

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS

MUSINGS

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FREE ISSUE

December 1-15, 2000

Govt. push to green our cities

(By A Special Correspondent)

A national seminar on the greening of urban cities was recently organised by the Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation in Delhi and recommended among other things that areas

around heritage buildings should be suitably landscaped and beautified and water fronts, which are generally neglected, made assets by proper landscape design and upgradation.

Some of the other significant recommendations were:

— In any layout plan of land and housing development, at least two and a half per cent of the cost of the project should be earmarked for landscaping and green development.

— Urban void areas should not be allowed to exist and the area not required for immediate development or construction, should be made green and fenced with suitable landscaping.

— Indiscriminate tiling of pavements needs to be severely restricted henceforth. Tiling affects trees adversely by cutting off moisture for the roots and suffocating the trees by completely blocking

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Not taking restoration seriously

(By The Editor)

The advice of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, Tamil Nadu Chapter, not to clear the debris at the General Post Office before INTACH could sift it, and document any important features of the building that may have survived, was apparently not taken very seriously by the Postal Department. INTACH-TN came to know purely by chance that the debris was being cleared and it rushed to put in a request to stop the clearing operation. Succeeding in its appeal, INTACH-TN hopes to get a documenting operation underway as these lines are written.

Meanwhile, we are sorry to note that our 'Save that building' appeal (MM, Nov. 16th) has not been echoed as loudly as we would have liked. We have heard nothing from IIT Madras about what it has told the Postal Department or INTACH-TN about the way in which it can help restore the building. INTACH-TN has made its position clear, the Postal Department wants inputs from all interested, but IIT Madras appears to be silent on this, as far as we can learn.

Could we all get together as one and save that heritage building? Or do all concerned just want to meander around individually, without taking restoration seriously?



RESURRECTION ON THE ISLAND?

(By A Special Correspondent)

● Rajind N Christy's picture above is what St. Mary's Cemetery on The Island looks like today — a vermin-infested jungle that has obscured almost all the tombstones of the 18th Century and often prevented many a visitor from abroad — or even locally — from finding the grave of an ancestor. The people seen in the picture are a team from St. Mary's Church in the Fort and representatives of INTACH-TN discussing how to go about cleaning up the cemetery and, more importantly, how much it was likely to cost.

A portion of St. Mary's Cemetery has been allocated for war graves and this is well-tended with support from the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia (BACSA). Another part of it is the Roman Catholic section and, being in use, is modestly tended by the Church authorities. What has been allowed to go to wild seed is the largest part of it, the ten-or-so acres that used to be the cemetery mainly of the congregation of St. Mary's in the Fort. The first cemetery of St. Mary's was where the Law College has now come up — and where the tomb of Elihu Yale's son still remains. When the rest of this cemetery was razed, with the whole of the first Black Town, in the 1750s to create the Esplanade, its tombstones were moved to pave the courtyard to St. Mary's in the Fort. The cemetery on the Island was simultaneously developed — and is an integral part of Madras history.

If the Church can now raise the funds for the work necessary, INTACH-TN has volunteered advisory and supervisory services. But what kind of funds for what end is the question. Could it be to revive a cemetery for use, if possible? Or could it be for a tree-shaded park? Whatever be the decision on that, there is no doubt that restoration — and conservation — is a must.

Could English Heritage help Chennai heritage?

The West Bengal Government recently asked English Heritage to help restore Calcutta's fading imperial heritage. Why not Chennai?

English Heritage offers grants to support many of the most important buildings and monuments in England regardless of who owns them. In 1999 alone it offered 642 grants worth £35m.

It also offers grants to projects overseas that are targeted to memorialising British contributions overseas. Calcutta is one of the cities benefitting from such a grant. Why isn't Chennai following suit? Perhaps Senate House, for starters might benefit from such a request, adds your Editor.

Isambard Wilkinson and Rahul Bedi, writing about the Calcutta experience, say:

‘The cupolas and colonnades of Calcutta's colonial centre were once one of the finest groups of buildings in the British Empire. Now run down and crumbling, they are to be restored. English Heritage will advise the city on conservation and try to raise money in Britain through government and lottery funding to rescue Rajera buildings.

Philip Davies, a director of English Heritage and author of several books on the architectural legacy of the Raj, said: ‘India and Britain enjoy a special relationship that goes back

more than 400 years. There is a shared cultural heritage and this is something unique. There is the perception that our heritage ends at Dover, but some of our greatest buildings of the 19th Century were built overseas. Probably the best example is Calcutta.’

The city authorities also plan to return to the city centre statues which have been stored in the suburb of Barrackpore for many years. Figures such as George V and Sir Robert Peel will go back to their original plinths or be grouped together in a prominent area.

Despite the size of the task, English Heritage says relatively small sums of money could have

a considerable impact. Mr. Davies said: ‘With a fraction of the money spent on one project in England you could transform the centre of Calcutta. They have already transformed part of the Hooghly River waterfront with a remarkable Millennium garden for only £20,000. In England it would have cost £20 million.’

Once the second city of the Empire, Calcutta replaced Madras as the centre of British India in 1772, almost a century after it was founded by the merchant-adventurer Job Charnock in 1690. The city still possesses a panorama of neo-classical, stucco-faced buildings such

(Contd. on Page 6)

Could we just work towards a better Chennai?

The American Chamber of Commerce in India, Tamil Nadu Chapter, recently invited *The Man From Madras Musings*, and several others it thought might be interested in Chennai, to a whole morning's discussion on what it called a 'Chennai Glory Project'. MMM couldn't help feeling, "Let's forget about the glory, let's just get down to seeing how we could get a better Chennai". It was a thought that had been expressed before in Bangalore by the Bangalore Task Force, a member of which, V. Ravichandar, was the star inspirational turn produced by Amcham for the occasion. When Karnataka Chief Minister Krishna serendipitously found himself with a Bangalore Task Force in response to his wish to make Bangalore another Singapore, the BTF responded with the thought, "Forget Orchard Road, let's be happy if we can achieve Seranong Road". So can we cut out all the hoopla and just think combedly about a "Better Chennai Project", suggests MMM.

American thoughts

The American initiative, *The Man from Madras Musings* understands, came out of a meeting Amcham had with the powers-that-be at which the Chamber's representatives had pointed out that if the kind of foreign investment Tamil Nadu was expecting was to materialise, it would have to offer a more attractive city to the investors, presumably a city that worked and dreamed of glory. As MMM understands it, the powers-that-be responded positively and requested Amcham to come up with some ideas. The brainstorming session was the result of that, but it offered little by way of ideas that MMM had not heard for the last ten years at different fora in the City, particularly all those meetings held under the banner of the 'Sustainable Chennai' Project. (That might be a thought, Amcham getting hold of the minutes of those meetings and studying them with a fresh mind.)

It is, however, curious why Amcham had come up with this approach when, from what MMM understands, it had some concrete thoughts earlier. As MMM had heard it, the Americans had been thinking of offering help to upgrade the Airport and, presumably, the entire arterial approach into the beginnings of Downtown. Now, that would have been a 'Glory' project, enabling the creation in the minds of new arrivals of a Singapore-like city. And it's a helping hand MMM would — presumably, like the powers-that-be — be with its extenders on. But that was not talked about at all at this recent discussion, nor was it suggested that specific projects be brought up

for consideration. Instead, it was a free-for-all, with what end MMM was not sure, but with the Bangalore presentation the core, some scheme along those lines was presumably expected to emerge. If that kind of macro-thinking was intended, with the kind of funding the Bangalore industrial houses are putting into the BTF initiative (over Rs.10 crore, MMM hears it said), where were all Chennai's major industrialists, the Madras Chamber, CII local branch and those major investors from Korea, Britain, Japan, Germany and France? Be that as it may, what's been the Bangalore experience?

The Bangalore way

When the BTF got underway, it decided to:

- identify the citizens' concerns;
- articulate vision and objectives;
- facilitate public-private partnership; and
- advocate best-in-class practices, drawing from other cities.

Having done that, BTF launched a study to prioritise the citizens' concerns. At the first stage, they discovered these concerns:

- Potholes; Garbage; Lack of dustbins; Mosquitoes; Pollution; and Irregular water supply.
- In the second stage, they discovered these:
- Shortage of public toilets; No stormwater drains; Insecticides not sprayed; Transport; and a couple of others *The Man From Madras Musings* missed.

Somewhere along the way, they discovered that in the bureaucracy no one talks to each other on business. The IAS and IPS officers don't talk to each other and the IAS officers don't liaise even with each other. And so, the BTF, with the Chief Minister's backing behind them and their own clout, decided to act as catalysts and intermediaries, to ensure the public delivery system worked.

The public delivery system included seven departments, the lead component being the Corporation and the others including departments like the water authority and transport authority. BTF with, again, the Chief Minister's backing, has been able to get these 'seven sisters' to meet once a month and, with BTF being catalytic, has got them to talk to each other and take necessary action, which BTF would

monitor in its meetings with the individual departments. Some action and a sense of accountability is emerging, Ravichandar felt.

Specific projects

Perhaps the most important action taken in Bangalore may have something Madras can learn from, *The Man From Madras Musings* feels. And that was a scheme that was developed to enable the municipality to mobilise more money. This was done through a self-assessment scheme for property tax and a method ensuring easy payability, resulting in almost Rs.80 crore being realised. No tax collectors, no debates, no hassles — and the people were happy to pay.

The BTF then helped the Corporation to implement an accounting system to monitor expenditure of the money collected and ensure accountability.

Thirdly, demonstrating a Geographical Information System of one area to the Corporation, it showed how, using the system, the Corporation's programmes could be more

whether, when the common good is seen, sustainability will be ensured. The other issue that BTF saw as a concern was discipline, something MMM has been talking about for the last ten years. And the example Ravichandar cited was curiously like MMM's hobbyhorse, the four-lane system on Anna Salai that WORKS.

In Bangalore too, the BTF has suggested a similar system for MG Road and to ensure the public respect it and maintain discipline, it has suggested punitive action ON THE SPOT. And to make punishment meaningful, it has suggested enhancing the fine from Rs.50 to Rs.500 for ANY offence. The suggestion is still being argued against by the authorities who do not want the fine to be more than Rs.150. Unless such kind of discipline is enforced, the traffic problem will never be solved in Indian conditions, Ravichandar stated. Now where has MMM heard that before?

MMM suggests...

If Amcham wants to do something for Chennai Glory, The

develop pride in, and an obligation to, the city. And that is to fund the development of a series of text books that would deal with the City, the State, its Districts and Civic Issues and Responsibilities, sponsor a series of workshops before and after their development to fine tune the way they are taught, and convince the Government that this needs to be as important part of the school curriculum as mathematics and science subjects. If the books and the methodology of instruction could be shown as being worthwhile to the Government, introducing them into the curriculum would not be too difficult and ten years later you might well be seeing an attitude of greater responsibility to the City or the Districts on the part of the young.

In brief

★ Government, *The Man From Madras Musings* learns, has given the American International School, now functioning at three locations in Alwarpet, ten acres of land in Taramani, near Tidel Park. The architects have been identified by the predominantly American Board of the School and plans are being drawn up to develop an international standard campus once the money is collected. Once this world class institution is in place, this will prove a magnet for foreign investors, namely that their expat staff's fears, that their children will not find the right type of school in Chennai, would be overcome, it was stated at the Chennai Glory brainstorming session. An international school makes an international city, it was stressed, for it will help expat staff to bring their children with them and, as a consequence, make them be willing to stay longer. By that argument, MMM wonders whether Government shouldn't start helping in the establishment of Korean, Japanese, German and perhaps even French schools in Madras, assuming the British would be willing to go along with an international education in English.

Man From Madras Musings suggests it sets about finding ways to develop a state-of-the-art airport for Madras. Of course, that's a Central subject, but MMM has no doubt that if the State says it will develop an airport on its own, the Centre will be only too happy to let it have the project.

Other projects are likely to be more mundane ones, but in many ways more important for the City. The Chamber might like to look at how it can help with restoring the city's numerous tanks and arrange for water-harvesting in their neighbourhoods.

It might also like to make five arterial roads in the City user-friendly: From the Airport to Anna Statue (Anna Salai), Purasawalkam High Road, NSC Bose Road-Rajaji Salai, South Beach Road-Adyar-Tiruvanmiyur and Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai-Cathedral Road-Nungambakkam High Road to Purasawalkam High Road. Making them user-friendly would include through traffic signalling systems, pavements and pedestrian crossings, surfacing, laning and enforcing traffic discipline. Done well, the discipline will spill over to other roads.

The fourth suggestion MMM has to make is an old one and a long-term one, but in the long run is likely to be the most important one of all as it would

★ *The Man From Madras Musings* found it nice to hear several persons from other parts of India who have moved into Chennai in recent years agree that the city "is a great place to live in". They placed these views on record at the Chennai Glory seminar. The shopping, the milk delivery, the bus service, establishing the Metro, the cultural ambience all might have their moments of stress but, on the whole, they worked, appeared to be the view of many. But MMM was rather intrigued to find one of these Chennai fans feel that the people of Chennai lacked the warmth and human touch of the Mumbaiwala. Apparently, Chennaiis are never very helpful to strangers — and he wasn't talking about the City's auto-drivers. MMM had never heard that view before and wonders is that REALLY the attitude we have to 'outsiders'.

MMM

Food for all

— CS's great contribution



● Just a few months ago, 90-year young C. Subramaniam launched the National Agro Foundation (NAF) to trigger a second Green Revolution, to enable agricultural growth from the plateau it had reached in the Eighties. The focus this time would be not only on seeds and fertilisers but also on soil, consolidation of landholdings and marketing. CS announced a personal contribution of Rs.5 lakh. He has been able to mobilise good support for this project, even from the corporate sector. The Murugappa Group recently announced a contribution towards this.

A couple of years ago, Nobel Laureate Norman Borlaug, who helped introduce Mexican dwarf varieties of wheat into India, triggering the Green Revolution, visited Chennai. After making a presentation at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Borlaug met C. Subramaniam at the latter's residence. It was a sight to watch the two octogenarians discussing food security for the world with great fervour and passion!

This visionary and administrator par excellence, who launched the Green Revolution in India, passed away on November 7th at his residence in Chennai. A tribute.

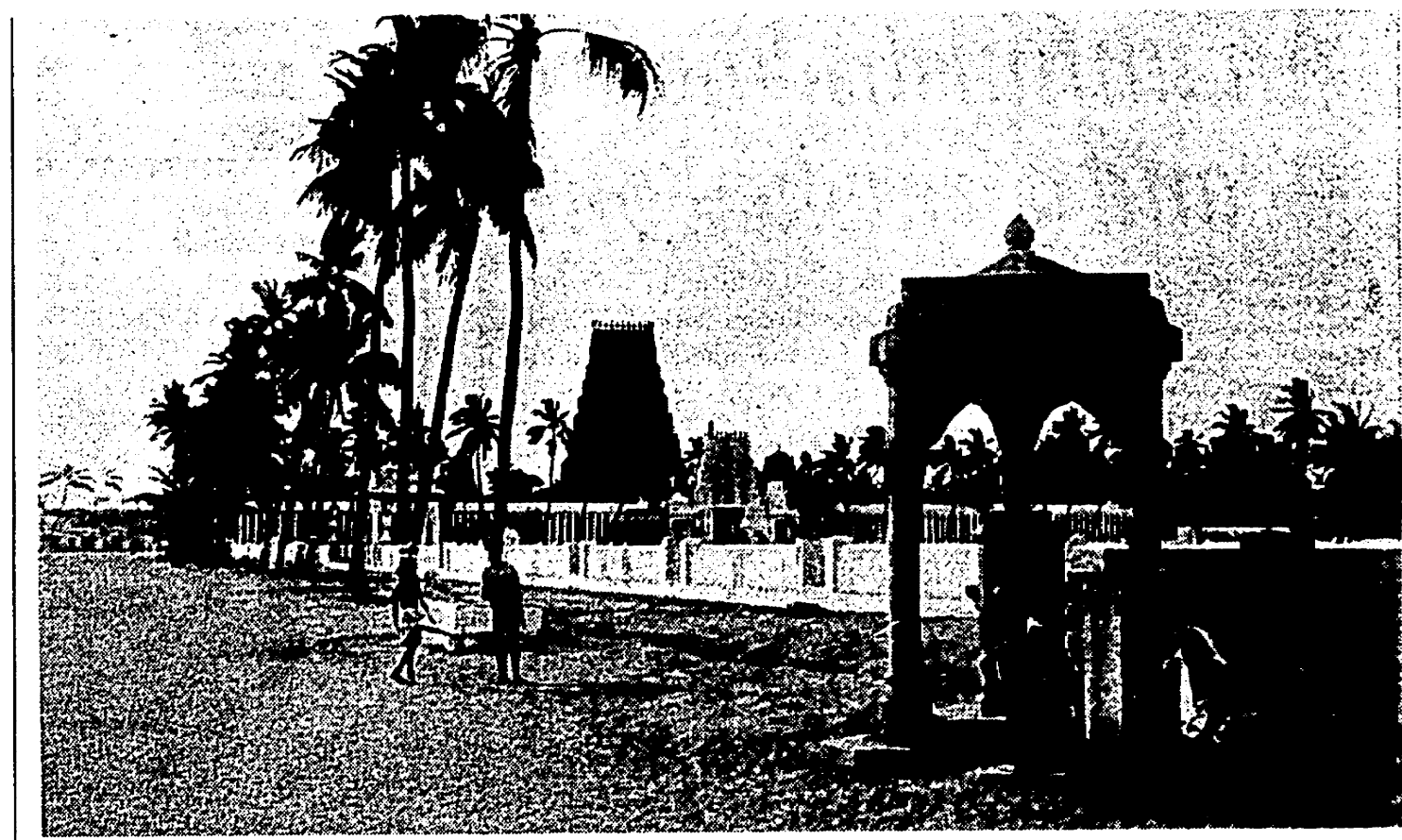
● Subramaniam, a lawyer from Pollachi, joined the freedom struggle at a young age. He had a lot in common with his mentor Rajaji — in the mat-

ter of rectitude and probity in public life, deep involvement in public affairs right to the end, felicity in Tamil and English, flair for administration, spiritualism and even the fight against asthma!

When Lal Bahadur Shastri took over as Prime Minister in 1964, the country was in the throes of a massive food shortage after facing two successive droughts, during which over ten million tonnes of wheat had to be imported each year. Shastri needed the best of talent for handling the agriculture portfolio. Soon after taking charge as PM, Shastri called on CS at his residence and requested him to take charge of agriculture.

CS had great faith in the power of science and technology to trigger development. He encouraged scientific research in agriculture that triggered the green revolution. To the three Ss — C. Subramaniam, B. Shivaraman and Dr M.S. Swaminathan — should go the credit, in a substantial measure, for the green revolution. CS boldly organised import of 18,000 tonnes of the dwarf variety of genetically improved Mexican wheat. It did require a lot of daring to import seeds in such large quantities. Nobel Laureate Norman Borlaug, who helped India switch to the exotic hybrid wheat, recalled the concern of scientists over

(Contd. on Page 6)

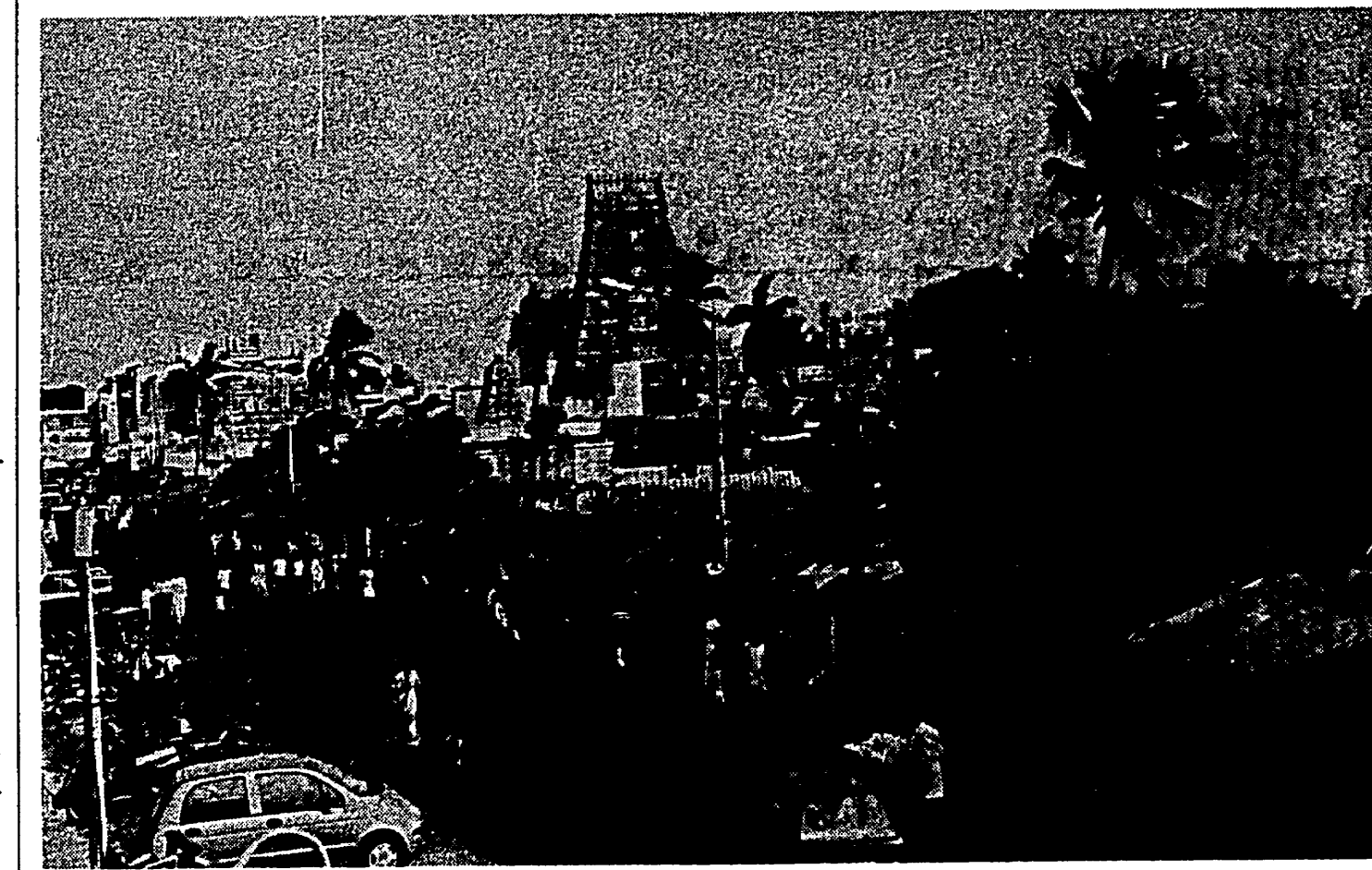


Our OLD and NEW this fortnight are of North Mada Street, Myslapore, the OLD being a photograph taken around 1900 and the NEW a picture of the same area 100 years later. The contrast needs no comment, but if it does, all that needs to be said is, "See what we have done with our sacred precincts!"

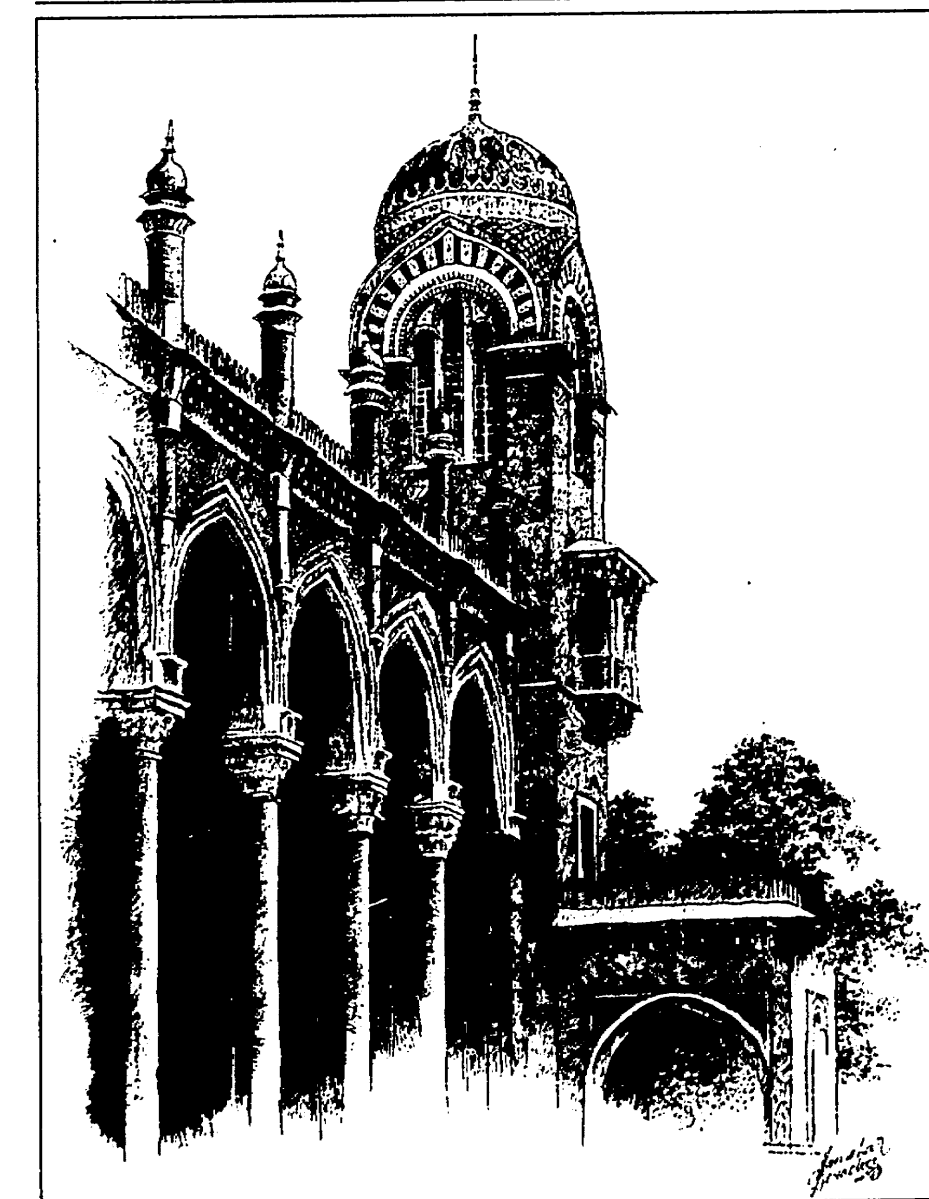
THE OLD... & THE NEW
The OLD is part of a set of ten 'Vintage Heritage Gold Cards' produced for *The Season by Vintage Vignettes* and which include scenes from around the same period of Parry's Corner, Pycroft's Road, First Line Beach, Esplanade Road, Moubray's Road, Napier Bridge, Mount Road, Marina buildings and Buckingham Canal by Central Station. (Tel.: 4994746 and 4981609.)

Another Mada Street, this time, South, figures among the six pencil drawings that Amalora has done on the theme 'Life in Myslapore' for a calendar that neighbourhood newspaper Myslapore Times is offering for sale. Part of the receipts will go to fund a neighbourhood education project. Here's an idea that other neighbourhood newspapers could consider for the future as a means of creating awareness about their respective neighbourhoods. (Tel: 4982244 / 4671122)

A third seasonal publication is the annual effort of those heritage buffs Mahema and Manohar Devadoss. This year they have done not one card but three, each finely drawn in Manohar's inimitable style. The one we publish, as a gentle reminder to those who need to be reminded of their obligations as educationists to improve the aesthetic and heritage values of both students and laymen, is of Senate House. The others are of Moubray's Cupola and the 19th Century North Gopuram of the temple in Madurai, Manohar's hometown. All proceeds are for charity. (Tel: 4982484)



Market scene on South Mada Street



An unfinished novel — and a finished one

Of the stalwarts of Edward Elliot's Road recounted in your pages (MM, August 16th), M. Krishnan was someone special to me in a personal sense. I was in some way related to the eminent naturalist-photographer-author-artist-wit, whom I met for the first time in my mid-thirties and his seventies.

I can never forget the welcome I — and my wife Gowri — received from him when we called on him, along with my uncle Pattabhiraman, to invite him for the function to mark the launch of *Sruti* magazine. Even as I was struggling to find a suitable opening to introduce myself, he greeted me warmly and made some flattering remarks about my cricket. "I have closely followed your career and your brother Sivarama-krishnan's," he explained, after surprising me with his intimate knowledge of our doings on the field.

In the months that followed, Krishnan did some delightful writing on Carnatic music and Bharata Natyam for *Sruti*, accompanied by some unusual photographs.

I shall forever regret my failure to maintain regular contact with my brilliant ancestor. The few rare visits were memorable experiences, the last one a few months before his death. He entertained me and Gowri with some extraordinary songs of the early 20th Century written by unknown composers in a hilarious and occasionally ribald blend of Tamil and English. He spoke of his project of the day, an unfinished detective novel in Tamil, the hero of which was an inanimate object! He also tried to tell me that he was my great-granduncle, to my utter incomprehension.

A few days later, I received a letter from him (below), written in a most beautiful hand, enclosing a family tree he had calligraphed for me (right).

By coincidence, the author of the article on EE Road raises a question about the three persons said to have been involved in the Tamil Lexicon project. While I do not know who the third person was, I know that my grandfather V. Narayanan ('Abboy', the 'son' Krishnan refers to in his letter to me) played an important role, making major contributions to the lexicon. Narayanan was a law graduate with a scholarly bent of mind and a mastery of Tamil, Sanskrit and English, that helped him in his many roles: as assistant editor in the *Indian Express*, editor — and commentator — of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham publications, columnist and theological researcher.

Krishnan's brother, M. Anantanarayanan wrote a novel, *Silver Pilgrimage*, that was published by Penguin in 1968. John Updike, taken up by the author's name wrote a poem (which Sitaram of The Bookshop, Spencer Plaza, loves to recite), no doubt inspired by the cadences of that polysyllabic name. It goes:

I MISSED THE BOOK BUT READ THE NAME

Though authors are a clan
To be avoided if you can
I'd like to meet the Indian
M. Anantanarayanan.

And Anantanarayanan
Would seat me on a lush divan
And spell the stumptuous span
Of 'a's and 'n's more lovely than
In Xanadu did Kubla Khan.

I picture him as short and tan
We'd perhaps meet in Hindustan
And I'd say with admirable élan
Ah, Anantanarayanan
I've heard of you, The Times once ran
A short note on your novel
An extraordinary tale of God and man

Though authors are a clan
To be avoided if you can
I'd like to meet the Indian
M. Anantanarayanan.

V. Ramnarayan

Dr. Radhakrishnan Road, Madras 4

Dear Premnarayanan,

After you left, I had another go at my detective novel, again to realize that neither effort nor persistence stimulate creative impulses.

What happens to me at such times that something totally unconnected with what I am trying to think comes suddenly to mind — I remembered where, in the chaotic confusion of my day, I had scented the want.

(which I show up after much verification and consultation with my cousin, P.N. Appavaram) displaying our common descent.

I had a rough copy of it made, and enclose the copy.

You will see how 'Abboy' was my am on an old tradition. I remember him with affection and authentic regard.

Pattabhi, who supplied your address, says you have taken to freelance writing. A precarious profession, expert circle, but at times deeply satisfying.

On the last

(Handwritten signature)

P.S. From what Kalamathi told me, I think one of her maternal ancestors was the sister of one of your grandfathers (V. Narayanan's ancestor's wife).

OUR READERS WRITE



Restraint needed

MMM has (in MM, November 1st) correctly drawn attention to the lop-sided emphasis in the southern states of Andhra and Tamil Nadu on "Information Technology" to the exclusion of traditional industries and agriculture. It is well-known that information technology is more relevant and yields the maximum benefits in the context of a post-industrial society, such as obtains in the developed societies in the West, whereas India is far from being in that category. It should be obvious to any intelligent observer that the industrial scene and the infrastructure, such as roads, ports, sanitation,

electric supply etc., in our country are still in a medieval condition. We should, therefore, attempt at a balanced development on all fronts and restrain our penchant for going overboard with hype about the latest fads.

Prof. R.C. Narayanan
Principal (Retd.)
(Delhi College of Engineering)
T 59B, 32nd Cross Street
Besant Nagar
Chennai 600 090.

More colour

Kudos to MM for bringing out an excellent portrayal of GPO in colour. It was quite refreshing to peruse this particular issue (MM, November 16th). Let this be a forerunner to many more such colourful issues.

It is a sad commentary that GPO, the vintage structure was ravaged by fire due to callous attitude of staff.

Let us fondly hope the administration installs more fireproof measures to avert such catastrophe in future.

R.K. Sridharan
2, East Circular Road
San Thomé
Chennai 600 028.

Only excerpts

Dr. M.L.V.'s interview that you published (MM, October 16th) are excerpts from a three-hour long interview she had given *Sampradaya*. This interview, now in *Sampradaya's* archives, provides an insight into the genius of M.L. Vasanthakumari not only as a singer, but also as a *rasika*, an intellectual, and an educationist.

Geetha Rajagopal
Director, Sampradaya
1, Musiri Subramaniam Road
Mylapore
Chennai 600 004.

Tagore-inspired

I was delighted to see 'A Prayer' (with due apologies to Rabindranath Tagore) published in MM, August 16th.

I am one of the worshippers of Tagore and a regular reader of his great works. Here is a parody of verse no.35 of Tagore's great work. It was published in a journal of RVBR Reddy College under my daughter's name, P. Nagamani, and read

HEAVEN OF REALISATION

Where the head is held low,
with reverence to Teachers;
Where knowledge has not broken into
Science, Arts and Commerce;
Where 'self' has lost its way, into ocean
of UNITY;
Where sight, thought and action have
joined their hands;
Where regional feelings and language
stand no bar to us;
Into that Heaven of Realisation
Oh, God, let my college AWAKE.

P.V.R. Murthy
278/3RT
Vijayanagar Colony
Hyderabad.

(Also see Page 7)

Is it there?

Sathyagraha, belonging to P. Adinarayana Chetty, Barrister-at-Law, was situated on Edward Elliot's Road (now Radhakrishnan Salai) in the 1920's. Can any old resident of the locality say whether the building still exists and where it was exactly located. P. Adinarayana Chetty, (who probably hailed from Salem), belonged to the old Swaraj Party.

K. Vedamurthy
"Sri Krishna"
44, 28th Cross Street
Indira Nagar, Chennai 600 020.

The Sethu scheme

The Sethu Samuthram project (MM, October 1st) will shorten travel length from the East Coast to the West Coast of India, besides bringing economic benefits to Tamil

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

Clairvoyance? Or coincidence?

Casually turning over the pages of MM, November 1st, — lo and behold! — how is it that your excerpts of M. Krishnan's 1956 article and the write-up in *The Hindu* (30th October) on the Los Angeles workshop of my second play happen to have the same venue — Vedanthangal! Also, both appearing in print the same week! Adding to the mystery is Krishnan's name appearing in my play. Barely six weeks ago, the audience in Hollywood had heard — perhaps for the first time in their lives — these two names connected with Indian wildlife: Vedanthangal and Krishnan. I had even explained to the cast during the previous day's rehearsals about the significance of them! Clairvoyance or mere coincidence?

Calcutta and Dhaka on an U.S.I.A. grant.

Since relocating in Los Angeles with her husband, actor Eddie Jones, she has received a Dramalogue award and Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle award in directing for her co-direction with John Rubinstein of *Cow-seller-at-Law* by Elmer Rice at Interact Theatre Company in North Hollywood. She is the initiator and director of the Play Development Lab at Interact.

Of Mohan Narayanan's new play *The Birds have not Come to Vedanthangal This Year* she had said, "The *Birds* is really a very lovely play. This play has an universal appeal. I love the setting — a bird sanctuary — and the characters, all of whom have a unique journey they must take because of their involvement with each other. It is a beautifully layered piece, simple and poetic. Very moving. Bravo!"

The play is planned to be staged in Madras between 3rd and 7th January 2001. Anita Khanzadian-Jones will be in Madras from 9th December for the rehearsals. Yamuna is in charge of the production.

Mohan Narayanan
47, Urur Olcott Road,
V Avenue, Besant Nagar
Chennai 600 090.

Editor's Note: Anita Khanzadian, director, has several New York Theatre credits to her name. She has also directed productions in Philadelphia and at the Aspen Playwrights Conference in Colorado. She has conducted theatre workshops and directed productions of *Our Town*, *The Zoo Story* and *All My Sons* in Madras.

The play features three characters — two women, who share a relationship and want to adopt a child in India, and a man, the Indian. The play explores their relationships in an intercultural setting and develops an enormous amount of tension.

THE UNIVERSITY'S PRO IS 'DIRECTED' TO WRITE...

P.V. Ramalingam, Public Relations Officer of the University of Madras, writes:

In response to the news item published in *Madras Musings* (October 1st) under the caption "The stars twinkle for staffless departments", I am directed (sic) to send the following for publication in your daily (sic) for information of the public on the actual position.

This reply is intended to remove certain distorted interpretations and one-sided criticisms raised in the write-up in *Madras Musings* on October 1st.

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is an autonomous body of UGC which is now considered comparable to the accreditation bodies in 14 other countries like Netherlands, Australia etc. The criteria designed by NAAC for accreditation are in tune with these countries. For Universities the criteria include University profile, affiliating functions, and seven criteria of assessment like (i) Curricular aspects; (ii) Teaching, Learning and Evaluation; (iii) Research, Consultancy and Extension; (iv) Infrastructure & Learning Resources; (v) Student-Support and Progression; (vi) Organisation and Management; and (vii) Healthy Practices.

In order to assess these criteria, NAAC receives self-study report and self-analysis report in a structured database format with all supportive evidences, documents, etc. These reports are analysed in a scientific manner using 265 benchmark assessment parameters. The judgement is a collective one conducted by NAAC Peer Team of Experts supported by on the spot visits, interactions with faculty, students, parents, administration, Governing Council (Syndicate) Members, etc. and by verification of documents.

Realising that in any institution there are both strengths and weaknesses, NAAC process of accreditation is built towards holistic, objective, systematic, databased, transparent and shared experience to facilitate institutional improvement. Taking the proportionate strengths as against weaknesses into consideration, the overall accreditation grades of NAAC are awarded. In addition NAAC's Peer Team report provides elaborate recommendations to institutional improvements for the future specifically citing the weaker aspects of the University.

The above explanation is just a prelude to make MMM understand the genuineness of NAAC approach and its grading awarded to Univer-

sity of Madras. Before providing specific clarifications to the couple of aspects criticised by MMM, it is pertinent to make the readers realise the massive structure of Madras University and Her unassailable achievements during the last five years.

The University of Madras has seven campuses (Chepauk, Marina, Guindy, Taramani, Chetput and Vellore Post-Graduate Extension Centre), 18 Schools, 68 University departments and 243 affiliated Institutions (of which 33 are Research Institutes recognised for conducting Ph.D). Sample list of major strengths/achievements is provided below:

- 134 on-going funded research projects with a grant of Rs.14.67 crores.
- Establishment of an University Industry Interaction Centre through which Consultancy Projects in last two years generated Rs.1.2 crores with a saving of Rs.17.88 lakhs to the University.
- Acquiring a national/international patent in the name of University of Madras for the discovery of a drug formulation for the treatment of a severe form of jaundice called Hepatitis-B by the Department of Microbiology. This patent has also been commer-

- cialised for marketing with financial benefits to the University.
- 1534 publications, 208 books and 628 Ph.Ds during the last five years.
- 39 faculty members being recognised by national / international awards.
- 412 endowments with a corpus fund of Rs.6.97 crores.
- 14 Centres of Excellence in Research in the University departments named as UGC Centres, National/International Referral Centres, etc.
- 12 International / Inter-University linkage programmes of the University departments.
- Examination reforms by introducing optical mark reader (OMR) bar coding system to ensure confidentiality and accuracy.
- Provision of databases / softwares in Central / Campus Libraries and use of CD-ROM facilities for students and researchers.
- Only University having an exclusive campus for Basic Medical Sciences which is recognised by Government of India as Centre of Excellence for Health Training.
- Unique departments like Defence Studies, Criminology, Anthropology etc.

- 18 Schools, 91 Boards of Studies and 234 academic programmes in higher education.
- This list is only a sample and not complete in itself to depict the strengths. This does not mean that there are no weaknesses in the University.
- The University and NAAC are aware about the major weakness in the University in terms of deficiency in staff strength. Remedial measures have been taken by the University by way of 152 part-time lecturers in various departments. Guest lecture programmes with senior experts and the effort of filling up permanently 65 lecturer positions have been considered by NAAC Peer Team as positive, pragmatic approaches to offset the deficiency. The Syndicate at its meeting held on 8.11.2000 appointed 25 lecturers for 16 departments. The Selection Committee meetings for selection of 40 more lecturers have been scheduled from 9.11.2000 and the Syndicate authorised Vice-Chancellor for issue of appointment order immediately after the completion of Selection Committee Meetings. Therefore, the University will be fulfilling the assurance given to NAAC shortly with regard to appointment of lecturers on permanent basis. As the school concept and CBS type of PG teach-

ing is adopted in the University departments, which facilitates inter-departmental / inter-disciplinary teaching as a routine by way of the elective subjects for PG students, the student-teacher ratio as per UGC norms is taken care of.

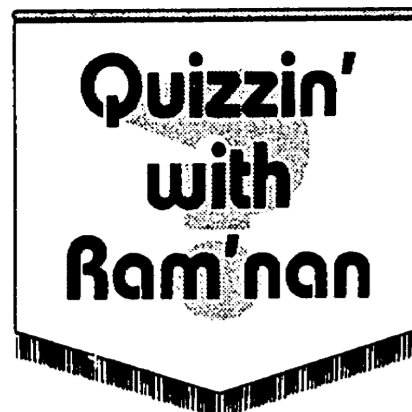
There have been significant steps taken to improve the infrastructural facilities of the University departments by way of equipment, computers, laboratories, etc. which were appreciated by NAAC while giving specific recommendations to strengthen the weaker departments. Presently the University is taking effective steps to implement these recommendations through the Planning and Development Board and Syndicate with the due approval of Government of Tamil Nadu. This includes the renovation of Senate House also.

MMM should realise that constructive journalism should be unbiased and should highlight both positive and negative aspects of an issue before passing any judgement on certain national level assessment exercises.

MMM responds:
• *Madras Musings* is delighted to provide all the space the University needed to publicise its achievements. Not being a daily (a fact we would have expected a five-star institution

to be aware of), we regret the University had to wait a while to see its strengths listed in print. MMM, having got the opportunity to see the University's response before the public were informed, responds:
"MMM is glad to note the explanation of the NAAC evaluation process. This cites self-study reports and self-analysis reports being sent to the NAAC. MMM is sure those directed to write those reports at the University got them right. Certainly, the VC has expressed his appreciation of their contribution."
MMM is also pleased to note the NAAC evaluation criteria listed and is impressed by the vagueness of it. MMM notes staff strength is not mentioned at all and wonders whether NAAC suggests the number of staff there should be for each discipline. Or, when it mentions infrastructure, whether it suggests the number of students per computer for a course where computers are essential. In other words, are there benchmarks laid down by NAAC — or any other authoritative body — for each course?
Having said all that, MMM must point out that two-thirds of the letter to the University's Public Relations Officer was directed to write to *Madras Musings* deals with the NAAC criteria, whereas MMM in his October 1st

piece wondered whether these criteria examined critically the considerable shortage of staff and equipment, lack of inter-disciplinary activity, the lack of communication skills among students and the poor standards of maintenance. The last third of the PRO's letter — two paragraphs — admits staff shortage, implies infrastructure improvement and is silent on the other points mentioned by MMM. Significantly the letter the PRO was directed to write states that the University will honour the "assurance" on staff recruitment given to the NAAC team, presumably to get its 5-star rating. MMM is glad to hear some progress is being made after the rating was received, but did NAAC set standards for faculty?
Meanwhile, MMM is delighted to hear the University plans to implement the renovation of Senate House, but there's no mention of WHEN. However, MMM hopes that he can hold the Public Relations Officer (!) to that promise.
Finally, Mr. PRO, "distorted interpretations" "onesided criticisms" and "biased" are harsh words to describe a story of deficiencies that have NOT been denied. Would you like to accompany MMM on his next visit to the University to see these for yourself?



(Questions 1 to 12 are from the period November 1st to 15th. Questions 10 to 12 pertain to Chennai. Questions 13 to 20 relate to Tamil Nadu.)

1. For how many days was Rajkumar a prisoner of Veerappan?
2. What is to be the new name of the famous Prince of Wales Museum in Mumbai?
3. Who is the first CM of the newly formed State of Jharkhand?
4. The 200th birthday of which famous edifice in the U.S. was celebrated on November 9th?
5. What three languages' characters are being accepted from November 9th for domain names on the Web?
6. Who terminated Garry Kasparov's reign as World Champion on November 2nd?
7. Who is the winner of this year's Booker Prize?
8. From which State was the U.S. First Lady, Hilary Clinton, elected to Senate?

9. Which famous South Korean corporate giant was declared bankrupt on November 8th?

* * *

10. Name the first woman Mayor of Chennai who passed away on November 7th.
11. What crown did Pooja Nair wear on November 6th?
12. Where are Chennai's two new flyovers located?

* * *

13. Where was a stranded Bryde's whale rescued on November 14th?
14. Which Bharat Ratna awardee from the State passed away on November 7th?
15. Which teeming city is Kulasekara said to have founded in the 6th Century BC?
16. Of the six *Aarupadaiveedu* temples, three begin with 'Tiru'. Name them.
17. Which film hero of yesteryears was called Kaadhala Manan (King of Romance) because of his looks and image?
18. Name the three Tamil martyrs remembered by Gandhi in his writings about the Satyagraha in South Africa.
19. Where is the Folklore Resources and Research Centre in the State located?
20. What famous institution began operations on September 20, 1878?

(Answers on Page 8)

Teenager's moon-dream now a stamp

It was a prize-winning effort, this painting showing an astronaut on the moon's surface, standing next to the Indian tricolour, the flagstaff firmly implanted on the moon's hard surface. Space rockets in the painting symbolised missions sent to other planets to explore for life forms, while space stations represented future colonies in space. It was a vision of Indian achievement 25 years hence.

The painting, the work of 15-year-old Praveen Suchindar of Chennai, won the First Place in the stamp design contest conducted jointly by the Indian Postal Department and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in September last year, the result of which was recently announced. It was also adopted by the Postal Department for a Rs. 6 se-tenant stamp on the theme, 'India in space 2025'. A se-tenant stamp is two stamps, here of Rs. 3 each and usable individually, that are

joined together when printed, in this case to make a Rs. 6 stamp.

The stamp was officially released in Bangalore by the Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle, to record the completion of three years in orbit of the Indian remote sensing satellite, IRS-1D. A few days later, Suchindar received the cash prize of Rs. 5,000 in Chennai from the Chief Postmaster General, Tamil Nadu Circle.

• by Sasi Nair

Having developed an interest in birds, animals and nature by the time he was three years old, Suchindar started drawing pictures and painting them, mostly copying pictures from comics and books. At the age of five, he began participating in drawing and painting competitions. Over the years, several certificates and prizes came his way — all faithfully preserved.



Praveen Suchindar and his stamp.

In 1994, Suchindar won the First Prize in the Green Earth Painting Competition conducted by the Rotary Club of Madras East. In 1996, he won the all-India Camel Colour Contest. And in 1999, he won the three first prizes — in painting competitions organised by the Youth Association for Cultural Development, Life Insurance Corporation of India and the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

"My interest in physics, chemistry, biology and social studies have always stood me in good stead, helping my imagination come alive in my paintings," explains Suchindar, who

plans to become an aeronautical engineer.

The Class 10 Padma Seshadri (KK Nagar) student has entered this year's postal department stamp design contest too. The subject, 'The role of the IT revolution in bringing the world closer', is of special interest to him. "My painting shows surfing on the Internet, e-commerce and global communication," he says enthusiastically. Judging by his talent and confidence, the Chennai lad might just make it two-in-a-row when the result is announced next year. And even find a market for his work, a few samples of which adorn the walls of his home.

English Heritage, Chennai heritage...

(Contd. from page 1)

as *Government House* and grand edifices like the *Writers' Building* of the East India Company.

Calcutta's great public buildings were largely built by military engineers working from handbooks, like Major William Nairn Forbes who designed the city's Cathedral, St. Paul's, and the Silver Mint. It also has numerous homes built for the wealthy merchant class. The most renowned building is the Victoria Memorial, with its crowning dome.

Many of Calcutta's colonial warehouses, ghats and more obscure buildings have already been "discovered" and listed. Mr. Davies said: "Behind billboards you find remarkably complete buildings from the late 18th Century which have enormous potential."

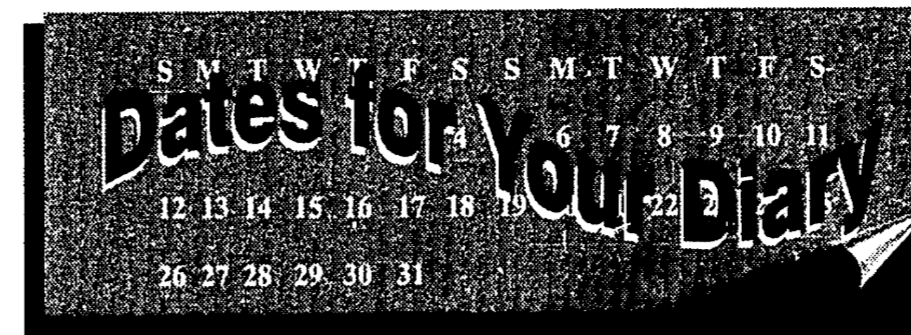
One immediate concern for conservationists is Clive of India's house at Dum Dum, which is now dilapidated. Trees grow from its masonry and the building is disintegrating rapidly. It is currently home to several families and its ownership is in dispute.

After the Congress split in 1969, CS was elected and was promptly appointed by Indira Gandhi Minister of Planning, Science and Technology. He was subsequently appointed Minister of Finance. CS's tenure as Finance Minister will be remembered for his stepping up the allocation for the rural sector and the launching of the Integrated Rural Development Programme. The concept of regional rural banks as subsidiaries of major nationalised banks was his brainchild.

After the Congress was routed in 1977, CS opted out of the Indira Congress. He served for a few months as Defence Minister under Charan Singh and, in the early Nineties, as the Governor of Maharashtra. After resigning the governorship, CS kept out of active politics but enthusiastically engaged himself with developmental issues.

Till the end, CS retained his interest in science and technology and in agriculture. He believed these were the bedrock for India's development. On every occasion and at every forum, he attempted to advance the cause of these vital sectors. But he will always be remembered for providing food security for the nation. (Courtesy: *Industrial Economist*)

S. Viswanathan



December 4: *Souls Revealed*. Sutra Dance Theatre presents Ramli Ibrahim (Malaysia) in a cross-cultural, contemporary music-dance-theatre experience, featuring new choreography of Ramli Ibrahim with guest artists Christopher Yohmei Blasdel (Shakuhachi), Mika Kimula (Voice), Sabera Shaik (actor) and Rathimala (principal dancer, Sutra Dance Theatre). Ramli is acclaimed in Malaysia as a pioneer dancer and choreographer of international standing in the major fields of dance that he has mastered — Bharata Natyam, Odissi as well as Contemporary Dance.

Of great interest this time are *Oiwake Rhapsody* and *Mukaiji Reibo* ('Flute on the Misty Sea'), Ramli's collaborative work with distinguished American Shakuhachi (traditional Japanese flute) player, Christopher Yohmei Blasdel. Ramli will also dance with Rathimala, a principal dancer with Sutra Dance Theatre in a new work that gives new interpretation to Odissi.

Also featured will be well-known Malaysian actor Sabera Shaik in *Sarasa*, a solo tragicomic drama which gives a taste of the mother-power and depth psychology lurking behind the seemingly profound Indian dance scene. Also for the evening will be *Point of Difference* and *Pallavi*, a contemporary Odissi deconstructed and given another contemporary layering. (At 7.15 p.m., Museum Theatre.)

December 5: *Solo Theatre: A Portrait of Paradise* by actor, director and writer Deesh Mariwala who recently established the Grossly Commercial Theatre Company in Chennai, to experiment with different forms of theatrical activity. *A Portrait of Paradise* is a one-man dramatic monologue that has been adapted to the Indian context from Lanford Wilson's *A Poster of the Cosmos*.

December 6: *The Greater Light*, an exhibition of paintings by Chandra Bhattacharjee. (At the Apparao Galleries.)

December 7: *Lifelines*, an installation art and mixed media display. (At the Centenary Hall, in the Museum.)

December 7: *An Encounter of the East and the West* — reaching out from medieval repertory to a living oral tradition, Aruna Sayeeral and Dominique Vellard have created an inspir-

ing and fascinating musical concert of liturgical chants and devotional songs. This encounter is a play of questions and responses between two different conceptions of rhythm and mode, but united by the final destination of a chant which in both Carnatic and Western traditions is conceived as a medium between human beings and divinity.

December 7: Rudi Zapf and Wolfgang Neumann — Contemporary traditional Bavarian music (Max Mueller Bhavan.)

December 8: Meet the author: Thorsten Becker. Introduction by Prof. V. Ganeshan CIEFL, Hyderabad. Reading in German by the author. Reading of Tamil translation. Discussion by invited discussants. Wherever he stays, Thorsten Becker finds the meaning of our existence in situations where communication, language, mimicry and gestures dissolve in single relief! *Laughter* jumps across times and zones. As long as we have something to laugh about. (At 7 p.m. at the Max Mueller Bhavan.)

December 9 and 10: *Mohamama: Explorations of a Varnam*, exploring the nuances of a very special piece of Bharata Natyam with the Prkruthi Foundation. (Amethyst)

Till December 10: An exhibition of paintings by S. Harshavardhana. (At the Apparao Galleries.)

Margazhi Magic, an exhibition and sale of colourful crafts. (At DakshinaChitra.)

December 12: An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by a group of Chennai artists. (Vinyasa Art Gallery.)

Till December 12: *Five Easy Pieces* — an exhibition of academic landscapes in watercolour, painted in and around Chennai by Julius Macwan. (At the Alliance Francaise Gallery.)

December 18: Madras Philharmonic Society concert.

A Prayer...

Ever since you published my poem 'A Prayer' (MM, August 16th), on the ills and hypocrisy plaguing our society, I have been receiving letters from readers as far away as Madurai and Hyderabad thanking me for stirring them to action. I have now realised the power of poetry and *Madras Musings*. My philosophy in life is "It is better to light a candle, than curse the darkness". Thanks, *Madras Musings*, for helping me 'Light a Candle'. I am enclosing a few responses from your readers.

V. Chandrashekhar
B-12/4, 25th Cross Street
Besant Nagar, Chennai 600 090.

...& some responses

I happened to be in a training programme recently at Chennai and during one of the sessions, a slide was shown containing "A Prayer" (with due apology to Rabindranath Tagore). We were told that it was written by you and published in a local newspaper. I could not note down the entire text of the slide but I managed to note down your address.

I was deeply touched by the thoughts expressed in your thought-provoking prayer and I would like to keep a copy of it for me. I will be grateful if you could send me a copy.

G. Venkata Rao
Assistant Manager (Law)
Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
3-6-436 to 438, 2nd Floor,
Nasipur House, Himayatnagar
Hyderabad 500 029.

"A Prayer" composed by you published in the latest issue of *Madras Musings* makes something excellent to read and think of. I really appreciate the bold way you have had a dig at our system. Why don't you send this to all the newspapers and magazines for publication? I appreciate *Musings* publishing your views. Usually the press is very

choosy about taking such type of writeups which attack the establishment directly. Why don't you write an article on the corrupt society we live in?

C.K. Ramachandran
1-D, East Palms
Wingate Gardens
4, School Road
(Off: R.K. Mutt Road)
Mandaveli
Chennai 600 028.

S. Sundara Srinivasan
4/240, E.B. Colony
(Via) Iyer Bungala
Madurai 625 017.

'A Prayer' should be translated in all the languages and should be published in all the newspapers and magazines

V. Farooque
18, Ameena Street
Pernambut 635 810.

Govt. push to green cities

(Contd. from page 1)

Information regarding water harvesting has to be disseminated in public and its use encouraged. It should be ensured that quality of water does not get deteriorated for which required measures are to be taken.

Some of the guidelines for the greening of urban areas and landscaping that accompany the recommendations include the following:-

— **Tiling to be done only on pavements with heavy pedestrian traffic:** In case of bridges and such areas where there is no pedestrian movement, tiling may be avoided and in case tiling is to be done, preference should be given to porous tiles as porous material allows seepage of groundwater. The species of trees may be chosen for their pollution reduction abilities, including dust trapping. To avoid reliance on a single species, a combination of trees, shrubs, grasses should be grown.

— **Information regarding water harvesting has to be disseminated in public and its use encouraged.** It should be ensured that quality of water does not get deteriorated for which required measures are to be taken.

— **Electric and telephone cable should be located under the curb-stone, that is, at the end of the road berm to avoid damage to the roots of the trees while carrying out the repair works.**

— **Technology for transplantation of trees should be updated to ensure at least 80 per cent success rate.**

— **As far as possible, trees grown in nurseries to a height of four to six metres should be planted.**

— **Leaf-burning should be banned completely.** The Horticulture Dept. of Local Bodies should develop a system of composting the leaves in the nearby park.

— **Growth of grass to be encouraged:** Grass plays a vital role in making the soil suitable for vegetation and, so, unnecessary digging of soil should be stopped forthwith.

— **Excessive pruning to be avoided:** Pruning of plants in a well nurtured garden and pruning of roadside plants should be differentiated. Excessive pruning may lead to upsetting the root:shoot ratio. Leaf pruning should not be resorted to.

— **Compost to be made of leaves:** A system of composting of leaves in nearby parks should be adopted which will provide water-retentive manure to civic agencies. Some fallen leaves may be left near the tree base as water-retentive mulch.

— **Digging near trees to be avoided:** Digging for telephone, electricity and sewage lines should be avoided to prevent root injury. In no case should roots be exposed. Washing of avenue

trees foliage may be done on a tri-monthly basis to get rid of particulate matter from the foliage.

— **Initiation of EEC activities:** Horticulture Departments may initiate education/awareness campaigns among school students, elders and users of parks where different species of trees are present and the importance of preservation of eco-systems explained. School students may be taken for nature walks in a major garden to get them associated with the flora and fauna around them. The citizens of an area residing near a park can be involved in this awareness campaign.

— **Compactness of soil near trees should be avoided within at least one metre around the tree.** Perforated metallic frame can be used for this purpose. Soil surveys around the trees should be done by removing stones.

• NOSTALGIA IN THREE PARTS

With Gilligan — off the field

● The first visit to India of an MCC team of any sort from England was in 1926-27. In those days, England's teams travelled under the label of the Marylebone Cricket Club. This pathbreaking team was led by Arthur Gilligan. Reports of that team's visit to Madras were compiled by well-known English sportswriter E.W.A. Swanton and presented to Tony Johnstone, the only son of C.P. Johnstone who adorned Madras cricket in the years between the Wars. Tony Johnstone sent your Editor a copy of this document and we publish this fortnight and over the next two excerpts from it — not of the cricket but of the action off the field.

* * *

The M.C.C. team arrived in Madras 17th January (1927) by the Rangoon Mail steamer s.s. Ethiopia, and were

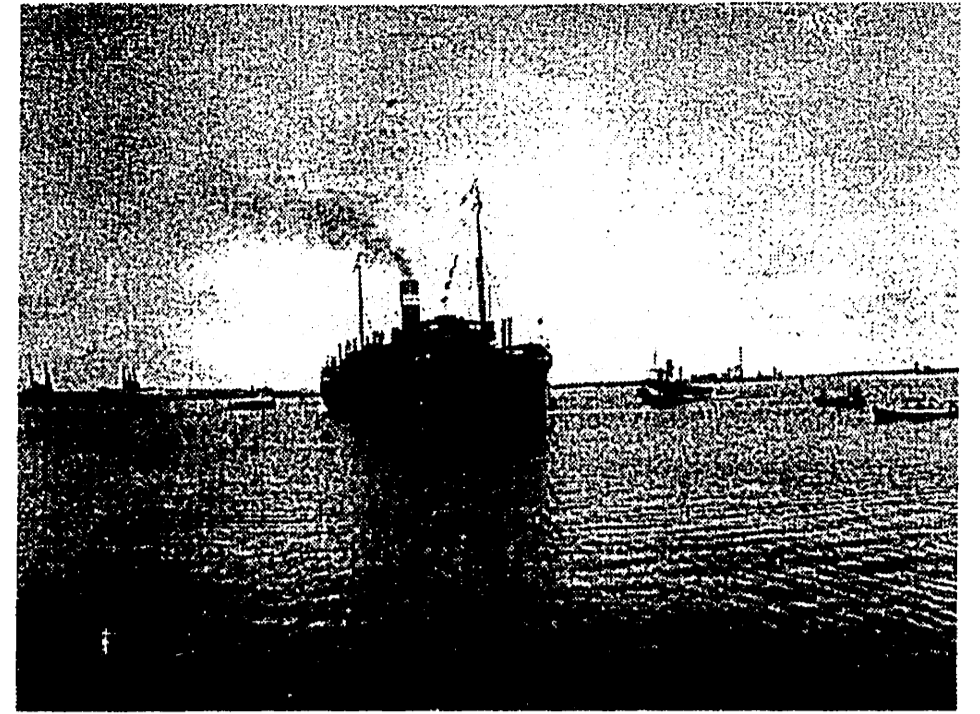
welcomed by a large number of prominent sportsmen.

Arthur Gilligan and Maj. R.C. Chichester-Constable were guests at Government House, while the rest of the team were divided up among local sportsmen for the duration of their stay in Madras. Maurice Tate and George Geary identified their most charming host as R.B. Carrick, an old Lancing College boy, who was famed throughout Madras as an all-round sportsman; Guy Earle was entertained by F.M. Cleghorn; Ewart Astill was taken care of by T.M. Ross (Director of Best and Co.); Mervyn Hill and Bob Wyatt were guests of the J. McIvers; Jack Mercer and Jack Parsons went to stay with Nugent Grant; Peter Eckersley went to the home of Graham Ross; and George Brown and Stuart Boyes were billeted with R. Lee (Director of Binny and Co.). Members of the M.C.C. team were also granted

honorary membership of the Madras Club, the Madras Boat Club, the Madras Cricket Club, the Madras Gymkhana, the Madras Sailing Club, and the Madras Racing Club.

Arthur Gilligan was quoted as saying that he and the rest of the team greatly appreciated the thought of the Madras cricketers in sending them a Marconigram welcoming them to Madras. He welcomed the prospect of C.K. Naidu's playing against them, and he paid further tribute to the Hindu cricketer when he said that he considered him to be in the front rank of batsmen in India.

'Sarathi', writing in the *Madras Mail* (19th January) assumed that most people already knew that the match between the M.C.C. and All-Madras was to be played on 23rd, 24th, and 25th January, and that it was of particular importance because the visitors were set to meet the best players that could be found in the Madras Presidency. However, with the exception of one day, the 23rd, both other days unfortunately happened to be working days, which would effectively prevent most of the citizenry from witnessing the game. When the M.C.C. was in Bombay, despite that city being one of India's greatest commercial centres, a general holiday was given, which enabled everyone who was so minded to attend the match. It was pointed



s.s. Ethiopia entering Madras Harbour with Gilligan's MCC team aboard.

out that the educational institutions in Madras had already rearranged their working hours to facilitate the students' attendance, requiring them to work for only about two hours in the morning from 18th January. In addition, *The Madras Mail* (16th January) had given out that Government Offices and the Courts were proposing to work during that period in the forenoon only. For the benefit of those who worked in offices and commercial firms, 'Sarathi' ventured so far as to suggest that the Chamber of Commerce might declare Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th as commercial holidays, which would enable one and all alike to enjoy this unique opportunity of witnessing the exhibition by members of the Marylebone Cricket Club at play.

The day following the report above, *The Times of India* confirmed that just such an arrangement had been made in the High Court. The Advocate General had presented a petition signed by the vakils to the Chief Justice of the High Court requesting His Lordship to close the Court on the days on which the M.C.C. were to be playing matches in the city, to enable the legal practitioners to watch the play. His Lordship had

remarked that it would not be possible to close the Court on all days, but that he would be glad to accede to their request by closing the Court for that day only and on Monday next, provided that members of the bar had no objection and provided that all the legal practitioners agreed to work on holidays which would be notified later to clear off arrears.

Members of the City Council did not fare so well, according to *The Englishman* (25th January), which reported that Mr. Sivarao, who represented the depressed classes, had moved that "the business of the house do stand adjourned till the morning of 26th January so that members of the Council might have the opportunity to witness the cricket match between the M.C.C. and the combined team". However, the Law Member had replied that it was not possible to adjourn the business of the Council, especially in view of the limited number of days fixed for non-official business, and of the large amount of public money that would be wasted. The motion was then withdrawn.

(To be continued
next fortnight)

Answers to Quiz

1. 108 days; 2. Chatrapathi Shivaji Maharaj Museum; 3. Babulal Marandi; 4. The White House; 5. Chinese, Japanese and Korean suffixes; 6. Vladimir Kramnik; 7. Margaret Atwood for *The Blind Assassin*; 8. New York; 9. Daewoo Motor Company.

* * *

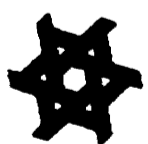
10. Tara Cherian; 11. Miss

Chennai; 12. At Doveton and Pantheon Road.

* * *

13. Off the Kodikkarai Coast; 14. C. Subramaniam; 15. Madurai; 16. Tiruparankunram, Tiruchendur and Tiruttani; 17. 'Gemini' Ganesan; 18. Valliammai, Nagappen and Narayanaswamy; 19. Palayamkottai; 20. *The Hindu*.

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