#### WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

# HADRASINGS MUSINGS

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It was a mistake to have shared the seat with that "pet"!.

#### Nine's a crowd?

It has been reported that a certain brand of public transport is showing signs of disgruntled restlessness, feels alienated, discriminated against, and wants to stand up and be counted.

Its problem apparently is that some official got out on the wrong side of his bed one day, later did a spot of counting in the said transport system and found one too many heads, resulting in a certain amount of tut-tutting, with rule books being quoted and feelings hurt.

Obviously, safety precautions are paramount. Crowding and footboard travel are sources of major anxiety, both for the travellers, and those vehicles that follow closely behind. It is equally imperative that commuters get all the help they truly need. To offer that help we need to take into account a slightly different dimension here: namely, that there really is no point in asking members of this subcontinent to travel in smaller numbers.

We like to travel in packs, live in a crowd. That's why one lone traveller is always seen off by a something that resembles a small European nation.

A family outing, for instance, is a laudable exercise, but who decides the size of the family among people who consider a neighbour's third cousin by marriage a close friend and relative?

We define a two-wheeler as ideal transport for a family of four, or even more, if a couple of members are shrimp-sized.

It is probably easier, and safer, to make modes of transport in larger economy sizes.

Ranjitha Ashok

# Chennai India's fourth

# largest market

(By Sashi Nair)

Chennai is India's fourth largest urban market, according to a ranking by 'market potential value' of the country's 784 urban centres (each with a population of 50,000 or more), as per the recently-released RK Swamy BBDO Guide to Urban Markets. Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata occupy the top three spots respectively. Pondicherry ranks No. 76.

A close look at the Guide's new urban marketing map of India reveals that Tamil Nadu has 73 urban markets, which compares more than favourably with Maharashtra's (a much larger State) 70-plus markets, Delhi's 30-odd and West Bengal's over-40 centres. While the largest markets in Tamil Nadu, apart from Chennai, are Coimbatore (all-India rank No. 16), Madurai (24), Salem (41), Trichy (42), Tiruppur (56), Tirunelveli (79), Erode (81) and Vellore (98), such centres as Thoothukudi (134), Thanjavur (160), Nagercoil (168), Kancheepuram (175) and Dindigul (177) rank within the top 200 centres and provide marketers an excellent opportunity to promote goods and ser-

Tamil Nadu's other potential marketing hubs that feature in the Guide include Ambasamudram (557), Ambur (382), Arakonam (525), Arani (600), Arcot (296), Aruppukkottai (345), Attur (571), Bhavani (283), Bodinayakkanur (470), Chengalpattu (620), Chidambaram (572), Coonoor (325), Cuddalore (232), Devarshola (498), Dharmapuri (565), obichettipalayam (592), Gudiyatham (362), Hosur (437), Kadayanallur (456), Karur (187), Karaikudi (271),

Kambam (567), Kovilpatti (368), Krishnagiri (591), Kumbakonam (211), Mannargudi (603), Mayiladuthurai (432), Mettupalayam (537), Mettur (715), Namakkal (683), Neyveli (269), Nagapattinam (402), Panruti (657), Paramakudi (453), Pollachi (251), Palani (538), Pattukottai (531), Puliyankodi (523), Pudukkottai (349), Ramanathapuram (605), Rajapalayam (264), Sivakasi (227), Srivilliputhur (438), Sankarankoil (639), Tenkasi

# The paddy Chennai once yielded

Palm leaf records of significance were discovered at the Thanjavur Tamil University, documenting a British survey of 2000 villages in a large area surrounding present-day Chennai, a part of Tondaimandalam.

They indicated that between 1762 and 1766 there were villages which produced upto 12 tons of paddy a hectare — a level of productivity which is astounding and unachievable today even using the best of Green Revolution methods. The per capita food in this region of average fertility had been five times more than the average achieved at present.

The secret of our forefathers' success — indigenous knowledge and traditional practices of water conservation! — (Dakshinachitra News.)

(547), Theni (390), Tirupathur (610), Tiruchengode (380), Tiruchendur (450), Tiruvannamalai (309), Tindivanam (570), Tiruvarur (694), Udhagamandalam (379), Uduma-

laipettai (580), Valparai (262), Vaniyambadi (375), Villupuram (391), Virudhunagar (488) and Vridhachalam (623).

(Continued on Page 8)

# Time ripe for a food processing revolution

India ranks first in production Lof milk in the world. We are also the second largest in fruit and vegetable production and the largest in livestock wealth. A country that once imported food items now produces them in surplus, with the potential to serve as a granary to the world. Wheat and rice stock has become a problem of plenty with farmers reporting record harvest and godowns bargaining for breathing space. In marine landings, India's position is eighth in the world, even though fishing is mostly in the small-scale and cottage sectors.

Paradoxically, there are many who do not taste an orange a month or an apple in three months. Exorbitant prices at times hinder access to such food items, but it is argued that that is not the major factor that comes in the way of such produce. Even though poverty is a factor, the poverty ratio has come down to 26% in 1999-

2000, according to Economic Survey, 2001-02. Availability is another issue. Seasonal horticultural produces like mangoes are aplenty during the harvest period and, therefore, sold at throwaway prices. As a result, farmers get poorly compensated. During off-season, however, they are either not available or are so heavily priced that consumers get affected. Even other agroproducts, like onions, face fluctuations in prices, oscillating from the low to inaccessible peak prices.

The remedy can only be through processing of food, using such methods as dehydration, cold chains and other proven chemical and irradiation processes. Processing will help preserve food items when they are plentiful, enabling them to be released for consumption when the season subsides, at affordable prices, instead of, as at present, letting much of the surplus perish!

Yet, food processing in India is at a dismaying level of 2%. In fact, the magnitude of wastage of fruits and vegetables in India exceeds the total individual production of many of the advanced countries. Value addition does not provide a good picture either; only 7% of food items produced go through value addition processes, as compared to 188 per cent in the U.K.

Consumer preferences in the vast Indian market, with its massive 250 million-strong middle class segment, are also going through a sea-change. Packaged food articles have been coming into favour, a trend that is conducive for the growth of the food processing industry. Urbanisation now underway at an unprecedented pace is also set to help the industry.

The sunrise sector of food processing is emerging as one of (Continued on Page 6)

# A maritime tradition minus stamina?

A tarecent presentation at the of the Sinhala districts of the Is- the cultivation of jatropha for Observer Research Founda- land. tion, retired Naval officer Com- For some years now, fishermodore S. Shekhar described men from Sri Lanka's Western India's maritime heritage while Province and Southern Province laying the foundations for a dis- have been going deep sea fishing, cussion on the security chal- staying out for a couple of weeks lenges facing India in the Indian at a time and earning lucrative Ocean. A few days earlier, Prof. returns. These fishermen were V. Suryanarayanan, at the Cen- once in-shore fishermen, but tre for Security Analysis, looked training and technology have at the challenges Indian fisher- transformed them into sailors

Musings couldn't help linking the is MMM's question. An Indian concerns expressed at both meet- fisheries official says Indian fishings. MMM has said this in the ermen don't like to stay out at sea past, and will say it again, that for more than 2 or 3 days at a there is a wealth of secondary and time and, in fact, prefer returntertiary evidence on India's mari- ing the same day; they just cantime heritage in the Indian Ocean not be trained like the Sri Lankan littoral, but is there any primary fishermen. That's something evidence? Repeating what MMM is not prepared to accept. MMM's said in this column be- If that is to be accepted, one, our fore, is there a sculpture, bas re- maritime heritage becomes lief, painting or any other illustra- rather meaningless in the hands tion dating to before the 16th of those heirs to it, or, two, our Century of an Indian ship that trainers from the Fisheries Decould sail the oceans? MMM has partments and their knowledge of never received a satisfactory an- new technology need a searching swer to the question, but there has re-look at. been mention of ancient coins with a ship on one side. Are such representations of vessels able to sail the oceans? Commodore Alternate crops Shekhar, however, points out that there have been finds in Lothal of five terracotta models of ships and hookey, many an expert some fragments of paintings of feels that States like Tamil Nadu multi-oared boats. He mentions and Andhra Pradesh should be maritime themes on hero-stones looking for alternative crops to and on coins. But are all these repthose rain-dependent ones these resentations of ships that could States have long put their trust sail with armies to Sri Lanka, leave in. The Man From Madras Musalone the East Indies and beyond? ings has been delighted with the In repeating these questions of the attention this journal has, from past, MMM also repeats what he time to time, given alternative. Metro occupying large parts of it has always held. Namely, that crops. In fact, even this issue with construction and as a refuse Tamil Nadu has in the past had a looks at the opportunities hortidump. great maritime tradition, which culture can provide if the State helped the ancient kingdoms of gets the rest of its act together,

primary evidence. maritime tradition, however, tial to grow on large scale are of what has happened to the sailing interest to other countries. The skills of the Tamils? MMM raises Chinese are interested in moringa this question as a consequence of (drumsticks) and are keen on ty- as gospel - has been spent to-Prof. Suryanarayanan's presenta- ing up with the Tamil Nadu Agtion, which is based on a study he ricultural University to propagate is doing on the Indo-Sri Lanka the tree and explore how best to fisheries issue. With the waters use it. The Chinese see the leaf on the Indian side of the Gulf of as fodder for cattle and feel the Mannar fished out, Tamil Nadu seeds have medicinal properties fishermen have been for some as well as an oil that could be years now fishing in the fish-rich used in perfumery. The pulp, it is Sri Lankan side of the Wadge felt, could be preserved for use as Bank in the Gulf of Mannar. So an asparagus-tasting spread similong as the ethnic conflict had lar to cheese spreads and peanut grounded the boats of the fisher-butter. men from Sri Lanka's North, An even more interesting even worse bottlenecks are in the there were no problems. But with news item MMM came across city – almost all day at Eldam's two years of 'peace', Sri Lankan states that Daimler Chrysler Infishermen from Jaffna and dia has been testing jatropha fuel nam. In his context, perhaps Mannar have put to sea again — on a Mercedes Benz C Class car and gone back to the Wadge over a 5000 km drive. DCI, the two-lane elevated throughway Bank, leading to a conflict situa- story states, initiated the project from Gemini to Meenamtion. Negotiations between the with the Council for Scientific two fishing groups might come and Industrial Research and the however, he would tarry a while up with some ideas like rules gov- University of Hohenheim in Ger- on flyovers and explore the possierning fishing nets based on many. catch each group prefers to tar- This five-year project is now get, etc. But none of these rules entering its third year when a can be enforced — and the fleet of cars will be tested with present unhappy situation is jatropha oil and the third phase on such stretches. Bring Eurobound to continue. It is in this will be commercialisation of biocontext that MMM wonders why diesel cars. But for commer-Tamil Nadu fishermen are not cialisation, there should be be a need for flyovers for a long taking a cue from the fishermen enough jatropha oil available and

men were facing in the seas be- who no longer fear the deep seas. tween India and Sri Lanka. Why can't Tamil Nadu fisher-The Man From Madras men be trained in the same way,

fuel purposes has still not got off the ground despite it being talked about for the last two years as a great opportunity for Tamil

When, MMM wonders, will iatropha be seriously cultivated in the State, enabling the manufacture of a bio-fuel? Or has it been decided, as some have warned, that jatropha is not the best of crops to be cultivated in the State?

#### Waterways & flyovers

The recent report that stated that more than 80 per cent of the work on the cleaning of the city's waterways, particularly the Cooum, Advar and Buckingham Canal, had been completed would have been welcome news if any of that effort was visible. Judging by the state of the two rivers, The Man From Madras Musings would say that only 20% of the work for which hundreds of crores was sanctioned by the Centre, to top up the modest contribution from the State, has been completed - or, at least, TEMPO-

#### SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

Tamizhagam wage war, trade and like establishing storage and protransfer culture across the seas. cessing facilities.

pleased to see that two crops With such a long and proud which Tamil Nadu has the poten-

RARILY completed with no guarantee of a permanent state of

As for the Buckingham Canal, MMM notes that there's talk getting the Muttukkadu-Markkanam stretch ready for boat traffic. But the money sanctioned was for improving the state of the canal IN THE CITY! What's in the city continues to grow from bad to worse, with the

cleaning the canal and the two main rivers in the city was to explore the possibility of a water But it would be nice to have some In this context, MMM was transport service in the city which would take some of the pressure off the roads. None of the hundreds of crores that have been spent on the project – if the 80% completion story is accepted wards this end, MMM is certain.

The Central grant for the waterways was made by Minister T.R. Baalu when he was in charge of the Environemnt. Now that he's in charge of Surface Transport and Highways, he's begun to talk of flyovers for the city. He's now promised flyovers at Kathipara Junction and Meenambakkam to make access quicker to the airport. But the Road-Mount Road and at Nandawhat he should be looking at is a bakkam. If MMM had his way, bility of how strictly road discipline could be enforced, particularly on major roads, and how signal lights could be coordinated pean and American driving discipline to the city, and there won't

time, MMM is convinced.

Hope at Guindy?

s the 700-unit, 400-acre Guindy Industrial Estate established in 1957 to get a facelift at last? With every aspect of infrastructure having broken down here, even the small-scale industrialists owning sheds had appeared to have lost interest in maintaining their properties in a manner reflecting efficiency. This journal had pointed out this sad state of affairs on more than

one occasion. The good news at last is tha there is a PROMISE of action. A couple of years ago, the units it Ambattur Industrial Estate got together and did give it a facelift of sorts. It certainly no longer looks derelict. Now, the Guindy Industrial Estate units are planning t follow suit. Their association, SIDCO and TIIC, together with: few leading industrialists who re ceive supplies from the Estate plan to set up a non-profit com pany to improve the infrastruc ture of the area. This will, it hoped, contribute Rs. 3 crore t the Rs.10 crore plan drawn up by the Tamil Nadu Road Development Corporation to improve roads, street lighting, sewage disposal and stormwater drains as well as put in place rainwater har vesting systems and a waste treat ment plant. Additional funding is expected from the Central and State Governments, the Corporation and from financial institu

The Man From Madras Mus ings hopes the funding will come in sooner than later, for every day of delay makes the Guindy Industrial Estate a worse eyesore. To what a sorry pass a dream has come. MMM hopes that things won't get any worse here, at what was meant to be a model for the whole country.

 The Man From Madras Musing is constantly amazed by archi tects who pay lip service to heritage conservation being the first ones to help out in renovations that go against the grain of protecting heritage buildings. This i particularly so in the case of buildings which themselves are viewed with pride as bits of heri tage by owners who, despite their lip service to heritage, have no compunction in changing the original ambience of their heri

tage homes. • For long, The Man From Madras Musings has pointed out that apart from a small part of Higginbotham's, there's no bookshop in the city where books from the various Tamil publishers can be viewed and bought at one place. The Madras Book Fair in recent years has been serving as a 'Tamil bookshop' – but only for 15 days. In this context, MMM is delighted that the Museum has offered 10,000 square feet of space for a permanent book fair which will provide a large window for the display of the gamut of books brought out by Tamil publishers. MMM only hopes that the Museum authorities will keep an eye open to the content of what's on display. A trash bin is not the requirement

of the day.

#### A big 'Thank You' to 152 of you

We publish below the list of donors who have, between 16.05.04 and 15.06.04. 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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# READERS

Toxic trees & plants

June 16-30, 2004

Many a plant lover grows a number of species of plants and trees for shade in his home garden or in his flat. Municipalities develop avenues of trees. But no one examines whether such plants are toxic/poisonous to birds and ani-

A case in point is the Erythrina lithosporma and its other species. These trees shed their leaves in January/February and start giving rosy attractive flowers during March/April. These flowers are full of honey to feed the birds etc. The next stage is its pods, whose beans are not eaten by birds or squirrels. In spite of several years being associated with Erythrinas — dadaps in plantations, I just wanted to know why these pods were avoided by sauna. From the Internet I found these seeds contain hypaphorine a tetanising alkaloid (very toxic chemical).

The genus is notorious, with more poisonous species like the mexicon variety, a powerful paralysant of the motor system. The extract has been suggested as a substitute for curare, used to poison the tips of arrows by South American Indian tribes.

With this type of background, there is a need to ban use of such species of trees in avenue plantations (as far as possible) and in home gardens and in flats.

There are several other species of trees and plants which are noneco-friendly. They need to be listed and researched, and confined to certain areas if they have any medicinal properties.

> K.V.S. Krishna 2A, Parkland Aparments Kamala Bai Street T. Nagar, Chennai 600 017

#### Congesting the city

new huge, high-rise software Apark is coming up on Taylor's Road, Kilpauk. With a proposed car park for 73 cars and two fast lifts with a capacity of 10 persons each, the number of occupants is bound to be big and so too the vehicular traffic entering and leaving it. As it is, this narrow junction is a severe bottleneck almost throughout the day, and despite the traffic signals, it is well nigh impossible for anyone to cross Taylor's Road at peak hours. The commissioning of the software park in the near future will and migrated to Australia after severely aggravate this situation, retirement just a couple of years and senior citizens, women and before!

children will be hard put to cope

A new traffic pattern will have to be worked out sooner than later. K.P. Mahalingam 6-B, "The Peninsula"

778, Poonamallee High Road

#### Chennai 600 010. The telegraphists

There were four wings of the P&T Department in my days. viz. Postal, R.M.S., Telegraphs and Telephones, all under the control of the Postmasters-General of different Circles. Of these four, the Telegraph Department was the most pampered one, perhaps on account of the fact it comprised mostly of Anglo-Indians. While the Post Offices cold not have good Recreation Clubs, each Departmental Telegraph Office was well provided with a fully-equipped Recreation Club, some of them even having imported billiards tables with attendant paraphernalia. The Telegraph Officers, were quite unassuming and freely mingled with their staff, unlike their Postal counterparts. The staff used to call them by their names and not address them with their designations. All this camaraderie has gone with the

exit of the Anglo-Indian personnel In the Railways, Anglo-Indians were mostly drivers and engine crew and in those days, the steam engines of prestigious trains like Calcutta Mail, Bombay Express, G.T. Express were entrusted to particular persons of Anglo-Indian origin, who in fact were very affectionate towards their charges as if they were animate objects and used to call them fondly. They would often say, "See! What a beauty she is!"

> T.M. Sundararamar 19, Nallappan Street Mylapore, Madras 600004.

#### A part of Madras

**D** e. the article on Anglo-Indians (MM, May 16th), I am reminded of a customer who called on me when I was the Deputy Manager, Personal Banking division of SBI's Madras main branch around 1980. He was in his mid-60s and had a mottled, ruddy complexion.

His first words were, "What crowds you have in India, Sir!" He said he was from Australia. But slowly as our conversation progressed, he seemed to know Madras like the back of his veined hand. It turned out that he was an Anglo-Indian born in Madras, worked here at the Overseas Communication Service, had himself contributed to the increase in population

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No personal visits or telephone calls, please. Letters received will be 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

## What are we doing to our streets?

The entry into Vembuliamman Koil Street from crowded Arcot Road is through a narrow constriction, thanks to the Koil compound on the right corner and a transformer on the left. (The latter's hanging pipe has inflicted bleeding injuries to many human heads and dented car roofs, including mine.) There is ample scope for relocating the transformer clear of the entry, thanks to the space generously left by the builder of a multi-storeyed residential complex recently developed. Only the authorities have to act.

Some yards from the entry, you bump into Ithirakiriyai Building, named after a councillor of the Chennai Corporation. (The need for this edifice at this spot surpasses anybody's imagination!) The building occupies almost the entire left half of the street, providing safe, unquestionable shelter to lorries on the lee-side, throwing only the roadusers' safety to the winds.

Added to this is the zig-zag stormwater drain aid with its cover slab a foot or two above the road level and punctuated by hostile lamp-posts which are well into the roadway. Its manholes proudly stand head and shoulders above the surface, daring pedestrians to use them as sidewalk.

Zealous to make their own contribution to these public services', shops have sprung up, shedding their boundary limits! In these circumstances, how can service departments alone keep idle? True to their appellation, they regularly carry out their never-ending cut-and-cover operations, which seem to be meant more for testing and improving the driving skills of the road-users than anything

Since traffic turning right from Arcot Road at the Koyambedu-KK Nagar road crossing has been barred recently, this street has become virtually an

Anglo-Indians made their mark as wonderful teachers in 'convent' schools (even married elderly women were called 'miss') and as efficient typist/secretaries in British-owned companies. The men excelled in hockey.

> C.G. Prasad Kondithope, Chennai 600 079

#### That wonderful year

s an old-timer ever keenly in terested in sport, I have a fair memory of past events. I always consider the season 1954-55 as the best for Madras when the State teams won the national championships in three major sports, namely Cricket, Hockey and Tennis.

Our cricket team became Ranji Trophy champion by defeating Holkar on its home ground at Indore in the final. C.D. Gopinath scored a century, the third for him in the tournament. The skipper was Balu Alaganan and it was the first trophy triumph for Madras.

The State's hockey team reached the final of the National Championships after wins over Bengal and Delhi. The team was not overawed by the strong Services team, which included the formidable Sardar duo Balbir Singh and Udham Singh as well as the speedy left outside, R.S. Bhola, famous for his backhand flick shots, and drew the final. The match played on Chepauk grounds saw the captain of Madras, Richtur, making a memorable save of a sure goal when the goalee was beaten. The teams were declared joint champions.

In the Tennis national championship held at Calcutta, a star by name Ramanathan Krishnan, a teenager, was born when he vanquished lack Arkinstall of Austraarterial road, making life still more miserable. Can something be done to mitigate our woes?

Seabros Apts.

P.K. Parameswaran Technoclan Flat No. 6 11, Vembuliamman Koil Street KK Nagar, Chennai 600 078.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Madras Musings generally does not publish letters on specific localities facing problems that are commonplace in Chennai. We, however, publish this letter today as it highlights several problems involving various authorities. Such multidimensional encroachments are becoming endemic in the city with no one paying atten-

Apart from Railways, the lia in the final and the boy never looked back thereafter M.R. Pillai

H 64/5 Central Avenue

#### Korattur, Chennai 600 080. Clarification on M.S.

There was a crucial omission I from my letter on M.S. (MM, 9, C.S. Mudali Street May 1st). After the words, "singersaint", 'as rightly described by others' was omitted by the Editor. The omitted words make it clear that I agree she is a "singer-saint". Omission of these words might mean that I am just quoting someone or

even having a dig. Incidentally, Dr. S. Gopal's biography on his father, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, is a rare one, putting the record straight.

> Dr. G. Sundaram IAS (Retd.) "Burma House" Dr. Radhakrishnan Road Mylapore, Chennai 600 004.

#### The Madras-born

The Beatle from Madras (MM, ▲ May 1st) mentions the British star, Englebert Humperderick, originally Gerry Darcy, was born in Madras. Gerry Darcy, an Anglo-Indian, is the son of one Mr. Darcy who served as a foreman in the Madras Port Trust workshops and retired from Port services in the late 1940s. He was a skilled and experienced shop supervisor who also underwent training in England as a "Bevan Boy" during World War II. After retirement Mr. Darcy migrated to England with his family, and his son Gerry Darcy became a well-known singer.

I joined the Madras Port in the early 1950s and got all the information about Gerry Darcy when I was on a holiday in London in June

1981 from a guide in the British Museum who introduced himself to me and my wife when we were chatting in Tamil. The guide himself was an Anglo-Indian who had worked for a few years as Head Mail Sorter at the Madras GPO and had known the Darcys well.

T.V. Ranganathan "Daffodil Court - 2B" 73, 4th Main Road Gandhi Nagar, Chennai 600020

#### Saving water

V Tater from the oceans (MM. **W** May 16th) is in the future. In the meanwhile, I think, we, the people, and the administration, should explore ways on a warfooting to conserve and economise the use of water. Each one should realise that water is a scarce resource and the next world war or inter-state/intra-state battles could 33/18, 9th Street be sparked off by the dire need for water. Already, we are experienceing this in India. I suggest:

- The State Government ban construction activities till September or till the water supply position eases;
- Wastage of water should be stopped by the installation of water taps with electronic controls or a push-button system like in railway compartments;
- People should limit the use of potable water for essential purposes only. We need to show our civic responsibility. Even today I find that people are watering their plants, washing their cars and their home-frontages with precious water.

Srinivasan Pattoo Bayview Apartments 22 (19), New Beach Road Thiruvanmiyur

Chennai 600 041.

**MADRAS MUSINGS** June 16-30, 2004 June 16-30, 2004 MADRAS MUSINGS

## Indo-European amalgam in our architecture

India's foreign rulers have left Their imprint in our architecture by constructing innumerable religious as well as secular buildings and forts in the country.

Among the Indian metros of the British era, Chennai is the oldest and the most important one historically. The first fort, Fort St. George, and the earliest Protestant church were constructed here. Though, Fort William, Kolkata, may be bigger in area, architecturally it cannot compete with Fort St. George where around 30 important monuments were built.

Chennai has got several outstanding monuments from the 17th Century to the 20th Century, inside and outside Fort St. George, built during British rule. Among them, St. Mary's Church, Clive Building, Wellesley Buildings, Kind Barracks, etc. inside the Fort, and Connemara Old Library and Museum Building at Egmore, the Cathedral at San Thome, St. George's Cathedra and some important buildings in Government Estate, like Rajaji Hall, the Victoria Public Hall the University's Senate House and the Chepauk building, are noteworthy. These buildings feature the Gothic, Manneline and Indo-Saracenic styles.

Outside Madras, we have a classic and compact fort built by the Dutch East India Company in Sadras. This fort gives us a very good idea as to how a Fort shold be fortified and what important buildings a fort should have within its fortifications. Answers to where and why a fort should be built by a ruler are obtainable if this fort is studied.

All these Colonial buildings have benefited from India's architectural heritage.

Indian architecture's origins can be traced from pre-historic caves onwards. Indian architecture can broadly be classified as cut-in (caves), cut-out (monoliths) and bas-relief architecture. These architectural styles are classified into three groups. known as sudha, misra and sankeema.

1. The word *sudha* is clearly mentioned in ancient Sanskrit texts on architecture and sculputre. Visvakarma's Vastu Sastra, Vimanarchana Kalpa etc. define sudha. It means using only one material as core material. For example, all rock-cut caves or cut-out architecture, like the five rathas in Mamallapuram.

To my knowledge these are the oldest texts on civil engineering. They were written in San-

skrit between the 3rd and 11th Centuries A.D. Discussed and described in detail in them are soil tests, stone quality, plans, elevations, storeys (foundation to top), load bearing, loadtransferring, functional and non-functional members, planning of a giri durga (hill fort), a sthala durga (a fort on a plain) and a jala durga (a fort on the shore) etc.

2. Misra means using two core materials. The very word misra denotes mixing of two core materials for construction, viz. many Chola temples, later Pandya temples and several monuments of the colonial pe-

3. *Sankeema* is where more than two core materials are used.

#### by K.T. NARASIMHAN

(Superintending Archaeologist, A.S.I. Temple Survey Project (SR), Chennai)

This type of architecture started from the Vijayanagara period and is still in practice.

Down the centuries, brick instead of stone, has been considered a core material and many forts as well as palaces were built in India with brick prior to the foreign settlements.

Brick was also chosen as core material by the Portuguese, Dutch, Danish and English people for construction of religious and secular buildings and The main difference was that

the foreigners reduced the brick size in all dimensions compared to the ancient bricks of the Chola, Vijayanagara and Nayak kingdoms. From the 17th Century onwards, the bricks were well burnt and gave a metallic sound like Harappan materials. More than 800°C heat was created in kilns to burn the bricks. This was for a specific reason. The earliest buildings of the foreigners were on the Coramandel and Western coasts of India. They were aware that the salinity would be high and would affect the life of bricks. That is why the bricks were burnt to such a high degree Celsius, enabling them to withstand the adverse climatic conditions. Their perception was right. Even today, the exposed brick architecture of Senate House, Victoria Public Hall, Connemara Old Library and even Egmore Railway Sta-

tion, has not weathered even after a hundred years, whereas ordinary bricks become powder within a few decades if they are not plastered. This can be noticed in many old houses which are nowhere near a hundred years old.

Coming to the main aspects of Indian and Indo-European architecture, you can notice a sea change in design as well as physical features. In the pre-colonial period, various types of stones were used as building material The load bearers in such architecture, apart from the walls were the pillars, mainly in mandaba architecture. Right from the early Pallava period upto the Navaka period, stone was predominantly used for temples, whereas brick was used for palaces and common houses. That is why good specimen of temples of all dynasties is found even today, whereas ancient palaces have not been found in Tamil country. The Europeans did not want to spend more money on construction and, so, gave up the age-old Indian building tradition and Indo-European architecture, except for a few columns as part of the facade of a building, rows of pillars were not used elsewhere. This was a sea change from earlier Indian con-

The other noticeable feature was that, instead of stone lintels/ beams, they introduced wooden beam or I-section girders. Another specific difference was the height of the roof which was increased almost double or at least one and half times compared with ancient architecture, whereas for the pada portion (walls), the ancient principle was generally implemented.

All ancient architecture has two veneers, the outer veneer and the inner veneer. There is big gap in between these two veneers because, normally, all ancient stone walls were no less walls of colonial buildings have almost the same thickness — viz. Clive House, Wellesley House, the Fort Museum, etc. where the

wall thickness is 1-1.2m. In ancient walls, the gap between the two veneers was filled with soft material like brickbats, mixed with earthen mortar or lime mortar. This was deliberately done to reduce the cost as well as to absorb heat during the day. Since Chennai is one of the hottest places in our country, this ancient technique was adopted in toto in the Indo-European buildings also. If you carefully

examine all the structures built between 15th and early 19th centuries, they have well-baked bricks as outer veneer as well as inner veneer. The gap in between the two veneers is filled with brickbats mixed with earthen mortar. That is why all colonial buildings are so cool even during the peak of summer, which is quite opposite to the modern RCC buildings. The brickbats filling the core absorb the heat waves and will not allow them to get into the carpet area,

ern architecture. The high roof serves two purposes. One, it is very airy and gives sufficient daylight. Sec-

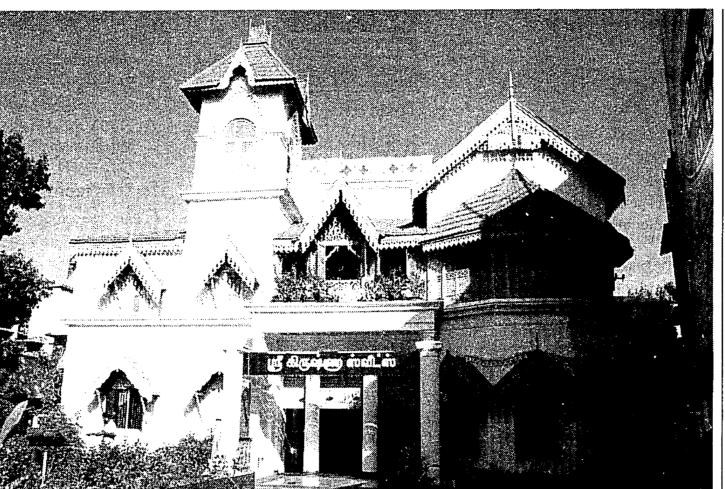
whereas it is vice versa in mod-

ondly, it does not allow the heat tural method also. That is why, to leak into the carpet area. To the colonial buildings are gems in sand used as a cushion between bricks (terrace bricks). This the roof. One more additional cooling facility is provided by introducing the wooden flooring.

In a nutshell, the foreigners as arches, domes, cylindrical brick pillars and excellent decorations on the cornice of the building. At the same time, they accepted and agopted the ageold Indian traditional architec-

prevent the heat waves, there is the modern era. Their conservathe Madras terrace, with river tion should not be carried out haphazardly, without underthe brick jelly and the ceiling standing the nature, behaviour, different combination of materiarrangmenet prevents the als, etc. Unfortunately, speakers scorching heat from penetrating are many on this, whereas real practitioners are very few. This trend should change and modern experts should learn the ancient principles and make use of them introduced such special features even if they use modern tools in execution. This will help conserve our building heritage for

> \*The text of a lecture at a recent meet ing of the Association of British Schol-

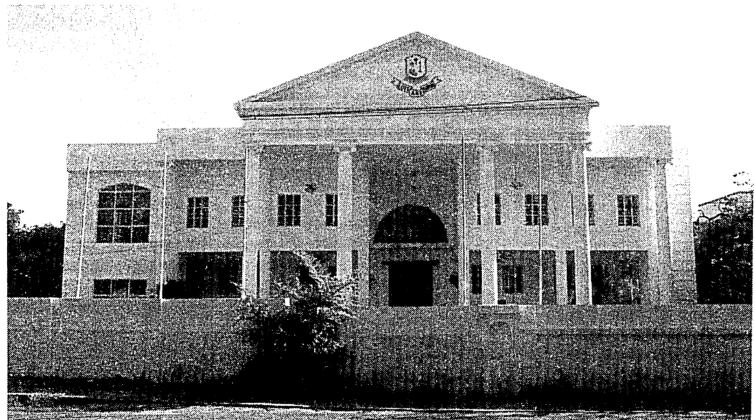


Our OLD and the NEW takes a slightly different look at two striking buildings in the city. Our OLD (above) is really the NEW. It's a house that belongs to the early 20th Century, when gables, monkey-tops, bays, numerous windows, pillared porticos and high ceilings were an integral part of the Indian adaptation of stately British homes. This home in Purasawalkam – we wonder whose it was and what its history was – has now been made NEW by a rather tasteful refurbishment that's recently been done to it, demonstrating what can be done to many a striking old home with a little thought and commitment. Rather than pull it down, it can be put to

> adaptive re-use and made a city landmark if only there's a will. In this case, Sri Krishna Sweets have made this building out of the past gleam once ...& THE **OLD...** again – but have rather spoilt the effect with a loud proclamation of their name

on the building itself and on a totally out-of-place and unnecessary gateway. A little discreetness will go a long way in better fulfil ing the thoughts behind heritage preservation.

Our NEW, on the other hand, has reached out to the past. The school building below) just round the corner from the Krishna Sweets renovation is comparatively new, dating to more recent times. But like many a building of today, it reaches back to a Palladian past when pediments and tall pillars were the vogue. More suited to any building we might call OLD, they are, curiously, becoming commonplace features of many a building that's part of the NEW. (Photographs by REFLECTIONS.



# The film-maker who made protests 'classics'

rishnaswamy Subrahman-Nyam (1904-1971), a sadly forgotten Indian movie-maker. came alive once more with a bang on 9th June at the Narada Gana Sabha when his birth centenary was celebrated in style by his large family of sons, daughters and grandchildren. It was a glittering function largely attended by movie stars of yesteryears, stars of the 'now' generation, film-makers, writers and admirers of the celebrated, socially conscious film-maker.

K. Subrahmanyam, born in Papanasam, a picturesque village in Thanjavur District, followed initially in the footsteps of his father, C.S. Krishnaswamy Iyer, a successful lawyer in the temple town of Kumbakonam. But Subrahmanyam's mind soon turned to the arts, especially the new medium of Cinema. He married into the family of another successful lawyer in Nagapattinam, his bride Meenakshi being a pretty girl trained in classical Carnatic music. Later she composed music for some of her husband's films. Her grandfather had links with the new movie business in Madras and, consequently, young Subrahmanyam joined that forgotten Tamil film pioneer R. Padmanabhan, who had his own studio, Associate Films, on Wallajah Road where, later, the then popular Paragon

Talkies came up. fluence of and working with another now forgotten Indian film pioneer, Raja Sandow (P.K. Nagalingam). He had been a sient film star in Bombay and also wrote screenplays and directed films. Padmanabhan had brought him to Madras when Subrahhis short stories published, joined the unit to write stories for two of Padmanabhan's silent movies and also to learn the ropes of film-making.

Subrahmanyam made his bow as a film-maker in 1934 with Pavalakodi, a mythological musical which introduced the celebrated stage star and singer M.K. Thyagaraja Bhagavathar and an attractive talented singing star S.D. Subbulakshmi. Subrahmanyam was to, in later vears, marry SDS who became deeply involved in her husband's movie productions as a partner, looking after the company and the studio, Motion Picture Producers' Combines (MPPC) that Subrahmanyam established on Mount Road (it later became Gemini Studios, owned by the

Indian movie moghu S.S.

After establishing himself as a successful film-maker producing mythological films like Naveena Sarangadhara and Bhaktha Kuchela, Subrahmanyam began thinking of making films that would satisfy his artistic urges. A staunch patriot and Gandhian he was one of the earliet filmmakers in the country to realise that Cinema was not merely a medium of mindless entertainment but could be used as a powerful tool of social protest to bring about changes in society. Subrahmanyam, in the late 1930s, translated these ideas into three movies which became classics of Indian Cinema and his fame rests on these three gems.

The first was Seva Sadanam (1938) which introduced that living legend M.S. Subbulakshmi to movies. It was based on a popular Hindi novel by the noted

#### A centenary feature by RANDOR GUY

writer Munshi Premchand, was translated by that well-known social worker of the day 'Sister R.S. Subbulakshmi, and had been serialised in Ananda Vikatan. Subrahmanyam acquired the movie rights and re-wrote the story to suit the requirements of South Indian Brahmin society. Seva Sadanam dealt with the burning issues of the day, like the dowry problem, the difficulties in getting poor young girls married due to financial reasons, and the ill-treatment of young women by their in-laws, M.S. Subbulakshmi played a poor young woman married to a man old enough to be manyam, who had had some of her father (played by F.G. Natesa lyer, a railway official and a talent scout from Trichy). Unable to bear the torture, she leaves home and becomes a successful



musician. Later, the husband realises his folly and in a fit of anguish and atonement, he throws away his poonool (the Brahmin cross-thread). This act of 'sacrilege' angered many Brahmins, especially in the Thanjavur District, and a group of them declared Subrahmanyam an outcast(e) for his 'new immoral ideas' that were corrupting Brahmin society. The socially-conscious and committed filmmaker was only amused. Seva success and made MS an overnight sensation. Many of her songs became hits and one of them, Maaramanan Umaramanan... is still sung, particularly by the classical Carnatic musicians of today in their concerts. His second classic was

Balayogini (1938). It was essentially a children's film with several children playing many roles. It attacked the craze for foreign ing and fashions and the forgetting of the traditions of Indian society. In this film, Subrahmanvam introduced his cherubic niece 'Baby' Saroja who proved to be a sensation and became a household name in South India. She was hailed as the 'Shirley Temple of India'. Indeed, during that time many girl children in many South Indian homes were named 'Saroia'!

(1939), was Subrahmanyam's most famous movie and an In-



Pabanasam Sivan in K. Subrahmanyam's classic, Thyaga Bhoomi.

dian film classic. Written by the noted Tamil writer 'Kalki', it highlighted several social issues of importance, like untouchability, that cause so dear to Mahatma Gandhi, the segregation of Dalits, ill-treatment of women in Hindu families, and the relationship between husband and wife. SDS played the harassed wife who turns like the proverbial worm and refuses to live with her husband. In a famous court scene, she creates a sensation by offering to pay maintenance to her husband! Subrahmanyam blazed a new trail as far bck as 1939 by making a woman so independent. This aspect of the movie made it a sensation. In the end, the heroine joins the Indian Freedom Movement and the focus on the Movement led to the British Indian Government banning the film late in 1939 as Indian National Congress Party propaganda. It was the only In-Sadanam was a major box-office dian film banned on these grounds.

Even though Subrahmanyam continued to make films during the 1940s, he was not a happy man, with the changing circumstances and tastes of moviegoers and his own advancing age and financial problems weighing him down. But in his time he had introduced several actors to Tamil Cinema, like MKT Bhagavathar, MS, SDS, G. Subbulakshmi, G. goods and Western styles of liv- Pattu Iyer, V.N. Janaki, Padmini, Saroja (as herojne), 'Baby' Saroja and T.R. Rajakumari. [Subrahmanyam's Katcha Devayani (1941) was actually her third film but was released first and established her as the first 'Dream Girl' of South Indian Cinema.

Subrahmanyam also laid the foundation for the glorious film career of the classical Carnatic music composer Papanasam The third film, *Thyaga Bhoomi* Siyan. He acted in two movies by Subrahmanyam, besides composing music for his films from 1934. In addition, Subrahmanyam brought down from Calcutta many talented technicians to work in Madras, like Sailen Bose and Kamal Ghosh (camera), Haripada Chandra (make-up) and others who settled in Madras.

K. Subrahmanyam was a unique personality, involved in many social and cultural activities at many levels, national and international. It's a matter of regret that his contribution not only to Cinema but also to South Indian society has not been properly recognised by both the Union and State Governments and the film industy.

(Current Affairs questions are from the period May 16th to 31st. Questions 11 to 20 pertain to Tamil Nadu and Chennai.)

1. A simple one to get going. Name the new Union Defence and Home Ministers.

2. Name India's Best Sportsman and Sportswoman of 2003 as chosen by the Hero India Sports Academy, the Indian answer to the LaureusAwards.

3. Name the shrine, considered to be one of the holiest for the Shias, that was damaged in a U.S. rocket attack.

4. What 115-year-old record did Arsenal emulate while winning the English Premier Division football league?

5. Name India's first indigenously-built civilian aircraft that had its maiden test flight on May

6. What important appointment does the former Foreign Secretary J.N. Dixit now hold?

7. Which team won the Champions League, the symbol of supremacy in European soccer, recently?

8. Which film recently set a new record for single-day ticket sales, a whopping \$44.8 million?

9. Name the new President of Germany? 10. Which film won 11 out of the

22 awards at the much-hyped International Indian Film Academy awards in Singapore on May 22nd?

11. Which regional party's 'green wing' is called Pasumai Thayagam?

cricketer who hung up his boots recently.

13. Name the new Greater Chennai Police Commissioner. 14. Name the vice-president of the Chennai-based think tank, Centre for Security Analysis, who has been named Special Adviser to the Prime Minister.

15. To commemorate what event was the tower at Manora built by Maharaja Serfoji?

16. The 'Most Wanted' Tamil extremist was in the STF net recently. Name him and his organistation.

17. Where near Tirunelveli has the Archaeological Survey of India found remains of a dozen 2800-year-old skeletons intact in urns, that may revolutionise theories about the origin of ancient culture in Tamil Nadu?

18. Which college of repute in Chennai revived its regular and much-in-demand courses after abolishing them two years ago? 19. Which popular theatre group, founded by Na. Muthuswamy, is celebrating its silver jubilee this

20. A pertinent question. According to Chennai Metrowater figures, which area is the single biggest source of groundwater, giving a supply of 29 million litres a day?

(Answers on page 8)

# NOSTALGIA Madras: 1898 – 1948

Over Madras in the past staging of a play of Shakespeare tion. Long galleries were erected to regale the audience with detwenty years, and they have been gaining further momentum since August 1947, so that it may be difficult for us to know in later years what exactly the pre-1947 Madras was like. It is worthwhile looking back now to record some prominent features of the city in the last half a cen-

Fifty years ago, large and shady trees lined Madras roads, since cut down to make room for electric wires. The electric tram was established in a few roads and the tramcars sailed along with bold advertisement boards of Pears and Sunlight soaps and of Mellins Food. They ran along the Esplanade and by the Evening Bazaar to the Central Station, Chintadripet, Triplicane and Egmore. The Island which was military ground was too sacred for tramlines to be laid in it. The tram linked Wall Tax Road with Pachaiyappa's College only about 1908. The fares were ridiculously low, three pies (about 1½ paise)

forming the minimum rate. The People's Park was a real extensive park unspoiled by crowded buildings. The Town Hall and Moore Market stood at the edge of it. A few stuffy theatres were run, frequenting which did not make for respectability. The name of Balamani, the star actress (also the only actress) filled wall posters. She praise of the French traveller, Pierre Loti, who devoted a whole chapter in his book on India to "Balamoney, the Indian Bayadere." European circus troupes who exhibited really splendid feats with fierce wild animals appeared frequently in the city.

Amateur theatricals were in great vogue, specially in schools most colleges. The Suguna Vilasa Sabha housed in the Victoria Hall represented the biggest amateur theatrical association, with star actors like Messrs. P. Sambandam, A. Krishnaswami Aiyah, T. Raghavachari and Rangavadivelu. A Parsi theatrical company, called the Alfred Theatre, established itself in the People's Park for a long season. It had a rich list of plays beginning with "Bhoolboolian", and had a reputation for brilliant dresses and music. It adopted the stunt of introducing on the stage a real railway train. The audience en-

was the normal ambition of along the Island road to seat lightful bits of personal reminisschoolchildren to whom sweets were distributed. There was a display of fireworks in the Park and a return show of greater refinement was provided by the Madras about 1907 was full of battleship which brought the Prince. The two gentlemen who acted as secretaries to the reception committee were promptly dubbed knights before the Prince left Madras. 'Black Town' was also transformed into 'George Town'.

The Golden Jubilee of British rule was celebrated in the Park in 1908, when tributes were paid to the memory of Queen Victoria. A big gatherjoyed seeing a real steam engine ing at the Banqueting Hall with a few passenger coaches marked the Coronation in

#### by P.R. KRISHNASWAMI (writing in *Swatantra* in 1948)

behind, run along the stage. An English drama company, of which Alan Wilkie was the chief actor, visited Madras about 1911 and staged Shakespeare's and Sheridan's plays with great success.

The Park Fair was the most popular annual entertainment. It was looked to eagerly long before its time, in December. Railway fares were low, and concessions were allowed on all railways, at Christmas time. Friends from distant places found it ences were held in the city from Adyar to Royapuram. A big fire occurred in the Park Fair towards the end of the last century which occasioned looting and some unscrupulous people were said to have made their fortunes then.

The Prince of Wales (later George V) visited Madras in 1906 and elaborate arrange1911, when Sir John Atkinson read out the royal proclamation. The next notable event was the visit of Lord Hardinge in 1914. Political meetings and lec-

tures were the most exciting events in earlier years... Pachaiyappa's Hall, now unfortunately crowded with bazaars. was the place of many notable lectures. Romesh Dutt, the historian, and Eardley Nortan, the brilliant barrister, both delivered addresses there. The great tracted large audiences to his exposition of municipal prob-Mint Street was suffocated painstaking lecturer. Dr. Nair as

processing industry. The draft will not find supply of raw ma-

For the processing level to

M. Jaya Singh

reat changes have come and in colleges. The annual ments were made for his recep- Chairman stood up at the end cence of the great man, as he had known him during the Midlothian campaign. Bepin Chandra Pal's visit to

> political importance. He was the first political speaker to apply cold logic to political thinking and his inferences anticipated those of Gandhi. Thousands of people collected at the Triplicane beach day after day to hear with rapt attention his exposition of political problems, till at last the meetings were disallowed by the police. When he arrived at the Basin Bridge Station a huge ovation awaited him. He was placed on a horseless carriage, which was pulled along by students. Thambu Chetty Street was seething with human heads as the procession came along and the Esplanade was filled later, paralysing all traffic. The young men who attended his lectures went home intoxicated with the idea of British rule being an unmitigated evil and that it should be uprooted at once.

The Royal Commission on Public Services held its sittings in the Council Hall at Fort. St. George about 1912 and drew great attention to itself. Lord Islington presided over it. Among the distinguished mem-Dr. Miller, with bushy eye- bers were Ramsay Macdonald, convenient to meet in Madras brows, was sometimes seen in the Earl of Ronaldshay, Sir at the time. Numerous confer- the gatherings. Dr. T.M. Nair Valentice Chirol, Gopala was a new arrival and he at- Krishna Gokhale and Sir Abdur Rahim. It was absorbingly interesting to watch the proceedings lems. He had a never-failing of the Commission. The Presihumour, and it was refreshing to dent with his gruff voice hear him after enduring other stopped summarily many an inspeakers. Once, an audience in discreet question from the members which was calculated physically and mentally by a to lead to the expression of ralong lecture on Gloadstone by a cially bitter statements. Renaldshav was the beau with his fresh buttonhole. Gokhale was full of sweet persuasiveness and Abdur Rahim betrayed his peevishness whenever he thought the Muslim interest was adversely touched.

Anderson Hall was another place of importance for public lectures. The place has, unfortunately again, become a hotel now. Speakers of international reputation appeared in Anderson Hall. C.R. Reddi, newly arrived from Cambridge, delivered a series of talks on the socalled materialism of the West. Sankaran Nair and S. Srinivasa Iyengar pleaded for the Civil Marriage Act. T.V. Seshagiri Aiyar and V.S. Srinivasa Sastri thought Indians could not write English poetry, and V. Krishnaswami Aiyar meant to tell Mrs. Whitehead that there was a philosophy of doing nothing among Hindus.

#### The Anglo-Indian era in Hockey

• The recent article on Anglo-Indians (MM, May 16th) had several readers writing about their prowess in sport, particularly hockey. We today feature brief profiles of three of those talented hockey players, courtesy Anglos in the Wind.

# 'Bunoo' at outside-right

Lit was indeed difficult to beat the Washermannet hockey hockey. team and an even more difficult proposition to join its ranks. But the 17-year-old Ronald Jones felt otherwise. He joined the rival Royapettah side and was single-handedly responsible in humbling Washermanpet. There was no looking back after that.

June 16-30, 2004

Ronald Jones, 'Bunoo' to all, was born in June 1924, and studied at St. Mary's European High School in George Town, where he was the captain of the hockey team. In 1943, he joined the Madras

It was a known fact then that & Southern Mahratta Railway, and represented it in

> When I met him, he began talking about the Anglo-Indian greats. Yes, he had known them all - Nigel Richter, James Carr, Ragler Newman, Newton Christie, Leslie Claudius.... There was not a hockey team in India then which the Anglo-Indians had not graced. However, the north-south prejudices of that period saw the exit of many good Anglo-Indian players from the South from the national

In the India of the 1950s, crowds flocked to watch Rail-

ways and Punjab fight it out at the national championship – the nation's two strongest teams, and they still are. The Railways had two Olympians in their forward line - Kishenlal and Ronald Iones. In 1948. Kishenlal was impressed with lones' speed and dexterity and picked him for the Railways'

As outside-right, Jones' favourite movement was to feint towards the right, beat the half-back, run speedily down the line towards the opposite side, cut in towards the 'D' and centre the ball to a more favourably placed forward to

wingers and wingers. Some

cannot control their speed and

Others never seem to know

where the goal-line is. The

real winger is one in whom

intelligence, speed and stamina

are well combined. Carlton

David Cleur, the Southern

Railway player, was one such

winger, who was equally at

home at outside-right as at

winger. He had acquired the

style and control to make a

class player with his speed and

There were no frills in his

play. Given a forward pass, he

would, and with the speed of

a greyhound, beat his rivals

for possession, then centre

powerfully and accurately. But,

he did not relish the square

pass, which meant he had to

dribble past an opponent, and

that was not in his armoury.

reason that the selectors did

not include him in the final

Madras team. But they, to

their credit, had seen the folly

of their decision, for a winger,

however clever he may be

with the stick, is nothing if he

It was, perhaps, for this

hitting power.

Cleur was the complete

overrun the ball.

outside-left.

'Godie', Madurai's Mr. Hockey

odwill Anderson, fondly hockey player of the earlier gen Tknown as 'Godie' by the hockey fraternity in Madurai, needs no introduction to any

score. All the while letting

At the national champion-

ship of 1950, Railways started as

favourites and scored fine, but

Punjab not only scored the

equaliser, it also came with the

winning goal - both in the last

Jones was in good form during

five minutes of the game.

stunned them on that day.

The complete

winger

speed control his movement.

This centre-half captained the Madurai District team for six consecutive years from 1964 and also represented the com oined districts one year. He was a member of the Southern

Railway team for five years an regular member of the Madurai Railway Institut team that won the league championship for six succes sive years from 1962. He would have continued to play for many more years had not a severe blow with a stick in ured his knee in 1970.

that season and Kishenlal, al-Madurai showed the way though a regular outside, gave up for many other districts as far his position to Jones and played as hockey was concerned. I at inside-right, both combining won the championship for the beautifully. But their opponent Santhanam Memorial Shield the symbol of supremacy in the districts. uninterruptedly for nearly two decades. A record Refai Salafis of sorts indeed! Godie had a lot to do with this.

> From 1964 till 1987, he vas the league convenor, con ducting four leagues (Men two divisions, colleges, schools and kiddies) simultaneously He also qualified as an umpire and played an active role as an

To top it all, he is an expert a laying grounds. Given the enviable task of preparing the Arasaradi Railway Grounds for the 1992 Nationals, Godie completed the job in a record time of six days.

He also made a mark as an organiser of tournaments. The Madurai Blues Tournament was conducted by him for four years.

Today, sadly, feels interest n hockey in Madurai has dwindled.

Julian Rodrigo

### Subscriptions and contributions

 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 BELOW, to CHENNAL HERITAGE, 260-A, TTK ROAD, CHENNAI 600 018 or C/O LOKAVANI-HALI MARK PRESS PVT. LTD., 122, GREAMES ROAD, CHENNAI 600 006.

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 your sending us your contributions IN ADDITION TO your subscriptions.

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. 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 Chennal 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.

- The Editor

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alone payable to M/s. Lokavani Hall-Mark Press Pvt. Ltd.. All other cheques to has no speed. 'Chennai Heritage'. It took the selectors nearly

ne of the most entertain- two months and two Intering sights in hockey is State matches to realise the the winger racing away on the value of Cleur as a winger. line, chased by more than one Nevertheless, there was genrival, and eventually swinging eral satisfaction that they did in and centring. There are rectify matters.

> Carlton was not only a hockey player but a star athlete. A hurdler and sprinter, he won the individual championship in the Inter-Railway sports meet in 1949 and later represented Madras in the Indian Olympics and India in the Asian Games. He sticks in memory because of his beauty of stride and movement.

# The all-winning Telegraph Club

The Telegraph Recreation Club, an all-conquering, all-Anglo-▲ Indian Hockey team, dominated hockey in Madras from 1930

Whenever the Telegraph Recreation Club played in those days, you could hear sporting hockey fans shout aloud in Tamil: "Puli Varuthu! Puli Varuthu!" ("The Tigers are coming!). This was because of the yellow stripes on their dark blue jerseys. And perform they did, like ferocious tigers!

It was a sight to watch the trio of Blankley, Murphy and Christian take a short corner, which almost always ended in a goal. No exaggeration this: the power behind Billy Christian's (Bully Beef) pile drivers had on a few occasions even torn the goal cage leather netting. Such was its force.

1938 is vivid in my memory, because the Telegraph Recreation Club annexed all the trophies in Madras. It is indeed sad to see the state of hockey today, with very few anglo-Indians inclined towards a sport which we in the past dominated.

Noel Anthony Netto

### FOOD PROCESSING REVOLUTION

(Continued from Page 1)

the most promising industries with the potential to offer direct employment to millions and give a fillip to the national economy. Unlike other premium sectors, food processing has a direct and positive bearing on the rural economy as

There are many roadblocks impeding the movement of food articles within the country. They include poor road connectivity between farms and markets, lack of cold chain facilities. leading to heavy wastage, and perennially interrupted power supply. Growth in these infrastructure sectors would lead to better prospects for the food

Food Processing Policy of the Central Government addresses the infrastructure issues. With the adoption of the Food Processing Policy, the proposed Food Processing Development Authority would start functioning and create an enabling environment for the industry. Keeping in view the tremendous potential of the Indian Food Processing Industry, the Union Government has increased its allocation to the Ministry of Food Processing by

the current budget. ripe for a Food Processing Revo- Chennai.) lution. It is one industry that

33.53%, to Rs. 81.01 crore, in

terial an impediment.

grow to 10% over a period of ten years, an estimated Rs. 1,40,000 crore has to flow into the sector. This can be possible only with the help of the private sector's active involvement coupled with foreign direct investment. In the Tenth Five Year Plan, the industry is expected to grow by 7.3% with a likely investment of Rs. 63,000 crore. Investment, since economic liberalisation in this sector, has been Rs. 53,868 crore. Happily, it has been growing The time is therefore now ever since. — (Courtesy: PIB,

# India's fourth largest market

(Continued from page 1)

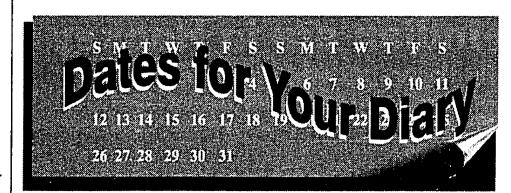
The study reveals that Valparai, not Chennai or Coimbatore, is the most prosperous town in Tamil Nadu. The people of Valparai, with a percapita annual income of Rs. 23,772, are the fourth richest in India, although they do not figure among the top ten consuming towns (MM readers will, however, recall the report in a recent issue about Valparai beginning to lose out as one of the country's richest towns). This perhaps implies that awareness about products and services influences purchasing power. Chennai is the eighth richest town with a per capita annual income of Rs. 21, 885. Chandigarh tops the list with a figure of Rs. 26,710.

Valparai also ranks No. 9 in a listing of towns and states that have the largest percentage of households with a monthly income exceeding Rs. 10,000. Indeed, the regions south of the Vindhyas contribute to almost 60 per cent of India's urban affluence.

When it comes to personal hygiene, Chandigarh tops again,

with an average monthly spending on fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) of Rs. 3,418; Chennai, with an average spend of Rs. 2,888, is third, and Coimbatore, spending Rs. 2,684, is seventh. While every 12th person in Chandigarh (82 per 1,000) owns a car, by far the best average in India, Chennai, where 43 people out of 1,000 own a car, ranks No. 4. Coimbatore is 9th on this score, with 35 per 1,000. More than 130 people out of 1,000 own a basic telephone in Chennai, placing the city 6th all-India on this parameter.

The RK Swamy BBDO Guide to Urban Markets offers such a wealth of data on India's towns, cities and states that almost endless interpretations are possible. The study covers 77.3 per cent of the urban population in 21 states and three union territories. It combines 18 indicators, covering per capita income, rich households, ownership pattern of durables, consumption pattern of FMCG, market infrastructure and media. The Guide is priced at Rs. 29,700.



Till June 24: Paintings by K. Jayachander, who uses traditional motifs, blended with geometric abstractions (at Ashvita).

Till June 24: Welcome to the age of 'The Chutney Hybrid', where a potent mix of global branding, migration and travel is creating a greater understanding of natural cultures. The Global Local exhibition in Chennai strives to encase the influences of the global and Indian in contemporary design. (At Forum Art Gallery.)

**June 19:** Fete de la Musique started in 1982, in France, by the Ministry for Culture, La Fete de la Musique has developed first into an European and later an international event. It is an event dedicated to music in every form. This year, Alliance Française of Madras invites you to a concert for and by the students (present

as well as past): Carnatic music, piano, guitar, songs, it's for you to decide and play! The evening will end with a concert by Zahrra, a young music group with Tanvi (ex-student of AFM), Shiva and Shyam who will play subtle mixes of salsa, samba, rhumba, kumbia, rai, Arabic and Brazilian. (At Alliance Francaise, 7.00 p.m.)

June 21-July 3: Alienation & Reality. Blodsow's first solo exhibition. Blodsow is a young artist from Kerala, living and working in Chennai (at Alliance Francaise).

June 24: Oxford University Press in association with the British Council launches Cholamandal: An Artists' Village, a book tracing the history of the Cholamandal Artists' Village from its inception in 1966 till the present. With

colorful images and old black and white photographs capturing the mood, this comprehensive book has 23 well-known art critics and writers documenting the history of the village which is India's largest self-supporting art colony and perhaps the only one of its kind in the world.

June 25-27: Focus on Sundara Ramaswamy. Puduvai Ilavenil, a well-known photographer and documentary filmmaker, will present an exhibition on the Tamil writer Sundara Ramaswamy, whose Pallakku Thookkigal, directed by A. Ramaswamy, will be staged on June 27.Also readings of his work during the three days.

June 26 and 27: The British Council is having a Word Carnival. If you're between ages 5 and 15 years, then you're invited. At the Word Carnival, you can get your faces painted, learn balloon sculpturing and play a few crossword puzzles and Coconut Shy. What's Coconut Shy you ask hmm... well, it's a special game where you throw coconut rings around words to win the game! In Animal Families you listen to animal sounds and tell which animal it is. In Snakes and Ladders you'll have to connect words to climb the ladders! Word Cousins and Origin of Words are some of the other games waiting to be played. (At the British Council.)

June 27: Hari Kunzru's new novel, Transmission, is a brilliant and funny take on life at the mercy of a computer mouse. It is also a heady mix of London, Bollywood and Silicon Valley. The British Council and Penguin Books India in association with The Park will launch the book in Chennai. (By invitation)

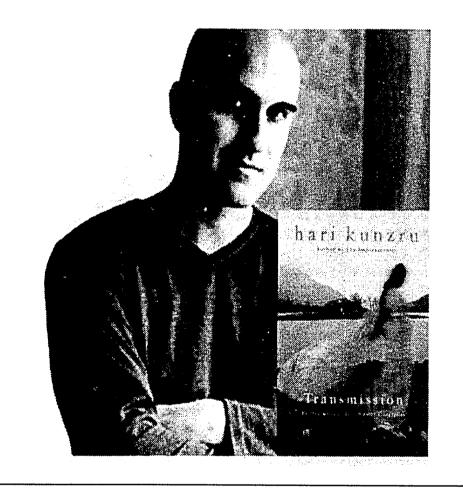
June 24-28: Combating the Urbanscape — an exhibition of paintings by Shankar Kendale. (At the Apparao Galleries.)

**Sport on Page 7** 

#### **Answers to Quiz**

1. Pranab Mukherjee and Shivraj Patil; 2. V. Anand and Anju George; 3. The Imam Ali Shrine in Najaf; 4. Remaining undefeated in a season; 5. Saras; 6. National Security Adviser; 7. FC Porto; 8. Shrek 2; 9. Horst Koehler; 10. Kal Ho Na Ho.

11. Pattali Makkal Katchi; 12. Nasser Hussain; 13. K. Natarajan; 14. M.K. Narayanan; 15. The British victory over Napoleon Bonaparte at Waterloo; 16. Suba Ilavarasan of the Tamizhar Viduthalai Iyakkam; 17. Adhichanallur; 18. Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College; 19. Koothup-pattarai; 20. Gummudipoondi.



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