

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

# MADRAS

## MUSINGS

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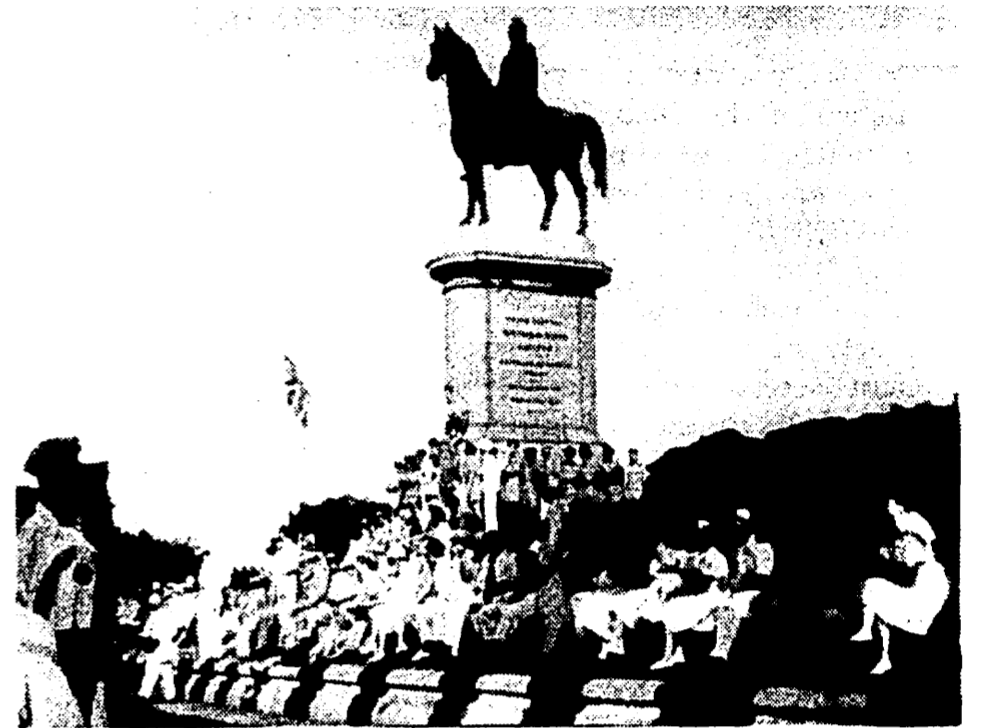
## The Cochin Initiative

(By A Special Correspondent)

A three-day consultation at historic Fort Cochin between INTACH, State Governments and other agencies resulted in a resolve to initiate immediate action "to save our natural and cultural heritage from destruction and deterioration".

A draft Memorandum of Understanding, described as the Cochin Initiative, was drawn up for formalising an agreement with interested State Governments, wishing to protect, conserve and preserve the architectural, natural, material and human heritage of their States. A copy of the draft MoU has been sent to the Chief Secretaries of all States.

The Andhra Pradesh State Government was the first to sign the Memorandum of Understanding. The Chief Secretary signed the MoU on behalf of the Andhra Pradesh Government and the Convener, Andhra Pradesh, signed on behalf of INTACH. The MoU was signed in the presence of Chief Minister, Chandrababu Naidu.



• Two more pictures out of the pages of a forgotten past. These pre-Independence pictures show the Munro Statue 'garden' turned into a VIP enclosure (above) to watch the State Drive of the Governor from the Legislative Council to his residence, Government House, in Government Estate. Crowds would line up on either side of the first stretch of Mount Road (see below) to watch the Governor's gleaming coach drawn by a handsome team of horses, his liveried coachman and attendants and what was once the pride of the City, the mounted Police Bodyguard. Few parades of today offer such pomp and colour, mechanisation and drab uniforms taking their toll.

## LISTING AND REGULATIONS THE PRIORITY

At the Fort Cochin consultation, INTACH called for urgent action for the preparation of Inventories and Lists of heritage sites and areas by State Governments, local bodies and NGOs.

INTACH, while recognising the importance of balancing the real needs of the community, called upon the Government and local authorities to take immediate action to put in place Regulations to prevent damage and destruction of

- Heritage sites, such as buildings, artefacts, structures, areas and precincts of historic and/or aesthetic and/or architectural and/or cultural significance; and
- Natural features of environmental significance and/or scenic beauty including sacred groves, hillocks, waterbodies (and the areas adjoining the same), open areas, wooded areas etc.

INTACH reiterated the need for obtaining economic

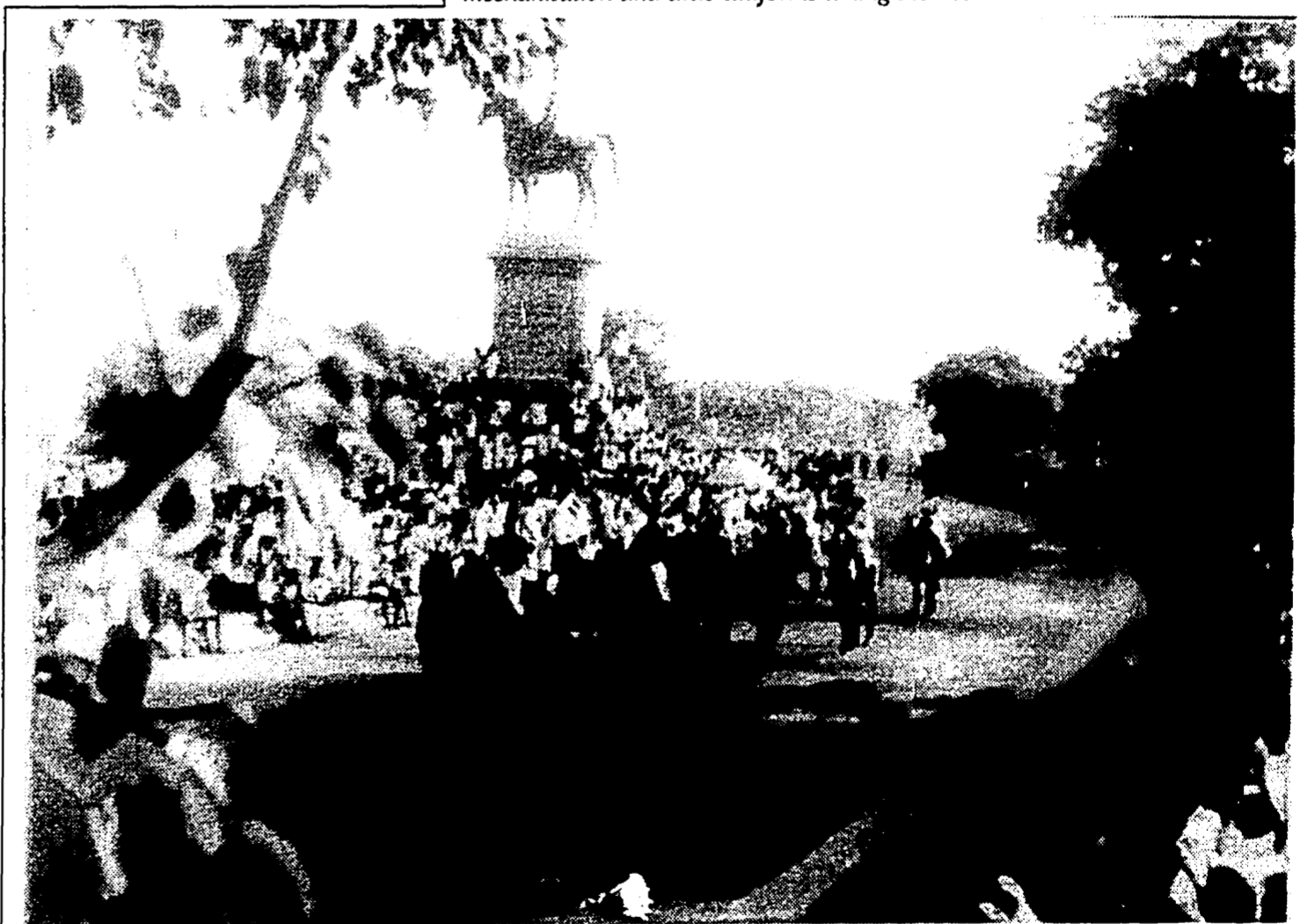
benefits for the community as a result of restoration and conservation activities.

INTACH dedicated itself to Heritage Conservation on its National Agenda.

Under the Cochin Initiative MoU, the two "strategic partners" must agree to the following:

- To set up a Joint Heritage Task Force with three members from the Government, two members from INTACH, and other experts comprising a structural engineer, an environment engineer, an architect with heritage experience, and a legal expert.
- INTACH will play an advisory role and provide expertise and consultancy on heritage matters at a fee to be agreed between the two parties, on a retainer basis for five years. During

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## LPG-fuelled autos a 'must'

(By A Special Correspondent)

Following a workshop on fuel quality and vehicular pollution organised by the Centre for Consumer Education, Research, Teaching, Training and Testing, Concert has called for stricter enforcement of emission legislation and adapting on a priority basis all autorickshaws in Chennai for mandatory LPG use.

It also urged that computerised pollution control certifica-

tion be made mandatory for all vehicles as follows:

- At the time of fitness inspection and renewal of registration of transport vehicles, certification be carried out by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board in Chennai and by duly authorised agencies in other cities.
- At the time of renewal of insurance for non-transport vehicles (cars and scooters),

the certification be carried out by authorised agencies.

The authorisation will be preceded by proper training of the personnel manning the Computerised Pollution Control (CPC) Centres.

Concert has further recommended that a working group be constituted to evolve a time-bound action plan to ensure improved fuel quality.

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## And so the patchwork has begun again...

One recent morning, when a shining sun and a drizzly rain kept exchanging time slots, *The Man From Madras Musings* drove to Vellore on NH 46. It's usually taken MMM no more than 2 1/2 hours in the past. This time, it took closer to 3 1/2 hours — and almost the entire extra time was spent on the Kathipara Junction-Poonamallee stretch. It's seldom that MMM has seen a worse stretch of highway; rural roads could well be better.

It was not that it was just potholed and trenched all along the stretch. The worst part of the journey was through now-growing townships like Porur and Poonamallee. With the earthen verges of the road made almost swampish, an ugly state worsened to an almost nauseous state by the litter and garbage churned up into a morass, pedestrians, cyclists etc. were forced to walk on what was meant to be a national highway. And with that highway providing an obstacle course, even pedestrians were down to a crawl. No wonder the time it took to traverse the 25 kilometres; worse, the nightmare it proved for drivers. And to think that this is supposed to be a national highway linking the two Indian cities seeking to gain the largest amount of foreign attention through their enormous technical pool!

As befitting such cities determined to be India's major technology centres of tomorrow, it was determined some time ago to make NH 46 one of the country's finest highways after 4-laning it. Karnataka has made some efforts to make it a broader, better maintained highway, but Tamil Nadu, except for the short stretch from MIOT Hospital to a little beyond Ramachandra Hospital, has succeeded only in making road-users want to avoid the first 30 or 40 kilometres, especially after some rain, when the condition of that stretch reflects the shoddiest workmanship. Now MMM can see the State and Central authorities trading charges over whose responsibility the highway is, but to the user the issue is only the traumatic passage he has to undergo. Indeed, in the case of pedestrians and cyclists, they can only blame the Local Authorities of the urban settlements through which the highway passes for allowing the roadsides to be un-negotiable.

This sorry state of our roads, with potholed and crumbled macadam stretches, muddy verges generously blended with garbage, and pedestrians and cyclists forced to use and carefully negotiate roads dangerously damaged by Nature's protest against poor workmanship as well as by trenching by corporates who don't feel they have an obligation to restoring the road to a useable state, have made road-use in the city a nightmare during the last few weeks. The lack of implementation of bans on trenching until what has been dug is restored, as much as the indifference of the authorities to ensure quality road

repairs, leave alone road-building, have made the city's roads a disgrace. As these lines are written, the sun is peeping out again and repairs have begun. But looking at the patchwork way it is being done, it is only money that will be washed away with the next rains — with no benefit in any way for the taxpayers. MMM wonders whether anyone in authority realises that poor roads, no pavements, garbage strewn everywhere, waterlogging when there are rains and a host of other visible signs of urban neglect, are hardly the way to attract people to the city. Unless things improve in a fast-deteriorating Chennai, MMM can see the city losing its status of being a favoured destination before long. Sadly, the political leadership does not appear to care, with rival groups busier on settling scores than on teaming to create a model State.

### Excellence overload

All along that terrible stretch of road through suburban Madras that *The Man From Madras Musings* has referred to above, there are engineering colleges sprouting cheek by jowl like

swamp to reducing the number of institutions seeking affiliation. And to make what are left less unwieldy for any affiliating university, it would be best — as already suggested by a State Council for Higher Education committee — to establish four or five regional technical universities and affiliate the colleges in the respective regions to them. National and international recognition for these new universities may take a few years, but if they set high standards — as Anna University did when it faced recognition problems — recognition will come. Why the powers-that-be are avoiding this route and why they wish to overburden and bring down the standards of Anna University mystify MMM. Must we always lower standards in Tamil Nadu, not raise them? Sadly, that has been the trend for some years now, but isn't it time to call halt to the practice? More significantly, isn't it time that the voices of educationists are heard louder and listened to more closely than those of politicians?

Of a kind with making Anna University an affiliating institution is the suggestion by some university teachers for Govern-

ment of Mental Health. Age is. What an unnamed official of the Public Works Department has stated, to explain what happened, is startling to say the least. He is quoted as saying — and correctly *The Man From Madras Musings* presumes — “We (the PWD) have three modules for measuring the lifespan of buildings — less than 20 years, more than 20 years and above 40 years. The lifespan of any building is just 40 years, but most of them here (IMH) are more than 200 years old.”

Of the 156 buildings on the IMH campus, the report adds, 139 have exceeded the lifespan of 40 years. In fact, that would be the case if we considered Chennai as a whole, MMM would think. And if MMM accepted the PWD official's view, it would appear to be that a majority of buildings in the city are on the endangered list. Which is rather a frightening thought.

But assuming that all that the PWD official meant was that after, 40 years, a building needed regular maintenance if it is to survive in good order,

possibility of such a special cell materialising. But if it is to succeed, it would need separate, and more substantial, funding. Even as that is being sought, the setting up right away of such a heritage cell and the training of its personnel would help to the extent that it would be able to prevent the “down with the building”, like “off with his head”, syndrome and maximise what little funds that are available to a building or two in dire need of survival care till more funds become available or are raised.

### Restoring the GPO

It's a year now since the General Post Office fire destroyed the core of that heritage building leaving the outer shell and the side blocks strong enough for restoration. As the anniversary approached, *The Man From Madras Musings* wondered what happened to all those plans for restoration in the first months after the fire. MMM is glad to hear that there is every chance of the building now being restored, but was surprised to hear the new Postmaster-General state that plans had already been drawn up to save the facade — presumably, the outer shell — while creating a new, more functional interior.

MMM does not know who has done this planning, but it's a good bet that it has not been done by an organisation involved with heritage conservation. If such an organisation had been consulted, given the heritage value of the building, it would have sought to incorporate key features of the interior as well into any functional design. Chisholm's post office building was as splendid inside as it was outside. And the best of those interior features need to be retained.

MMM comments to the postal authorities the proceedings of the recent INTACH-State-and-Central Governments consultation at which it was recommended that restoration of such buildings should have a government-non-government consultative component to ensure that there is a consensus on saving heritage buildings and the manner in which the restoration is carried out. MMM hopes that will happen in the case of the GPO sooner than later.

— MMM

### Lifespan surprise

And so another old building has collapsed in part, it is reported. And like all the others, the reason is not far to seek — absolute lack of maintenance. But that's not the reason given for the collapse of a portion of the administrative building of the In-

## SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

mushrooms. Many look shabby and unfinished, others seem to have few other facilities but an unimaginative block or two. What facilities they have and of what calibre, no one is very sure. After all, with over 200 engineering colleges having been established in the State and the neighbouring States being as encouraging, where's the faculty with experience and teaching skills to come from?

It is these colleges that are to be affiliated to a degree-granting Anna University, MMM hears. What a tragedy that will be for an institution that over the last 15 years got over a bad spell and became, in the view of many, a Centre of Excellence. By trying to get these mushrooming overnight colleges ride piggyback on the reputation it has gained in recent years — with even the name Anna University now internationally recognised after an initial uncertainty — all that the proposers of this idea will succeed in doing is to make a teaching institution of excellence an administrative office that's bound to be inefficient given the number of colleges that will be affiliated to it.

Encouraging the better ones amongst the 200-plus colleges to put in place facilities that will make them eligible to become deemed universities is one an-

## Govt. acts on what it preaches

In my article 'Options for City's water needs' (MM, October 1st), I had stated that Government just stops with advising others on rainwater harvesting (RWH) and does not implement it wholeheartedly in its own buildings. I've now seen for myself that I've not been quite fair; Government has in the last four or five months been indeed promoting RWH in its establishments.

- Work is in progress to implement RWH in all the flyovers, besides on roads like Kamaraj Salai, G.N. Chetty Road, Sydenhams Road and Ezhil Road and in places like Mandaveli and Esplanade which get inundated during heavy rains. This is being carried out by the Corporation of Chennai, which is also planning to harvest rooftop rainwater in all its schools.
- Government has instructed the HR&CE Department to renovate the 39 temple tanks within the city to enable them to receive rainwater falling in and around them.
- The CMDA recently convened a meeting of all builders, including the Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Police Housing Corporation and Slum Clearance Board and requested them to incorporate RWH measures while constructing new tenements.
- The Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board, which is responsible for providing drinking water to villages, has decided to sustain its groundwater resources through RWH. In addition, it has also implemented RWH in its office premises.
- The various departments involved in these activities have been instructed to submit periodic progress reports, which are discussed at the weekly review meetings convened by the MAWS Secretary.

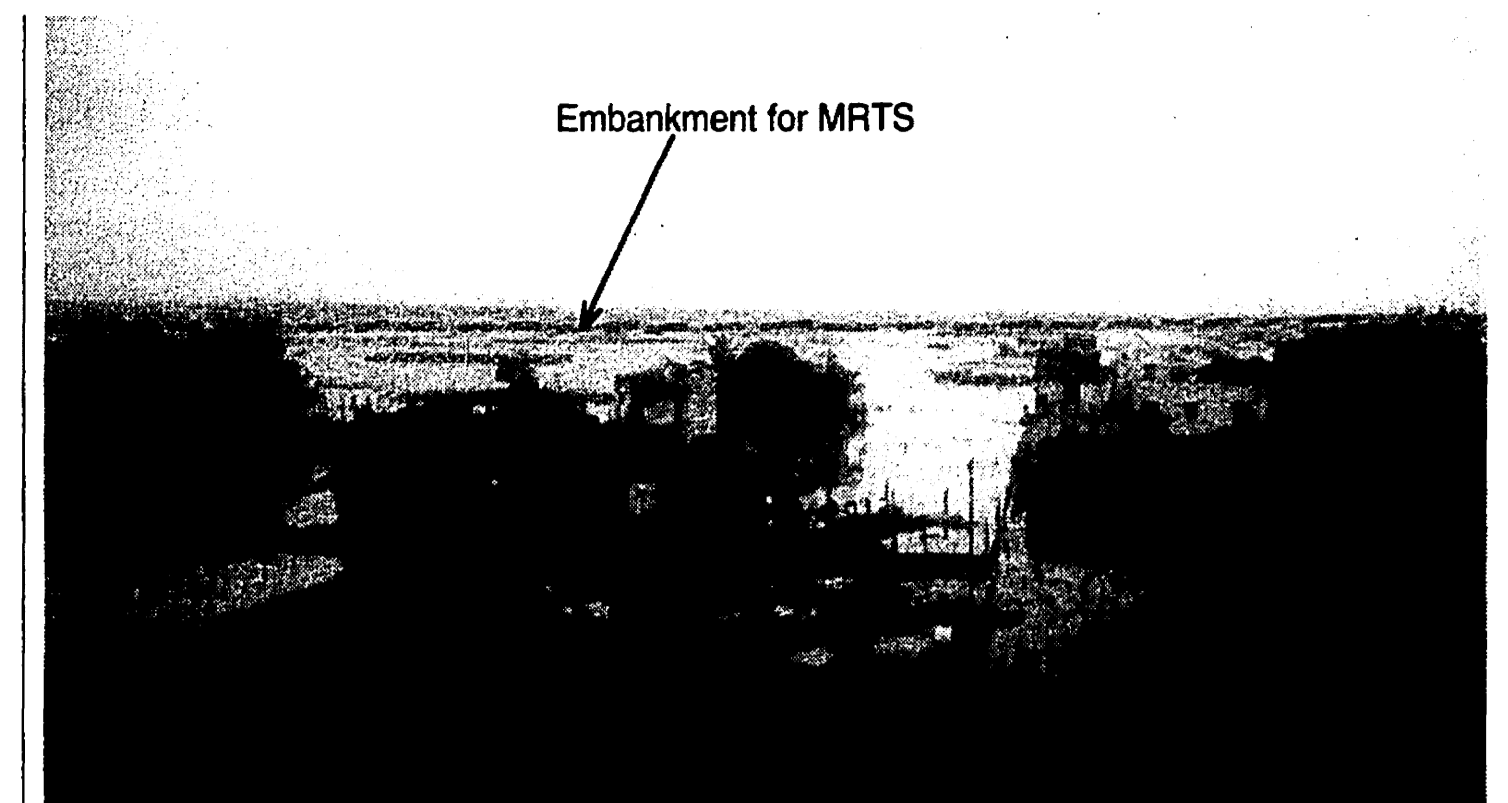
Sekhar Raghavan

## LPG-fuelled autos a 'must'

(Continued from page 1)

Its agenda includes ensuring:

- Pre-mix oil for all 2-stroke engines at all retail outlets in Chennai initially and throughout Tamil Nadu subsequently
- Tamper-proof locks for all tankers transporting petroleum fuels
- Quality certification of all retail outlets by third party inspection agency
- Restriction of Benzene content in gasoline to 1% by volume
- Introduction of diesel with .05% sulphur (max.), throughout Tamil Nadu
- Transparency of test results on fuel samples
- LPG for autorickshaws on priority in Chennai — kit manufacturers, autorickshaw manufacturer and autorickshaw association to be involved in this discussion
- Vapour Recovery Nozzles at petrol outlets when filling vehicles
- Supply of petrol with 5% ethanol mixture for all petrol driven vehicles.



A view of the Pallikarnai swamp from Sarathy Nagar, Velachery, showing the embankment for the MRTS, preventing rainwater from flowing towards the southern side of the swamp, the latest example of obstruction to a natural drainage system.

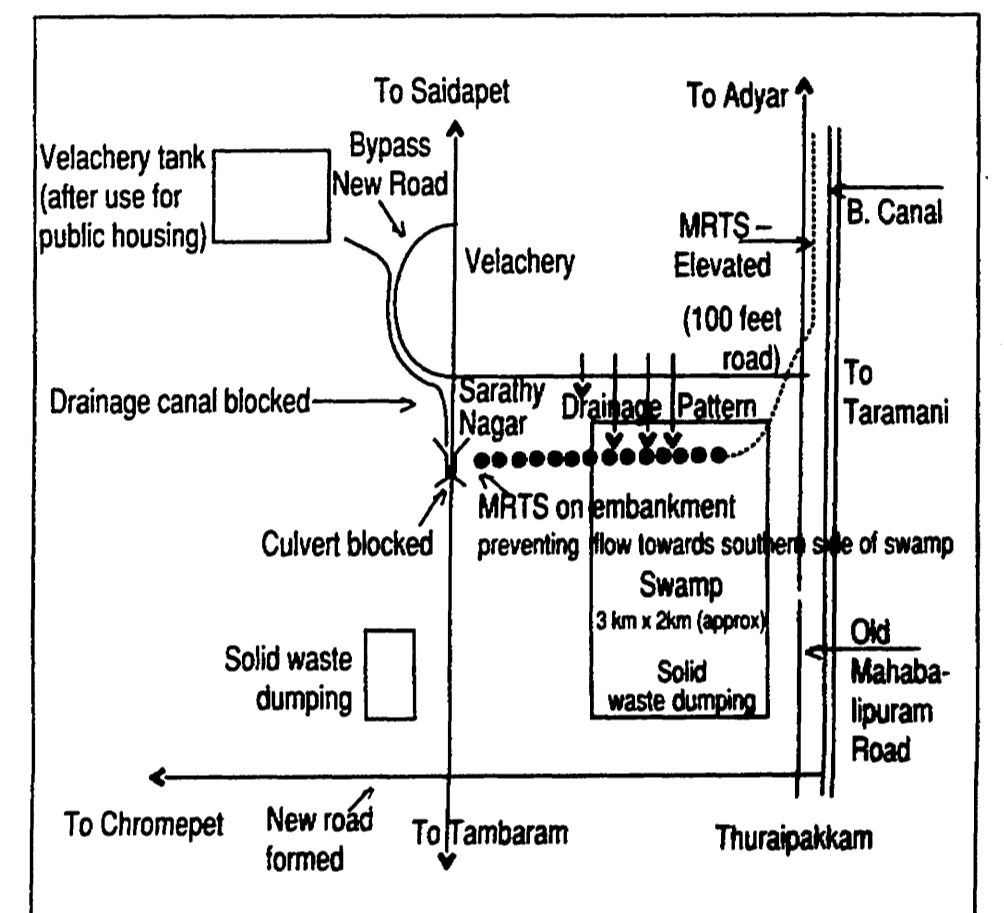
## A threat to Velachery

Urban planners who plan new roads and areas do not pay adequate attention to providing effective drainage facilities and protecting the residential colonies and the local streets from flooding. Even public sector organisations like the Railways do not consider the importance of providing adequate drainage facilities when projects are undertaken. Obstructing the natural drainage pattern in an urban area while forming an embankment for the MRTS project goes unnoticed. On an earlier occasion flooding in parts of Mylapore was said to be due to the columns built for the MRTS.

Till a few years ago, the swamp between Velachery and Pallikarnai was serving as a location for the storing of rainwater which, in turn, helped in a big way to recharge the groundwater in the region. Over the years, the continued dumping of non-segregated municipal solid waste in the swamp has steadily deteriorated the quality of groundwater in the area, due to leaching action during rains, bringing down to the groundwater the various pollutants from the solid waste dumped on ground level. Further, indiscriminate burning of solid waste has seriously polluted the air in the area. And the surplus drainage channel allowing the overflow from the Velachery tank to be drained into the swamp has been blocked at a number of places, allowing stagnation of water all along the channel, running close to the Velachery bypass road.

Now, the vast stretch of swamp between Velachery and Pallikarnai, which collected rainwater draining from Velachery and its adjacent areas, has become a problem area due to poor planning.

The embankment raised for laying the MRTS track at ground level from Taramani to Velachery has greatly affected the drainage pattern in this



MRTS affecting natural drainage to Velachery swamp and flooding southern parts of Velachery.

area. The embankment for the MRTS running east to west across the swamp has become a continuous barrier for free flow of rainwater from north to south in the swamp. Engineers would have planned for vents/culverts along the embankment for cross flow from one side to the other. However, at site, we see that there is practically no flow from the northern to southern side of the embankment. The entire area north of the embankment, upto Sarathy Nagar, has been under water for some weeks now. It appears that the authorities have not given due consideration for surface drainage at the MRTS site.

There was also once a culvert across the Velachery-Pallikarnai Road, permitting flow of water to both sides of the swamp. This culvert, close to the road overbridge under construction on the Velachery-Tamparam road, is completely blocked and, therefore, rainwater from Vijayanagar on the western side cannot be drained into the swamp. Many streets in Sarathy Nagar and adjacent residential colonies are badly affected by stagnation of water (see photo and sketch above). It is

necessary that urgent action be taken to:

- Clean the drainage channel running from Velachery tank to the swamp
- Establish proper connectivity across the Velachery-Pallikarnai road, connecting both sides of swamp
- Provide a sufficient number of drainage vents along the embankment for the MRTS from Taramani to Velachery to permit easy flow of rainwater from the northern side of embankment to the southern side
- Stop dumping of garbage by the Chennai Municipal Corporation in the swamp.

Unless these are taken up immediately, Velachery will become a problem area with respect to residential environment quality in the next few months, when we hope to have more rains in the city. Who will bear the cost of the sufferings of the residents of the colonies here?

**Dr. T. Anantha Rajan**  
Professor Emeritus  
Division of Urban  
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## NOSTALGIA

# A touch of milk

One of the many blessings of growing old is that of almost total recall of events of the distant past. In contrast, I can easily forget the name of a person I was introduced to yesterday!

On two recent occasions, people whose names, momentarily, escape me, remarked that I must have found life very difficult in Madras (please don't ask me to change that to Chennai) when I moved from England forty years ago, to be married to the Indian student I had met there. The comment started me thinking... Was it that difficult? What was it that proved the most difficult to deal with?

I'm from Lancashire, my father English, my mother Irish. A sense of humour comes naturally to a product of such a combination. It seemed to me that people in Madras were so serious in their demeanour. Though my neighbours were kind and friendly, I did miss having someone to share the comic situations I found myself in. All I could do was write home to my family and hope that they would get a laugh out of my letters.

My husband would go off to work early in the morning and I was left in the tender care of an elderly retired Army cook, Raman Nair. His English was minimal and my Malayalam non-existent, but we coped, and that first year, despite pregnancy and ill-health, went by slowly. Sometimes I wished that Nair would laugh at me, if not with me, but, no, he maintained a dignified calm. I learned a little of his language, his cooking, but hardly anything about him as a person. My son was born and he brought immense joy into our lives. Even Nair would be seen chuckling at him.

One day the doorbell rang and Nair came to tell me that a neighbour, Mrs. Nair (no relation) had come to see me. I liked her very much; she had been a nurse before her marriage and had given me good advice when I was unwell. She had come with a spoon in her hand and, to me, an astonishing request. Could she have some breast milk? Her son had "Madras eye" (conjunctivitis, to the uninformed, which I was then). "The best medicine," she said. Well, goodness me, whatever next!!! I could hardly wait for my husband to get home that evening and tell him what

happened. He was completely unfazed.

Twice a day for two days!!! Then her second son and then her daughter. The next day she came WITH the children and told me that, really, the very best method was to squirt the milk directly into the eye... warm and beneficial! Dear Lord, if my mother could only see me now! I look back and remember my blushing face and shaking hands, and I was dying to giggle.

All this time I have no doubt that Raman Nair, from his kitchen domain must have been perfectly aware of what was happening, but he kept a very discreet distance so I had no idea of his reactions. Well, the children recovered and so did I.

A few days went past and, then, one morning, when I was sitting out on the balcony enjoying the breeze and a glass of lime juice, I heard the doorbell. Nair came and, looking rather sheepish, said, "Mrs. Nair come. Mr. Nair got Madras eye". I dropped the glass of juice and my hands covered my face!!! And Nair, bless him, burst out laughing... he realised I thought Mr. Nair was there too! "No, ma, only Mrs. Nair and spoon". Hallelujah! Humour, for the first time. I could have hugged him.

Mrs. Nair got the milk, Mr. Nair got better and life was infinitely more charming for me now.

Radha G.



## The Class of '47

I travelled on the time machine  
Back to vanished days and scene.

I wandered lonely in a crowd  
Of college students noisy, loud.  
When all at once amazed, I saw  
Men of learning, men of straw.  
Men with degrees, class and rank  
Men whose faces were a blank  
Walking thro' the corridors  
Leaving footprints on the floors.  
In their shadow, sake's alive!  
Walked a giggly group of five.

It is of this five I sing  
Dredging memory's deep wellspring.  
An awful lot has happened since  
So forgive me for lapses, sins.

Two were boarders, three home-based  
From families that taught, and raised  
Their daughter, son, nephew and niece,  
How their teachers, they should please.  
Our teachers, all mild-mannered men  
Wore turbans, neckties, fountain-pen  
With clean but crumpled suits of grey  
And shoes that squeaked to give away  
Their presence when we planned to play.

Shakespeare, Milton, Dryden, Pope,  
Voluminous in range and scope  
Talked of love and life and lust  
From books on shelves all leased to dust.  
Homer nodded, Burton plodded  
Critics cursed or else applauded  
Writers' novels, essays, prose  
Dull, morose or plain verbose.

Why were we obliged to waste  
Precious years of fleeting youth  
Cultivating touch and taste  
For awesome and eternal truth?

We knew not what lay in store  
Ahead where none had gone before.  
Instead we shed such bitter tears  
Over our examination fears.

Bhagavathi the first to be hitched  
To PP who said he was plain bewitched  
By her dazzling smile, beauty and brains  
He left with her, dazed - on a BNR train.

Krishna was bold and too brave to fear  
A future teaching Shaw and Shakespeare.  
However a Russian (with an accent and beard)  
Upon such plans soon interfered.

Sita left Madras 'mid hoop-la, fanfare  
For the cold stones of Cambridge and the damp  
English air.

She bagged more honours with predicted flair  
Impressing students and teachers out there.

Radha the twin-plaited girl with a smile  
For the Express reported, for peanuts with style.  
Paddu, a coed, wooed her and won,  
Their wedding was talked about till day was done.

Shaku was always the duck, lame and last  
Not fit to lead a glittering cast.  
Writing her limericks in Pitman and Morse  
Married and left for Bengal in due course.

Now what remains to be noted or said  
Four of us still around, one of us dead.  
Grandmothers ghostly, grey citizens  
Doddering roosters and dithering hens.

Watching the sunset, the first star come out  
Wandering slowly what life is about.  
Where was the profit, where was the loss  
Did the goose and the gander get the same sauce?

Shakuntala Padmanabhan

## THE MOTHER OF ALL MYLAPORE SABHAS

(Continued from page 7)

commit suicide and walked towards the San Thomè Beach, but was brought back from there by a small group of admirers. A concert of his was arranged at the hotel that evening and was a resounding success.

The bamboo canopy, while good for acoustics, was a major hazard as it housed families of scorpions, one of which fell on Semmangudi Narayanaswami Iyer as he played the violin in a vocal concert by Maharajapuram Viswanatha Iyer. While the artistes were too engrossed in the performance to notice the intruder, one of the *rasikas* sitting behind stage acted with rare presence of mind and crushed it to death with a pow-

erful blow on Narayanaswami Iyer's back. The blow shocked Narayanaswami Iyer, but when he learnt the reason for it, he removed his shirt and continued the performance.

Tiger Varadachariar regularly attended performances of other artistes, sometimes covering his head with a towel to protect it from the dew. He would shout out his requests to the delight of both audience and artistes. He would appreciate them with a rasping *sabash* which he pronounced 'zobo'. Mangudi Chidambara Bhagavatar was a great crowd-puller. But with a waist size of four feet, he could enter the *sabha* sideways only. His opening lines were invariably that his mother

was worried about his losing weight!

The Mylapore Sangeetha Sabha was wound up in the mid-Thirties. With the *vakils* and lawyers now owning vehicles, parking became a problem. Prosperity also had them moving to Luz and other more distant posh neighbourhoods. The arrival of the RR Sabha at Sundareswarar Hall, opposite Lady Sivaswamy School, was also a challenge as the Sundareswarar Hall provided better seating facilities; parking was easy on Sundareswarar Street, and the entertainment included plays and dance performances. The Music Academy too had begun weaning away the Society Mamas.

The death of its promoters finished off the Sabha once and for all. The Valliyoor Brothers tried to revive it, but after a year, it passed into history. It was also involved in an unsavoury litigation over its funds.

The Vanniyar School was later demolished and, for long, its site remained an empty plot of land, a rubbish dump for the neighbourhood. Today, a hideous multistorey block of flats has come up. A far cry from the gaslights and the jackfruit tree. As you walk past the block, it is difficult to imagine that this was the home of the earliest *sabha* in Mylapore, now so closely identified with music and the December Season.

# Fighting for water

## SACRIFICE

A screech  
A bang, a crunch  
Wrenching shriek

A juggernaut  
From a reckless speed  
Brakes to a slow  
Late, grinding stop

The water tanker  
Quenches its thirst,  
With the sacrifice  
Of an unbalanced  
Schoolchild on a bicycle  
Or a helmetless  
Two-wheeler rider

The metaphor for street fighting in Tamil is the familiar *kozhaa adi sandai*. Warring women at street taps with their pots in line, would begin

being charged by the tanker driver for his bounty, and six pots of water per household is being supplied daily at any wild hour. Local leaders are appointed by turns to supervise the issue of water and he/she gets a cut for the job done.

Cars with their boots filled with water containers, autos and hand/fish carts, bicycles with the carrier fitted specially to accommodate water pots, even wheelbarrows and old perambulators have been pressed into use by innovative citizens. The sneaky bungalow owner or the street-smart citizen surreptitiously inserts a tube into the tank and with a motor draws out the water to fill his sump and overhead tank. The wary public catches him in the act and the tempers fly, with words, abuses and fisticuffs coming into play.

Even the beasts at the watering hole in the jungle behave

## Musing with Padmini Natarajan

the argument with superior claims of beng first in line. Then the scrap would deteriorate to family lineage, individual misdemeanours, status of husband and family, personality traits and, finally, descend to moral and character assassination. This familiar scene in the slums of Tamil Nadu has often been the topic of stories, dramas, films and TV serials.

Today, the ubiquitous black Sintex tank placed at intervals on every street and by-lane, is as familiar sight in Chennai as its monstrous cutouts were. The anxious line-up of irridiscent water pots in plastic and stainless steel marching away to the horizon is a sight for tourists to see.

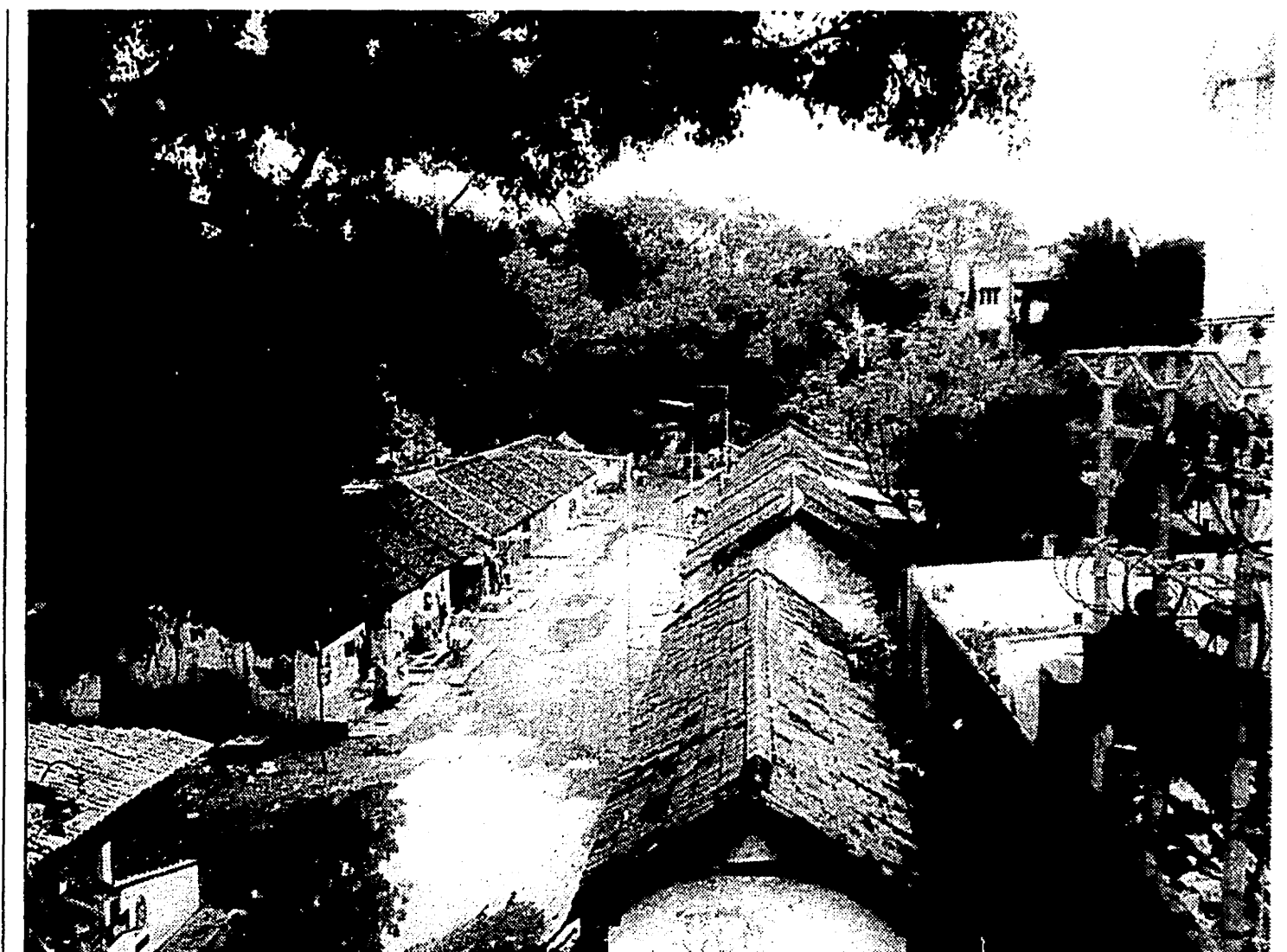
The sparring slumdweller has now been joined in the fray by every citizen and the lack of water has cut across class and creed. The noise of the water-tanker motor, raucous and sound polluting as it may be, is like an alarm or air raid siren that summons the neighbourhood. People rush to fill containers of different types, sizes and shapes with precious drinking water. Citizens are issued with tokens, 25 paise per pot is

with better decorum. Each fills up with enough water to satisfy the individual animal. Man abuses nature and expects a perpetual reward for his wasting of the bountiful resources that he has been blessed with.

The rains have come, for what they are worth. Questions still need to be resolved.

Will Chennai learn its lesson and conserve water? Will we ever get water through the

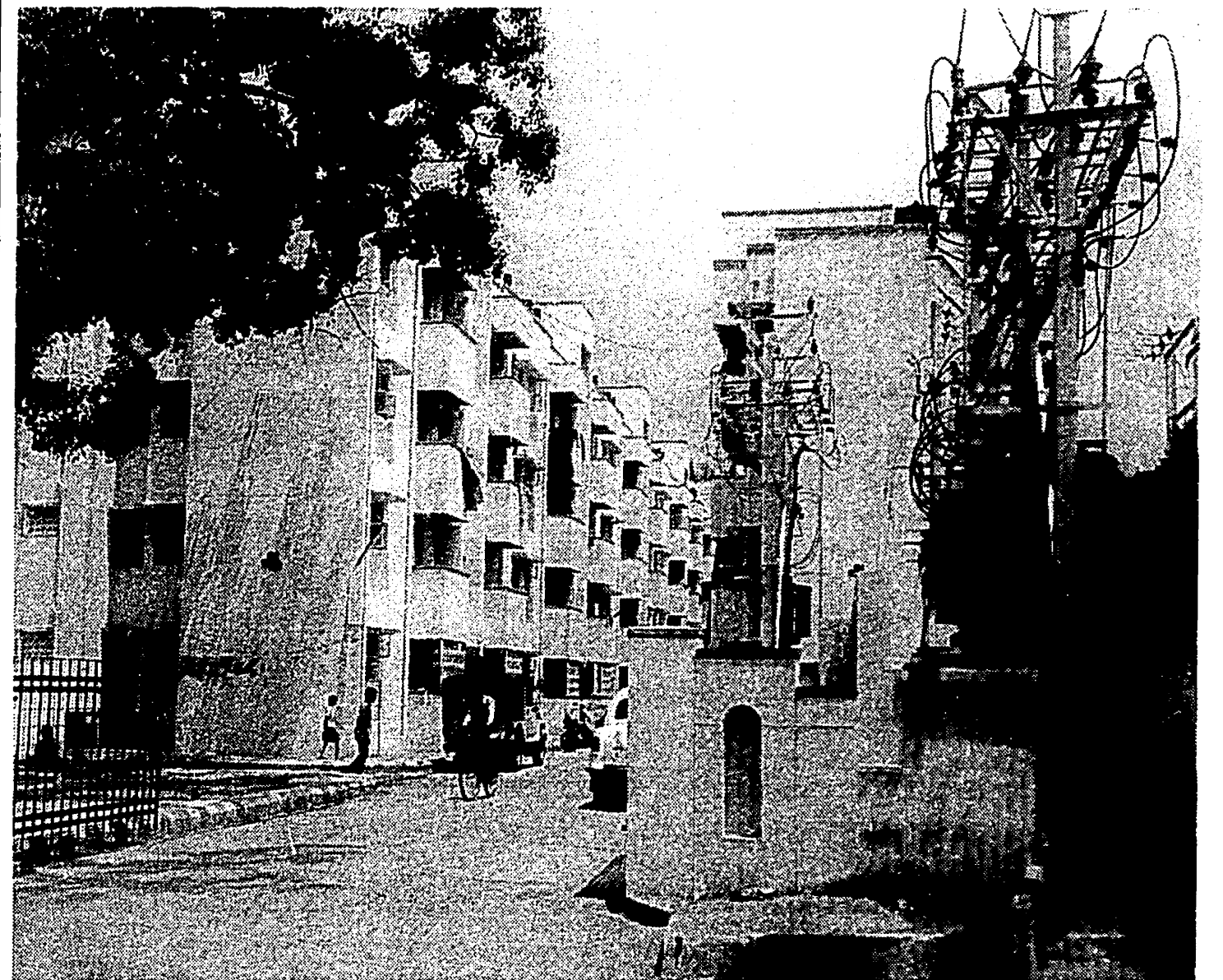
(Continued on Page 10)



Our OLD is of the police 'lines' that existed till a year or so ago just off Cathedral Road. Relics of the Raj, they were little better than the 'cooly lines' in the old tea gardens, their only improvement the tile roofs instead of corrugated iron sheets. Village style 'homes', the residents literally had to stoop to enter them and stretch to get the kinks out of their backs;

The NEW are rows of highrise flats that will undoubtedly provide easier access and more space, but will they last as long as those old 'lines' over whose brick-and-lime mortar construction skilled artisans took greater care than today's builders-in-a-hurry? Even if they last, how long will it take for them to lose their upmarket apartment block looks and begin to look like the Foreshore tenements?

Lack of maintenance is the bane of all construction in the case of government buildings; have the police housing authorities, therefore, begun to pay as much affection to this aspect of accommodation as to building new homes for police personnel? It would be nice to see police buildings looking as smart as the city would like its policemen to be.



## Reconditioning 'Heads'

To All Managers  
Re. Reconditioning of Heads

The heads in our Offices are subject to wear and tear. Consequently they are to be replaced after passage of time. However, full replacement is an expensive proposition as a new head costs Rs.4500.00. Therefore we had arranged for re-conditioning of heads and M/s. XYZ Technologies have been authorised to carry out the work.

The rates approved are Rs.2000.00 per head. The matter was reviewed and after discussions with the said vendor, it

has been agreed to fix the rate for reconditioning at Rs. 1600.00 per head. Therefore all branches are advised to follow the instructions given below in future for head reconditioning.

On certification that a head needs to be replaced/reconditioned, contact M/s XYZ Technologies (Ph.: ...) and inform about the number of heads to be reconditioned from your office.

The vendor will arrange for immediate stand-by head and take the damaged head for reconditioning.

The reconditioned head will

be returned to your office and will carry a warranty of one year from the date of replacement/reconditioning.

Maintain a register with details of reconditioned heads like location/type etc., for follow-up of warranty...

You are advised NOT TO contact any other vendor for the above work.

Sr. Manager

Reader Rajagopalan adds: Would that replacement of 'HEADS' be PRACTICABLE! The world would be a saner place!

# For brighter cricket

Tennis did it. Football did it. But Cricket has faltered. When tennis matches were getting long drawn out due to the two-game difference in deciding the winner of a set, the tie-break was introduced. When 'extra-time' failed to produce results in a football match, the penalty shoot-out solved the problem. The changes were made without prejudice to the format of the game. Whereas, in cricket, when spectator interest waned because of the frequency of dull, drawn matches, the authorities failed to make changes which could have made the two-innings game interesting, intelligent and result-oriented. Kerry Packer seized the initiative and cricket officialdom was hustled into ODIs without a thought to the original format. Not only were the finer points of the game sacrificed, but bowling as an art was destroyed. The only achievement was the improved fielding. The much-acclaimed 'all-rounders' could neither bat as well as the specialist batsmen nor could they bowl as effectively as the specialist bowlers.

What spectators want is a system that could provide interesting and exciting results. They want to see specialist batsmen play strokes and make runs and specialist bowlers bowl effectively and take wickets. They want to see the tussle between the two. They want the 'five-day' ennui as well as the 'one-day' delirium discarded.

To succeed in this effort, the following format is suggested:

## Salient features of the new form of cricket

1. The match to be played over three days. A minimum of 90 overs shall be bowled each day. The stipulated number of overs for each session is indicated below.
2. Each side shall play two innings, the first innings to last 70 overs and the second innings 65 overs.
3. The total runs scored over the two innings shall decide the winner.
4. There are to be no '30 yard' or '15 yard' circles and no stipulations like 'catching positions'.
5. There are to be no restrictions on the number of overs a bowler can deliver, i.e. a bowler may bowl 35 overs in the first innings and 33 overs in the second innings.
6. There are to be no leg-byes, the argument being that they do not come off a bat.
7. The ODI laws governing wides and no-balls shall apply. However, one bouncer may be bowled in an over.
8. In order to prevent negative bowling, not more than six fieldsmen may be positioned either on the leg-side or on the off-side of a batsman.
9. To prevent a pace bowler taking an unduly long time to complete an over, his run-up may not exceed 25 yards.

## Penalties

1. For each wicket that a batting side loses, 3 runs shall be deducted from its total.
2. For each over that a fielding side bowls short of the stipulated number of overs in a session, it shall concede 5 runs to the opposing side.

Note: The number of overs to be bowled in a session is calculated at 13.33 overs/hour (i.e. 4½ minutes an over). This leaves enough time for a 'drinks interval' and 'injury time'.

## Match timings

Day I	9.15 a.m. - 12.15 p.m. (40 overs) -lunch interval- 12.45 p.m. - 3.00 p.m. (30 overs) -change over time- 3.10 p.m. - 4.40 p.m. (20 overs)	Team A - do - Team B
Day II	9.15 a.m. - 12.15 p.m. (40 overs) -lunch interval- 12.45 p.m. - 1.30 p.m. (10 overs) -change over time- 1.40 p.m. - 4.40 p.m. (40 overs)	-do- -do- Team A -do-
Day III	9.15 a.m. - 11.05 a.m. (25 overs) -change over time- 11.15 a.m. - 12.15 p.m. (13 overs) - lunch interval - 12.45 p.m. - 4.40 p.m. (52 overs)	Team B -do- Team B -do-

## Sample summary of a game

Team A - I Innings - 220 for 4 (less 12 runs for 4 wkts) = 208  
 Team B - II Innings - 196 for 2 (less 6 runs for 2 wkts) = 190  
 Team A - I Innings - 212 for 5 (less 15 runs for 5 wkts) = 197  
 Team B - II Innings - Need 216 runs to win. It could score :-  
 219 for 1  
 or 222 for 2  
 or 225 for 3  
 or 228 for 4  
 or 231 for 5  
 or 234 for 6  
 or 237 for 7  
 or 240 for 8  
 or 243 for 9

The result could be a suspense till the last delivery is bowled. —  
 (Courtesy: *Straight Bat*)

K. Kasturi  
 (Retd) Director

All India Radio and a former Cricket Commentator

# Fighting for water

(Continued from page 9)

mains, as they have been rusting and corroding through disuse over the months? Will the State's finances allow repairs and restoration of piped water to the city?

What will happen if the citizens refuse to pay the water tax or sue the government for failure to provide basic rights? Can we get properly metered water supply, all paying their share in the Western cities like London and New York, or will that too become a fiasco like our electricity supply?

We claim to live in a civilised metropolis.

## Answers to Quiz

1. Asha Bhonsle; 2. Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf; 3. Peter Carey for *True History of the Kelly Gang*; 4. Argentina (6-1); 5. Deepak Thakur; 6. Rajeev Bagga, the former National badminton champion; 7. Windows XP; 8. N. Rangaswamy; 9. Koneru Humpy.

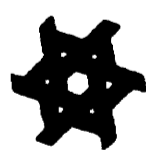
\* \* \*

10. N. Balaganga of AIADMK; 11. Anil Kumar and Kavitha Pandya; 12. Emden.

\* \* \*

13. AIADMK; 14. Kilakarai and Kayalpattinam; 15. KTV; 16. The Colombo District Cricket Association; 17. Maragatham Chandrasekhar; 18. Okkaligas and Lingayats; 19. Viswanatha Nayak in 1560; 20. The Tamil Sangams.

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