

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

# MADRAS

## MUSINGS

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FREE ISSUE

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Sorry, Sir, we have to make sure that the beach is kept clean at all cost!

### Clean sweep

A certain news item appeared a few weeks ago, indicating that our beaches are being cleaned up – by a special machine, no less.

Good thing too.

It is hard to appreciate the grandeur of Nature when you are skipping delicately from foot to foot, trying to avoid sharp shards of glass, plastic and other reminders of the passage of human hordes through the ages. Running prettily like a movie-star through teasing waves at the very edge of the sea is all very well – except that you are in constant danger of tripping over a half-hidden broken bucket-handle and performing the somersault of a lifetime.

Such dangers are now past.

Joggers, walkers, and amblers can now look straight ahead as they go along, giving their neck muscles a rest from watching the ground at their feet. Family parties need no longer warn their uncaring progeny about 'dirty sand'; the romantically-inclined can focus on matters of importance, undisturbed by wandering flotsam (or jetsam?); while the artistically-inclined can wrestle with their muses to their hearts' content without having the process broken by the sharp jabs of intrusion.

It is understood many lakhs will be spent on this exercise, making this one expensive way to learn not to litter.

So, the next time your hand goes into throw-mode on the beach – pause and reflect.

Ranjitha Ashok

## 'Wasteland to wetland'

– Change sought in status of Pallikaranai Marsh

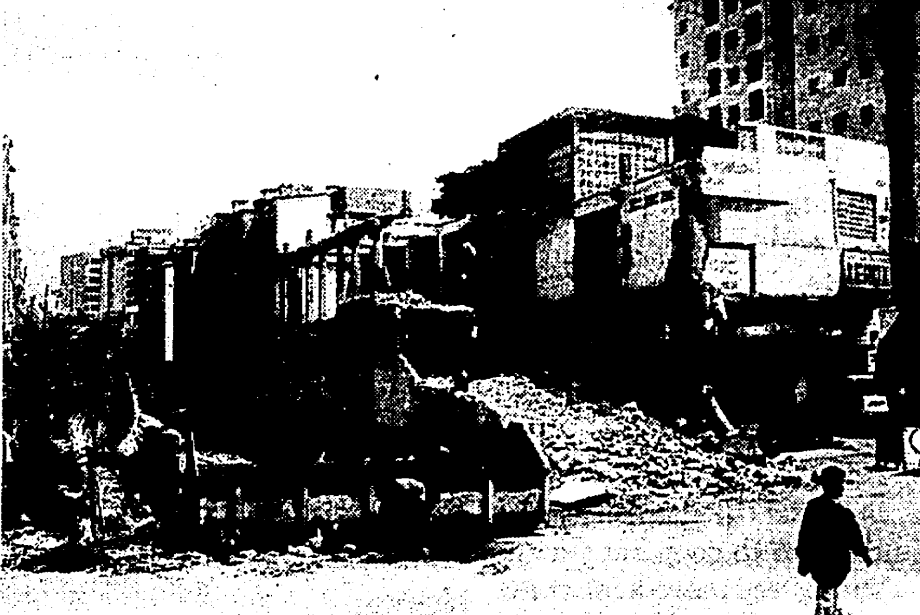
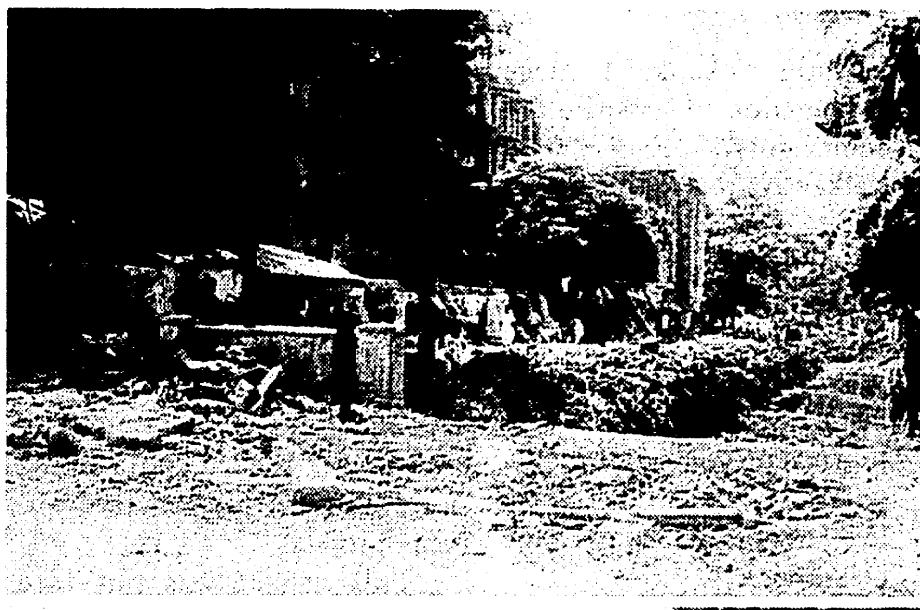
(By A Staff Reporter)

The Madras Naturalists' Society, teaming with other NGOs, has drawn up an action plan to save the Pallikaranai Marsh and have it proclaimed a wetland. The plan envisages:

- Regular co-ordination meetings among the various NGOs interested in the Pallikaranai Marsh.
- Creating awareness among the local population around the Pallikaranai Marsh on the importance of and need for protecting the marsh.
- Compiling all the available data on Pallikaranai Marsh into a dossier and presenting it to various government agencies.
- Co-ordinating with Government agencies to obtain reclassification of the Pallikaranai Marsh from the existing category of wasteland to that of a wetland.

**MADRAS**  
—MUSINGS

Wishes its readers a very happy and prosperous Deepavali.



● The Tiruvanmiyur tank restoration project had not envisaged summary removal of encroachments. In fact, it had been planned that the encroaching shop-owners would on their own move to the new shopping area that was to be developed under the project plan. The present determined drive against encroachments, both those of shop-owners and political parties, has, however, not left it to the encroachers; it has made their move to other locations rightaway almost mandatory. In the cleared space (above), a park as envisaged by the project plan will come up, it is understood, and rainwater harvesting facilities will be developed.

The drive against encroachments, according to the Corporation, is also to bring back pavements to the city. In the two pictures on left, encroachments have been removed along a drainage canal to create road space, in one, and in the other, unauthorised construction has been partly bulldozed — for pavements or road broadening. Rs. 2.5 crore is to be spent on building pavements — but where work has begun, the pavements are either so narrow or so high, they are unusable, unless you walk single file and hop up and hop down at pavement breaks. (Photographs by REFLECTIONS.)

(Also see Page 2)

## STATE LAGS BEHIND IN B-SCHOOL QUALITY

(By A Staff Reporter)

Not the happiest of signs for Tamil Nadu are the ratings of business schools in the country by a recent Cosmode-BusinessWorld survey. There is no business school in the State in the first 25. It's at No.31 that the Loyola Institute of Business Administration comes in.

LIBA is followed at 36 by the PSG Institute of Management in Coimbatore, at 38 by the Institute for Financial Management and Research, Chennai, and at 41 by the Bharathidasan

Institute of Management at Tiruchirappalli. These are the only four Tamil Nadu B-Schools with a rating of over 50 per cent! LIBA is the only one of them to figure among the Top Five B-Schools in the South.

There are over 850 business schools in the country, producing about 65,000 MBA (or equivalent) graduates. The survey rated the top 100 among them — with the IIMs continuing to lead the pack.

Other Tamil Nadu-based institutions in the top 100 are Amrita Institute of Management, Coimbatore (44), Department of Management Studies, REC, Tiruchi (67), Alagappa Institute of Management, Karaikudi (92) and Institute for Technology and Management, Chennai (94).

The survey was based on the following parameters: Academic facilities, Academic expenditure, Faculty, Program-

mes, Admission, Programme-delivery, Placement, Industry interface and networking, and Innovation, with Faculty and Placement, the two most important criteria, accounting for 50% of the grading mark. And scoring better than 50% on either of these counts were only LIBA, PSG, Bharathidasan and REC — all on the Placement count alone and barely scraping past the 50% mark at that.

(Continued on Page 4)

## A move to transform the Mylapore core

About two months ago, the *Mylapore Times*, with support from the Max Mueller Bhavan – under its Humane City programme – and INTACH-Tamil Nadu convened a meeting in a school in Mylapore to discuss what the citizens, of the two municipal zones that comprise what was an ancient, internationally known entrepot, felt needed to be done to make Mylapore not only more liveable but also a place that would draw visitors. The meeting agreed that if the Kapaleeswarar Temple, the Mada streets around it and the lanes leading off them could be made more visitor friendly, the culture they represented made more visible and the ambience of a more leisurely time restored, Mylapore could be made one of the city's most striking attractions as well as being made more liveable for those calling the core area home. To help propagate this idea as well as to make the citizens' own contribution, those who met that day agreed on founding the city's newest NGO, NAMMA MYLAPORE.

Taking the dream of 'Transforming Mylapore' further was the recent follow-up seminar hosted by the Max Mueller Bhavan, with the *Adyar Times*, Namma Mylapore and INTACH-TN playing lead roles. Max Mueller Bhavan had arranged for experts from Germany, Hyderabad and Pondicherry to participate and share their experiences of attempting transformations in their respective areas. Sadly, the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority which had agreed to give its views in the context of its Master Plan did not turn up – and offered no explanation of its absence. The *Man From Madras Musings* who considers that such official behaviour is par for the course – when it comes to interacting with citizens – also noted that there was not a single observer from such official bodies as may be concerned with what the citizens feel needed to be done to transform their area. There was no one from the CMDA, no one from the Municipal Corporation – though one Municipal Councillor turned up the second day to state her commitment to water harvesting that would benefit the temple tanks – no one from Metro-water, no one from the Tourism Department, and no one from the Police or the transport authorities.

With officialdom uninterested in 'Transforming Mylapore', MMM wondered what would be achieved. But Namma Mylapore members were confident that by talking over and over again to the stakeholders over the next few months they would be able to transform what is one of the busiest areas in the city without affecting its traditional ambience. What struck MMM about this confidence, indeed enthusiasm, was that it was for once exuded by young people.

Indeed, for once, there were more young persons in the audience – and making their voices heard – than is usual at such discussions.

### Drawing up plans

The first suggestions for the Mylapore Core Area (MCA) were made in 1989 by INTACH-TN whose report was welcomed by what was the MMDA, M not yet having been transformed to C. Other studies have followed. And they remain studies and suggestions.

The latest suggestions that Namma Mylapore might address were made by two young architects. These, the duo suggested, were:

- the temples and the heritage element,
- the tanks and the environment,
- educating the community,
- civic issues, and
- the traffic.

The *Man from Madras Musings* was delighted to hear all that had been said from 1989 – and looked forward to hearing how all this was to be accomplished. Core groups from two-dozen strong Namma Mylapore will tackle the various issues, it was stated. And these issues included the following:

- heritage walks and heritage information to sensitise the community,
- walkways round the temple and tank after ensuring the visibility of both at all times,
- landscaping areas around the tanks,
- provision of sufficient number of public conveniences to prevent misuse of public spaces,
- improvement in garbage cleaning,
- removal of hoardings and developing of proper signage, both for public assistance as well as for use by business establishments,
- getting the Development Control Regulations followed,
- ensuring internodal transport,
- regulating traffic, parking and pedestrian space, and
- persuading street side vendors and the shopkeepers of the area to cooperate in ensuring free movement of the public.

MMM is in total agreement with all that is listed above – and which have been listed many times before. But what MMM would like to see is a detailed action plan drawn up, with all the nuts and bolts included, that will cover ALL these issues. And how it will get them implemented. That, MMM feels, is what Namma Mylapore should over the next few weeks draw up and then get core groups to tackle with the respective authorities and stakeholders.

### Other examples

The *Man from Madras Musings*

listened fascinated to how a German group, led by architects, transformed two small towns and to how INTACH-Pondicherry proposes to transform the heart of 'White Town' in Pondicherry and a couple of areas in 'Indian Town'.

In one German town, all the buildings which once had wooden beams visible had been plastered over and the main exercise was to restore the buildings back to their traditional look. In the other case it was refurbishing run-down areas and making better use of public space. Of greater interest to MMM was the Pondicherry plan. The core area to be restored is the old Government Square (Bharati Park) and the facades of all the public buildings that surround it. In the Indian Town, streets with buildings reflecting a particular style were to be restored.

In both the German example as well as in the Pondicherry one, there have undoubtedly been successful elements of hard selling, persuasion and appeals to get both officialdom as well as the public to agree to restoration and cooperate. But the key element in both was that a considerable degree of official

funding was available as a sweetener. In Pondicherry, the work is being undertaken under the Asia Urbs project under which one French and one Italian city is each contributing a third of the cost for the two-year project.

This aspect was put into proper perspective by S.P. Shorey, Special Officer, Hyderabad Urban Development Authority, who has contributed remarkably to heritage preservation in Hyderabad and who was responsible for seeing that Heritage Regulations were included by HUDA in its rule book (see page 5). In his presentation on heritage preservation in Hyderabad, Mumbai and Ahmadabad, he pointed out that the country did NOT have dedicated funds for repair and maintenance of old buildings and for heritage projects; if any preservation was done, it was through ad hoc Government commitments or through contributions from the private sector.

Pondicherry and the German towns, even the Damascus World Heritage Site that was also focussed on by one of the German speakers, had funding to begin with. Chennai – leave alone Mylapore – has not even heritage regulations that might at least express concern. As for funding for heritage buildings, just look at what's been happening in the case of Senate House for the last decade or more.

There were, however, a couple of suggestions made by

the young architects from Pondicherry that MMM felt Namma Mylapore could get started with. And that was a listing of all the buildings in the core area, including photographing them, for one, and, for another, digitalising the images and making digital alterations to demonstrate what they COULD be, if restored, and how the area would get new life.

Be that as it all may, MMM wishes Namma Mylapore, and *Adyar Times*, the promoter of the 'Transforming Mylapore' concept, all the best and hopes that their efforts will bear some fruit over the next few months and set an example for the rest of the city. *Adyar Times'* Mylapore Festival has for long been setting an example that none seems to be able to follow, not even big multi-organisation bodies who would like to do a Chennai Fest.

### In brief

★ The good news from the Tiruvannamiyur temple tank project is that between rainwater harvesting measures and the cooperation of all government authorities in getting the rainwater on the East Coast Road to drain into the tanks, the groundwater level in the surrounding area has appreciably risen. But, *The Man From Madras Musings* notes, the question keeps being asked, "When do we see water in the tanks?". And the answer to that will come only when some kind of porous sealing layer is laid on the tank beds. And what that layer should be is the subject of considerable discussion, MMM hears.

★ Elsewhere in this issue it is reported that the Madras Naturalists' Society is gathering support to have the Pallikarai Marsh's status changed from 'wasteland' to 'wetland'. Government, however, *The Man From Madras Musings* seems to remember, had plans to declare the marsh 'Reserve Forest' some time ago. What has happened to those plans? Meanwhile, the dumping of garbage in parts of the marsh and the burning of it – by responsible organisations like Onyx and local authorities, among others – the use of the marsh as a repository for toxic residues, and the poaching of birds all continue, day by day further endangering a reducing wetland. And Government remains mum to this threat.

★ As part of the drive to rid the pavements and other public areas of the city of encroachments, the Corporation has removed huts and other encroachments in Loane Square (Sriramulu Park) in George Town and declared it to be a No Parking Zone. Now while *The Man From Madras Musings* welcomes the idea and the action taken, MMM can't help but wonder where the lorries that park here – after bringing in goods to this busy commercial area and waiting to take goods from the wholesalers here to the retailers in the *mofussil* – will

## A big 'Thank You' to 28 of you

We publish below the list of donors who have, between 8.9.03 and 8.10.03, added to the support *Madras Musings* has already received. We thank all of them for their support for the causes *Madras Musings* espouses.

A word to all donors. *Madras Musings* remains a FREE issue. Your generous contributions are NOT subscriptions to the journal but a commitment of your support to the causes Chennai Heritage and its publication, *Madras Musings*, espouse.

— CHENNAI HERITAGE

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## 'THANK YOU' TO ANOTHER CORPORATE

● The minimum support Chennai Heritage expected from its readers for the causes it espouses still continues to be a trickle – and that has been a disappointment. But we are glad to note that corporate support continues to come in, and this fortnight we say a big 'Thank You' to Indo-National Limited for joining the Chennai Heritage team. We look forward to still more corporates who care about Madras that is Chennai contributing to Chennai Heritage and helping its voice to be heard.

find alternate space. Surely commercial activity is as important and if that is accepted, any 'No-Parking Zone' plan must be preceded by a plan to provide alternate parking space – and announcement of the plan. Has the Corporation given a thought to this issue – as well as such issues of resettling encroaching vendors and homesteaders – before putting its bulldozers in action? The question rather reminds MMM of what is happening on the new Secretariat front. The location and plans for that new landmark have been finalised – but it is only after that that thought is being given – and a study proposed – as to how the tens of thousands likely to enter and leave the Secretariat are to be transported in and out without creating gridlock. It's constantly amazed MMM how Government planning works: Fix the end result first and worry about, even firefight, the consequences later.

— MMM

## OUR READERS WRITE

### New life for park

Textans, a local chemical enterprise, has done yeoman service to the residents of Ashok Nagar by adopting a vacant, unkempt and wild Corporation park. And during the past few months, people in Ashok Nagar have suddenly found a new interest in friends, health and society. The retired men and women visit the park to catch up with conversation, while the young health freaks find it a jogger's joy. The park has restored community feeling and people have already started forming study circles to discuss literature, religion and philosophy.

The granting of new life to this park has changed the lifestyle and attitude of people. If not for it, people would have slowly become insular and lost all community feeling. A little space and a few green patches is all that was needed to usher in a good feeling, the right attitude, warmth and health in the life of the residents of the neighbourhood.

Anupama Natarajan  
40 (Old No. 71), 53rd Street  
Ashok Nagar, Chennai 600 083

### The Roman tradition

I am an antithesis to reader I Arunachalam in that, having NEVER attended any Christian school/college, I am interested in the Bible! It appears certain that St. Thomas (MM, September 16th) visited India, Kerala to be specific,

and introduced Christianity but there had been counter-opinion spawned by a mindset that does not want India to be recognised as a forerunner to Christianity, *vis-a-vis* Rome!

The Government of India had recognised Thomas' visit and a 15p stamp was issued. A more interesting point about St. Thomas is that he is supposed to be a rational and scientific apostle demanding proof! He is supposed to have accepted the resurrection only after checking Jesus' person for the crucifixion wounds! And so the epithet 'Doubting Thomas'.

N. Dharmeshwaram  
21, Kumaran Nagar  
Guduvanchery

### A prophetic diary

The excerpts from the diary of Late N.D. Varadachariar published in the last few issues of your journal were highly readable and informative. I was particularly struck by his candid, rather prophetic, remarks in the diary notings on April 3, 1943 (MM, October 1st) which ran thus: 'Our freedom comes as a piece of charity if it does. The vital thing is not freedom but that moral, political and social development which makes its sustenance possible. Do we have that character of freedom?'

The answer to his question can only be a sorrowful 'no'. Over these five decades after attaining freedom we have simply squandered the

benefit flowing from liberty. Morally the nations' character is at its nadir, politically we only have unpatriotic, visionless, incapable and corrupt leaders at the helm of affairs and socially the inequalities, ills and wants among people still persist. It seems freedom has come to us a century too soon.

M.R. Pillai  
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Korattur, Chennai 600 060

## Sanitation no better in 'private schools'

I refer to Shobha Menon's article on 'Schools sans sanitation' (MM, September 16th). But what about the so-called 'private schools'. Are the toilet facilities any better there? Ask any parent in Chennai, including those who send their wards to schools that charge substantial term fees etc. and the answer on toilets will be a shocking one.

Most schools in Chennai are clueless about sanitation and hygiene and believe maintaining clean and efficient toilets in their premises is only for the teachers and the Principal of the school! PTA meetings hesitate to discuss the toilet issue, as though talking about it is somehow dirty. At best, there's a perfunctory discussion with no ultimate solution being arrived at.

A 12-year-old-studying in a prestigious school in Adyar – proudly says she has NOT used the school toilet in the last eight years or so, because the girls' toilet is "always, dirty", she believes, "it is used by KG and primary school children and the boys who dirty the place!". Girls in higher classes do not use waste bins in the toilets, but take their used sanitary towels etc. home in their school bags, because the school does not provide adequate bins for this purpose in the toilets. Girls who prefer not to do this have to use a general waste bin placed in the school playground, but have to do this before a certain time of the day! Can there be anything more shocking and inhuman than this in this day and age?

There is a certain negative attitude to the problem of toilets in India. Not many people would like to acknowledge their existence. Are school toilets dirty because of improper toilet training/use at home and a wrong attitude to this basic necessity? Toilet cleaning staff in schools, we all know, come from low economic households. They would have poor, or no, sanitation in their homes. How can we expect them to perform at optimum levels?

Is it not the school's responsibility to see that children use the toilet properly when they are at school? Cleaning staff cleaning the toilets regularly is the school's responsibility. Why not include a session on toilet use for younger children as part of the curriculum in schools? Some basic training for children on the need and proper use of toilets will be a good idea. Mahatma Gandhi cleaned his own toilet, as some of us know. Posters, awareness campaign, messages, etc. to give positive messages could work for both affluent and not so affluent schools; training should be mandatory for cleaners as well.

Finally, the solution may be to do away with discrimination in the use of toilets in schools. If teachers are compelled to use toilets meant for school children, might things improve miraculously?

Indu Palaniappan  
49 Kaveri Street, Kalakshetra Colony  
Besant Nagar, Chennai 600 090

### Proper in Matunga!

Regarding the snide reference to Varada Bhai (Varadarajan Mudaliar) in 'The Music of Road Names' (MM, September 16th), he certainly was a Don and all that, but it should also be remembered that he rendered yeoman service for the Tamils against the predations of Thackeray's Shiv Sena in the 1960s and early 1970s. Thus even if it may be bizarre to name a road after Mudaliar in Mambalam, it would be quite proper in Matunga.

The Bard knew what he was talking about when he wrote, "The evil that men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with the bones."

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

### Roadblocks to good roads

It was an excellent concept and I was much needed: linking the GST Road from Chennai airport with the East Coast Road, south of St. Thomas Mount. This would provide easy and quick access to the thickly populated suburbs of the city, like Nanganallur, Adambakkam, Taramani and Tiruvanniyur.

The road has been constructed to good quality, has four lanes in most parts and a subway to cross the railway track. But vital stretches are blocked in several places by private landowners refusing to part with their property. And for several months now this vital lifeline remains grossly under-utilised, with comfort and facilities for thousands of road-users denied by a handful of recalcitrant individuals.

The tragic aspect of this relates to the apathy and indifference of the government, both local and the State, and the judiciary, in giving priority to the convenience of the majority, held to ransom by a handful.

This is just a sample of a larger picture of the most prestigious and essential project of the Vajpayee government – the construction of the Golden Quadrilateral, linking the four metros with high-class four-lane roads. There was a great jubilation over the rapid progress made that induced the government to advance the date of completion by a year to December 2003. But, like the road project in Chennai metro cited above, there have been roadblocks at several points along the 5932 km network due to landowners refusing to part with their property. The result is the decision to delay the project by a year to December 2004.

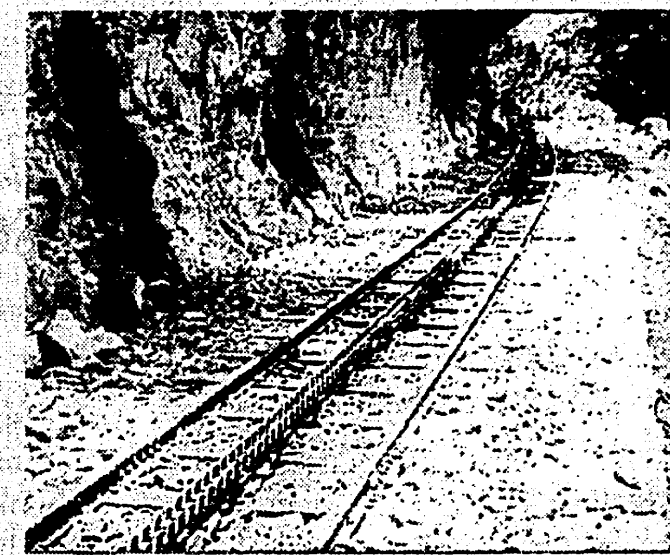
Among various infrastructure projects being constructed, the road sector has been making the most significant progress. The record of successive governments in the liberalised era in regard to power, development of ports and airports has been outright dismal. I wonder why the government, sufficiently armed with powers to acquire land for larger public interest, is not putting it to use uniformly right throughout the country.

It is a same old story: the enthusiasm for planning not matched by decisive action to perform, resulting in cost overruns and benefits lost.

S. Viswanathan  
Industrial Economist  
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### 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, Greaves Road, Chennai 600 006.
- All business correspondence should be addressed to The Director, Chennai Heritage, 260-A, TTK Road, Chennai 600 018.
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The out-of-step two-rail toothed portion of the Abt rack system of NMR on which the engines go pussy-footing while going up or down the severe gradients on the Ooty metre gauge train.

The first Abt rack railway was constructed in the Harz Mountains during 1885. Its working was impressive, the price was competitive and the terms were reasonable. That is how the NMR was built on the Abt method, which has two (rarely three) adjacent rails in the centre of the track with the teeth on the top, out of step with each other. Today, "three-quarters of the world's rack railways use the Abt system". Most of them are now electrified. The NMR currently operates diesels instead of steam locos.

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Mumbai 400 050.  
(with inputs from Bhandari/Marshall)

## Fostering quality education for all children

A recent Tamil Nadu Corporation School survey reveals that:

- Though 85% of poor children of school age were enrolled, 15% of them drop out before Class V. The drop-out rate in the I-V Classes was 13% for boys and 16% for girls. In Class I-VIII it was 35% for both cases, either because they have to work to support the family or because of the prevalent poor quality of education.
- Repetition of classes is highest among children in this State (as compared to other States in India). It is also higher among boys than girls.
- Since children were compulsorily promoted till Class V, many of them hadn't attained even minimal levels of learning in certain subjects.

• by  
**SHOBHA MENON**

These facts were emphasised at a recent seminar on 'Quality Education and Foster Schools' in the city, where empowerment through QUALITY education for ALL children was the key issue discussed. Jointly sponsored by the Corporation of Chennai (Education Department), UNICEF and the Union Christian Association (UCA), the seminar examined the challenges of a dual education system, which featured private schools and free Government schools, and the widening gap between the privileged few in the former and the vast majority in the latter, who are either not enrolled or who drop out without attaining minimal levels of learning.

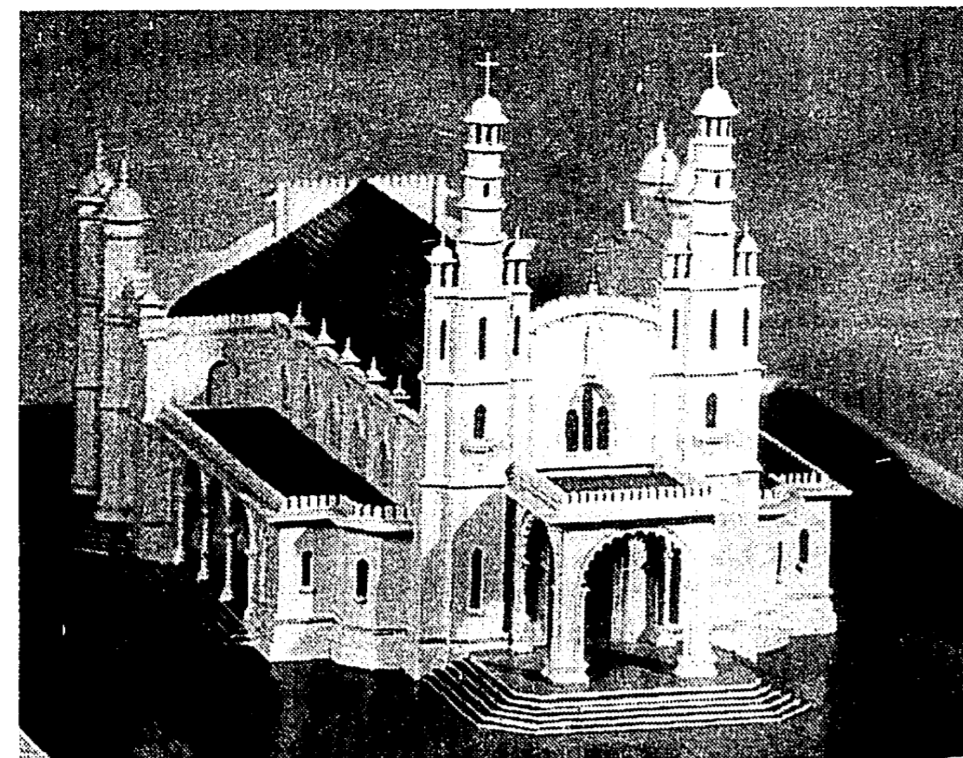
In spite of the Kothari Commission's (1964-66) suggestions for a common school system, neighbourhood schools and school complexes to help attainment of equity in education, and subsequent reiteration of this in the National Policies of 1968, 1986 and 1992, it is a sad fact that they still remain dreams and the differences in the quality of education have been ever widening.

An answer which might go some way towards improving this system was the focus of attention at the seminar. This was the suggestion of helping underprivileged schools in all-round improvement through a private and public school partnership. The Mother School-Foster School Concept (already initiated by the UCA) plans to go into action in the following areas:

- Resource mobilisation, with the mother school sharing resources - like laboratory, library, teaching aids, audio-visual hard and software, computers, playground etc. - with the Corporation school.
- Personnel Development through ongoing programmes to upgrade teacher quality and methodology to face the challenges of teaching children from weaker socio-economic backgrounds.
- Counselling programmes for students, inter-school-interactions to facilitate talent and sport.
- Economic support in form of providing uniforms, books, learning materials etc.

Recommended non-negotiable aspects of 'Quality in Education' include appropriate space and number of teachers, blackboards, textbooks, paper and pencils, appropriate class size and time-on-task (of teachers in the actual teaching process).

The Corporation Middle School on Kutty Street, Nungambakkam, which as the first Foster School and which has been adopted by the UCA, currently has only 140 students upto Class VIII. With remodelled classrooms that will be ready within a month and extra facilities, it will be upgraded to accommodate 400 students (at 40 per class) upto Class X. Also, it will be provided with a library, sports equipment and facilities, besides other relevant learning material and infrastructure. UCA plans - with a projected Rs.40 lakh input - to be associated with this school for three



## THE OLD... ...& THE NEW

Our OLD is from the collection of John Davis of Prymne, Abbott and Davis (MM, October 1st) and is of a model of the Roman Catholic church in Kilpauk that the firm designed at Davis's request. The NEW is of the church as it is today - its design as close to the original as possible, with domes and minarets, pillars and arches giving it an Indo-Saracenic look. This church, around 50 years old, reflects in the picture a happy level of maintenance. (The OLD courtesy of NICHOLA DAVIS; the NEW, R. ESWARRAJ.)



years, by which time it should be able to do well on its own, enabling another Corporation school to be adopted in turn. In turn, the Corporation has expressed a commitment to appoint the required number of quality teachers, and to maintain and manage the school satisfactorily.

An overwhelmed Shanta Bella, Headmistress of the CMS, Kutty Street, says, "There is an eagerness and excitement among our students, whose self esteem and pride have markedly improved. Already, I have so many parents from nearby areas approaching me for admission for their children (many even ready to withdraw their wards from local private schools)".

While a few participants at the seminar - including Management representatives, Heads and teachers of private and Corporation schools - objected to the terminology of Mother and Foster School, which could lead to a 'patronising' or 'superior' attitude within the Mother School (even if it was based on 'the relationship between a mother and child', as the organisers averred), others felt that the schools could form 'alliances' and be termed as 'partners' in their common goal of quality education.

Be that as it may, a critical step towards closing the perceived gap between private and public-funded education is being taken, with foster school concept providing a way of bringing private funding and in-

volvement into public education, as well as public accountability on performance and visibility for government-run schools. As a partnership between a private and a public school involving students, teachers and parents it certainly can foster bonds and focus on the common goal of holistic quality education, to ensure a sound foundation for ALL children.

Post-seminar, Verghese Eapen, President, UCA, said, "A

few well-to-do schools have already evinced keen interest in the idea. Forming an association of prospective Mother Schools will be next on the agenda. And wherever there is a genuine interest to partner a Corporation school, even a school with limited resources can link with a few other private schools to share resources with the Foster School. We are hopeful of much positive interaction and action in this regard, after the exchanges in the seminar."

## STATE LAGS BEHIND IN B-SCHOOL QUALITY

(Continued from Page 1)

In another survey, *Business Today's*, the scene didn't look any better. Among the first 30 B-Schools ranked, LIBA, at a creditable 9th, was the only Tamil Nadu institution in this list. The list of Top 30 was arrived at after whittling down the schools surveyed to 43 making the cut. The only other B-School from Tamil Nadu making the 'cut' was the Department of Management Studies, REC (now National Institute of Technology), Tiruchi.

Whether you believe in Management education or not, the fact remains that the institutions in Tamil Nadu that do so are a far cry from the best in the country if such ratings as these mean anything.

The good news is that, determined to do something about "Chennai lacking a quality management institute", a group

## If Hyderabad can do it, why can't WE?

The following Government Order was published in A.P. Gazette No. 530 on 30.12.1995.

Under sub-section (1) of section 59 of the Andhra Pradesh Urban Areas (Development) Act, 1975 (Act No.1 of 1975) the Hyderabad Urban Development Authority with the previous approval of the Government hereby makes the following amendment to the Hyderabad Urban Development Authority Zoning Regulations 1981 by addition of a new regulation, for conservation of historical areas and the buildings thereon in Hyderabad City with no financial commitment on the Government or Hyderabad Urban Development Authority.

### Amendment

In the said Zoning Regulations, after regulation No.12, the following regulation shall be added namely:

### Regulation No.13

Conservation of listed buildings, areas, artefacts, structures and precincts of historical and/or aesthetic and/or architectural and/or cultural value (Heritage buildings and heritage precincts) including rock formations:

#### 1. Applicability

This regulation will apply to those buildings, artefacts, structures and/or precincts of historical and/or aesthetic and/or architectural and/or cultural value (hereafter referred to as Heritage Buildings and Heritage Precincts) which will be listed in notification(s) to be issued by the Government.

The Authority shall invite public objections and suggestions in three local daily newspapers before finalising the list. Restrictions on Heritage Buildings and Heritage Precincts shall be in force with effect on and from the date of first notification.

#### 2. Restriction on Development/Redevelopment/Repairs, etc.

(i) No Development or redevelopment or engineering operation or additions, alterations, repairs, renovation including the painting of buildings, replacement of special features or demolition of the whole or any part thereof or plastering of said Heritage Buildings or Heritage Precincts shall be allowed except with the prior written permission of the Vice-Chairman, Hyderabad Urban Development Authority. The Vice-Chairman, Hyderabad Urban

Development Authority, shall act on the advice of/in consultation with the Heritage Conservation Committee to be appointed by Government (hereafter called "the said Heritage Conservation Committee"):

Provided that in exceptional cases, for reasons to be recorded in writing, the Vice-Chairman, Hyderabad Urban Development Authority, may overrule the recommendation of the Heritage Conservation Committee:

Provided further that the power to overrule the recommendations of the Heritage Conservation Committee shall not be delegated by the Vice-Chairman, Hyderabad Urban Development Authority, to any other Officer.

(ii) In relation to religious buildings in the said list, the

**• Long before Mumbai and Hyderabad, Chennai has been talking of Heritage Regulations. But in Chennai, these discussions have remained only talks. Meanwhile, Mumbai set the model and Hyderabad followed with the regulations which we publish in part today and next fortnight.**

changes, repairs, additions, alterations and renovations required on religious grounds mentioned in sacred texts, or as a part of holy practices laid down in religious codes shall be treated as permissible, subject to their being in accordance and consonance with the original structure and architecture, designs, aesthetics and other special features thereof. Provided that before arriving at his decision, the Vice-Chairman, Hyderabad Urban Development Authority, shall take into consideration the recommendations of the Heritage Conservation Committee.

#### 3. Preparation of List of Heritage Buildings and Heritage Precincts

The said list of buildings, artefacts, structures and precincts of historical, and/or aesthetic, and/or architectural and/or cultural value including rock formations to which this regulation applies shall not form part of the Regulation for the purpose of Section 59 of the Andhra Pradesh Urban Areas (Development) Act, 1975. Modifications to the list shall not amount to modification to Zoning Regulations. This list may be supplemented, altered, deleted or modified from time

to time by Government on receipt of proposals from the Vice-Chairman, Hyderabad Urban Development Authority, or from the said Heritage Conservation Committee, or by Government suo moto, provided that before the list is supplemented, altered, deleted or modified, objections and suggestions from the public be invited and duly considered by the Vice-Chairman, Hyderabad Urban Development Authority, and/or by Government.

#### 4. Power to alter, modify or relax Regulations

With the approval of Government and after consultation with the said Heritage Conservation Committee, the Vice-Chairman, Hyderabad Urban Development Authority, shall have the power to alter, modify or relax the provisions of other Regulations of the Hyderabad Urban Development Authority Zoning Regulations 1981 (hereafter referred to as "the said Regulations") if it is needed for the conservation, preservation or retention of historical, aesthetic, cultural or architectural quality of any Heritage Building or Heritage Precinct including rock formations.

5. Permission to demolish or to make major alterations to Heritage Buildings may be granted only in exceptional cases by the Vice-Chairman, Hyderabad Urban Development Authority, after obtaining the opinion of Heritage Conservation Committee and after inviting public objections and suggestions in three local daily newspapers.

#### 6. Grant of Transferable Development Rights in cases of loss of Development Rights

If any application for development is refused under this Regulation or conditions are imposed while permitting such development which deprives the owner/lessee of any unconserved Floor Space Index the said owner/lessee shall be compensated by grant of Development Rights Certificates (hereafter referred to as "Transferable Development Rights") subject to the regulations provided (See box). The Transferable Development Rights from Heritage Building may be consumed in the same municipal ward from which it originated. The extent of Transferable Development Rights Certificates to be granted may be determined by the Vice-Chairman, Hyderabad Urban Development Authority, in consultation with the Heritage Conservation Committee and will not be awarded unless sanctioned by the Government.

## Transferable rights

Regulations for the grant of Transferable Development Right to Owners/lessees of Heritage Buildings/Heritage Precincts and conditions for grant of such rights.

As provided in Regulation 13 (6), Development Rights of the owner/lessee of Heritage Buildings who suffers loss of Development Rights due to any restrictions imposed by the Vice-Chairman, Hyderabad Urban Development Authority, or Government under Regulation 13 shall be eligible for award of Transferable Development Rights (TDR) in the Floor Space Index (FSI) to the extent and on the conditions set out below. Such award will entitle the owner of the Heritage Building to Floor Space Index in the form of a Development Rights Certificate (DRC) which he may use himself or transfer to any other person.

Development Rights Certificates may be used:

On any plot in the same ward as that in which they have originated or in any ward in the suburbs except as specified in clause below:

A Development Right Certificate shall not be valid for use on receivable plots in the areas listed below:

- Recreation Zones, parks, playgrounds as notified in Master plan/Zonal Development Plans.
- Open spaces earmarked in layouts.
- Any Heritage Building.
- Any Heritage Precinct except with the prior approval of the Heritage Conservation Committee and subject to compliance with the regulations of the particular precinct.

The uses that will be permitted for utilisation of the Development Rights certificates on account of transfer of development rights will be as under:

Zone in which designated/reserved plot is situated	Uses to be permitted in receiving areas
1. Residential	Only residential uses and in Residential Zones only.
2. Commercial (C-2)	Commercial (C-2) uses if the plot where the Floor Space Index is to be utilised is situated in C-2 zone. Residential only in Residential Zones.
3. Commercial (C-1)	Commercial (C-1) if the plot where the Floor Space Index is to be utilised is situated in C-1 Zone. Residential in Residential Zones.
4. Industrial (I-1), (I-2), (I-3)	Residential only in Residential Zones.

Development Rights Certificates may be used on one or more plots or lands whether vacant or already developed or by the erection of additional stories, or in any other manner consistent with these Regulations, but not so as to exceed in any plot a total built-up Floor Space Index higher than that prescribed in the clause below.

The Floor Space Index of a receiving plot shall be allowed to be exceeded by not more than 1.0 in respect of Development Rights available in respect of a Heritage Building.

#### 7. Maintaining skyline

Buildings included in Heritage Precincts shall maintain the skyline in the precinct (without any highrise development) as may be existing in the surrounding area, so as not to diminish or destroy the value and beauty of the said listed Heritage Buildings/ Heritage Precincts and rock formations by Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department. The development within shall be in accordance with the guidelines framed by Vice-Chairman, Hyderabad Urban Development Authority, in consultation with Heritage Conservation Committee.

#### 9. Grading of the Heritage Buildings/Heritage Precincts

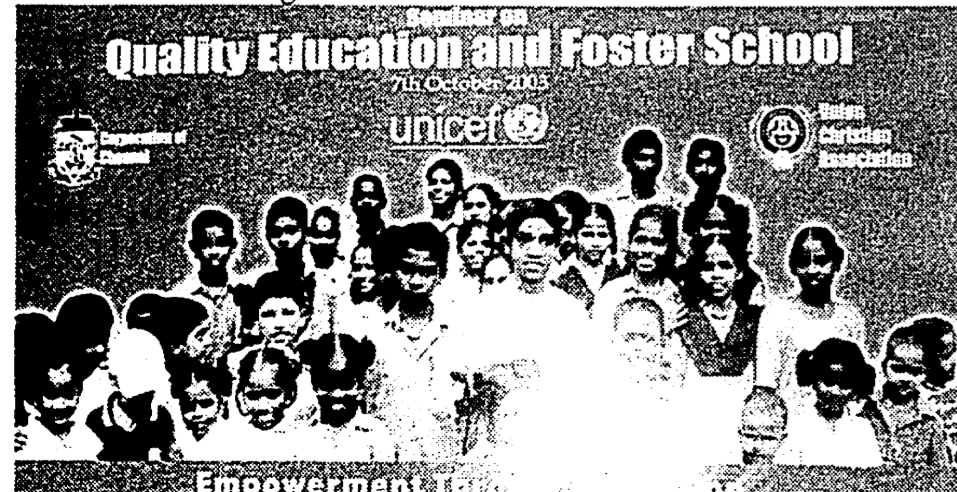
Heritage Buildings/Precincts may be graded into three categories (the meaning of these Grades and basic category for development permissions are spelt out).

Listing does not prevent change of ownership or usage. However such usage should be in harmony with the said listed precinct/building. Care will be taken to ensure that the development permission relating to these buildings is given without delay.

#### 8. Repair Fund

Buildings included in the said list shall be repaired by the owners/lessees of the said buildings themselves or occupiers of the old building. With a view to give monetary help for such repairs a separate fund may be created, which would be kept at the disposal of Vice-Chairman,

(To be concluded with 'The Guidelines for the Heritage Committee'.)



How many will follow the lead set by this challenge?

Quizzin' with Raminan

(Current Affairs questions are from the period September 16th to 30th. Questions 11 to 20 pertain to Tamil Nadu and Chennai.)

- On what grounds did the Supreme Court halt the much-talked about privatisation of HPCL and BPCL?
- Name the brand of car produced by Tata Motors for MG Rover, for sale in the European markets.
- Which British daily has agreed to take a 13.85% stake in *Business Standard*, making it the first case of foreign investment in an Indian paper?
- Which famous writer in the U.K. is to be stripped of his peerage?
- Name the first black to win both Wimbledon and U.S. Open titles, who passed away recently.
- To combat what global killer disease in Africa has Bill Gates committed \$168 million over the next five years?
- Name the probe which plunged into Jupiter and ending a 14-year investigation of the planet and its moons.
- Name the five athletes who have been chosen by Samsung as 'Olympic Ratnas'.
- What did high-profile 'Amritavaram 50' organised in Kochi recently celebrate?
- In a world-first, which respected British newspaper is to come out in both broadsheet and tabloid formats simultaneously?
- Name the 'clubs' inaugurated by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister which aim at inculcating good values in children living in slums and backward areas and channeling their energies constructively.
- Where is the country's 'most modern' prison complex scheduled to come up in the State soon?
- Who won the Man of the Match Award in the Irani Cup cricket match held in Chennai recently?
- Name the machine that has been pressed into service for cleaning up the Marina.
- The Government has ordered 'freezing of all development and land transactions' in two villages where an 'Administrative City' is to be developed. Name them.
- Who is the new Collector for Chennai?
- What is the value of the cash incentive given by the State Government to Anju George for her bronze-medal winning effort in the World Championships?
- What ambitious education project in the State was launched in the Natham Block, Dindigul District, on September 26th?
- What is the 'Kalaingar Karuvoolam'?
- Which edifice in Chennai did the U.N. headquarters inspire?

(Answers on Page 7)

## Looking back at 92

You've been told he's non-agenarian, so you expect to find a frail person of ancient vintage, seated in a chair perhaps, unable to move without help. So it is a bit of a shock when you are greeted at the door by a thin, tall, straight-backed gentleman, clad in crisp white, who looks at you with still-piercing eyes, and invites you in briskly, saying: "I'm S. Rangarajan." Thought-processes require immediate re-adjustments.

S. Rangarajan was born on 9/1/1911. He graduated from Loyola College in 1935. Having decided to pursue journalism as a career, he attempted to join the one-year course at the 'Kasturi Ranga School of Journalism' which was run by *The Hindu* at the time.

"But I didn't make it at first," he smiles. A brief sojourn at Calcutta followed, where he hoped to acquire hands-on training and experience at local newspapers there. He came away disappointed. He re-applied to *The Hindu* and, this time, he made it. That was in 1936.

S. Parthasarathy, who later became Editor, was the Chief News Editor at the time. S. Rangarajan's assignments comprised mainly of review columns of All-India Radio programmes.

"If S. Parthasarathy wrote the words 'V. Good' on the copy, it was published," he laughs. Within days, he decided that he "had come of age, and need not show my copy for approval." And so he didn't, merely sending it in for publishing. S. Parthasarathy "did not talk to me for a week".

However, the wisdom of appreciating initiative and self-confidence obviously prevailed over temper. The impertinence was ignored, and more assignments came his way. His apprenticeship lasted a year. He was appointed a Sub-Editor around 1937. K. Srinivasan was Editor at the time.

Back then, sub-editing was considered superior to reporting. "I could have been a reporter," he discloses, but at that time, in Madras, the job mainly meant reporting of speeches. "It was more like a stenographer's job," he says in the slightly acerbic, direct manner of his generation. In all fairness, this changed with the times, he admits.

He remembers that *The Hindu* in the 1940s used to have a 'front-page of advertisements', modelled on *The Times*, London. As sub-editor, his job was only to edit the news stories. After a while, "since I showed some writing ability", as he puts it with characteristic self-depre-

cation, he was also given a chance to write. This had to be handled alongside the pressures of sub-editing. "In the early days, I used to write what was then known as the 'Third Editorial'," he recalls. In this connection, he remembers that his piece called 'The doves of peace' was much appreciated. Members of the then Secretariat conveyed their liking for that piece and, in fact, told the Chief Reporter that such articles should be made regular features.

Newspapers "produce supplements by the dozen these days," but he remembers when this concept was still very new. He, in fact, "did some pioneering work" in the art of produc-

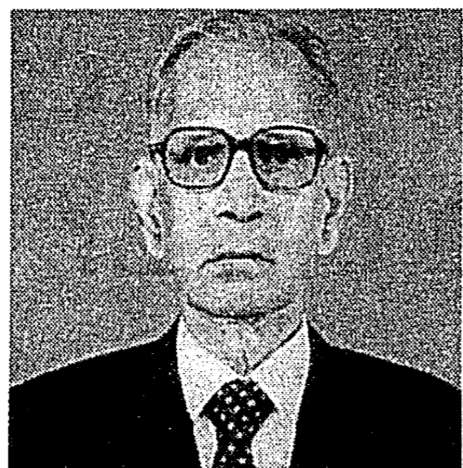
• As *The Hindu* celebrates its 125th anniversary, **RANJITHA ASHOK** meets the paper's oldest surviving journalist.

ing supplements, by putting stories together on chosen topics. "When India became a republic, we produced a Republic Day Supplement." He remembers the supplement issued when Andhra Pradesh was created. It so happened that he had to handle this on his own, as his colleagues were away travelling. When Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated the State of Andhra Pradesh, he commented on the supplement and his appreciation of it was reported by the Press.

S. Rangarajan went on to become News Editor, and later Assistant Editor.

He admits there were times when his ideas ran counter to prevailing requirements and attitudes. Some situations would, in fact, involve sensitive political areas, but that was, and continues to be, part of the game. He stresses that he never shied away from expressing his opinion, even if it meant periods of unpopularity. "Many editorials would provoke comment and uproar, protest and approval." He remembers one occasion when he had written an editorial regarding the Railways. "The next morning, I came to office to find a police cordon awaiting me. I was told it was for my protection." He laughs over this even today.

In the late 1950s, the American Consulate-General invited him to visit the American Press Institute. That was a rather hectic and difficult time because *The Hindu* was facing a severe strike situation. "The invitation was found when the strike ended and I had barely 5 or 6 days to make it," he recalls. But with the help of G. Kasturi, he was able to make the trip, toured the entire country, visit-



S. Rangarajan

ing newspapers everywhere, and returned via Japan. Upon his return, his writing increased, resulting in a number of editorials, involving many different kinds of experiences.

Topics of political and economic interest invariably caught his attention. In his writing of editorials, he was not chary of taking a view contrary to that of other newspapers, and was unafraid of being a lone voice expressing a particular opinion. At one stage, he was the main political writer, he says. "On the night India be-

came free, it was my job to run the morning edition," he says, with a hint of emotion in his voice. Hard at work through the night, "We put a five-column headline stating: 'Free India is born'."

When he considers the paper over the decades, he says that the display has changed enormously. "It is a sea change, appearance-wise," he says.

Newspaper-reporting has come a long way from the reporting of speeches. "In the early days, we had about half-a-dozen reporters on hand. Today, it is an ocean." The style of writing has also changed. Newspaper reporting, by definition in the old days, was really a reporting of facts. Today, there is more flair; even a touch of verbosity. "But I do not always approve of the raw approach to personalities that some reporters display," he says, frankly. As far as editorial policies are concerned, he

## Agro-based industries planned for each block in TN

The Tamil Nadu Government intends to establish one or more agro-based industries through the New Anna Marumalarchi Thittam with an investment of at least Rs. 1 crore in each of the 385 blocks in the State.

The scheme will be coordinated by the Small Scale Industries Department and the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation, the principal funding agency.

The projects under the scheme will be linked to wasteland development programme, which envisages the corporate sector participating in a big way.

maintains that there is and has always been a certain sense of continuity.

The South has a tradition of editorial-readers. He personally has always had a soft corner for the 'Letters to the Editor' section of the paper. He believes that it is the one channel of communication between the newspaper and its readers, and must be given focus and attention.

He is happy to note that more and more women are taking to journalism, he says, pointing out how different it was when he first joined the profession.

How does he define a good editor? As one who has a very good grasp of and feel for information, possessing an ability to take in all view-points, and yet stay as objective and fair as possible, keeping the character and stand of the particular publication in mind at all times. Yes, it is human to experience changes in thinking processes, but these changes should be incorporated in a gradual and well thought-out manner.

He makes special mention of S. Parthasarathy and N. Raghunath Iyer, chief editorial writer of *The Hindu*, and, most of all, G. Kasturi, as mentors under whom he learnt the most.

Today, he watches TV; reads newspapers. He does read contemporary fiction and, of course, the Classics. "P.G. Wodehouse is a great favourite. I have the entire collection, and find him so relaxing."

"I was present at both the Centenary celebrations and the 125th Anniversary held this year," he says. Both events were grand successes, with the latter being more elaborately arranged. "I was overwhelmed when N. Ram suddenly mentioned my name."

S. Rangarajan retired as Deputy Editor in 1977 - voluntarily, he adds. "I no longer had the will to carry on and felt that all good things must come to an end."

His last editorial was on the Central Budget that year.

Intended to increase employment opportunities in rural areas the scheme is planning for horticulture processing and manufacture flower-based extracts and coir-based products to provide neighbouring outlets for the produce of wasteland development.

A district-level committee headed by the Collectors will facilitate the projects, identify potential projects for promotion, organise for contract farming and link it to the wasteland development programme whenever feasible - (Courtesy: *BusinessLine*)

## The names the roads recall - 3

# The leader who refused office

His name has been permanently enshrined in a still tree-rich area of Madras, Thyagaraya Nagar, popularly reduced to T'Nagar. Its main highway, though better known as Pandy (once Pandyan) Bazaar, was named after him as 'Sir Thyagaraya Road'. His is the only statue in the Ripon Building campus.

One of the founding fathers of the Non-Brahmin Movement and later the Justice Party, which was in power in Fort St. George for some years, he is the only political leader in this part of the world who refused the highest office of the Madras Presidency when it came seeking him! Such a rare person and one of the most prominent citizens of Madras ever was Sir Pitty Thyagaraya Chetty. To him goes the credit of being a member of the Corporation Council for the longest period.

Sir Pitty Thyagaraya Chetty was born on April 7, 1852 into a wealthy landed gentry family of Tondiarpet, which also had varied business interests in hides and skins, dyes and yarn, and other lines. He took his B.A. degree in 1876 and joined the family business. Drawn to public service, he entered politics and represented his locality in the Council of the Corporation of Madras.

He was convinced that the education introduced by the British in India was not what Indians required. He felt that the system only churned out quill-drivers and B.A. and M.A. degrees were of no use for the uplift of the people. A visionary, he talked of vocational education and not merely enriching oneself with '18th Century prose', Shakespeare and Milton. Consequently he took a deep interest in the 'Chengalvaraya Naicker Technical Institute' in Vepery and worked hard for its improvement.

To promote the education of the economically backward classes in his area he founded in Washermanpet a high school

which, thanks to his encouragement and constant supervision, broadened itself in later years to become 'Thyagaraya College', which today serves the student community in north Madras. He also took active part in the affairs of Pachaiyappa's College which, in those days, was a premier educational institution of South India.

He also believed that the Buckingham Canal should be used to help the public and suggested regular passenger boat services, but to this day it remains a mere dream.

He was a key player in bringing a modern underground sewage system to Madras. Earlier it

• by **RANDOR GUY**

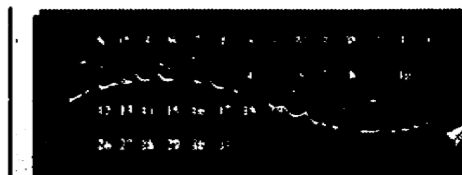
was being served, like the rest of the Presidency, by teams of scavengers with their shovels, trashcans and handcarts. He was deeply disturbed by the de-meaning and inhuman task done by these social outcasts and fought for the introduction of the new system by the Corporation. Some members opposed this move stating that the scavengers would be thrown out of work. There was also opposition from the Brahmin community that such a modern system was against orthodoxy. However, Sir Pitty found a strong ally in the noted Brahmin lawyer, prominent citizen and senior Freemason of Madras, Kayar Chakravarthy Desikachari, who supported him. Not surprisingly the Brahmin community took 'KCD' to task.

The most significant contribution of Sir Pitty was the founding of the Non-Brahmin Movement in the Madras Presidency. A popular Triplicane resident, Dr. C. Natesa Mudaliar, launched the Movement along with Sir Pitty and another prominent citizen, Dr. T.M.

## Answers to Quiz

- That the disinvestment has to be done with the approval of the Parliament; 2. CityRover; 3. *Financial Times*; 4. Jeffery Archer; 5. Althea Gibson; 6. Malaria; 7. Galileo; 8. K. Malleswari, Anju George, Anjali Bhagwat, Abhinay Bindra and K.M. Beenamol; 9. The 50th birthday of Mata Amritanandamayi; 10. *The Independent*.
- 'Police Boys Clubs'; 12. Puzhal; 13. Rahul Dravid; 14. Beach Tech-2000; 15. Thiruvandithai and Thaiyur; 16. V. Kannuchamy; 17. Rs. 25 lakh; 18. A project focussing exclusively on educating girl children in the 6-14 age group; 19. An exhibition of the history of the Dravidian movement, inaugurated at the DMK HQ on September 30; 20. The LIC Building on Mount Road.

\* \* \*



Till October 30: Deepak Shinde of Bombay exhibits his paintings (Forum Art Gallery).

From October 17: Ragini Padmanabhan exhibits different varieties of Ganesha (at C P Arts Centre).

From October 18: Wildlife photography exhibition by Mahesh and Saravanan (at Alliance Francaise).

From October 19: R.S. Jayadeep's paintings on show (at Vinyasa).

From October 26: Exhibition of paintings by Usha Devi (at Vinyasa).

From October 28: Watercolours by Sudip Roy (at Artworld).

From October 29: Babu from the Nilgiris exhibits his paintings (at C P Arts Centre).

October 16-31: In search of a lost paradise: A series of activities revolving around environment.

16th: In search of the pig-faced frog and other such bizarre creatures, a talk by Saravanakumar on India's Western Ghats. 18th: Anamalai-Elephant Mountain, a film by Saravanakumar tells the story of the animals that share this mountain sanctuary. 22nd: Tribes from Nilgiris, a talk by Mahesh Sriram. 23rd: Miles to go, a film by Nina Subramani focussing on public health and environment protection in India.

29th: In God's own country, a film by Nina Subramani and Ranjani Mani, telling the story of a village where people are ill, because of a deadly pesticide sprayed in cashew plantations in Kasargode. 31st: Travelling and cross cultural experiences, a talk by Mahesh Sriram on ecological sustainability. (All at 6.30 pm at Alliance Francaise.)

October 17-19: Spread over three days, Kathakali dance theatre focussing on an episode from *Mahabharata* on 17th; modern dance by the Swingers on 18th; Bhagavada Mela dance theatre presents *Prahalada Charitram* on 19th (at Bharathiya Vidyalyaya Bhavan).

October 21: Art workshop conducted by Aashish Sarcar, R. Sundar and Anbajagane (at Mukti's East Coast Road gallery).

October 25: I'd like to be a book-worm, a reading skill workshop for members of the Young Learners Centre - (at British Council).

October 28: Culture Cafe Writers Circle presents *Gift of the Gab and other stories*, a reading of John

## Four Heritage tours with INTACH

INTACH Tamil Nadu is organising four heritage tours between October 2003 and February 2004. Each tour will accommodate eight persons on a first-come, first-served basis. If there are additional groups of eight for any tour, the tour will be repeated. Tour guide: Archaeologist Dr. S. Suresh. For further details contact phone 24918479 or email: chorchu@vsnl.net

**CHOLA TOUR: October 31st to November 4th (Friday night to Tuesday morning) - Rs. 10,500 per person. Tiruchi-Kallanai Kalvai-Narthamalai-Thanjavur-Gangai-kondacholapuram-Darasuram-Tribhuvanam-Poompuhar-Tiruchi.**

**THANJAVUR MARTHATHA TOUR: November 14th to November 18th (Friday night to Tuesday morning) - Rs. 9,000 per person. Thanjavur-Manora-Orathanad-Thanjavur town-Thiruvaiyaru-Thanjavur.**

**ROMAN TRAIL TOUR: November 25th to November 30th (Tuesday night to Sunday evening) - Rs. 14,000 per person. Tiruchur-Muziris-Vellalur-Coimbatore-Erode-Kodumal-Padiyur-Karur-Thanjavur-Poompuhar-Pondicherry-Arikamedu-Mahabalipuram.**

**VELLORE - GINGEE NAYAK TOUR: December 21st and 22nd (Sunday morning to Monday evening) - Rs. 4000 per person.**

Travel by AC 2-tier in train from Chennai to starting point and return, surface transport by AC coach, stay in AC rooms on twin-sharing basis, all meals in good restaurants, entrance fee to monuments and museums - all included in the tour rates. Several specially arranged extras focussing on the tour themes.

Ravenscroft's short stories in which everyday life become creative fodder. (At British Council, 6.30 p.m.)

October 30: Kalairani Kalai Foundation, long time lead actress of Koothu-p-pattari, presents her popular solo *Varugalamo...* a part of *Nandanar Charitham*, the life of the saint Nandanar. (at Alliance Francaise, 7 p.m.)

## CHENNAI HERITAGE

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Note: Overseas postage Rs. 450/year extra. Cheques payable to M/s. Lokavani Hall-Mark Press.

## Good performances — but what about 'attitude'?

With nine of the scheduled matches with TNCA's First Division league so far completed, Vijay CC leads the table, closely followed by Jolly Rovers. During Rounds 8 and 9, highly placed Globe Trotters suffered a setback when it yielded the first innings lead to unfancied Alwarpet CC and failed to beat SICAL outright after posting a total of 303 for 6 declared and bowling SICAL out for 121, rain interfering with the progress of the match as it did most of the ties. Both Vijay and Jolly Rovers registered one innings victory each, but the latter suffered a reverse, India Pistons snatching a thrilling single-run lead from them. In the battle of the minnows, Parry got the better of the exchanges against SICAL, but also turned the tables on the much stronger India Pistons outfit, with their veteran off spinner N. Raghavendran and all-rounder Gowjit Subhash performing outstandingly.

With figures of 7 for 61 against ICF, paceman Sony Cheruyatoor of Mambalam Mosquitos was the best bowler of Rounds 8 & 9. Jolly Rovers' Ajay Kudua (137 against ICF) was the highest scorer of the two rounds. S. Sharath of Vijay made exactly a hundred against UFCC T'Nagar and S. Sriram of Mosquitos missed the mark by one against ICF. There were all-round displays by B. Ramprakash of SPIC and Sreekumar Nair of IOB, and good bowling and batting performances too numerous to mention in detail here. Wicket keeper A.G. Srinivas of Alwarpet had a good match with five victims and 63 runs against Globe Trotters. Globe Trotters were severely

handicapped in losing a number of players to representative matches. They will be further depleted in the last two rounds of the season by the absence of players suspended for unseemly behaviour on the field. The TNCA has suspended Aashish Kapoor for two games and Kumaran for one. The players' appeal awaits the appellate committee's decision, as I write. Before the TNCA decision, the two players had come up with strong performances against SICAL, with Kumaran scoring an unbeaten hundred.



It is heartening to see that a firm step has been taken to root out unacceptable sledging. It will help in future if, in addition to the TNCA taking punitive action, the teams themselves stress the importance of good conduct at very early stages in the careers of their players, and do not defend indefensible behaviour. This has unfortunately been the case often in the past, with team officials looking the other way when their wards misbehave. I remember an occasion, a few seasons ago, when the bat flung hard by a batsman returning to the pavilion, flew past me and dashed against the dressing room window of a city ground. To the best of my knowledge, the youngster got away with the excess, no one even speaking to him about the incident afterwards.

Among the players missing from the action in the league,

all-rounder Vidyut Sivaramakrishnan had a good run in the South Zone under-22 tournament near Vizag, and wicket-keeper-batsman Dinesh Karthick did well too. Karthick continued his form in the one-day matches Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India played in Colombo, scoring crucial runs and keeping wickets competently. Vidyut too contributed his bit with bat and ball in a low-scoring tournament. L. Balaji was unusually out of form on Colombo's seamer-friendly wickets, but his remarkable consistency over the last two seasons has won him a place in the Indian team for the Tests against New Zealand. He made his debut in the first Test that started at Ahmedabad on October 8th.

The selectors have once again overlooked S. Ramesh. He scored a hundred against the New Zealanders in a tour match but lost out to right-hander Akash Chopra who has followed up a century and 66 in two side games against Fleming's men with a very respectable 42 in the first innings of the Test. Hemang Badani was another Tamil Nadu player who scored a hundred against the tourists. Murali Kartik, the left arm spinner from Tamil Nadu who plays for the Railways, has also been left out, the selectors preferring Anil Kumble and Sairaj Bahutule to partner Harbhajan Singh in the spin department.

The word 'attitude' figures largely in any discussion of the continued sidelining of players from Tamil Nadu. A recent conversation among former Test and first class cricketers in the know of things was an ex-

## Chennai rugby offers more than one surprise

As coach Emil Vartazarian predicted, the Chennai Cheetahs entered the semi-finals of the All India Rugby Football Tournament, where they lost to the eventual winners, the Sri Lanka Police, a First Division side in the Island. The newcomers to the tournament, the Tamil Nadu Police, also did not let down the Tamil Nadu Rugby Union's coaching programme, entering the final of the Losers' Plate, in which they lost to the Calcutta Cricket & Football Club, where the rugby tradition began in India.

Both teams won games and demonstrated that they were among the best ten teams in Indian rugby, a game that now must have at least two dozen teams in competition in different parts of the country, a reflection of the growth of the game in India in the last couple of years.

Well as all that might be, the Chennai Cheetahs, apart from their good showing in the tournament, pulled a couple of surprises which *The Corner Flag* does not have the happiest thoughts about. The first is a minor point: The Cheetahs fielded players from other Chennai teams, so why didn't the team call itself a Chennai XV or a TNRU XV? It would have been a much nicer gesture to Chennai or Tamil Nadu rugby.

The second surprise was to suddenly find three Pacific Islanders playing for the team. Where did they turn up from, overnight? When the Chennai Cheetahs team was announced a few days before the tournament, it included only Chennai players. So, how did the Club manage to register the newcomers for the tournaments on its eve? And did playing these semi-professionals (*The Corner Flag's* guess is that they are from Sri Lanka, where a number of them are playing for clubs which permit two overseas players per team) do any good for Chennai rugby other than enabling it to put up a better performance than it otherwise may have?

*The Corner Flag* is aware that the question of overseas players has been the subject of a lot of discussion in Sri Lanka. After finding that a much more relaxed policy, that enabled clubs to have four or five 'imports', did little good for Sri Lankan rugby, it was decided to reduce and limit the number of overseas players per team. But even that is now under question, particularly as the Services teams and the Police — the backbone of Sri Lankan rugby — are in no position to avail of this benefit. The argument 'for' is that playing with and, particularly, against these superior players would help local players improve their game facing as they would tougher competition.

If Chennai was thinking in those positive terms, it should have its 'imports' playing for local teams regularly, not have them just for a one-off tournament where you want to make a mark. That's hardly ruggar.

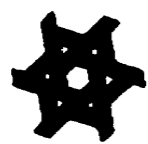
The Corner Flag

ample. When support for the claims of Tamil Nadu players was expressed with considerable vehemence by a lone voice in the group, it was drowned by the rest who were unanimously critical of their 'attitude'. The poor Tamil Nadu supporter was almost mauled when he suggested that there had always been eccentrics like Salim Durrani in Indian cricket who

were handled carefully and their talents nurtured. How dare he suggest that any of the current lot could compare with the genius of Durrani?

I relate this episode here in the fond hope that someone will tell the State's talented young players that such a perception could be impeding the progress of their cricket careers. And that they will, indeed, listen!

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