Reg. No. G/TN/Chief/PMG/451/2000 Licence No. WPP 234/2000

Registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India under R.N. 53640/91

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS MUSINGS

Vol. X No. 18 FREE ISSUE January 1-15, 2001

INSIDE

- Cultural tourism: A beginning
- Chennai and ONYX
- Heritage legislation
- Dangerous DDT
- New cultural vistas
- MCC not invincible?

Army gets heritage conscious

Building restoration planned

(By A Special Correspondent)

The Army which owns about ten per cent of urban space in India and has a wealth of colonial buildings, began listing its heritage wealth about a year ago and has now started work on restoring some of the listed property while targeting doing the rest bit by bit over the next few years. Its plans in Chennai, *Madras Musings* learns, are focussed on Fort St. George and the St. Thomas' Mount Cantonment, which stretches from Kathipara Junction to Pallavaram.

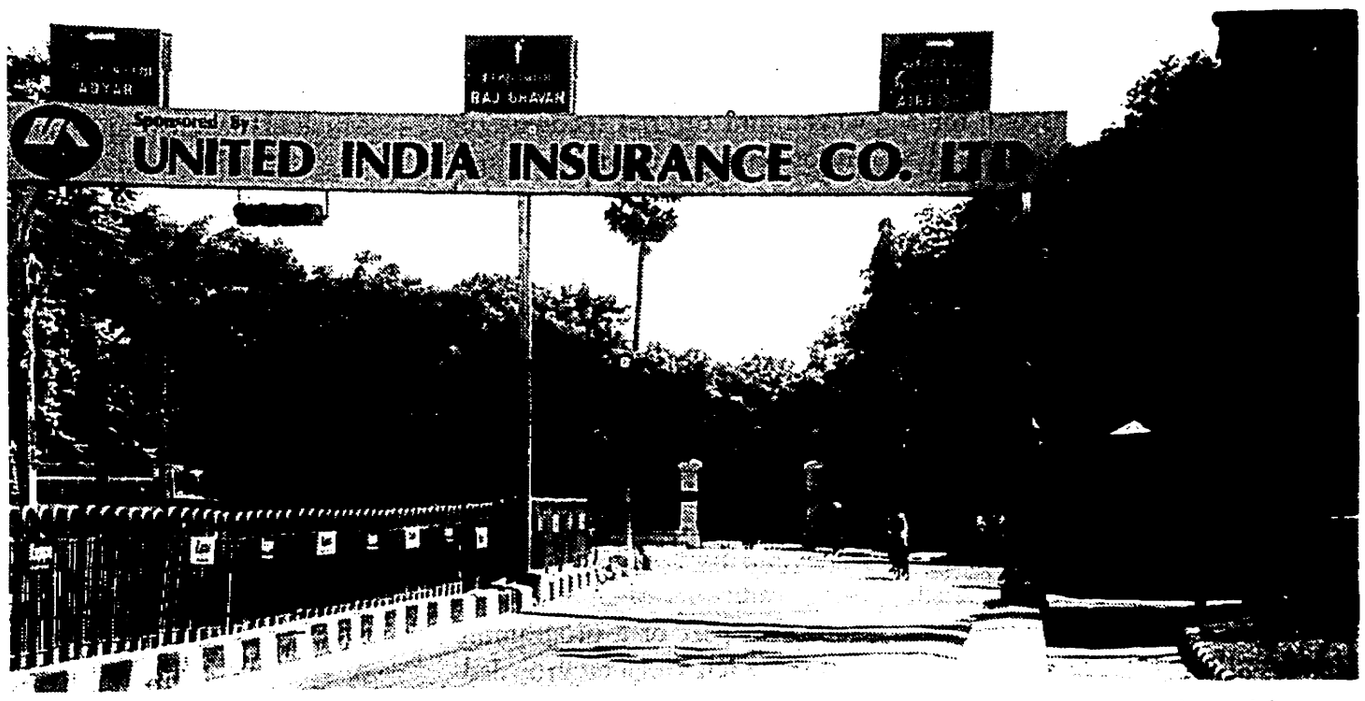
Madras Musings hears that the first building likely to be restored will be the enormous King's Barracks in Fort St. George. A school, a canteen and some quarters function in the building, but better use could be made of it if it is restored. Historically more important buildings in the Fort, however, await attention by the Military Engineering Services who have nationally begun working closely with INTACH and have, in Madras, sought inputs from the local chapter.

The historic buildings the Army owns in the Fort include:

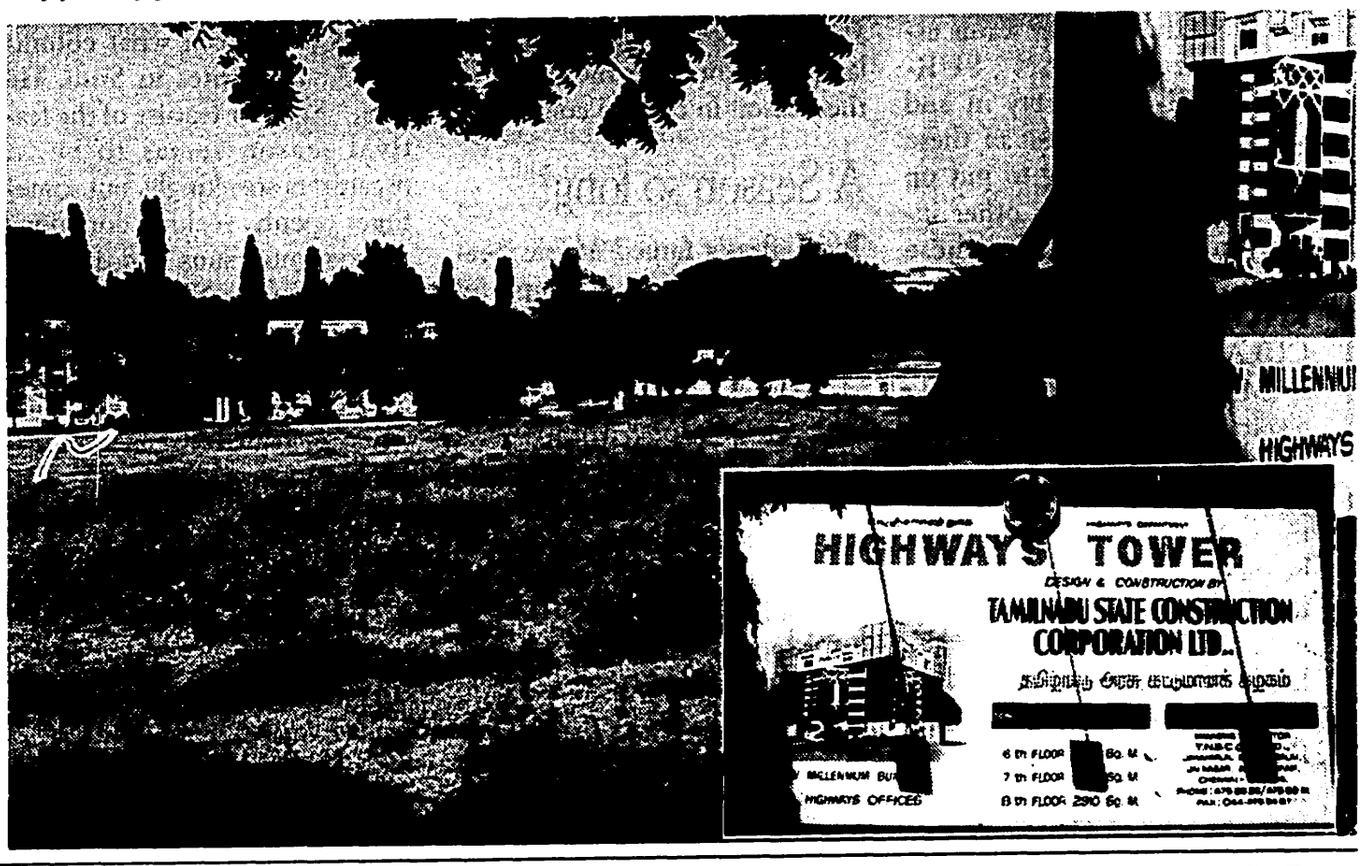
- *Wellesley House* (1796) where Arthur Wellesley who became Wellington lived while winning his spurs;
- The Grand Arsenal (1772), next to *Wellesley House*;
- The Area Army Headquarters opposite the Grand Arsenal, once the city's first Town Hall;
- *Fort House*, residence of the Fort Commandant;
- *Clive House*, once *Admiralty House* and now shared with the Archaeological Survey of India;

And many other properties occupied by others, like the Fort Museum and the Navy Offices, as well as several smaller

(Continued on Page 6)



Is this the way to go about 'Singara Chennai?' A giant advertising strip (above) has been raised just short of the main gates of Raj Bhavan. Should a road meant for a splendid state drive up to the gates of the mansion of the State's No.1 Citizen be 'decorated' in this commercial fashion? To one side of this drive is the splendid green acreage of the Directorate of Technical Education, Guindy Engineering College and Anna University. Someone appears to have spotted some vacant roadside space - and they've promptly thought of raising a multistorey building taller than any other building in this vast green area of Madras. And they tell us that the institutions that occupy this spacious campus believe in and teach environmental engineering! Madras Musings *wonders who sanctions such advertising and highrise in such, till now, environmentally friendly places as these.* (Photographs by RAJIND N. CHRISTY).



The ups and downs of industrial investment in T.N.

Tamil Nadu has been pushed to third rank with Maharashtra retaining the No.1 position and Gujarat grabbing the second slot, in CMIE's November review of investment projects. In August it was No.1.

According to CMIE, Maharashtra tops the list with Rs. 1,68,661 crore investments as at October 2000. This marked a growth of 9.38 per cent over the previous quarter ending July. It was closely chased by Gujarat, which registered the highest growth of 21.87 per cent to reach Rs. 1,68,200 crore. Tamil Nadu slipped to third position with Rs. 1,63,774 crore marking a 6.28 per cent growth. Even Karnataka registered higher growth — 12.87 per cent, next only to Gujarat.

Tamil Nadu's position would become shakier if CMIE decides to delete from the list some of the uncertain projects like Videocon Power (Rs.4424 crore) and Spic Electric. The Rs. 10,000 crore refinery and the Rs. 10,000 crore naphtha cracker project, joint ventures of Indian Oil and Chennai Petroleum planned at Nagapattinam, also do not figure in the estimate.

In terms of investment under implementation, Karnataka with Rs. 39,521 crore is only a shade below Tamil Nadu's Rs. 40,657 crore, with Andhra Pradesh ahead at Rs. 45,992 crore.

Tamil Nadu officials point out that Gujarat climbed to second rank mainly due to the inclusion of its long pending Narmada Sardar Sarovar Project (Rs. 13,180 crore) following the Supreme Court clearance.

Tamil Nadu Industries Secretary, Shakthikanta Das, points out the State encouraged only serious investment proposals and that till the new projects are finalised, the State does not rush to add them to the CMIE list. The State has some major investments on hand, costing over Rs. 20,000 crore.

These include the Rs. 10,000 crore naphtha cracker project of IOC-CPCL at Nagapattinam, another private sector refinery at Vembar in Ramnad District and the Rs. 2000 crore integrated titanium dioxide project of Tata Steel.

A couple of infrastructure projects in the pipeline include the new airport project in Chennai.

Ford has decided to set up its Rs. 200 crore IT venture in Chennai. The Nagarjuna refinery is taking shape. The recently commissioned float glass project of Saint Gobain has achieved a good capacity utilisation and has begun exporting. And Hero Honda is considering setting up a plant in Tamil Nadu. Ford and Hyundai have also started tapping the export market.

Madras Musings wishes all its readers a very happy PONGAL

Making a start with cultural tourism

A happy feature of recent months, particularly during the Music Season, was the attempts made by various organisations in the City to promote cultural tours. *The Man From Madras Musings* appreciates that, for long, India has promoted what it calls 'cultural tourism' — like the Golden Triangle of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. This, however, is, for the most part, guided tours of architectural heritage with soupcons of cultural heritage thrown in, but with little participation of the visitors except as sightseers. A true cultural tour is one for a small group of participants who want to LEARN and UNDERSTAND more than merely just LOOK. Usually the participants are knowledgeable in the field — or an allied field — for which the specific tour is organised and the guide — or, often, guides, and local experts — provide not only guidance, but also lectures and lead discussions at the various places on the route.

This is an aspect of tourism that India should encourage, given the wealth of culture and heritage it has to offer a world where more and more people are seeking specialised knowledge and where these aspects of India are being studied more. MMM must point out that most such tours are budget tours and don't seek the five-star ambience India constantly tries to promote. But what the traveller wants assured are CLEAN SURROUNDINGS to stay in and CLEAN FOOD. Most of these travellers are willing to put up with much of India's other inconveniences, provided these two criteria are fulfilled and KNOWLEDGEABLE, ARTICULATE guides are provided.

MMM is delighted to find that a start in this direction has been made in Chennai by a few non-government groups which have the right idea. There could well be many more who have attempted such tours in a small way, but the few that MMM has heard of are, despite their shortcomings, well worth-emulating. INTACH Tamil Nadu, for instance, organised a three-day Maratha tour of Thanjavur (see *MM*, December 16th) that provided a guide with a Doctorate in Archaeology and a specialist in the Thanjavur region. Dr. S. Suresh is now planning for INTACH-TN a tour of the Chola heartland. MMM, who spoke to a few persons on the Maratha tour, was surprised to find out how much reading they had done on Maratha Thanjavur before the tour and the lengthy discussions they had among themselves and with Suresh during the tour.

During the Music Season, MMM heard of two tours. One was a long walk on a Saturday when V. Sriram of Sangeetham.com, which organised the walking tour together with Chennaionline.com, took a group through the bylanes of Mylapore. Homes of musicians, music and recollections of the first *sabhas* were all a rediscovery awakened by Sriram's narration and the exchanges among the participants. Samudri, the splendid archival venture of *Sruti*, India's premier music and dance magazine, organised the other tour programme (see page 7) during the Season. This, in many ways, was probably the best of the lot, because it gave itself enough time to explore Classical South Indian Music and Dance.

The Samudri tour for around a dozen enthusiasts from Europe and America was spread over two weeks and offered lecdems on various classical music and dance artforms of the South, enabled participation in festivities (like a wedding) where music was an integral part of the celebration and tradition was very much part of the ethos, and gave the visitors enough time of evenings during the Season to enjoy music and dance performances. Visits to temples to study their sculptural riches and discussions on the cultural traditions of South India were also part of a programme that some felt was a bit crowded. But Samudri will learn, MMM is sure, how to pace itself as well as a group and, then, this, and similar tours, could be the draws of the Season in time to come.

A Season so long?

Madras's famed Music Season was just a couple of weeks long when it started over 60 years ago. Over the years, it has grown. And today it is about four months long, from sometime in November to almost the beginning of March. What was just one festival, today numbers over 60 and, in the words of N. Pattabhi Raman, Editor of *Sruti*, has become "a festival of festivals". When there were once 50 performances during the Season, there are nearly 3000 today! This might make the Madras Music Festival unique and a record-breaker even internationally, but does this festival of festivals serve its purpose? Can it, in this context, constitute a success?

With so much on offer and with so much pressure on the individual's time, most performances draw meagre crowds, is the lament *The Man From Madras Musings* has heard from many who do the rounds. Sponsorship, however, enables the show to go on — and since that leaves the organising *sabhas* with a tidy little profit, the *sabhas* are encouraged to organise festivals even if attendance is not worthy of the artiste in many instances. This is hardly fair by the artiste, any artiste, MMM is inclined to think — but there is a school of thought that thinks that many an artiste does not mind, so long as he or she is paid handsomely.

Pattabhi Raman of *Sruti* has been campaigning for long to make the Season shorter, reduce the number of festivals, and provide an opportunity for only the best during the Season. He makes three important points:

— There is an excess of supply over demand. Little has been done to lure the young to the concert halls and create a demand.
— The supply side reflects the availability of sponsorship. But a plateau appears to have been reached and the decline has begun.
— Much of the music and dance fare offered is mediocre, or worse.

Much of that mediocrity is showcased because with so many *sabhas* joining the bandwagon of festivals, there needs to be enough artistes to go round. With the really talented either not having enough slots or asking too much, the rather gaping gaps have to be filled, and mediocrity — and worse — is the consequence, MMM is told.

A sad part of this putting mediocrity on stage is that mediocrity pays for the 'privilege', it would seem from what columnist Anami writes in *Sruti*. He says, "Another feature of the festival season seems to be ... organisers sneakingly, but sometimes openly, seeking donations ... from musicians and dancers, specially of the NRI kind, desiring performance opportunities." After all, what is a few hundred dollars among friends (especially when it translates into thousands in rupees) if it enables you to go back and benefit from saying, "Madras Festival-returned Performer".

One other sorry aspect of the festival is the varying playing conditions. MMM has been told of concerts where audiences have frozen, others where they have baked, performances where the whirring fans and traffic drowned the music and others where music became noise that blasted the listeners' ears, performances where facilities were primitive, others where there was overwhelming garishness.

MMM wishes these and other issues are meaningfully discussed at a workshop before the next season and improvements worked out to prevent the festival becoming a self-destructive ogre. Perhaps what is needed is a Committee to monitor the organisation and the facilities of a festival of festivals and keep it under control so that it offers only the very best. Perhaps, MMM suggests, an organisation like the Sruti Foundation could organise such a workshop to which the *sabhas*' presidents are invited to participate.

Urbanity & efficiency

What's the correct collective noun for a group of diplomats? Whatever it is, *The Man From Madras Musings* found himself in a drove(?) of diplomats one recent evening and he took the opportunity to steer the conversation to their assessment of governance in the southern states.

The urbanity and communication skills of Krishna were right on top of the views expressed.

The accessibility of Chandrababu Naidu and Krishna was also commended, with the former's one-on-one approach appreciated a mite more than Krishna's preference for meetings where he has a team with him. That team, however, also has no hang-ups and individual members of it are not only communicative but willing to freely interact with diplomats.

Language and a desire to distance themselves from diplomats keeps Tamil Nadu's political leadership and diplomats some way apart. On the other hand, the diplomats are unanimous in their appreciation of the professionalism of the bureaucrats in Tamil Nadu and their commitment to getting the best for the State.

Language is again a separator in Kerala, but accessibility is not. The sustainability of commitment to intent, however, appears to be the greatest concern.

MMM has always held that Tamil Nadu has, by and large, the best bureaucracy in the country and one capable of great efficiency if the political will is there to give the bureaucrats a modicum of freedom, but that free hand is what they lack in implementation. It was nice to hear a different perspective and discover that, in others' eyes, Tamil Nadu has a bureaucracy that works — and works well, at that. May an old reputation remain strong in a new age.

Party time

In the days before Independence, from early December till after Pongal was the Madras Season, when the sahibs, military, bureaucratic and boxwallah types, had a ball, treating most of the five or six weeks as one big holiday — marked by one big party that seemed to move from venue to venue. After Independence and during those first years of earnestness, when everyone seemed intent on building a new nation, the spirit of the Season gradually died out and partying faded from the scene.

The Millennium celebrations a year early (1999/2000) seem to have changed that. *The Man From Madras Musings* has found a new young business set and a large expat population getting together to liven up things in Chennai. The past few weeks have seen, and the next couple will see, more events and partying than in a long time. And both often seem to continue from one home or club to another.

With the shops wearing a livelier look and offering international variety, with restaurants offering a smorgasbord of food, with entertainment ranging from theatre to bowling alleys and discos being offered in scores of places through the city — and with the plethora of parties that only promise to increase in years to come, Chennai is fast becoming a happening place. With the diplomats also saying nice things about it as a posting, Chennai could well be the city to live in — for others. For the Madrasi, Madras that is Chennai has always been the best place to live in in India.

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

In brief

★ Is leprosy infectious? *The Man From Madras Musings* recently heard from a friend that his security service had sent him a watchman whom his neighbours objected to after the man had been on duty for several months. Apparently they had discovered that he had hands that reflected symptoms of what they felt was leprosy past. Despite the pleas of MMM's friend that leprosy was not contagious, they said pretty please and asked the watchman to be removed, "as we have children". And so he was replaced. A couple of months later, the same neighbours had accosted MMM's friend with a triumphant look. Flourishing a newspaper they pointed to what read so: "Leprosy continues to spread in India because of the presence of beggars afflicted with this disease... Beggars are a 'hidden reservoir' of infections." This was the finding in a study funded by the Indian Council of Medical Research which stated, leprosy continued to prevail in India "because of the constant presence of bacteria in beggars and their transmission to healthy individuals". I'd obviously got it all wrong, remarked my friend. And MMM has started wondering why, if the study's findings are true, beggars with leprosy are not rounded up and confined to treatment centres.

★ Another bit of information passed on to *The Man From Madras Musings* by a friend was found in a company notice that read:

Our company needs no further fitness programmes. Everyone gets enough exercise: Jumping to conclusions, beating around the bush, running down the boss, going around in circles, dragging their feet, dodging responsibility, passing the buck, climbing the ladder, wading through paperwork, pulling strings, throwing their weight around, stretching the truth, bending the rules, and pushing their luck!

— MMM

OUR READERS WRITE

An exceptional Indian

I was a lifelong friend of M. Krishnan and your print of Ramachandra Guha's article (MM, October 16th) was a delight.

We, as Indians, have lost our self-respect completely. We think that multinationals only can save us and that we are all useless. A man like M. Krishnan, who made a lifelong commitment to nature conservation, is an inspiring antidote to such a feeling of worthlessness. India can produce such men.

D.K. Oza
1, I Cross Street
Indira Nagar
Chennai 600 020.

Mowbray's Road homes

Mowbray's Road (TTK Road), connecting Mount Road and Adyar was in 1860 only a non-metal road. On either side of it there were fields, meadows and gardens. The British who used to live around the Adyar Club (now Madras Club) were the famous men of Parry & Co., Best & Crompton, Simpson's, etc., etc.

The present Dewan Sahib Garden (behind old No. 323) was purchased by Md. Abdul Wahab Sahib, the Dewan (Prime Minister) to the Nawab of Arcot around 1858. He and his descendants have lived there continuously. This area was between Lloyd's Road (north) and Pudupet Garden Street on the south. On the opposite side, Lakshmipuram was Gemini House (film producer S.S. Vasan's house). There was a big pond in the Dewan Sahib's garden. There were numerous fruit-bearing trees and the area was rich in greenery, all lost now. The family of Dewan Sahib still lives there having their own culture, language, social practices etc.

On the corner of Mowbray's Road and Lloyd's Road there was the famous Aladdin Stores whose owner started business from the age of seven at home and built the present three-storey building. It used to be general stores, medical shop, newspaper agency etc.

Dr. Marthandam Pillai was a famous doctor who lived till 1960 near Mowbray's Road. He was a very simple and sympathetic man who used to visit patients any time during night. He charged only Rs.3. Poor patients he treated free. He was a Corporation Councillor too.

The Music Academy was a large orchard full of coconut and banana trees. There was a bungalow in the centre. Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundation for the Music Academy in 1957. TTK (the Finance Minister) used to stroll in the evenings on the wide footpaths of Mowbray's Road. The CIT Colony was only a field where groundnut crops were cultivated. The owners of *The Hindu* lived in *Farm House* from 1880. That was just off Mowbray's Road. There was a big bungalow of Justices Bashyam and Basheer Ahmed Sayeed near the present Teynampet P.O. There was the big house and compound of Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyer, Member of the Privy Council, on No.1, Eldams Road.

Sometime around 1900, a Vintage 'Austin' used this road for the first time. An English clergyman attached to the Wesley Church, opposite the Royapettah Clock Tower, was the driver. He was a good artist, drawing many landscape pictures of Madras.

Prof. S.G. Mahmood
8/19, Ganapathy Street
Royapettah, Chennai 600 014.

Satyagraha house

To my knowledge, (reader Reddi's letter, MM, December 16th), there was a bungalow named *Satyagraha* in Lloyd's Road, Royapettah. It is the present Hemamalini Kalyana Mantapam. The original bungalow seems to exist, while the open space around it has become the *kalyana mantapam*.

The bungalow was owned by the late Justice Somayya Garu of the Madras High Court, who, in the late 1950s, I think, sold it to a homoeopathy college. It probably parted from them to the administration of the Hotel Swagath.

T.M. Sundararaman
19, Nallappan Street
Mylapore
Chennai 600 004.

A helping card

Reader T. Kaleeswaran recently sent us a 4-page general information guide. The guide includes the names and offices of various service agencies of help in Mahalakshminagar (West Velachery) and will certainly benefit its residents.

Other welfare associations in the city will find it worthwhile following the lead and bring out similar guides to suit their local needs. Reader Kaleeswaran writes : For free copies those interested may send a self-addressed envelope of minimum size 15 cm x 18 cm with a Rs.3 stamp to The Secretary, Mahalakshminagar Civic Forum (Regd. 312/89), at Door No.4, Plot 97, VII Cross Street, Mahalakshminagar (West Velachery), Chennai 600 088, (Tel: 245 44 59).

Addresses and telephone numbers listed include those of the Corporation Zone and the Assistant Engineer, the Electoral Constituency, The Civil Supplies & Consumer Protection Department, The Sub-Registrar (for property registration), The Tahsildar (for Patta, Legal Heir Certificate, Income Certificate, Nativity Certificate, Community Certificate), The Birth & Death Registrar, The District Officer (for employment opportunities), Regional Transport Officer, Contacts for complaints of a general nature and civic issues for deficiency in service and for complaints about water supply, the local police station and the Superindentent of Police, the Income Tax office, the Electricity helpline for domestic consumers and for street lights, cable TV suppliers, cooking gas leakage emergency response and bookings and a general helpline.

A useful little card, it is an idea worth implementing elsewhere too.

Wishful thinking?

Many articles have appeared in the media following the fire at the GPO, but much of the tempo has, expectedly, tapered off. MM has been valiantly sustaining the issue and furnishing a great deal of relevant information to its readers. No doubt a lot of us are genuinely concerned about preserving our heritage, and many expert opinions have been expressed regarding what can and should be done towards restoration of the damaged building. However, nothing substantial will get done unless some basic questions are tackled, such as:

— Who should pay for it?
— Who will take the responsibility of certifying the best course of action (subject to financial or other practical constraints)?
— Who has the authority for sanctioning the job?

The reality seems to be that the Department of Posts has become a poor unwanted baby because it mainly carries low-value junk mail and provides rural services at high cost. A letter in MM on January 1, 2000 had some comments on our postal services. For any decisions regarding restoration we may be at the mercy of *sarkari babus* governed by their rule books and audit objections, even though their number will include some who are concerned and well-meaning.

Like many others I too find it easy to be an armchair critic. We hope that 'someone' will listen to us, and may be 'something' will get done 'somehow'. On the face of it, however, the prospects for Robert Chisholm's grand edifice look bleak.

Thomas Taru
4-A-7, 'Kasyap'
Nehrunagar, IV Street
Adyar, Chennai 600 070.

occasions NGOs believe that the projects they propose are what are wanted by the target communities. The best way to find out the truth is by asking the target group to contribute at least 20% of the total outlay of the scheme. If they are willing to cough up this amount, you are sure that your project is precious to them.

This test has been tried out by me on many occasions during the last three decades while working in various Government Departments and undertakings. On every one of those occasions, this proposition has been found to be true. Wherever people contribute a small share of the project cost, the project invariably succeeds. If only our NGOs (and Government Departments) followed this!

P.C. Cyriac, I.A.S.
Principal Commissioner and Commissioner of Commercial Taxes
'Ezhilagam', Chepauk
Chennai 600 005.

Lamentable condition

By any yardstick, Srinivasa Sastri Hall, Luz, is a heritage site. Its condition is lamentable. I wonder who is responsible for its upkeep. I am sure residents of Chennai, particularly those of Mylapore, will support any effort, public or private, to restore it to a state worthy of the illustrious name it bears.

R. Sankar
Flat 2B, "Svethaa"
2 (Old 15), 9th Cross Street
Shastri Nagar, Chennai 600 020.

Will they contribute?

In MM, November 16th, you have posed an interesting question — 'Do they want what is offered?' It is true that on many mispronouncing the words in the Anthem.

The mistakes occur in the following places:

7th line: *Uchala Jalathi Tharanga*. This is pronounced as *Utkala*.

8th line: *Gahe Thava Jaya Gaatha*. This is sung as *Jahe*.

As the anthem is in Bengali, people belonging to other states tend to sing by rote!

A. Sankaran
7/3, Kandaswami Street
Mandaveli
Chennai 600 028.

Heaven in the 60s

Government Estate, which has fallen on evil days (MM, November 1st) was heaven in the early Sixties, with only the Children's Theatre and the Ponnuswamy Hotel and a few residential quarters for government officers. It seemed the best place in the world to debut into the smokers' world with filter tipped Wills costing 6 ps per cigarette. Finally, when you emerged from the south eastern gate, you could, if lucky, have the vision of one of the inmates of the Presidency College Girls' Hostel next door. The effect on the Estate of the MLAs' hostel and the police departments functioning there has been extremely harmful to the environment. Even now if there is a sincere afforestation drive, like in the Tirumala Hills, some wooded bliss can be salvaged.

C.G. Prasad
9, C.S. Mudali Street
Kondithope
Chennai 600 079.

How connections?

The battle between the Corporation and pavement hawkers/shops seems to be a continuing affair. But what is surprising is how these pavement shops get electricity and telephone connections.

When pavement shops are unauthorised, how can the Electricity Board or Telephones Department sanction electricity or telephone connections? I smell something fishy.

As a first step to getting rid of these obstructions, will the Electricity Board and Telephones Department disconnect these connections?

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

Want to muse with MUSINGS?

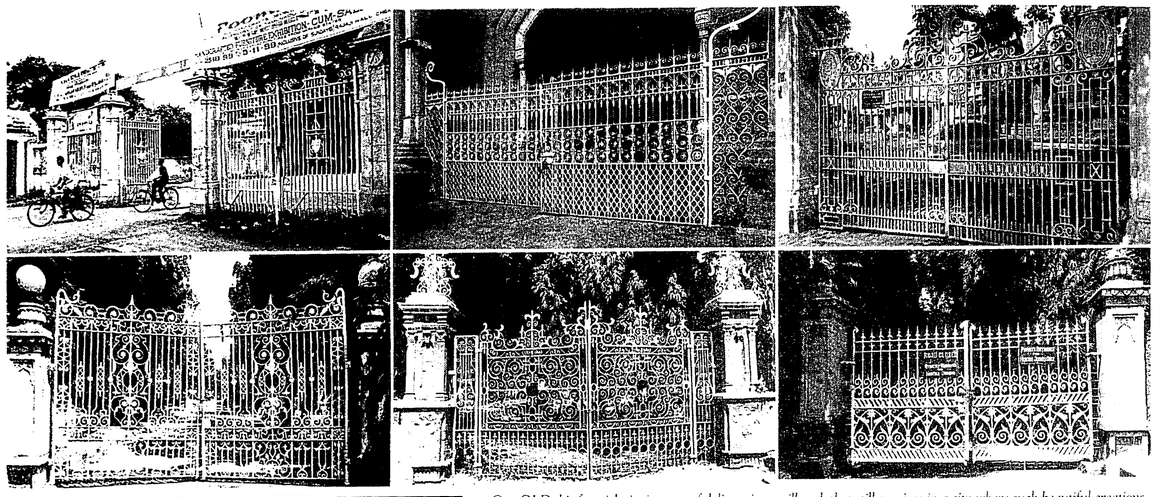
If you would like to be put on *Madras Musings'* mailing list, just fill in the form below (use block letters/type) and post it to M/s. Lokavani Hall-Mark Press Pvt Ltd, 62/63 Greames Road, CHENNAI-600 006.

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.



THE OLD... **...& THE NEW**

Our OLD this fortnight is six gates of delicate iron grillwork that still survives in a city where such beautiful creations are fast vanishing. The gates are at, top row, left to right, Rajaji Hall, Law College, Southern Railway Headquarters, and second row, left to right, High Court, Connemara Public Library, High Court Judges' Entrance. Our NEW shows the kind of 'highrise, hideall' gates that are being installed, particularly in homes, in several parts of the City, their aim obviously to keep the world out. What a contrast these solid, can't-see-through creations are to the delicate work of yesteryear. Somewhere, in the name of privacy, we seem to have got our aesthetics wrong. (Photographs by RAJIND N. CHRISTY.)

Chennai and ONYX

— *Learning together*

• by Shobha Menon

Many people in Chennai are by now used to the grey and yellow uniforms of ONYX workers, the noisy chug-chug of the mini vans, and the drone of the 'Bobcats' (used to remove debris) and the compactors. These 'noisy monsters of the metro' as they have been referred to, break a few traffic regulations now and then. And despite the Sanitation Department at their workshop, there are complaints about the unbearable stench of empty trucks on their daily rounds. There are still many streets where bins are overflowing and litter strewn all over, where residents shake their heads disapprovingly. But most areas of ONYX operations have shown commendable improvement. I recently took a closer look at what ONYX has achieved or not.

It was early in 2000 that CGEA-ONYX, a French company that claims unrivalled expertise in all areas of waste management and works in 22 countries worldwide, came on the scene, with the Chennai Corporation deciding to privatise solid waste management. Since then, the Chennai Environmental Services-ONYX group has been operating in three out of ten zones in Chennai. Notwithstanding the initial hype, apprehensions have crept in. Nevertheless, in less than a year, the company has made reasonable headway, considering the extremely difficult nature of the operations. Presumably, even a leader like ONYX has had to learn more than a thing or two about Chennai and its citizens.

According to Vidya Swaminathan, Communication Officer, ONYX, "Communication was our main thrust in the first days. In April-May, we even staged about 30 street plays in certain key areas of the city. Posters and banners were also used. To ensure the planning was meticulous each and every street was measured, classified and trial runs carried out. Auto rickshaws tackled those streets where the compactor couldn't enter. Others had to be handled by the loose litter collectors (LLCs). Huge slum bins were placed near crowded slum areas, where we have an arrangement with the slum conservancy staff, who deposit the garbage into the bins, to be cleared once every three days.

"At first, the accent was more on street cleaning, for the simple reason that people wouldn't put garbage into the bins. Now, thankfully, there is more in the bin, and less on the street. But, the bins are really meant to be closed after the garbage is deposited. That will be the next concept to be encouraged. Since the public realised that the trucks came at a regular time, there have been fewer complaints. In fact, when supervisors go on rounds, we've had instances of the local residents being very protective of the LLCs in their areas so that they aren't pulled up by their superiors!"

Training of staff began early February. Besides pre-job training, there is also continuous ongoing training by 12 onsite trainers who report to a Training Manager. Since the safety and security of the staff are paramount, the training methods and equipment used in the work are closely monitored. Each worker is provided with uniform, shoes, gloves, cap, raincoat and reflectors (for those who work on the night shifts). Each zone is divided into a number of sectors, which are further separated into streets. Every complaint made goes to a toll free number. It is immediately conveyed to the Sector Supervisor concerned through his mobile radio and is attended to as soon as possible, generally within the next two hours. Initial problems arose because drivers would be unfamiliar with routes and residents of streets missed out would be up in arms. Now these have been sorted out. All 2000 strong staff are expected to carry ID cards and there are backup staff at each level. Besides looking into the hygiene of the LLCs and the workers who have to handle the garbage, the bins are also regularly replaced and cleaned weekly with germicide. All tinkering, maintenance repairs and cleaning are carried out at the Workshop and Depot in Lloyd's Colony.

A cross-section of the public I met were not unhappy with the progress ONYX has made. But they also had suggestions for improvement.

P. Gopalan, Retd. Chief Engineer, Indian Railways, says: "Chennai is certainly cleaner now, thanks to ONYX. But Sector Supervisors should regularly review the condition of the bins already located. Where there is a spillover, there probably needs to be more bins, placed in more strategic locations, so rearranging or respacing must be carried out periodically."

Shashi Sekhar, a housewife, feels, "There were a lot of teething problems, like not enough bins or people not putting their garbage into the bins. But I've noticed now that complaints are attended to within a few hours. Our suggestion for placement of bins has been taken note of and, most importantly, people around have begun to develop a civic sense."

San Rosario, an engineering student and her mother Rani think, "People are trying to be more careful, but gypsies and beggars who ferret through the rubbish in the hope of picking up something useful, keep dropping litter outside."

An LLC in a posh neighbourhood has another side of the story to offer. "We work long hours, from 6 in the morning till 2.30 in the afternoon, with just a half hour break in between and a weekly holiday. Residents may be happy, but our remuneration could be better. And if we have to take a day off for an emergency, they cut Rs.400 for the day from our pay of Rs.2500!"

Segregation of waste is not on the agenda now, since the current contract is only for collection of garbage. Once that is regularised, the waste management aspect will be taken on at a later date. According to Vidya, "After the initial hiccups, the response has been very good. Every week we have meetings with local associations

(Continued on Page 7)

Delhi gets a list at last!

(By A Special Correspondent)

After three years, two volumes and a dedicated endeavour, Delhi The Built Heritage: A Listing was recently published by the INTACH Delhi Chapter and released by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee. Splendidly illustrated and extensively researched, the books encapsulate the archaeological, architectural and historical legacy of Delhi. As one turns the 880 pages of the publication, a question that comes uppermost to mind is: Why was this task not accomplished a few decades earlier when it would have been possible to salvage some of historic Delhi that is already lost forever?

The publication lists 1208 buildings and 26 conservation zones that do not currently fall into the ambit of the Archaeological Survey of India and, thus, stand 'unprotected' to date. They straddle the city's history ranging from the Ashokan inscriptions of 2nd century B.C. to the ruins of 10th century fort walls of the Tomars and the Chauhans; to the buildings within the World Heritage Site of the Qutab complex of the Ilbari Turks; to the legacies of the Khiljis, Tughlaks and Sayyids; to those several of the Lodhis who it is said "built like giants and finished their buildings like jewels", and those built during 300 years' rule of the great Moghuls; onwards to the era of Lutyen's Delhi and the dawn of independent India 1947. The listed buildings have also been plotted on DDA zonal maps so that they can easily be integrated in Delhi's future development plans.

Prime Minister releasing the Delhi Listing. Shri Vijai Kapoor, Lt. Governor of Delhi (left), and Shri O.P. Jain (right)

● In spite of our country possessing a cultural heritage unsurpassed in the world, only about 9,000 buildings are under protection of the Archaeological Survey of India and State Departments of Archaeology. These figures compare poorly with other nations such as Britain where over 500,000 buildings enjoy some kind of protection. This publication is a humble first step in a positive direction and we hope to make Delhi's built heritage accessible to the interested citizens, scholars and visitors. However, this list is by no means intended as a final statement but a point of departure in the direction of a new policy towards the city's historic architecture — a policy that will be intelligent, humane and concerned.

Excerpt from speech of O.P. Jain

INTACH Delhi Chapter Convenor O.P. Jain, born and brought up in Delhi, and witness to the destruction of the city's heritage monuments and sites was the Chief Coordinator of this major work of history-cum-archaeology.

He declared the Listing as a labour of love. Jain pointed out that the Listing was the first attempt since 1913 to comprehensively document Delhi's built heritage along with photographs and zonal mappings. The young achitectural conservationist Ratish Nanda, Advisor Navayani Gupta and an enthusiastic group comprising citizens and scholars had worked to make the publication a veritable blueprint for future conservation action. The involvement of the Delhi Development Authority, the Archaeological Survey of India, the State Department of Archaeology and Eicher Goodearth Ltd. signified that public and private agencies can work together with great success. It holds a promise for the future of conservation in the country.

Vijai Kapoor, Lt. Governor of Delhi and Chief Patron of the Delhi Chapter, stated that the Delhi Legislature would shortly be enacting a Heritage Law to cover all built heritage including those less than 150 years old. The Prime Minister acknowledged the difficulties of managing conservation, for the increase in population brought in its wake the problems of urbanisation. Grand old havelis have given way to lifeless apartments, he said, and the inevitable encroachment on heritage sites has been compounded by the fact that many are under private Trusts and the Waqf Boards over which the State has no control. The Prime Minister stated that Government alone cannot ensure full protection and preservation of heritage properties; citizens' bodies, educational institutions and industry patrons have a major role to play in the campaign for conservation. — (Courtesy: Virasat)

A look at heritage legislation

...While waiting for it ...like waiting for Godot

Chennai has for the last four years waited for Heritage Legislation (which would cover the State) or, at least, Heritage Regulations for the metropolis which could be copied by other towns. There has been little action after the drafting stage... and we patiently wait for it... like waiting for Godot.

Perhaps this summary of the subject by the national headquarters of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage will help generate some action. But unless there is a concerted outcry in the media, supporting the sentiments expressed below, stirring the bureaucrats and politicians of Tamil Nadu into action is something no one can be optimistic about.

* * *

Heritage is not only monuments but buildings, artefacts, structures, areas, precincts of historic/aesthetic/architectural/cultural/environmental significance to the country. It also covers scenic beauty, including scared groves, hills, hillocks, water bodies, plains, wooded areas etc.

The UK has 500,000 listed buildings, preserved by law. The USA, with less history, has more than 2000 towns with heritage legislation and one million sites on its National Register.

New York has 983 individual and 98 interior landmarks, 69 districts covering 20,000 properties, 66 historic lamp posts and fixtures.

India has only 3729 archaeological monuments under ASI protection, and another 3838 under State heritage legislation!

Bombay, with one of the highest land values in the world, protects 700 buildings, 31 precincts/areas/spaces/water front which include the central business and commercial districts of the Fort Area and Ballard Estate, the Defence Area of Colaba, Naval Dockyard, Governor's Residence, Government Secretariat, High Court and Marine Drive.

Hyderabad has 137 buildings and 9 rock precincts listed for protection.

Only Bombay and Hyderabad are covered by heritage legislation.

Delhi, a capital of many centuries, and other historic cities of India are not covered by any heritage legislation to date.

Why Legislation/ Regulation?

There can be no preservation without legislation/regulation. Restoration preserves only a few sites, while legislation preserves thousands.

Legislation does not restore buildings, but it stops the free run of bulldozers Legislation, which is a Bill or Act, is not required in most cases for heritage conservation. Heritage Regulations can generally be enacted under existing Town & Country Planning Laws. These would project listed heritage features.

What is 'Listing'?

A list of Heritage Sites should be prepared, covering the following:

- Buildings/precincts/open spaces — both public/private.
- Gardens — even if private.
- Natural features like hills, water fronts, wooded areas etc.

Since local residents take their city for granted, it is recommended that an outsider be associated with the Listing.

It is a tool for protection of buildings, not an exercise for the archives. It does not need elaborate data, just basic information. It can therefore be done with minimal effort and cost.

Features of Heritage Regulation?

The decision of the developer is substituted by that of an expert interdisciplinary group. Listing does not mean that changes are not permitted.

Heritage sites may be graded by any suitable system. In Bombay there is Grade I, II-A, II-B, III etc. Delhi in its recent Listing has graded all buildings under one or more of three heads — Archaeological, Architectural, Historical — with all buildings numbered zone-wise and plotted on DDA zonal maps.

The scope of permitted changes for each Grade is spelt out as a guide to owners and developers.

Any change to a heritage site or precinct requires prior permission from the Heritage Authority.

No one is exempt. Municipality, State Government, Chief Minister, Chief Justice, Governor, Central Government, Army, Navy and Air Force all have to comply, as justice is meant to be blind and the law is meant to speak with one voice to all, the powerful and the weak.

Tough activist Non-Government Organisations can be a major force for ensuring implementation of Heritage Regulation.

Heritage Authority?

In Bombay and Hyderabad, the Heritage Conservation Committee is appointed by their respective State Governments. It comprises a Chairman (retired Municipal Commissioner or Secretary to Government), two each structural engineers and architects, a city historian, an environmentalist, Director of the Museum, the State Government Architect and the Municipal Commissioner's representative.

It is vital that the majority of Members of the Heritage Authority are drawn from the non-government sector.

Incentives?

Some of the incentives offered to owners and developers of heritage buildings, sites, precincts to facilitate and encourage proper maintenance can be:

— Transferable Development Rights (TDR).

— Waiver of other building rules for protection of

(Continued on Page 6)

WHAT LISTING DOES

The Listing tells us, at first count, what there is... the Listing has notes of the name, location, ownership, function, status significance, physical description, decorative features, materials used, state of preservation and date of each structure.

With listing comes awareness, interest and pride leading to protect and then to conserve this heritage. This cannot be carried forward on a larger and wider scale without far greater civic and corporate participation. More corporate houses should be invited to conserve the past. And why cannot still other corporate bodies and institutions like schools, colleges, factories and resident associations take on the responsibility of protecting and helping to conserve many more clusters of monuments to return a city's cultural heritage to its residents and the nation?

In Delhi, the Indo-British 50 Year Trust (supported by the Aga Khan Foundation and others) is working to restore the gardens and courtyards around Humayun's Tomb. What a joy it would be to see even a part of this restored. Likewise, whole villages such as Mehrauli and Nizamuddin could be restored as heritage habitats. It is the place and not just the monument therefore that must be conserved. The same would be true of Varanasi, Haridwar, Jaipur, Bhopal, Ahmedabad *et al*.

Monuments of Anglo-India too must be preserved and not thoughtlessly torn down. These too are part of our history and architectural heritage. Calcutta and Mumbai have done something to preserve this heritage. But much has been thoughtlessly destroyed.

Great monuments and sites should not only be protected and conserved but, where feasible, used. The Khajuraho and Konark festivals come to mind.

If India is to grow confidently into the future, it should not forget its past — not the dead past, but the one that is living along with the present. — (Courtesy : *Virasat*)

B.G. Verghese

Quizzin' with Ram'nan

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

1. Who became the fifth Indian to win the Miss World title?
2. Which space shuttle was recently launched carrying five astronauts for the International Space Station?
3. Which famous educational institution based in Ajmer recently celebrated its 125th anniversary?
4. Where in the Indian subcontinent will be the only landing point of the South African Far East (SAFE) optic fibre?
5. What did Russia reinstate after a gap of nine years?
6. Which former Kent and England captain passed away recently?
7. Which former Karnataka chief minister passed away recently?
8. Which French footballer was named the FIFA World Player of the Year?
9. On whom was this year's Dr. Ambedkar award for social change conferred?

* * *

10. Which species of bird was, as in every year past, the first to arrive at the Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary?
11. Which Chennai-based artiste has been invited by the prestigious Millennium Grants Commission and Kalasangh for an encore in London?
12. What stands in the place where the first cemetery of St. Mary's once stood?

* * *

13. Who was the divine daughter of King Malayatwasan and Queen Kanchanamala?
14. Of which dynasty was Uraiyur the first capital?
15. With which dynasty would you associate the following rulers: Maravarman I and Jatavarman Sundara I?
16. On which specific date was the name of Madras State changed to Tamil Nadu?
17. Under the States Reorganisation Act 1956, Madras lost which district to Kerala?
18. In terms of size, where did Tamil Nadu rank among Indian States (before the creation of the three new States recently)?
19. What geographical trait do the rivers Vellar, Noyal, Suruli, Gundar and Vaipar share?
20. Where is a famous All India Mango Festival held every June?

(Answers on Page 7)

Deadly Dangerous Toxins, Mosquitoes and You

Dichloro-diphenyl-tricholoroethane, better known as DDT, has been used by State agencies to combat malaria year after year.

As has been well documented, the prevalence of malaria increases with the monsoons. With the advent of the monsoon, State public health departments and municipal corporations begin increased spraying of DDT, regardless of the fact that DDT has lost its effectiveness as a mode of vector control. Studies show that this is due to the high levels of immunity that have been attained by mosquito populations. Yet, our health departments continue generalised spraying (sometimes done in combination with diesel) of their 'favourite mosquito killer', resulting in introducing high levels of toxicity into the environment.

DDT is an organochlorine pesticide and a Persistent Organic Pollutant (POP). It remains in the environment for years after its last application. It appears, reappears and bioconcentrates in foodchains reaching humans through food. Recent studies by the Consumer Education and Research Society, Ahmedabad, reveal residues of DDT and other pesticides in both branded and loose varieties of wheat flour. DDT is also found in breast milk and contributes to a number of human disorders, such as cancer, endocrine disruption and reproductive complications.

Similar adverse health impacts are noticed with other pesticides, such as Malathion and synthetic pyrethroids. Mosquito coils, mats, oils and other repellents, which are mostly derivatives of the insecticide Allethrin, are not fully safe either and cause chronic toxicity. Studies conducted by the Malaria Research Centre, New Delhi, reveal that these can cause severe ailments, including respiratory problems, bronchitis and eye irritation. Manufacturers of these various repellents themselves, in their user manual, verify the acute toxicity of their product. Generalised spraying puts humans in indirect contact, while these household repellents expose humans to direct toxic contamination!

The argument that no viable alternatives exist is not true, since several proven safer solutions do exist. Neem-based alternatives and biological controls using larvivorous fish (*Gambusia sp.*) and larvivorous bacteria (*Bacillus thuringensis*) have shown positive results though after a gestation period. Importantly, these alternatives are environmentally safe and sustainable. Further, the adoption of simple practices such as use of mosquito nets and prevention of water stagnation, which have been emphasised time and again, go a long way in controlling mosquitoes.

To put it mildly, the use of DDT and related synthetic chemicals is dangerous and completely undesirable for human use. It therefore becomes vital to invoke a complete ban on both production and use of DDT in any form, and to continuously monitor the phase-out of these dangerous toxins and prevent the repeated and unjustified toxic pollution of our bodies and our environment.

Rajesh Rangarajan
Regional Coordinator
Toxics Link

ARMY GETS HERITAGE CONSCIOUS

(Continued from Page 1)

barracks, and the Fort's ramparts and moat in which 'Tommies' used to fish for relaxation of an evening.

Of all these buildings, the one in most urgent need of restoration and renovation is *Wellesley House*, a portion of which collapsed in November 1980 after heavy rain. A building listed as a historical monument by the Archaeological Survey of India, as are many of the buildings mentioned earlier, it calls for teamwork between the ASI and the Army to get the work going and show how model restoration can be done. *Madras Musings* looks forward to that teamwork sooner rather than when it is too late.

Meanwhile here is a report about how the Army has begun to look at its heritage wealth throughout India. It is a model for the civic authority and town planners to follow.

The Defence Estate and the Defence Services Organisations control no less than 250 Military Stations and some 65 Cantonments, with a rich tradition rooted in British history. Originally envisaged as isolated self-contained military settlements with their own parade grounds, shooting ranges and residential quarters, they have some of the best examples and variations of bungalow-type accommodation, mess buildings, barracks, churches, hospitals and jails.

The Dalhousie Barracks at Fort Williams, Calcutta is the single largest building in the world; and Barrackpore is the oldest cantonment in India. Others of special interest are the Wellington barracks near Coonoor, Tamil Nadu; the hospital buildings such as INS Ashwini and the military hospital, Secunderabad; and army stations at Mhow, Madhya Pradesh; Dalhousie, Himachal Pradesh; Lansdowne and Ranikhet, Uttar Pradesh; and Pune and Devlali camps, Maharashtra.

Detailed records regarding individual buildings are meticulously kept by the Military Engineering Services (MES).

A Workshop on Listing of Heritage Buildings for the Army was organised by INTACH a few months ago at Devlali, near Nasik. The choice of Devlali was in itself significant. This cantonment comprises barracks, offices, hospitals, bungalows for officers and mess for soldiers, club, jail and other related structures. It was laid out between two *nallas* near Devlali village as a transit camp for European soldiers coming from the West. Most of the construction is of thick load-bearing walls with arched openings. The unique features of the buildings include verandahs, ventilators, high roofs with overhanging eaves. Kitchens and toilets were located away from the main building. The single storey, the pitched roofs and the banyan trees are all characteristic of many other barrack towns with an age-old charm.

The three-day workshop introduced army personnel to the methodology of listing. It also completed on-site inventory of the recreational building in the Military Hospital campus as an exercise in listing of the buildings of architectural, historical and archaeological merit. Inputs required in such buildings for their upkeep and repair are not necessarily the same as contemporary constructions. **It was firmly established that the best way to conserve a structure is to put it to some use.** Extensive use, however, without proper maintenance can lead to the destruction of the very attributes that make a building historic.

Discussions focussed on the relevance of listing in the planning process to maintain the unique character of the station, as cantonments are administrative entities governed by the independent Cantonment Board, with control over issues like FAR and FSI, and maintenance by the MES. — (Courtesy: *Virasat*)

A look at heritage

(Continued from Page 5)

heritage quality (set back, marginal open spaces, height, etc.).

— Waiver of Master Plan Reservations if they affect heritage sites.

— Changes to road widening lines and schemes so that they do not impinge upon heritage sites.

— Offices, restaurants and other non-permissible users may be permitted if the owner of the heritage buildings undertakes to maintain them in a proper state.

Model Draft Heritage Regulations?

Model Draft Heritage Regulations were prepared by Government of India in 1955. They were sent to all State Governments and Chief Ministers several times since then, the last time in April 1999.

There have been no legal challenges in the past nine years to the Heritage Regulations, except from NGOs who feel they are not exhaustive enough.

Any changes?

A fresh Draft Heritage Regulations was drawn up in January 2000 at the initiative of INTACH. They are an improvement over the Government of India Model Draft and the Bombay Regulations since five years' additional experience was incorporated.

Adoption of Regulations?

Heritage regulation entails approval by various concerned Departments of Archaeology, Culture, Law, Urban Development etc. The process of wending its way through various bureaucratic channels all the way to adoption is therefore much slower than anticipated. Everywhere the initial reaction has been positive, and augurs well for the future of conservation. A sustained follow-up is required by INTACH and NGOs.

The Governing Council of INTACH has entrusted Shyam Chainani, Executive Committee Member and Honorary Secretary of the Bombay Environment Action Group, with the responsibility of promoting the adoption of Heritage Regulations for different parts of the country. — (Courtesy: *Virasat*)

Why roads fail

The following are the reasons for the failure of roads.

1. No proper quality control.
2. No proper drainage system.
3. Aggregate and bitumen are not used as per specifications and design.
4. Digging by E.B., C.M.W.-S.S.B. and Telephone Dept.
5. Digging by party people and devotees during festivals.

On major roads like National Highways the work of laying the pavements is executed only at night. In the Corporation and the Highways Departments the Engineers in charge of the work do not take care of quality control. During the laying of many of the roads, staff do not check the mix temperature and rolling operations. At the central mixing plant, the aggregate should be heated to 155ºC to 160ºC, the bitumen to 150ºC to 163ºC and only after proper heating should these be mixed. The temperature of the mix at the time of laying should be in the range of 120ºC to 160ºC. The rolling operation should be completed in every respect before the temperature of the mix falls below 120ºC. For laying the mix the atmospheric temperature should be more than 25ºC. But in the city all the roads are laid in the night time, when it is difficult to maintain the temperature of the mix and ensure proper compaction.

In the Highways Deparment and the Corporation, rolling operations are started only after laying 200 metres or more. As such the temperature of the mix will come down to 60ºC-70ºC. As a result of late rolling, the required thickness is easily obtained but the density/compaction will usually be much less than the specified value. The bitumen will not bind the aggregate together properly and hence voids or gaps will arise in the mix. During the rainy season, water will find its way into the gaps and weaken the road. Due to intensity of traffic and heavy vehicle movement the road will deteriorate.

Water is the enemy of bitumen. In the Corporation and Highways department, the laying of roads is done even as drivelling occurs. When laying roads, the existing surface should be clean and dry. Nobody seems to be worried about the quality of the work. They just want to finish the work and get their percentage from the contractor. If a particular road fails, the person responsible for its execution should be suspended.

99% of the work commences in the rainy season. If work is started in summer i.e., from April, they can complete the work before the rainy season.

Lack of proper drainage is another reason for the failure of roads. If water stagnates on the road surface for a long time, first cracks will be formed and then big holes develop, damaging the whole road. Stagnant water should be removed immediately to save the road.

Before laying a road, a proper design should be evolved by an engineer or the technical staff of a road research institute, giving the proportion of the aggregate materials to be used and the percentage of bitumen to be incorporated. For a road project two or three aggregates (i.e., 13.2, 12.5, 11.2, 5.6 and 2.8 mm) plus quarry dust or sea sand should be used. Generally the 13.2mm and 12.5mm size aggregates are costly, and so the contractor usually utilises less percentage of these aggregate sizes. (As per design 13.2mm or 12.5mm size aggregate is 45%, but he uses only 35% aggregate and increases the quarry dust by 10%). Bitumen is a costly material and hence the contractor does not use the bitumen as per design specification. If the aggregate and bitumen are not used as per design specifications, the road will fail. If proper tack coat is not provided to the existing surface, the mix will not adhere properly to the existing surface. In Corporation and Highways works, compaction of the mix is not good.

Digging of roads by the E.B., Metrowater and Telephones is also one of the reasons for road failure. The departments pay some amount to the Highways department and Corporation, but they do not carry out the patch work immediately. They take their own time and in the meantime due to intensity of traffic and heavy vehicle movement the road gets badly damaged.

Political parties and devotees during festivals dig roads for constructing *pandals* and arches for their functions. The department should not allow such digging of roads. Instead of digging the roads, empty drums full of sand may be used for fixing casuarina posts.

T. Anbarasu
Q.C. Engineer
Dubai, U.A.E.

Chennai and ONYX

(Continued from Page 4)

and NGOS. But success in this venture depends to a large extent on cooperation from the public. Different tactics are employed to tackle different kinds of people. The earlier response was, 'Why bother, after all, nothing is going to make any difference!' But now that there has been some difference, people are more positive, more encouraging."

A Sector Supervisor in Zone 8 is, however, not as confident. "After all these efforts, we find only 20-25% of the public are putting garbage inside the bins. It will take 6-7 years before all the people understand the concept. In crowded market areas, workers clean through the night and as soon as the day begins, the littering starts. Between the milling crowds who litter as they move, and uncooperative shopkeepers who don't want bins in front of their shops, we certainly have a job on our hands. Moreover, the less educated don't understand when we try to convey our ideas, the response being, 'We've survived till now without the likes of you, so why bother?' In fact, in my sector, about 5% of the bins were reduced to a lump of plastic because some careless members of the public had thrown lighted cigarette butts inside!"

But the ONYX spokesperson remains optimistic. "Cooperation and support from the public are crucial to the success of this operation. This is a Rs.1000 crore project and we do not believe in any compromises. We only request that garbage be deposited into the bins. And wherever residents face the problem of uncleared bins, just let us know, we'll rectify the problem immediately. Together we will make 'Singara Chennai'!" Hopefully we will, in spite of having miles to go!

(In the case of complaints, ONYX can be contacted at 1600-33-44-66.)

Answers to Quiz

1. Priyanka Chopra; 2. *Endeavour*; 3. Mayo College; 4. Kochi; 5. The strains of the Soviet national anthem — but to new words; 6. Lord Colin Cowdrey; 7. J.H. Patel; 8. Zinedine Zidane; 9. Baba Amte.

* * *

10. Open Billed Stork; 11. Ravi Kiran; 12. The Law College.

* * *

13. Meenakshi; 14. Cholas; 15. Pandyas; 16. January 14, 1969; 17. Malabar District; 18. Eleventh; 19. They are all non-perennial rivers; 20. Krishnagiri.

'Understanding South Indian Culture through the Arts' was a programme with a difference for a group of visitors from abroad that N. Pattabhiraman, Director General of 'SAMUDRI' (last row, extreme right), organised recently. SAMUDRI hopes this will be the forerunner of many more such study tours. (Photograph by RAJIND N. CHRISTY).

Opening up cultural vistas

"The whole concept was so beautiful. I'll never forget this for the rest of my life," enthused Ragnhild Aamod, Co-ordinator of the 10-member group from Norway, that was in Chennai recently, to participate in a journey entitled 'Understanding South Indian Culture through the Arts'.

Organised by SAMUDRI (short for the Subbulakshmi-Sadasivam Music and Dance Research Institute), an offshoot of the Shruti Foundation, the idea was its Director-General N. Pattabhiraman's. "We wanted to provide an experience very different from the usual sightseeing tours provided for tourists. The accent here was on culture and heritage, to awaken a different perspective of South India through the arts. The highpoints of the programme were the interactions with leading artistes in both Music and Dance, like Mani Krishnaswamy, Alarmel Valli, Sudharani Raghupathy and the Dhananjayans. Having these outstanding artistes coming forward so enthusiastically to meet the group in their own living rooms and interact so closely with them was a great privilege," says Pattabhiraman gratefully.

Project Coordinator Lakshmi Venkatraman described the programme as one "focussing on the universality of Art, how it permeates almost every aspect of Indian culture." The itinerary of the visitors included visits to Kalakshetra, Cholamandalam Artistes' Village, Dakshina Chitra, Mamallapuram and the Nataraja Temple at Chidambaram, besides a trip to the Museum. The traditional celebrations of five Hindu festivals were also demonstrated in individual homes. There were lec-dems on *Bharata Natyam, Kuchipudi, Kathakali* and *Mohini Attam*. It was an imaginative step including the cultural kitsch of Golden Beach. And there was also a wedding and the season's scheduled dance and music recitals of an evening. "We also tried our best to be flexible and accommodate what individual group members wanted. Besides reading material, a list of books for suggested reading was also provided," she said.

One member of the group, Sandra Dean, an educator, was in Chennai to participate in an International Seminar on Education at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. This was her first visit to India and she took the opportunity to join the group. On the visit to RASA, a special school, which was included to portray the integration of Music and Dance as therapy, she says it was "an experience that didn't just touch the heart, but grabbed the gut. I've never ever seen a group of travellers so moved. Everyone here wants to come back, to do something to help." As an orientation that could inspire positive action, SAMUDRI certainly seems to have succeeded.

Another teacher in the group, Elisa Nordby, thought, "Seeing religion play such a great part in the daily lives of the people here was so beautiful."

According to Maritt Ickling, "A concept will always be a process, it will need to be open to change. There's so much you can do, certain things you can't, but there's always scope for improvement". The feedback on these lines included suggestions on more written orientation material and a slightly less strenuous programme, also more interaction with youth to get their views and perspective on Art.

This first pilot group, comprising six Norwegians, two Americans and two from Britain, came by way of personal contacts. As Pattabhiraman says, "We won't be able to function like that all the time. We hope to project this cultural perspective of our heritage to more such interested groups abroad. Hopefully this experience will set a favourable precedent. Besides opening their eyes to our culture, tradition and hospitality, it could bring in some helpful revenue." And going by the very positive participant feedback, it could well do so.

Shobha Menon

● With Gilligan in Madras

'M.C.C. not invincible'

(Continued from last fortnight)

— *C.K. Naidu*

Back row: A.C. Penfold, G. Geary, R.E.S. Wyatt, H. Hussain, M.W. Tate, R.B. Carrick; Centre row: R. Nailer, J. Mercer, P.T. Eckersley, J.H. Parsons, C.R. Ganapathy, M.J. Gopalan, W.E. Astill, C. Ramaswamy, C.S. Boyes; Front row: G. Brown, H.P. Ward, C.K. Naidu, Maj. R.C. Chichester-Constable (Captain), C.P. Johnstone (Captain), A.E.R. Gilligan, M. Venkataramanjulu, A. Sandham.

Wrote Mervyn to his brother Evelyn (23rd January), "We played against the Indians. Quite a good match, but my toe was still rather blistered, so I did not play."

Owing to a slight touch of fever and his old complaint of neuritis of the right arm, which has been giving him considerable trouble of late, Arthur Gilligan stood down from the M.C.C. team for their first match in Madras.

* * *

"We had a very pleasant one-day match against the Europeans", Mervyn wrote to Evelyn (23rd January). "But the wicket was really bad."

This is a match to which *Wisden* devotes just four (4) lines, in which E.A. Cowdrey, father of (now Lord) Colin, and Maurice Tate are noted as having scored 48 (for Madras) and 53 respectively.

I suspect that it was at this point in the tour that Bob Wyatt pulled a most unexpected stunt, which seems to have gone unnoticed in any of the papers that I have searched. In *Three Straight Sticks*, he wrote, "After Burma we went down to Madras, where, in a mood of frivolity which I suppose I've now outgrown, I accepted a bet that I would ride a motor-bicycle all the way round the ground during the interval with a woman's hat on my head. This, to the astonishment and particularly to the delight of the crowd, I did at the smart pace of 50 m.p.h. The escapade earned me thirty Rupees".

* * *

"Arthur Gilligan told me he wanted me to play in the last three-day match against the Presidency", wrote Mervyn to Evelyn (23rd January). "But when I got down to the ground, he decided to play another bowler. Damned annoying, as I had wanted to go off on a really good shoot. So, here I am — down on the ground ... watching ... cricket!! ... Going to try to get a game of squash now. I am getting horribly fat. Must do something about it".

Two details that seem to have escaped the chroniclers' notice are preserved for posterity in Maurice Tate's *My Cricketing Reminiscences*. "While in Madras," he wrote, "*I reached my thousand runs for the tour.*" He scored exactly 100 runs in the first innings, topping that up with just five in the second. "And in the same innings (I) had two teech knocked out by a blow from a ball". He concluded, "As compensation I was presented with a beautiful silver tankard, duly inscribed".

"On the last day of their three-day match the M.C.C. beat All-Madras by 211 runs, thereby gaining their fifth success in three-day matches. After the match, C.K. Naidu was interviewed by *The Indian National Herald* (27th January). He was asked pointedly, "To what do you attribute the continued failure of the Indian teams against the M.C.C.?"

The Indore player replied to this question in no uncertain terms, "Which Indian teams do you refer to? Indians, as such, have only once played against the M.C.C., and that was at Bombay. On that occasion we came very near to winning. It is my belief and hope that if we have another such opportunity, we might do still better.

"I do not consider the M.C.C. invincible. I think some of the so-called test teams were not representative of Indian strength at all. I repeat that India has had no opportunity either to test the M.C.C. or to acquit itself as it deserved".

* * *

Shortly before embarking upon the next stage of the M.C.C.'s tour, Arthur Gilligan was interviewed by *The Hindu*. In it he went on record as praising Karachi, Rangoon and Madras for having given them the best time, but he admitted that he was inclined to single out Madras as the most hospitable.

He said that the Madras weather had been kind to them after the first few days, adding laughingly, "Your mosquitoes have scored more runs, taken more wickets, and caught more catches than all our flannelled opponents put together". As to the standard of cricket he had so far encountered, he declared that Bombay and Calcutta had put the two best sides against them. However, all things considered, he thought that the All-Madras side was in every way as good as any side they had met and that their performance was not a jot less than any other.

* * *

The eagerly-awaited and much discussed visit of the M.C.C. to Madras is now over... (and there is) no getting away from the fact that they are a side systematically trained (the professional elements ensure this), enthusiastic in the field, and there was plenty of good material in the team. Notwithstanding all the talk about Indian cricket being on par with the visitors, one had perforce to admit the superiority of the English team in all departments of the game, and I, for one, thoroughly endorse Gilligan's remarks anent picking up and throwing-in.

* * *

The Times of Ceylon deprecates the habit prevalent in India of presenting rewards to players who have done well in matches. It cites the instance of the presentation of two gold watches and a silver cup to Deodhar, a motorcycle-combination and a silver cricket bat to Naidu, a camera to Jai, and a collection of gold ornaments to Godambe. Gilligan is reported to have politely declined any presentation to his team — not owing to any personal objections, but — because "he does not care to associate himself with the idea, in view of the attitude in England".

* * *

For the last word on Madras, we may turn to the pages of Maurice Tate's *My Cricketing Reminiscences*, in which he wrote, "We now took train through Southern India, with its impenetrable jungles, and across the dreaded Palk Straights to Ceylon. Like the trip from Australia to Tasmania, this lived up to its reputation for roughness. The boat tossed like a cockle-shell, and the smell of decaying fish added to the horrors of the voyage".

According to *The Times of India* (28th January), on the way to their port of embarkation, members of the team found themselves having to shake hands with everybody at each station they passed through. When the presence of an individual was denied with a "Not here!", thinking that the crowd did not know him, he was obliged to shake hands twice as a penalty.

(Concluded)

Madras Musings is supported as a public service by the following organisations:

Amalgamations Group
Apcom Computers Ltd.
Ashok Leyland
Bank of Madura Ltd.
India Cements Ltd.
KASTURI & SONS LTD.
LOKAVANI HALLMARK PRESS PVT. LTD.
MRF Ltd.
Rane Group
Murugappa Group
The SANMAR Group
Sundaram Finance Limited
Sundram Fasteners Limited
TATA
Thiru Arooran Sugars Ltd
TVS Suzuki Ltd.

Published by S. Muthiah for 'Chennai Heritage', 260-A, TTK Road, Chennai 600 018 and printed by T J GEORGE at Lokavani-Hall Mark Press Pvt. Ltd., Chennai 600 006. Edited by S MUTHIAH.