

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

# MADRAS

## MUSINGS

INSIDE

- Getting priorities right
- City's water story
- Creating a unique school
- The *Kumudam* success
- A 2-page Olympics special

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I understand your anxiety, but you need to wait at least ten years to start tuitions.

### Class act

Pity the children as they leave for school, burdened with huge, heavy school bags, and further weighed down under the load of over-filled lives that sits heavily on such young shoulders.

It is invariably Open Season on a child's day. The hours are cut, pruned or bunched up, according to what concerned adults see fit to include or enhance. One of the biggest players in this grabbing-chunks-of-the-child's-life game today is the ubiquitous Tuition — extra classes for every subject under the sun, a pattern that's been *de rigueur* for a while now.

Children rush home from school only to rush out again. A tuition here, a class there — it is a wonder the city does not witness clumps of parents and children standing around, dazed and lost, wondering where they ought to be as opposed to where they are. Family members are more familiar with backs rather than faces, given that everyone always seems to be in departure-mode.

It is true that children might need help in certain subjects, but hour after hour of time designated to tasks?

That's sad!

Time having become such a rare commodity, some children will, in later years, remember family vehicles with warm affection, for it was mostly in them that they bonded with their parents, while being chauffeured to and from classes.

You have to wonder — when does studying stop, and learning begin?

Ranjitha Ashok

# A still liveable city

(By A Staff Reporter)

Compared to Kolkata, Mumbai and New Delhi, Chennai scores better on several counts as a liveable city, although it loses out to metros such as Ahmadabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune on some parameters, according to an urban reforms survey published in a recent issue of *Business World*.

The survey points out that Chennai has a population density (people per sq.km) of 11,233 as compared to Kolkata's 15,508, Mumbai's 27,144 and Delhi's 23,654. In fact, only Pune, with a population density of 10,917, is better placed than Chennai — Ahmadabad has a density of 18,405, Bangalore 18,992 and Hyderabad 20,535.

As far as environmental pollution is concerned, the suspended particles in air (permissible level: 200 mg/m<sup>3</sup>) are 329 in Chennai, higher than Kolkata's 245, but lower than Mumbai's 389 and Delhi's rather very alarming 829. Ahmadabad, too, reports a high figure — 618 and, surprisingly, both Bangalore and Hyderabad prove worse than Chennai, with 378 suspended particles each. However, Chennai has the highest level of sulphur dioxide (permissible level: 80 mg/m<sup>3</sup>) — 20. Ahmadabad, Hyderabad and Kolkata each report 7, Bangalore 8, Delhi 11 and Mumbai 17.

On the criteria on 'per capita availability of potable water', Bangalore, with 80 litres per capita per day, and Hyderabad, with 95 lcpd, register a poor showing. Chennai's per capita availability, surprisingly, is 160 lcpd, only marginally lower than Mumbai's 168, Kolkata's 173 and Delhi's 180.

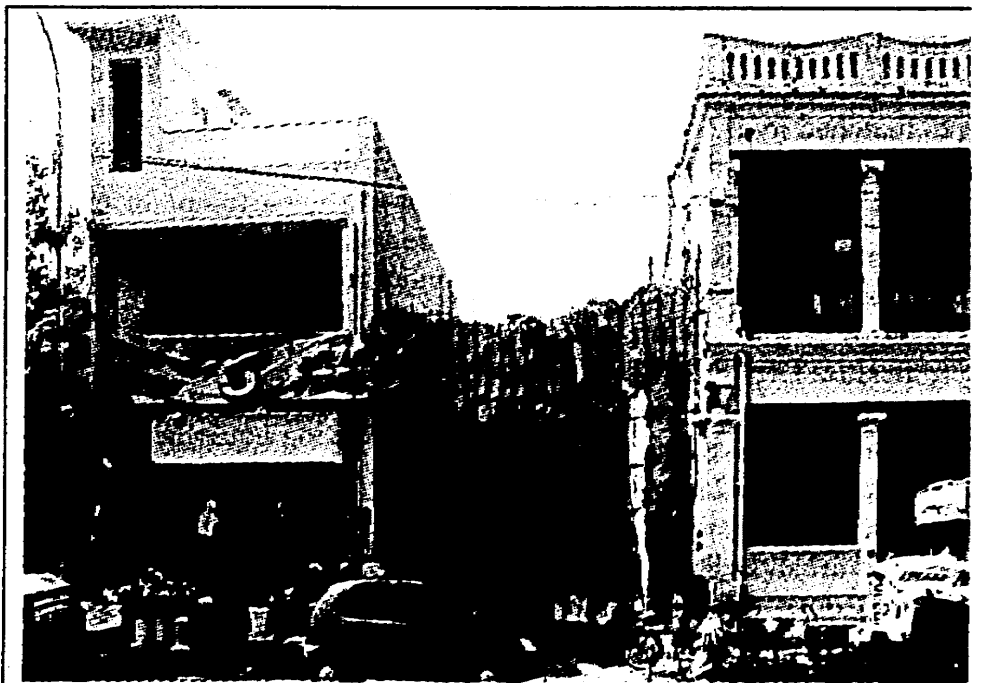
Chennai generates 0.657 kg of solid waste per capita a day,

the highest among all the cities surveyed. Ahmadabad generates the second largest quantity per capita (0.585 kg), followed by Bangalore (0.484), Delhi (0.475), Mumbai (0.436), Kolkata (0.383), Hyderabad (0.382) and Pune (0.312).

All the cities have to contend with noise pollution, with none of them adhering to the permissible ambient noise levels of 45-55 decibels. Chennai, with noise levels of 57-84 decibels, is the second worst polluter. Kolkata, with 76-86 decibels, holds the unenviable first spot. Mumbai (45-81 decibels), Bangalore (59-79), Hyderabad (56-73) and Delhi (53-71) follow.

Compared to the other megacities, Chennai, with a shortage of 224,000 houses, fares best — Delhi fares worst, with a housing shortage of

(Continued on Page 9)



### GONE... AND GOING?

The Sampooma Sastrigal saree shop in North Mada Street, Mylapore, an institution in the area for over 100 years, has been pulled down to make way for the new. The Jammi Building (below), with a 75-year heritage, is likely to be the next Mylapore building to go. (Photographs: REFLECTIONS.)



## Better water management would offer success

by  
Shobha Menon

is 140 litres per person a day (lpd), the average per person supply in Chennai is about 20 litres!

When a Civil Society Consultation took place in the city recently on 'Approaches to the solution of Water and Sanitation problems of the Chennai Metropolitan Area' (also see page 4), some disturbing facts came up during the panelists' presentations. It was stated:

- Chennai, projected to be one of the 20 largest cities in the world and a leader in India within the next ten years, is on a horrifyingly relentless course towards a water supply and sanitation (WSS) crisis. While the World Bank norm

- More than Rs. 2300 crore has already been spent on various water supply augmentation schemes since 1970 to get a planned 830 mld. But that is nowhere near realisation.

- In 200 villages in the periurban areas, agriculture is 'dead', mainly because existing local sources have depleted by indiscriminate ex-

traction by public and private water suppliers trying to meet the CMA's demands. There is as a consequence increasing migration to the city, a rise in the slum population AND more water needs in an already water-starved/mis-managed area.

- The RWH notification seems to apply only to residences. The State has not bothered to harvest runoff from its roads; local bodies and government institutions/departments hardly expend any effort in this direction.

(Continued on Page 4)

# Isn't it time we got our priorities right?

The Kumbakonam tragedy should never have happened. Nor should the descent of the VIPs on the site thereafter, like vultures in search of prey, in this case the media attention. Nor should the 'off with his head' actions of authority have happened in the aftermath of the tragedy.

True, Kumbakonam was traumatic, but it was a tragedy waiting to happen. NOT because of thatched roofs in school buildings, but because kitchens, with exposed fires, function adjacent to classrooms and many of these kitchens are unsafe temporary structures with thatched roofs. It's time greater attention was paid to kitchens in schools than to thatched roofs, *The Man From Madras Musings* feels.

Thatch is way of life in India for centuries. It is inexpensive, it is cool, it is not suffocating like asbestos or tin, nor is it harmful to health. Tiles might be a good option, if they too were not as expensive as asbestos and tin sheets. And RCC is prohibitively costly. So, thatch is what both rural and urban India favours. And thatch does not just go up in flames. It needs to be SET on fire. And so, what sets it on fire is what should be acted against, NOT the thatch. MMM can't help feeling that the present drive against thatch is like throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

What is needed is to ensure that every school which has a kitchen meets a requisite safety standard, beginning with the kitchen being a pucca structure (with NO temporary roofing or fittings) at least 10m away from classrooms and offices and ending with equipment that meets prescribed safety standards, yet taking into consideration affordability. In fact, on that count of affordability, MMM suggests that of whatever grant Government gives schools, a portion of it be earmarked for SAFE kitchens. It's on kitchens that Government action is needed, NOT on thatched roofs.

All the action after the tragedy is neither going to bring back lives nor prevent the threat of future tragedies if the threat itself — in this case, kitchens — is not tackled. Suspensions of education officers, arrests of school owners, pulling down thatch in schools right round the countryside, badly affecting education, are knee-jerk reactions that may grab the headlines but do not solve the problem. MMM would be glad to hear if there are any Education Department rules governing the location of kitchens in schools and the type of premises they should be and what safety standards are required. If there are no such rules, then they should be introduced at once: But if they do exist, action under those rules would be warranted — but only against those who failed to implement them and enforce their implementation. If ev-

eryone upto a head of a department or every member of the governing board is to be made responsible for failures at ground level, then prime ministers, chief ministers, education ministers and families of children at the school should all be held responsible. What is needed is not spur-of-the-moment decisions to make it seem in the headlines that the sternest possible action is being taken, but the introduction of some well-thought out, IMPLEMENTABLE measures (with Government aid if necessary).

MMM would suggest the following measures:

- kitchens in pucca buildings built some way from the classrooms and equipped with fire fighting equipment.
- the fire department in urban areas and the police department in rural areas to conduct bimonthly fire drills in every educational institution within their jurisdiction and ensure all fire fighting equipment are in working condition.

- greater scrutiny at higher levels of local education officers' reports which should be of a more frequent nature.

Removing thatched roofs and leaving schools to face expenditures they can ill-afford are not the answer, particularly when the thatch is not at fault but an ill-located, ill-maintained kitchen is.

## Citizen no concern

Ever since *Madras Musings* made its appearance, The Editor, *The Man From Madras Musings* and several eminent readers have been urging the relocation of the administrative capital in the heart of the State. If this was not possible — and nothing is impossible — then, at least a large number of departments should be relocated in areas where they made more sense, it was suggested as an alternative. At last, MMM is delighted to find that one small step has been taken towards this end, with another bench of the Madras High Court being opened in Madurai. Yet how long has it been delayed! And what a long drawn-out battle it has been to get the Court in place even at this late date.

The more MMM thinks of it, the more MMM is convinced that the service providers whatever their ilk, are not interested in Mr. & Mrs. Citizen. All a service provider is interested in is "What's in it for me, Jack?" It is this attitude that makes MMM

sad at the way the lawyers have been behaving in an instance where thousands of citizens stand to benefit, be it at the cost of a few lawyers. MMM can think of several other cases where the greatest good for the greatest number is not the prime view of those protesting; it's how inconvenienced the few are that is the issue to be fought even in courts which they know are hard-pressed for time.

MMM wishes that more people would think of moving the Secretariat and other major public institutions out of the city not only as a necessity to decongest Chennai, but, more importantly, as a means to give Mr. & Mrs. Citizen greater, quicker, less expensive and more convenient access to those institutions he or she has to deal with. The citizen's convenience is what Government, lawyers and others should be thinking about, NOT themselves. But will we ever get that change of thinking? MMM hopes the new Bench in Madurai is the first step toward this.

ing lot, adjacent to a street, Ranganathan Street, which has become virtually a 'pedestrians only' zone, and an uncomfortable one even for the users of the road, the parking lot not far away was a boon to vehicle-using shoppers. Now it's quite possible that when CMDA permission for the building was sought, a parking lot was not envisaged, but when a housing block transformed into a parking lot proves a boon, shouldn't the CMDA consider the spirit of the whole issue and not just a law which it does not enforce too strictly elsewhere? Surely a penalty is the answer for not abiding by the law, not stopping the work and insisting the building be converted to its original purpose?

In the other case, the CMDA is insisting — possibly, quite rightly — on its 1800 sq m of land that the owners of Anna Arivalayam should have, under the Development Control Regulations, turned into a public park. The rules state that for construction over a certain size, a part of

ghum and sugarbeet for the manufacture of biofuel from them. It also sees these as employment-generation projects on the one hand and meeting the needs of fuel users on the other.

While the Government's intentions are laudable, MMM has heard of there being no debate on these plans sponsored by Government in order to ascertain all views. As was suggested for the Secretariat project, it would be nice if the Government sought the public's views on such large-scale promotions as this. Such debates might shed a lot of light on problems that might arise from major projects, if not today, sometime later.

In the case of jatropha, MMM has heard of the toxicity of the residue as well as problems of disposal that are possible both in the case of byproducts as well as residue. If these are indeed problems, then answers need to be found before large-scale planting of jatropha and production of biodiesel from it get underway. MMM has also heard that there are several other crops, like sweet sorghum, which do not have the problems of jatropha and which also, like jatropha, do not require much water. Are these alternative crops being examined more rigorously than jatropha for cultivation and economic viability?

When are we ever going to get into the habit of having learned debates with small groups of experts participating before launching major investments in the public sector, MMM wonders. So much money could well be saved by such debates.

## Heritage clubs

A year or so ago, the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage-Tamil Nadu Chapter organised a couple of workshops for school administrations to encourage them to establish Heritage Clubs in their schools. *The Man From Madras Musings* is glad to hear that there are 14 Heritage Clubs in operation in the city now and that they plan to share their experience through an interaction shortly.

What strikes MMM is that most of these Heritage Clubs have been founded in schools in South Chennai. It is time that the knowledge spreads throughout the city in the first place and, then, throughout the State. As a first step, MMM wonders whether it might not be a good idea at the planned interaction if each school with a Heritage Club brought representatives from another school, particularly in central or north Chennai, to learn from the experiences of the Clubs that have been formed and then set up Heritage Clubs in their own schools.

In places like Delhi, the Heritage Club movement has spread to hundreds of schools. Surely, Chennai can move faster towards at least a 100-school target?

— MMM

its land should be set aside for public use. Now what strikes MMM as odd in this case is not the notification to the owners of the property, but how the CMDA — under its present leadership — acted in another such case.

When the old Madras Club in Express Estates, off Anna Salai, was under threat, on the grounds that the owner planned to give its site as vacant land to the CMDA under the DCR, a suggestion was made that the CMDA take over the land with the building *in situ* and convert it to meaningful public use. A sports museum was one of the suggestions. The CMDA in that instance did not consider a notification that would ensure the saving of the building — and so what was undoubtedly a heritage building was ground to dust. Now, MMM wonders what the owners of the property and the CMDA propose to do with the empty space? Will there be a public park developed or will it be garden space for the owners, as in the case of Anna Arivalayam? When the Express Estates case went to court, the CMDA showed little interest in the proceedings. MMM wonders what will happen in the Anna Arivalayam case?

The CMDA and its leadership leaves MMM — and, no doubt, many others — quite befuddled. While pulling down buildings that help nurture scholarship in some form or another on a university campus and permitting their replacement with a massive legislative and office complex seems perfectly in order, the CMDA apparently feels that certain constructions that could possibly help the public should have no place in the city. Consider two recent cases. MMM has no doubt that in both cases the CMDA is following the letter of the law, but not only is the spirit of the law something to reckon with but there should also be a display of consistency in implementing the law.

In the case of what might be the city's first multistorey park-

## A busy CMDA

*The Man From Madras Musings* has never seen the CMDA busier — at least, visibly — than in the last few weeks. There was its huge advertisement indicating steps being taken to get the Secretariat project underway despite it having told the Supreme Court that the Secretariat plans were in abeyance *pro tem*. If there was a change of mind about *pro tem*, shouldn't the CMDA have informed the Supreme Court that it had had a change of mind and was now proceeding with the project forthwith and could the Court give it the go ahead?

The CMDA and its leadership leaves MMM — and, no doubt, many others — quite befuddled. While pulling down buildings that help nurture scholarship in some form or another on a university campus and permitting their replacement with a massive legislative and office complex seems perfectly in order, the CMDA apparently feels that certain constructions that could possibly help the public should have no place in the city. Consider two recent cases. MMM has no doubt that in both cases the CMDA is following the letter of the law, but not only is the spirit of the law something to reckon with but there should also be a display of consistency in implementing the law.

In the case of what might be the city's first multistorey park-

## SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

## OUR READERS WRITE

### ISO certification

Further to your comments relating to ISO certification in Short 'N' Snappy (MM, June 1st), I would like to bring to your attention the following misconceptions in the industry:

ISO 9001:2000 quality management system standard has no requirement for certification. Certification was brought in by third party certification bodies to assure customers of the certified organisation that the organisation's management system conforms to the requirements of ISO 9001 standard.

ISO 9001:2000 quality management system standards do not define the quality of the product. The standard strives to assure consistent delivery of the quality defined by the organisation. If an organisation defines a low quality specification for the product, then the organisation shall consistently deliver a low quality product. If a customer of the organisation defines and agrees to a specification for the product, then ISO 9001 will ensure consistent delivery of the agreed quality.

If an organisation needs to assure the quality of its product, then it needs to apply for and seek product certification. This process requires much more stringent controls and will assure product quality as defined and agreed on between the third party certification body and the organisation.

C. Balasubramaniam  
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### Alternate site

Two years ago, I had advised that the Secretariat should be shifted behind the Gandhi Mandapam, where Four Roads connect Velacheri, Taramani and Guindy. This will save Rs. 1.5 crore approximately a year on transport alone.

With the San Thomé High Road now so congested, 1½ hours is lost every day. This road cannot be widened. But the Sardar Patel Road could have six lanes from Mandaveli Rani Meyyammai School, with an underground subway in Kotturpuram upto the Gandhi Mandapam junction. This should be done before the Secretariat building is built in Kotturpuram, if indeed Government is determined to go through with it.

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### Films & sport

Being interested both in films and sport, I have often wondered why there are so few sports persons in the tinsel world.

In the late 1930s, a Krishnamurthy who acted in the film *Bhakta Namadev* was a State-ranked table tennis player. The cine celebrity Vijayantimala was also a tournament player in this game. Aswini Nachappa, a champion woman sprinter, acted in a few films. The famous playback singer Unnikrishnan played first division cricket. Recently, a top hero in films, Ajit Kumar, has been participating in car racing.

# The pluses and minuses of jatropha

The Planning Commission has taken steps to prepare a detailed project report to set up a commercially-viable jatropha-based biodiesel project by 2007.

The Indian Oil Corporation is setting up research and development facilities at Faridabad and is proceeding with establishing parameters for using biodiesel.

The Indian Railways has also taken initiatives to run its locomotives using biodiesel, the trials indicating reasonable success.

The obvious reason for the excitement over jatropha-based biodiesel is the fact that the massive production of biodiesel could reduce the dependence on imported crude oil to a significant extent and would promote considerable employment opportunities in the agricultural sector for the cultivation of jatropha.

The possibilities of reducing carbon dioxide emissions and entering into the international carbon trade by large-scale plantation of jatropha are other attractions of the project. The fact that jatropha cultivation can be carried out in dry and drought-prone areas and its requirement of water is negligible makes jatropha cultivation an attractive proposition for States like Tamil Nadu.

Internationally, the concept of biodiesel has been well accepted by several developed countries.

Traditionally, raw vegetable oil produced from jatropha and several other crops has been used without any treatment or modification as fuel in rural areas for lighting purpose. The use of such raw vegetable oil for running tractors etc., particularly in rural areas, is well known. While considerable scope for improvement exists in the methodology of using raw jatropha vegetable oil as fuel, basic knowledge has been available for a long time in the country.

Chemical technology and processes are involved in con-

verting raw jatropha oil into what is known as transesterified jatropha oil. Such transesterification is required for improving the properties of the raw vegetable oil and making it suitable for mixing with diesel. Only biodiesel thus produced will have suitable properties for use as auto fuel at optimum conditions. Transesterification of jatropha oil is a necessary factor to ensure that it will have millions of tonnes of demand.

Transesterification of jatropha vegetable oil is now being studied on a pilot plant scale at a few centres in the country.

to set up in the coming years. Apart from the waste disposal problem, the huge availability of glycerine would inevitably lead to fall in price of glycerine and it is not clear at this stage what would be the strategy to tackle this 'glycerine issue'.

Unlike other vegetable oils, like soya and rapeseed, used in developed countries for biodiesel production, jatropha is non-edible and is a toxic product. Therefore, the use of jatropha cake, obtained after extraction of the oil from the seed, as animal feed would not be possible in view of its toxicity content. At

could only be in the region of Re. 1 to Rs. 2 per kilo. From the point of view of the agriculturists, this would be inadequate, as they would expect a price of around Rs. 4 per kilo to make growing jatropha viable for them. To meet this requirement, Government would have to subsidise the cultivation of jatropha and production of biodiesel, particularly on a large scale. Even advanced countries like the USA have recognised this problem and provide subsidy for biodiesel.

The high level of carbon absorption from the atmosphere by jatropha plants is highlighted and the feasibility of carbon trading is projected as a positive aspect. But as the jatropha tree takes more than four years to reach mature levels of growth and the concept of carbon trading as per the Kyoto Protocol would be valid only upto 2012, the earnings by carbon trading appears to be doubtful in the long run.

As massive biodiesel projects have already been built in developed countries and more projects are under planning/implementation, the international players would certainly look at the Indian market as an attractive outlet. The massive projects abroad would be in a position to offer biodiesel to India at more competitive rates. This means import of biodiesel would be a distinct possibility and the Government of India may not be able to prevent it effectively, in the light of WTO stipulations.

Government has to be cautious in the case of any jatropha-based biodiesel project and ensure that the facts and figures are worked out correctly and analysed thoroughly before pronouncing policies and programmes. This is necessary to avoid errors that could prove costly in the future.

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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

While no major problems are expected, the fact is that jatropha is still an unexplored area in commercial scale level of operations.

The transesterification of any vegetable oil, such as jatropha, would lead to large scale production of glycerine as a by-product. For every tonne of transesterified oil produced, there would be 0.25 tonne of glycerine produced.

In view of the massive transesterification/biodiesel capacities already created in several developed countries using soya, rapeseed, sunflower, etc., the production of glycerine has now reached surplus levels. Several biodiesel units find that glycerine has become a waste disposal problem — and this problem could grow.

The Indian demand for glycerine is only around 40,000 tonnes a year and the country cannot absorb the large quantity of glycerine that would be produced from massive biodiesel plants that the country is keen

we Indians know only two plants, coffee and tea. All those P. Sudhakar listed (MM, July 1st) have been forgotten.

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### The doctor first

Of late, WHO itself has evinced concern about the indiscriminate use of plant medicines and is reported to have advised member-nations to take steps to regulate their use.

In the light of this, it may be better to consult a qualified doctor first, while facing life-threatening conditions like snake-bite or even hepatitis (jaundice), before trying out plant-based remedies suggested by reader P. Sudhakar (MM, July 1st).

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### Forgotten capital & plants

Even historians acknowledge only Calcutta as the first capital of the British in India. But it was only from 1772 till it was shifted to New Delhi in 1912. Before 1772, Madras was the capital of the British India. And that from 1641, when Fort St. George was built (MM, July 16th). Why isn't this recognised today?

After the advent of the British,

# The city's water story in numbers

Sustain, the Citizens' Alliance for Sustainable Living, and the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry who organised the Civil Society Consultation on water recently pointed out the following:

The Chennai Urban Agglomeration (CUA) may broadly be delineated into three distinct units: the City, the Municipal Towns and the Peri-Urban Areas. The peri-urban areas cover about 260 sq.km. with a population of about 885,000 (2001) which is expected to rise to 1.6 million by 2026, when the City's population is expected to be about 6.0 million and that of the Municipal Towns about 2.5 m. The density of population dips steeply from the City to the PUA, from over 25,000 persons per sq.km. to about 3400 persons per sq.km. The Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA) includes additionally about 160 villages for rural settlements with a population of about 400,000 (2001). The rural hinterland has a density of around 600 persons per sq.km.

The City Municipal Corporation is covered by a public water supply system designed to provide 850 mld (million litres per day) out of 1550 mld planned for the whole of the CUA in normal times. This is sourced from local non-perennial streams, subsurface water of streams and aquifers, and imported water from distant sources. However, due to long periods of drought and non-realisation of water from distant sources the current supply is around 300 mld on alternate days, all obtained from subsurface water. The piped supply has been replaced by supply by water-tankers both for the poor and the non-poor.

Water supply systems in the municipal towns and PUA, although allocated 400 mld, are not capable of receiving this quantity due to lack of adequate distribution system. Water supply systems in the PUAs are rudimentary, capable of delivering hardly 20 lpcd (litres per capita per day) of water at the best of times. Supply is mostly through street taps although house connections are on the rise. Sourcing is predominantly from subsurface water. In the current crisis situation, poor households of PUA receive about 40 litres (2 pots) per day which translates to about 10 lpcd.

The sanitation infrastructure for the City consists of a large network of sewers connected to treatment plants with a capacity of 270 mld proposed to be enlarged to 530 mld. However the poor do not have access to this system.

## Water availability

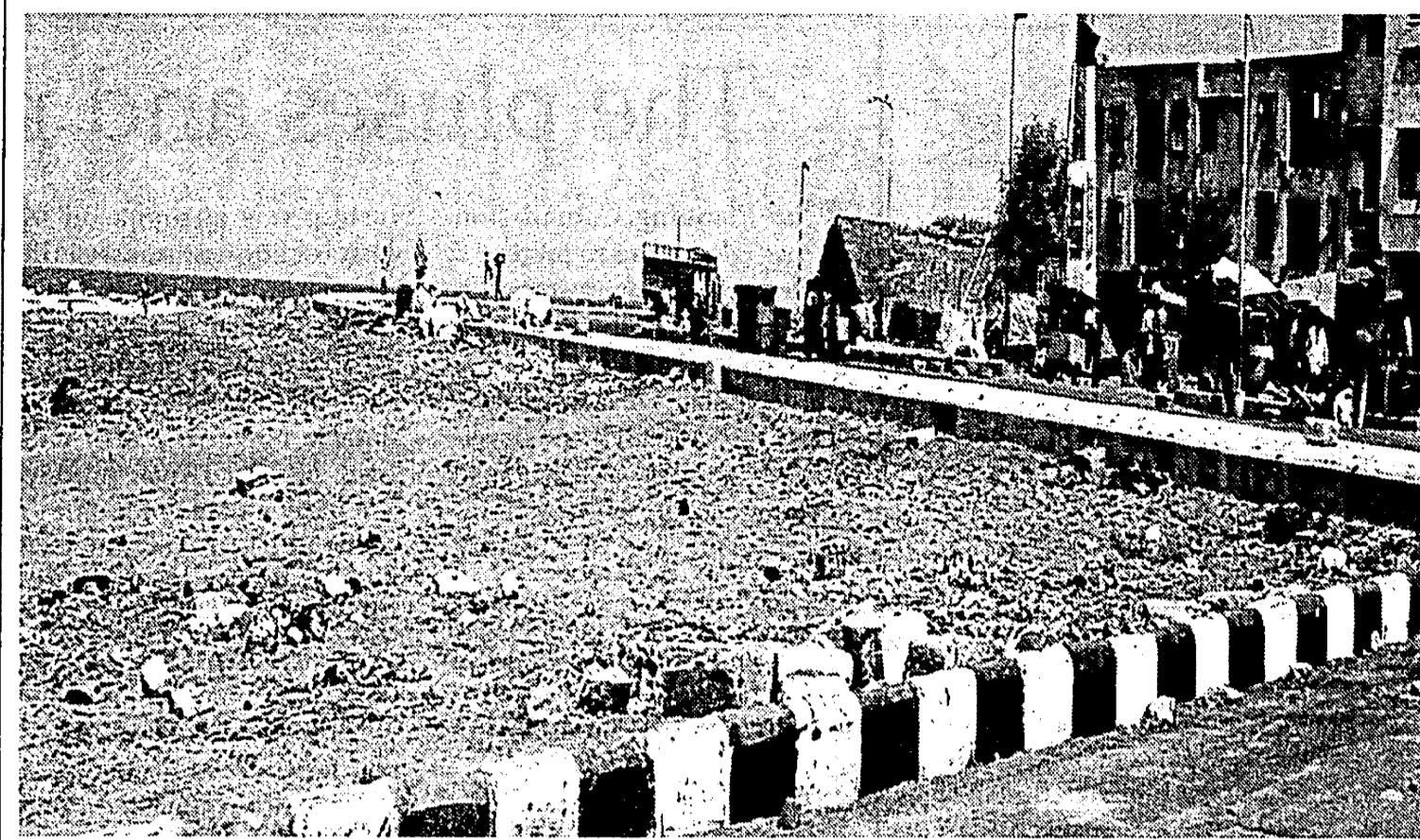
The water availability from various sources is estimated at 1547 mld, of which a maximum of 437 mld can be sourced locally as indicated below:

Source	Local sources (mld)	All sources (mld)
Poondi - Red Hills	227	227
Well fields and Aquifer	178	178
Krishna I	—	400
Veeranam	—	180
Krishna II	—	530
Local Sources	32	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>1547</b>

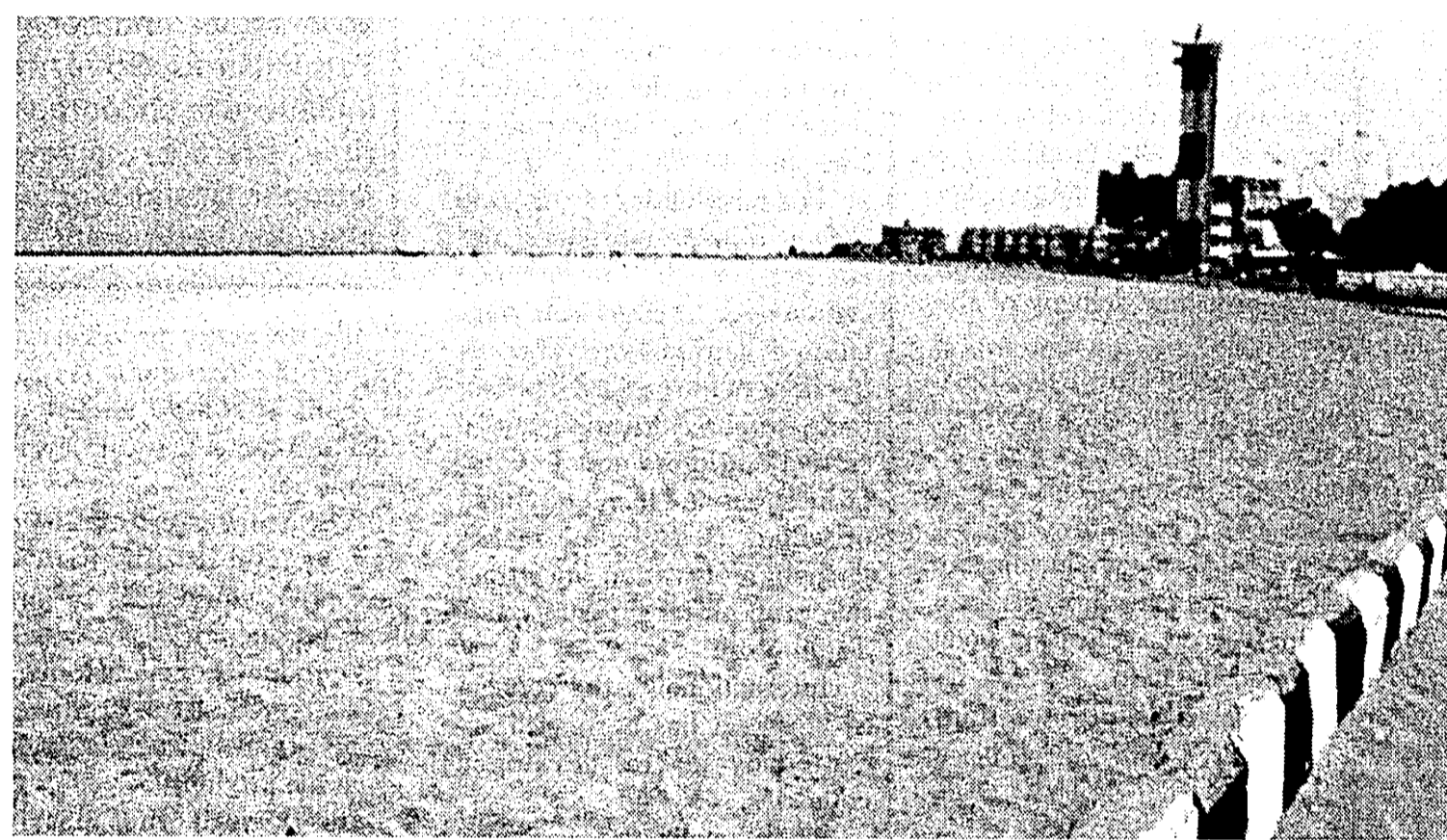
## Water allocation

The proposed allocation for Chennai City as well as other areas, including allocation for special industries, is indicated below:

Metropolitan Area	Mld
Chennai City	848
Adjacent Urban Areas	304
Distant Urban Areas	95
Special Industries	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>1547</b>



Our 'OLD' and 'NEW' this fortnight are both of the present and should really be titled 'The Ugly and The Beautiful'. The UGLY is one end of the Marina, south of the lighthouse, which remains as dirty and littered as it always was. A contrast to this reminder of the OLD is the NEW - a Marina Beach invitingly clean. (Photographs: REFLECTIONS.)



# Better water management

(Continued from page 1)

- With an average annual rainfall of 128 cm, spread over an area of 1170 sq km of the metropolitan area, this means 1170 x 100 x 10,000 x 1.28 cu.m/kts, which is quite a volume of water. Are we managing this volume of rainfall satisfactorily? Is it right to project Chennai as water-starved?

Suggestions by experts included the classification of water into two grades — potable water, or Class I water, required for cooking, drinking and personal hygiene, and water with a lower standard, or Class II water, for non-potable uses, such as cleaning and washing, toilet flushing and garden use. The quantity required for this is estimated by various studies to be 55 lts in the Class I category, and 50 lts in Class II category.

The current projected statistics of water availability from various sources is an estimated 1547 mld (of which 437 mld can be locally sourced). But the actual need of Class I water by the

CMA for a population of 10 million to be attained by 2025 is only of the order of 550 mld (implying an excess of 1000 mld would be available at the best of times). Proper management can assure this stable supply.

Class II water, whose average daily requirement is 500 mld (at 50 lpcd), could be generated locally through sewage recycling, direct use of rain harvested water, conservation measures and use of non-potable grade groundwater. In this context, the increase in capacity of the four sewage plants in the city to 532 mld could ensure a supplementary source of Class II water. Which squarely leads to the imperative need for a holistic view of water and sanitation and NOT of water supply in isolation.

Opportunities for production and distribution of Class II water could be opened up for the private sector, felt some panelists. An expert on 'Treated Water Harvesting' pointed out that water recycled from sewage could yield 40 lpcd (lts per capita per

day) from every 100 lpcd of sewage and "can therefore reduce the demand from the original supply by 40 lpcd".

With dual piping at locality level and household level already in practice in many Chennai apartments and houses, an appropriate pricing system for piped Class I water at the household level will become imperative to eliminate use of Class I water for non-potable uses (by the non-poor generally). Equity between non-poor and poor, however, needs to be assured. But again, as a panelist pointed out, "in this case, neither investment nor technology is an issue. The real crux is 'Operation and Maintenance' of any system in place, and most of our public sector enterprises fail miserably in this area". The packaged water industry that now depends on extraction of groundwater may also be shifted to sourcing from seawater desalination for supply to high-end users, thus preventing contamination by minerals and pollutants of the present groundwater system.

Post-meeting, one expert felt, "Looking at the traditional, local management solutions of re-charging groundwater levels must be the first option in this area. This can definitely be integrated with alternative methods like recycling etc. A technology-driven solution like desalination will have its own problems, and be expensive both financially and environmentally. And though the opening of this WSS sector to private companies (for treated water harvesting) is an interesting option, the need for Metrowater to regulate processes and strictly enforce standards as a nodal agency cannot be overemphasised." And a spokesperson of the Consumer Action Group (CAG) said, "The mooted of a regulatory commission to monitor all aspects in WSS is an excellent idea that can take care of both tariffs and consumer interests to help ensure equitable distribution of water to all. But unless local monitoring committees are involved and empowered to share responsibility and accountability for their WSS, the situation will only get worse."

• **Shaping Young Minds, the biography of KURUVILA JACOB, is to be released on his birth centenary, August 3rd.**

What made Kuruvila Jacob so special was that he was a man with a 'vision' — a vision of something new in education, of something so necessary and easily acceptable at this point in history.

## The early years

It was time to take a good look at his future realistically (on graduation). He was as certain about what he did not like, as he was about what he liked. He liked working with boys' sport in an academic environment. So the natural conclusion he came to was that he would like to become a good teacher. As he thought about it seriously, he found it increasingly appealing. The easy rapport that he had with his own teachers, the constant encouragement he had received and all the interesting activities that he had been involved in during his schooldays all served to enthuse him with the new idea to be not just an ordinary school teacher, but a well-qualified, professional one.

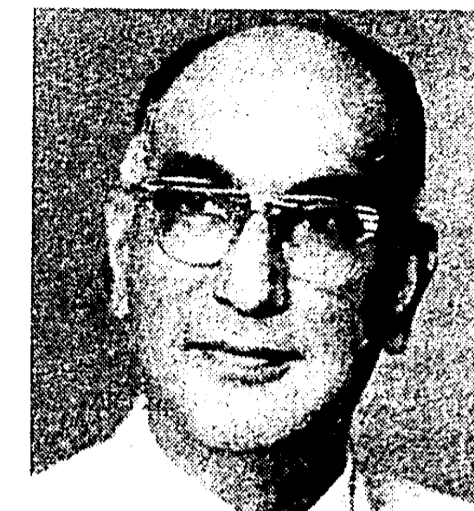
About three months before the end of the term, Kuruvila had a letter from Dr. Hogg, the Prin-

icipal of Madras Christian College, asking if he would be interested in the position of headmaster of Madras Christian College School. The letter explained that it was the tradition to appoint one of the college professors as headmaster, but as the college hoped to move out to new premises, they wanted instead to appoint a well-qualified person as a permanent headmaster for the school. They would be happy if Kuruvila would accept the position. To Kuruvila, who had left no impressive marks at all in his academic record, the offer of such an important position was a great surprise and honour...

## The new school

...The school and the college worked together from the same building. In time, the college authorities decided to move from

# Creating a school that was unique



Kuruvila Jacob.

the back sea in a trice. I sat in front - KJ put us at ease and chatted warmly with us about school. Soon we were so relaxed that we were telling him very frankly about some of the things that could be improved in the school. He said, "Every time you voice criticism, make sure it is constructive." He brought us to school ahead of the bus and as a parting comment said, "Considerate persons would sooner be ten minutes early than two minutes late." The two of us were never again late for any appointment. A fortnight later we were touched to see that every 'complaint' of ours had been attended to! I believe I have carried his idea of constructive criticism with me ever since...

when every hour of his time was accounted for, Kuruvila fell ill with chickenpox. As it was a bad attack, he had to be hospitalised and kept in isolation... One day, he lay on his hospital bed and looked through the open windows. Suddenly something like a cold shiver went up his spine. He had the terrible feeling that they had not taken into account the fact that during certain seasons the sun would come directly into the classrooms unless the sunshades were properly measured for this. His wife Grace tried to pacify him, but gave up when she realised that his agitation was because he had the strong feeling that this had not been done. So, from his bed, he sent orders to the architects to check them out and re-measure the sunshades. When this was done, they realised that his fears had

## THE KURUVILA WAY

Prof. M.S. Ananth recounts how he learnt to be punctual:

"We used to travel by school bus from a bus stop about a hundred yards from the present Music Academy in Mowbray's Road (now TTK Salai). KJ made sure the bus was always on time - 8.40 a.m. at our bus stop. Two of us missed the bus on the morning of a monthly test and were looking quite apprehensive when a familiar grey Rover pulled up alongside the kerb. KJ was at the wheel and he said "Jump in". Both of us got into the back seat with a mixture of embarrassment, pleasure and trepidation. A deep voice said, "It isn't very polite to treat your headmaster like a chauffeur, you know." We were out of

the back sea in a trice. I sat in front - KJ put us at ease and chatted warmly with us about school. Soon we were so relaxed that we were telling him very frankly about some of the things that could be improved in the school. He said, "Every time you voice criticism, make sure it is constructive." He brought us to school ahead of the bus and as a parting comment said, "Considerate persons would sooner be ten minutes early than two minutes late." The two of us were never again late for any appointment. A fortnight later we were touched to see that every 'complaint' of ours had been attended to! I believe I have carried his idea of constructive criticism with me ever since..."

the town to a spacious, quieter area where Halls of Residence could be built, as in Oxford and Cambridge. The school remained where it was in Linghi Chetty Street, opposite the Madras High Court complex, about three buildings away from the main China Bazaar Road (now Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Road). It was right in the middle of a busy area, teeming with dingy, commercial establishments and lawyers' and accountants' offices. Hand-pulled rickshaws and hand-drawn carts heavily laden with materials and stock for local businesses crawled along the busy, narrow roads. The loud voices of the cartmen demanding people to move out of the way echoed high above all the other loud street noises. No sooner the college moved Kuruvila Jacob decided the school too should move to more spacious surroundings.

...Napier Gardens (in Chetput) was a large and impres-

standing there, looking at the dilapidated, old building with the broken windows and doors, one wonders exactly what it was that he saw. The ground was full of pot holes and snake pits. The neighbours remarked that at night strange, eerie noises came from the house and the general impression was that it was haunted. But he had a vision — of setting up the kind of school that he had in his dreams...

...During the building days, he was constantly on the move from the old school in George Town to the new one in Chetput, supervising, checking, making sure that all was being done according to his plan and within the prescribed period. At the same time, he also had to concentrate on his other duties as headmaster, so it was a hectic period for him. D.S. Mathias, an able colleague, was his right-hand man, without whose help he could not have managed...

... During this busy period

indeed been true. The sunshades were pulled down and remodelled to make them perfect.

The new school, when ready, (had) extensive grounds, like yards and yards of rolling, green velvet stretched (welcomingly) before the main building. Kuruvila's love for beauty and order made him plant avenues of trees by the buildings. Everything was detailed right down to colour — flowering shrubs were planted so that their colours would complement the new building. Fountains where the boys could drink water were painted a bright cream and brick red — very attractive and eye-catching...

The new Madras Christian College School was unique... the only one of its kind in Madras at the time, (with) modern buildings, facilities for lab work and vast playgrounds. Along with the new buildings, there were new ventures too... a school band, complete with bugles, bagpipes and drums. The emphasis on co-

curricular activities, sport and the quality of education raised the reputation of the school and its able headmaster even more.

One of the first things Kuruvila introduced to the new school was games and they soon became part of the curriculum. Until now games were not part of any school's curriculum. In fact, games were not played in many schools at all. So this was a 'first' for MCC school;

## Beyond textbooks

Boys were also given responsibilities and encouraged in developing leadership qualities. There was the system of school captain, prefects, and head boys, each with their respective duties...

...Another of his very practical ideas was that at the end of each school term, half a day was laid aside to sandpaper and polish all the desks and furniture in the school. Boys had a habit of spilling ink, of scratching their names and drawing motifs on their desk tops. No matter how many times they were asked not to do this, it still happened. This activity of sandpapering and cleaning, besides being great fun, ensured clean furniture for the next class. It also showed them the dignity of a different kind of labour...

...Kuruvila Hostel became known as an example of 'Education in Concrete'... Kuruvila understood young boys so well. Knowing their tendency for untidiness and moving objects around, everything that was necessary to keep a boy's cubicle tidy and neat was made in concrete. The bed, the waste bin, the shelves, the racks for shoes and books were so designed that all (a boy) needed (was within) an arm's length. Here too his love for detail was evident. The hostel was so built that it was possible to see the boys from the headmaster's house. Kuruvila never forgot how lonely he felt when he was away from home as a child...

...The boarders were made to feel part of a family and looked after, especially when they were sick. There are many who remember being unwell and being looked after in a special way. Sometimes food was sent to them from the headmaster's house and this made them the envy of many...

There are many who remember Kuruvila as a guiding force in their life. There are some who remember him for his kindness. Others remember him as their headmaster or as a colleague. Whatever he was, he was most of all... one who strove to do the right thing, no matter how every-one else did it... — (From *Shaping Young Minds*, a biography of Kuruvila Jacob by Usha Jesudasan.)

• The sixth in an occasional series on Tamil writers

## The two who wrote a publishing success

The 80th birthday 'Kumudam' Parthasarathy recently celebrated brought to mind the publishing saga he so greatly contributed to.

1947, November 15th was a red-letter day in the history of Tamil journalism. Almost unnoticed, a new Tamil magazine styled *Kumudam* made its appearance on that day in Madras, the other Tamil-speaking parts of the Presidency and overseas

too. That was at a time when popular Tamil weeklies like *Ananda Vikatan* and *Kalki* were household names wherever Tamil was spoken and read.

The new magazine was promoted by two young men, S.A.P. Annamalai and P.V. Parthasarathy, both lawyers by qualification but with no interest in practice. After taking their B.L Degrees, SAP and PVP joined as apprentices the chambers of the noted Madras City lawyer, playwright, stage actor, writer, sportsman and wit V.C. Gopalratnam. They, however, soon gave up the Law.

SAP, as the former was known, was interested in writing and journalism and was eager to launch a publication of his own. Teaming with him in the venture was his classmate at Loyola College, Parthasarathy, a voracious reader and knowledgeable about the literature of the West and also of India, especially Tamil. PVP, however, was interested even more in business management, financial administration and sales promotion. Thus, one complemented the other perfectly, leading to the astounding success of *Kumudam*.

Why the name was *Kumudam*? Thereby hangs a tale. Many have presumed —

\* I was an apprentice with Gopalratnam when I first met them in the late 1950s. They came to discuss a case of defamation filed against them by a Tamil film producer, M. Natesan. He felt the review of his film *Anbu*, featuring Sivaji Ganesan, Padmini and T.R. Rajakumari, was gross defamation!

wrongly — that the name was derived from that of the SAP family mansion, *Lotus*, in Vepery. However, 'lotus' in Tamil is *thamarai* and *kumudam*, which means *alli malar*. SAP and Parthasarathy drew up a list of as many as fifty names and took it to SAP's uncle Dr. Rm. Alagappa Chettiar. After scanning the list, he chose *Kumudam*!

years, Jupiter Pictures, functioned before it relocated in Coimbatore. (On its terrace you could often see a young MGR, then struggling up the ladder, practising 'fencing' with other actors, using 'swords' made of bamboo!)

Among the first to join the *Kumudam* editorial team were two talented persons who, in their own characteristic ways, contributed to the success of the weekly. One was a brilliant Tamil scholar and writer, Ra. Ki. Rangarajan, the other an excellent wit and humorist, Ja. Ra. Sundaresan (who also wrote under his famed pen-name 'Bhagyam Ramasami'). These two, along with SAP, formed a team called 'ARASU' (an anagram using the first letters of their names!) and ran a 'You Ask - We Reply' type feature. 'Arasu Answers' became an instant hit and for years was a major feature of the magazine.

The Arasu answers were pungent, punch-packed, barbed and witty — and were given without fear or favour. Some of the answers became memorable, and one of them is a gem...

That was the period when the Madras Corporation 'muster roll' scandal was rocking Madras city and even Fort St. George to some extent. Much money was siphoned away by corrupt officials who paid wages regularly to non-existent workers whose fictitious names appeared on the Roll! One MR-official made so much money that he helped to produce a Tamil movie! It was against this

The *Kumudam* cover carried the legend (in Tamil), 'Honorary Editor Dr. Rm. Alagappa Chettiar.' Even though he was a barrister-at-law and had enrolled as an advocate of the Madras High Court, Alagappa Chettiar had little or no interest in practising. Instead, he contributed greatly to the cause of education, and trade and industry in the country long before India became free. Though like most intellectuals of that period he was a voracious reader, he was not interested in journalism. SAP, however, thought that such a VIP's name on the cover would bestow on the magazine a prestige and persuade prospective buyers to take the magazine seriously.

When *Kumudam* was launched, its office was in Chintadripet. As it picked up readership, it moved into a spacious building on Purasawalkam High Road which became its permanent home and is now a landmark. The property belonged to a Muslim religious body where, for some years, the noted movie production company of yester-



SAP (seated) and PVP.

the end, which would be a pun or wordplay on the movie title. While it is difficult to translate such puns and lines into English, some of them became memorable. An example...

*Sivangangiseemai* was a film about those well-known patriots, the Marudu brothers of Sivangai. Most male characters in films those days had moustaches larger than life! The punchline of the review remarked, "the name of the movie should have been *Sivangai Meesai*!"

SAP, who had a keen eye for writing talent, picked many new writers who made their mark later in more than one area of creative activity. Some of them were 'Sandilyan', the noted his-

Anything interesting or off-beat found a place in *Kumudam*. The busy-bee ambassador-at-large collecting honey for the journal was 'Balyu'. While he worked full-time for several years for *Kumudam*, he also held a job in the Central Government, which he rarely attended! (How he managed to pull the wool over his superiors' eyes remains an unexplained mystery!)

SAP also regularly wrote impressively analytical editorials about political issues at the national level. He could be a trenchant critic in them.

All, however, was not just film and entertainment. When Morarji Desai was Prime Minister, the weekly editorial would be translated into English by this writer and sent to the Prime Minister's Office, where it attracted much attention.

With several features satisfying the needs and wishes of readers not only in India but also abroad, the circulation of *Kumudam* touched 8,00,000 copies a week, the highest of any publication in India. It was an incredible performance for a Madras-based Tamil weekly. PVP had much to do with the reach the journal achieved.

In more recent years, *Kumudam*, like other Tamil magazines, has felt the impact of television. But even though SAP has passed away, the editorial foundations he laid have ensured the magazine's continued success.

torical fiction writer, Rajendrakumar, Sujatha and, last but not least, Randor Guy. (The last-named got his first major break after much rejection and struggle in *Kumudam* early in 1970 with his true crime tales.)

Expectedly, Tamil cinema was a major attraction of the journal. Besides film reviews, serial articles on moviemakers like K. Balachandrar and other film personalities found a place in it. Another popular feature was a cleverly-veiled titillating gossip column, mostly about movie personalities, titled 'Kisu-kisu' (whispers!).

## Another offering to Zeus

After the Ancient Greek Olympics had lasted for more than 1100 years, it was to be another 1500 years before the Olympics in its modern avatar was held again, when a Frenchman called Baron Pierre de Coubertin felt that the world needed an occasion in this day and age where the magnificence of Man could once again be displayed, glorified, and honoured.

The Ancient Olympic Games was strictly a men-only sports. In fact, apart from a priestess, women were banned even from watching the Olympic Games. A doubtless apocryphal tale had it that a female relative of Dorieus, a triple Olympic Champion, tried to sneak in to watch her male relative carrying off all those crowns. She had to go in male disguise but, alas, tripped over, her chiton (tunic) rode up, and all — or all that mattered — was revealed.

The founder of the modern Olympics was not, then, completely off-course in insisting that the modern Olympic Games should be for men only. It remained so from the 1896 Athens Olympics, the first modern Olympics, till the 1924 Paris Olympics when women were first admitted as participants.

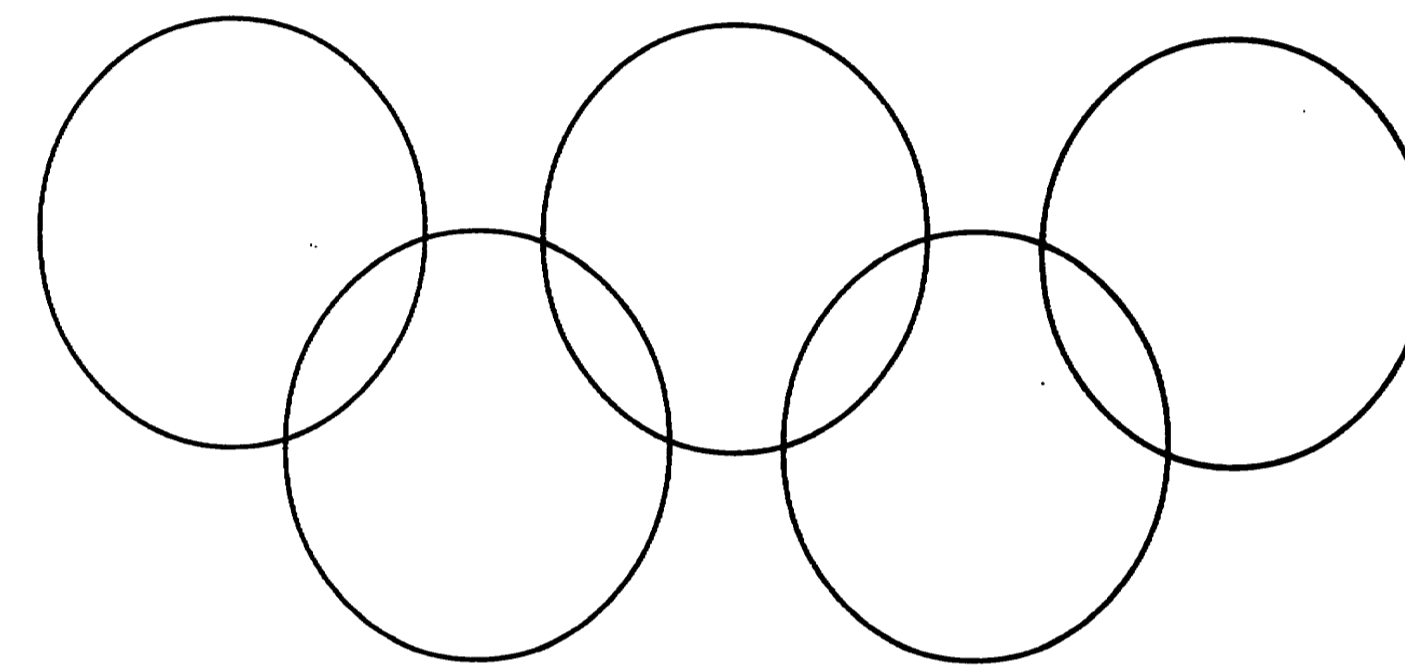
\* \* \*

The prizes awarded in the Ancient Greek Olympic Games were always symbolic tokens — simple crowns made of olive leaves taken from trees growing abundantly in the Altis, or sacred precinct of Zeus. Olympic competitors did not compete for money nor for other intrinsically valuable prizes. Competitors at the Ancient Olympics were, therefore, technically, amateurs, although they earned a fortune after the Games, particularly if successful. So, perhaps, we should say they were shamateurs.

Baron de Coubertin, a member of the French aristocracy, strictly insisted on amateurism in the modern Olympics. But the qualifications for being an amateur varied from decade to decade and from sport to sport. In the 1920s British sportsmen accused the Americans of circumventing the rules of amateurism by awarding sports scholarships in universities. As late as the 1930s physical edu-

cation teachers were considered professionals.

After the 1988 Seoul Olympics, the IOC voted to declare all professionals eligible for the Olympics, subject to the ap-



proval of the international federations in charge of each sport. All but two went along with the lifting of restrictions by the IOC. Boxing continued to forbid professionals, while soccer agreed to allow each country to include three professionals on its roster, besides additional professionals under the age of 23.

I believe the IOC has made

• by  
**ERIC PRABHAKAR**  
who represented India  
in the 1948 Olympics.

the right decision in opening the doors to professionals as shamateurism and financial chicanery had risen to uncontrollable heights. Also, Olympic events should be a competition among the best athletes in the world.

The planet Venus traced a perfect pentacle across the ecliptic sky every four years. So astonished were the ancients to observe this phenomenon, that Venus and her pentacle became symbols of perfection. As a tribute to the magic of Venus, the Greeks used her four-year cycle

## A 2-page Olympics special

to organise their Olympiads. Nowadays, few people realise that the four-year schedule of the modern Olympic Games still follows the cycles of Venus. Even fewer people know that the five-pointed star had almost become the official Olympic symbol, but was modified at the last moment — its five points exchanged for five intersecting rings to better reflect the Olympic spirit of inclusion and harmony. Of the blue, yellow, black, green and red rings on a

This grand purpose recurred in his numerous articles and eloquent speeches and by the 1890s he had managed to build quite a following. The International Congress of Paris attended by 2000 people, delegates from many countries and 49 sports associations for the re-establishment of the Olympic Games, was held in 1894. The fact that the motion was unanimously carried was more a tribute to de Coubertin's powers of persuasion than anything else.

Palestinian cause, but did force the Olympic organisers to turn future Olympic villages and competition venues into heavily secured armed camps.

There have also been many boycotts during the hundred-year history of the modern Olympic Games, the massive world-wide interest they command being used to attract attention to political causes. Among the most famous were the American boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics to protest against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and the Soviet retaliation by staying away from the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

Despite this chequered history, there are only two places today where people from all parts of the world gather: the United Nations and the Olympics.

\* \* \*

For the Ancient Greeks, the Olympic Games was a religious function, part of the worship of Zeus, the mighty overlord of Mt. Olympus. Sport was worship. The Greeks believed only the best offered at the altar of Zeus was acceptable to the Gods.

The ivory and gold statue of Zeus, created by the master sculptor Phidias, was one of the wonders of the ancient world. On the front gable of the temple was portrayed the chariot race, on the rear the twelve labours of Heracles (Hercules). It dominated the Olympic Games.

The opening of the Olympics was marked by the lighting of a flame at the altar of Zeus. The Olympics began with a swearing-in and an oath-taking. It was punctuated by religious rituals and communal singing of victory hymns. It was concluded with a grand procession to the altar of Zeus of all participants and spectators, led by the winner of the 'Stadron' (the 200 metre race). There was a great sacrifice of a hundred oxen provided by the organising city of Elis. They ate the meat which was cooked to a turn. As participants in the ritual feast, it reinforced their sense of common identity, of kinship as Greeks.

However, the ancient Olympic Games could not survive the terrible piety of the early Christians. Religious fanaticism killed yet another creation of a visionary and heroic age. The edict of the Christian Emperor Theodosius I, in AD 393, closed all pagan shrines and ended the Olympic Games... till Baron de Coubertin revived them 108 years ago.

Quiz on  
page 9

# From Tamil Nadu to the Olympics

## ATHLETICS

**Eric Prabhakar:** The national champion in the 100 and 200 metres from 1942 to 1948, he qualified for the 1948 London Olympics, clocking his best ever time, 10.6 seconds in the 100 m, at the Bangalore trials.

He won his first 100 m heat in London, came second in the quarterfinals, but finished fifth in the semi-finals.

Declining to join the Indian Administrative Service after being selected, he decided to go to Oxford as a Rhodes scholar and was the first Indian Oxford Blue in athletics; he also played tennis for the Oxford team.

**Henry Rebello:** The first and youngest athlete of free India to be a finalist in track and field in the Olympics. A product of Loyola College, Rebello, at the age of 17, cleared 50 ft 2 inches at the Nationals in Bangalore. This record remained for a quarter of a century.

However, India's great medal hope at the 1948 Olympics was forced to halt his warming up and stand at attention as the national anthems of the gold medal winners in weightlifting were played. Immediately thereafter, Rebello was told to take his first jump. He took his jump without warming up, tore his hamstring muscle and had to be carried away.

## BOXING

**Ganapathy Manoharan:** Born in Alamelumangapuram village in North Arcot District, Manoharan was only 15 when he joined the Madras Engineering Group, boys' brigade. He was adjudged the best boxer at the Junior Nationals in 1979.

After a bronze at the 9th Asian Boxing Championships in 1980, he took part in the Moscow Olympics and was placed fourth. He won gold at the Mini Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in 1981. The Arjuna Award was presented to him in 1981.

**Venkatesan Devarajan:** Venkatesan Devarajan began boxing when he was 11 years old and at St Gabriel Higher Secondary School in Madras. He won the state and national sub-junior, junior and senior championships successively from 1986.

Devarajan's only gold came in the SAF Games in 1995, in Madras. His best achievement was winning the bronze at the 1994 World Cup in Bangkok. Devarajan participated in the Barcelona Olympics in 1992. He received the Arjuna Award in 1995.

## FOOTBALL

**Simon Sundarraj** played for

India in the 1960 Rome Olympics.

**Krishnaswami Jagannathan** played for India in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

## HOCKEY

**V.J. Peter:** Madras-born V.J. Peter started his sports career in 1950 with the Madras Engineering Group (MEG) of the Indian Army. He was a member of the Services team that won the national hockey championship in Calcutta in 1960.

An inside right forward, Peter represented India in the Asian Games three times — in 1958, 1962 and 1966, and was part of the team that won the gold in 1966. He played for India in three successive Olympics, too — 1960, 1964 and 1968 (India won the gold in 1964).

Peter was one of the coaches of the Indian team that won the World Cup in Kuala Lumpur in 1975. He was presented the Arjuna Award in 1966. Peter passed away in 1999.

**V.J. Phillips:** V.J. Phillips, V.J. Peter's brother, was an out-

standing outside right. He captained India in the World Cup in 1978. However, his best moment came in 1975, in Kuala Lumpur, when India won for the World Cup. He was also in the team that won a silver medal in the World Cup in 1973.

Phillips studied at St Thomas' High School and Christian College. He represented the Railways from 1969 onwards. The Railways, with Phillips, won the National title on eight occasions. He made his first major international appearance in 1972, in the Munich Olympics where India finished third. He was in the squad for the 1976 Olympics.

Phillips was awarded the Arjuna Award rather late, in 1999.

**P. Krishnamurthy:** Starting as a student at Wesley High School and later representing Government Arts College, Krishnamurthy played for Tamil Nadu and led the State team to the finals of the Nationals in Pune and Bhopal. Later, he represented Indian Airlines.

Krishnamurthy represented India in the 1968 and 1972 Olympics — India won the bronze on both occasions. His excellent showing at the 1970 Asian Games in Bangkok won him a place in the Asian All-Star team. He also played for

freestyle event. With more than 20 national records to her name, Millet became the first Indian swimmer to qualify for the Olympics — in 2000, when she competed in the 200-m freestyle. However, she was eliminated in the first round.

Millet became, in 1994, the youngest gold medal winner in the National Games. Two years later, in the Junior Nationals in Delhi, she won nine medals including eight gold, and broke the national record in seven events. In the Senior Nationals the same year, she created history by winning eleven medals including ten gold and set three new national records. She went on to better this tally in the Manipur National Games in 1999, picking up 14 gold, the highest number of gold medals by any sportsman in the history of the Games.



V.J. Phillips



V.J. Peter



Nisha Millet



Chetan Baboor



Ramesh Krishnan

Riaz represented India in the Junior World Cup in Kuala Lumpur in 1992. He was part of the team that won the silver medal in the 1994 Asian Games. He played for India in the 1996 Olympics. He received the Arjuna Award in 1998.

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**Chetan Baboor:** Chetan Baboor studied at Padma Seshadri School before obtaining a degree in mechanical engineering in Bangalore. In 1995-96, Baboor became India's national champion donning the colours of the Petroleum Sports Control Board and helped it win several team titles. Baboor represented India at the 1992, 1996 and 2000 Olympics, four World Cups and four Commonwealth Championships, winning in the last-named gold in the doubles, silver in the team championships and bronze in the singles. He received the Arjuna Award in 1997.

**Subramanian Raman:** Bombay-born Raman played for Tamil Nadu and Southern Railway before joining Indian Oil Corporation. He captained the Indian team at the SAF Games in 1995 and represented India at the Asian and Commonwealth Games. He partnered Baboor in the Olympics in 2000.

**Raman, India's No. 1** player during 1992-95, received the Arjuna Award in 1998.

**TENNIS**

**Ramesh Krishnan:** Born in Thanjavur, Ramesh Krishnan took to tennis at a very young age. In 1977, he won the US National Junior tennis Championship, the first non-American to do so. The same year, he became the youngest ever to win the Indian National tennis title. He became a regular member of the Davis Cup team, helping India reach the finals in 1987.

**Ramesh:** Ramesh reached the quarterfinals of the US Open in 1981 and 1987 and of Wimbledon in 1986. He represented India at the 1992 Olympic Games, where he reached the quarterfinals in

freestyle event. With more than 20 national records to her name, Millet became the first Indian swimmer to qualify for the Olympics — in 2000, when she competed in the 200-m freestyle. However, she was eliminated in the first round.

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the doubles event. He received the Arjuna Award in 1980 and the Padma Shree in 1998.

## WEIGHTLIFTING

**M. Tamil Selvan:** Set more than 50 national records while competing in the 56-kg and 60-kg categories during 1975-85. He took part in the 1980 Moscow Olympics, but did not fare too well.

Tamil Selvan was born in Vellore and studied at the local Government High School before joining the Integral Coach Factory. His best moments were winning the Commonwealth Games silvers in Edmonton in 1978 and in Melbourne in 1982. He received the Arjuna Award in 1977.

**Ekambaram Karunakaran:** He was the first Indian lifter to win a gold medal in an international competition — at the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton in 1978. He participated in the 1980 Moscow Olympics, but injury came in the way of a good showing. He won a silver medal in the Asian championships in Nagoya in 1981. He won gold at the Commonwealth Championship in Cardiff, UK.

An Arjuna ward winner, he won in the 52-kg class at the national level, from 1978 to 1982. Born in Egattur, near Tiruvellore, he joined the Southern Railway in Chennai after school.

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Sashi Nair



(Current affairs questions are from the period July 1st to 15th. Questions 11 to 20 pertain to Chennai and Tamil Nadu.)

1. Name the first spacecraft that went into a dedicated orbit around Saturn on July 1st.  
2. Name the famous Hollywood thespian, known for his 'method acting' and an Oscar winner for *The Godfather* who passed away recently.  
3. Simple one. Which country, a rank outsider, won the Euro 2004 football championship in Portugal recently?  
4. Olga Morozova's feat, achieved 30 years ago, was emulated recently and that too successfully. Who and what?  
5. The 'Freedom Tower', scheduled to come up at the WTC site in New York, has a connection with American Independence. How?  
6. What links *bhang*, *adda* and *bhajan*, among other Indian words, to the English lexicon?  
7. Who is the new Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, the body that plans the financial allocations for the States?  
8. Ratan Tata was one. Name the other two from India featured by the prestigious *Businessweek* magazine in its 'Stars of Asia' list.  
9. Who is to be Democratic candidate John Kerry's running-mate for the post of Vice-President in the U.S. Presidential elections?  
10. On whom was the coveted Jawaharlar Nehru Award for International Understanding conferred in New Delhi on July 9th?

11. Name the DIG of CB, CID who was arrested by the CBI in connection with the 'multicore fake stamp papers scam' on July 12.  
12. If it's Crazy Creations for 'Crazy' Mohan, what is it for 'Cho' Ramaswami?  
13. Where in the State were stone inscriptions dating to 997 AD (the reign of Raja Raja I) found recently?  
14. UNESCO has added two temples as 'extensions' to the previously-inscribed World Heritage Site, the Brihadeeswara Temple at Thanjavur. Name the two temples.  
15. An indigenously assembled supercomputer in Chennai is ranked 257th amongst the world's top 500 supercomputers. Name it and where is it?  
16. Name the idyllic getaway, with a 'spicy' name, near the water-body Kamarajar in Dindigul District.  
17. There are two jails in the State exclusively meant for women. One is in Vellore. Where is the other?  
18. Name the famous Chennai club that celebrated its platinum jubilee recently. Clue: It is the second Indian club and is located in Ethiraj Salai.  
19. Which Tamil film star had the epithet 'James Bond'?  
20. Name the Chennai-based player who won the men's singles title at the Commonwealth table tennis championships recently.

(Answers on page 10)

## A still liveable city

(Continued from page 1)

377,000, followed by Mumbai (318,000) and Kolkata (245,000). Pune performs best on this parameter, with a shortage of only 58,000 houses. Ahmadabad is next with a shortage of 91,000 while Bangalore and Hyderabad tie again, for the third spot, with a shortage of 106,000 each.

Coming to education, Chennai shows comparatively good results. Only 46 per cent of the city's children discontinue school after Standard 5. Mumbai, with 42 per cent, has the best showing, and Ahmadabad, with 77 per cent, the worst. The statistics for the other cities are not too encouraging either — Hyderabad (66 per cent), Bangalore (57), Kolkata (56), Delhi (52) and Pune (48).

## 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 CHENNAI HERITAGE, 260-A, TTK ROAD, CHENNAI 600 018 or C/O LOKAVAN-HALL 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 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.

— The Editor

## CHENNAI HERITAGE

260-A T.T.K. ROAD, ALWARPET, CHENNAI 600 018.

I am already on your mailing list (Mailing List No.....) / I have just seen *Madras Musings* and would like to receive it hereafter.

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## Lake Development Authority wanted

Lakes, tanks etc. are excellent rainwater harvesting systems founded by our forefathers. They are their greatest gift to society. They prevent flooding in the rainy season and help maintain groundwater levels during summer. In thickly populated urban concrete jungles they serve as lung space. Lakes, tanks, marshlands etc. help development of aqua-fauna and flora.

Ignoring the importance of lakes etc., Government and the people have been destroying them by developing housing layouts, forming roads, using them as landfills for debris and garbage, and encroaching on the tank bunds and foreshores. That is why the Supreme Court has now ordered the lakes should not be used for forming roads and housing layouts etc.

Significantly, Chennai has one of the lowest rates of violent crime, making it one of India's safer cities. The crime rate percentage for Chennai is 8, the same as for Hyderabad, second only to Kolkata (7).

But even the remaining lakes etc. are not properly safeguarded and are left to disappear gradually. Garbage, debris etc. are being dumped, sewage water is being let into them, they are being used as public convenience, huts and permanent buildings are being raised and cattle are being reared. All these result in the shrinkage of waterbodies and what's left is being polluted.

To prevent all this, the only way is to beautify these urban lakes. If the lakes are beautified and maintained with people's participation, there will be little scope for misuse. The encroachments along the tank bunds and foreshores should be removed. The lakes should be widened and deepened and properly landscaped with parks and playing fields. If the lakes are big

enough, boating can also be provided. In such beautiful surroundings, the lakes and other waterbodies will exist for ever.

People everywhere are realising the importance of lakes. For instance, the Karnataka Government has constituted a Lake Development Authority. An environmentalist in Bangalore, B. Krishna Butt, has through the High Court appealed to the Karnataka State Government to seek Rs.250 crore from the Union Ministry of Forests and Environment for the development of lakes in and around Bangalore.

Tamil Nadu too should form a Lake Development Authority and seek funds from the Centre and world financial institutions.

Exmora Innovators' Club  
Adambakkam, Chennai 600 088

Mumbai comes third with 10, but in an alarming revelation, Pune (34), Delhi (31), Bangalore (26) and Ahmadabad (20) show their darker sides.

Among the megacities, Chennai has the third largest percentage (28) of people living in the slums. Mumbai has the largest number (34 per cent) and Kolkata the second largest (33). On this count, Bangalore comes off best (12 per cent), ahead of Pune (16) and Ahmadabad and Hyderabad (20 each).

Mumbai (89.77 per cent), Hyderabad (87.88) and Pune (87.46) top the list that shows the percentage of households having electricity. Chennai comes fourth (81.91 per cent), followed by Bangalore (81.82), Delhi (81.37), Ahmadabad (80.26) and Kolkata (77.17). Not surprisingly, Chennai fares the poorest as far as the percentage of households having access

to drinking water is concerned. Only 59.90 per cent of households surveyed in the city have access to drinking water, far below the average for the other cities. Delhi (96.27 per cent) heads the table, followed by Mumbai (95.68), Pune (94.56), Kolkata (92.24), Ahmadabad (92.01), Hyderabad (81.73) and Bangalore (80.89).

Kolkata (89.19 per cent), Bangalore (89.15) and Hyderabad (80.70) have a higher percentage of households having access to toilets compared to Chennai (77.25 per cent), Mumbai (75.45), Pune (73.10), Ahmadabad (72.66) and Delhi (66.81).

Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai have the largest percentage (90) of houses having access to a sewage drainage system. Pune (85 per cent) and Hyderabad (80) fare better than Ahmadabad, Bangalore and Delhi (each reporting 75 per cent).

## Senate House Conservation Fund

• The Senate House Restoration and Management Trust appeals to all alumni of the University of Madras and heritage lovers everywhere to contribute to the Senate House Conservation Fund which the Trust is managing for the purpose of restoring Senate House to its old glory by December 2005 and maintaining it thereafter in the same condition.

Cheques should be made out to the Senate House Conservation Account and sent to the Registrar, University of Madras, Chennai 600 005. Contributions are eligible for benefits under Section 80-G of the Income Tax Act.

Dear Registrar,

I am pleased, to enclose a cheque for Rs. .... as my contribution to the restoration and maintenance of Senate House. Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Name: .....

Address: .....

I am an alumnus/alumna/heritage lover and wish the project all success. My college was .....

Date: ..... Signature: .....

# Bowling offers little to cheer

With four of their eleven matches in the First Division of the TNCA league completed, Globe Trotters is the most successful team so far, winning three of its fixtures outright and gaining first innings points against holders Jolly Rovers in the other. The MRF-sponsored team has gone about its job with clinical thoroughness, registering innings victories over State Bank of India and SPIC, with a day to spare on each occasion. If it was young wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik who set a scorching pace in the first two games with brilliant hundreds, C. Hemant Kumar has been the leader's most consistent batsman, followed closely by Vidyt Sivaramakrishnan. Aashish Kapoor, coming into the side after serving a two-match ban, not only made a hundred, but has also proved its best bowler.

Second placed Vijay CC and third placed Jolly Rovers have been the only other teams to score the maximum 8 points in a match, the former against State Bank and the latter against Alwarper CC. Placed fourth with 17 points, the Godrej Sara Lee-sponsored Mambalam Mosquitos has got off to a reasonable start, gaining a first innings lead in three of its outings. SPIC and SBI are the

stragglers, with the bank team losing two of its matches outright.

It's still early days to predict the ultimate league champion with any degree of confidence, though Globe Trotters has a strong advantage with an early lead of 8 points over its nearest rival. What is clear is that even the more talented outfits in the



division lack the firepower in terms of bowling strength to dismiss 20 batsmen in three days. To score 8 points against the lesser side, while at the same time gaining first innings points over the stronger ones, will, in the final analysis, be the difference between the champions and the others.

All the leading batsmen have been among the runs, with Amit Pathak of IOB making the highest score of 174. Jolly Rovers' S. Badrinath and S. Vasanth Saravanan, India Pistons' Lekshmi Kumar and Pankaj Dharmani, SICAL's Robin Singh, Ritesh Jaiswal and Kishore V. Nath, Indian Bank's Niraj Patel and K. Srinath, State Bank's E. Arun Kumar, IOB's Gyaneshwar Rao and Nagini Kumar, Mambalam Masquitos' Jacob Martin and

Pravanjan Mullick are some of the leading rungetters. The award for bravery should, however, go to left-handed Badri Attavar of Mambalam Mosquitos, who has made a strong comeback with two hundreds after recovering from a major road accident.

It is the bowling department that causes concern, viewed from the angle of the State's prospects in the national championship. With pace bowler L. Balaji away doing national duty, the other members, present and future, of the Tamil Nadu attack, have played but a minor role in the victories their sides have fashioned in the league. Most of the damage has been done by the senior brigade or players from other States, with the likes of Aashish Kapoor, N. Raghavendran, D. Vasu, Huzefa Patel, Kulamani Parida, Rajesh Sharma, K.N. Ananthapadmanabhan and Tinu Yohanan picking up the wickets. Among the young local quickies, the Mosquitos' C. Ganapathy, R. Jesuraj of Indian Bank, S. Desappan of IOB and Vijay CC's left-armed R. Naresh have been among the wickets. Hearteningly, State all-rounder S.R. Ganesh Kumar of Mambalam Mosquitos has been in form with both bat and ball. Another all-rounder to do well has been V. Vijayasarthi of State Bank.

The best bowling performance of the season so far has been the 8 for 36 by S. Badrinath for Jolly Rovers against the other Chemplast-sponsored



August 1: Nee Engey, a shadow puppet theatre festival presented by Kalai Foundation and Alliance Francaise. Shadow Puppeteers from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and West Bengal will be participating.

August 3: Simple Puppet Theatre, Kolkata, West Bengal. (7.00 p.m.)

August 4: Ramachandran Pulavar and party, Shoranur, Kerala. (7.00 p.m.)

August 5: Durairaja Rao and party, Madurai District, Tamil Nadu. (7.00 p.m.)



August 6: Gaurang Charan Das and party, Odasa Village, Orissa. (7.00 p.m.)

August 7: Murugan Rao and party, Madurai District, Tamil Nadu (4.00 p.m followed by closing function.)

August 7: Belagallu Veeranna and party, Bellary, Karnataka. (7.00 p.m.)

(All performances at Alliance Francaise.)

August 13-15: Comex 2004, the Madras Coin Society's annual coin exhibition. (At Kamalam Thirumana Mandapam, 22/23, Poonamallee High Road, Arumbakkam, opposite D.G. Vaishnav College. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on 13th and 14th, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on 15th.)

## Answers to Quiz

1. Cassini; 2. Marlon Brando; 3. Greece; 4. Maria Sharapova. She was the second Russian woman to enter the women's singles final at Wimbledon; 5. Its height is going to be 1776 feet, the year the Declaration of Independence was signed; 6. They have been included in the latest version of the Concise Oxford English Dictionary; 7. Montek Singh Ahluwalia; 8. Sonia Gandhi and Kiran Karnik; 9. John Edwards; 10. The Singapore Prime Minister, Goh Chok Tong.

\* \* \*

11. A.P. Mohamed Ali; 12. Viveka Fine Arts; 13. Madakkulam village near Srivilliputhur; 14. Brihadeeswara temple at Darasuram; 15. 'Kabru' in the Institute of Mathematical Sciences; 16. Cardamom Hills; 17. Tiruchi; 18. Presidency Club; 19. Jaishankar; 20. A. Sharath Kamal.

team, Alwarper CC, in the fourth round of the league. One of the best batting prospects of the State, Badri has always been a more than useful bowler, though still regarded as an occasional one, tried only when the regulars fail to deliver. An off-spinner with a neat, unfussy action and natural arc, Badri is potentially a bowler of considerable merit. If he can somehow develop into a frontline spinner without sacrificing attention to

his considerable batting talent, he can be a leading all-rounder.

That little glimmer of hope notwithstanding, the bowling scenario in the State does not offer a great deal of cheer. With the MRF Pace Foundation and the MAC Spin Academy both headquartered in Chennai, it should be the TNCA's main focus to identify and groom bowling talent of a high order, if at all we want to realise the dream of regaining the Ranji Trophy.

Two pages on  
the Olympics —  
pages 7 & 8

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