

As far as MMM was concerned, there was no mention at all of one aspect of these journeys of trade and conquest that he has long been concerned with and mentioned several times in these columns. Namely, what did the Kalinga, Pallava and Chola ships of the 4th to 15th Centuries, which was the high noon of this traffic, look like? There are, to the best of MMM's knowledge, no sculptures or bas reliefs or descriptive inscriptions in India that will answer these questions. The only 'drawing' on stone that MMM has heard of is in Borobudur in Java; if there are any in India, perhaps the speaker and/or the Madras Museum would like to do an illustrated piece on them for Madras Musings.

Meanwhile, to return to

physical proximity to the lands of Southeast Asia wondered whether it would not be more pertinent in this context to pay greater heed to links with the Bay of Bengal communities rather than those of the Indian Ocean Rim stretching from Australia to South Africa by way of Sri Lanka (and India, if the Sethusamudram Project ever materialises).

MMM doesn't quite agree with that view, but that could well be a topic for discussion when the Society for Indian Ocean Studies convenes a workshop in Chennai later this year to discuss and advocate India's need to encourage and even sponsor the formation of a Bay of Bengal community. A naval officer present at the meeting where these plans were announced stated that the Indian Navy had in a small way already set the ball rolling in the Bay region.

Apparently, a couple of ships from each of the navies operating in the Bay of Bengal have every couple of years for the past eight years been getting together in the Andamans for a Fleet Review. The highlight of the week, MMM was told, was the competitions held ashore when each team (say, for football) would not represent a nation but would comprise sailors from all the navies participating, giving them a chance to get to know and work with each other better. An excellent way to build understanding and friendship, MMM can't help thinking.

Closer home, MMM learnt over a cup of tea, that the Navy is keen on establishing maritime museums in the coastal metros. Plans for making aircraft carrier Vikrant a museum in Mumbai are already underway. For Chennai, the plans appear to be beaching a submarine and a beach landing craft on the Marina and developing a museum around them. The logistics, MMM hears, are being worked out at IIT. While welcoming a maritime museum, MMM hopes it will be ensured that it will have no adverse impact on the Marina environment.

Film concern

A short film on the death of a acunuch made by B. Lenin has already been shown at several international festivals. Mathi, as the much acclaimed film is titled, is scheduled for screening at Pittsburgh, Chicago and New York festivals during the next couple of months. But like Tim Murari's feature film *The Square Circle*, which was favourably viewed abroad, Mathi too has not been seen in India except at private screenings.

Another maker of short films, Sriram, won the top award at the international documentary film festival in Mumbai earlier this year with his *Blindfold*. This film too has not had a public screening in Tamil Nadu. In fact, makers of short films in Tamil Nadu — and there are a number of talented ones, apart from Lenin and Sriram — wonder when their work is ever going to be seen in their home State which, *The Man From Madras Musings* is beginning to think, has no time for short films and documentaries.

— MMM

A temple for Hastings

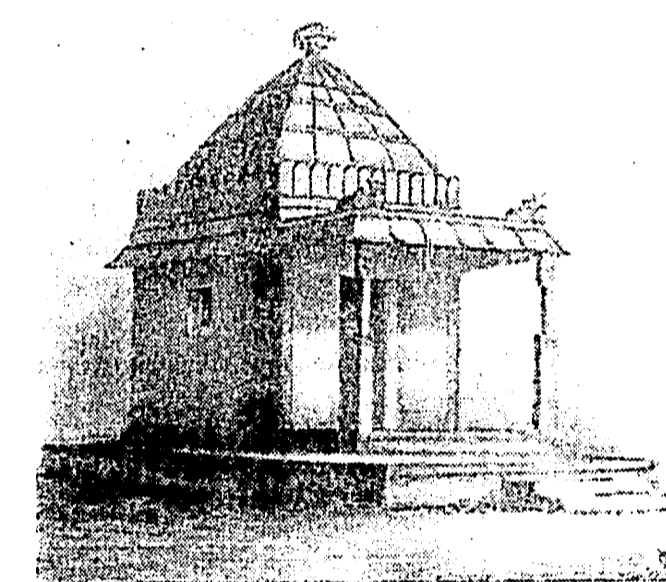
The bust of Warren Hastings in Westminster Abbey.

It was from Madras that Warren Hastings went to Calcutta in 1772 to become, in 1773, the first Governor-General of India. During his three years in Madras as Second in Council, his recommendations included providing the 'harbour' a pier, not unlike the one in Margate. He was also responsible for the abolishment of that ancient institution in Madras of the Company merchants who procured textiles for the Company's export business.

Thirty-three years after he resigned the Governor General-

most eventful from the deepest distress, to the highest prosperity, and rescued their possessions from a combination of the most powerful enemies ever leagued against them. In the wisdom of his councils and the energy of his measures, he found unexhausted resources, and successfully sustained a long, varied, and multiplied war with France, Mysore and the Maharatta States, whose power he humbled, and concluded an honourable peace; for which, and for his distinguished services, he received the thanks of the East India Company, sanctioned by the Board of Control.

The Kingdom of Bengal, the seat of his Government, he ruled with a mild and equitable sway, preserved it from invasion, and, while he secured to its inhabitants the enjoyment of their customs, laws, and religions, and the blessings of peace, was rewarded by their affection and gratitude; nor was he more distinguished by the higher qualities of a statesman and a patriot, than by the exercise of every Christian virtue. He lived for many years in dignified retirement, beloved and revered by all who knew him, at his seat of Dylesford, in the County of Worcester, where he died in peace in the 86th year of his age, August the 22nd in the year of our Lord 1818."



The Hastings Temple at Melchett

ship of India, he died in his country home in England in 1818. Five years after his death, the Directors of the East India Company marked their respect for his character, and their gratitude for his services, by erecting a white marble statue of him by Flaxman within the precincts of their House on Leadenhall Street. After the East India Company resigned its authority to the Crown in 1858, the statue was removed to the India Office in St. James's Park. It is surprising that the directors of the East India Company did not raise a monument in Hastings's honour in Westminster Abbey.

As the Directors did not move in the matter, Mrs. Warren Hastings charged herself with the duty of placing in Westminster Abbey a memorial of her husband, consisting of a tablet surmounted by a bust. The tablet bears the following inscription;

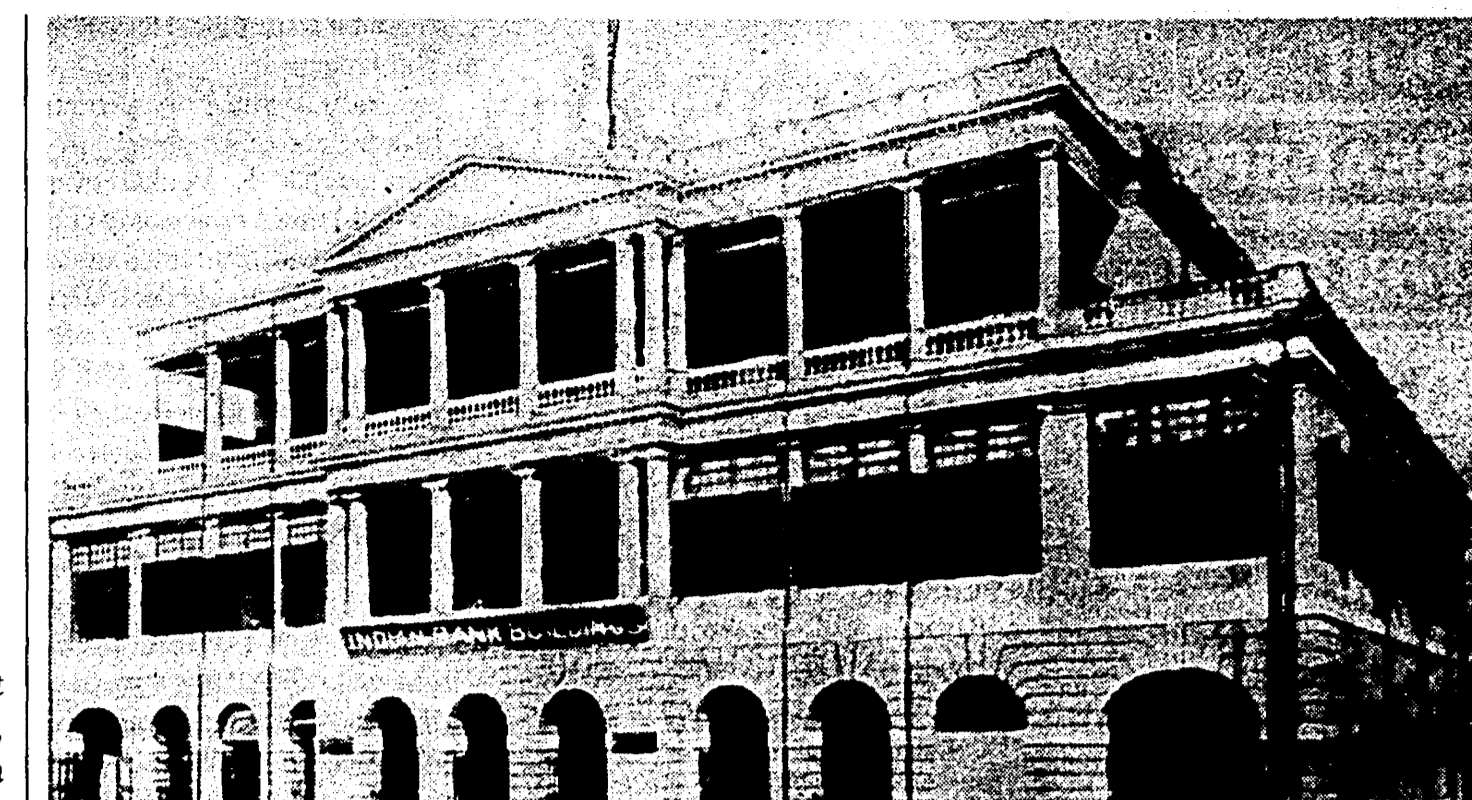
"Selected for his eminent talents and integrity, he was appointed by Parliament, in 1773, the First Governor-General of India; to which office he was thrice reappointed by the same authority. Presiding over the Indian Govern-

ment during thirteen years of a

ment during thirteen years of a

ment during thirteen years of a

ment during thirteen years of a



Hastings' guests on the day of his acquittal on April 23, 1795 and who was remarkable for his attachment to Warren Hastings, erected on his estate at Melchett, Wiltshire, a small temple, after the Hindu style of architecture, for the reception of a bust of Hastings. The building was designed and built under the superintendence of the famous Thomas Daniell of 'Oriental Scenery' fame. A bust rested on a pedestal surmounted by the sacred flower of the lotus, and bore the following inscription:

"Dedicated to the Genii of India, who from time to time assume material forms to protect its Nations and laws, particularly to the immortal Hastings, who in these our days has appeared the Saviour of those regions to the British Empire."

Major Osborne sent two copies of an engraving of the temple by Thomas Daniel to the Court of Directors of the East India Company and requested that "they might have a fit place" in the Company's newly erected Library. The gift was accepted; later it was shifted to the India Office.

The Rev. A. Gay, Rector of Plashford, near Romsey, Hampshire, reported to Sir Charles Lawson (author of *Memories of Madras*) in 1895, "In 1850, The Hastings Temple at Melchett was removed following continual robberies from it at midnight. For a time a few of the statues were to be seen knocking about the park, but these were taken by one person after another, until all trace of them disappeared."

When Warren Hastings was being impeached in the House

When R.K. Seshadri the banker died recently, one of the contributions he was remembered by was the corporate history he wrote to mark the Platinum Jubilee of the Indian Bank: A Swadeshi Bank from South India. That swadeshi bank rose on the ruins of Arbutnot & Co., which crashed in 1906 in what still remains one of India's major financial disasters. Arbutnots at the time was the biggest business organisation in the South and a pioneer of industrialisation.

The picture above, our OLD, is from the book and shows the Arbutnot headquarters on 1st Line Beach (now Rajaji Salai) that the Indian Bank fell heir to. It was to be well into the 1960s before the Indian Bank built its new headquarters, our NEW, on this site. In those years, no one was looking at heritage buildings and the classically-designed, Arbutnot building was pulled down without a single cry of protest being raised. Interestingly, the road to the right in our NEW has all these years been — and still continues to be — called Arbutnot Street. Few who pass through it every day, including generations of bankers, are likely to pay heed to the name or remember the organisation it commemorates. But it's an organisation whose story deserves to be written. And it would have been — if only we encouraged subaltern studies and the recording of such history.



of Commons, several cartoons and sketches caricaturing Warren Hastings and his record and conduct in India were published in contemporary British newspapers and periodicals. Journalists took delight in taking sides on this issue. In one of the contemporary pictures Hastings was shown as exclaiming: 'Truth must come out in the end, there can be no denial.' Beneath this picture are the following lines:

He who acts upright in his station

Dreads not the censure of the nation,

For truth o'er all will prevail

While Justice holds her equal scale.

Be candid then to every party,

And prove your mind is true and hearty.

Time will determine what is right,

And banish envy, malice and spite.

V. Sundaram

WILL ACT CURB HOARDINGS?

(Continued from page 1)

adversely affect free and safe flow of traffic, he shall not grant any licence under section 326-C and no such hoarding shall be erected, on and from the date of the commencement of the amendment Act by any person;

(ii) where any hoarding is erected in contravention of sub-clause (i), it shall be confiscated and removed by the Commissioner without any notice.

Similar amendments have been brought into force in respect of the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920, the Madurai City Municipal

Corporation Act, 1971, the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Act, 1981 and the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998.

Will these amendments curb hoardings, a safety hazard in the City? If there is strict enforcement, they will; if not hoardings will continue to proliferate. What are we going to see, we at Madras Musings wonder.

OUR READERS WRITE



The Sethu scheme

Naturalists have serious objection to the Sethusamudram Project (MM, September 1st)

The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve proposed there (it is already a Marine National Park!) is to conserve the unique biodiversity there. The only other Marine National Park is in Gujarat. The shallow sea around Rameswaram is a coral reef ecosystem having more than 3000 species of plant and animal species, most of them as yet not studied in any detail. Some plants have medicinal value. The area is home to the endangered dugong, a marine herbivore feeding on the seagrasses found in the shallow waters. The dugong, through evolutionary pressures, is likely to have specially developed senses for survival in such habitat, such as the capability to detect small objects even in murky waters (a small underwater explosive device for instance!). Very little scientific study has been done about this species. Another endangered animal, the Green Sea Turtle, is also found around Rameswaram.

Deepening the area for the Sethusamudram Project will destroy the sea-grass ecosystem depriving many plants and animals of a suitable habitat. The coral reef itself, comprising of calcium carbonate, occurs only in such areas where marine organisms, using the calcium available in the sea water, fix atmospheric carbon dioxide, thereby acting as a sink for the gas produced due to human industrial activity. The poorer fisherfolk relying on non-mechanised fishing are also likely to have reduced catches affecting their livelihood if the project goes through. Experts in fisheries may be more forthcoming on this issue.

A former Director of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute at Mandapam (Dr. E.C. Silas) played an important role in setting up the Marine National Park there. The Tamil Nadu Forest Department is also keen about the Marine Biosphere Reserve. As a naturalist, I feel that this unique ecosystem of Tamil Nadu sea coast must not be destroyed. Even the present detrimental activities there, like gathering of shells, coral reef mining and seaweed collection, need to be curbed or practised in a sustainable manner. The Bombay Natural History Society, through an editorial in its journal, has made a plea for dropping the Sethusamudram Project. I have not found any opinion that both the Sethusamudram Project and the Biosphere Reserve are mutually compatible. The Biosphere Reserve needs a saviour.

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Three on EE Road

I studied at Voorhees College, Vellore, as did Dr. Radhakrishnan. By a strange coincidence and through matrimony, I came to

Chennai for some time. He now lives in Thiruvanniyur.

Secondly, if I might be permitted to be a bit autobiographical, my father-in-law, Dr. R. Venkateswaran was a well-known professor of chemistry in Burma. Constrained to leave Burma during World War II, he named his house on this spur of the EE Road *Burma House*. His first cousin was S. Venkateswaran, ICS, Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, and his brother-in-law was Dr. R. Venkateswaran, who worked closely with Sir C.V. Raman and Dr. K.S. Krishnan. People used to refer to them as 'three Vs' from Tirunelveli.

live on the same road as him in Madras. Hence my interest in your series on Edward Elliott's Road.

There are three omissions in Raghu Tagar's article: He has not mentioned K.V. Venkatasubramania Aiyar, a well-known professor of Hindu and Constitutional Law, who also had a flourishing practice at the Bar later. His son was a distinguished and well-respected IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, K.V. Ramanathan. He should have become the Cabinet Secretary in Delhi, but could not because of the usual machinations in the capital. He occupied the equally important post of Member Secretary, Planning Commission and was India's Executive Director on the Asian Development Bank, Manila. He was also the Resident Editor of *The Indian Express* in

live on the same road as him in Madras. Hence my interest in your series on Edward Elliott's Road.

Thirdly, while mentioning about the Travancore sisters, Mr. Tagar has forgotten to mention Saraswati Amma's sister's daughter, Ambika, once a best-actress in Malayalam cinema, who also lived in the same spur. She shifted later to V.M. Street, another spur of the EE Road. She still owns that house although she is happily settled in the United States. In fact, she is a direct scion of the Travancore Royal family through her father.

Only a few of us cling doggedly to

the ancestral houses. Otherwise, crass commercialism prevails and not for altruistic reasons as Mr. Tagar mentioned a few cases, pulling down the buildings and putting up multi-storey buildings with utter disregard for availability of water, electricity and the environment.

Finally, we are proud to note that the Chief Ministers use this road despite the traffic hassle it creates. But they do not seem to notice the poor condition of the road with constant digging and worse not filling it up properly. I think that Chennai is the only metro in India where the roads are dug all the time. A word from the CM would certainly improve matters. But, nowadays, they even 'fly over'!

G. Sundaram I.A.S. (RETD.)
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Wrong name

In the article 'VIPs who passed by' (MM, September 1st), the name of the husband of eminent carnatic

musician, M.L. Vasanthakumari is Vikatam Krishna Moorthy and not Vikatam Chandu, if I remember right.

P.S. Krishna Moorthy
34, Ramanathan Street
Gobichettipalayam
Erode 638 452.

Reader T.S. Sridhar, 42, Saranganipani Street, T.Nagar, Chennai 600 017 points out the same error and adds: The author must have confused the name with the *Vikatan* pair Santhanama Chandru, who were very popular at the time.

Also, in 1952, Rajaji formed a coalition ministry with the support of Tamil Nadu Toilers' Party of Ramaswamy (Padayatchi) and Common Weal Party of Manicka Velu (Naicker) and not the Vanniar Tamil Sangham as mentioned. Both were offered ministerships.

Austin, NOT Fiat

A small correction is needed in your piece 'The VIPs who passed by' (MM, September 1st). Rajaji used an Austin Somerset car No. MSY 0200, black colour, to travel from Bazullah Road, T. Nagar, to the Secretariat via Edward Elliott's Road, and NOT a Fiat Car.

M. Chidambaram
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T. Nagar, Chennai 600 017.

More of the same

The articles on Edward Elliott's Road were a treat to our thoughts. Among the houses I recall here was the Sivaganga Palace, S.S. Vasan's second house acquired by him at the time of his daughter's marriage.

Please provide us articles on such subjects as *Leith Castle* in San Thomé, *Admiralty House* at Mandavelipakkam and its trenches dug by soldiers during the Carnatic wars near Foreshore Estate bus terminus.

P.A. Ranganathan
24, Vedachala Garden
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Visitors from Bihar

Through a former student, Prof. S.C. Choudhary of IIT Madras, I have been getting *Madras Musings*. Even those who are not familiar with the City can benefit from *Musings*, offering as it does research, quality historical references and community-centred thoughts.

I wish 'A President-to-be at Presidency' and the 'Prayer' in MM, August 16th, had got a wider readership, for it is ideas which ultimately move the world.

As a once or twice a year visitor to Madras, I regret the high-handedness and extortional tactics of autos at the Madras Central railway station, specially targeting Biharis. There is an ever-growing flow of patients from Bihar coming to different places of the State of Tamil Nadu for treatment of their ailments. The fiscal earnings to the City from north Bihar visitors round the year is a fit subject for a research dissertation.

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Know your Madras Terrace

I am an engineer who has worked in the area of structural engineering design for 20 years. Belonging to a family that has lived in Madras, I care for the city. It is against this background that I offer the following thoughts.

Consequent to the collapse of the floor of the Men's TB ward at General Hospital and my observation of the condition of some of the older buildings in the city, I feel it is necessary to explain what is a 'Madras Terrace' and discuss some of the vital technical issues affecting the maintenance of buildings in general.

The 'Madras Terrace' type of construction is now obsolete and not many are familiar with the system as it does not form part of the Civil Engineering curriculum.

Though there can be variations in dimensions and style, a Madras Terrace essentially consists of a series of wooden rafters spaced about eighteen inches apart. Flat country tiles which are about six inches long and four inches wide are temporarily supported from the bottom and laid in diagonal pattern over the wooden rafters. The tiles are buttered with lime mortar and neatly stacked against each other like several slices of bread with the four inch edge kept vertical. When the mortar sets, the tile layer forms a continuous four inch thick slab over the wooden rafters. Two layers of square, six-inch clay tiles are then placed flat in bedding mortar over the slab to provide a wearing surface.

The success of the system lies in the capacity of the tile slab to span the distance between adjacent wooden rafters and in the rafters themselves being able to span the distance between supporting walls or beams. Only a Structural Engineer is qualified and trained to make the calculations to check the various elements for adequacy.

The system fails when indiscriminate loading due to change of occupancy causes crushing of the tiles at the edges of the rafters, or when the supporting rafters sag or give way. The tile slab is brittle and, like a biscuit, either crushes or gives way suddenly when overloaded.

Sometimes the wooden rafters (even of the finest Burma teak) rot due to wetting from rainwater or from leaking toilet lines. In this connection, it would be well to note that 'weathering courses' do not provide a satisfactory barrier against soaking of rainwater in times of bad weather. Waterproofing involves an entirely different process and should not be confused with 'weathering' courses. Waterproofing chemicals

the bottom of the tile slab and run in a direction which is across the rafters.

Termites tend to infest the joints between the rafters and the walls and also crevices between the rafter and the tile slab. Eating away of the top surface of the rafter, can cause cracking of the slab due to loss of contact with the supporting rafters. Eating away at the ends of several adjacent rafters can cause a collapse of a significant part of the floor. Replacement of a few rafters is possible. If rafters are being replaced, these should be given an anti-termite treatment after the wood has been planed down but before applying putty, fillers, paints etc. The purpose of termite proofing is defeated if done in any other way.

• Why the General Hospital ceiling collapse need not have occurred

coated over the existing weathering tiles do not have longevity and will peel or wear away within a few years' time. Any guarantee for such work will only cover periodical patching up and does not assure maintenance-free service. Spreading mortar over the coating will not help either. It will only increase the weight and may cause the rafters to sag.

Even though the wood may be in good condition, failure of the rafters can be aesthetic in nature. Incorrect spacing and/or sizing can result in sagging of the rafters over time. Further aggravation occurs if there is overloading caused by alterations such as construction of partition walls, providing a new layer of concrete/tile flooring over the original tile floor, ballast in newly created toilets etc. This will invariably cause cracks to form at

Wholesale replacement of the timber rafters is not advisable because of the high cost and also because it is next to impossible to ensure proper contact, and therefore support, between the new rafters and the old tile slab. That this might have been done elsewhere is a case of 'Two wrongs don't make a right!' A better solution is to completely replace the affected floor with a reinforced concrete beam and slab arrangement; provided the walls are sound and the foundation adequate.

All repairs should be done in consultation with a qualified and experienced Structural Engineer. An inspection report rafter by rafter and slab by slab for each and every room should be prepared first. This should be followed by preparation of detailed structural

Wanted: Tamil edition

While appreciating the services *Madras Musings* renders for heritage preservation, we should not forget the opinion of the economically middle, lower-middle and lower classes of society who consider heritage preservation and environmental protection vanity affairs of the higher strata of the society. So your very purpose is not served as you do not reach these people. I suggest your views go to the masses. Please bring out a Tamil edition along with exist-

ing English edition to educate on environmental and heritage subjects to those who know only Tamil.

P.B. Mukundan

1A, Shanmugasundaram Street
Devarajanagar Extn.,
Saligramam, Chennai 600 093.

Editor's Note: If our list of sponsors doubles, we could certainly bring out a Tamil edition. Meanwhile, we'd welcome an opportunity to talk to any Tamil newspaper that might be interested in our material.

Water for Chennai

As the four rivers, Adayar, Cooum, Courtaliyar and Palar flowing near Madras are not perennial, we had to construct reservoirs — Redhills, Poondi and Chembarambakkam — to store water. As sufficient land is not available, we cannot store the water from Adayar and Cooum. We seem to think that storage is an essential requirement for utilising river waters. This basic thinking has prevented us from using the waters of the Adayar and Cooum.

Now that we have the existing lakes serving as storage reservoirs, we are in a position to pump water from

two rivers whenever water flows in these rivers. On a rough estimate, 30 to 60 days of Chennai's water requirements can be met entirely from these rivers. Part of this water is available in summer. Imagine the benefits to Chennaites if upto 500 million litres of water per day had been pumped from these rivers for 15 days during May to September 2000. We would have conserved that amount of water from the lakes.

The Telugu Ganga Canal gives us one more option. If part of the rain falling on the large catchment area to the west of the canal is collected in the canal, water could be made available to Chennai during both monsoon periods. Even the stormwater drain systems of Chennai can be utilised to provide water for Chennai.

Water pumped from these sources can be integrated with the Metrowater supply system in many ways. The most viable system can be found simply by a proper study of the various alternatives. We have enough expertise in Chennai to carry out this study.

The main constraint in using the waters of these two rivers is

Metrowater itself. They must treat waste water much better than the prescribed standards before letting it into the water courses. And the Pollution Control Board should step in to get industries, hotels, etc. to treat their effluent to the required standards.

M. Susikaran

8, First Street
Nandanam Extension,
Chennai 600 035.

Whither pedestrians?

Further to my letter in MM, August 1st, I was amused to read the following comments made in a speech by the Mayor. He had said that "since the public do not use the platforms, it is being encroached upon by vendors." And, the Corporation Commissioner had, on the same occasion, pointed out that platforms had been provided in most of the roads; if they had been removed in certain places, it was only to facilitate smooth flow of traffic.

Well! As one of your readers has written, it seems that the City Fathers and Administrators expect pedestrians to "with away!" By giving such laughable excuses, administra-

tors and politicians are only adding insult to injury. The truth is that the pedestrians are forced to "jaywalk" by this callous attitude. When will pedestrians get justice?

Srinivasan Pattoo

Bayview Apartments
22, New Beach Road
Thiruvanniyur, Chennai 600 041.

Aspects of patriotism

While I fully endorse and appreciate the views expressed by B. Gautam in his letter 'No anthem - No pride' (MM, July 16th), revival of playing National Anthem in movie halls either through compulsion (I mean through legislation) or the owner's volition will not have the desired impact judging by the haste with which most patrons leave the hall after a show. I, therefore, suggest that the National Anthem be played at the beginning of the show, so as to have the desired 'effect' for the audiences will have no other option but to stay put.

Be reviving playing of National Anthem, reader Gautam is of the opinion that patriotic fervour and a feeling of oneness among the people can be achieved and the problems arising out of terrorism/separatism which now confront the nation will vanish. While I wish it would, I wonder whether *Jana Gana Mana* will make any impact on the people living in India. On the other hand, people belonging to this country and living elsewhere in the world do feel and care for this country. Separation makes the heart grow harden.

In this context, I would like to relate this incident. One of my cousins, who lives in New Zealand, got married recently. In the wedding invitation, he made this request: "Invitees are kindly requested by the Bride and the Groom to wear traditional Indian dress." While wishing the couple, I wrote to my cousin: "I will be falling in my duty if I do not bring to the fore certain finer aspects which I have noticed in the invitation card. At a time when the Indian tradition is getting a short shrift — thanks to the spread of the western culture in dressing and eating habits among Indians, notwithstanding their dislike for the English language — your appeal to the invitees that they wear 'traditional Indian dress' would definitely be appreciated and welcomed by those who still value our traditions. While I am really touched by your request, the reasons for such an appeal are not far to seek. Your staying away from 'home' must have shaken you a bit, reviving in you the 'feelings' which, every Indian stationed away from homeland would normally go through."

Solomon M. Lamech
C/o Dr. Patrick Yesudian
10 Ritherdon Avenue
Vepery, Chennai 600 007.

V S Jayaraman

31, Motilal Street
Chennai 600 017.

A puzzle

Reader N. Dharmeshwaran of R26, Kumaran Nagar, Guduvancherry, writes that he is puzzled by the return of a postcard he had addressed to M. Kannan, 16, Kalaivanar St., MGR Nagar, Chennai 600 078, as a follow-up to a suggestion he had made in MM, August 16th, in response to postal difficulties Reader Kannan had mentioned. Perhaps if Reader Kannan sees this, he will reply to reader Dharmeshwaran

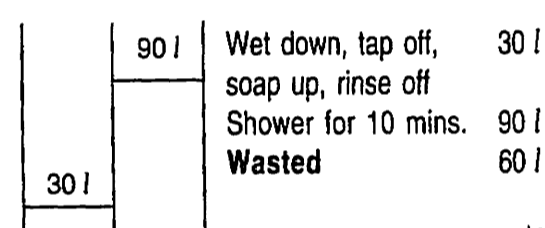
— The Editor

Save water and money – Water conservation at home

It's easy to save water at home... Don't leave the tap running

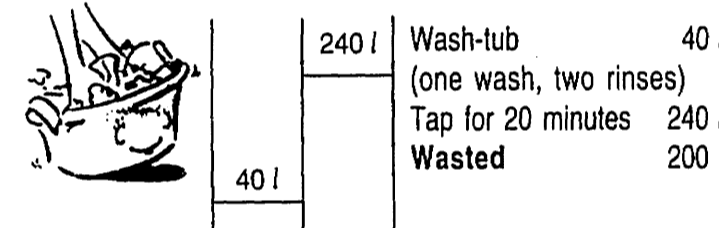
Shower

By turning the tap off while you're soaping up, you can save 80 litres of water.



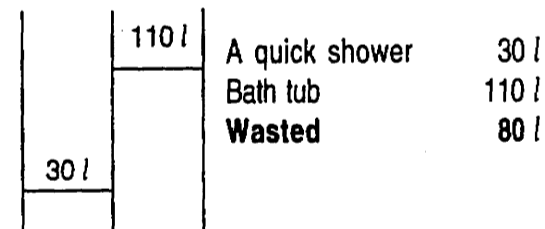
Hand-washing clothes

By washing clothes in a wash-tub, instead of under a running tap, you can save upto 200 litres.



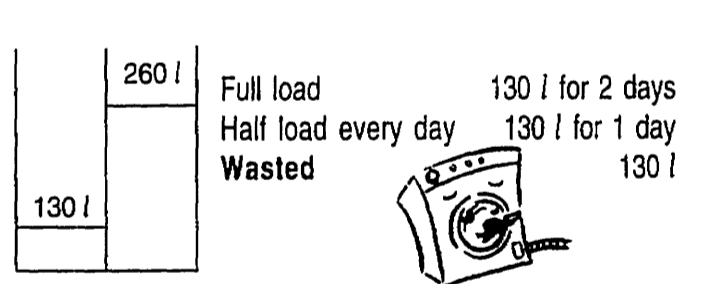
Bathing

A shower is much faster and easier than having a bath and can save you 80 litres of water as well.



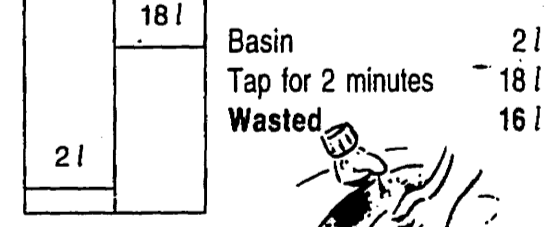
Using washing machine

If you don't have a full load every day, wash every second day and save upto 130 litres of water.



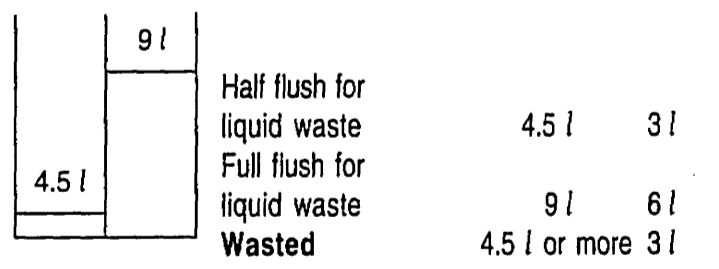
Washing hands

Putting the plug in and half filling the basin uses only 2 litres, instead of 18 litres if you washed your hands under running water for 2 minutes



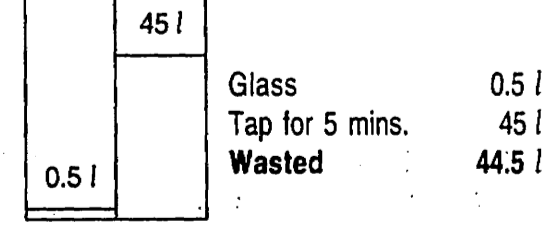
Flushing toilet

You only need a half-flush for flushing liquid waste instead of a full flush. You'll save 4.5 litres.



Brushing teeth

Rinsing your mouth and toothbrush with a glass uses only 0.5 litre of water, compared to 45 litres if you left the tap running for 5 minutes



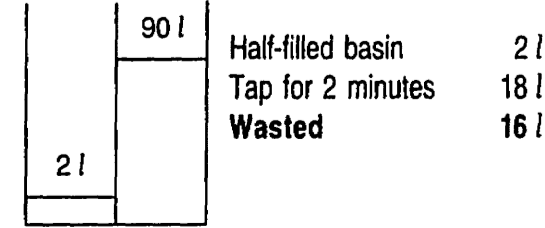
Washing car

You can wash your car just as effectively with two buckets of water as you can with a running hose, but you'll save 382 litres. Should you live near a river use that water.



Washing face

Don't leave the tap running. Half-fill the basin to wash your face and you'll end up just as clean but save 16 litres as well.



Courtesy: Indian Water Works Association sent to *Madras Musings* by **N. Subramanian**
191 North Usman Road
2nd Floor, T. Nagar
Chennai 600 017.

Quizzin' with Ram'nan

(Question 1 to 9 are from the period September 1 to 15. Questions 10 to 12 pertain to Chennai. Questions 13 to 20 relate to Tamil Nadu)

1. Name the building housing the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) taken over by the Government on September 2nd.
2. Simple. Who led the Indian contingent in the Opening Ceremony of the Sydney Olympics on September 15th?
3. Who has been awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 1999?
4. Who is the CMD of the textile giant Raymond?
5. Which Indian is the joint recipient of the coveted World Food Prize for 2000?
6. Which Indian won the Special Director's Award at the prestigious Venice film festival?
7. Which company, for the first time in the country, formulated an insurance scheme for Ganesh revellers?
8. With which Indian company has Microsoft entered into a global strategic alliance?
9. Another Olympics question. Who lit the Sacred Flame at Stadium Australia?

- * * *
10. Which airlines introduced a Chennai-Dubai flight service on September 1st?
 11. Where was the City's 12th Railway passenger reservation centre opened on September 7th?
 12. Which team won the Buchi Babu cricket tournament this year?

- * * *
13. Which senior IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre was chosen for the Dadhabhai Naoroji Global Millennium Award?
 14. Which famous school was once called Highclere?
 15. Which Tamilian has been elected the President of the World Congress of Poets?
 16. Why was the Karumari-amman Mahasakthi Ashram near Melur in Madurai District in the news recently?
 17. Who wrote such popular serials as *Miss Janaki*, *Lakshmi Kataksham* and *CID Chandru*?
 18. Who was the first Tamil Nadu cricketer to don India colours?
 19. Name the two major gaps in the long chain of hills that border western Tamil Nadu.
 20. What is common to the film artistes J. Jayalalitha, comedian Murthy, Nirmala and Srikanth?

(Answers on Page 7)

Jaws III



Jaws III, the giant saltwater crocodile, nearly 16 feet in length and weighing over half a ton, that is the pride of the Madras Crocodile Bank.

Jaws III, the pride of the Madras Crocodile Bank, was born in the Singapore Zoo 29 years ago. He came to the Bank when he was about two years old. At that time this saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) was only about 3 feet long. In the 27 years that he has been in Madras, he has grown to a massive size, 15 feet 9 inches, and now weighs more than 550 kilos (half a ton!). The average life span of a saltwater crocodile is about 50 to 70 years, but from the age of about 30, its growth rate comes down and, although it is possible that Jaws III will live to over 50, he is unlikely to increase greatly in length during the next 20 years, although he may become much bulkier.

Saltwater crocodiles are the largest species of crocodiles in the world. The species is widely distributed and can be seen



The newest arrival at the Madras Crocodile Bank — one of three Yacare Caiman, averaging 2½ feet in length.

Bank gets its 11th species

The Madras Crocodile Bank Trust in the 25 years since it was started has already accumulated the largest species-wise collection of crocodilians in the country. The recent arrival of the Yacare Caiman takes the species' total to ELEVEN some of which are highly endangered in the wild.

The three juvenile Yacare Caiman (Caman yacare) that have recently been added to the gene bank of the Madras Crocodile Bank (hence the centre's name!) are extremely photogenic, being vividly coloured. A gift from Crocodile Exhibition, Denmark, the three are unrelated.

The new acquisitions, now averaging 65 centimetres in total body length are currently off exhibit to the public. They are on a diet of fish, crabs, rats and grasshoppers and will be put on public display once they reach a suitable size fit for public exhibition. Yacare caiman belong to the sub-family Caiman, and inhabit marshes, lagoons, lakes and rivers of central-southern South America.

The Crocodile Bank aims to acquire before long the 12 species of crocodilians, to create a gene pool for each of the 23 crocodilian species known. The Bank's aim is to breed and supply endangered species to well-known zoological collections, thereby easing pressure on wild populations.

A.S.R.

from Asian waters down to Australia. A big male saltwater crocodile can grow to over 20 feet and weigh close to a ton. However, Jaws III has the distinction of being only one of the very few big crocodiles in the world.

Jaws III, in spite of his huge size, consumes only about two kilos of beef, three times a week. Crocodiles are carnivorous animals and meat forms their natural diet. In the wild state, saltwater crocodiles will kill and eat fish, birds, pigs and deer. They have also been known to attack and kill humans. Although their name seems to suggest that they are sea animals, saltwater crocodiles are found even in fresh water lagoons and brackish coastal waters. There is a sizeable population of wild saltwater crocodiles in the Sunderbans.

Saltwater crocodiles are threatened greatly throughout their range. In Indian territory, they remain in danger and the captive population of these crocodiles is thought to be more than the wild population.

Crocodiles originated during the reign of the dinosaurs and remained throughout the turbulent times of the extinction of the dinosaurs. They are among the oldest living animals of today, with a lineage which goes back almost 200 million years, to the Cretaceous and Jurassic periods.

At the Crocodile Bank, there are several saltwater crocodiles, but none has reached the impressive proportions of Jaws III. As a result, the Bank has been anxious to get his genes into its gene pool. However, Jaws III has his own ideas about that and, on two occasions, when a female saltwater crocodile was released into his enclosure for mating, Jaws III immediately attacked and killed the much smaller female. For this reason, he has been given a special enclosure which allows a female to be put in with him, but from which he is separated by a chain link fence. It is hoped that, through daily contact, he will learn to tolerate the female and so eventually bring his genes into the saltwater crocodiles gene pool at the Crocodile Bank.

Jaws III is the largest captive-bred saltwater crocodile in India. Although he does not move around his enclosure at the Bank, he is, nevertheless, fully alert as to what is going on around him. And for his size, he can move astonishingly fast when he wants to. Saltwater crocodiles have been known to run at speeds of over 30 miles per hour for short distances. Jaws III may not be able to manage such speeds, but there is no doubt that, if he had to, he could put up a fine sprint. In the water, of course, he is much faster.

The Madras Crocodile Bank (MCB) was started in 1976. At that time, crocodiles in India were nearing extinction and they would have disappeared just like their ancestors, the dinosaurs, unless conservationists came forward to help. The aim was to make a breeding centre from where surplus animals could be released back into their wild habitat as well as serve as a refuge where large stocks could be maintained till conditions improved in the wild. At the Crocodile Bank's inauguration,

there were 25 crocodiles. Almost 25 years later there are almost three thousand. The breeding programme has been extremely successful. The Crocodile Bank also breeds water monitor lizards.

These Citizens' Charters were placed in the Legislative Assembly by the minister in charge of the respective departments and are a promise by the Minister to the people that the department will function as promised in the Charters. The G.O.211 of the Information and Tourism Department dated 30.07.1998 to the effect that all documents placed in the legislature should be made available at government libraries has however still to be implemented wholeheartedly.

Among the schemes finding a place in the booklet are: Loans from I.R.D.B. for the agriculturist for investment; loans to graduates under the Prime Minister's employment scheme; industrial training for the rural people; employment for rural people; kinds of pensions; fi-

There are three species of crocodiles in India, and all three are to be seen in the Crocodile Bank. The most widely distributed is the Marsh crocodile or Mugger, the slaty-grey, bumpy beast of which we have a fairly sizeable population. The saltwater crocodile does not have the easy temperament of the Mugger, and this is the species sometimes known to attack and kill people. In India, saltwater crocodiles are found in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Sunderbans in West Bengal, and coastal Orissa. The third Indian species is the Gharial, the sleek, long-snouted fish-eater which lives only in the large rivers of North India. They become very tame and are not known to attack people.

Apart from the Indian species, we have ten species of crocodilians from other countries. These are:

- Morelet's Crocodile
- Nile Crocodile
- African Dwarf Crocodile
- Siamese Crocodile
- Australian Fresh-water Crocodile
- False Gharial
- American Alligator
- Smooth-fronted Caiman
- Spectacled Caiman
- Yacare Caiman

Many people ask, why conserve crocodiles? What good are they? The answer is that like all predators such as the tiger and leopard, crocodiles play an important part in the natural food chain. In lakes and reservoirs where crocodiles have been wiped out, certain kinds of fish, their food, become very abundant. Often these are the very fish which eat the commercially viable species, and so the ultimate loser is man himself. Further, crocodiles are scavengers which keep the lakes and rivers clean. When the northern rivers like the Ganges had large crocodile and turtle populations, the river was clean and unpolluted. But today with these animals gone, rotting flesh and floating garbage have become abundant. So crocodiles play a dual role in the environment: they are both predators and scavengers.

United Kingdom pattern, where the historical sites, museums and places of tourist importance are owned by the government but marketed, promoted and maintained by the private sector. The comfort facilities for the tourists, including guides, will be part of the obligations of the company taking over. The Government will own the monuments, but the revenues earned by the company following the beautification of the site and through cultural events organised will be shared with the ASI, it is planned.

Privatisation can do miracles in bringing back the lost glory in the number of heritage-sites which have become eyesores. But monitoring of the private sector is also necessary to ensure implementation of the

A Special Correspondent

A helping hand

From Catalyst Trust

The Catalyst Trust's *Thathi Ketka Thagavalgal* is a consumer initiative (in Tamil) to make citizens aware of various government schemes and how they should go about getting what they are entitled to from these schemes. The booklet also provides the highlights of the Citizens' Charters of various government departments.

These Citizens' Charters were placed in the Legislative Assembly by the minister in charge of the respective departments and are a promise by the Minister to the people that the department will function as promised in the Charters. The G.O.211 of the Information and Tourism Department dated 30.07.1998 to the effect that all documents placed in the legislature should be made available at government libraries has however still to be implemented wholeheartedly.

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U.P. HERITAGE MODEL ?

(Continued from page 1)

clauses on maintenance, restoration, protection and safeguarding of the property and its contents. It must be ensured that "public neglect is not followed by private neglect," says a comment in the proposal. Government Agencies in turn will have to provide the necessary infrastructure for promoting tourism, such as providing a good transport network.

The Tamil Nadu Government could take a leaf out of the U.P. book and consider handing over to the private sector, heritage sites and buildings in the city that have fallen into a state of disrepair, such as the Senate House, Victoria Public Hall, Chepauk Palace, Museum Theatre among others. Awards for the best-maintained buildings and heritage sites can be instituted to mould public opinion.

financial aid for marriage; medical and accident assistance; equipment, such as wheelchairs, tricycles, crutches, hearing aids for the handicapped; spectacles for the blind; pension and sewing machines for widows and destitute women; special entrance examination courses for Backward Class students to gain entry into professional courses and endowments for the meritorious school students. Other schemes concern women, child welfare, pregnant mothers, general health, free legal aid for Adi

Dravidars, assistance to backward classes, aid for agriculture and Hindu endowments. The Anna Marumalarchi scheme, the self-help scheme and District Development Agency are also discussed.

The book contains extracts from Citizens' Charters of 14 departments, namely the Departments of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare, Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Scheme, Small Industries, Municipal Administration, Water Supply, Registration, School Education, Backward Classes, Transport, Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Revenue, Agricul-

ture, Employment and Training, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution System. The charters describe the services the Departments provide and the applications that need to be filed to obtain the services. The charter of AGROFED describes, for instance, the machinery that can be rented by the agriculturist and the rental rates fixed for the machinery, e.g., bulldozers at Rs. 750/hour, tractor-dozers at Rs. 275/hour, and road roller for Rs. 1000/day from the agency.

The book also includes a summary of the Government Orders issued to promote transparent, friendly and accountable governance.

In some districts, the Collectors have issued guide books and Citizens' Charters relating to various welfare programmes. In an introductory message to one such guide, Chief Minister Karunanidhi has pointed out, "Just as the water released from a dam benefits even the farthest land and thereby gladdens the heart of the farmer, it is no exaggeration to say that the role of the Citizens' Charter is indeed great taking as it does the welfare programmes right up to the last person in society."

A.K. Venkatsubramanian of The Catalyst Trust informs *Madras Musings* that *Thathi Ketka Thagavalgal* is priced at Rs. 50/- a copy and is available at the following places in Chennai.

1. The Catalyst Trust, 2/380, I Main Road, AGS Colony, Kottivakkam, Chennai 600 041. Ph: 4480808/4482230
2. Makkal Sakthi Eiyakkam,

Other amendments to hoarding rules

The amended rules in respect of hoardings also state, among other things:

Every application for a licence for a hoarding shall be accompanied by

- (a) the licence fee as fixed by the council.
- (b) a plan of the hoarding to be put up indicating the height and other dimensions and the material proposed to be used.
- (c) a no-objection certificate from the owner of the land where the hoarding is to be erected.
- (d) a no-objection certificate from the Police Department from an Officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police that the proposed hoarding would not be an obstruction to free and safe movement of traffic, pedestrians and vehicles.

The maximum size of a hoarding to be erected shall be:

Road width	Maximum size
Above 100'	24' x 12' (horizontal position)
Between 50'-100'	15' x 10' (horizontal position)
Less than 50'	12' x 6' (Either horizontal or vertical).

The maximum height of hoardings, including the height from the ground level of hoarding, shall not exceed 30 feet. The hoardings erected in one particular road, as far as practicable, must be of uniform size.

- No hoarding shall be permitted on both sides of the roads with a footpath of less than 10' width. In roads with no separate footpath, a minimum of 10' width shall be available between the road margin

and the hoardings for use of pedestrians.

- The hoardings shall be erected only parallel to the footpaths or roads, and not across the footpaths or road margins.
- The hoardings irrespective of the size shall be erected on steel frames.
- There shall be a gap of not less than 5' width between one hoarding and another.
- The hoardings shall NOT be erected
 - i) in front of educational institutions, popular places of worship, and hospitals with in-patient treatment facility;
 - ii) in the corners of road or street junctions, upto a distance of 100 metres on either side of the junction; and
 - iii) in front of historical or aesthetically important places.

A.S.R.

17-A, South Avenue, Thiruvanniyur, Chennai 600 041. Ph: 4421810

3. Palam, 1, 4th Main Road, Kasthuribai Nagar, Adyar, Chennai 600 020. Ph: 4419439

4. Tamil Nadu Pensioners Association, Room No. 11, 158 Bells Road, Triplicane, Chennai 600 005. Ph: 8517526

5. SMN Consumer Information Centre, AASI Building, 4th Floor, 187, Anna

Salai, Opp. LLA Building, Chennai 600 006. Ph: 8410745/8410761

6. People's Governance Cell, Malaragam, 196/24, Asiad Colony, Anna Nagar West, Chennai 600 101. Ph: 626 2940

Copies can also be mailed from The Catalyst Trust if accompanied by a money order or demand draft of Rs. 60 for city delivery by courier and Rs. 70 for mofussil delivery, also by courier.

Answers to Quiz

1. Sapru House; 2. Leander Paes; 3. Hrishikesh Mukherjee; 4. Gautam Singhanian; 5. Dr. Surinder Vasal, a maize breeder; 6. Buddhadeb Dasgupta for Uttara; 7. The New India Assurance Company; 8. Infosys; 9. Cathy Freeman.
10. Emirates; 11. Tiruvottiyur; 12. The National Cricket Academy.
13. Ujagar Singh; 14. Kodaikanal International School; 15. Justice S. Mohan; 16. It reportedly saw a ghastly 'sacrifice' of three persons.
17. Devan (R. Mahadevan); 18. C. Ramaswami; 19. The Shencottah and Palakkad gaps; 20. All made their Tamil film debuts in Vennira Aadai.

Want to muse with MUSINGS?

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

Name

Address

.....

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.

Rivalry on track continues

(By A Special Correspondent)

When the State's best-known inter-collegiate athletic competition, the A.L. Mudaliar Athletic Meet for city colleges, is held from October

10th to 12th, the competition will again be between the traditional rivals, Madras Christian College and Loyola College. Will Loyola, which appears to win the title every six or seven years, regain the championship trophy? Or will MCC hold on to it? Principal Alexander Mantramurthi of MCC will be hoping that it will happen all over again as it did last year, when he assumed office.

When Mantramurthi received the A.L. Mudaliar Shield in 1999, it was the second time he was receiving it. The first time was in 1967, at the first A.L. Mudaliar meet. At that pathbreaking competition, he received the trophy as MCC's captain. At the time, he was a triple jumper of merit and set an inter-college record in the Hop, Step and Jump that stood for over 25 years.

With Loyola having created history recently by winning all the competitions in the State-level Bertram Tournament in Volleyball, Ball Badminton, Tennis, Table Tennis, Chess and Basketball — it remains only for it to win the forthcoming athletics competition to set the seal on perhaps its most successful year in sports ever. With MCC winning the A.L. Mudaliar Shield only three times since 1974, this could well be Loyola's year again. But it won't be easy.

A change or two in 'Dream Team'

Picking the all-time greatest Madras/Tamil Nadu XII (MM September 16th) is a delightful pastime. Partab Ramchand's XI is excellent, except that S. Venkatraghavan is superfluous. Kripal was not only a fine off spinner, he was a great batsman too. For captaincy, there is the colossus 'MJ'.

My dream XI will have that great stylist T.E. Srinivasan replacing Venkat; for sheer artistry and visual delight, he'd be hard to beat.

Going back to spin bowling, the Kumar-Kripal duo used to mesmerise the opposition. Novices like the Kerala team, for example (Messrs. Kelappan, Ravi Achan, Balan Pandit etc), used to surrender in two days' time.

We must, of course, have S. Venkatraghavan — as umpire!

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The 'Thiyagigal Mandapam' (Martyrs' Memorial) in Guindy National Park (below) with the busts of 'Arya' Bashyam and Sankaralinganar in front of it. The photographic display inside (above) commemorates over 1200 major and lesser martyrs in Tamil Nadu during the freedom struggle. (Photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)

Remembering the martyrs

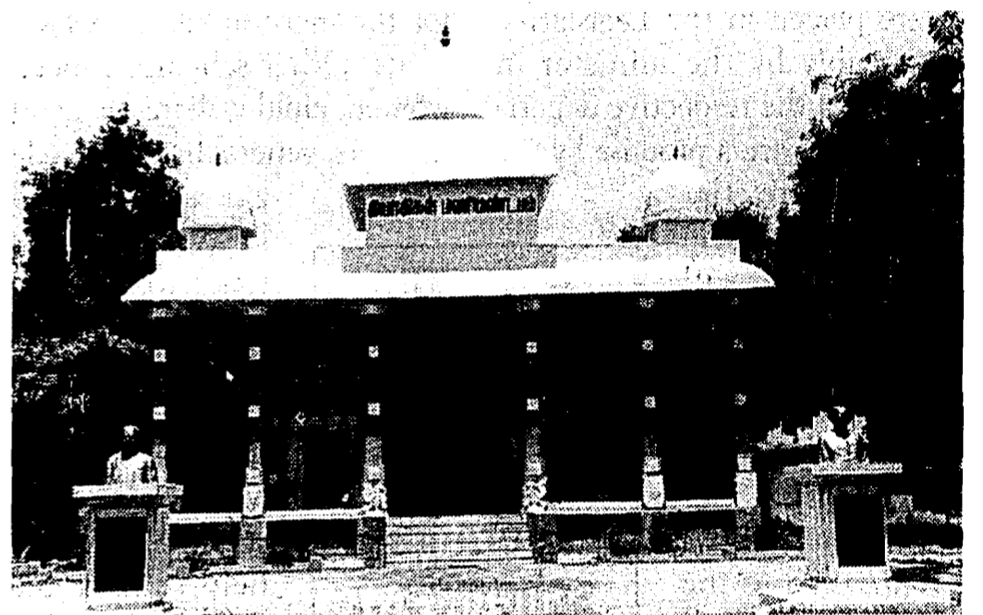
The well-known ones and the little known ones

A little known memorial in Chennai is the Thiyagigal Mandapam (Martyrs' Memorial) that has for over a year now carved out a niche for itself amongst the other memorials in Guindy National Park.

The martyrs honoured here fought and struggled for a free India during days of the Non-Cooperation movement, toddy shop picketing, the August movement, boycott of foreign cloth, the civil disobedience movement, the Quit India Movement, the Vedaranyam salt satyagraha, individual satyagraha and the Indian National Army.

Few of them are well-known or are recognisable, which is all the more reason for you to discover them and pay homage.

At the entrance to the mandapam are two busts. One is of 'Arya' Bashyam, the free-



dom fighter from Thanjavur, who hoisted the Indian tricolour on the night of January 25, 1932, after climbing the 200-foot tall wireless post beside the Union Jack flag that was flying high on the Fort St. George flagmast. The next day, he claimed that India had got its freedom. An artist who contributed under the pen name 'Arya', Bashyam died at the age of 92. The second bust is of Sankaralinganar from Virudhunagar who campaigned to rename the Madras Presidency as Tamil Nadu. He died after fast-

ing for 60 days to achieve his mission.

The display features two categories of photographs — 32 of the 'major martyrs' and 1175 of the 'lesser martyrs', arranged districtwise. Information on each individual can be had in a book the State Information Centre has compiled. The name of the martyr, his place and date of birth, the period he was imprisoned and the movement he or she was associated with, are given in the book.

Rajind N Christy

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