

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS MUSINGS

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FREE ISSUE

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It was a brilliant idea to take advantage of the football fever to reinforce the company's goals for our managers!

Goal fever

There are some stranger-than-usual goings-on in the world at present.

One young gentleman goes on a rampage, inadvertently, he claims, thanks to a quarrel over the TV remote.

And 800,000 toilets flush within a time span of 15 minutes in Yokohama.

All because various groups of brightly-clad, enthusiastic – and very talented – young men kick a ball around a large open area.

Remarkable.

Chennai, I'm sure, has its own tales to tell.

The citizens are clearly divided: Those who watch football, and those who don't.

For the former, life is one big party. The latter group, however, consists of morose grumblers, who have been trying for days to have conversations about mundane, but unfortunately essential, everyday topics with the former group who, while genuinely trying to pay attention, have developed a disconcerting habit of suddenly flying out of their chairs with rousing cries. Or falling back with death-rattle groans. This startles the conversation-initiators into losing their tempers, and sharp words inevitably follow.

The air is thick with jargon: "Red card", "Throw-in", "Header".

And "Free-kick", "Corner-kick", "Scissor-kick", "Bicycle-kick".

One word of warning, though.

Do not impart too much information about kicks to Non-Watchers, who might be tempted to come up with a few innovations of their own.

Two worlds – one TV.

Where's a referee when you need one?

Ranjitha Ashok

City heritage rules drafted

(By A Special Correspondent)

At long last, Heritage Regulations for the city have been drafted by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority and were recently discussed at a meeting convened by the Member Secretary. Present were representatives from various Government Departments and other institutions concerned with the subject as well as from the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage which has been spearheading the campaign for

a Heritage Act for the State, but which would welcome Heritage Regulations for the Chennai Metropolitan area as a first step.

Presenting the Regulations, Ananda Ranjana Doss, Chief Urban Planner and the first CMDA official to be made a Member of the Authority, who with his team drafted the regulations, said that he hoped that after the discussions final submissions would be made before

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That's where I'll one day be headed, seems to foresightedly point the Kannagi statue in this picture taken a few weeks before the statue was removed in mysterious circumstances. The anonymous photographer who sent it to us, no sooner than a committee had recently decided that the statue could be taken out of its place of hiding and re-located just south of Presidency College, hopes that if it overlooks the Presidency College grounds it might bring that famed piece of turf a new lease of life. He, however, adds that, seen from the view in the picture, he can't for the life of him see how the location it was in was an accident-prone one. But the committee wasn't worried about that issue; it just wanted an alternative site nearby and, hopefully, the hand of doom will become a hand of benediction for at least an ill-treated piece of Madras cricketing history.

The MRTS has much to offer

The lethargy of Chennaiites to use trains has not given a momentum to the Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS). Rationalisation of bus services in the city will bring in more patronage for train services, stated N. Ramasubramanian, Chief

Administrative Officer, MRTS, in an interview given to *Industrial Economist's* Anusha Raman. Some of the rest of what he said:

The MRTS was one of the well-conceived projects for Chennai, but it seems to move at a

very slow pace. Why this tortoise show?

It is a widespread view that the project is taking a very long time for construction. I must tell you that the physical construction of the project takes time because of its complexity and tech-

nology. There is perfect coordination between the state government and the Railways, and the project is moving at a decent speed.

The whole project, extending to a distance of about 60 km, is complete for 9 km. The second phase, for another 11 km, will become functional by 31 December 2002. The first phase, which cost about Rs.260 crore, was fully borne by the Railways. The second phase will cost about Rs.689 crore; two-thirds of the cost is being borne by the state government and one-third by Railways. The state government has been cooperating with the Railways for the construction of this project.

All the land that was needed for construction till now has been along the Buckingham Canal, and it is government land. There has not been much of a legal problem in acquiring it, though eviction of encroachers from this land took considerable time. The state government took efforts to rehabilitate the slumdwellers through the Slum

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Making slow headway

(By A Special Correspondent)

Thirumailai (why not plain, simple Mylapore, we do not know) railway station is a busy one nowadays with office-goers happy. There is an increased frequency of service and users are taking the trains to work.

The rush is from the south Madras neighbourhood. A ride from Adyar to Mylapore by bus or on a two-wheeler, and a train journey to north Madras now takes just less than 30 minutes, whereas a ride through the town from home in Adyar to office in Parry's Corner takes at least 40 minutes.

The increased services are between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. from Thirumailai and between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. from Beach. A train leaves Thirumailai station every ten minutes, though the frequencies drop on Sundays.

There has however been some overcrowding at the Park and Beach stations at peak hours because of rationalisation of the car rakes to suit the

Railway's scheduling, but this will improve, it is promised. A greater need is linking bus services. MTC needs to operate buses from Thirumailai to residential belts in Adyar-Velachery-Madipakkam at the peak hours.

This will enable office-goers from these areas to opt for a bus-train transport option. And if a bus-train season ticket is offered for the daily commuter, traffic on this sector will further improve and take the load off the city's roads in the south-north corridor.

Later this year, the MRTS will operate beyond Thiruvanniyur in the south, with stops at Indira Nagar II Avenue, Kasturba Nagar, Kotturpuram and Velachery. At present, trains run from Beach to Tirumailai and back from 6.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m., with six trains an hour on weekdays between 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. and from 5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m., with two or three trains per hour during the rest of the day.

Signs of hope on the Heritage front

The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority a couple of years ago convened a Heritage Committee comprising Government departments and institutions concerned with buildings and the environment as well as NGOs like the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage which had long been asking for a Heritage Act for the whole State. The Committee was intended to promote Heritage awareness, bring to the notice of the CMDA threats to Built and Natural Heritage and advise on the framing of Heritage Regulations for the City which could be incorporated in the Development Control Rules, recommended to other urban authorities and lay the foundation for the Heritage Act. Several meetings were held, but little came of them, particularly as it was pointed out that there was no point talking about heritage preservation and conservation unless there was some kind of mechanism in place to ensure heritage buildings, precincts and environs were protected by at least some kind of law that would enable violators to be taken to task. For one reason or another, preparing the draft regulations took its time, even though there were model regulations suggested by the Central Government and local regulations from Bombay and Hyderabad to draw on. *The Man From Madras Musings* is now happy to state that despite all the delays, a quite satisfactory set of Heritage Regulations has been drafted by a CMDA team led by Chief Urban Planner and first Member of the CMDA from its permanent cadre, Ananda Ranjana Doss, and Deputy Planner Chitra.

These two Vice-Chancellors with their past records and interests have every opportunity to make a difference to the venerable institutions they now head. At Madras University, Fr. Ignacimuthu needs to look at several Humanities Departments that need new life breathed into them. One that MMM can think of is the Centre for South and South-east Asia Studies, once a centre of excellence, particularly in such areas as Sri Lanka, Malaysia and

hopes that the implementation will be as good as the regulations drafted. It is nice to at last see a sign of hope on the most important heritage front of all.

Two for restoring

The Man From Madras Musings welcomes the appointment of Fr. Ignacimuthu and Prof. E. Balaguruswamy as Vice-Chancellors of the University of Madras and Anna University. Both are exceptional researchers in scientific fields, both are good managers and both have the background to pay greater attention to the Humanities - Fr. Ignacimuthu's foundations being the institutions he has been associated with in the past, all of them among the pioneering Jesuit institutions contributing to education in South India, and Prof. Balaguruswamy's being his commitment to writing and publishing.

Senate House, in particular, is being looked at by the Heritage and Tourism Committee of CII and the Skol Congress Organising Committee as a venue which, if restored, can show off Madras's Indo-Saracenic architectural heritage to the 1500 delegates from the international travel industry expected to converge on Chennai for their annual Convention in October 2003. The University of Madras should capitalise on this golden opportunity to do *Senate House* a bit of good.

Why not for us?

He had dreams for higher education in the State, particularly of making Anna University a Centre of Excellence. He had played a major role in making Tamil uniform for worldwide computer use and taking the first steps to bringing the computer to every village in the State. He was committed to several other causes that would ensure a better life for the citizenry of the State. Yet, Tamil Nadu appears to have

technical education in the country, restructure the existing systems to ensure greater transparency, and prepare the way for the AICTE to meet the technical personnel needs of the country for the next ten years.

It was just this that Prof. Anandakrishnan had wanted to do in Tamil Nadu, MMM knows, and that is why he found little favour in certain circles in the State in the last year or so. His belief that if Anna University was to develop as a centre of excellence it should not become an affiliating university and take in around 300 colleges under its fold also did not win him any friends in the political world, even if academia strongly agreed with him - but remained silent. And so, as MMM sees it, Tamil Nadu's loss is Kerala's and the Centre's gain.

Sadly, MMM sees this in so many other fields in the State. It is a State where nowadays progress by the local administration seems mainly to concentrate on undoing the work of a previous regime, on focussing on making targets of those who held the reins of power previously instead of ignoring them and getting on with the job, and on seeing enemies where there are none, only those who want to do a good job for a State that can do without politics. When are our politicians of every ilk going to think more of the people and less of their pet hates, wonders MMM.

Why building always?

Every time there's a plan to beautify a place and make it attractive for tourists and other visitors, there's always a building component to it in Tamil Nadu. And *The Man From Madras Musings* wonders why.

A plan for a beach park in Rameswaram involves three rock arches. A heritage village involves building a whole new village. Elsewhere it is statuary, fountains and what have you.

Can't we just make places attractive by restoring what are their chief attractions, by cleaning up the area and keeping it clean, by providing cleaner and better comfort facilities, in fact, by making those in charge of such destinations care for what they should naturally take pride in? Why must it always be constructing something or other which has little relevance to the environment of the destination?

Perhaps organisations interested in transparency and the environment would like to look into this Tamil Nadu fancy for building to attract the tourist or to solve a problem. In the case of the latter, flyovers, for instance - and the City Fathers are now thinking of several more - are seen as the answer to the traffic problem, NOT the need to enforce road discipline, which will come cheaper. MMM can think of several other such instances fit for examination. But drawing the attention of the Government to such wastefulness is something few publicly do. And so we get what we deserve.

—MMM

An ugly squabble

What's happened to sports-manship? What's happened to the tradition of officers and gentlemen serving India, wonders *The Man From Madras Musings*. The latest of the sporting squabbles in the State is even uglier than previous ones - and, sadly, external forces have been brought into it to show a bit of muscle. Battling it out appear to be the Royal Madras Yacht Club of hallowed vintage and the start-up Tamil Nadu Sailing Association that thinks that it is more committed to the sport than a club which feels sport and clubbing can live together as in the past. The squabble between the two is, MMM understands, likely to go beyond the yacht basin in Chennai Harbour and spill into the courts - if it has already not done so. And to take sport to court is the ugliest thing possible, thinks sport-loving MMM whose romance with sport is nearly sixty years old.

A still uglier part of what's been happening in the yacht basin is the role of a wing of the armed services in the whole affair. Suddenly out of the blue, armed representatives of this

force descended on the Royal Madras Yacht Club premises one day recently and demanded the Club just up and quit the premises - just like that! And to add emphasis to their request, their weaponry is alleged to have been menacingly waved around - and accusations of the Club being a threat to national security made. Now to MMM that seems to be grounds for the Club to go to court on and not any squabble with a rival association.

MMM just can't understand why, if this armed forces wing wanted the Club to vacate the premises because the security forces' needs were greater than a sporting club's, it did not negotiate the matter and find a way to reach an amicable settlement. Surely that would be the way of officers and gentlemen - and not by waving military hardware around. MMM hopes that before long, all this will get sorted out, that sport - even in the hands of two rival associations - will be allowed to progress and the armed forces wing will get around to conducting its battles in more appropriate settings and not in clubhouses.

OUR READERS WRITE

Poet Bharati's dream

When the Pamban Bridge linking the Indian mainland with Rameswaram Island was completed in 1988, the media, especially the vernacular media, hailed it as Poet Bharati's dream come true. I explained to several reporters who had a special drive over the bridge before it was inaugurated and formally thrown open to the public, that what we had done was only to link an Indian island with the mainland; what Poet Bharati visualised and dreamt of was a bridge to Sri Lanka. The Pamban Bridge is only the first of many steps to reach Sri Lanka. But with the bridge, what the poet dreamt has come into the realm of the possible.

I have been crusading over the last 14 years in various national and international forums for a feasibility study to be undertaken by the two Governments to physically link the two countries. Last year, the Institution of Engineers, Tamil Nadu State Centre, organised a seminar on 'India & Sri Lanka Co-operation in Technology for Development' jointly with the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka. At this seminar it was explained that real co-operation and development needed the construction of a road link between India and Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan engineers agreed and, considering the importance of this bridge, are organising a seminar in Colombo from August 31, 2002, focussed on this link bridge.

It is gratifying to note that Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee have agreed to initiate a feasibility study on such a bridge.

Let it not rest with the feasibility study. Let the Poet's dream come true.

D. Srinivasan
Chennai 600 020.

Forgotten Kannadigas

I was born in Mylapore and have lived in the same house for the last 72 years and therefore I write to you with personal knowledge of the locality.

The Kennedy Streets in Mylapore were originally a colony of Kannadigas, who were curd-sellers (*thayir karar*). They used to carry the curd pots (*thayir panai*) in baskets on their heads. They also wore a black woollen-like cloth on their heads. They had a peculiar way of announcing their coming, by calling 'koo' (long). The two streets where they lived in small tiled houses were called Kannadiyan Theru (Kannadiyan Streets). As years passed, the community became extinct, but the newcomers still used the same name but in a shortened way, Kannady Street.

Suddenly the Corporation painted the street names on its boards as 'Kennedy Street'. This is like the story behind the Hamilton Bridge being called 'Barbers' Bridge'.

With the change, we can now proudly claim we have also honoured the late lamented President of the U.S.A. by renaming two

obscure streets in a corner of Mylapore after him, thanks to the fancy of a municipal sign painter!

K. Narayanaswami
Chennai 600 004.

No addresses, BUT...

From this fortnight onwards, in response to requests from some readers who have been embarrassed by our policy of publishing their full addresses with their letters, we will be publishing only the town and pincode from which they write. But, for *Madras Musings'* records, we require the full address of the writer. Letters which do not carry the full address will NOT be published.

We took this decision after we received letters from several readers informing us that they had received importuning correspondence from, of all places, Orissa, stating that the writers had seen the addresses in *Madras Musings*. We are flattered to find that *Madras Musings* is read as far away as in Orissa, but the consequences of such reading we had least expected. So, in future, *Madras Musings* DOES need addresses from every reader sending us a letter, but the full address will NOT be published if the letter is used in 'Our Readers Write' feature.

—The Editor

Befouled Marina

In *Madras Musings*, May 16th, the picture of fishermen easing themselves on the sands of Marina was a sorry spectacle.

The degradation of the beach began when, after Independence, political parties gained full control over the fate of our country and the parties in Madras, seeing a solid vote bank in the fisherfolk, started pampering them by giving them residential quarters near the shoreline of Madras.

It is argued that building a number of lavatories along the shoreline will deter the people from easing themselves on the sands. This is not likely. The fisherfolk are children of nature and they have been living on the wide open beaches for generations. Even a few minutes in an enclosed space will make them claustrophobic. Toilets provided to them will remain unused.

Since Independence, we have successfully befouled beyond repair the two rivers of Chennai, namely the Cooum and Adyar. Now it is

Changing the traffic pattern

A traffic survey was conducted in 1974 by the Madras Area Transportation Study Unit (MATSU) at the behest of the State Government on the Beach Road opposite the then University Exam Hall (opposite Triplicane Railway Station) as part of their overall study. The peak hour traffic is extracted below:

Hours	Heavy Goods	Light Goods	Bus	Cars	Motorcycles/Two-wheelers	Autos	Pedal Cycles	Slow Moving	Total
7-8	—	18	293	162	55	Not mentioned	451	51	1030
8-9	—	23	260	235	77		637	61	1293
9-10	—	18	259	579	216		836	69	1977
15-16	—	7	267	452	124		619	85	1554
16-17	—	22	288	445	185		774	80	1794
17-18	—	10	308	455	236		943	73	2045
18-19	1	19	300	511	203		635	52	1721

In 1996, another traffic survey was conducted at the same location by the SRM Engineering College students, as part of their project work, and the figures below are extracted from their report. This was before the MRTS to Luz was commissioned.

Hours	Heavy Goods	Light Goods	Bus	Cars	Motorcycles/Two-wheelers	Autos	Pedal Cycles	Slow Moving	Total
7-8	23	30	180	474	569	244	199	10	1729
8-9	24	28	178	744	1369	443	258	14	3058
9-10	26	53	163	1315	2230	550	375	8	4720
15-16	24	36	136	1140	1838	649	322	51	4196
16-17	28	61	133	1201	1878	659	249	59	4262
17-18	20	60	145	1248	1823	510	278	42	4175
18-19	20	60	129	1619	2157	644	277	27	4933

Note: The peak hour had changed due to introduction of five working days in a week.

A comparison between the two would reveal

- Bus trips have come down by 30% to 50%
- Car trips have gone up by more than two times
- Motorcycle/Two-wheeler trips have gone up by 10 times
- Slow-moving vehicle trips have come down by more than 50%
- The overall trips have gone up by 3 times

Whereas the MATSU report also projected 3 times increase in overall trips, it was assumed that this increase would be in the form of mass transit trips, namely public transport etc. On the contrary, mass transit trips have come down and a shift from public transport system to private transport system has taken place.

The probable reasons could be

- Opening of a new bridge at Kotturpuram. Some bus trips might have been diverted through this new route.
- Affluent society settling in Adyar, Mylapore areas and largely using private vehicles. General tendency to shift to two-wheelers in order to save time.

With the commissioning of MRTS upto Luz, it may be worthwhile to observe if there is a further change in the traffic pattern by conducting another survey at the same location.

V. Rabindran
Chennai 600 107.

Home Nursing apart from Air Raid practices.

Captain Lakshmi came to our college to conduct these courses and many of us, while trying to pay attention to her, were so enthralled by her beauty that we kept gazing at her. She herself seemed to be unaware of our attention.

Shortly afterwards, she left for Singapore, joined Subhas Bose and organised the Rani of Jhansi Regiment. We looked forward at one stage to Subhas Bose coming with an Army to deliver us from the British and dreamt of hearing the call 'Delhi chalo'.

Lakshmi Sehgal's autobiography, *Autobiography of a Revolutionary*, is a book to be read. Good to know that at 88 she is fighting fit and taking care of the needy.

Then came the news of Lakshmi Sehgal's nomination as a Presidential candidate. I am a great admirer of Captain Lakshmi as many of my generation are. During World War II, when we were students of Queen Mary's College, we had to undergo short courses in First Aid and

1st). I followed the fortunes of Wimco in the local league. However, the team which fought fire with fire was East Asiatic Company, a Danish firm from Tondiarpet which, under the watchful eyes of a D'cruz, played positive football for years. They had their workout daily at Tondiarpet.

C.K. Subramanian
Vashi 400 705.

PLEASE NOTE

- All letters for The Editor's attention should be addressed to The Editor, c/o Lokavani Hall-Mark Press Pvt. Ltd., 62/63, Greames Road, Chennai 600 006.

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

- Madras Musings does not accept letters by e-mail.

Wimco & East Asiatic

Despite being a cricketer fan, I was a keen follower of football in Madras in the 1940s (MM, June

Once-famed venue for the fine arts

(Continued from last fortnight)

George Town, I have written in these columns earlier, was the centre of urban life in the first quarter of the 20th Century. The Ramanuja *koodams*, the *Bhajana mandirams*, the *matams* and the 'Patnam' temples were all venues for music, dance and theatrical performances. The YMCA on the Esplanade was also a venue for such programmes. And Gokhale Hall, when it was built, became the most popular venue of the lot.

The big names of Carnatic Music performed in Gokhale Hall. Noteworthy among these was Kanchipuram Naina Pillai, the great star who died while still young (1934). Accompanying him was a record number of accompanists, nine in all. These consisted of a vocal accompanist, a violinist, other side men playing on the *midangam* and *dholak*, the *ghatam*, the *gettu*, the *morsing* and the *kanjira* and, finally, a *konnakkol* artiste who specialised in reciting rhythmic phrases. None of these side men was in any way less stellar material and it was only a forceful personality like Naina who could keep them under control. Each song would take at least half an hour, given that each artiste on stage had to be allotted a chance to display his skills. Many of today's veterans, such as D.K. Pattammal, S.T. Mukta and S. Rajam remember attending Naina Pillai's concerts in the Gokhale Hall.

Naina was a traditionalist and eschewed even the slightest hint of Hindustani music in his performances. It was at the Gokhale Hall that at the end of the main piece, a voice from the balcony said "Hindustani, please", requesting Naina to sing a song in a light *raga*. Naina looked up and asked the offender to identify himself. "Do you have any knowledge of music?" he thundered and then promptly went on to render weighty *raga* after *raga*.

In 1918, Gokhale Hall was witness to the first performance in Madras of Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavata. He was accompanied by three heavyweights from the 'Kaveri belt', then the stronghold of Carnatic music. These were Malaikottai Govindasamy Pillai, the violinist, and Pudukottai Dakshinamurthy Pillai and Kumbakonam Azhaganambi Pillai, the percussionists. The three considered Naina in his initial years an upstart, as he was from outside the

Kaveri belt and decided to offer Chembai as an alternative. In time, they were all to become ardent fans of Naina.

The concert of Chembai was advertised with handbills and drew huge crowds. His powerful voice, accentuated by the acoustics, attracted passersby and soon the Hall was filled to overflowing. The organisers closed the doors, but soon a large and restive crowd outside was demanding to be let in. The organisers and the gatecrashers finally came to an agreement. The doors were thrown open so that those outside could stand there and listen to the music.



A cartoon by Mali of a concert in Gokhale Hall.

Malaikottai Govindasamy Pillai's last concert was also at Gokhale Hall, in 1930. Pillai was active in raising funds for the Samadhi of Tyagaraja at Tiruvaiyaru and held a series of concerts at Gokhale Hall for this purpose. Incapacitated by a stroke, he had to be carried on to the stage for two performances. The first was to accompany his dear friend Naina. The second one was as accompanist to Palghat Rama Bhagavata, another leading singer of his times. At the end of the second concert, a visibly exhausted Pillai publicly thanked Rama Bhagavata for accepting an invitation from a 'small man' such as himself. The Bhagavata burst into tears. Pillai was dead in a few months.

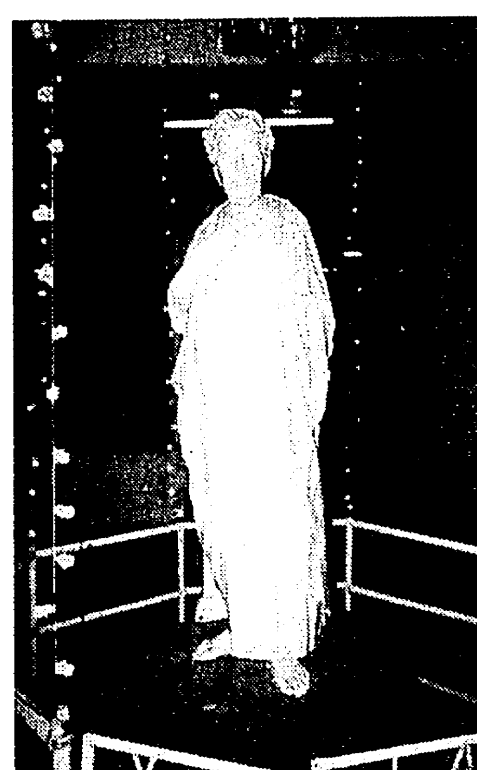
Maharajapuram Vishwanatha Iyer, Ariyakkudi Ramanuja Iyengar, Musiri Subrahmanya Iyer and Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer were also great draws at the Hall. Vishwanatha Iyer, whose voice was often recalcitrant, would take time to warm up. Once he was in full swing, a board would be placed outside the Hall stating "Maharajapuram in full form". Fans would line up to purchase tickets. Musiri Subrahmanya Iyer was known for his emotive and slow-paced singing. Among the songs that he

rendered with great passion was *Theylai Thottatile*, which highlighted the plight of bonded labour in Malaysia, Burma and Sri Lanka. Gokhale Hall audiences would wait for this song, invariably sung towards the end of the concert, and there would not be a dry eye in the place. Another song that Musiri made famous here was *Tiruvadi Charanam*, a song composed by Gopalakrishna Bharati as part of his opera *Nandan Charitiram*, which is about a devotee of low caste aspiring to see the Lord at Chidambaram. This contains the line, *tallal aagaadu* (do not push) and was used to good effect by

wags when the narrow exit was blocked by patrons trying to get out after Musiri's performances. So great was the crowd for one Semmangudi concert that when he himself arrived, the watchman sternly turned him out saying the Hall was full and there was no space! The latter day Trinity of Carnatic Music, M.S. Subbulakshmi, D.K. Pattammal and M.L. Vasanthakumari, also performed here regularly.

Such was the fame of the Hall as a venue for music programmes that as a young and aspiring artiste, Kunnakkudi Vaidyanathan, newly arrived in Madras, walked into the Hall one day and requested its office bearers to give him a chance to perform there. They explained that they merely rented out the Hall to various *sabhas*! He was to remember this much later when a documentary was made about him.

Kalki Krishnamurthy, the celebrated writer, was a regular at these programmes and his reviews, appearing under the *nom de plume* 'Karnatakam' in *Ananda Vikatan*, could make or break an artiste's reputation. Filled with pungent wit they may have been, but they also displayed his deep knowledge of the subject. Kalki, an ardent lover of Tamil, began to lament the



The builder of Gokhale Hall - Annie Besant - remembered in the building.

emphasis given to singing songs in Telugu and Sanskrit. C.N. Annadurai, later to become the Chief Minister of the State, also wrote in the 1930s of how he used to patiently listen to Naina Pillai singing song after song in Telugu, just to have the pleasure of hearing him sing a *Tinappugazh* at the end. Slowly a movement to bring Tamil compositions to the fore gained momentum and Gokhale Hall became the venue for these Tamizh Isai concerts. Kalki's close friend T. Sadasivam and his wife M.S. Subbulakshmi joined the movement and this gave it a major fillip. The powerful Justice Party also threw its weight behind the movement and many of its leaders, such as Sir K. Ramunni Menon, Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar, Sir Pitty Tyagaraya Chetty, and the Mudaliar twins championed the cause from the Gokhale Hall.

The movement predictably got divided on casteist lines and soon a 'Songs in all Languages' lobby sprang up, with people like Justice T.L. Venkatarama Iyer, Parur Sundaram Iyer the violinist, Ariyakkudi Ramanuja Iyengar the vocalist and M.S. Ramaswamy Iyer the musicologist firing broadsides at the Tamizh Isai group. Their citadel was the Music Academy, then functioning from the Rasika Ranjani Sabha, Mylapore.

In 1941, a Tamizh Isai Conference was held in Chidambaram, under the auspices of Annamalai University, and a resolution was passed demanding that henceforth concerts in Madras Presidency should feature Tamil songs only. This was hotly debated and *The Hindu* firmly placed itself on the side of the 'Songs in all Languages' lobby. Both sides began a correspondence war in the pages of *The Hindu*. Artistes such as M.M. Dandapani Desigar, T.N. Swaminatha Pillai and M.S. Subbulakshmi gave performances only in Tamil at the Gokhale Hall, as fund raisers for the newly formed Tamizh Isai Sangam. Not long

(Continued on page 6)

NOSTALGIA

Slow boat to a feast

To many Anglo-Indians of Madras, the very mention of Covelong conjures up nostalgic memories of an fun-filled boat journey, a fervour-soaked ten-day feast and a church of miracles on the coast of Coromandel.

Till the 1950s, the only conveyance from Madras to the annual feast of the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Covelong, 10 miles away, was by small boats that plied from Lattice Bridge, Adyar, to the Church. These boats were pulled by men using two ropes attached to either side - they ran along the banks of the narrow river. If luck was with them and the wind was in their favour, then the sails would be raised.

Boats varied from one ton to six ton vessels, the latter accommodating large families of devotees.

Back in the 1930s, people would engage horse-drawn *julkas* for only two or three rupees in different parts of the city to reach Lattice Bridge.

The Dubiers were one of the many families that took a very keen interest in the Covelong Church feast. Anthony and Beatrice Dubier were acclaimed professional musicians, Anthony playing the violin and Beatrice the piano, violin and organ - she was a respected music instructor in Madras schools. Apart from this, both Beatrice and Anthony played 'live' for the silent Hollywood movies during



Church of our Lady of Mount Carmel in Covelong.



One of the 'car' processions in Covelong.

the matinee and evening shows at the Elphinstone and Casino.

Anthony, Beatrice and their five daughters and three sons would start preparing at least a month earlier for the feast. Anthony would go to the Adyar

river to engage a boat well in advance and Beatrice would organise the packing of rations such as rice, oil, wheat flour, sugar, *masalas*, coffee, tea, cheese, etc. for the ten-day-long stay.

The best hurricane lamps would be wiped clean and filled

with kerosene, their wicks trimmed to perfection. Even certain favourite furniture like folding cots and easy-chairs would be polished and kept ready for the trip. New clothes would be stitched for the feast so that everyone could attend the daily mass and evening processions looking their very best.

Besides the extended Dubier family - Anthony's numerous cousins, uncles and aunts - other Anglo-Indian families who faithfully made the trip were the Nettos, Jeremiahs, Collins, Suares, Fallons, Florys, Loverys and Palmans to name but a few.

Most families would leave their homes by *julkas* and bullock-carts at four in the morning so as to board their boats by seven. Apart from the food rations, cooking utensils, furniture, guitars, violins and organs, some even brought along their pet dogs, parrots and mynahs for good measure!

The boats would start to arrive one by one at Covelong beach by four in the evening. Most of the families would head for the nearby Feast Bungalow to check in and settle in for the night. The Feast Bungalow later on became a Cheshire Home for the aged. Some would occupy classrooms at the small school in the Church compound, after getting permission from the Parish priest.

The feast is always celebrated on the following Friday, Saturday and Sunday after 16th July, unless 16th July is itself a Saturday or Sunday.

The duration of the feast is 10 days, including the days of hoisting and lowering of the flag.

Example:

13th July, Friday - Flag Hoisting.

16th July, Monday - The actual feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

20th July, Friday - Eucharistic Procession.

21st July, Saturday - 'Car' Procession.

22nd July, Sunday - Feast day and Lowering of the Flag.



On a slow boat to Covelong for ten days.



Masses were held every morning. Beatrice would play the organ while Anthony accompanied her on his violin for the service.

After lunch, the youngsters would go down to the sea for a dip and play on the beach.

Every evening, there would be a grand colourful procession, with Our Lady of Mount Carmel in her well-decorated 'car'. Petromax gas lamps provided the required light and everyone was well turned out, especially the little Anglo-Indian girls in their lovely frocks. Hymns would be sung by all the women in front, accompanied by the splendid voices of Eric Netto and Selwyn Dubier, Richard Suares' heavy bass voice and the strains of the Dubiers' violins.

Leading the procession were 'cars' with the statues of St. Michael, St. Aloysius, St. Anthony, St. Joseph and Jesus. These heavy and decorated 'cars' were carried by the village fisherfolk of Covelong, most of

them Hindus, but believers in Our Lady. The cars were taken around the village on Saturday night and Sunday morning, ending with blessings from the Parish priest.

After the procession is over there would usually be a bit of sing-song and dancing.

Even today, Covelong is a small and peaceful fishing hamlet. It is now called Kovalam, and was then under the rule of the Dutch, the French and later the British.

Like all good things in life, the ten-day long feast would eventually come to an end. The flag, beautifully embossed with the image of Our Lady, would be lowered, folded and handed over to the Parish priest, to be used again the following year.

After saying their prayers to Our Lady and goodbyes to one another, the families would board their respective boats and depart. (Text and pictures courtesy: *Anglos in the Wind*.)

The man who built the church



John D'Monte's statue in Covelong.

The Church was founded by the Rev. Fr. Carmelitta between 1770 and 1780. He died before its completion.

At that time, John D'Monte, a devout Portuguese Christian merchant of Madras, lived with his family on the coast of Coromandel. Due to the sudden death of his son, Christopher, his wife became mentally unstable. She used to constantly wander off onto the beach but always ended up at the incomplete Covelong Chapel.

It is at this time, legend has it, Our Lady of Mount Carmel appeared to John D'Monte and promised to cure his wife if he completed the building. This he did gladly. The church was completed in 1808 and his wife became stable after that.



Sailing back from Covelong.

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

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The thoughts of Abdul Kalam

I have three visions for India. In 3000 years of our history, people from all over the world have come and invaded us, captured our lands, conquered our minds. Yet we have not done this to any other nation. We have not conquered anyone. We have not grabbed their land, their culture, and their history and tried to enforce our way of life on them. Why? Because we respect the freedom of others. That is why my first vision is that of FREEDOM.

My second vision for India is DEVELOPMENT. For fifty years we have been a developing nation. It is time we see ourselves as a developed nation. We are among top five nations of the world in terms of GDP. We have 10 per cent growth rate in most areas. Our poverty levels are falling. Our achievements are being globally recognised today. Yet we lack the self-confidence to see ourselves as a developed nation, self-reliant and self-assured.

I have a third vision. India must stand up to the world. Because I believe that unless India stands up to the world, no one

● You might or might not agree with the choice of this scientist for President of India, but there is no gainsaying that his homespun wisdom is proving inspirational to the young and is almost a Gandhian call to the nation. Madras Musings is therefore happy to publish these views of the Man from Rameswaram sent in by a reader.

will respect us. Only strength respects strength. We must be strong not only as a military power but also as an economic power. Both must go hand-in-hand.

Why is the media here so negative? Why are we in India so embarrassed to recognise our strengths, our achievements? We are such a great nation. We have so many amazing success stories, but we refuse to acknowledge them. Why? We are first in milk production. We are

number one in remote sensing satellites. We are the second largest producer of wheat. We are the second largest producer of rice. There are millions of achievements, but our media is only obsessed with the bad news and failures and disasters.

I was in Tel Aviv once and was reading an Israeli newspaper. It was the day after a lot of attacks and bombardments and deaths had taken place. The Hamas had struck. But the front page of the newspaper had the picture of an Israeli who in five years had transformed his desert land into an orchard and a granary. It was this inspiring picture that everyone woke up to. The gory details of killings, bombardments, deaths were inside in the newspaper, buried among other news. In India we only read about death, sickness, terrorism, crime. Why are we so negative?

Another question: Why are we as a nation so obsessed with foreign things? Why this obsession with everything imported? Do we not realise that self-reliance comes with self-reliance? I was in Hyderabad giving a lec-

ture, when a 14-years-old girl asked me for my autograph. I asked her what her goal in life was. She replied, "I want to live in a developed India". For her, you and I must build a developed India. You must proclaim, India is not an underdeveloped nation but a highly developed one.

* * *

YOU say that our government is inefficient. YOU say that our laws are too old. YOU say that the municipality does not pick up the garbage. YOU say that the phones don't work, the railways are a joke, the airline is the worst in the world, and mails never reach their destination. YOU say that our country has been fed to the dogs and is the absolute pits. YOU say, say and say. What do YOU do about it?

Yet in Singapore you don't throw cigarette butts on the roads or eat in the stores. YOU are as proud of their underground links. You pay \$5 (approx. Rs. 100) to drive through Orchard Road between 5 PM and 8 PM. YOU come back to the parking lot to punch your parking ticket, if you have overstayed in a restaurant or a shopping mall, irrespective of your status. In Singapore you don't say anything, DO YOU? YOU wouldn't dare to eat in public during Ramadan in Dubai. YOU would not dare to go out without your head covered in Jeddah. YOU would not dare to buy an employee of the telephone exchange in London at 10 pounds (Rs. 650) a month to "see to it that my STD and ISD calls are billed to someone else". YOU would not dare to speed beyond 55 mph (88 kmph) in Washington and then tell the traffic cop, "Do you know who I am. I am so and so's son. Take your two bucks and get lost." YOU wouldn't chuck an empty coconut shell anywhere other than in the garbage pail on the beaches in Australia and New Zealand.

When it comes to burning social issues like those related to women, dowry, girl child and others, we make loud drawing room protestations and continue to do the reverse at home. Our excuse? "It's the whole system which has to change. How will it matter if I alone forego my sons' rights to a dowry?" So who's going to change the system? What does a system consist of? Very conveniently for us it consists of our neighbours, other households, other cities, other communities and the government. But definitely not me and YOU. When it comes to us to actually making a positive contribution to the system, we lock ourselves along with our families into a safe cocoon and look into the distance at countries far away and wait for a Mr. Clean to come along and work miracles for us with a majestic sweep of his hand. Or we leave the country and run away. Like lazy cowards hounded by our fears we run to America to bask in their glory and praise their system.

Dear Indians, I echo J.F. Kennedy's words to his fellow Americans (and adapt them in the Indian context): "Ask what we can do for India and do what has to be done to make India what America and other Western countries are today".

Once in an interview, the famous ex-municipal commissioner of Bombay, Mr. Tinaikar, had a point to make. "Rich people's dogs are walked on the streets to leave their affluent droppings all over the place," he said. "And then the same people turn around to criticise



A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

and blame the authorities for inefficiency and dirty pavements. What do they expect the officers to do? Go down with a broom every time their dog feels the pressure in his bowels? In America, every dog owner has to clean up after his pet has done the job. The same in Japan. Will the Indian citizen do that here?" He's right.

We go to the polls to choose a government and after that forfeit all responsibility. We sit back wanting to be pampered and expect the government to do everything for us whilst our contribution is totally negative. We expect the government to clean up, but we are not going to stop chucking garbage all over the place nor are we going to stop to pick up a stray piece of paper and throw it in the bin. We expect the railways to provide clean bathrooms, but we are not going to learn the proper use of bathrooms. We want Indian Airlines and Air India to provide the best of food and toiletries, but we are not going to stop pilfering at the first opportunity.

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Indian star in astrophysics

She grew up in India and Singapore. In addition to her mother tongue Tamil, she speaks English, "some French" and some "mildly butchered Hindi". While she has sung Carnatic music from the age of nine, learning from, among others, T.N. Seshagopalan, Neyveli Santhanagopalan and Mumbai teacher Sulochana Nagarajan, she has also been part of the Cornell University Chorus — predominantly Western classical — and the *Class Notes*, a co-ed jazz a cappella (without instruments) group. She continues to enjoy singing blues, jazz and rock music.

She loves the outdoors, and enjoys hiking, swimming, camping and backpacking. She has been to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, surely the most beautiful and sacred place on the earth; to Mt. Elbert in Colorado and the Ladakh plateau in the Himalaya; she has swum in the Dead Sea ("visually beautiful, but not the best olfactory experience, especially if ammonia and uric acids are not your favourite skin flavours"). A Thai Chi student, who can kick and punch, she's a Jackie Chan and Michelle Yeoh enthusiast.

Her home page has an illustration from Antoine de Saint Exupery's 'Little Prince' and excerpts from a conversation between Fermi and Majorana. She quotes astrophysicist S. Chandrasekhar and French renaissance thinker Montaigne. "I am a huge Tolkien fan, although I came to it relatively late (only two years ago). The recent movie is absolutely wonderful, although nothing can beat the magic of books," this exceptional 30-year-old tells me.

Meet Dr. Aparna Venkatesan, recent winner of the U.S. National Science Foundation Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellowship, and postdoctoral researcher in the Center for Astrophysics and Space Astronomy and the Department of Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Colorado, as part of the Intergalactic Medium research group there.

Aparna's was a precious talent for astronomy. Her 'Madras' parents — S.V. Venkatesan, a senior Essar group executive in corporate finance, and Malathi Venkatesan, a social worker dedicated to kidney research and organ donation, actively involved with the TamilNad Kidney Research Foundation (TANKER) — discovered her "unwavering passion" for the subject when she was barely eight.

The National Science Foundation award supports researchers for up to three years, the substantial fellowship that goes with it allowing the post-doc researcher to choose her institution or national facility. The



Dr. Aparna Venkatesan.

Her father's work took Aparna to Singapore where she had her early education. Later, after being ICSE topper at Bombay Scottish School and junior college at Ruparel, Bombay, Aparna went to Cornell University to study undergraduate astronomy. Graduating with distinction after four years there on a full scholarship, Aparna received the Farr Fellowship at the University of Chicago, where she obtained a doctorate in astronomy and astrophysics in March 2000.

As part of her Ph.D. thesis, Aparna "examined the reionisation of the universe by the first stars, and its relationship to estimating cosmological parameters". At Cornell University,

● by V. Ramnarayan

she had analysed data from the Magellan mission to Venus, and created a unique image database of features on the Venusian surface. According to the researcher, "the presence of stellar remnants, which may contribute to dark matter today, could provide another indication of early generations of stars. We have had some exciting results from various lensing experiments over the last several years, which have successfully detected dark objects, most likely in the galactic halo, through the gravitational microlensing of stars in the Magellanic clouds".

In recent years, however, Aparna's work has leaned towards theoretical astrophysics, dealing with a variety of problems in cosmology, particularly the formation epochs and effects of the first stars in the universe.

The National Science Foundation award supports researchers for up to three years, the substantial fellowship that goes with it allowing the post-doc researcher to choose her institution or national facility. The

programme is meant to recognise "young investigators of significant potential" and help establish them in position of leadership in the community.

"I was very influenced by the book and TV series *Cosmos* by Carl Sagan, who was at Cornell University till his death in 1996, and whom I met and talked to several times. I was also positively influenced as a teenager by the shows, lectures and demonstrations at the Nehru Planetarium in Mumbai," Aparna told *Madras Musings*.

Recently, Aparna was selected with full financial support as a member of the US delegation to an International Conference on Women in Physics held at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Organised by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, the three-day conference was timed to coincide with International Women's Day on March 8th. The main theme discussed was the worldwide under-representation of women in Physics.

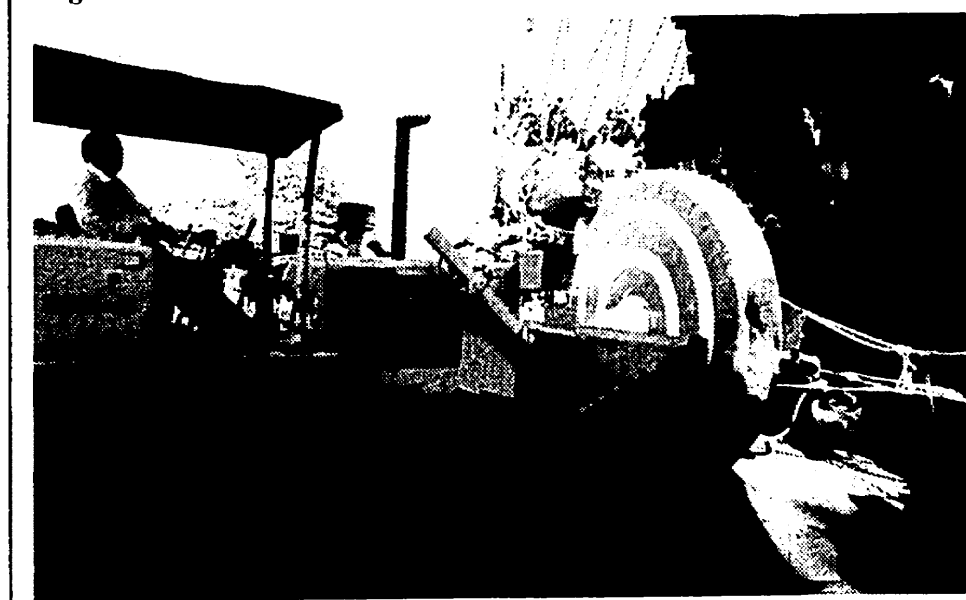
The conference threw up some socio-statistical surprises. For instance, Scandinavia has one of the lowest female Physics Ph.D. rates. India is one of several countries with large undergraduate enrolments of women in Physics, roughly equal to the number of men in Physics students through the M.Sc level. Iran has the highest percentage of female college-level enrolment in Physics, whereas Sweden is almost last in the world. "In several developing nations, women were free to use their maiden name on their publications but, surprisingly, in a country like Belgium, women physicists are required to use their husbands' last names on their publications." It was also found that developing nations often led developed ones in providing flexible working hours and state support for couples trying to balance the needs of



Our OLD and the NEW this fortnight take quite a different focus. S. ANVAR's pictures are of the the giant Azhi Thér of Tirunavur, believed to be the biggest religious chariot in India, if not in the world. The chariot, now taken out during the annual Thyagaraja Temple

THE OLD... CHITHIRAI Festival in Tirunavur every April-May, is not the ancient thér of legend but was built in the 1970s with some technical inputs from BHEL, ...& THE NEW

Tiruchi. That's the chariot featured in our OLD. Our NEW shows that even more modern inputs are needed to help the chariot round corners. But that's India today — where the OLD and the NEW co-exist everywhere, even on religious occasions.



family and career. (More details may be had from <http://www.if.ufrgs.br/~barbosa/conference.html>).

Asked to name the people who have encouraged her most in her career path, Aparna says: "I am deeply grateful to my parents and my husband, John Rueppel, for their unconditional and unwavering support... My parents are simply the most inspiring people I know... My husband has a B.A. in English from Cornell University and an M.Ed in Education from Loyola College; he taught in Montessori schools for several years. He is currently writing a historical novel set in India about 450 years ago."

Aparna Venkatesan belongs to an elite community of Indian women scientists and scholars blazing a trail of excellence in India and abroad. The blend of an Indian upbringing — traditional yet placing no curb on a girl's freedom to pursue her interests, academic or otherwise — and the tremendous opportunities education in the West affords could often be heady. The all-round achievements of Aparna Venkatesan are a shining example.

MRTS has much to offer

(Continued from page 1)

Clearance Board. A major portion of the land needed for future construction is individually owned and that is where we will be requiring a lot of cooperation from the state government and the public.

How is the rail-road co-ordination?

I would like to re-emphasise that the project is moving at the speed in which it should. Moreover, the project needs a lot of investment to be processed and this could possibly delay action. Unlike many other cities, Chennai is one city where there is excellent bus connectivity. Train commutation is a second preference here. The tariff between the bus and train is competitive and there is a natural preference for the buses.

Usage of trains has gone up only after the bus rate hike recently. Earlier, trains with more than eight cars used to be run with very little traffic at 30 minutes' interval. Now, trains with less cars run to a nearly full capacity at an interval of 10 minutes during the peak hours and at an interval of 20 minutes during the non-peak hours

make them automatically turn towards train commutation. Secondly, electrified train services cause no pollution and there are no traffic jams. This helps for speedier travel as also for better managing the road traffic. Moreover, the fare difference between train and bus has thinned down.

The future course of construction...

Well, once the third phase of construction starts, we are into a major advancement in construction. The Highways Department is planning to construct by-pass roads in the areas through which the MRTS lines are likely to cross. The route for the MRTS will be along the roads and will be supported by the pillars on the median of the road. (Courtesy: *Industrial Economist*)

First of all, people will realise the problems of travelling long distances by road. This will

VENUE FOR THE FINE ARTS

(Continued from page 4)

afterwards, with the powerful support given by Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar, the Sangam moved into its own home, the Annamalai Manram, also in George Town. The two lobbies studiously avoided attending programmes at each other's venues.

With the departure of the Sangam, the Gokhale Hall gradually began losing its position of eminence in Carnatic music concerts. The Annamalai Manram was more easily accessible and had a larger seating capacity and better interiors. George Town was also fast becoming a commercial centre and most of the patrons of music had moved to south Madras.

The peregrinating Indian Fine Arts Society held its annual conference for about fifteen years in the Hall, till the mid-1950s. But performances on a regular basis had stopped, though programmes were held occasionally till the late Sixties and early Seventies. There was a brief revival in October 1964,

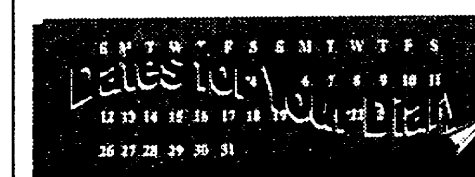
when the YMIA and the Hall celebrated their Golden Jubilee. Held under Sir C.P.'s supervision, the festivities were inaugurated by the then President of India, Dr. Zakir Hussain, and the Governor of Madras, Jayachamaraja Wodeyar. The noted nagaswara artiste Veerusamy Pillai gave a performance on the occasion. For many years, it was customary for Kalakshetra to hold its dance performances here, especially on the birthday of Dr. Annie Besant. Rukmini Arundale herself served as President of the YMIA after Sir C.P. Ramaswami Iyer passed away.

Today it is all silence. Gone are the thronging audiences, the performing artistes and the powerful patrons. Doves and

pigeons give trapeze performances under the dome. The wooden seats have gone. A part of the Hall has been cordoned off to accommodate the gymnasium, which was moved to the ground floor when the first floor showed signs of structural weakness. The library is used more as a reading room for the daily newspapers and not for the old classics, which are entombed in glass cases. A restaurant functions in place of the old canteen. Dr. Annie Besant's statue gazes out on to the street, as though yearning for today's young men to walk in and restore the Hall to its former glory.

(Concluded)

V. Sriram



June 22: For the third year in succession, the Alliance Francaise de Madras celebrates music day with an instrumental music competition open to persons aged 14-20 years. The categories are: solo (Western/Indian classical) and groups of 5 maximum (any kind of music) (at the Alliance

Francaise auditorium, 6.30 p.m.).

June 25 - July 5: 'Bombay Lite', a group exhibition of paintings by Anand Panchai, Dutta Bansode, Sujatha Achrekar, Sunil Padwal and Surendra Jagtap (at Appa Rao Galleries).

July 6-15: A solo exhibition of Suresh Jayaram's paintings (at Appa Rao Galleries).

July 16-31: A solo exhibition of Sisir Sahana's glass reliefs (at Appa Rao Galleries).

● Our Quizmaster V.V. Ramanan is on holiday. His column will be resumed on his return.

Time to set right this malady

Tamil Nadu was knocked out in the Ranji Quarter-final in February 2002. No sooner this happened, there was a rush to complete the First Division and other league matches. At the moment of writing, the First Division champions have not been announced, despite the fact that their tournament was over in late March. It is said that champions will be decided after a round robin tournament. But there's no sign of this.

It is sad that the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association match fixtures committee arranges such a curious schedule. What's the point of holding matches after the fortunes of the State team are over? There is no motivation for the players to play for something higher.

We had some consistent failures in the State's Ranji squad. However, there seemed to be no replacements for these 'passengers' in the squad as there was no yardstick, such as First Division matches, to select players in form as replacements. When the league matches were resumed, we saw some fine performances from a young player like R.C. Vasantha Kumar, who slammed a brilliant 204 for India Pistons and followed it up with scores of 94, 47 and 40 in the subsequent matches before the curtain came down of the First Division. Then there was the promising Anand George who scored 71 and a few other scores above 50. Another batsman, Jesubabu Honeyman, struck a couple of excellent knocks, including centuries, before and after the Ranji season.

Left-arm spinner Vidyut Sivaramakrishnan came up

with some fine bowling and batting performances which went unnoticed. Worse, some university tournaments were held in March and Vidyut was one of the star players along with J. Harish. It's sad that matches should be deferred to the unplayable month of March, when the heat literally saps the energy of the players.

Worse still, lower division matches often continue till mid-June, when the next season commences. What a pity, especially for the young players, who have to take their public (Tenth Standard and Twelfth Standard) and (college) semester examinations. Study holidays hamper their participation in the matches, nor can they afford to neglect their studies, given the uncertainties of the game on and off the field.

The ideal way to arrange league fixtures would be to play most of the matches before the Buchi Babu tournament in August. This will provide the selectors with wide options and a variety of choice while picking teams. Even the lower division games could throw up a few promising youngsters for the Under-14, Under-16 and Under-19 sides which are chosen in September. These teams should not be reserved for First Division players alone. As most of the lower division matches are one-day affairs, they can be rushed through July itself on weekdays, if clubs agree.

This takes us to another vital question: Why should players from other states be asked to represent First Division teams? There is no need for a Vikram Rathour or a Dinesh Mongia or an Anandapadmanabhan to im-

prove the quality of cricket in the State. A player like Rahul Dravid has enough clubs to represent in his native Karnataka. Will this trend lead to MRF getting Sachin Tendulkar to play for Globe Trotters?

Tamil Nadu is the State in the country that recruits the largest number of players from other States.

Yet there was strong opposition to a Tamil Nadu player, M. Anand whom MRF transferred to its Kerala office, turning out for Kerala a few seasons ago. And the protest was led by no less than a Tamil Nadu 'beneficiary'.

I recall in the Sixties when Karnataka players like Najam Hussein and K.R. Rajagopal were recruited by a particular company which ran a top team, these players represented Madras in the Ranji Trophy games. India's new pace discovery, Tinu Yohannan, is basking in the hospitality of Tamil Nadu, but chooses to play for his home State, Kerala.

If this ostrich-like policy is followed by Tamil Nadu cricket administrators, the day will come when the State side may not even qualify for the later rounds of Ranji Trophy competition and may even find it difficult to come up with a single player for national selection. Talented youngsters would prefer to concentrate on professional careers rather than wait in vain to be selected for State sides. Already, there is a lot of disenchantment among the 16- and 17-year olds and many are 'hanging up their boots'. (Courtesy: *Straight Bat*)

Bhaskeran Thomas

How about 3 teams from these parts?

What a crop of wonderful players Tamil Nadu has on the fringes, unable to get into the State side! We should study the problems of the young who are searching for cricketing pastures in other States. Why don't we have another team from Tamil Nadu? Maharashtra has three teams - Vidarbha, Mumbai and Maharashtra itself. A small state like Gujarat has Baroda, Saurashtra and Gujarat. Neighbouring Andhra fields two teams - Hyderabad and Andhra. Why can't Tamil Nadu have two teams - one from Chennai and another for Tamil Nadu with headquarters perhaps in Coimbatore or Madurai. A third team for the Union Territory of Pondicherry could be formed

too, with official recognition. I am sure all these new teams from in and near Tamil Nadu would be much stronger than sides like Vidarbha, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

The BCCI too would have more options in choosing players for the national side. Why should our boys go to distant States to find playing slots and be ignored in alien surroundings?

I am sure there will be many in the TNCA who will share this view. Why don't they forget about clubs and concentrate on cricket in the State? After all, that should be their mission! — (Courtesy: *Straight Bat*).

B.T.

HERITAGE RULES DRAFTED

(Continued from page 1)

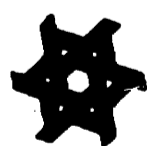
July 15th to enable regulations agreed on by all present be represented to the CMDA for circulation before incorporation in the Development Control Rules. He stated that the Chennai Regulations drew from the national recommendations as well as from pioneering Bombay and Hyderabad regulations and hoped that the CMDA-convened Heritage Committee would find that they were even more comprehensive than the earlier efforts elsewhere.

The Regulations, which envisage a permanent Heritage Committee with wide institutional representation, classify 186 buildings in three categories as an initial measure, but state these can be added to after due process, in time. Most of the buildings and natural bodies

listed may be described as being in the 'public and private institutions' domain'. Once 'Transfer of Development Rights' rules are incorporated — and they will apply to public institutions too — more private buildings are expected to be listed and classified.

Editor's Note: *Madras Musings* welcomes the news that Heritage Regulations to be incorporated in the Development Control Rules for Chennai have at long last been drafted and that the CMDA is earnest about the incorporation. We trust that this will be before the end of this year and that thereafter all those concerned with heritage preservation and conservation can get around to focussing again on getting an Act passed for the whole State — which is where this exercise began about three years ago.

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