WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

HADRAS MUSINGS

INSIDE

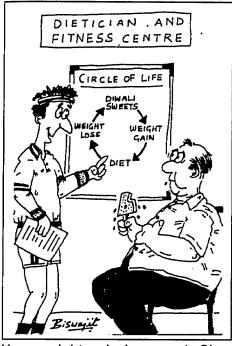
- Waking up to EIA
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- A disappointing season
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Vol. XIII No.14

FREE ISSUE

November 1-15, 2003





Your weight gain is normal, Sir... you've only succumbed to what we call 'The Sweet Circle of Life'!

Sweet season

Well, Deepavali has come - and gone, and the city sits back, exhausted after the frantic shopping, the clogged roads outside equally clogged shops, the buying and bursting of crackers (almost inevitably accompanied by anti-burn ointments, band-aids, and adult admonitions), topped off by the restless behaviour of umpteen boxes of sweets and dry fruits whizzing around the city, flying in and out of homes and offices. Watching them, I wonder if it makes sense to set up committees a few weeks before the festival to decide who sends what, to avoid danger of repetition. There's something a little farcial about two homes exchanging the exact same burfi, contained in gift boxes that look alarmingly alike.

A question arises — given today's obsessive emphasis on fitness and the eternal-slim-look — are Deepavali sweets looked at with critical severity, making them feel forlorn and neglected, longing for the days when Grand-Aunt X, clueless about cholesterol, didn't care that every diamond-cut cashew kathali was going straight to her hips and waist? Do the badam burfis, badhushas and pista rolls now wish they were less rich, so customers would choose them, instead of merely gazing at them longingly from a distance?

No,' indicate the crowds at the sweet-shops, proving that some attitudinal changes can be reversed on demand.

It is good to know people can take holidays from themselves.

Ranjitha Ashok

Senate House restoration underway

But help needed for completion and maintenance thereafter

(By The Editor)

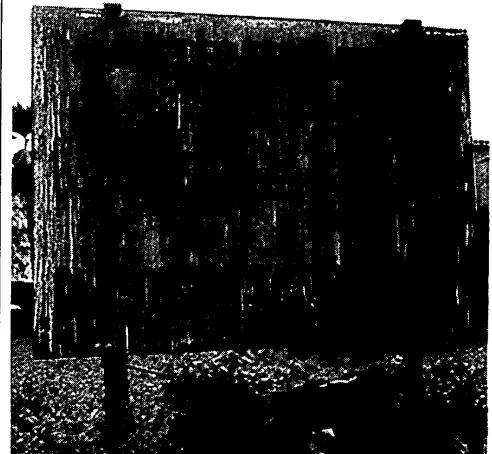
Ork on the first step needed to protect Senate House from further deterioration and also a beginning to its ultimate restoration has now been completed after about eight months of work. The reroofing and waterproofing have been done at a cost of about Rs. 58 lakh. But about Rs. 500 lakh work has still to be done to restore the city's finest example of Indo-Saracenic architecture to its century-old glory. And where that money is to come from, as well as a corpus to ensure maintenance, after renewal, is the greatest concern of the Heritage Committee advising the University of Madras and the PWD Research Wing, which is doing the restoration.

It was to try to help with some answers that the NGO, Chennai Heritage, the corporate supporters of Madras Musings which has for over a dozen years been calling for the restoration, met the Vice-Chancellor recently and discussed how best it could help the University with the restoration project. A University-private sector partnership to raise the funds and then manage this invaluable heritage resource of the University was suggested.

While it was agreed by all that such an arrangement would in no way seek any kind of ownership of the property, which would remain the University's, whatever the contributions raised by the partnership, the arrangement would help in raising the necessary funds and in ensuring professional day-to-day management as well as regular use.

This journal, however, feels that for such a partnership to evolve, the restoration of Senate House must also be seen as part of the plans to beautify the Marina and some of the immediate funding necessary could come from that much-bigger project until the partnership arrangement could be worked out and fund-raising and professional management put in place. The target of all this should be to get Senate House looking like what it once was by 2005, when the 150th anniversary celebrations of the University will begin. The partnership would also, it was envisaged, help with the restoration of the other buildings on the campus in time for the 150th anniversary celebrations and, in the process, make the

(Continued on Page 6)



• Reader C.G. Prasad of 9, C.S. Mudali Street, Kondithope, Chennai 600 009, writes: After all the encroachments have been cleared, the patch of squalor laughingly known as the Loane Square 'Park' stands destitute and denuded in Broadway to pitying eyes as a sad epitaph to the Madras that was. To rub it in, a rusted notice stands on it and the faded letters proclaim, "A step to a beautiful Madras"! It is more tragic than Ozymandias' tomb.

Our pictures by REFLECTIONS today show the promise (above), the sad state of the Loane Square/Sriramulu Park, below, and the road beside it (at the bottom) where the lorries used to park. Clearing lorries and encroachments in the park has only provided road for new encroachments — a host of minicanteens.





Save that marsh!

(By A Special Correspondent)

Dot only is a groundswell building up among the citizens of the city to save the Pallikaranai Marsh, but an expert 6-member team sent out by the Union Ministry of Environment has recommended that the area be declared a sanctuary. All that is now available for that purpose from what was once a 5000 hectare marsh is about 750 acres, about a third

of which is in the custody of the Corporation of Chennai and which will have to be surrendered to the proper authority if the recommendation is implemented.

Even as the expert committee was surveying the state of a wetland whose inclusion in the National Wetlands Conserva-

(Continued on Page 6)

Waking up to environmental impact

the Union Environment Min- view of impact on the environistry suddenly woke up to a ment as well as on citizens. threat to the coastal zone. Now In the case of the new Secthat large parts of the Anna retariat in Kotturpuram, MMM University campus have been wonders whether anyone is gotaken over for that peregrinat- ing to look at its impact on ing new Secretariat, the Union major educational and research Ministry has suddenly woken institutions and those in them, up to a Supreme Court direc- the transport, water and sewage tive issued in 2001! The Man facilities in the area, the traffic From Madras Musings wonders and its consequences along acnot only about the constantly cess routes, the citizens who are delayed reaction to threatening residents of what is essentially events by the Union Ministry a residential and educational but also whether the Ministry locality, and on what is one of doesn't realise that these last the city's prime natural heritage minute reactions seem more a assets. Only the other day, when bit of political oneupmanship a deer was knocked down and than a real concern for the en- killed in the area, it was pointed vironment.

Secretariat, The Man From traffic? Madras Musings has been pointing out that, laws apart, ward to an "architectural marany planning authority needs vel" (no doubt inspired by Karto, in the case of such mega- nataka's Vidhana Soudha) that projects conduct environmen- will add further glory to a city tal impact assessments — by badly in need of its past glory neutral bodies — and, more being restored in every part of importantly, citizenry impact it. assessments. Local planners, confident that they know it all, Railway Heritage ignore such pleas — which are in fact based on national laws It was good to hear that the and the guidelines of the Union Railways are seriously consid-Environment Ministry apart ering restoration of the oldest from being sheer commonsense Railway station in the South, requirements of a government the Royapuram Station, which concerned about and respon- when it was built was consible to its citizens. The Union structed on Classical manorial Ministry for its part wakes up lines, as well as develop the area to the threat not at first sug- around it sympathetically for gestion, but only when there railway use. wonders MMM.

notification on EIAs for all University of Madras has done projects costing over Rs.50 for the restoration of Senate crore or discharging over House. 50,000 litres of sewage a day national body like the Election around India, the Archaeologi-Commission is necessary to cal Survey of India, structural Union Environment Ministry

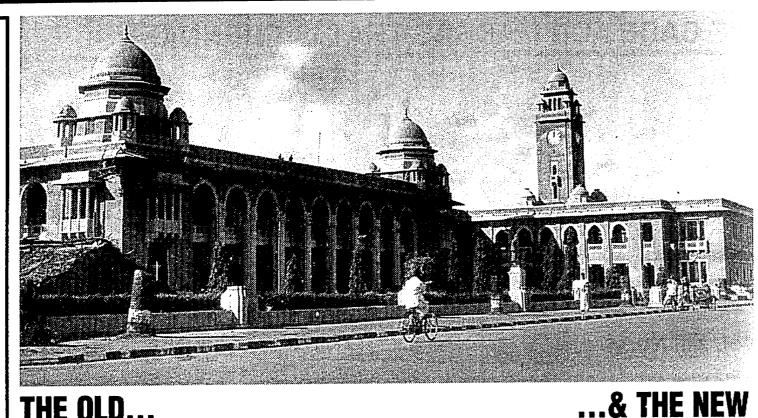
When Queen Mary's assess major development College was threatened, projects both from the point of

out that deer deaths in traffic For months now, ever since accidents were increasing in frethe Queen Mary's College cam- quency. What will the threat to pus was eyed by Government, them be when the Secretariat as the potential site for a new creates a many-fold increase in

Meanwhile, MMM looks for-

building up against such Railways is earnest about this projects. Its actions thereafter stated intention, then those who seem more like a willingness are experts in restoration and to fish in troubled waters rather conservation need to be conthan a true commitment to the sulted. With the Railways not cause of environment. Couldn't having such an expert cell, it the environment, at least, be would be wise, The Man from looked at by all concerned be- Madras Musings suggests, to yond the bounds of internecine draw on outside expertise. In politics and political ambitions, fact, what it needs to do is appoint a Heritage Committee The Union Ministry's latest along the lines of what the

In the case of Senate House, or where over a thousand the work is being undertaken people will congregate is cer- by the Research Wing of the tainly, whatever the reasons for PWD which has contracted the its timing, a welcome idea. But work to engineering companies it also has a flip side. Given as well as to expert craftsmen. today's costs, Rs.50 crore But the entire PWD operation projects are likely to be a dime is supervised on almost a daily a dozen and does the Union basis by a Heritage Committee, Ministry have the expert staff which has carried out or comto examine and report on such missioned special studies of difprojects expeditiously and ferent aspects of the work, idenwithin a specified timeframe. tified craftsmen who are experts MMM has also heard it being in fields ranging from stone to said that the name of the game canvas and iron, and monitored today is decentralisation. But costs which are based on Arcan the State Pollution Con- chaeological Survey of India trol Boards or any other State norms. The Committee comauthority set up to carry out prises representatives from the local EIAs be objective about Indian National Trust for Art projects, particularly if there is and Cultural Heritage, Tamil government pressure? In this Nadu, who can call on expercontext, perhaps a statutory tise from INTACH chapters





cal builders shack seen in the bottom left-hand corner (above). Our NEW, on left, shows the 1936 buildings hidden by the work of rather enthusiastic gardeners today. Comparing the OLD and the NEW, this would appear one occasion when we could do with less trees or, better still, trees

which would not hide the architectural beauty which once gave Madras a memorable skyline. To the right of these buildings, by the Cooum River, and on whose site these buildings came up, was the Marina Villa, also known as the Nawab's Octagon. The octagonal pavilion was where the Nawab of the Carnatic, his family and their guests enjoyed the Cooum estuary and the beach view in the days when both could be enjoyed. The building was pulled down in 1930 to make way for the University's new buildings. (NEW: Photograph by REFLECTIONS.)

engineering experts and the University's representatives. A similar committee for the Royapuram Railway Station is nec-

model quality. Meanwhile, even as the Railways is commendably looking at restoration of one of its heritage buildings, it is regrettably building and airspace next to the LIC Building - its Mount Road Booking Office — is up for bidding and developing. The



Booking Office building and the quarters it once housed may not be of the finest architecture, but they are typical of a certain very specific type of railway architecture, dating to the colonial beginnings of the railway. In those circumstances it might behove the Railways to discuss with the developers whether it might not be possible to integrate the existing buildings, duly restored, with any new development. That would help to keep the traditional architectural variety of Mount Road intact, MMM would think, particularly as that architectural range is one of the special features of this major thorough-

Where's the report!

Peclare the Pallikaranai Marsh a sanctuary, urged the expert committee of the

expected, though what the Ministry had been doing these past couple of years when the danessary if restoration is to be of ger to the marsh was widely publicised — some of the threat came in fact, from other Union Ministries — The Man from Madras Musings does not know.

looking at pulling down another curious about the threat to the lihood? bit of its heritage. Its land, Pallikaranai Marsh is that a year ago a biodiversity specialist, Madras Musings notes, Govern who'd been a Smithsonian Felment has started a project withlow and researcher, was commissioned by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board to do a detailed study of the Marsh. Degradation of the Marsh, its biodiversity, its extent and what would be a viable area of management were all studied by Dr. Jayashree Vencatesan. But what has happened to her report and what action has been taken on

With the Marsh even more threatened than ever, unless declared a sanctuary IMMEDI-ATELY and steps taken to protect it, what value are such studies unless acted on? Why, wonders MMM, was no action taken on the Vencatesan Report a year ago? It is the ignoring of such studies by Government, that makes MMM worry about whether EIAs and their like will be heeded by governments that are convinced that they know what's best for citizens.

Beautifying Marina

The grass looks green, the L trees promise to grow shade-providingly tall, the sands look cleaner and, most marked of all, the brickwork fencing gleams white and bright. Indeed, beautifying the Marina is slowly getting underway - with even the Aquarium getting a coat of

recently. That was only to be paint as other buildings get bulldozed.

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Our OLD - a picture

which came to Madras

Musings from an anony-

mous wellwisher - prob-

ably dates to the late

1950s when the Univer-

sity of Madras's Cente-

nary Building was being

raised to the left of the

Administrative, Library

and tower blocks seen

here, to judge by the typi-

Not particularly concerned about the beautification process are the fishermen whose boats occupy patches of the beach and who, with their families, use the beach for a variety of purposes. What, they worry, is going to What strikes, MMM as most happen to them and their live-

Once more, The Man from out talking it over with the stakeholders and providing them alternatives. Now, with the fisherfolk agitated, whither the Marina beautification?

A tank sullied

nly the other day, The Man From Madras Musings had noted in this column that one of the Municipal Councillors of Mylapore was committed to bring back water to the Kapaleeswarar Temple Tank in Mylapore and that she had been spending much of the funds allotted to her for this work. Just a few days later MMM was startled to read that sewage was being let into the tank, garbage dumped in it and cattle were having a field day again.

Once the reports of the sullying of the tank appeared, the response was immediate. The tank will be cleaned and restored. How many times has MMM heard this refrain. And every time we go back to Square One. Does sustainability mean nothing to us?

Meanwhile, there's Namma Mylapore to be heard from on what it is going to do to keep the Mylapore Tank clean and, hopefully, with a modicum of water in it.

-- MMM

Reinventing MTC: Some thoughts

There is no gainsaying that Chennai needs a quality some hotels. Passengers coming by train to Madras Cen-L bus service or, shall we say, transportation service. tral today are at the mercy of the autorickshaw drivers. No doubt the MTC has its vision. But customers have
The MTC buses stopping at Madras Central today do not one too. Here are a few suggestions.

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The MTC is in the business of transporting Chennai's citizens within the boundaries of Greater Chennai and outlying areas. It is not limited to use only of large buses, but may use other vehicles too. Water transportation may be considered. We need not only consider the Buckingham Canal; a ferry service from Marina to Valmiki Nagar or Mahabalipuram could also be thought

By running minibuses as feeder services, MTC has begun to step out of the box and demonstrate that the bus company of Chennai is in reality in the business of transporting people. Can the MTC extend this further and run minibuses in the city if they meet the need of the citizens? Can it consider also the six-seater mini-tempos and, heaven forbid, but yes, why not autorickshaws and

objective is to trigger a debate, which may lead to newer boundaries being sought and established for MTC.

Consider minibuses. They have been used in a feeder role to bring passengers from outlying areas to bus depots like Tambaram. Such buses could be used in the city. Buses from K.K. Nagar/Ashok Nagar to Parry's nowadays are often choc-a-block with short distance passengers (K.K. Nagar to Ashok Nagar, then Ashok Nagar to Panagal Park... etc.). This makes the passengers in the bus feel extremely uncomfortable. A feeder minibus service between K.K. Nagar and Panagal Park, in peak business hours, run every five or ten minutes, would eliminate this problem. The minibus would service the short distance at a higher frequency while short distances would be disallowed on the larger, long distance buses to Parry's. This concept can be very effectively used in many 'suburban developments". Chennai's suburbs today are self-sufficient and it makes sense to have bus services within the suburb.

It may also be useful to use minibuses to bring passengers to the nearest suburban railway stations. Guindy, East Chromepet could be the next prime area after Tambaram. Passengers may start using Meenambakkam and Pazhavanathangal if a feeder bus service is available to these stations. This would save many passengers the need to bring and park a two-wheeler at the railway station and will reduce the number of vehicles on the road. MTC has started a bus service from the airport to ber of initiatives. All-route passes, i.e. a monthly pass for

help long distance passengers with a lot of luggage. At the bus stop, more passengers seem to be getting down than getting into the buses.

Many solutions come to mind, if MTC takes to itself the task of addressing the legitimate transportation requirement of those train passengers. It can run minibuses from Madras Central along arterial routes and drop passengers at the nearest point to their residences. They can run six seater autorickshaws and drop people at their homes. And why not a fleet of "MTC Station Taxis" that bring passengers to and from the Madras Central and Egmore Railway Stations. These taxis could even be run by franchisees of MTC.

Let us consider water-based transportation. The Buckingham Canal may revive when Chennai reaches the point of no return, but today we have an excellent coast and many settlements along the coast. A hovercraft These are only suggestions, not final solutions. The or ferry from Marina to Besant Nagar to Valmiki Nagar to Neelangarai onwards to Mahabalipuram (?) will be a great boon to citizens currently using the road. Why shouldn't MTC run it? And why not a feeder minibus service to the ferry? It would complete the job very nicely.

More and more Chennai citizens are now travelling on weekends or short holidays to picnic spots and religious centres. Comfortable airconditioned buses, taking families directly from, say, major depots to various tourist spots, might be worth considering. If MTC organises a trip to Vedanthangal, for instance, then snacks and coffee would make the passengers' journey comfortable and increase revenues for MTC.

It is a surprise that there are so few double-decker buses in Chennai. If the buses are poorly designed, they need to be redesigned. If there are obstacles, like electricity wires or large trees, they should be suitable addressed. The overcrowding that is evident in buses suggests that it be mandatory for all buses to be double-decker buses, particularly on arterial roads.

There also appears to be a great need for redesigning of buses. MTC could talk to manufacturers, both in India and abroad, about a range of buses to serve different needs. For years now, the standard bus provides a lot of standing space and is pretty basic in features. Buses with automatic doors, with light music, with seats only can be thought of.

On the customer service front, MTC can take a num-

any bus and any number of times during the day, should be introduced at an attractive price. Regular office-goers will definitely pay the additional amount for the convenience it gives them. Visitors to the city on short visits could avail of a weekly or fortnightly pass. The price should be so attractive that only passengers travelling in a bus on the rare occasion will buy a regular ticket.

The attractive pricing could be made possible by reduction in ticket printing and distribution costs and elimination of conductors. In San Francisco, for example, a monthly bus pass is about \$28 while a single fare is a minimum of 85 cents. Thus, if you take a bus to office every day, the pass becomes attractive. The pass in San Francisco is also valid on the local underground trains. In Chennai it could be made valid on minibuses and all other types of vehicles that MTC may choose to operate. Of course, if the government takes a bold initiative and arranges for a Metro pass to be valid on buses or bus passes be valid on Metro, the citizens of Chennai would tremendously benefit.

Another pass that could be considered is an annual bus pass. Most government employees, even employees in the organised and unorganised private sector, are reasonably certain that they would be travelling by bus throughout the year. Why not give them an annual pass? This would lower distribution and printing costs of tickets even further. Some issues of security may arise with this annual pass, but they can be suitably addressed in this age of computerisation.

The railways have decided to use their land very effectively. MTC can do the same. It can lease out space for a chain of, say, "Fast Food Outlets" and even have pay-to-use toilets at the major depots. Besides telephones at each and every bus depot, some of the depots can have Internet cases. All these would earn revenue that can be reinvested in providing better services. Some of these facilities would be welcomed by the MTC employees, too. After all, well cared for employees give good service.

To conclude, I can almost hear the vociferous protests, some ridicule and the odd nod of assent to this or that idea presented in this letter. But the old MTC has to disappear and a new MTC has to emerge. How better than by discussing dreams.

In Singapore, all citizens travel punctually in airconditioned comfort at a very reasonable cost. Why can't

> S. Sharma 3, Sixth Avenue, C-1, Praveen's Varada Chennai 600 083

At least inspection

D e. Indu Palaniappan's letter (MM October 16th), I agree that the only way is for the staff to at least inspect the toilets, if not use

When I was a postgraduate student, my professor, Dr A.S. Thambiah, used to inspect the toilets in the Dermatology Ward daily, thus ensuring cleanliness.

> Dr. B Srinivas 8, K.B Dasan Road Alwarpet, Chennai 600 018

A band missed

Live decades ago when Triplicane, that is Tiruvallikeni, was considered a paradise for bachelors to live in, I had the fortune of living in a lodge. There gourmet lunches at Indra Bhavan, delicious jangri and bajji at Coimbatore Krishna lyer's in the evenings, worshipping Save that water Lord Parthasarathy on festival days, attendance at the MCC ground on holidays to witness cricket matches were my routine. Of course, visiting Marina beach to breathe ozone, consuming the thenga manga pattani sundal and hearing speeches by great leaders at occasional meetings were also part of my diversions.

One other attraction for me was the Corporation bands (Nathamuni) instrumental music concert opposite the University buildings. The group playing clarinets and

drums used to stand in a circle and delight the audience with exquisite music. Once, just for fun, I requested them to play the Tamil song கைலாயக்குடகுச்சுருளி மலைக் கந்த வே மகிமையே மகிமை. My companion, a music buff like me, laughed at the suggestion. But within moments, the group enthralled us with a mellifluous rendering of the song. I do not know why the band was discontinued Several such charming diversions have sadly gone into oblivion.

> M.R. Pillai H 64/5, Central Avenue Korattur Chennai 600 080

That water is the most basic among man's needs is acutely felt when there is scarcity. For lack of breath, man may swoon or even die. But dear water when not available to quench thirst strangles all thoughts and deeds of man without finishing off his life and makes life a torture. Recently, I made some suggestions to the Government. There was this welcome response from the Managing Director, Chennai Water Supply Board:

WRITE We are thankful to the suggestions made in your letter to the Chief Minister. CMWSSB has already taken up and completed construction of check dams across the Kortaliyar river to benefit the well fields situated in

OUR

READERS

The public will be helped and scarcity conditions will ease if, only if, similar measures are executed urgently in all waterways to arrest and impound water that is going to the sea.

the riverbeds. Similar initiatives

are also planned in future.

N. Rajagopalan (IAS RTD) Mayur Apartments 7, 24th Cross Street Indira Nagar, Chennai 600 020

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

 Madras Musings does not accept letters by e-mail.

Still on steam

A nent reader Patwarathan's Account of the NMR (MM, October 16th), his last line needs correction. The loco still runs on steam, though the steam is generated by diesel-burner instead of coal-boiler.

I might also add that what is popularly known as a "diesel loco" is, in fact, an electric-loco, but with power generated in situ by diesel generator, instead of being drawn by overhead lines from a power sta-

> N Dharmeshwaran 21, Kumaran Nagar, Guduvancherry

Nostalgia club

V/ith great writeups and photographs, Madras Musings is doing yeoman service in giving us glimpses of a bygone era.

It would be a nice idea if we readers could form a Nostalgia Club and meet once a month to discuss our childhood memories, the places we lived in, our parents, the discipline and culture of that era

Those interested in forming such a club may please write to me at the address below.

> George J. Jeyaraj 628, 27th Street Korattur (TNHB) Chennai 600 080

EDITOR'S NOTE: The writer is an architect, teaches architecture and has an M.A. in history as well.

'Feel better' article

There was an element of thrill L perusing Randor Guy's feature on Sir Pitty Thyagaraya Chetty (MM, October 16th), because such articles help us to feel better for a while in these times that see so many drastic negative actions in human behaviour.

From 1953 till the article, I was under impression that Dr. Natesa Mudaliar founded the Justice Party in 1910 with Dr. T.M. Nair, the famous Arcot twins, Periyar and a few others, and not in 1916, as mentioned. The booklet I read in 1953 was based on a study by P.D. Devanandam and Dr. M.M. Thoms. Which is correct?

> P.J. Joseph 'The Trinity 5, Kandigai Road Korattur Chennai 600 076

EMERGING

services in the State.

a huckster's invention.

or four places to reach the No.1 spot.

proceedings — featured below — were.

Information Technology

OPPORTUNITIES -TAMIL NADU

Steps to being No. 1

• A sound agro-industrial base, a comfortable power position, well

developed infrastructure, high quality literacy, excellent human re-

sources and a proactive industry-friendly and supportive govern-

ment were some of the features that the recent seminar 'Emerging

Opportunities - Tamil Nadu', organised by The New Indian Express

seminar, emphatically made the point that she intends to make

Tamil Nadu the No.1 State in Information Technology (IT) and allied

sectors, including areas as diverse as foreign direct investment, e-

governance and application in government departments. The semi-

The speakers were unanimous in feeling that Tamil Nadu had a

The titling of the seminar in this context, however, raises a

question or two. Tamil Nadu being ranked third or fourth in the In

dian economic scene is certainly indicative of the fact that much

has been done over the years in all the focus areas of the seminar.

What then were the emerging opportunities? The focus was on dis-

cussing how to improve on what had been started in the past; few

new opportunities were being talked about, making the titling seem

from encouraging. The Chief Minister's departure after the inaugu-

ral ceremony was the signal for several others to leave as well.

Through the rest of the sessions, more than half the seats in the

hall remained empty. And many of what were occupied were by the

the seminar was intended, stayed back. Making you wonder what

the purpose of the seminar was, interesting and informative the

Despite competitve edge

State is undefold

win thousands of jobs.

bal competitive edge Tamil Naddemployed almost 25 per cent of

has, the State is undersold as the company's workforce and

destination and that has to be close to 25 per cent of TCS' cam-

corrected. Bangalore, despite in pus recruitment is in Tamil

frastructure bottlenecks, contine Nadu. The twin advantages of

ues to be perceived as a more at cost and differentiation have

tractive place to do business helped the city's cluster of IT

ment's objective is to make promoting the domestic industry

Tamil Nadu the destination of as a springboard to reach the ex-

choice for IT and IT-enabled ser port market. "The domestic mar-

vices, Harinarain said that the ket is extremely critical because

State has identified embedded this is where you build skills for

human resources outsourcing a Uma Krishnan, Chief Operat-

having the most potential. Taming Officer, Polaris BPO, said

Nadu, he was certain, had the that to ensure IT worked best

billion market in systems integrationald be developed as IT hubs

tion. He said that the US is likely as these cities had similar infra-

to outsource 1.3 million jobs in structure and manpower skills as

the HR field in the coming sever Chennai. Equity research, ani-

years and, with its huge talent mation and legal consultancy

base, Tamil Nadu is in place reservices, all part of the high-end

S. Mahalingam, Chief Oper (BPO) sector, have the potential

ating Officer, Tata Consultance to employ 1.2 million people by

Services, stated that Chenna 2008, she felt.

software, systems integration and the export market," he said.

Stating that the Government out. Mahalingam was for

Which is perhaps why the attendance at the seminar was far

Agri-business

Great opportunities in bio-fuel

dependent, the State, with a net crop area of 5.5 million hectare, provides a lot of agri-business opportunities. Tamil Nadu's traditional agri-business sector is poised for a sea change, with immense possibilities in ethanol and bio-diesel production, according to Ram Tyagarajan, Chairman, Thiruarooran Sugars. The signals for this are positive, he explained, because Tamil Nadu's large acreage of waste-. lands is intended to be brought under productive use under the new Industrial Policy, an initiative that is the first of its kind in India.

Ethanol (sugarcane-based), bio-diesel (from jathropa), biomass power (using casuarina and medicinal herbs such as iuliaflora) have enormous potential as such and the State must focus on these, Tyagarajan urged. Ethanol is especially important as a renewable and environment-friendly fuel, apart from providing an additional outlet for surplus sugarcane and molasses. With the mandatory blending at

A lthough agriculture in 5 per cent ethanol with gasoline in nine States and four Union Territories to come into effect soon, about 2 billion litres of ethanol will be required. Additionally, there are potential markets in Kerala and even in

Tamil Nadu's excess sugar ca-

pacity (the State produces 1.8 million metric tonnes of sugar against a consumption of only one million tonnes) will prove useful in meeting the demands of ethanol manufacture. Increased production of sugarcane (farmers prefer this crop as it gives them price certainty) and molasses. low capacity utilisation of distilleries, and limited growth in alternate uses for alcohol will be the key drivers of ethanol in Tamil Nadu, Tyagarajan said. Alternate ethanol sources such as tapioca, maize, tropical sugar beet and sweet sorghum could also be tapped to meet increasing demand, he recommended. All these crops are grown in rainfed conditions with sweet sorghum growing even in waste-

Plantation of casuarina and

iuliaflora should form the basis of setting up biomass-based power plants, Tyagarajan said, adding that sugarcane begasse, sugarcane trash, rice husk and groundnut shells were additional sources. An 18 MW biomassbased (juliaflora) plant is already in operation in Ramanathapuram District and is being evaluated for carbon credits, he stated A 12 MW plant is also in operation in the State. Fifteen sugar mills are into cogeneration projects using bagasse.

Tyagarajan, however, stressed that project developers should be assigned command areas to develop alternate feedstock for ethanol, and biofuel and energy plantations. Fiscal levies on ethanol needed to be streamlined to facilitate interstate movement and exports, he added. Preferential tariffs for biomass fuels and incentives to promote micro-irrigation were a must. Although IT may be catering to 200 million of India's population, agriculture continues to be the main stay of 800 million and, therefore, it required much greater focus, he

... and in Herbal Medicine

Tirunelveli Senna, one of the information about combinations every year. Tamil Nadu's var-L herbs India exports, is and compositions), inadequate ied geography, ranging from known the worldover. Although and ill-focussed research, and the country is a storehouse of absence of public-private partbiodiversity, has different agroclimatic zones, a well-documented medicinal history centuries old and cheap and trained manpower for collection and cultivation of herbs, there are nevertheless major challenges to be ready developed leads). met if India is to compete in the global market, said MF Farooqui, Commissioner of Indian Medicine, Government of Tamil Nadu. Farooqui spelt out these challenges as lack of a comprehensive database, lack of trans- for only Rs.500 crore, while parency among practitioners China, he said, exported herbal

nerships (recently, however, the Anna University and Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals signed an MoU for a drug discovery programme under which the two institutions will take up joint research on al-

Farooqui estimated the world herbal market to be in the region of US \$ 60 billion (about Rs.250,000 crore). Of this, India's exports to the US, UK, Germany and Russia account (usually, they do not part with products worth Rs. 18,000 crore said.

plains to high altitudes, is favourable for the cultivation of approach and for providing fi-"This is a sector whose growth market. The onus is on us to ment of Tamil Nadu. Romi

a variety of herbal plants. Although progressive farmers have gone in for non-conventional crops, Farooqui suggested strengthening backward linkages with a market-oriented nancial assistance to farmers. is determined entirely by the formation Technology, Governidentify the principal Malhotra, CEO and MD, Scope herbal drugs, potential markets International, Standard Charand provide the right product mix with value addition," he

... as well as in cotton, too

↑ Ithough cotton is an importing the spinning mill," said Dr. C. Tant commercial crop in Rangaswami, former Vice-Chan-Tamil Nadu, 80 per cent of the cellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural cotton comes from outside the University. Contract farming (as State and the State spends large in the case of sugarcane), providsums of money on procuring coting the farmers the required ton. "Every district in Tamil seeds, and facilitating correct Nadu can produce cotton but the linkages to avoid middlemen are farmer," he added, "but there is quality is not assured. Also, the steps that have to be taken to more to be done", he stated, product changes hands six or benefit the cotton farmer. "Does pointing to Israel's example seven times, resulting in the price the farmer become richer by pro- where every bit of farmland and doubling by the time it reaches ducing more? No, he doesn't. We forestland is cultivated and Thai-

We must ensure that he derives every piece of landholding. the maximum benefit. After all, India has done well in agriculture staple cotton up to the finest 120 with a four-fold increase in production compared to about four decades ago, thanks to the

do not think about the farmer. land, where trees are planted on

W/hile Chennai with its

W skilled workforce and bet-

ter infrastructure ranks high in

ratings, when it comes to attract-

ing IT-related investments, it

scores low on perception, said

Vivek Harinarain, Secretary, In-

tered Bank's back-office subsid-

iary, echoed Harinarain's views

when he said that despite the glo-

try to increase export earnings?"

potential to garner a significant with healthcare education, tourportion of India's share (2-3 per ism and biotechnology, locations cent) of the estimated US \$ 184 such as Coimbatore and Tiruchi

"Thanks to research, long count is being produced in the country. Why can't we do it in Tamil Nadu? And why can't cotton be linked to the fabric indus-Rangaswami asked. "Tamil Nadu has the potential to make itself (Continued on Page 8)

informatics constitute the

fiture in healthcare, stated Dr. Group, attempted to highlight. The Chief Minister, inaugurating the Pratap Reddy, Chairman, Apollo Hospitals, and added that India has both time and cost advanages in these fields. He also ressed that the time was ripe to nar also focussed on the IT industry, agri-business and emerging promote Tamil Nadu as a medial tourist or healthcare destination, like Thailand. "We have lot going for it in all these areas, but felt there were still several floctors who excel in cardiac sursteps that needed to be taken if the State was to move up the three gery and bone marrow and liver mansplants. There is, thus, a tremendous potential and we need look at the entire gamut of possibilities if we are to succeed n taking healthcare to a much igher level," he emphasised. "Quality is particularly impor-

Emerging Services

ant in healthcare and it is not as expensive as it is generally believed to be. But we must make nsurance mandatory recognising that better healthcare ensures breater productivity of the State's workforce. Tamil Nadu should organisers; few from the business houses and industries, for whom play a pioneering role in this," Dr. Reddy said. He also sugrested the integration of Eastern ealthcare wisdom with the best modern medicine. But, for this

firms gain a global advantage, he

business process outsourcing

November 1-15, 2003 November 1-15, 2003

Telemedicine and health we must also provide scientific evidence for our age-old medical

Medical tourism and retailing

are great opportunities...

Dr. Reddy felt the State must focus more on medical education and training, increasing the intake for the MBBS courses, giving importance to medical technicians, setting high standards in medical education and facilitating industry-university collaboration. According to him, India has the potential to be the global services capital in healthcare, to generate 40 million additional jobs and raise the GDP by Rs.200 billion. But, for this, the Government needs to spend more on healthcare; in India, only about 3.5 per cent of the GDP is spent a year on healthcare, while the US spends 15 per cent of its GDP

(US \$ 1.4 trillion). Pradipto Mahapatra, President and CEO, Telecom and IT, RPG Enterprises, urged that "We look at Chennai as a brand. Just as Vienna is known for its opera, Bangalore for IT and Mumbai for commerce, the focus must be to promote Chennai as a brand." But what was that brand to be, Chennai," he suggested.

wondered Mohapatra, regretting that the city could not even be called India's cultural capital, "for, what does a tourist get to do in the evening? There simply aren't enough plays, concerts and musicals to give Chennai that brand." Yet there were op-

portunities, he felt. Retailing and financial services are the key emerging sectors that will attract the tourist and help to promote cities as brands, he felt. "Tourists spend US \$ 3 billion a year just along the mile-long stretch of Oxford Street. We should begin thinking of whether similar retailing can't be made a Chennai brand."

Speaking of financial services, he wondered about what had happened to the Madras Stock Exchange. "Will it close down? Nobody quotes in the MSE anymore. How then can we expect to become a financial services capital? We must set up a stock exchange of our own on the lines of NASDAQ. That apart, we must put together a think tank to get business moving faster in

... but rural areas need greater attention

rooted in Indian culture, Dr. to transform the country," he Venkat Rangan, Vice-Chancellor, Amrita Viswa Vidva Peetam. was of the opinion that a three-way partnership between government representatives, business leaders and the people healthcare, education and

need to create beautiful self-serving communities in our villages. veloped before 2020, we must pointed out. develop people first," he emphasised. Tamil Nadu, according to him, has always been in the forefront in doing things. He cited the instance of four CEOs from the State coming forward at a recent international conference to sign up to sponsor

to follow what the US and the other.

C tressing that all initiatives for West do. A broader outlook and

Echoing Dr. Rangan's views, Sudha Raju, Vice-President, NIIT, said that social transformation can only be achieved if the fruits of development percois essential for providing better lated down to the villages. "There has been a phenomenal opportunities in villages where economic growth in Tamil Nadu the majority of India's people and the opportunities are immense, but the villagers have not "The transformation has to yet started using IT. True develhappen at the lowest level. We opment is when IT can be used to sell milk online or when farmers can get to know prices for If the country has to become de- their crops or harvest rates," she

schools in Tamil Nadu learning computer science since 1999, Sudha Raju felt that a lot of progress has been made by the State. However, she called for added thrust on computer literacy so that all government development activities in schools and offices are covered. She mentioned the need for However, Dr. Rangan rued state-of-the-art computer the lack of accountability in the facilities in schools and colleges education system as a whole. In- on the one hand and setting up dustry-university partnerships IT-enabled community centres are poor, he said. "We continue in village panchayats on the

With students in government

Industry

Committed implementation of industrial policy the necessity

Is the place competitive? Does it have good infrastructure? Is the Atransaction cost low? What is the HR (human resource) potential and do you have competent people to run the business? Will the investment be safe and will promises be delivered? Do the government and the bureaucracy have credibility? These are the questions that Saint Gobain, one of the largest investors in Tamil Nadu, had asked before setting up its Rs.525 crore glass making facility in Tamil Nadu, said B. Santhanam, Managing Director, Saint Gobain.

But while the answers to these questions are positive, the State stands to "lose business in the first half hour of an investor entering Chennai, because first impressions are lasting impressions, Santhanam warned, referring to the general chaos and harassment at the airport exit, the time taken to travel to the city, etc. The investor, according to Santhanam, is attracted by aesthetics. And, therefore, the need for a visible symbol of growth and investment to showcase Chennai. The fact that a person can travel 300 km in three hours in China, thanks to the country's excellent highways, is a case in point,

"We have almost everything going for us here: favourable geography, a wide industrial base, adequate power and logistics in terms of ports, railways, roads and airports. We have auto process industries and IT backed by diversity and cost competitiveness. Yet, we do not have high speed corridors that can connect the airport to the Secretariat, Tidel Park or the Siruseri IT Park," he pointed out, adding, "Such corridors will make a big difference."

Describing the new Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy as a path-breaking initiative and a major step forward, Santhanam was confident it would ensure the Government's objective of making the State No. 1, if it was indeed committedly implemented. "We haven't done too many things wrong. It is just that we haven't done too many things," he said, adding, "I strongly believe that the State Government is now committed to moving forward. We may have all the intent, but it is the execution that always poses a problem." Santhanam felt that there is no point in waiting for Vision 2020 to unfold; he urged business leaders in the State to be less sceptical and focus on executing projects speedily, making best use of the new Industrial Policy which promises infrastructure, relevant labour reforms, business deregulation, incentives for large investments and consultative mechanisms.

Santhanam's other suggestions were speedy completion of the Manali industrial belt, utilisation of the State's waterways, creation of eamless exits to west and north Kovambedu, development of a worldclass beachfront, and a time-bound transformation of hidden assets into something tangible through public-private partnership.

Pointing out that the gross domestic product (GDP) and per capital income in India and China were comparable three decades ago, L Lakshman, Chairman, Rane Group, said that although both the countries' economies are the fastest growing in the world, China's is way ahead. While the manufacturing sector, the backbone of a developing country, according to him, accounts for 15 per cent of India's GDP, it accounts for 30 per cent of China's.

Stressing that the Tamil Nadu Government's growth strategies should enable the competitiveness of the manufacturing sector, both at home and abroad, Lakshman urged the Government to encourage existing industries with global reach as well as new industries with employment potential. The Government, in consultation with industry, should identify generic enablers for promotion of industry, unique enablers for new industries, create a single office for securing an enabling environment (both soft and hard infrastructure) and ensure strong enforcement mechanisms and speedy redressal of disputes, because capital flows where law and civic sense are guaranteed.

Dwelling on the importance of proper education and training, Lakshman called for a curriculum that creates global awareness and a broader outlook, and for vocational training schools relevant to employment. "We need to rid our society of parochial attitudes. There is a crying need to de-glorify learning by rote," he urged. If Government is able to encourage private initiative while inculcating a sense of the need for a clean and green environment, Tamil Nadu has enormous potential to grow, he was confident.

Ravi Santanam, Chief Executive Officer, Mahindra Resorts, which is setting up the Mahindra Industrial Park, the State's first fully integrated township, 35 km from Meenambakkam, stated that the new venture would provide some of the varied services necessary for organisations planning to meet the requirements of a growing global economy. The State's transition from an agro-industrial economy to a knowledge economy will no doubt pose some challenges but with excellent communication facilities and a large pool of talent, Tamil Nadu was better equipped than most states to meet these challenges, he felt.

The gentleman Barrister

egendary legal luminary, a Lsuccessful Barrister and, above all, an old world gentleman to the core, one who sincerely believed in the principles of equity, fairness and justice, S. Govind Swaminathan passed away recently at the ripe age of 94. Chennai and its legal world are the poorer for it.

Swaminathan enjoyed a long and successful innings as a lawyer. He was the Crown Prosecu- that famous remark of V.L. tor of the Madras High Court Original Criminal Sessions, later renamed 'State Prosecutor,' and Advocate-General of the High Court for many years. He also held the portfolio of the Public Prosecutor for a short its sexual undertones, the cut-

He was born with the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth as the son of Dr. S. Swaminathan and Ammu Swaminathan, who created history at many levels and in many fields. His father was one of the legal giants of the Madras High Court of the early 20th Century who created history. His mother men like Alavandar who played was a prominent social worker on women deserved to be murin Madras and a member of the Central Legislature in Delhi for

To instil in him the best of were convicted. British traditions, his father sent Another sensational case created legal history and went him to England for his education. Govind Swaminathan took his degree at Oxford and then qualified as a Barrister-at-Law. On his return, he worked with earlier legal giant of Madras, V.L. Ethiraj. Swaminathan once assisted Ethiraj, in the sensational Kakinada Bomb Conspiracy case. Ethiraj conducted the Prosecution with such fairness that the main accused, a revolutionary of his day, Prathivaadhi Bhayankaraharya, complimented him in open court for his fairness!

Govind Swaminathan quicklv made a mark at the Bar. Not many are aware that he was one of the defence counsel in the sensational Lakshmikantham murder case, one of the most famous trials in Indian legal history. Swaminathan's sharp cross-examination of the mostly tutored witnesses marked him as a man destined to go place, which he did.

Soon, he was appointed the Crown Prosecutor of the Madras High Court Sessions. Until the end of 1955, criminal cases,

• Quizmaster RAMANAN is on holiday. His column will resume on his return.

which originated within the city limits of Madras, were tried by a High Court judge sitting with a jury of nine. Most prosecutors around the world always singlemindedly aim for the conviction of the accused, sometimes using unfair means. Swaminathan was a happy exception, and won the appreciation of even the accused. He discharged his duties following the letter and spirit of Ethiraj, "I am only a prosecutor and not persecutor!'

As the Crown Prosecutor, Govind Swaminathan conducted the sensational Alavandar Murder case. The case with ting up of Alavandar's body into two pieces, the head thrown in the Bay of Bengal being washed ashore and many other elements made the case a cause celebre. Swaminathan conducted the Prosecution before Justice A.S.P. Iyer, a stern moralist and tradition-bound person who strongly believed that dered! Nevertheless, the husband and wife – with whom Alavandar had a relationship -

Govind Swaminathan figured in was 'The City Gardener Murder Case'. Raja Maheshwara Rao, a member of the Venkatagiri clan, who lived in T.Nagar, assaulted his gardener with a it was "all too summary for summetal pot while he was water- mary proceedings!"

ing the plants. The assault resulted in the death of the man and the zamindar was charged with grievous hurt and other counts. Swaminathan prosecuted the accused who was defended by V.L. Ethiraj, among others. The case went up to the Supreme Court which upheld

the conviction. When the DMK government sought to abolish horseracing at Guindy, the Madras Race Club went to court. Swaminathan, besides his legal talents, had a puckish sense of humour'. During the presentation of the case, names of more horses were mentioned. Swaminathan remarked that there was a horse named 'Chief Justice!' The court roared with laughter, but Chief Justice K. Veeraswamy was not amused!

Swaminathan's asides once led him into a brush with the law. In the A.A Hayles Contempt Case, Hayles, the editor of The Mail, was charged with contempt of court for certain statements he had made in the paper. He was defended by Swaminathan who, in turn, made certain remarks that had Justice Mack hauling him up for contempt of court! This case up to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court judges commented on the High Court Judge's order imposing a fine of Rs. 1000 on Swaminathan, that

Save that marsh!

(Continued from Page 1)

tion Programme had been urged some time ago but not paid heed to, the NGO, 'Save Pallikarnai Marsh Forum' had organised a human chain on October 19th from the Velachery MRTS Station to the Velachery Main Road-Pallikaranai-Thoraipakkam bypass junction, to create awareness about the "rapid deterioration and pollution of the Pallikaranai Marshland due to garbage

The law is a jealous mistress. But Swaminathan managed to rein in that mistress and involved himself in many other activities. He was a popular commentator of cricket matches over All India Radio, Madras. He was also involved with the Madras Race Club - and with starting of races. He also had deep interest in the Madras Riding Club, being a good 'horseman himself, and organised several popular 'paper chases'. He commanded the Home Guards when the unit was established years ago. He was also interested in theatre and was an active member of the Madras Players in its initial years. Even in his advancing years he was physically agile and surprised many by riding on a scooter down the crowded roads of the city!

Generous to his friends and kind to all, he however did not suffer fools gladly. He believed in being fair to one and all, but never hesitated to call a spade a spade—and a nut, a nut!

In this age of sickening sycophancy it is incredible that persons like Swaminathan lived and made life worthwhile

and untreated sewage dumping". Residents from Velachery, Madipakkam, Ullagram, Puzhuthivakkam, Pallikaranai and Thoraipakkam plus several environmentalists from all over the city joined the chain and made their protest visible. The NGO and other study

groups have drawn attention to

the fact that the wetland, a unique mix of freshwater and brackish water, once was host to over a hundred species of birds. In the vastly reduced, polluted space today, few birds and fewer fish, frogs and reptiles are seen – and what are left are poached unchecked. Rich in biodiversity, the marsh was once home to over 60 types of vegetation. Much of that has

vanished too, they state. The Corporation of Chennai is using over 180 acres of the marsh for dumping garbage and much of this is often burnt, releasing toxic dioxins, the visiting team has pointed out to the Central Pollution Control Board, asking for immediate ac-

Visible to anyone is the fact that much of the marsh has been encroached on officially. The Railways have taken up space for the Velachery MRTS station and for marshalling yards. An oceanography institute has been established as well as other educational institutions on land reclaimed from the marsh. Cattle use it as a grazing ground and locals as a bathing and dhobi ghat.

Madras Musings has been pointing out all this for the past two years, even as this desecration of an invaluable wetland for the city was taking place. The Central team's visit may be late — but, hopefully, not too late for the 750 hectares still in Randor Guy | need of protection.

A disappointing season overall

Tolly Rovers won the TNCA A Jolly Rovers mainstay for Suresh and J.R. Madanagopal senior division league championship for the fourth time in a row, reminiscent of the team's sterling run in the 1960s and revival in the 1980s. In fact, it could well have been five in a row, had the league not been abandoned unfinished a couple of years ago.

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With the top corporatebacked teams in Chennai enjoying the advantage of home grounds on which they maintain turf pitches, it has become customary for these teams to take full advantage of the arrangement by preparing — or under-preparing — wickets to suit their strengths, especially against the weaker sides in the league. Jolly Rovers have been no exception to this trend, but they must be warmly congratulated on playing to a plan and exploiting favourable conditions to the hilt, even on the numerous occasions when they lost the toss, yet outplayed the opposition which should have held the upper hand.

It was undoubtedly a team effort, but some individuals stood out with their flair and consistency. The opening pair of Sujit Somasunder and Vikram Kumar gave the team flying starts almost every time, some of their efforts smashing records for the opening stand. Hemang Badani was often away playing representative matches. Badrinath's batting was classy throughout, while his off spin bowling was a bonus. Dinesh Mongia was in excellent form with both bat and ball, particularly during the climactic moments of the league. Left arm spinner Ramkumar, who took more than 50 wickets, was always accurate, and he was very ably supported by the often underestimated off spinner Kulamani Parida. Munaf Patel bowled his seamers quite effectively in the early part of the nathan living up to his early season, and Ajay Kudua came up with some valuable knocks. tency. The State captain S.

more than a decade, allrounder D. Vasu this time captained the other Chemplast-sponsored team, Alwarpet CC, maintaining high standards of performance as always.

Globe Trotters were a trifle unlucky in losing out in the race for the title, handicapped as they were in vital matches by the absence of players away playing representative matches. Their off spinner Aashish Kapoor had an outstanding season in the bowling department, and also chipped with useful runs in some of the matches. Skipper Sadagopan Ramesh was

in great form, scoring runs at will and doing it in style. A couple of other lefthanders, S. Sriram and Vidyut Sivaramakrishnan, had some good matches, but each performed below his potential for Globe Trotters, though more successful at other levels of cricket. Of the other lefthanders—who outnumbered the right in the a quality new ball bowler for the Globe Trotters' eleven— State in the past and an enter-Hemant Kumar started on a taining wielder of the long great note, scoring hundreds in handle. India Pistons had an the first two matches only to find runs eluding him later, and young Shrivasudevadas made a good impression. Wicketkeeper Dinesh Kartik had a few good

close to winning the title, Vijav CC, faltered at crucial moments but had a good run otherwise, with 'Old Reliable' S. Sharath continuing to pile up runs and fellow lefthander Sunil Viswapromise, showing great consis-

were also regularly among the runs. Another dependable performer was the Kerala allrounder Sunil Oasis, while Murali Kartik did well whenever his packed first class cricket calendar allowed him a

The rest of the competition

in the league was seen in a more

or less predicable light, with

practically no clues thrown up

as to the bench strength the

State could draw upon. A num-

ber of outstanding bowling and

batting displays were given by veterans, IOB's Ananthapadmanabhan striking a rich vein of form with his leg spinners, besides scoring vital runs every now and then. Off spinner Raghavendran of Parry's continued to be a steady bowler. Among the younger players, paceman Ganapathi of Mambalam Mosquitos gave some fine displays, taking wickets and batting aggressively in more than one sizeable last wicket partnership. Other medium pace bowlers in form were Balaii of Jolly Rovers, when available, Prashant Chandran of Alwarpet and Sreeshant of Globe Trotters, besides S. Mahesh of India Pistons. Mahesh, one of the best talents to emerge from Tamil Nadu in recent years, has been

Two off spinners, Rajesh Sharma and Satpathy, bore the brunt of the bowling for Vijay CC, both represent other States The other top team to come in the Ranji Trophy. This department of bowling remains an area of concern for Tamil Nadu veteran Aashish Kapoor still leading the pack, with S.R. Ganesh Kumar of SICAL - who has made himself available for selection here after a stint with Assam – a somewhat distant

other star performer in R. Satish

who scored more than 900 runs.

Even worse than the state of off spin bowling is leg spin, with M.P. Rajesh perhaps the only bowler of the type to be among the wickets, though young Ashrith did well in a couple of matches.

In the bottom half of the table, Integral Coach Factory repeated its yo yo act of many seasons, getting relegated to the second division. Going by past form, ICF should come bouncing back to the First Division next season, as they are just too good for the lower division and perhaps not good enough for the senior division, unable to compete or uninterested in competing with the private sec-

Clarifying those Rugby surprises

The Tamil Nadu Rugby Football Union (TNRFU) was a little surprised about The Corner Flag's comments in Madras Musings of October 16th. We would like to clarify a few points. Firstly, re fielding players from different Chennai teams as the Chennai Chee tahs. The TNRFU was told that two teams from Chennal would be invited to the tournament. With the Tamil Nadu State Police Rugby team being invited, this left only one team from Chennai that would be allowed to participate. The organising committee explicitly requested that each team play under a club name, otherwise we would have played as a TNRFU team.

In the future, there will be a new system whereby there will be two different tiers of competition, allowing all the clubs in India to participate in the All India tournament. There will be movement between the tiers based on results. This will hopefully improve the overall level of competition and prevent the many one-sided games that have occurred in the past. It was also mooted to initiate a docu mented player transfer system where players can move between clubs. Regarding the three foreigners playing for the Chennai Chee tahs, they were included in the list submitted to the organising com-

It is important to understand why the TNRFU decided to bring these three players into the team. For the past six years the Bombay Gymkhana has brought overseas players in to play during the All-India. This year Bombay Gymkhana brought in five UK-based players to play for their team. The foreign players certainly have been a contributing factor to the Bombay Gymkhana winning the Cup com petition the last four years. In the domestic Bombay Cup competition, the Bombay Gymkhana lost to both Magic Bus and Maharashtra State Police, but the team composition was very different to what Bombay Gymkhana produced during the All-India.

The TNRFU decided to bring this issue up during an IRFU meet ing with the suggestion that either no non-resident foreign players be allowed to play during the All India or, like Sri Lanka, a cap of two players per team be introduced. Bombay Gymkhana did not accept this proposal. Given Bombay Gymkhana's past history it was felt that if the Chennai Cheetahs were to have a chance in the All India, a few foreign players were necessary.

Regarding the question whether foreign players help to improve the standards of Indian rugby it is the TNRFU's opinion that it is necessary for Indian rugby to progress. Rugby is no different to football played in India where the best teams in Bengal frequently recruit players from overseas. It is especially helpful when an overseas player also doubles as a coach. Local players certainly gain knowledge from playing with more experienced foreign players. It is particularly important for Indian players to be able to defend against larger foreign players. If the Indian national team plays against larger foreign players, domestically it prepares the national team for the international competition India will face, where players 6'2" and 100 kg plus are the norm.

The TNRFU has decided to follow Sri Lanka's lead and allow up to two foreign players to play for each team during the inaugural Chennai Cup competition. The TNRFU will encourage foreign players to play for at least 6 months in India to help raise the overall standards of the game.

> Patrick M. Davenport Secretary, Tamil Nadu Rugby Football Union

The Corner Flag writes:

Point taken about a Chennai team playing as Chennai Cheetahs but on the question of the team including three foreign players, it must be stated that the team given to Madras Musings a couple of days before the competition by the TNRFU office did not include their names. Nor were they mentioned during interviews with TNRFU officials.

Regarding the argument about foreign players being inducted into Indian teams, they might serve a purpose if they are qualified coaches as well. But, as players, just as Indian Football has not particularly improved because of foreign players shoring up teams, neither has Sri Lankan rugby improved because of foreign players. But they help in drawing crowds and getting results - which in turn

As for size, Japan does very well, thank you, in Asia without the average heights and weights mentioned. And The Corner Flag hopes that the TNRFU noted that the surprise of the World Cup, Samos, had several players 5'6"-5'9", weighing 70-80 kg, including a pintsized but brilliant flyhalf. The Corner Flag suggests we prepare ourselves to first beat other Indian and South Asian and Southeast Asian teams and only thereafter worry about the big boys, against whom even Asian Champions Japan struggles.

ing top cricketers. UFCC, India Cements, was the other team to go down, despite some fine batting by young E. Suresh.

Cause for anxiety was provided by the relative infrequency of match-winning bowl-

tor patrons of cricket in recruit- ing displays by local players qualifying to play for Tamil T'Nagar, a team supported by Nadu, while some of the consistent batsmen continue to be forced to seek their fortunes in other states.

It was an altogether disappointing season as no startling new talent was thrown up by it.

SENATE HOUSE RESTORATION UNDERWAY

(Continued from Page 1)

Senate House-Centenary Hall complex perhaps the best conference-cum-exhibition centre in the city.

Senate House, a Grade I heritage building, if ever listing is confirmed under a Heritage Act, was completed in 1879 to a prize-winning design by Robert Chisholm.

This fine example of Indo-Saracenic architecture, an important landmark in Chennai, was built to house the Vice-Chancellor's office, provide meeting halls for the Senate and the Syndicate, and have a Great Hall for convocations. This Hall, 50m x 15m and 15m in height, is awe-inspiring in its

scale and detail. has had the building structurally examined and has received cer-

tification of its soundness, once necessary repairs are carried out. These repairs can be done without compromising the authencity of the building.

The Heritage Committee, comprising conservation architects, engineers and craftspersons, has been formed by the University to cater to the administrative and procedural requirements arising out of the special nature of heritage work. The committee has estimated the restoration cost as follows:

Rs. (in lakh) **WORK PACKAGES**

Re-roofing and waterproofing (completed) conservation (next) Rehabilitation of the towers and domes * Stone masonry restoration

WORK PACKAGES Rs. (in lakh) * Timber work and stained glass

Lime plaster and fresco Painted canvas ceilings and other art work Cast iron railings, Misc. ornamental work, Landscaping Jtilities and services Appropriate furniture

* Technical studies completed, specifications and costings worked out, and specialist contractors to be identified. N.B. Conservation studies underway

on the remaining packages. The University has launched an appeal to all alumni, students and managements of all affiliated institutions, and well-wishers for help.

A separate account has been created by the University to collect funds for the restoration of the Senate House and donations to this fund can avail of 80G exemption. Contributions may be sent to:

The Registrar Senate House Restoration A/C, Madras University, Chepauk Campus, Chennai 600 005.

But, to collect the funds for even the next couple of stages will take time. This is where Government could help by making the restoration a part of the 'Beautiful Marina' project and providing immediate help while the partnership is formed and fundraising at home and abroad begins both by the partnership and the University. What is needed is IMMEDI-ATE help.

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

The Heritage Committee

A.P. guidelines for a Heritage Committee

(Continued from last fortnight)

n August 12, 1996, the Government of Andhra Pradesh laid down the qualification for membership of the Heritage Conservation Committee as follows.

- 1. Retired Chief Secretary to Government of Andhra Pradesh — Chairman
- 2. Structural Engineer having experience of 10 years in the field and membership of the Institute of Engineers.
- 3. Architects having 10 years' experience and membership of the Council of Architec
 - i) Specialised in urban design project etc.
 - ii) Heritage conservation architect.
- 4. Director of State Archaeology.
- 5. An Environmentalist having in-depth knowledge and experience of 10 years of subject matter.
- 6. A City Historian having 10 years' experience in the field.
- 7. A representative of an organisation working for protection of natural heritge like rocks.
- 8. A Senior Technical Officer of HUDA with expertise — Member in the matter Sec-

The committee was authorised to co-opt upto five additional members who may have lesser experience, but who have special knowledge of the subject matter. The tenure of the members of category 1,2,3,5,6 and 7 above shall be for a period of 3

years, but would be eligible for reappointment.

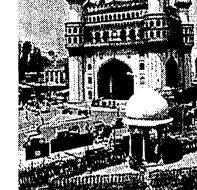
The terms of reference of the Heritage Conservation Committee were listed as follows.

- 1. To recommend to the Vice-Chairman, HUDA, whether development permission should be granted under Regulation No.13 and the conditions thereof.
- To prepare supplementary lists of buildings, precincts, areas, artefacts, structures of historical, aesthetical architectural or cultural value to which this Regulation No. 13 would apply.
- 3. To advise whether any relaxation, modification, alteration or variance of any of the zoning regulations is called for under Regulation 13 (4).
- 4. To advise the Vice-Chairman, HUDA, in the operation of these regulations to regulate or eliminate/erection of outside advertisement/billboard on the façade and to recommend to the Vice-Chairman, HUDA, guidelines to be adopted by private parties who sponsor beautification schemes at public intersections.
- 5. To advise whether development right certificate may be allowed to be consumed in a Heritage Precinct.
- 6. To advise the Vice-Chairman, HUDA, to evaluate the cost of repairs to be given to the owners to bring the existing building to the original shape. For this purpose

the committee may also try to help the Vice-Chairman, HUDA, to raise funds through private resources.

- 7. To prepare special designs and guidelines for listed buildings and control of height and essential facade characteristics such as maintenance of special type of balconies and other heritage items of the buildings and suggest suitable designs and adopting new materials for replacements keeping the old form intact to the extent possible.
- 8. To prepare guidelines to be adhered to and to prepare other guidelines for the purposes of Regulation No.13.
- 9. To frame special regulations for Heritage Precincts and to advise the Vice-Chairman, HUDA, regarding the same.
- 10. To advise Vice-Chairman. HUDA, on any other issues as may be required from time to time during course of scrutiny and in overall interest of heritage conserva-
- 11. To appear before Government, either independently or through or on behalf of Vice-Chairman, HUDA, in cases of appeals in cases of listed buildings/ heritage buildings and listed precincts/heritage precincts

On March 23, 1998, the Government of Andhra Pradesh announced that it had constituted an expert committee, that it had prepared a list of Heritage Buildings, Precincts,



Areas, Artefacts, Structures of Historical, Aesthetical, Architectural or Cultural value for their conservation etc., the list was notified in four daily newspapers, 60 days' time was given for public objections and suggestions, and the Heritage Conservation Committee, having examined the objections/suggestions received, agreed to recommend deletion of certain buildings, retention of certain buildings, and changes in gradation of still others.

The Government thereafter notified Heritage Buildings as follows: Grade-I – 24, Grade-II(A) - 10, Grade II(B) - 46 and Grade-III - 57 and published the list. It also notified a Heritage Precincts (Rock formations).

On December 2, 1999, the Heritage Conservation Committee was appointed and its term was extended for further three years in 2002.

In January 2003, the Government accepted, the suggestion of the Heritage Conservation Committee on six additional Heritage Precincts, namely Heritage Precinct No. 10 – Charminar area, Heritage Precinct No. 11 - Golconda Fort Area, Heritage Precinct No. 12 – Falaknuma Palace and surrounding area, Heritage Precinct No. 13 - Kasu Brahmananda Reddy Park and Valley, upto Hotel Banjara Residency, Heritage Precinct No. 14 – Park

on Road No. 1 – Banjara Hills and Valley, Heritage Precinct No. 15 - Additional areas around Durgam Cheruvu Lake.

106 objections and suggestions were received in this matter after the Precincts had been announced in the Press. After perusing the objections and suggestions, the Heritage Conservation Committee resolved that none of the objections and suggestions called for any change in the notification of the six Heritage Precincts. It however clarified that only major development activities beyond specified size and height need to be referred to HUDA and the Heritage Conservation Committee.

(Concluded)

Opportunities in cotton

(Continued from Page 4)

self-sufficient in cotton and ensure a better quality crop. Value addition is a significant aspect that has to be considered. For example, export of one lakh bales of cotton yields Rs.60 crore; if it is spun into yarn, it fetches Rs.120 crore, and if the cotton is spun into high-quality textiles, it can earn Rs.200 crore", he pointed out. Rangaswami also urged exploiting the cotton plant for other uses, such as to make edible oil and cottonfeed.

Speaking of other crops with potential, Rangaswami said, "Tamil Nadu should also concentrate on maize production; maize is a hardy crop and can survive in any part of the State. As for wasteland development, this should be done with jothropa (for diesel oil), the Paradise tree (for edible oil), Prosopis and casuarina (for biomass) and amla (for herbal oil)".

Sport on Page 7

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