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WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

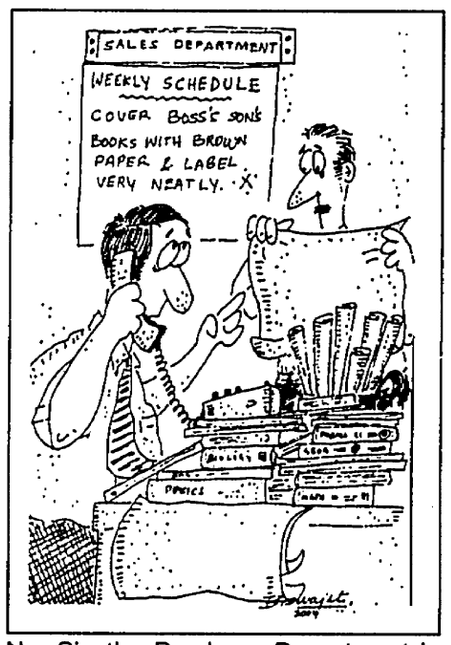
MADRAS MUSINGS

Vol. XIV No.3 May 16-31, 2004 Rs. 5 per copy (Annual Subscription: Rs. 100/-)

INSIDE

- Senate House & Carnatic music
- Eradicating child beggary
- Tracing Anglo-Indian roots
- City's eco-heritage sites
- Balaji's bowling skills

a-MUSING



No, Sir, the Purchase Department is handling your daughter's books!

It's a wrap!

'Brown Paper' and 'Labels' are the season's chief home decorative elements, as school books begin getting 'covered' for the new academic year.

Parents, grandparents, cousins who unwisely dropped by, office/domestic staff (muttering darkly that this particular half was not told unto them when they were employed), neighbours, the family cat, the family dog, even the family parrot – no form of life is too humble to be forced into service for 'Project Cover-Up'.

You cut and fold, then hold up each book to the gleaming light, admiring the clean edges and perfectly placed labels, wallowing in a sense of achievement. You are also thankful for the invention of the glue stick. Thirty years ago, you made do with pots of gum, which tipped over at the mere touch of an unguarded elbow, flowed everywhere and generally got thoroughly above themselves. Things are less messy now.

Except – it is all such a waste of time.

Publishers of school books ought to provide covers made of some tough durable material – like cast iron; or some futuristic metal, which even a school-kid's hands cannot conquer.

For all your trouble, the books look good only for the time it takes the teacher to say "Go to Chapter Two." After that they become like something aliens rejected.

Unconvinced? Just peer into a school-bag a month into first-term.

You'll never sleep at night again.

Ranjitha Ashok

Water, water, crying for use

(by Raju Abraham, T. Robert Singh and M. Ravindran of the National Institute of Ocean Technology)

Editor's Note: Many are agreed that desalination is the only answer to Chennai's water problem. At a recent seminar in the city to celebrate World Habitat Day, the authors made this plea for an alternative method of desalination, namely ocean temperature-driven desalination, to produce safe potable water. They write...

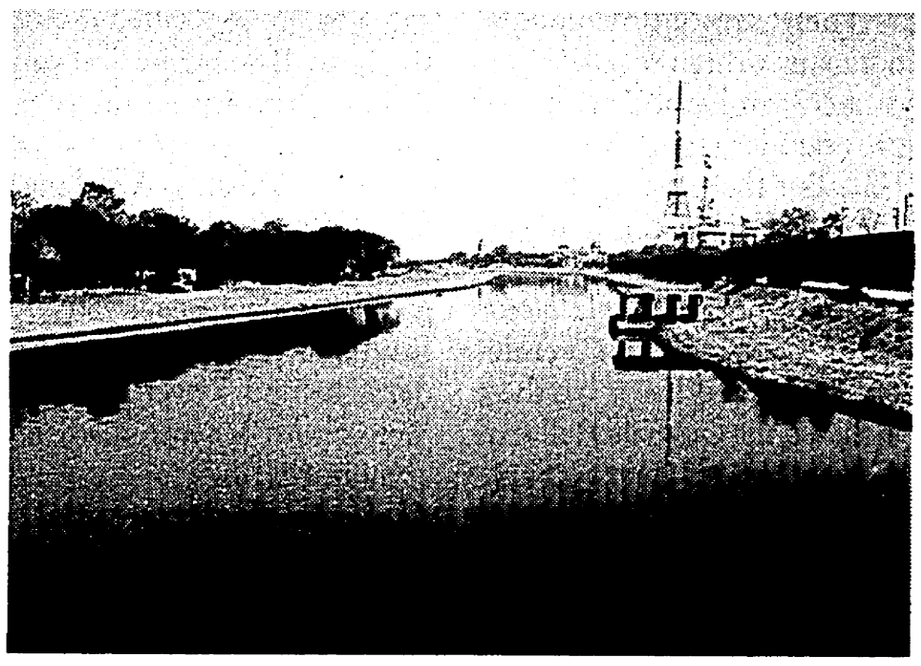
Fresh water is indispensable for human life. By 2025, at least 65 nations will experience serious water shortages.

Oceans cover 71% of the surface of the earth and almost all sea coasts are densely populated. 13 out of the 15 largest cities in the world are located on the coast. Nearly 70% of the world's population lives within 80 km of the coastline. There is an urgent need to develop new and economic technologies for the production of potable water from the oceans. There are two ways of going about producing potable water from the sea, the conventional desalination technologies and the use of ocean temperature-driven technologies.

Conventional Desalination Technologies

Distillation: In distillation, salt water is heated to make water evaporate, leaving the salt behind. The desalinated water is then condensed to form water

(Continued on Page 7)



A May 2004 picture of a stretch of the Cooum River after cleaning up operations. The 1970 jetty now awaits boats – and a commitment that the river will not be allowed to deteriorate again. (Photograph by REFLECTIONS.)

35 years later – still cleaning up the Cooum

A couple of weeks ago, it was announced the work on cleaning up the Cooum River had nearly been completed. In 1969, **R.K.K. MENON,** writing in *The Mail*, had sounded a similar note. He wrote:

Pleasure boating on the Cooum River, from one end to the other, may not be so laughable a matter by the end of 1970. Even much earlier, this sewage canal which pollutes the air in the City, will be turned into a stream of clean, running water, its banks and the scene along them tailored to specifications.

Deepening of the river has been started at the Nungambakkam railway bridge end, work on foundation wells for the construction of a regulator at the mouth of the river is in progress. The Government has sanctioned Rs.10.6 lakh for beautification of the banks, from Anna Samadhi to a two-mile stretch of the stream to begin with. Parks and gardens are to be laid on the banks lying within the City wherever land is available.

The Cooum development scheme has been with us for a long time. But it was only in 1958 that a high-power committee was appointed to draw up a comprehensive scheme on developing the Cooum as a clean river.

The DMK Government gave top priority to the Committee's recommendations and decided to implement them *in toto*, with slight technical modification. But the river at present is, as it always has been, a stinking sewage canal.

From its point of origin in the Cortaliyar river, near Sattarai in Chingleput District, to Napier Bridge in Chepauk, where it joins the sea, the river snakes through a distance of 44 miles, of which 5 miles and 3 furlongs fall within the City. In the City, the river bifurcates into North Cooum and South Cooum below Col. Law's Bridge in Chintadripet. These two branches meet above Napier Bridge to form the Island Grounds, before discharging into the sea. The Cooum and the Buckingham Canal are the main outlets for stormwater and sewage in the City. The stench is acute in summer as the flow in the river is very limited.

But with the Corporation's comprehensive drainage programme, expected to be completed before 1970, it is hoped that the stench from the Cooum would be completely eradicated.

The Cooum swells during the Northeast Monsoon and becomes tidal for a month or two, when it is able to push the sandbar which continuously forms at the mouth of the river. Since the flow is not strong enough to

(Continued on Page 7)

Please use 'snail mail'

As readers are undoubtedly aware, *Madras Musings* is an NGO activity whose nuts and bolts are looked after by several volunteers operating from different addresses and giving of their time as and when they can. In the circumstances, telephone calls to anyone connected with *Madras Musings* will not get you a prompt response, answers having to be checked out at some of these different addresses.

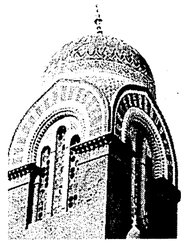
May we therefore request you to please write in to one of these two addresses if you have any problems:

1) For matters regarding subscriptions, donations, non-receipt of receipts etc.: To Chennai Heritage, 260-A, TTK Road, Chennai 600 018.
2) For non-receipt of copies, change of address, and all other matters: To Madras Musings C/o Lokavani Hall-Mark Press Pvt. Ltd., 122, Greams Road, Chennai 600 006.

Such letters are sent from these addresses every couple of days to the persons concerned and you will get an answer from them to your queries reasonably quickly. Strange as it may seem, if you adopt the 'snail mail' approach, we will be able to help you faster and disappoint you less.

— THE EDITOR

Senate House and the cultural scene



Senate House, or Senate Hall as the Mylapore Brahmin of the last century referred to it, is at last being renovated. One day, before long, it is hoped, it will once again play a role in Chennai's cultural scene. In the past, it had played a short but significant role as a venue for events connected with Carnatic music.

There are, unfortunately, not many written records or accounts available of concerts and programmes held in Senate Hall. But the Great Hall was a natural choice for concerts where a large audience was expected. Prior to *Senate House* being used, popular venues were in George Town and these included the Gokhale Hall (Armenian Street) and the Saundarya Mahal (Govindappa Naicken Street). The hall in old Pachaiyappa's College building too was used in the early years of the 20th Century.

Among the earliest accounts of a concert at *Senate House* is one of Veena Venkataramana Das (1886-1948) of Vizianagaram. This *veena* exponent holds the record of being the first Carnatic musician to have a street named after him. Prof. P. Sambamoorthy, in his book *Great Musicians*, writes that as the concert began in the Great Hall there was a powerful thunderstorm (those were the days when it actually rained in Madras). People rushed to close the windows in order that the wind and thunder did not drown the sound of the *veena*. Das, however, asked them to remain seated and said that his *veena* would be heard over the uproar. Order was restored and the audience found to its delight that what he said was true.

In 1938, when the Empress of Carnatic Music, Veena Dhanammal (1868-1938) passed away, a condolence meeting was held in the Great Hall, with C. Rajagopalachari in the chair. All the musician's fans, such as S. Sathyamurthy, S.Y. Krishnaswamy, C. Saraswathi Bai and T.T. Krishnamachari, were present. Messages from such eminent personalities as Bangalore Nagarathammal and Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer were read out. A resolution was passed that a memorial to the doyenne ought to be built. Nothing, however, came out of that. Family members present included all four of Dhanam's daughters and their children. A concert by Brinda and Mukta, accompanied by sister Abhiramasundari on the violin (all three were granddaughters of Dhanam through last daughter Kamakshi), ended the programme. Mukta stated in a later interview that a *veena*, a *tambura* and a violin were gifted respectively to Brinda, herself and Abhiramasundari on the occasion.

The Music Academy, founded in 1928, had for many years conducted its annual programmes at a specially erected pandal, near My Ladye's Gardens, behind *Rippon Building*. With South Madras slowly becoming the hub for Carnatic music, the Academy began its long journey south, ending in the present building in 1962. But *Senate House* was its first stop in 1939. Most of the University's leading personalities, such as Sir K. Ramunni Menon, former VC, Dr. Sir A

● by V. SRIRAM

Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar (later VC) and others, took a great interest in the proceedings of the Academy and, so, getting the hall would not have been a problem. The President of the annual conference that year (the Sangita Kalanidhi title was instituted only in 1942) was Musiri Subramania Iyer and the conference was inaugurated by Musiri's friend and admirer, Sir R.K. Shanmukham Chetty (later to become the first Finance Minister of independent India). S. Sathyamurthy too was actively involved in the proceedings. Some fascinating photographs of the conference survive with Musiri's family.

In 1940, the annual conference of the Academy was once again held in *Senate House*, with Kallidaikurichi Vedanta Bhagavatar being elected President. The conference was inaugurated by the Maharajah of Travancore. The convocation, which was held on January 1, 1941, was presided over by Sir Mohammed Usman.

The next year, however, witnessed stormy developments. Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar kicked off the Tamizh Isai movement. He was actively supported in this by members of the Justice Party, such as Sir K. Ramunni Menon, Sir A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar, Sir A. L. Mudaliar and Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty. Kalki Krishnamurthy became an ardent supporter of the movement and, through him, Rajaji also became a champion. They demanded that Tamizh songs be given equal importance on concert platforms in Madras Presidency. The Music Academy diehards took an opposing view. T.T. Krishnamachari, S. Sathyamurthy, Parur Sundaram Iyer and T.L. Venkatarama Iyer felt that Telugu was the language ideally suited for music and that Tamizh really did not have anything musical in it. The Academy began losing its rich Justice Party patrons.

The 1941 conference was held in the thick of this crisis. *Senate House* was once again the venue. In order to express their solidarity with their Telugu brethren, the Academy office-bearers decided to select Dwaram Venkatasamy Naidu, the ace violinist from Andhra, as the President of the annual conference. It was an honour well deserved, for Dwaram was universally respected. The honour of inaugurating the conference went to the Maharajah of Pithapuram, a wellknown prince from the Andhra region. In his speech, the Maharajah spoke of the virtues of the Telugu language and its glory in music. He also drew attention to the fact that Tyagaraja who lived in the Tamizh heartland chose to compose in Telugu. Dwaram in his speech refused to be drawn into the controversy and spoke in general terms about the greatness of music. In an effort at maintaining neutrality, the Academy invited Sir A.L. Mudaliar to preside over the convocation that year.

However, the Academy lobby was fighting on a weak wicket financially, most of the leading patrons having migrated to the Tamizh Isai lobby. M.S. Subbulakshmi and Sadasivam too became Tamizh champions. The Academy came under a bit of a cloud and it was 1946 before the differences concerning Tamizh Isai were resolved to the satisfaction of all. By then, the Academy had migrated to the Rasika Ranjani Sabha in Mylapore. The *Senate House* was not used again as a venue for Carnatic music. Hopefully, with its restoration, there will be more – and regular – concerts also within its hallowed premises.

NOTE: *The Man From Madras Musings* is on holiday. His column will resume on his return.

A big 'Thank You' to 126 of you...

We publish below the list of donors who have, between 16.04.04 and 15.05.04, added to the support Chennai Heritage and its voice, *Madras Musings*, have already received. We thank all of them for their support for the causes Chennai Heritage espouses.

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Please send in your subscriptions...

(By The Editor)

As readers are already aware — and hundreds have responded positively — we have no other alternative but to price *Madras Musings*. From April 16th (Volume XIV, No.1), *Madras Musings* has been priced at Rs.5 a copy, ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: Rs.100/-. Please make out your cheque only to 'Chennai Heritage' and send it together with the COUPON ON PAGE 7, to Chennai Heritage, 260-A, TTK Road, Chennai 600 018 or C/o Lokavani-Hall Mark Press Pvt. Ltd., 62/63, Greames Road, Chennai 600 006.

As you will notice from the coupon, 'Chennai Heritage' continues to welcome contributions from you for the causes it espouses. So if, say, you send in a cheque for Rs.500, we will treat Rs.100 of it towards subscription to *Madras Musings* for 2004-5 and the remaining Rs.400 as contribution towards the causes Chennai Heritage espouses.

We look forward to all readers of *Madras Musings*, and those newcomers who want to receive copies, sending in their subscriptions. We are indeed sorry we can no longer remain a free mailer.

... and contributions

An ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION of just Rs.100 covers only a part of our costs. Corporate support and YOUR support will continue to be essential for Chennai Heritage and *Madras Musings* to play a greater role in creating awareness about the city, its heritage and its environment. We therefore look forward to you sending us your contributions IN ADDITION TO your subscriptions.

Among the steps your contributions have enabled Chennai Heritage to take, apart from keeping *Madras Musings* afloat, have been

— the organising of meetings with corporates, leading professionals and University alumni to create awareness about what is needed for the restoration of *Senate House*, and

— the preparation of an awareness-creating film and the screening of it to various groups to generate support for the restoration of the Tiruvanmiyur temple tanks.

If in the coming year Chennai Heritage receives repeated support from those of you who have already made contributions, and if many more supporters join the bandwagon, we will not only be able to keep *Madras Musings* going, but also be able to continue awareness-building exercises on on-going projects as well as undertake one or two more such exercises.

Therefore, please keep your contributions coming IN ADDITION TO YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS.

OUR READERS WRITE

Silence on changeover

In the guise of renovation and remodelling, the heritage post office building in the High Court campus was demolished without any notice and the age-old trees around the building were uprooted as quickly as possible. Thereafter, a concrete structure was built over the site. During this construction, several other small buildings, such as electricity room etc., which were recently constructed, were demolished. Even after completion, the work still seems to progress.

Now an attempt is being made to build a compound wall around the newly built construction. The cost of construction of the compound wall will be several lakhs (average estimate by experience). The compound wall is of no use. It will only reduce the moving space and the shady shelters available for the public inside the High Court campus. In this process, several new and old trees were uprooted with the help of a JCB machine. A lot of child labour, male and female, were employed in the process.

Cost factors, child labour, environment protection, public interest and convenience, are all issues involved in these activities on the campus. But neither judges nor lawyers say anything about what is happening.

S. Suresh Kumar
11, Appadurai Street
Vannia Teynampet
Chennai 600 018

The other danger

The article on Pesticides, (MM, May 1st) is a reminder to all about the toxicity of pesticides and fungicides used in agriculture and control of malaria, filaria etc. No doubt, a considerable amount of discretion needs to be used, particularly with residual insecticides like DDT, Aldrin, Heptachlor etc. That is the reason why Western countries prefer to consume organically grown vegetables, foods etc.

But it should also be noted that India's population has increased from 36 crores in 1951 to 103 crores in 2001 and the nutritional level, in terms of foodgrains availability, from 400 grams to 460 grams (against a minimum recommendation of 575 grams).

The only reason we have increased grain availability despite the huge population growth and have had no famine or starvation deaths of the magnitude in pre-independent India, is due to fantastic increase in agricultural production. And this has been possible due to modern practices like using fertilisers, pesticides and fungicides and use of better seed material and management.

However forcefully Rita Jayaraj's article points out the dangers of the use of pesticides, the danger due to over population and the danger of the already poor yields dropping further can cause even mover serious problems.

I do not have figures, but I know the consumption of pesticides, fungicides and fertilisers is much higher in developed countries than in India. Due to mechanisation, farm productivity by developed countries is very high. Their farmers are rich..Our farmers are poor.

K.V.S. Krishna
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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, Greames Road, Chennai 600 006.
- All business correspondence should be addressed to The Director, Chennai Heritage, 260-A, TTK Road, Chennai 600 018.
- Madras Musings does not accept letters by e-mail.

How do we eradicate child beggary?

Child beggary is nothing but denying the right to children to be protected from exploitation. Begging flourishes much to the disgust of the community. It also paints an adverse picture of Chennai.

Child beggary is prevalent in the entire city, but certain pockets like Alwarpet signal, Ashok Pillar signal, Sterling Road signal, Mogappair, Adyar signal, Venkatnarayana Road Junction are more prone to this sad practice. The most lucrative venues for child beggars are the temples, where, suffused with godly feelings, devotees are quick to part with money to earn more blessings. Child beggars are increasingly taking over the rail foot-overbridges, and road junctions with signals, causing hardship to users of this infrastructure. No official agency nor any volunteer organisation seems willing to take up the rehabilitation of child beggars.

More than 60 per cent of child beggars earn Rs. 50-100 daily. A small percentage of child beggars earn more than Rs. 100 per day.

Children beg for a variety of reasons. Such as: parental pressure, poverty, easy pastime, lucrative vocation, influence of anti-social elements, religious reasons, illiteracy and neglect. Child begging perpetuates so many social problems such as: illiteracy, child abuse, drug abuse, malnourishment, anti-social activities, and juvenile delinquency. There are several gangs involved in bonded beggary and whose leaders are responsible for crippling innocent children for the purpose of begging.

Child beggars include the following categories:

Kidnapped: Mostly small children kidnapped by beggar gangs. They are crippled and their body parts mauled so that they attract people's sympathy.

Addicts: Youth addicted to drugs beg for three to four hours a day to raise funds for the purchase of narcotics.

Hereditary beggars: They go around with begging bowls in groups of four or five. Children are also taken along to teach them the art of beggary. They live in cottages outside the city where they enjoy all types of luxury. They have tape-recorders, battery-run television sets and VCRs. They go early in the morning to beg at fixed places and return in the evening.

Beggars at worship places: They are usually of mature age and wear permanent religious symbols round their necks. Usually they visit houses when the men are away.

Various provisions of the law in the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 and the Indian Penal Code need to be enforced strictly by the Police. Under Section 24 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000, employing or using a child for begging is punishable with imprisonment upto 3 years. The Madras City Police Act, 1833 prevents annoyance and public nuisance in urban areas. The Act provides for a fine or one month rigorous imprisonment or detention in a beggar home for persons found begging.

Begging in public places is an offence. Public places include streets, thoroughfares, places of public resort, railway carriages, premises of a railway station etc. Begging includes exposing or exhibiting any sores, wounds, bodily ailment or deformity with the purpose of eliciting charity. In spite of the legal measures, the problem of beggars appears to persist unabated.

In Delhi, begging for alms or selling anything at traffic junctions is a traffic offence. The law – the first of its kind in India – allows Delhi's traffic police to fine offenders. Giving alms and buying goods at traffic junctions are also offences.

The Department of Social Defence of the Government of Tamil Nadu, with the help of Indian Council for Child Welfare, Tamil Nadu Branch, launched a scheme for the prevention of child beggary in Chennai in 1995. They have undertaken non-formal education, motivated child beggars to enrol in formal schools and provided healthcare. In spite of the Government's efforts, large numbers of children are still begging on the streets.

If the police take punitive measures child beggars will move to hazardous jobs and become invisible. There is also the danger of these children resorting to petty crime in order to earn a livelihood, leading to an increase in crime.

It has therefore been realised that the existing approach towards beggary control, mainly based on punitive measures, has failed to yield desired results. Punitive measures are a short-sighted approach. Many child beggars are victims of drought and migrants from rural districts along with their parents who work as daily labourers. Begging syndicates do exist but most of the child beggars are victims of poverty. Child beggary in Chennai is carried on by organised gangs as well as individually. These gangs smuggle small children to the rich countries by crippling and disabling them for begging.

The culture factor plays a big role in legitimising beggary despite the law regarding it as a crime. People give alms to gain *punya* or attain *moksha*. There are inadequate institutional rehabilitation programmes and placement services.

Suggestions:

- **The charities now being disbursed individually should be channelised through institutions.**
- **Publicity campaigns. The community in general should be sensitised about the evils of child beggary.**
- **The government department concerned and allied systems, like the police, the local bodies, Labour Department etc. need to be involved in the eradication of child beggary.**
- **NGOs working in the field of children's beggary need to be involved in a greater manner and a networking amongst them developed.**
- **Proper rehabilitation measures need to be worked out for child beggars and their families.**
- **Existing anti-beggary laws and government schemes are not adequate to deal with these problems.**
- **Every child apprehended by Police and placed before the Juvenile Welfare Board should be provided with counselling and rehabilitation services through NGOs who will co-ordinate with the Juvenile Welfare Board in the rehabilitation process. In all cases, a family-based approach should be mandatory.**

Dr. K. Shanmugavelayutham
Reader, Department of Social Work
Loyola College, Chennai 600 034

Speeding pretence

On a busy day, while you are on the road, you hear a siren from an ambulance or from a hospital van/car on an emergency journey.

At times it will have a revolving light in red or blue on top.

So what's in it, you ask.

I happened to see a speeding vehicle the other day with the same spec as cited above.

Luckily I had time to look at the vehicle and who was in it.

Believe me, there was no one!

Probably , to reach their destinations quicker, drivers speed on the pretext of an emergency.

The irony is that most road-users with a sense of humanity generally give way for the easy movement of such vehicles, without being aware as to whether there a patient is in one or not.

C. S. Baskar
1, Ramarao Road
Mylapore, Chennai 600 004

Beyond the Creek

Apropos your timely article on the Adyar Creek (MM, May 1st), I think its scope should be widened to "Whither Adyar River or is the river withering away?", thanks to the blatant encroachments on the west-side of the Adyar bridge. First, a complex for the judges which juts well into the river came up on the northern side. On the south side, abutting Gandhinagar, land has been reclaimed and work is still going on. Of course, the MRTS has its own share of the riverbed. A 40 feet wide-road is now being laid along the northern side on the river-bed.

Who cares really what happens to the rivers?

Srinivasan Pattoo
Founder-President
Wecare Foundation
Bayview Apartments
22 (19) New Beach Road
Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai 600 041.

Why not TNCA too?

There is much money flowing in cricket these days. Congratulations to the All India Cricket Board for sanctioning of a Rs. 5000/- monthly pension to players who have represented the country in Test cricket at least once. This is bound to increase the efforts of Indian cricketers.

I suggest that the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association also consider payment of a pension, perhaps a smaller amount of Rs. 1000 per month, to those who have represented Tamil Nadu in Ranji Trophy cricket. This is bound to boost the efforts of our cricketers.

K. Krishnaswami
31, Vaidyaram Street
T. Nagar
Chennai 600 017

Felton the Communist

V. Sriram's article (MM, April 16th) recalling the other Subbulakshmi brought back to me memories of Monica Felton.

Back in 1955 or 1956, my husband and I, activists in the World Peace Movement, received a message from the New Delhi office of Movement. We were to receive Monica Felton and make her stay comfortable in Madras. She was coming from the Southeast Asia region!

After receiving her, we got a portion of a house on rent on Poonamallee High Road. Later on, she moved into a flat on Sullivan Garden Road and still later moved into a flat in Mandavalli where she lived until she died.

We introduced her to Rajaji, Khasa Subba Rao, A.V. Raman and several prominent political personalities. Not only was she a good writer but she also played a key role in the politics of our State.

When she suffered a stroke, my husband, Dr. P. Krishnan, took care of her. She died in September 1970, just a few days before her birthday, September 23rd.

She was a great political personality, having been a top office-bearer of the Communist Party of England. She was Stalin's guest in the Kremlin for a long period!

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Tracing Anglo-Indian roots

The Harvey Family about 1894 India – Author's maternal great-great-grandmother Anne Harvey (nee Oliver, b. c1829) and her children. Standing : John (Telegraph), Alexander (Asst. Professor, Doveton College). Seated: Anne Grace (married Robert Johnson's half nephew, Charles Thoy). Floor: Robert Johnson (great-grandfather, became Registrar to the Civil Secretariat of the Central Provinces), Susan (great-grandmother, Teacher). The Harvey family can be traced back to a marriage in 1788 between Robert Harvey and Sarah (Mootamah?). Anne Harvey's parents were both Anglo-Indian, as were Robert Johnson's. His father Thomas (b. c1821) was Bandmaster 32nd Madras Native Infantry (NI). Robert's mother Frances Axelby (b. c1842) was Thomas's 3rd wife. Both her parents seem to have been Anglo-Indian.

Colloquially 'Anglo-Indian' has been used to describe a person of British stock who pursued a career in India rather than in Britain. However, towards the end of the 19th Century. The term Anglo-Indian was adopted by the community that originally called themselves East Indian but were known to others as Indo-Britons or Eurasians. The term Eurasian was in common usage during the 19th Century, particularly in administrative documents, and yet it is misleading as it embraces people of Portuguese/Indian descent (originally called Luso-Indians) as well as those of British/Indian descent. The term Anglo-Indian, though appearing to indicate people of British descent, was broadened during the 20th Century to encompass those of other European descent on their paternal line. The definition is now enshrined in schedule 366 of the 1950 Constitution of India and states:

'An Anglo-Indian means a person whose father or any of whose other male progenitors in the male line is or was of European descent but who is domiciled within the territory of India and is or was born within such territory of parents habitually resident therein and not established there for temporary purposes only'. It certainly encompasses a much wider range of people than 'East-Indian' ever did!

During the 17th Century, the British, like the Portuguese before them, encouraged their men to take Indian wives within Christian marriages. In 1687, the Honourable East India Company (HEIC or EIC) deliberately began to promote Christian marriages between their European soldiers and the Indian women of Fort St. George by paying the mother of each child, born within such a union, a 'pagoda' (in 1750 this was equivalent to 7s8d) on the day the child was christened. Later the HEIC encouraged 'their humbler servants to make their permanent abode in India' by introducing a Rs.5 monthly allowance for every child born to a soldier in the ranks. Children born within such a union were normally brought up according to the European traditions of their father rather than those of their Indian mother. The boys would seek employment in India and would have received a European-style education. These children would in turn raise their families in a similar manner and in this way the early Anglo-Indian community developed in the HEIC's territories.

It would be unrealistic to assume that in this early period there would have been a large pool of British women in India from which the men serving in the lower echelons of the HEIC's military and civil administration could have chosen wives. It is more likely that they married or entered into long-term relationships with country-born women who might be Anglo-Indian or Indian. Even at the turn of the 18th Century in Bengal, the estimated number of English women married to Englishmen was about 200 to 4000.

• **by Geraldine Charles,** *who is of Anglo-Indian descent on both her father's and her mother's side (seven of her greatgrandparents were Anglo-Indian). She is a trusteee of the Families in British India Society and can be contacted by email: glchar@ nmm.ac.uk*

Any British woman contemplating living in India before 1833 would have needed to overcome a number of obstacles. She would require: the permission of the HEIC to reside within its territories; money for the outward passage; a means of supporting herself after her arrival; a strong constitution to withstand the rigours of the climate and daily life in the HEIC establishments; she would need to be capable of surviving childbirth in India and her children would need to be of a similar robust health to survive childhood in 17th-18th Century India.

There are often problems in distinguishing between British and Anglo-Indian ancestors for the following reasons:

• Indian women marrying British men were often baptised before marriage and given a British Christian name or sometimes they simply adopted a British first name.

• Some marriages contracted in the 17th and 18th Centuries were solemnised according to the rites of the wife's religion, which could be Roman Catholic if the woman was of Luso-Indian descent or was an Indian Christian. Others may have been performed according to one of the Indian religions. Few if any of these records are likely to have been sent to Britain. Pre-1833 Roman Catholic records of baptisms, marriages and burials, if they survive at all, will still be in India.

• Anglo-Indian women usually sought husbands/partners from British men coming out to India or within the developing Anglo-Indian community, perpetuating the use of European names in their descendants. The only clue to their being of mixed race descent would be if they were Luso-Indian and had a Portuguese surname.

• Anglo-Indian men were likely to have sought wives/partners amongst the local Indian women or within the developing Anglo-Indian community and would have been in competition with the British men for eligible women to marry. The use of European surnames and Christian names would be perpetuated in their descendants.

• Children of mixed marriages would bear their father's surname and a European Christian name. Unless their mother's original Indian name was recorded on the baptism entry there would be no way of distinguishing if she were British, Anglo-Indian or Indian.

• Men of the British Army, as opposed to those of the HEIC's armies, would leave India when their regiment left, as would any women who had accompanied the regiment from Britain and any surviving children born to these women while in India. Women who were widowed in India often married again within the regiment.

The Bradbury family about 1896, Bellary, India – Author's maternal great-grandparents William Bradbury (b. 1838 became Prison Superintendent, Bellary) and Ann Bradbury (neé Hellein, b. 1847). They are surrounded by their 10 children. Left to right standing: Frank (Police Service), Florence, Albert (Telegraph), Katherine, Charles (Forest Department). Seated: Ernest (Railway Engineer), Esther Hellein (Ann's sister), William, Ann, Walter (Telegraph). Front: 'Willie' (Telegraph), Oswald (Telegraph), 'Bertie' (author's grandfather, b. 1886 became Chief Superintendent. Post & Telegraph at Lucknow). Typically within the siblings of Anglo-Indian families some look more European than others, says the author. William's father James was English (Gunner EIC's Horse Artillery) and his mother Catharine Williams (b. c1818) was Anglo-Indian. Ann's father William Hellein (b.1806) was Assistant Apothecary 48th Madrs NI, suggesting he was Anglo-Indian. Ann's mother. Elizabeth Delang (b.c1829) was probably Anglo-Indian.

THE OLD... ...& THE NEW

Our OLD and the NEW take a different format this fortnight. The OLD is a family that once had links with the Madras Presidency and a member of it advises how roots can be traced. Our NEW is of a family that still calls Madras/Tamil Nadu home, but has members of the family abroad tracing its roots. Records preserved carefully abroad and by Genealogical Associations in several countries make this task a bit easier. In India, we can't even make a beginning most of the time!

In 1786, the HEIC appointed Lord Cornwallis as Governor-General of India. He had earlier served in America during the War of Independence. It is possible that his experience with the colonists in America may have influenced his opinion of the Anglo-Indian 'colonials'. In 1789 Cornwallis excluded Eurasians (Anglo-Indians) from the King's Army. The exclusion was based upon '*the injuries which could accrue to the Discipline and Reputation of H.M's troops employed in India, from the admission of Persons as officers, or even soldiers, who are born of Black women, natives of the Country*'.

In the 1820s the Anglo-Indian community finding '*the opportunities for soldiering drastically restricted... branched into trade and commerce... to equip the Community to compete... numerous private schools were established*'. In 1829 the community petitioned the British parliament regarding the restrictions that had been imposed on them over the years.

The petition was instrumental in the insertion of a clause when the HEIC's charter was renewed in 1833 that indicated '*...no native* (of India)*... shall by reason only of his religion, place of birth, descent, colour, be disqualified from holding any place, office or employment under the East India Company*'. The restriction that only 'Company servants' could reside in the country was withdrawn.

Due to the restrictions that were introduced, a person's employment details may contain clues as to whether he might be Anglo-Indian. This information can normally be found in the records held at the British Library, in the Oriental India Office Collection (OIOC) 'N' series, on baptismal records (father's profession), marriage records (groom's profession and sometimes the bride's profession) and the records of burials for men who died before retirement. Those records refer to three administrative regions or Presidencies, Bengal, Bombay and Madras.

Having obtained details of a person's profession, an educated guess can be made as to whether he was an Anglo-Indian of either British or Portuguese descent. The following 'rules of thumb' may assist in making the decision.

• The occurrence of an ancestor with a Portuguese surname indicates an Anglo-Indian, of Luso-Indian descent. Due to the intermarriage of the British and Anglo-Indians with Luso-Indians in the 17th and 18th Centuries, some Anglo-Indian families have ancestral lines that have both British and Portuguese surnames.

• On early marriage records if a European first name is recorded for the bride but no surname, she may be an Indian convert.

• British Army regiments tend to have a British place name or 'Royal' in their title, while those of the HEIC normally have a Presidency name (Bengal, Bombay or Madras). The Indian Army was formed after 1857 and replaced the HEIC's armies, its regiments generally have Indian place names or words in their titles. These are generalisations and exceptions include Skinner's Horse and Gardner's Horse, which were both raised by Anglo-Indians, James Skinner and William Gardner.

• The HEIC's armies comprised separate European and Native regiments, the former were recruited in Britain while lower ranks of the latter were recruited in India. These regiments often contain the distinguishing term 'European' or 'Native' in their title. Prior to 1857 Anglo-Indians would have served in the HEIC's Native regiments or those of the Princely States, rather than in the British Army or in the HEIC's European regiments.

• Between 1791-95 the HEIC brought in restrictions against the sons of native Indians (Anglo-Indians would be seen as 'native' in this context). They included disqualification from employment in the HEIC's Civil, Military and Marine Services. Anglo-Indians could not be recruited into the Covenanted Civil Service (they would more likely be found in the Uncovenanted Service), neither could they hold commissions in the HEIC or King's Armies.

• By 1795 persons who were not descended from European parents on both sides were disqualified from serving even as Privates. Anglo-Indian men could only be recruited as bandsmen, drummers, fifers and farriers. Therefore men with British or Portuguese surnames serving in the Native regiments in these positions were likely to be Anglo-Indians.

• Due to the restricted career prospects in the HEIC's armies Anglo-Indian men sometimes pursued a military career within the armies of the Princely States. Tradition has it that in times of war Anglo-Indians would choose to fight with the British rather than against them.

• During the early 19th Century Anglo-Indians could be employed as Assistant Apothecaries or attain the rank of Sub-Conductor within the HEIC Army. Men with British or Portuguese surnames serving with the Native regiments and occupying these posts were likely to be Anglo-Indians.

• At the turn of the 18th Century civil servants who were employed as 'Draughtsmen' or 'Writers' (positions within the HEIC's Civil Service) who do not appear in the seniority listings in the East India Register are probably Anglo-Indians.

• Children born in India before 1820, to mothers who were also born and brought up in India, are likely to have Anglo-Indian ancestry. Furthermore the possibility that they had grandmothers or great-grandmothers who were Indian rather than Anglo-Indian should be borne in mind. Whether this will be reflected by documentary evidence is another matter. The true identity of many Indian ancestresses will probably remain masked behind adopted European names and their partner's/husband's European surnames.

• In later years the professions often associated with Anglo-Indians included the Railways, Post & Telegraph, Police, Civil Service, Customs & Excise and Teaching. However, members of the community could be found in many other professions as well.

Editor's Note: After going on to list other records that might be perused in Britain and in India to trace Anglo-Indian roots, the author continues:

By the 20th Century the Anglo-Indian community comprised a number of close-knit communities spread throughout the Indian subcontinent and Burma. Strong connections existed between these communities, in part due to the fact that certain professions necessitated Anglo-Indian men being posted to different parts of the subcontinent as their career progressed. These men would tend to socialise within the local-Anglo-Indian community and sometimes marry into it.

Similarly, Anglo-Indian women who trained as teachers, nurses, etc, often went away to training colleges in various parts of India and might meet their future husbands within the community of that area. Otherwise Anglo-Indians tended to marry within the community they grew up in.

(Continued on Page 6)

The Fuller family in Madras/Tamil Nadu today.

The Fullers of the Railways

Norman Anthony Fuller, an Anglo-Indian now settled in Florida, has been responsible for drawing up the Fuller family tree dating back to around 1815. He contacted relatives and friends residing in various countries, visited archives where information regarding births, deaths and marriages of Anglo-Indian in India was stored on microfilm. His younger brother, Patrick Beresfond Fuller, a resident of Tambaram, visited numerous churches and cemeteries in South India to add to the information, all of which is supported by certificates. Today, the family tree consists of 81 printed pages!

The Fullers of an earlier generation.

Of particular note is that of the seven generations of Fullers, commencing with Thomas and Lydia Fuller, who have been traced, five generations have been employed by the railways — and that while the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th generations as drivers and the 6th in other railway employment with the Southern Railway. Many of the members Lydia (Fullers') family were also in the railways.

The saga of the Fuller family began in c. 1815 with Thomas and Lydia Fuller of Coimbatore. The family grew with links in the Figredo, Lopez, Narcis, Laporte, Dennis, Watkins and Stephenson families.

In August 1838, John Edward Fuller was born to Thomas and Lydia Fuller of Coimbatore. In October 1864, he became an engine driver of the Madras Railway Company, headquartered in Royapuram. He married Maria Cronan. Their son, Albert James, Fuller, was born in September 1866 in Madras. He was employed in Madura as a fireman and married Ellen Narcis in 1889. Four of his children were born in Madura. In 1902 he moved to Asansol in Bengal to work as a shunting driver, and it was here in Asansol between 1902 and 1906 his sons John Burton and Oswald Fuller attended school at North Point in Darjeeling.

When Albert James Fuller died suddenly in 1906, the sons were taken out of North Point School, Darjeeling, and the family moved back to Madura. The elder boy, John Burton Fuller, started working as a fireman at the age of 15 and in time became a Grade A Driver. He was 26 years old when he married Mary Mildred Constance Stephenson in September 1921. Mary Mildred was a trained teacher from St. Columban's, Madras, and taught in the Railway School, Madura.

John Burton Fuller, three years after the death of his wife, married again in 1935. He was appointed Loco Inspector, Podanur, and retired as Loco Foreman, Calicut. John Burton and Mary Mildred Fuller's son Patrick Beresford Fuller, was born in February 1931 and married Noveen Josephine Lavoach in June 1953. He entered Railway service as an Apprentice Mechanic, South India Railway Central Workshops, Golden Rock, transferred to Tambaram where he became an electric train driver, and then transferred to Egmore as Mail/Express Driver.

Two of John Burton and Noveen Josephine Fuller's sons now constitute the family's fifth generation connections with the Railways.

Noel Everand Fuller, born in November 1959, joined Southern Railway in 1981 and is a Technician I in the EMU and AC loco workshop, Tambaram. Michael Sanjiv Fuller, born in 1971, is a Network Administrator in the Southern Railway.

Noel Fuller

Quizzin' with Ram'nan

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

1. With his 15th victory (in the third Test at Rawalpindi), whom did Sourav Ganguly surpass as India's most successful Test captain?

2. Name the National award-winning actress killed in helicopter clash whille campaigning for the BJP and TDP on April 17th.

3. Name the Hamas leader killed by an Israeli missile attack on April 17th, a month after the previous leader was gunned down.

4. *The Interpreter* now being filmed is the first movie ever to be shot inside which famous edifice in New York?

5. Name the three other Indians, apart from Prime Minister Vajpayee, who made *Time* magazine's world's 100 most powerful and influential people list recently.

6. In a new to the world of Internet, what revolutionary search engine have Karthick Ramani and Sunil Prabhakar of Purdue University created?

7. Name the co-founder of the famous *Guiness Book of World Records* who passed away recently.

8. Five hundred years after it was conceptualised by a multi-faceted genius, the first working model of his 'self-propelled' vehicle went on display in Florence. Name the genius.

9. Name the Indian Navy's training ship, which returned to its base at the Southern Naval command after a record-breaking 15-month world cruise.

10. Which software major recently follwed Infosys as a $1 billion turnover company?

* * *

11. In which place in Sivaganga District is the adminsistration hoping that old and dilapidated heritage houses will prove a tourist attraction?

12. Which member of the famous TTK family is the new Chairman of the Tamil Nadu State Council of the Confederation of Indian Industry?

13. Continuing on question 2, in which film did the actress make her Tamil film debut, opposite Karthick?

14. Who is the new Collector of Chennai?

15. Which famous Indian University was born out of the Ramaswami Chettiar Town High School in Chidambaram?

16. On the above theme, what is the present name of the village Tiruvetkalam on the banks of the Covelong?

17. Which prominent stage artiste known by his 'breezy' epithet completed the golden jubilee of his foray into the world of drama?

18. Which upcoming star from the city was presented with the 2003-04 T.K.Ramanathan Award given by the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association?

19. Powys Castle in Wales was part of the family estate of which legendary steward of Fort St. George and Deputy Governor of Madras?

20. *The Indian Express* had its roots in Madras's first daily founded in 1921 by R.W. Brock. What was it called?

(Answers on page 7)

Chennai's ecological heritage sites

• Ecological heritage sites in and around Chennai can be classified into five broad categories, according to the vegetation types and natural resources – scrub jungles being one of them. Scrub jungles are home to diverse and fragile biological organisms. There are five sites that come under this category and these include the Guindy National Park, IIT Campus, Theosophical Society Campus, Madras Christian College Campus and Kattupalli Island.

Government needs to take necessary action against any developmental activities in these ecologically sensitive areas and protect such valuable ecosystems in the city.

• by M. AMIRTHALINGAM

Guindy National Park

These 270 hectares are the last surviving habitat of the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest type of the Coromandel Coast. It is representative of the natural thorny scrub jungle of the southern dry zone, and has 350 species of trees, shrubs, herbs, climbers and grasses. The flora here includes:

Trees such as *Ammona squamosa, Feronia limon, Azadirachta indica, Cassia fistula, Santalum album, Mangifera indica, Tamarindus indica, Tectona grandis, Ficus benghalensis, Cassia siamea, Cassia marginata, Borassus flabellifer, Anacardium occidentale, Swietinea mahagoni;* shrubs such as *Atlantia monophylla, Clausena dentate, Glycosmis cochinsinensis, Randia dumetorum, Randia malabarica, Cassia auriculata* and *Carissa* spinarum; and climbers such as *Tinospora cordifolia, Cissus quadrangularis* and *Abrus precatorius* and *Drosera burmanii* (the insect-eating plant).

There is a great diversity of flora and fauna within the Guindy National Park. The main attraction of the park is the presence of the Indian Antelope, commonly called Blackbuck. Other mammals, such as spotted deer, jungle cat, toddy cat and Indian civet, are also found here. 37 varieties of birds, including the kingfisher, blue jay, golden backed woodpecker, crow pheasant, yellow wattled lapwing, red wattled lapwing, blue faced malkoha, shrikes, koels, doves, minivets, munias, barkets, parakeets, grey partridge, tailor birds, robins, drongos, quails, paradise flycatcher, and stone curlew are also found here. Reptiles such as cobra, krait, russell's viper, tortoises and turtles, lizards, geckos, chameleons and the common Indian monitor can be commonly seen. Invertebrates such as worms, spiders, centipedes, millipedes, butterflies, bugs, grasshoppers, scorpions and crabs are also found.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Campus

An extension of Guindy National Park, this too has vegetation of Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest type. It is an ideal example of the coexistence of various types of mini ecosystems, such as open grasslands, wetlands, thick forest patches and patches of scrub jungles. There are about 80 different species of trees, of which 35 of them are native. 28 species of shrubs and herbs and 10 species of climbers are found here. These thickets are home to the blackbuck, spotted deer, jackals, mongooses, monkeys, squirrels, toddy cats, wild cats and various reptiles, 20 different species of insects, 40 different species of butterflies and about 100 species of birds. The campus attracts large groups of migratory birds and butterflies every year. There are about 100 species of birds to be seen at different times of the year. While quite a number of species are resident, a few migrants, like the forest wagtail, pied crested cuckoo and golden oriole, are a treat to watch.

Theosophical Society Campus

These 28 acres of wooded land, on the southern bank of the River Adyar, are a natural scientist's delight with its various gardens and wooded areas which are a haven for a number of migratory birds, including the pink flamingo and other forms of wildlife such as lizards, snakes, jackals, wild cats, mongooses and hares. Apart from various woods there is an avenue of mahogany trees (*Swietinea mahagoni*). The campus has the most impressive botanical wonder – the Great Banyan – a 450-year-old tree with a circumference of 251.65 metres, roots at a height of 12.2 metres and a huge canopy of leafy branches that throw down hundreds of aerial roots with an area of 4,670 sq.m.

Madras Christian College Campus

At this 363-acre campus adjacent to the Vandalur Reserve Forest, the habitat diversity includes wildlife such as deer, blacknaped hare, common mongoose, jackal, jungle cat, monitor lizard and a variety of snakes besides 140 species of birds. Porcupines, striped hyena, small Indian civet, toddy cat, binturong, leopard cats and pangolins are found occasionally. The vegetation type of the campus is similar to that of the IIT campus.

Kattupalli Island

Situated on the Coromandel Coast, it is bordered by the Ennore Creek on the south, the Pulicat Lake and the Buckingham Canal on the west and the Bay of Bengal on the east. It is about 14 km long from south to north and about 1.25 km to 2.25 km wide from east to west and has an area of about 18 sq.km. The vegetation type consists of a rare combination of mangroves, halophytic salt marsh, psammophytic beach, tropical dry evergreen and aquatic habitat. There are 290 flowering plant species belonging to 210 genera and 82 families, one pteridophyte and 9 aquatic algae. The most striking feature in this island is the presence of four individuals of *Diospyros malabarica* that are 600 years old. This species of mangrove is not found anywhere else along the east coast. The faunal wealth of the island includes mammals like jackals, wild boar, rabbits, jungle cats, reptiles such as scorpions, lizards, snakes and the endangered Olive Ridley Sea turtles, besides an abundance of waterbirds and butterflies. The island is unique for its multi-ecosystems, such as the inshore, beach, sand dunes, scrub jungles, brackish water, mangrove and agricultural ecosystem.

Conclusion

There is a rich biodiversity found in these areas. However, these ecosystems are being threatened due to various unsustainable developmental activities. Urbanisation, industrialisation, dumping of solid waste, discharging of untreated sewage and encroachments contribute to the woes.

Scrub jungles are a habitat for several flora and fauna. They are home to diverse and fragile living organisms. They help birds and animals to breed and also help in propagating plants and increasing the green cover. The Guindy National Park, IIT Campus, Theosophical Society Campus, Madras Christian College Campus and Kattupalli Island have been identified as Ecologically Sensitive Sites in and around Chennai. They need protection. — (Courtesy: *CPREEC News.*)

Tracing Anglo-Indian roots

(Continued from page 5)

Anglo-Indian ancestry is further complicated by the fact there were other European powers in India and it is possible to find ancestral lines within Anglo-Indian families that are Danish, Dutch, French, German or Greek.

Other families had connections with the Armenian community. It is unfortunate that often people researching Anglo-Indian ancestry concentrate on tracing their male lines back to Britain and ignore the distaff lines and the marriages of siblings. In fact it is by tracing the latter two that the complicated interconnection between Anglo-Indian families emerges.

After Independence many members of the Anglo-Indian community, particularly the younger ones, made the decision to leave. Yet despite being dispersed world-wide, Anglo-Indians maintained links with each other in their new countries, through reunions and associations at both local and international level and more recently via the Anglo-Indian web sites.

Since Independence, two generations have been born outside the subcontinent, many have married/chosen partners from the country their parent(s) emigrated to. At Independence the favoured countries were Australia, Britain, Canada and New Zealand, but now people with Anglo-Indian ancestry are distributed worldwide. However their Anglo-Indian roots are still there in India, although they may lie deeply buried, both literally and metaphorically. — (Courtesy: *The Journal of the British Society of Genealogists.*)

Water, water, crying for use

(Continued from page 1)

in a separate condenser. Though the technology has been known for centuries, the fuel cost makes it limited in application.

Freezing: Salt water has a lower freezing point than fresh water. So lowering the temperature of salt water below the freezing point of fresh water, but above the salt water freezing point, produces fresh water ice crystals in salt water. These crystals are removed, washed free of salt and melted into fresh water.

Electrodialysis: When salt is dissolved in water, it splits in to positively and negatively charged ions. By running an electrical current through the water the ions can be separated and removed. Electrodialysis desalination plants have been in existence since 1962, but the method is very expensive.

Flash Evaporation: In flash evaporation, a vacuum is applied to reduce the boiling point of water and the water evaporates instantly. The water is supplied to a depressurised chamber as spray. Hence, it is called spray flash evaporation. There can be a series of flash chambers resulting in multi-stage flash evaporation.

Reverse Osmosis: The 'technology of choice' these days is reverse osmosis. Reverse osmosis for water purification is a technological advancement in the last 20 years. About 30% of the world's installed desalination capacity is by reverse osmosis. In the RO system the water from a highly concentrated region is transferred to a region of low pressure by applying pressure. A semi-permeable membrane having pore diameter from 0.5mm to 1.5mm separates the two sections. RO can remove a high percentage of dissolved contaminants. About 10 to 20% feed water is purified and the rest simply goes down the drain. It has emerged as an effective technology for the generation of fresh water from seawater or brackish water.

There are approximately 11,000 desalination plants in 120 nations in the world producing 4 billion gallons daily. The cost of desalinated water by RO has come down drastically in the last few years due to the development of technologies especially in the area of membranes. However, the technology has the following limitations.

- Pre-treatment of water to protect membranes
- Higher pumping power proportional to feed pressure
- Bio-fouling of membranes
- Frequent change of expensive membranes and other maintenance/requirements

The membranes are susceptible to bacterial contamination from feed water, which can introduce undesirable taste and odour in the output water. Higher quality membranes are expensive. The RO system cannot remove some hardness chemicals (e.g. calcium).

Ocean Temperature-Driven Desalination

The Ocean Temperature-Driven Desalination (OTDD) utilises the temperature difference between surface and deep ocean water for water production. There is a steep reduction in seawater temperature below 50m depths from sea surface. The warm water is flash evaporated in a vacuum chamber and the evaporated steam is condensed back to fresh water using the cold deep-sea water. The warm water is sprayed into a vacuum chamber maintained at about one per cent of normal atmosphere, where the low pressure instantly flashes about one per cent of it to steam. The steam is separated to another chamber in which it can be condensed to liquid by cold water from ocean depth. And, because the water is flashed, not boiled, the destructive salt deposits do not form. Cold water less than 15°C is available within 150m depth. Seawater desalination is possible with even 5°C temperature difference.

The OTDD has the following potential advantages:

- The pre-treatment requirements are much lesser compared to RO plants.
- The plants based on flash evaporation do not need frequent shut down as in the case of RO plants.
- The water produced by the flash evaporation method is superior in quality.

The steam generated can be passed through a turbine for generating power before condensing it. The cycle, which provides power and water using this method, is known as Open Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Cycle.

The flash vapour can also be used for power generation in closed cycle mode. The steam is supplied to the evaporator where ammonia liquid gets vaporised. The ammonia vapour is allowed to run a turbine and then condensed back to liquid for re-circulation. Such a cycle, using a secondary fluid for power generation, is knows as Hybrid Cycle Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion.

The system is ecologically sound. Because little of the water is actually converted, the remaining liquid retains practically the same salinity as before, assuring minimal disruption of the eco-system. This rate of production of fresh water can be increased if the feed water to the system is the cooling discharge from a conventional thermal or nuclear power plant. The discharge of cooling temperature is normally at 37°C to 40°C. Thus, an OTDD desalination plant close to a conventional power plant can derive a temperature difference nearly 20° to 25°.

Conclusion

It is estimated that a 1 MW OTEC plant which makes use of 4000 m^3 / hr warm water for a temperature difference of 15°C can produce 1200m^3 fresh water a day. This can be further increased by 60 to 80 per cent if the production of power is eliminated. Site-specific economic analysis will prove that this technology can be cost effective for producing superior quality fresh water from the sea compared to conventional methods. Laboratory model studies have proved the potential benefits of this technology. A serious research and study on ocean temperature-driven desalination is yet to start in our country. NIOT has initiated the work on desalination system based on ocean temperature difference. A laboratory model plant was set up at the campus and various parametric studies have been carried out. A technology demonstration project is proposed to be implemented in one of the islands in the country. (*Courtesy*: UN-Habitat Information Office, Chennai.)

CHENNAI HERITAGE

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Still cleaning the Cooum

(Continued from page 1)

push the sandbar away during the non-monsoon period, it has been found necessary to resort to dredging for the sandbar to be kept open. What is proposed is to dredge the leading channel by using a sand pump mounted on a jetty. This kind of dredging has been found successful at the Nagapattinam harbour near the Vedaranyam canal exit.

Instead of constructing a tidal weir at the mouth of the Cooum, as suggested by the high-power committee, the Cooum Division of the PWD will be putting up a regulator. The regulator will be completed by the end of November, and it would be possible then to let in seawater during high tide and redraw it during low tide.

An inner channel is to be dug from the Iron Bridge (Napier Bridge) end to the Nungambakkam railway bridge, its depth ranging form 4 feet to 9 feet, and its width tapering from 150 feet at Napier Bridge to 75 feet at the Nungambakkam end. About 200 feet of the river has already been channelised in Nungambakkam.

The authorities have not yet decided whether the inner channel should be in the centre of the river or in the sides.

But the Cooum is not to depend solely on the seawater for flushing purposes. The Electricity Board will be tapping about 600 cusecs of water from the Ennore backwaters to be used by the Ennore Thermal Station. A part of the discharge from the Thermal Station – about 150 cusecs – is proposed to be pumped into the North Buckingham Canal near Ennore. The Cooum, being the link canal for the North and South Buckingham Canals, can utilise this "backwash" for "self-improvement". Easy navigation in the North Buckingham Canal and the facility to manipulate the level in the Cooum through the regulator would be the two immediate benefits from the new arrangement. The aim is to have pleasure boating on the river, and jetties are to be constructed at different points along the channel.

According to present decisions, the width of the river is not to be disturbed despite the presence of the inner channel.

The cost of the entire scheme, as now contemplated, will be Rs.113.50 lakh, of which Rs.88.50 lakh will be for construction works. The balance is to be spent on rehabilitation of slum-dwellers on the banks of the Cooum. In a few areas, fire-proof tenements are also to be built.

Channelisation and beautification programmes come under the second stage, for which Rs.56.50 lakh has been set apart.

"The whole project will be completed by the end of 1970," said a spokesman of the Cooum Special Division. "We are proceeding with the work on a war-footing."

About 2,300 feet of the bank has been cleared of shrubs near Napier Bridge.

Editor's Note: 35 years later we are still talking of the same things, with no "final solution" to the Cooum problems.

Answers to Quiz

1. Mohammed Azharuddin; 2. Soundarya; 3. Abdel Aziz Ramisr; 4. The United Nations Buildings; 5. Aishwarya Rai, B.K.S. Iyengar and Azim Premji; 6. The world's first shape-based 3-D Engineering Shape Search System; 7. Norms McWhirter; 8. Leonardo da Vinci; 9. INS *Tarangini*; 10. Wipro.

* * *

11. Karaikudi; 12. T.T. Ashok; 13. Ponnumani; 14. M. Rajaram; 15. Annamalai University; 16. Annamalainagar; 17. 'Kathadi' Ramamurthy; 18. Somdev Dev Varman; 19. Robert Clive; 20. *Daily Express*.

Balaji: Using his head, heart and body

• by V. RAMNARAYAN

It was a tense moment in the Ranji Trophy match between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in Bangalore early last season. The Tamil Nadu batsmen were battling it out in the second innings to try and turn a first innings lead into an outright win. The players in the pavilion were watching every ball anxiously, when Basu, the team's physical trainer, turned to L. Balaji, and asked: "Shall we go for a walk round the ground?" Balaji, who had bowled a strenuous spell, misheard him and, all ready for a training workout, put on his shoes and sprang into action.

This story was related to me independently by Basu and the team's coach, B. Arun, both stressing Balaji's tremendous work ethic. "He's always the first player to be out for training, constantly hungry," says Basu. "Initially he was weak, but has improved his strength all round, his endurance, his speed." Basu however feels Balaji has to improve his power and athletic speed further. "He needs to do specific weight training to be a bigger force in international cricket."

Stories that illustrate Lakshmipathi Balaji's grand obsession with cricket are legion. Like the time he came into the gym dripping – because, riding a motorcycle to attend the training session, he did not seek shelter from the pouring rain. "Why should rain stop indoor training?" was his response to Basu's astonished query. Tall and lanky and not a natural athlete, he has, through constant training, improved his speed on the field and his fielding considerably over the years.

Obedient by nature, Balaji will not disregard his coach's strictures. Arun recalls instances when he has forbidden him from bowling in the nets in order to give him some rest, only to see him padded up to have a session with the bat or pleading with him to be allowed to "bowl to just one batsman."

Ever willing to benefit from the experience of peers and seniors, Balaji learnt from Anil Kumble to bowl to imaginary batsmen in the nets. Long after net practice, he would wheel away after placing markers at the batting crease, good length spot and so on. According to Basu, the lack or inadequacy of facilities never trouble him. After the bylanes and grounds of Choolaimedu and Mehta Nagar where he grew up, he views any pucca cricket ground as a bonus.

"Balaji always keeps the learning door open," says Abdul Jabbar, the Chemplast Sanmar coach. "When he first came to us, his run-up was not rhythmic," a view shared by Bharat Reddy, the Chemplast team manager, and B. Arun, who was at the time a Chemplast coach too. "Shot steps would follow big strides, his run-up was hardly streamlined," Jabbar remembers. "He would actually walk a few steps." Jabbar also recalls how his back foot was facing the wrong direction in the delivery stride. He believes that Balaji has since worked hard in all these aspects, learning to twist his hip around to achieve a more side-on position. The result has been his newly-acquired outswinger.

Arun agrees. "He used a lot of shoulder in the early days, and that explained the surprising pace he worked up. His run-up was slow and there was no building up of momentum. He worked hard in improving his physical fitness, which in turn led to a better run-up and action", he says, adding that self-belief and the ability to plan are Balaji's main assets. "He's a thoughtful young man," Arun expands. "When I met him for a chat before he went on a tour with the India 'A' team, he told me he realised he would have to bowl a fuller length on South African wickets. 'Your can't bowl short and try to bowl quick, you have to keep the ball up and move it on those greener wickets,' he said. In the Ranji Trophy, he plans the length and line he's going to bowl, specific to the conditions in each match. He listens to advice, plans how he'll apply it, and then goes and tries it out in the nets, before the match."

Arun ascribes Balaji's addition of the outswinger to his armoury to the improvement he has effected to the way he holds his right wrist now. "It is straighter and held upright at the point of delivery, while it used to be at an angle earlier. Also, by varying the position, he is able to bowl the outswinger or inswinger at will. The last moment flick of the wrist also enables Balaji to pause for a fraction of a second and keep the batsman guessing."

All his mentors are agreed on one aspect of Balaji's game: his hunger for success, single-minded pursuit of his goals, positive attitude in the face of adversity and willingness to learn from mistakes. Rather than let his shoulders droop and his spirit wither after the severe thrashing he received at the hands of the West Indies batsmen on his ODI debut, he came back and announced to Jabbar: "Now I know that after all the success in domestic cricket, I was found deficient at the highest level, where the batsmen dismissed me with contempt. I know what I am up against and now's the time to work harder." In the very next match, a Ranji Trophy match, he bowled with fire and guile to take 10 wickets in the match.

He is a coach's delight, according to Arun. The coach may not always be right, but when the ward interacts with such enthusiasm, as Balaji does, trying out suggestions and coming back with genuine feedback, it makes the coach's job that much easier.

Jabbar believes that Balaji has paid as much attention to the non-cricketing aspects of his life as he has to his cricket. "He has realised he has to eat right, that he must not only remain healthy, he must become much stronger if he has to increase his pace."

Basu, Jabbar and Arun agree that for all the technical adjustments Balaji is constantly making, it is in the mental department that he is really strong. "An amazing team man, he'll make any sacrifice in the team's cause," they conclude.

May 17-22: *Carnets Indiens*, a photography exhibition by Marie Accomiato who sketches a poetic, sensitive vision of India, through the eye of a woman. (At Alliance Francaise.)

May 23-27: *Panchali Shabadham* by Koothu-p-pattarai & Anjana Puri. Through poetry, song, recitation and movement, the human curtain illustrates the enactment between the characters of the story : Duryodhana's burning jealousy at the success of the Pandavas; Shakuni's reaction to his emotions; the Pandavas losing everything to Shakuni's cunning ways. The staking of Panchali at the game of dice proves to be pivotal in the entire epic; her questions to the sabha still remian unanswered. Is it her voice that reverberates through the *Mahabharata*? (At Alliance Francaise 7 p.m.)

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