

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS

MUSINGS

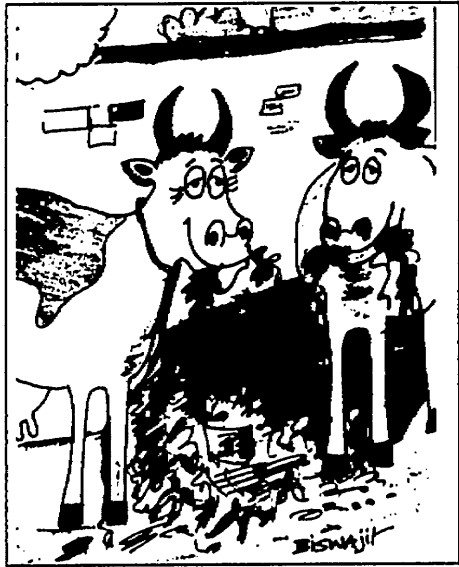
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FREE ISSUE

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Those days of scouting for food are over. Now that a state-of-the-art company collects it for us !!

Such Rubbish!

"Chennai's garbage too much for two dumps," newspapers warn. Well, eau de Chennai certainly confirms this little news item. Certain well-meaning industrious folks have set up state-of-the-art garbage bins all over the city. Swanky-looking trucks, manned by uniformed staff (awe-inspiring things, uniforms) drive around importantly, picking up bins from strategic locations. Garbage collection gone contemporary.

Except ...

Someone forgot to tell our four-legged friends.

These guys sensed an alien presence in their domain, and promptly responded.

The two chief species involved (naming no names) are of the canine and the bovine persuasion, with the feline, with typical suave aplomb, reaping advantages without doing any of the dirty work.

The cows, bulls, buffaloes, and our street dogs and cats were perplexed at first at these apparently impenetrable bins. Then, with intelligence that far outreaches anything a poor human can ever lay claim to, they got it. The cry "eureka" resounded in strictly non-human circles.

They merely got the bulkier of their species to ram each dust-bin... or (let's be New-Age)... rejected flotsam/jetsam receptacle.

The bin would then tip over with a defeated sigh... and our friends could feast long and well.

It's very clear.

You can go as high-tech as you like. But you can't beat Native Street-Smarts... Indan Style.

Ranjitha Ashok
(Also see Page 2)

Opportunity knocks

Restoring Senate House provides chance to set up a PWD conservation cell

(By A Staff Reporter)

Suggesting a team effort for the restoration of *Senate House* and using it as a platform to train Public Works Department engineers in restoration as a prelude to establishing a conservation cell in the PWD are the two recommendations made to Government recently by the Indian National Trust for

Art and Cultural Heritage, Tamil Nadu chapter.

Madras Musings learns that INTACH-TN has suggested that the following methodology may be followed in conserving *Senate House*:

1. The IIT Madras Civil Engineering Department has expertise in Structural Conservation and they also have links with German technical institutions in Karlsruhe. With German inputs and IIT's expertise the restoration of the domes and towers of *Senate House*, which could well have structural faults, could be done most effectively.
 2. INTACH-TN has a few members who have been trained at York University in the UK and have expertise in conserving brick and mortar buildings. These architects could be used for documenting the building and helping with its brick and mortar restoration as well as in the restoration of woodwork, the textiled false ceilings, etc.
 3. PWD engineers could be in charge of on-site engineering work, working on the advice of the IIT and INTACH teams as well as others, like the museum (on stonework), the ASI etc. They would thereby not only carry out the entire work but also acquire in the process the expertise they do not possess.
- A meeting of these three constituent interests, together with Education Department and other government officials, at the earliest could go a long way towards restoring one of the most magnificent buildings in Chennai, *Senate House*, now that the University of Madras has decided to restore the building, state the conveners of INTACH.

Taking steps to protect what's left of a marsh

At a meeting organised recently by Care Earth and the Chennai Snake Park Trust in Guindy, B. Vijayaraghavan, former Madras Naturalists' Society President and Chairman of the Trust, outlined the importance of wetland conservation and complimented the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board for taking steps to protect the Pallikaranai marsh.

R. Ramachandran, Additional Chief Engineer of the Pollution Control Board, explained the role played by TNPCB in sustaining the marsh as a wetland habitat and the problems faced by his department.

It was suggested that

- a consortium of interested organisations be formed to highlight the need to preserve Pallikaranai by various fora
- a current map of the extent of the wetland vis a vis the original area be prepared
- the consortium report on the polluting industries, hunting, dumping of waste and sewage water into the marsh, and
- make scientific studies on the flora and fauna.

— (Courtesy: Blackbuck.)



A visit by our photographer to Buckingham Gardens, once the officers' enclave of the Buckingham Mills, to capture *THE PRESENT* to team with *THE PAST*, produced this picture of the flood level indicator (encircled), that's part of the Buckingham Gardens' wall on the Otteri Nullah embankment. A closer look at the indicator reveals that the worst floods affecting the area were in October 1943. The November 1976 floods, which resulted in the end of Binny's, were the second worst — but by then Binny's does not appear to have had the energy to even engrave the information; it's a written mark that's visible. The indicator shows at least three other occasions when the Gardens were hit by floods.



Where's the sparrow gone?

(By A Special Correspondent)

Sighting of house sparrows has become rarer in Madras city, their distribution confined to only a few residential areas like Mylapore, where tiled houses are not all that uncommon still, states the Madras Naturalists' Society. The Society has requested its members to inform the editor of its *Bulletin* if they sight the species in Chennai, so that the information could be shared with other members.

House sparrows, once seen in large numbers, have migrated from the city in considerable numbers and there is a visible decrease in their population, state ornithologists.

The reason for the decline is the non-availability of food for these birds, as their diet consists of seeds and grains. According to N. Baskar, Biologist, A.A. Zoological Park, Vandalur, "In agricultural fields, they feast on wheat and cereals. If there are

(Continued on page 3)

What did they learn from Chennai?

It was indeed gratifying to learn that a high-powered team from the Bangalore City Corporation was spending a couple of days in Chennai to study how our Corporation had got it right and how they could benefit from our experience. *The Man From Madras Musings* wonders what they learnt from Chennai and how the Chennai experience will benefit a city that seems to be far ahead of us.

MMM spent a couple of days in Bangalore recently and much of it was spent driving about a city MMM hadn't visited in three or four years. And what a sea-change had taken place in Bangalore! What were sleepy outlying areas now had broader arterial roads than MMM has seen in Madras, the roads had broad pavements which were not encroached on, the traffic seemed to flow more smoothly than in Chennai — perhaps due to the numerous signs warning of substantial spot fines for breaking various road rules, with the action indeed taking place — there appeared to be little or no garbage on what were basically clean streets (even in congested areas) and a sharp shower for about an hour one evening did not find any of the roads MMM travelled on waterlogged.

Given that first-hand picture of Bangalore, it was certainly ironical to find Bangalore's City Fathers wanting to learn from the Chennai experience. Perhaps the learning experience was on learning how NOT to do things! As follows:

- The Bangalore Mayor, MMM has seen it reported, was full of interest in Chennai's flyovers. MMM wonders whether it was for the engineering and the embellishments or whether it was for the indifferent surfacing, the lack of pavements in their vicinity and the narrow thoroughfares alongside them which endangered pedestrians and users of two-wheelers of all types.
- The Bangalore team was apparently so impressed with what CES Onyx was doing in Chennai that it decided to learn all about how to float a global tender. MMM wonders WHY, when local private contractors in Bangalore are doing what seems to MMM as good if not a better job than multinationals, foreign contractors are sought? Is it to tell them how to tackle the canine and bovine menaces Ranjitha Ashok has referred to on Page 1 of this issue or stop the rapickers from foraging in the bins or amongst the overspill?
- And when it comes to drainage, the Bangalore team must have been very happy to find no waterlogging on the roads at the time they visited. But if the Corporation had ar-

anged a short welcoming shower for them they might have seen a different scene even in the environs of Ripon Building.

Fortunately, the Bangalore team didn't ask to see the state of the roads in Chennai, what's happening on the few pavements left in the city, the unbridled movement of traffic, conditions on the Marina, our open air toilets and the mosquito menace. If they had, they might have learnt much more on what a city should NOT be.

Whatever the Bangalore team learnt, MMM is happy it has gone back happier for the learning experience.

All OURS

Pomp and ceremony is one thing the British always get right. And even if it is a minor

investiture you can be sure people like Michael Herridge, British Deputy High Commissioner, South India, would have practised the formalities, got his speech word perfect, and kept it short, sweet and dignified. That was the unanimous view expressed to *The Man From Madras Musings* by the small gathering present at Cottingley to watch the MBE awarded by the Queen formally presented to the Editor of *Madras Musings* by Herridge.

MMM noted that protocol was scrupulously implemented, with the Editor being requested to respond only after the formal occasion became an informal one. And in his response, the Editor made two points.

The FIRST was that the award was as much theirs, all those who had had an influence on his thinking, had backed him and had worked together with him, as it was his. He particularly mentioned the following:

- the late W.T. Keble, his old headmaster at St. Thomas' Prep School, Colombo, whose *Ceylon: Beaten Track* had got him interested in heritage and storytelling;
- T.T. Vasu and the late M.C. Subrahmanyam who, when he moved from journalism to the world of commercial publishing, got him to start writing again;
- Abraham Eraly of *Aside* who channelled that writing into recalling the city, its founders, and life in it over the years;
- K.S. Padmanabhan and the East West Publishers team who gave that writing further opportunities by publishing *Madras Discovered* and several other books on Madras and its institutions;
- C.O. and Anu Varghese and

T.M. George of Lokavani Hallmark Press who gave him a free hand with *Madras Musings* and N. Sankar, M.V. Subbiah, Tara Murali and all the others who have supported Chennai Heritage and appreciate of what *Madras Musings* was trying to do, have kept it going; and

— Debbie Thiagarajan, P.T. Krishnan and Tara Murali of INTACH-TN, who got him on to their team and ensured there was greater focus on what he wrote.

THE SECOND point was a plea to recognise that all the buildings and institutions he wrote about, whether it was the Pallavas' Mamallapuram, the Pandyan- and Nayak-built temple in Madurai, the Chola Big Temple, Dutch Puliatic, French Pondicherry, Danish Tranquebar and the buildings, institutions, infrastructure and systems devel-

oped by the British, every one of them now belonged to us, as Indians and, particularly, residents of Tamil Nadu. All this legacy was no longer THEIRS but OURS and as OURS we needed to take pride in them. And as things to be proud of, it was our duty to restore them, conserve them and maintain them, so that the rest of India and the world could see how well we have looked after what is OURS, what we should take pride in. If the award to him leads to this happening, even to the taking of such first steps as a Heritage Act and maintenance of both heritage and infrastructure, then it would have achieved a worthwhile purpose, he told the gathering.

In brief

★ It's good to hear that a watchdog committee — an ombudsman-like institution — is being set up to watch over a plan to enforce traffic discipline in Chennai. *The Man From Madras Musings* looks forward to the orderliness this plan hopes to bring to Chennai roads and, before that, to the details of the plan and the mechanics of how it will be implemented. However, the highlights of the reports in the Press to date have focussed on VIP and government drivers being told to follow rules and that action would be taken against anyone violating the rules, no matter how important he was. Now, that's welcome news, but MMM also feels the biggest violators of road rules are the two-wheeler users and auto-rickshaws which, weaving through traffic and from lane to lane, push many another road-user into breaking the rules.

MMM has seen fewer of these rule-breakers hauled up compared to car and heavy vehicle drivers. And that's perhaps because the latter are easier to flag down or note; a scooter weaving around a policeman is not the easiest thing to stop or identify. Be that as it may, these traffic reform plans will become meaningful only if penalties are heavy, licences are endorsed and repeated violations lead to cancellation of licences.

★ Auto-drivers at railway stations and other places where crowds congregate are a law unto themselves, *The Man From Madras Musings* has always found. On that recent trip to Bangalore, MMM saw passengers alighting there being harassed by importuning auto-drivers. But, at the same time, there was a substantial police presence that ensured the drivers did not enter the sta-

tion and which also kept shouting away drivers mobbing passengers or kept getting them to move their vehicles if they were parked in an obstructive manner. At Madras Central, MMM found the auto-drivers behaving in the

Saving water

At a recent lecture, *The Man From Madras Musings* heard the speaker warn that within 25 years fresh water would become more expensive than oil. During MMM's recent travels in water-rich Kerala, he found several of the hotels expressing their concern over this issue. Conserve water for tomorrow was the theme of several notices in rooms which, urging water to be used with care, offered the following advice that could well be followed on an everyday basis:

UNINTENTIONAL WASTAGE OF WATER

Activity	Method adopted	Qty. Used Ltr.	Method to be adopted	Qty required Ltr.	Qty saved Ltr.
Brushing teeth	Running tap for 5 minutes	45	Tumbler or glass	0.5	44.5
Washing hands or face	Running tap for 2 minutes	18	Half-filled wash basin	2	16
Shaving	Running tap for 2 minutes	18	Fill shaving mug	0.25	17.75
Shower	Letting shower run while soaping and staying under shower too long	90	Wet down, tap off, soap up, rinse off	20	70
Flushing toilet	Using old-fashioned large capacity cistern	13.5 or more	Dual system short flush liquid waste Full flush solid waste	9 or more	4.5 or more
Watering plants	Running hose for 5 minutes	120	Water can	5	115
Washing floor	Running hose for 5 minutes	200	Mop and bucket	18	182
Washing car	Running hose for 10 minutes	400	Buckets (Two)	18	382
Leaking tap		400-3000	Take immediate action to stop leak		

— MMM

OUR READERS WRITE



Two-way protection

The Indian herbal scenario is now undergoing a sea change with the technical, economic and social advantages of herbal products being increasingly realised.

The strong traditional herbal knowledge base can be effectively exploited but, at the same time, this knowledge must be protected.

Many herbs have considerable medicinal properties and their extracts can be effective and low-cost substitutes for several allopathic drugs. At the same time, it is a matter of concern that herbal drugs are becoming an unrestricted and free-for-all territory, where all sorts of claims are made by producers and the practitioners. Unless some immediate steps are taken to regulate the system, there is a grim possibility of its losing reputation.

Unlike allopathic drugs, which are subjected to considerable tests, scrutiny and trials before being permitted for use, we do not have a standardised approach for herbal drugs. For a buyer of herbal drugs, there is no way of being satisfied that the content of the drug is what is advertised or written on the packaging. As the entry into the herbal sector is simple and deregulated, a number of organisations and individuals are springing up almost every day, making fanciful claims about the efficacy of the drugs, for which there is no proof.

We find many claims of herbal drugs curing AIDS, ulcer, cancer, renal failures etc. Many persons buy these products in view of their comparatively low cost and as they are carried away by the advertisements. Many herbal drugs are now packed in a beautiful manner and the advertisements in newspapers, journals and television are made in attractive style to entice consumers.

In the case of Diabetes, there is a multitude of herbal drugs on offer and I have taken a few of them myself — without any effect. We also see herbal drugs being marketed on the roadsides by semi-literate people, who often keep a monkey or a parrot alongside the herbal drugs, for whatever reasons.

It is high time that misuse of herbal drugs by money spinners is stopped in the interest of public

health and steps taken to protect the reputation of traditional Indian herbal knowledge.

N.S. Venkataraman
M-60-1, IV Cross Street
Besant Nagar, Chennai 600 090.

That shopping bag

Man who has lived through the Stone Age, Iron Age, Bronze Age and Computer Age is now in the most disastrous of them, the Plastic Age. This symbol of Western influence in our country, imperishable plastic, has become an essential part of everyone's life.

With the advent of polybags and crushable cups, which encourages a "use and throw" cult, we are throwing away our healthy and hygienic surroundings too.

There is a proposal to completely ban polythene bags and cups. But the pressure is great on shops and hotels to use plastic. I recently found the following state of affairs in West Mambalam and T. Nagar.

A grocery shop in Chakrapani Street, West Mambalam, has a prominent notice that says, "Avoid carry bags". The irony is that the shopkeeper supplies carry bags to customers who come shopping without any bag. When asked about it, the shopkeeper replied, "The government says that polythene bags should be avoided. So do I. We will stop their supply when it is made mandatory". The last sentence is the verdict of almost all the shopkeepers and hoteliers I met.

Everyone seemed to know the serious implications of plastic usage. There were a few who gave

The charms of retirement

Retirement is full of charms. That, at least, is what I sincerely believed before my own retirement. Having retired after a full span of 35 years of service, I was eagerly looking forward to a relaxed, retired life, with morning and evening walks, midday nap and just relaxing reading novels, watching the TV, listening to music on the radio, visiting relatives, playing games with the grandchildren and so on. There would be no more of rushing to office, no notes to be studied, no decisions to be taken, no problems to be solved, no targets to be reached and so on. No more transfers from Tamil Region to Hindi Region to Telugu Region to Kannada Region and so on.

But just three months after retirement, some well-meaning friends persuaded me to join a company stating that my experience should not go waste, that it should be utilised in the best interests of a company, where I could spend a few hours in a day as a consultant. So my services were utilised for over an year when I called it a day and went on a holiday to the US for six months to stay with my son. On my return, I was once again persuaded to join another firm as a consultant and another two years passed helping it.

Then, some of my colleagues, who had also retired, some from the Army, some from banks, some from the railways and so on, settled in Madras that

III Class Blues

Reader S. Ganapathiraman's letter "Trains of another day" (MM, February 16th) brought to mind this rather naughty chunk of India's railway history. III class carriages had no lavatories until 1891. Even in 1901, many of them were without toilet facilities, causing great discomfort to passengers. Relief came only when the train reached a station which had the necessary facilities and where the halt was of fairly long duration.

In June 1901, a South Indian newspaper *Vrittanta Chintamani* reproduced a letter addressed to the management of the East Indian Railway by a passenger who had suffered great humiliation, but mustered the necessary courage to record his protest in no uncertain language. Culled

from the book *Railways of the Raj*, the letter read as under:

I am arrive by passenger train at Ahmedpore station and my belly is too much swelling with jack fruit. I am therefore went to privy. Just as I was doing the nuisance, that guard making whistle blow for train to go off and I am running with *loah* in one hand and *dhotie* in the next when I am fall over and expose all my shockings to man and female on platform. I am get leaved at Ahmedpore station. This too much bad, if passenger go to make dung, that dam guard no wait train five minutes for him. I am therefore pray your honour to make big fine on that guard for public sake. Otherwise I am making big report to papers.

Class distinctions were integral to Indian society during the Raj (as they remain to this day), but the meticulous manner in which they were observed sometimes generated humour, though of a poor sort. For example, this comment on the design of a III class railway carriage in India:

"... the hole in the floor — only 5 inches in diameter — decidedly too small; apparently the designer had taken a first class closet as his standard and had made the diameter of the orifice in proportion to the fare."

G.D. Patwardhan
11a Rajaramwadi
Old No. 96a Hill Road
Bandra (W), Mumbai 400 050

Tiffin & Cricket

Raghu Tagar's remembrance of Rice cream at IOA in 1931 (MM, February 16th) brought to mind that quaint old building (it was called *Mohana Vilas*), circular and somewhat like the Andaman cellar jail. I spent almost all day there between 1966-68, as my friend Swami was an inmate (I hope I am not making it sound like a mental asylum). The lunch priced at some two rupees or so was quite delectable and so was the tiffin served in the late evenings.

When there was so much consciousness among the shopkeepers and hoteliers, I am surprised why is there not enough awareness about this burning issue among consumers. Don't we feel that it is our responsibility to shun plastic?

All that is needed is an attitudinal change among consumers and starting acting now. Carry your own bag when you go shopping.

Kavitha Ramkumar
B-4, Ganpath Apartments
No. 2, Ganapathy Street
West Mambalam
Chennai 600 033.

Re. Baskaran Thomas' eulogy (MM, January 1st) of the young left arm spinner Vidyut Sivaramakrishnan, there is some hyperbole in his comparing Vidyut to Durrani and Bedi. Perhaps someday, Vidyut may bowl like those greats, but right now the lefties to watch are Karthik Murali, Rahul Sanghvi (who unfortunately ran

into destroyer Gilchrist), Sunil Joshi, Nilesh Kulkarni and the rotund Valmiki Buch. Why, Vidyut's replacement R. Ramkumar has exquisite drift and bite and promises to break into the Test arena in the next few years.

It is sometimes good for a player to seek other pastures for a while. The off-break bowler Aashish Kapoor has returned to Tamil Nadu after a sojourn in some other state team, all the better for the outing. I therefore request Thomas not to bemoan Vidyut's wilderness journey. Everthing happens for the good.

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

Where's the sparrow?

(Continued from page 1)

no fields, they are happy with vegetables and fruits. But lack of greenery, fields and gardens could have forced the species out of city".

S. Theodore Baskaran says, "The increased use of pesticides could have killed them, but a study is necessary before this is given as a reason". M. Raghuraman adds, "These birds build their nests with a collection of straw and rubbish stuffed into a hole in a wall or ceiling of tiled houses. But today, with the mushrooming flat system, there is hardly any space. Maybe these birds have fled to the suburban areas of the city for nesting". — (Courtesy: Blackbuck.)

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• All business correspondence should be addressed to The Director, Chennai Heritage, 260-A, TTK Road, Chennai 600 018.

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Lest you forget

The South had a major role

Today, more than at any other time, the discipline of history is facing a threat of extinction. Emerging disciplines like Information Technology and Management are having a field day in our colleges and universities. All this because history is considered a non-utility subject. I am of the view that we historians are to blame for such a state of affairs; we have not been able to project the value of history.

In this context, I would like to refer to the unseemly controversy among historians of differing ideological persuasions. The manner in which the ICHR project 'Towards Freedom' became mired in controversy is highly regrettable. To my mind, if any imbalance in Indian historiography is to be set right, it is not so much in the field of ideology as in that of the regions.

It would be in the interest of historical objectivity to follow the approach of Leopold Von Ranke to present history as it actually happened. Ranke, who may be rightly called "the father of scientific historiography in the world", thought that the function of history was "not to speculate about the course of history or to construct the logical stages of historical development, but to only find out what actually happened." He argued that narrative sources unavoidably reflect the prejudices and bias of the author. So, historians should look to documents because they have a better value than narrative sources.

The need of the hour is to correct the existing imbalance in the writing of Indian history. A true history of India will have to present correctly the events that have taken place in every region of this vast country. In this regard, I wish to highlight briefly three defining moments in South India in the 19th Century which have been regrettably ignored by writers of Indian history.

It is unfortunate that historians of the National Movement, particularly those based in Delhi, fail to take note of the significant findings of K. Rajayyan and continue to describe the Revolt of 1857 as 'the first major challenge' to British authority in India. This is in line with the general approach of historians, mostly of North India, to belittle the contributions of South India to major historical events of India.

The South Indian Rebellion (1800-01) was led by outstanding leaders such as Marudu Pandyan, Oomathurai, Gopala Naik, Krishnappa Naik, Dhoondaji Waug and, last but not the least, Kerala Varma. These leaders fought against the British in a relentless manner. The Rebellion was indeed massive in its totality. It definitely over-shadowed the so-called "First War of Indian Independence" of 1857. In terms of duration, areas of operation, leadership and organisation, the outbreak of 1857 appears to be a mere pale shadow of the South Indian Rebellion. It is no exaggeration to state that the South Indian Rebellion, by establishing a tradition of revolt, inspired subsequent struggles in other parts of India.

Another defining moment in the modern history of India was on February 26, 1852, when an

by **S. Gopalakrishnan**
General President of the
XXII Session of the South Indian
History Congress

organisation to ventilate popular grievances and seek redress, called the Madras Native Association (MNA) was founded in Madras city by a Telugu-speaking businessman by name Gajula Lakshmi Narasu Chetty. The leading members of the Committee of Management of the MNA were landlords like L. Venkateswara Naidu and G. Yogambara Mudaliar. These men had specific grievances against the administration of the English East India Company, particularly in the revenue, educational and judicial spheres. The MNA established its branches in many parts of the Madras Presidency.

In December 1852, the MNA submitted its first petition to Parliament focussing attention on the main grievances of the people of Madras. The petition expressed dissatisfaction with the land policies of the Government of Madras. The MNA urged the revival of the ancient village system under which, it claimed, the peasantry would be free from the oppressive interference of Zamindars and subordinate officials. The judicial system, it complained, was "slow, complicated and imperfect". It also took objection to the diverting of state funds to missionary schools under the Grants-in-Aid system on the ground that such a policy

would tend to "distinctly identify" the state with missionary work. The MNA proposed a redistribution of power between the Centre and the provinces to avert the trend towards excessive centralisation of authority. It suggested that both the Central and provincial legislatures have a few members elected so that it will impose a check on the arbitrary power of the executive.

The petition of the MNA was discussed in Parliament in February-March 1853. As a sequel, H.D. Seymour, Chairman of the Indian Reforms Society, a non-official body in London, visited Madras in October 1853 and suggested that the MNA should launch an agitation for asserting the rights of the people so that a favourable public opinion could be created in England.

After the passing of the Charter Act of 1853, the MNA began an agitation for the transfer of the British territories in India to the direct control of the Crown. It sent to Parliament a second petition signed by 14,000 people of Madras Presidency pleading for the termination of Company rule. This and other activities of the MNA helped to focus attention on the grievances of the people. Unfortunately, the death of Gajula Lakshmi Narasu Chetty in 1868 dealt a shattering blow to the survival of the MNA. However, it cannot be denied that, though short-lived, the MNA was indeed a symbol of a resurgent South India.

It is unfortunate that the role of South India in inspiring the foundations of the Indian National Congress in 1885 has not yet been fully appreciated. The role of the Theosophical Convention held in Madras in December 1884 has been ignored. It was immediately after this convention that 17 leading public figures of Madras Presidency, including S. Subrahmanya Iyer, P. Rangaiah Naidu and P. Anandachari met in the house of R. Raghunatha Rao, Deputy Collector of Madras, for talks relating to the formation of a national organisation. In my opinion, the origin of the Indian National Congress should be traced to this meeting. It is of interest to note that the house in which this meeting took place is still preserved as a memorial (though remodelled in 1961) on Ramakrishna Mutt Road,

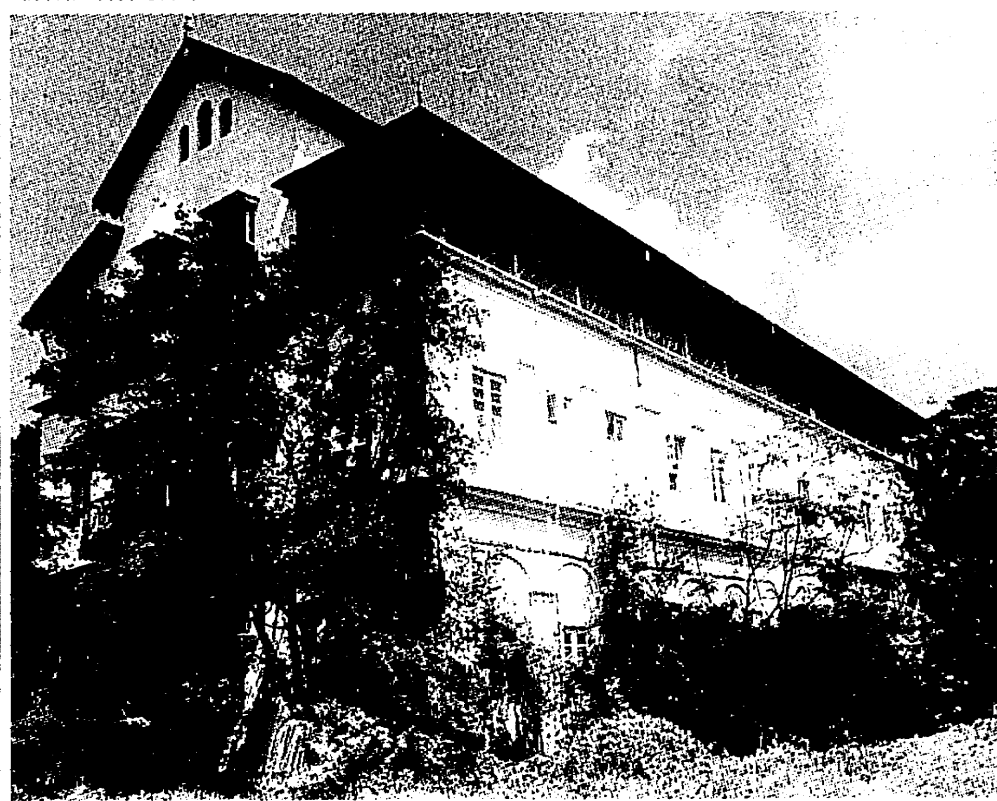
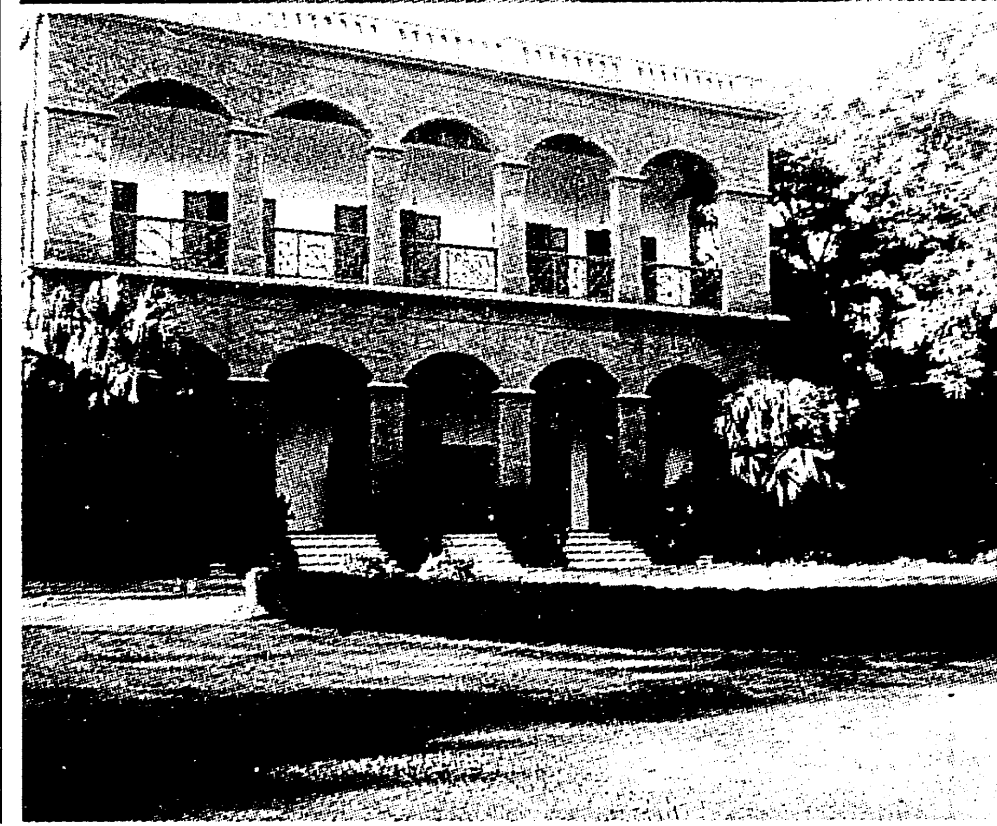
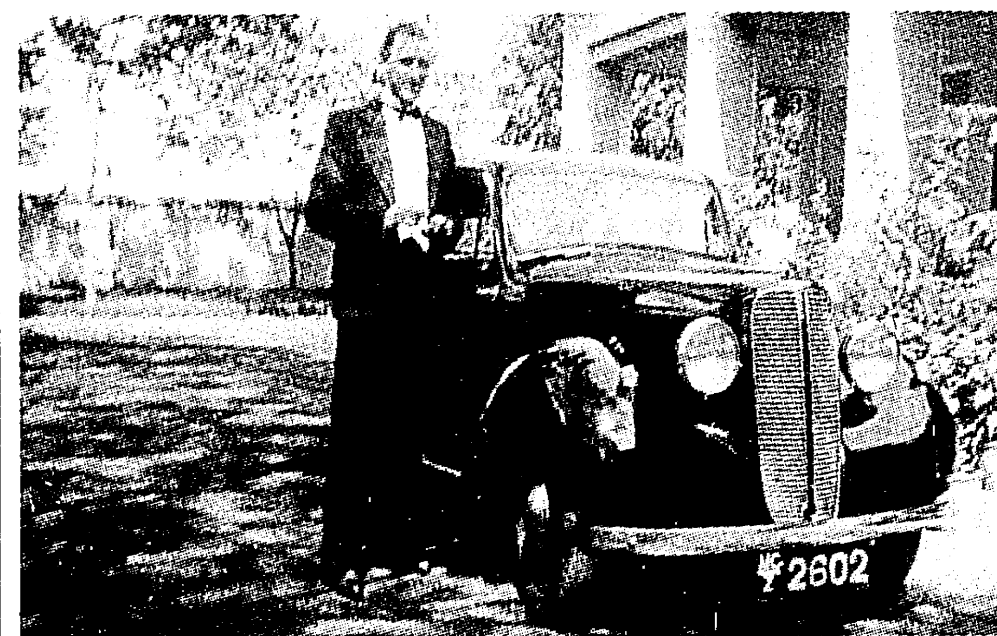
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The Past... & The Present

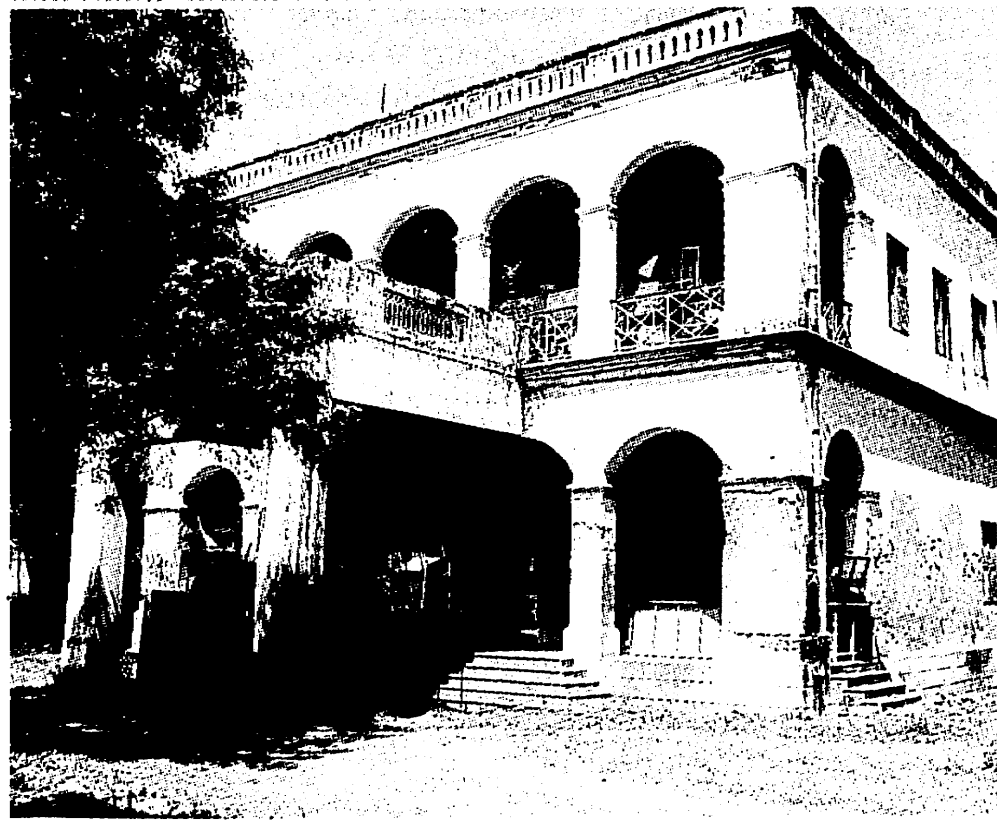
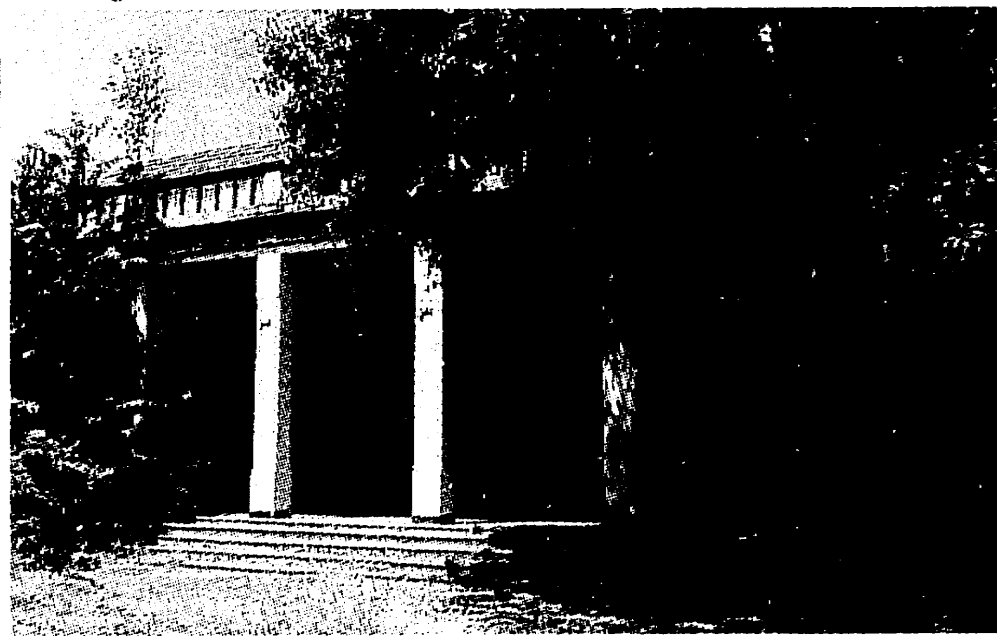
It's THE PAST and THE PRESENT this fortnight instead of THE OLD and THE NEW. And THE PAST came to us quite serendipitously when Christine Scott from Wales, who had been in touch with Madras Musings for a couple of years now about Binny's, where her father had worked, suddenly turned up on our doorstep with these pictures out of the past.

Christine Scott's father, a Manchester-trained textile technologist called Maurice Burns, joined Binny's in 1937 and was with the company for about a decade. Maurice and Ida Burns lived in Buckingham Gardens and that was where Christine Scott went, particularly to see No. 11, Buckingham Gardens where she had spent her childhood. She writes, "The Gardens now are in a sad state of decay. The houses are all boarded up and the trees and bushes have almost taken over. No. 11 looked rather lonely and neglected and had a rather ugly portico added to its front. But I was so glad that we were able to visit Buckingham Gardens and see my former home, even though it now looks so dilapidated and nothing like the beautiful house of my photographs. I found, however, that the compound had a swimming pool and tennis courts, which I hadn't realised. I also identified from another photograph the first bungalow that my parents had lived in, a single-storied one. I fear that in a short time all the houses will have gone. We came just in time."



The photographs she refers to are THE PAST featured here on the left and on the right is what our photographer, capturing THE PRESENT, thought were the same buildings. From top to bottom, the pictures show:

- Buckingham Gardens after the flood of 1943. As our picture on Page 1 shows, this was the worst flood to inundate the Buckingham Mills campus. THE PRESENT shows the building seen in the background in THE PAST. Christine Scott writes, "My mother used to say that the floodwater came from a dam that had burst north of Madras. My parents were luckier than most as a milking cow was rescued from the floodwater and brought to their verandah, where it provided them milk during the several days the flood lasted."
- THE PAST shows another home in Buckingham Gardens marooned by the flood. THE PRESENT shows many of its open arches and verandahs blocked in.
- "Father and his first car, at the Burns' first home in Buckingham Gardens," writes Christine Scott, adding, "He was formally dressed because he was going to a dance at the Commemara, which my parents often spoke about and which is why Trevor and I stayed there on this search for the past." THE PRESENT shows a single-storied house closely resembling the one seen in THE PAST.
- THE PAST is of the beautifully lauded No. 11 Buckingham Gardens. THE PRESENT shows a very similar building with an ugly porch and balcony added to it and many of the windows blocked in. Note the identical first floor verandah railings in both.



Lest you forget

The South had a major role

(Continued from column 3)

Madras, with a plaque carrying the inscription "The Indian National Congress organised here, December 1884".

Two major developments in the contemporary history of South India are the linguistic sub-nationalism of the Telugu-speaking people and the ethno-sub-nationalism of the Tamils.

The term 'nationalism' was first used by the German nationalist Adam Weighaupt in 1798. More recently, nationalism has been defined as "A state of mind permeating the large majority of a people and claiming to permeate all its members; it recognised the nation-state as the ideal form of political organisation and the nationality as the source of all creations, cultural life and economic well-being. The supreme loyalty of man is therefore due to his nationality as his own life is supposedly rooted in and made possible by its welfare".

Let me highlight the fact that sub-nationalism is not counter to Indian nationalism. On the other hand, I am of opinion that it has helped to strengthen nationalism in India. Who can deny the fact that the Telugu-speaking people of the Madras Presidency who were demanding the formation of a separate state for themselves played an important role in every phase of the Indian national movement?

The Indian National Congress at its session in Madras in 1927 passed a resolution that the time had come for the redistribution of the provinces on a linguistic basis. In 1928, making out a strong case for sub-nationalism the Motilal Nehru Committee Report wrote as follows:

"If a province has to educate itself and do its daily work through the medium of its own languages it must necessarily mean a linguistic area. If it happens to be a polyglot area, difficulties will continually arise and the media of instruction and work will be two or even more languages. Hence it becomes most desirable for provinces to be regrouped on a linguistic basis. Language, as a rule, corresponds with a special variety of culture, of traditions and of literature, in a linguistic area all these factors contributing towards the general progress of the province."

The Simon Commission, with a touch of realism, observed in

1930: "If those who speak the same language form a compact and self-contained area so situated and endowed as to be able to support its existence as a separate province there is no doubt that the use of a common speech is a strong natural basis for provincial individuality".

It is necessary to understand the relevance of sub-nationalism in the context of Indian nationalism. Indian nationalism can be understood only if it is properly linked to sub-nationalism... Unilingualism is not unity and multi-lingual people must have opportunity if democracy is to exist. Each language is a cultural instrument of human homogenisation, expression of tradition and religion and of song and dance, literature and philosophy, administration and legal wisdom. Statehood sums up the plurality of forces which make for the political personality of a linguisti-

A timely reminder
at
History Congress

cally and culturally homogeneous group. It symbolises sub-nationalism.

If Indian nationalism is to be a worthwhile concept, it must necessarily accept the dynamics of sub-nationalism. This has been pointed out forcefully in the Report of the States Reorganisation Committee (1956).

More complex than linguistic sub-nationalism was the ethno-sub-nationalism which began in South India towards the closing years of the 19th Century.

In this context, it is worth remembering that in Kerala the appeal against the caste system by leaders like Sri Narayana Guru led to theism rather than atheism as was the case in Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu, the Dravidian movement virtually demanded secession from the Indian Union. Historians of South India have not turned their attention adequately to the manner in which ethnic and populist appeals have reinforced each other in this part of the country. Prof. C.E. Ramachandran, the General President of the 10th Session of this Congress held at Rajapalayam in 1990, had said: "The non-Brahmin movement and the Self Respect movement that took place in Tamil Nadu and the Deccan went a long way

in projecting the plight of the non-Brahmins and the low caste people. These movements were aimed at improving the conditions of the people. The factors that were responsible for this development and the measures undertaken by the government and also the co-operation given by enlightened individuals are interesting aspects of these movements. Nor enough study of these movements has been made by scholars and a thorough and comprehensive study is necessary".

The ethnic notions put forward by the Dravidian parties in Tamil Nadu generated widespread support primarily because they were articulated within a populist discourse. In all the populist organisations there have been charismatic leaders who have presented themselves as exemplars of the kind of populist outlook promoted by their parties.

The DMK under the leadership of Karunanidhi has always stood for an assertive populism and state power. It is significant to note that Dravidian rule in Tamil Nadu has had an unbroken record since 1967. The ethno-sub-nationalism of the Tamils has been much better projected by the Dravidian parties than by the Congress.

The AIADMK rule under MGR elaborated fully for the first time the paternalist features of Dravidian populism. This is in contrast to the DMK's retreat to an assertive focus in the 1970s. The agenda of paternalist populism represented emergent groups differently from that of assertive populism. It distributed very divisible forms of patronage which addressed the basic needs of the lowest strata of society. This enabled the distribution of benefits to a larger number than assertive populism did. The assertive populist patronage strengthened the economic position of many people.

India's independence which brought in adult franchise and federalism has helped the growth of the Dravidian parties and consequently sub-nationalism. However, political expediency has led to some dilution of the Dravidian ideology. This may perhaps be interpreted as the broadening of the Dravidian movement. It is not clear at this stage what twists and turns the Dravidian parties would take in the years to come.

Quizzin' with Ramnan

Questions 1 to 10 are from the period February 16th to 28th. Questions 11 to 20 pertain to Chennai and Tamil Nadu.

1. Name the player called 'White Lightning' who recently retired from Test cricket.
 2. In a shocking incident, a train compartment was torched leading to more than 58 deaths and subsequent violence. Where?
 3. What incredible feat, having a great impact on the way Physics and Light are viewed, did scientists at the Rowland Institute in Massachusetts perform recently?
 4. Name the Fijian national who was first convicted to death and then had his sentence commuted for a coup he carried out in that country.
 5. Which European country's 681-year old currency stopped being legal tender, consequent to the introduction of the Euro, from February 18th?
 6. Which batsman and bowler top the Wisden 100 for the best One-day International performances?
 7. Business. Who is the new chief of SEBI?
 8. Name the animator who was known for his drawings of Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Elmer Fudd etc. and who passed away recently.
 9. Who scored the fastest double century in Test cricket recently?
 10. Which Indian won a Grammy recently — and for what composition?
- * * *
11. Which hospital has been chosen Chennai's best government hospital by the State Government?
 12. In a shocking incident, a rare Buddha idol was stolen from the Government Museum recently. To which period did the idol belong?
 13. What distinction has the State achieved as regards a statute on children?
 14. Which Chennai-based school has won the Intel Award for 'Integration of computer technology in curriculum'?
 15. Which Tamil work was recognised for a Sahitya Akademi Award 2001 in New Delhi on February 19th?
 16. After which college is College Road in Chennai named?
 17. What innovation has the Chennai Police made as regards booking traffic violators?
 18. Which Chennai-based player won the Asian Open chess championships in Bikaner recently?
 19. Which temple town is also known by the name of a certain shrub found in abundance there?
 20. Where in the State is there a tower to commemorate the victory of the British over Napoleon?
- (Answers on page 8)

Empowering women — through theatre

Manimekalai, the ancient Buddhist epic, written by Seethalai Sattanar, was the basis of a contemporary play staged recently as part of 'Kulavai', a women's theatre festival organised by Voicing Silence. "An unique effort at gendered theatre with the objective of giving 'voice to the voiceless'," Voicing Silence is now in its tenth year "acting as a catalyst in creating women's awareness and women's empowerment". Theatre has so far been the primary medium of the organisation's interventions.

Voicing Silence has been a combination of three main strands — first, developing plays on women's issues or gender themes; second, organising collective sharing of experiences at women's theatre festivals by bringing together cultural workers, theatre persons, social activists and NGOs; and third, working with different communities of women, encouraging them to use theatre as a tool of self-expression and empowerment.

Each year the focus of Voicing Silence has been different but its intention constant — to reach as diverse a section of people and in as many ways as possible, but through theatre. The focus of 'Kulavai 2002' was on women directors. Three completely varied experiences were presented — Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry's *Kitchen Katha* (Punjabi), Veenapani Chawla's *Ganapati* (Rhythmic Text) and *Manimekalai* (Tamil). They showcased the versatility of women directors, all artists in their own right, in dealing with diverse themes and issues in a sensitive and creative manner.

Says Mina Swaminathan, Honorary Director, Voicing Silence, "The 12 women professional stage artistes in *Manimekalai* are from seven theatre companies across Tamil Nadu. Not many people know that there are thousands of such companies in different parts of the State, and the women (invariably the chief breadwinners in their families) perform 200



Kitchen Katha — sensory magic. (Photograph: S. Anwar.)

nights a year, through the night, in the nine-month period between January and November! Some of them are illiterate, but all have a vast repertoire of plays and songs belonging to the traditional Tamil genre known as *isai natakam*. Sadly, they continue to be marginalised in their own profession and not recognised by the 'art world'. We decided to bring them together, in their 'lean' period (between November and January), to work with them to create consciousness, raise issues, and ultimately empower them

through their own medium, using skills they already possessed.

"All new plays are based on stories they are familiar with, and their own songs. They have only been re-examined and redone from a modern perspective. Being in an all-women's group can be a really liberating experience — less stereotyping, more empowerment. They grow as performers and as women, through their meetings with resource persons and colleagues in theatre. They learn to excel in improvisations, and reach newer and different audiences all over India. In fact, in one of their performances, in the Theatre Festival of the National School of Drama, Delhi, they were hailed as the first all-women troupe there in the last 25 years! Voicing Silence, ultimately, dreams of helping them set up a regular all-women company, when they will have sufficient opportunities throughout the year, and also be able to manage their own company in an organised manner."

For the women themselves, reaching a wider audience has meant more economic security which is high on their list of benefits. They have grown in self-confidence, and learnt to co-operate and work together as an all-women troupe. Says *Manimekalai*'s Director Mangai, "The living art and presence of these women performers transforms the theatre almost magically. As a definition of a woman's search for selfhood, *Manimekalai* is a profound and powerful image. This play has been for me a unique experience, working both with traditional performers and a classical text."

Manimekalai is yet another step towards Voicing Silence's dream of a permanent all-women company. And 'Kulavai' continues to march forward, a celebration and a coming together of, and by, women, without barriers, in theatres.

Padmini Natarajan

Shobha Menon

Sarvam plastic mayam

In the seaside town of Rameswaram and in the little village of Kovalam on the East Coast Road, plastic bags have been banned. Both places are inhabited by fisherfolk for whom the sea provides their livelihood. The polluting bags are a major hazard to the ecological environment and the fisherfolk, mostly uneducated and unlettered, have realised the evils of plastic, which has prompted them to take an affirmative action to ban its use. The St. Thomas' Mount area has also banned the use of disposable plastic containers at weddings and celebrations to help control garbage and rubbish disposal.

There was a time when the grocer would wrap a housewife's provisions in cones of newspaper tied up with string. Sweets, peppermints were wrapped in paper, peanuts were sold in paper cones, food items from restaurants were wrapped in banana leaves. Materials and garments were delivered in paper bags with printed brand or shop names. The wrappings were of an excellent raw material that was eco-friendly and biodegradable. Even gift wrapping was in lovely figured paper that could be disposed of easily. In

those days, plastic shopping bags were a craze when somebody came from abroad and brought gifts.

The introduction of plastic bags locally changed the scenario. Thin filament, thick plastic, recycled plastic, laminated brown and present wrapping paper, cardboard cartons and paper plates made with plastic coating or out of plastic itself, throwaway food containers for solids and liquids, all replaced the traditional stuff. These items began to be mass produced and, typically, at weddings from *tamboolam* to water, sweets and savouries to *payasam*, ice creams to coffee, tea and sherbet began to be served in disposable plasticware. Political parties too began to make their bunting in thin plastic and kites and tatters of these symbols of power became part of the skyline, hanging from lamp posts, trees, hoardings and flyovers. Cinema posters and advertisement posters too are being made in plastic.

Mountains of non-biodegradable matter began to build up. It littered the streets and the dustbins. It blocked drains and water pipes. It found its way into the stomachs of foraging domes-

tic animals, like cows, pigs and goats. Today, the urban and rural landscape is a plastic coloured one. Piles of rubbish with ragged strands of plastic decorate and mar the countryside.

It is time for the public to wake up and say NO TO PLASTIC as the fisherfolk have said. At least the educated, knowledgeable section of society and school children should start the awareness and avoidance campaign.

Newspaper, brown paper bags, recycled paper bags can be used to carry purchases. People should be encouraged, and perhaps even rewarded, for bringing their shopping bags to supermarket and greengrocer stores as is being done in Europe and the USA. Eco-friendly disposables made from banana, palm and the traditional *paraselai* are now available. The use of these materials will also encourage the making of these items in cooperatives and small villages and towns.

Thoughtfully preplanned shopping expeditions or celebrations can help save our world from becoming a landscape of *sarvam plastic mayam*.

The Madras Season

Growing madness, waning excitement

This year, the 'festivals season' was like going to a crafts mela. The varied handicrafts are available the year round in different emporiums in Chennai, yet you rush to the All-India Crafts Fair when it comes to town in the hope that you can get something rare, something old, something new, something you can cherish. But most often it is disappointing — rarely do you get something one can treasure! If nothing, it's a 'timepass' and you can have some fun too. So it is with the 'Season!' The experience may however be different for people from out of town.

Three months of the annual four-month-long music and dance season, spanning

has already crossed the total number of programmes conducted during the full four-month period of the 2000-2001 season. The total number of programmes in the first three-month period in 1999-2000 was 1923. In the comparable period this season, the figure has already touched 1980!

The reason for this is the increase in the number of music programmes to 1626. In 1999-2000 the number of music programmes in the same period was 1590; while in the 2000-2001 season, the music programmes featured in the full four-month period were only 1596.

The number of programmes by 'senior' musicians in the three months of this season has increased to 506 from 489 in the full season of 2000-2001 and 504 in 1999-2000. What this probably means is that a larger number of musicians have been given primetime slots. (The main yardstick used by *Srutai* is the grading given by the Music Academy.) Also, some 'senior' musicians probably sang more number of times than they did in the previous season.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of music programmes this time by musicians classified as 'others' — the number being 1112. This is higher than in the full four-month period in 2000-2001, although it is yet to touch the figure of 1171 in 1999-2000. What these figures suggest is the tendency of organisers to give performance opportunities to all and sundry, including a number of musicians on the borderline of eligibility judged by quality.

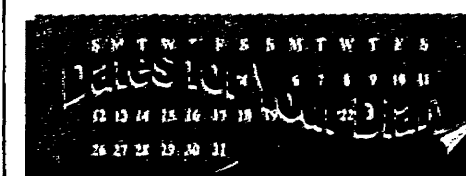
The following analysis is based on facts and figures available as on January 31, 2002.

- During the first three months of the 2001-2002 festivals season, the number of organisations conducting festivals was 63, more or less the same as in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.
- What is disturbing is that the total number of programmes has shot up considerably. Last Season there had been a significant reduction in the number of music and dance programmes, from 2052 in 1999-2000 to 1947 in 2000-2001. The total number of music and dance programmes in the first three months of this Season

- The total number of dance events — 365 — in the first three months of this season has already crossed the 351 in the full season of 2000-2001. This season's figures may yet catch up with the 371 in 1999-2000, for some marathon festivals were scheduled for February.
- The number of group presentations during this



A bit of Mamallapuram — seen by J. Prabhakar.



March 19-20: DakshinaChitra craft shop sale (at BestSeller Hall, Adyar).

March 20: An exhibition of paintings by K.C. Murugesan who, having specialised in landscapes, is now into the abstract and contemporary. (At Vinyasa.)

March 20: A dance performance by Preethi Athreya followed by an 8-min. screening of small choreographers. The piece they will perform is called *July 2001*. (At the British Council, 6.30 p.m.)

Till March 23: Recent multiples

and constructions by A. Balasubramaniam. (At Apparao Galleries.)

March 22-23: Kalamkari workshop with the focus on designing borders, motifs and figurative arts etc. Also interpretation of the art and its application to various utilitarian articles. (At DakshinaChitra.)

Till March 24: *Ugadi* celebrations highlight with culture and religion of Andhra Pradesh with folk performers from Andhra Pradesh and craft items from the State on display. (At DakshinaChitra.)

March 25: An exhibition of Yusuf Arakkal's paintings. (At Lalit Kala Akademi.)

March 25: Marble art and paintings by artist Vindhya Prasad. (At Amethyst.)

March 26: Group exhibition by Jaspal Singh, Anjani Reddy, Ritendra Roy, P.R. Satish, Milind Mullick, Somnath Maitry, Preeti Tamot and Venkateshwaralu Jagati. (At Apparao Galleries.)

Till March 27: An exhibition of line drawings by J. Prabhakar on Mamallapuram. Prabhakar brings a whole new perspective on the sculptures of Mamallapuram in his series of drawings. Also on display a collection of artefacts, curios and pictorial information. (At Manasthala.)

Frequency analysis

The following is a frequency analysis of performances by 'main' musicians and 'main' dancers in the peak period of the 2001-2002 festival season.

'Main' musicians — Seniors (Vocal): O.S. Thiagarajan — 16; T.V. Sankaranarayanan — 15; Neyveli Santhanagopalan — 14; Sanjay Subrahmanyam — 14; Sudha Raganathan — 14; P. Unnikrishnan — 14; T.M. Krishna — 13; T.N. Seshagopalan — 13; Aruna Sayeeram — 12, Bombay Sisters — 12; Nithyasree Mahadevan — 12; Hyderabad Brothers — 11; Priya Sisters — 11; S. Sowmya — 10; K.J. Yesudass — 10; Maharajapuram Ramachandran — 6; Ashok Ramani — 5; Geetha Rajasekar — 5; Hyderabad Sisters — 5; Raji Gopalakrishnan — 5; Madurai R. Sundar — 5; N. Vijay Siva — 5.

'Main' musicians — Others (Instrumental): Kadri Gopalanath — 12; N. Ramani — 12 (10 solo + 2 with R. Thyagarajan); U. Shrinivas (9 solo + 1 with U. Rajesh) — 10; N. Ravikiran — 7; Sikkil Sisters — 7; M.S. Gopalakrishnan & Narmadha — 6; Kunakudi R. Vaidyanathan — 6; E. Gayathri — 5; Lalgudi G.J.R. Krishnan & Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi (duo) — 5.

'Main' musicians — Others (Vocal): S.P. Ram — 10; Vijayalakshmi Subramanyam — 10; Malladi Brothers — 9; Gayathri Girish — 8; Lakshmi Rangarajan — 8; Sangeeta Swaminathan — 8; V. Sankaranarayanan — 8; Visalakshi Nityanand — 8; Ranjani & Gayathri — 7; R. Suryaprakash — 7; O.S. Arun — 6; Master Balamurali Krishna — 6; R. Ganesh — 6; Geetha Raja — 6;

'Main' dancers (Seniors & Others): Padma Subramanyam — 7; Chitra Visweswaran — 5; Srekal Bharath — 5; Alamel Valli — 4; Urmila Sathyaranayanan — 4; Priya Govind — 4; Malavika Sarukkai — 3. (Courtesy: *Srutai*.)

Sikkil Gurucharan — 6; Mambalam Sisters — 6; Palghat Ramprasad — 6; Sangeeta Sivakumar — 6; Sankaran Nambodiri — 6; N. Sasikiran & P. Ganesh — 6; Sriram Gangadharan — 6; Anuradha Suresh Krishnamurthy — 5; Aruna Ranganathan — 5; Lata Ramchand — 5; V.N. Padmini — 5; Ragam Sisters — 5; Sai Sisters — 5; Sathur Sisters — 5; V. Sowmya — 5; Sumitra Vasudev — 5.

'Main' Musicians — Seniors (Instrumental): Kadri Gopalanath — 12; N. Ramani — 12 (10 solo + 2 with R. Thyagarajan); U. Shrinivas (9 solo + 1 with U. Rajesh) — 10; N. Ravikiran — 7; Sikkil Sisters — 7; M.S. Gopalakrishnan & Narmadha — 6; Kunakudi R. Vaidyanathan — 6; E. Gayathri — 5; Lalgudi G.J.R. Krishnan & Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi (duo) — 5.

'Main' musicians — Others (Instrumental): Lalitha & Nandini — 9; Mala Chandrasekar — 9 (2 solo + 7 with Sikkil Sisters); U.P. Raju — 6 (4 solo + 2 with Nagamani); Ramnath Iyer & Gopinath Iyer — 6; Prabhavathy Ganesan — 6.

'Main' Dancers (Seniors & Others): Padma Subramanyam — 7; Chitra Visweswaran — 5; Srekal Bharath — 5; Alamel Valli — 4; Urmila Sathyaranayanan — 4; Priya Govind — 4; Malavika Sarukkai — 3. (Courtesy: *Srutai*.)

Have we killed this tourney?

The Hindu Trophy, a household name in the annals of Chennai cricket, is a phenomenon typical of the cricketing ethos of Madras rather than Chennai. By its very structure as it was conceived in 1950 and played for the next thirty years or so, it reflected the amateur spirit like no other form of cricket. Played on a 30-over basis, it meant that it was ideal for a batsman of a volatile temperament like Krishnamachari Srikkanth or C.B. Selvakumar (who once scored a double century in it). The batsman had no time to get his eye in; and had to start playing shots even as the umpire had barely finished calling 'Play'.

This made for attractive cricket, and as there was no restriction on the number of overs a bowler could bowl, it led to the development of specialist bowlers who could restrict the flow of runs. (Only in the mid-Eighties was the six-overs-per-bowler norm introduced.) In time, some bowlers began to

specialise in bowling a legside line with a packed outside field, until modern field restrictions and the wide rule were introduced.

The Hindu Trophy was originally the *Sport & Pastime* Trophy, when it was launched in the 1950-51 season. Old-timers will recall with much affection the magazine of that name that came out of *The Hindu* stable. According to a newspaper story, V.R. Lakshmi Ratan, a top official of Philips India, the first Indian Vice-President of Madras Cricket Club, and Secretary of the Madras Cricket Association, suggested the tournament to K. Srinivasan, Editor, *The Hindu*, in the hope that it would open the doors for employment for cricketers in Madras. It actually did. As branch manager of Philips, Lakshmi Ratan was himself instrumental in a number of cricketers getting jobs in his company. Binny's followed quite a few companies like Parry's, Esso and some of the

banks of the day, prominent among them State Bank, Indian Overseas Bank and Indian Bank.

Binny's beating *The Hindu* in the final, won the inaugural *Sport & Pastime* Trophy. It was perhaps the last time that a team promoted by the sponsor of the tournament progressed that far in the competition. Binny's won the tournament once again in its first decade, and so did Philips, which was led by Lakshmi Ratan, and included prominent first division league players like P.R. Sundaram and Rajasekhar Shetty. The 1959-60 edition of

LOOKING BACK

Sixties onwards, right into the Eighties, Parry was strong in the Sixties, and so was India Cements, but five of its titles came in the Nineties. Chemplast had five successes in the Eighties. Indian Overseas Bank's four successes have been spread over a long period. SPIC, TVS and Indian Bank are the other teams to have won the trophy more than once.

Anyone who has been associated with Chennai cricket will know how exciting and entertaining this brand of cricket could be, and the many, many gripping contests *The Hindu* Trophy provided. Veteran watchers will remember the exploits of the cricketers and interesting characters alike. Players like V. Aruldoss, K.S.S. Mani, Kripal Singh, M.K. Iqbal,

sarathi, P.S. Moses, P. Vijayakumar and many more, including international players of recent times like Robin Singh, S. Sriram, T. Kumaran, S. Ramesh, Hemang Badani, and Aashish Kapoor.

I have enjoyed taking part in this tournament for several years, and once as a member of the winning team in the final. In that match, made memorable by many twists and turns, I remember man-of-the-match Harjinder Singh being dropped by B. Arun, who made amends by taking a hat-trick and nearly pulling off a win for his side, Chemplast. I was padded up to go in at No. 10, and the tension was unbearable as Arun bowled the dying overs but, to my relief, I did not have to bat. My team, TVS, won with a couple of wickets to spare.

The crowd participation in the tournament was extraordinary, right until the Nineties, when even the novelty of the final being played under floodlights wore off soon, and crowds started thinning.

For the first time in over 50 years, *The Hindu* Trophy tournament for business houses was not held during the 2000-2001 season. It probably will not be held again, thanks to the circumstances that surrounded the cancellation of the final for the season 1999-2000 consequent to a protest by semifinals loser MRF team upheld by the TNCA, and a subsequent stay obtained by the original winner of the match, India Cements, who went to court over the issue. — (Courtesy: *Straight Bat*)

Editor's Note: Could we get back to cricket again, please, TNCA and corporates?

• by V. Ramnarayan

the tournament ended in a tie involving Philips and Standard Vacuum Oil Company (SVOC or Stanvac), later to become Esso. Each team scored 159. Allrounders V. Aruldoss and K. Rajendra were the stars of Stanvac.

Three teams have dominated *The Hindu* Trophy (renamed so after the publication of *Sport & Pastime* stopped) — State Bank of India, which has won it 12 times (inclusive of one title triumph by its so-called 'B' team), India Cements nine times and Chemplast six times in the five decades of its existence. Parry's and Indian Overseas Bank have won it four times each. While State Bank made its presence felt from the

B.R. Mohan Rai, R. Raghavan, A.G. Milkha Singh, S.J. Kedarnath, R. Prabhakar, R. Chandrasekhar, S.V.S. Mani, V.V. Kumar, S. Venkataraghavan, Satwender Singh, P. Ramesh, V. Sivaramakrishnan, S. Nataraj, S. Vasudevan, R. Ramesh, V. Krishnaswamy, C.S. Dayakar, P.K. Belliappa, Najam Hussain, P.K. Dharmalingam, K.R. Rajagopal and T.E. Srinivasan provided enthusiastic crowds pure entertainment. Later, there were some superb entertainers like K. Srikkanth, V.B. Chandrasekhar, W.V. Raman, Abdul Jabbar, Bharath Kumar, Arun Kumar, B. Arun, Senthilnathan, Ravi Mishra, R. Madhavan, M.O. Partha-

Answers to Quiz

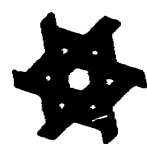
1. Alan Donald; 2. At Godhra railway station in Gujarat. The train was the 'Sabarmati Express'; 3. They stopped a pulse of light halt and then made it continue; 4. George Speight; 5. France's franc; 6. Viv Richards and Gary Gilmour; 7. G.N. Bajpai, the Chairman of LIC; 8. Chuck Jones; 9. Adam Gilchrist; 10. Pandit Ravi Shankar for his album *Full Circle/Carnegie Hall 2000*.

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11; Institute of Child Health

and Hospital for Children; 12. The Satavahana rule (around 150 A.D.); 13. It is the first State to gazette the rules on the new Juvenile Justice Act; 14. Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Senior Secondary School; 15. *Suthanthira Daagam* by the late Chinnamannur Chellappa; 16. College of Fort St. George (1812-54); 17. Introduced a computerised 'challenging' system; 18. K. Sasikiran; 19. Chidambaram, after the Thillai shrub; 20. Manora, near Pudukkottai.

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