WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MUSINGS

- Madras's founding
- **Remembering Madras**
- Two pages of letters
- Return of the champions
- Districts to the fore

Rs. 5 per copy

(Annual Subscription: Rs. 100/-)

Vol. XIV No. 10

September 1-15, 2004





Try Vegetable Noodles with Drumstick Sambar and Salsa Sauce... It's very

Shenanigans on the Banana Leaf

Perfect!

Good old 'Yelai Sapad' - a tried and trusted formula traditionally used at all meal-times during any celebratory occasion pretty much all over the South. A given set of known dishes, served in a prescribed order as comfortingly familiar as the aroma of Grandma's attempts at making bakshanam.

Or so it was.

There have been some strange goings-on for a while now in the land of yelai sapad design, resulting in people asking a question that never ever needed to be asked in day of not-so-yore: "What comes next?"

Now, I'm not against change; or so hide-bound that I can't accept it in a spirit of goodhumoured tolerance.

But, with all due respect to world cuisine, when a strange (and hybrid) form of Far Eastern noodles slithers into your 'Puliogarai', it creates a dazed feeling of "Where-am-I?"

Likewise, upon discovering something that's a cross between a doughnut and a janghiri. The sight of a quintessential wedding guest trying to wolf down Gobi Manjurian Dry (one has seen it spelt that way - honest) in conjunction with 'Sambar Sadam', while wistfully dreaming of good old 'Potato Roast', takes you into a strange, surreal world.

Change, they say, is 'as good as a feast'. Perhaps – but do quests for originality sometimes get just a bit feverish?

A mild - very mild - touch of 'atime-and-place-for-everyting' isn't always a limiting concept. Ranjitha Ashok

What's planned for GPO renewal?

(By The Editor)

The good news is that it is ▲ intended to start restoration of the General Post Office building on Rajaji Salai much of whose interior perished to the flames some time ago. Money for the restoration, it was announced at a recent function to 'launch' the work, has been made available and plans have been drawn up for the renewal. What was of concern was the fact that it was also announced that, while keeping the facade of the classical Indo-Saracenic Chisholm building intact, a tenstorey modern post office facility would be developed at the

The reason for our concern is that when you try to restore heritage buildings of another vintage and at the same time integrate them with modern pile-driven construction, not only might the integration not work but the very construction process of the new could undermine the old. For such integration to successfully work it is essential that both engineers and architects involved with the work are people well-versed in building conservation. We are not certain that that is the case here, considering the fact that the plans have not been publicly revealed for wider discussion.

If the Postal authorities took a page out of the University of Madras's approach to the Senate House restoration, it would do well by the GPO. The University's approach has been to appoint a technical committee to draw up the restoration plans, identify special technical and artisanal skills for specialised aspects of the restoration, document the whole work and monitor on a weekly basis, helped by a representative on site daily, that the engineering and building contractors are carrying out the work exactly to the specifications of the techni-

cal committee. This committee comprises architects, engineers and archaeological experts familiar with the latest techniques of conservation worldwide, heritage specialists and technical experts from various disciplines. The Postal authorities will, we hope, appoint such a committee (as has also been done at Raj Bhavan) to draw up plans for the restoration and new construction and not take the normal governmental route to any construction activity.

(Continued on Page 8)



The sorry state of the faces of a clock on one of the buildings of the University of Madras. Surely the advertiser can lend a hand? (Photographs by REFLECTIONS.)

Madras Day

(By A Special Correspondent)

Was Madras Day unwit-tingly responsible for a tingly responsible for a casualty? Those involved with catalysing the celebration and many more present at the Valedictory function at Rajaji Hall on August 22nd have been asking that question against the following background.

Joint Commissioner Apoorva of the Corporation of Madras who had graciously accepted the invitation to be the Chief Guest at the function found herself transferred from the Corporation within 24 hours of her visit to Rajaji Hall.

At the function, Joint Commissioner Apoorva had called on the large audience to take pride in their city. It is only with pride in the city that citizens could ensure a better Chennai, she stated. Then, she went on to respond to three suggestions the Editor of this journal, who was one of the speakers, had made.

The suggestions were:

 Name the park opposite Fort St. George, once the beach where the Founders landed, Madras Day Park and have a plaque in it narrating the story of the founding of Madras and commemorating the Founders.

- Urge UNESCO, which had declared Victoria Railway Terminus, Mumbai, a World Heritage Site, to also declare the much older and much more historically significant Fort St. George a World Heritage Site.

- And, most important of all, follow the lead of 14 city schools which had launched Heritage Clubs and establish Heritage Clubs in the Corporation schools, possibly with mentoring from the already established clubs.

To all three suggestions, Joint Commissioner Apoorva replied that she would place before the authorities con-

cerned for their consideration the suggestions that had been made. She then participated in the prize-distribution of a day which had focussed on a variety of children's activities. The next day she found herself

A few days earlier, Joint Commissioner Apoorva, who had been doing an excellent job encouraging tree-planting in the city, keeping the city clean

etc., was in the news for protecting with a wall several acres of Advar Creek to ensure that it could be developed as an ecopark, instead of being en-

croached on.

transferred.

Joint Commissioner Apoorva's transfer might have been a routine one after 18 months of making a significant contribution in the Corporation. It might also have been an unexpected one in its suddenness. The reasons for it are known only to Government; we'll never know, will we?

The biggest birthday party

▲ that Madras, now Chennai.

must have had was when the

city marked its tercentenary. At

least then, a rather impressive

volume on the city, its people

and its landmark institutions,

was recorded by an impressive

array of writers, and C.S.

Srinivasachari, that eminent

Professor in History, wrote the

300-year story of the city. And

then, the city forgot its found-

ing day – said to be August 22,

It was on that day, in that

year, that a sliver of land, in

today's Fort St. George area,

was granted to the East India

Company. The deal was struck

by Francis Day, his 'dubash' Beri

Thimmappa, and their superior,

Andrew Cogan, with the local

Nayaks. These three men are

considered the founders of the

city. This year, media colleague

Sashi Nair and I, during a con-

versation with the city's chroni-

cler S. Muthiah, decided to cel-

ebrate the occasion and chris-

would focus on the city, its his-

tory, its past and its present.

The effort was to be a small one,

but the idea was to motivate

communities in the city to host

We felt that such a day

ten the day Madras Day.

A week that

Sowing the seeds to remember Madras's founding

and the willingness of a few think of no reason for the aborganisations to support their idea resulted in a week-long celebration, from August 22nd to the 29th, of the founding of Madras. It was a celebration which began with the organisers putting together a day-long programme on August 22nd to mark what they called Madras Founding Day and following it up with a Madras Week programme in which several individuals and organisations interested in the heritage of Madras participated, attracting quite a bit of public attention (see Page 3). The Man From Madras Musings hopes from these seeds sown on Madras Founding Day 2004 and Madras Week 2004 there will grow every year hereafter a bigger and better commemoration.

these columns and elsewhere, stressed. MMM also recombefore the British there was no Madras – nor Chennai. But after both, there was modern India, the India of today that developed in the State studied his or her from the 17th Century. The role city/town for a year, district for liness to it. Most important of all, of Madras in this development is the most significant of any city in the country - and it is to remember those signal contributions that the birth of Madras needs commemoration. MMM can think of no better way of nurturing that commemoration than by the country's oldest municipal corporation encouraging Madras Founding Day and Madras Week in the years ahead and helping them to grow as the city has.

Taking this opportunity, MMM reiterates an appeal made in these columns and elsewhere many times before. And that is to remember the founders of the city: Francis Day, Andrew Cogan and Beri Thimmappa, the lastnamed's descendants still very much part of Madras that is now Chennai. If the commemoration cannot be in road names or area names, perhaps the park in front of Fort St. George could be officially named 'Madras Day Park' and a plaque set up there, once the beach on which they landed, commemorating their contribution to the founding of the City.

MMM also suggests a permanent exhibition venue where photographs, paintings, books and other records and artefacts pertaining to early Madras could be exhibited and lectures held.

One of the biggest drawbacks of Madras is that almost no one takes pride in the city. It is time that people like the organisers of the first Madras Founding Day and Week teamed with the Corporation and helped generate that pride. With such pride there might come a better Madras.

Teaching it in schools

A t the recent annual confer-Aence of the Geography Teachers' Association, The Man From Madras Musings was disappointed to find that only those who taught the subject in schools

An enthusiastic attempt on thought themselves Geography 52 acres of the Adyar Creek are Choolai – are under threat, the to be turned into an eco-park and wreckers' hammers awaited any sence of all those who teach the subject at higher levels, particularly as the Association was founded by Professor Ramesh and other staff members of the Geography Department of the University of Madras. MMM looks forward to the divide being bridged next year.

MMM was present on the occasion to deliver the valedictory address. In it, MMM urged, as has been urged in these columns many times in the past, that greater attention needed to be paid to the Humanities not only in schools but also in higher education, even in technical education. Every child growing up into a young person, needed to have a solid grounding in Geography, History, Environment, Econom-As MMM has often said in ics and the Civics. MMM mended a re-look at the schools' Geography and History syllabuses to ensure that every child

that the area behind the Ambedkar Memorial and stretching to South Canal Bank Road will be turned into forest, waterbodies and a recreational, environmentfriendly park. Now that the Creek has been completely desecrated and reduced into almost nothingness, some greening is better than nothing. And MMM sees the Corporation's proposal as the best it can do in a bad set

But a thought or two of ecodevelopment might not be out of place. To get the park going, MMM notices that a stone wall is being built around the periphery. Surely, such a wall is not necessary for an eco-park, surely a thick hedge with tall tree markers might be more in keeping with an eco-park? It may be too late to do anything about that wall, but MMM hopes that plans for the interior do not include liberal use of brick and stone, tile and mortar, that whatever is built inside the park has an eco-friend-

day now, MMM learns. So too are a couple of Collectors' Bungalows in the mofussil. All these buildings, MMM estimates as being around a century-old each. Age requires some reverence though that too appears to be a passing era in today's human way

In this context, MMM was glad to hear that while the Salem Collectorate will get an 80,000 sq.ft. building in its huge campus, the 180-year-old Collector's Office and three other vintage office buildings in the campus will NOT be pulled down but put to uses where "there will be less people flow". While welcoming this decision, MMM hopes that some of the lavish grant for the new building will be used NOT to just haphazardly REPAIR these old buildings but to RE-STORE them in model fashion with the help and advice of con-

A similar approach could also be adopted at the threatened police stations and other Collecto-

Attention to sport

Tven while India finds a place Lamong the BEST EIGHT in more events than in other Olympics, it has fared disastrously, even shamefully, in others. Such shameful displays in the arena and actions off it call for suspension for life of all concerned, including coaches, if Indian sport is to progress. It is time we started adopting a more disciplined approach to sport on and off the field, The Man From Madras Musings strongly feels.

MMM has strayed further

afield today in the light of several initiatives being talked about in Tamil Nadu to improve the state of sport in the State. The Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, which in recent years has had a good track record in promoting sport and encouraging the talented, is drawing up plans to provide more facilities at the DISTRICT level and to identify talent at that level that could be then encouraged further. While this is a laudable scheme, MMM needs to point out that improvement will come only with regular competition with a sportsperson's peers. MMM has often stated during a sportswriting past that the only way school and college sportspersons will improve is to offer them a season-long competition through DUAL meets, each school or college meeting other schools/colleges in the area. Eight to ten dual meets in any sport followed by district level competitions and inter-district competitions will give talent a competitive edge and improve sportspersons. No amount of

events that were held did make an impression.



remembered Madras

Remembering the city beneath the eyes of Gandhiii

A walk around Fort St. George, where the Company set up its factory, on August 22 morning, launched the celebrations. About 35 people joined the walk, mostly business executives who wanted to know the city better and who had been motivated after taking part in the walk through Mylapore-San Thomé.

The walk will be held every Sunday, starting 7.30 a.m. (Fee: Rs.150.)

Later in the morning, the focus shifted to Rajaji Hall inside events that would celebrate the
the Government Estate. off Anna Salai. This used to be the Not much could be done in governor's banqueting hall durthe space of two months but the ing British times, being adjacent to his residence. Government House.

Today, though it is under the PWD, it is poorly maintained and only the odd governmentsponsored seminar or meeting takes place. We chose this hall, though many people are not aware of it, to provide an opportunity for people to take a good look at it and realise the condition of the city's landmarks.

Here, schools displayed models and charts they had made on important landmarks of the city. But as architect, Tara Murali, one of the judges of this competition said later, few schools chose subjects related to the environment or to the city as it is today.

VINCENT D'SOUZA

About 15 schools took part though invitations were sent out to about 45.

Also displayed here were the best photographs which were entries in a competition hosted by the Madras Photographic Society and Jaigopal Garodia Photojournalism Academy.

At noon, a quiz in Tamil on the city was hosted by quizmaster S. Suresh. Later in the evening, Suresh Kumar, who hosts the annual The Hindu-Business Line quiz, hosted the quiz in English on Madras.

On the Marina, participants sat on the sands to sketch any



A walk around the Fort, which got Madras Day off to a flying start.

ern side. Artist A. Amalore, a judge for this contest, said that the entries may not have been great works of art, but the enthusiasm was high.

The day's events closed with a formal function at which the Joint Commissioner of the Corporation of Chennai, Apoorva, IAS, S. Muthiah, Editor of Madras Musings, and Bhaktavatsal, who is part of the family of descendants of Beri Thimmappa, delivered their valedictory speeches.

On this occasion, photographer D. Krishnan launched a special project – the Chennai Heritage Project. Krishnan and his team of photographers will the city, as it is today - its buildings and people, festivals and traffic, its sore and its beautiful sights. The project, funded by Turbo Energy, a TVS group company, will be a photographic record for poster-

Many others came forward to join the celebrations that started on Madras Day during the week that followed -Madras Week. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras, Dr. S.P. Thyagarajan, took personal interest in having an exhibition of photographs of the city's landmarks from INTA-CH's collection put up outside Senate House now under reno-

Amethyst boutique in *leypore Mahal* provided space to host a series of lectures on various aspects of Madras. The speakers were Randor Guy, S. evening, writer Salman Rushdie, on a visit to the city, dropped in to listen to Muthiah's illustrated talk. At the venue, ad professional C.L.D. Gupta also exhibited his drawings and paintings on the city.

The catalysts of the Madras Day celebration had decided that this event should be driven by the city's **communities** – its call 24671122.

of the landmarks on the Westclubs, organisations and institutions. The idea worked. Radio Mirchi, the city's FM station, promoted the event and

> even had live feeds on the walk around the fort. Madras Book Club held a special meeting at which S. Muthiah spoke on 'Books on Madras' and Visa Ravindran

read excerpts from some of the latest books on the city. The Freemasons held 'Open House' at their hall in Egmore, where they held an exhibition

and dedicated an evening to Lakshana Gallery hosted the

best photos on the city as part of an exhibition. The ASI team at Fort St. George, led by curarecord on film every aspect of tor Sriraman, assisted in the

Support by way of funds and gifts came from L&T's ECC Division, Sundaram Finance group, Mylapore Times, hotels Taj Coromandel and GRT, Goodbooks and Higginbothams. The first effort to celebrate the city got a lot of media support and created considerable

The vision for 2005 is clear – to involve more organisations in the city to host local events that will celebrate the city.

For 2005, the catalysts plan to put together a travelling exhibition on Madras and provide material on the city that can be printed and circulated. Neighbourhood groups will be encouraged to focus on local landmarks, hold talks, organise contests and host shows.

Senior citizens will also be encouraged to write social his-Muthiah and V. Sriram. On one tories of their local area which can help build records on the

> The city Corporation's participation and support in this community effort is looked forward to.

If you wish to plan a Madras Day/Week event for 2005, share details with the catalysts at mylaporetimes@vsnl.com or

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

another year, State for a third MMM hopes that ways and rates, allowing the old to survive, year, before moving on to look at means are found to make the wa- in restored state, alongside the India and the world. It was essential, MMM pointed out, for every child to be inculcated with a lets, feeding off the Adyar which sense of pride in his own sur- is in stretches beginning to look Bio-fuel crops oundings and background be- like a river again

fore moving ahead in life. In this connection, MMM was delighted to hear from one veteran school teacher that she had succeeded in introducing just this in a few schools she is advisor to. These are taught in these schools NOT as part of the syllabus but as supplementary yet compulsory subjects. MMM wishes more schools would take a leaf out of this teacher's manual if they can't get together and request a change in the syllabus which would better benefit stu-

Inconsistent, that's us!

Heritage and environmental protection have been in the news recently with several actions being reported, none of them being particularly consistent with the other. Can't we ever get around to formulating some consistent thinking on such matters, wonders The Man From Madras Musings.

First there's what has become a hardy perennial. The on again, off again Secretariat project in Kotturpuram on the campus of an educational institution with a long heritage, is ON again! No doubt, some action will follow before long, to make it OFF

Meanwhile, there's news that Police Stations - in Kilpauk and

ters of the Adyar Creek come new. MMM hopes this philosoalive in lakes and ponds and rivu-

Even as we work towards saving a bit of the city's natural heritage, there's news that the Centre has given the State the goahead to set up a special economic zone (SEZ) in Ennore. Not only is this new industrial growth - which could have been generated anywhere else in the State going to congest the city further and put a still greater strain on its infrastructure, but it will undoubtedly affect the fragile ecosystem of Pulicat and the nearby islands. Here is an area crying out for development as a heritage and eco-tourism centre, with its riches of a Chola, Dutch and Mussalman past teaming with lagoons, sand dunes, beaches and the flora and fauna of virgin scrub jungle. To encourage industrial development cheek-byjowl with such a legacy is only to wipe out the last vestiges of an open-to-the-sky past and replace

what modern governments are committed to, wonders MMM.

Under threat LIsewhere in the State as well Las in Chennai, The Man From Madras Musings hears of still more buildings that would have found their way on the Heritage Lists if only we had a Heritage Act, being under threat. Two old

it with an urban jungle. Is that

phy will catch on in days to come.

The signing of an agreement with a major industrial organisation to foster the growing of crops that will yield biofuel and to make use of those crops for just that purpose by setting up manufacturing, clearly indicates the Government's intention to go ahead with major plans for growth of jatropha, sugar beet, sweet sorghum etc. on not only wasteland but also on fallow land in water-short parts of the State. The Man From Madras Musings welcomes an initiative what might make life better for rural Tamil Nadu.

At the same time, Government needs to pay heed to several warnings sounded in the columns of this journal by people who, while seeing the positive side of bio-fuel crops, have also felt the need to warn of potential dangers and drawbacks. One of the major issues appears to be the refuse, residues and leftovers after crushing. Perhaps some scientific inquiry needs to go handin-hand with plans for cultivation to determine how best the leftovers can be gainfully used without being left around to despoil the environment. Any agreement signed with industry should emphasise the need for getting rid of waste without affecting the environment, MMM

feels. (Also see Page 4)

preferably. In this context, MMM finds it particularly saddening to note less and less space being allotted in schools in urban areas for sport. And what little space there is, is used for cricket – a sport no more than eight teams play at the highest levels in the world. No wonder India's Olympic performances are what they are! It is against this background

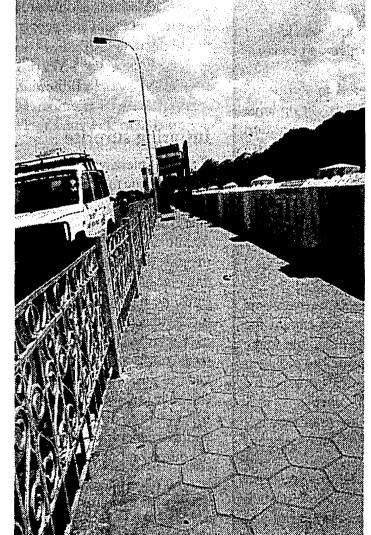
sports facilities will help unless

regular competition is ensured,

on well-maintained facilities.

that MMM wonders what earthly use the Physical Education and Sports University the State is planning will be. There first has to be sporting competition of a high calibre and sports facilities of first rate quality before we need additional monitors, researchers, administrators or what you will. What we need is finetuning of the SDAT district programme that is planned, with dual meets as its focus, provision of first rate facilities for these with at least one such facility in each fairly large-sized town in each district, and then a plan to select the best from these competitors and train them at special, well-equipped, well-manned sports schools. Academic degrees are not going to improve sport.

--MMM





Our OLD is the decorative paving on the land side of Kamaraj Salai, across from the Marina. Our NEW is the paving now replacing the OLD. Why this expenditure, when the not-so-OLD was perfectly satisfactory, though whether it was aesthetic or not ---- & THE was in the eye of the beholder. The OLD also had a rather attractive railings, harking back to some early embellishment on this stretch. Will those railings find a blace in the NEW? (Photographs by REFLECTIONS.)

fathers, while chatting on the bial casu-

ally mentioned, "Why not our

Subramaniam be married to your

They decided on the spot to go ahead

and fixed the next day itself for the wed-

ding. This made people to rush about

and an emergency "Thiruman-

galayam" was managed with one each

from the pairs worn by the mothers of

the boy and girl. This wedding too was

celebrated for a full four days, with all

The boy (my father) was jet black

and my mother very fair and they could

see each other only at the time of tying

the 'thali'. This new couple had 52

years of happy wedded life begetting two

astonished today to see how disci-

plined the families were a century ago

and how well the joint family system

worked. I feel every family should

have such documentation with de-

tails of family life, so that posterity can

I am the great grand-daughter of

Sandhya Venkatraman

New Jersey, USA

Colleen Court, Kendell Park

the couple, at the extreme left in the

It was with nostalgic pleasure that

I read the feature 'Ace at fifty' by

M.S. Venkataraman (MM, July

16th). I was not a basketball player,

but sports events in those days inter-

ested me very much, in particular

the Loyola College tournaments. If

my memory is right, Central Poly-

technic was no longer a force in in-

ter-collegiate Basketball after 1952.

In 1954, it was the Law College that.

was dominant, with players like

Krishnaswamy (a good hockey player

S.P. Sankaranarayanan

104, Kali Amman Koil Street

Natesa Nagar, Chennai 600 092

A part from SAP (MM, August

Alst) other writers on the edito-

magazine catch the imagination of

readers. R.K. Rangarajan's transla-

tion of famous English novels by

Sydney Sheldon etc. were avidly

(Ananda Vikatan). Other contribu-

tors included Randor Guy, Javert

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— THE EDITOR

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photograph you published.

Basketball nostalgia

grand-daughter Sakidevi?"

seervarisai prepared daily.

sons and three daughters.

READERS WRITE

Save the Mount

I have been a frequent visitor to St. Thomas' Mount, both by foot and by bike. I have on a few occasions hiked up the hill, without taking the steps or the 'ghat-road'. It has been a thrilling experience. This has been a splendid location in our congested city, where a person could breathe fresh air. You could watch both the sunrise and the sunset from this vantage point. Also it gives aviation enthusiasts and children the opportunity to watch aircraft landing and taking-off.

Of late, I find many concrete structures coming up on the hillock, reducing it into a concrete hillock, robbing it of its natural glory.

Associated with the legend of St. Thomas, the place where Mr. Lambton commenced his great Trigonometrical Survey of India, site of one of the oldest churches in Chennai, and a place where His Holiness Pope John Paul-II blessed his flock, it is a place worthy of being declared a Heritage Site. But first efforts must be made to stop any form of construction taking place on the Mount.

> V. Rajagopalan Chennai 600 061

Care with water

Here is an idea, borrowed from the drier parts of the USA, to reduce water consumption in Chennai.

Every flush of a toilet uses about four litres of water. Metropolitan Chennai probably consumes well over 20 million litres a day for this purpose alone. This consumption can be reduced by the simple device of leaving a one-litre plastic bottle filled with water and closed, inside each toilet flush tank. This will reduce the quantity of water used for sible-to-dispose-of bottles from

Report for the project being prepared.

required level.

would be comparatively high.

Being optimistic about jatropha

With reference to Reader N.S. Venkataraman's (MM, August 1st), I have the following observations to make. All vegetable oils, whether ed-

ible or non-edible, qualify for conversion to biodiesel. Though a major producer of edible oils, our country has to import more to meet the huge local demand. As jatropha carcus, a non-edible oilseed plant, is rare in the developed countries, they have to produce biodiesel from rapeseed, soya and sunflower - all edibles though the biodiesel produced from these is about 20% costlier for the user than fossil diesel. Jatropha carcus, one of the non-edible oilseeds favoured for biodiesel in Tamil Nadu, grows without any effort in the wild, in all parts of India. The present effort is to raise extensive plantations on non-productive land.

The raw oil can be converted to biodiesel, on any scale, from 10 litres/day, sufficient for a small family with a diesel transport, to one metric ton/day which would be a small commercial concern. Equipment for different production quantities are available or can easily be fabricated locally, at affordable prices.

As jatropha oil has been traditionally in use in India for other purposes and no calamities have been reported, it is obvious that people are aware of its toxicity and use it with due care.

"Preparations of all parts of the plant, including seeds, leaves and bark, fresh or as a decoction, are used in traditional medicine and for veterinary purposes. The oil has a strong purgative action and is also widely used for skin diseases and to soothe pain such as that caused by rheumatism. A decoction of leaves is used against cough and as an antiseptic after birth. The sap flowing from the stem is used to arrest bleeding of wounds." (Monograph on Jatropha by International Plant Genetic

Resources Institute, Rome.) It's true that the jatropha oilcake is unfit as animal feed, but it is an excellent source of plant nutrients (Nitrogen 4.4%, Phosphorous, 2% Potassium 1.7%) and could be used as organic manure. In practical terms, "an application of 1 tonne of this oil cake is equivalent to 200kg of mineral fertiliser". (IPGRI,

Mixed with other farmyard wastes, the oilcake has also been proved useful as feedstock for biogas plants for production of biogas. The resulting slurry was free from toxicity.

As for the glycerine glut anticipated, according to the Soan and Detergent Association (SDA) in the U.S., "Glycerine has more than 1,500 known enduses, including major applications in cosmetics and toiletries, food and beverages, ethical and over-the-counter drugs, surface coating resins and urethane polymers". What is more, if any formulation containing glycerine is to be used on human skin, people all over the world prefer glycerine from vegetable oils (kosher glycerine) as distinct from animal fat. With the craze for cosmetics and toiletries all over the world, a glut in glycerine is not foreseen in the near future.

We have had gluts in the past of different materials but Indian ingenuity has found good use for them sooner or later - gobar, bagasse, molasses, paddy husk, biomass rejects, or plain sawdust to mention a few, all used to produce energy. The most recent innovative use of a throw-away, is the use of polythene carrybags for durable road-laving.

Whether we earn benefits by carbon trading under the Kyoto Protocol or not, the significant environmental improvement (12% carbon monoxide, 20% hydrocarbons, 12% particulates in our buses, autos and trucks) for goods and people will result in improved health of our urban population besides longer life, for the auto engines. That alone should justify going ahead with jatropha fuel.

To bypass the Kyoto protocol impasse, Dr. Emmanuel D'Silva, a former World Bank executive has initiated "people to people' carbon trading wherein "polluters" pay directly those who are actually sequestering the CO, or reducing CO, emissions. Actual transactions have taken place in Andhra Pradesh and systems of verification and certification are being worked out by roping in research organisations and corporates (vide HINDU maga-

zine, June 27, 2004).

What requires to be done urgently is the introduction of regulatory measures by the Government of India. Immediately necessary is a biofuel policy before the decentralised private sector facilities in our country start producing biodiesel in bulk. This should include incentives, fuel standards, distribution and enforcing mechanisms, and, above all, a well thought out priority list of consumer sectors, keeping in mind improvement in urban

environment. May I conclude with the maxim (anon) that an optimist tries to find a solution to every problem while a pessimist digs out an imagined problem in every solution?

> D.V. Subramanian 2-D, Corel Manor 40/41,2nd Main Road R.A. Puram Chennai 600028

Science centres

Chennai scientific temper among the general

public and particularly in the youth the various district headquarter

It was a pleasant surprise to me in New Jersey to see the "Family Picture" of 1927 published in the Madras Musings of July 1st. The information is from the genealogy table prepared by my grandfather, S. Thiagarajan. Apart from the pictures, he has also written short and interesting details of happenings in each family and also some 'special traits' of his seniors. Instead of mere vertical lines and bunches of names, the table is made an informative and interesting document for the younger generation, like me, to read. To quote him on one incident:

My parents' wedding in 1905 was unique and can be said to be a "heavenly decision". My father's elder brother, Sunderesaiyer's wedding was fixed and on the wedding day, two old people, my paternal and maternal grand

I wish to reveal that he came to the office regularly, signed the attendance register and, after sometime, left the office on his scooter. He worked in an unimportant section and was able to keep his work current. None including his superiors bothered about his ab-Balyu (Balasubramaniam) alias

About Balyu, the busy bee re-

porter, Guy wonders how he could

attend two full time jobs (as a per-

manent employee in a Government

office and reporter of Kumudham).

As a friend of his and former

colleague in the Government office,

Vambaanandan alias Jatadharan had a trenchant for collecting rare, odd People like me, in our youth, are and interesting news, like the bits on a man who lived on eating coconuts and plantains alone.

M.R. Pillai H 64/5, Central Avenue Korattur, Chennai 600 060

Short and tart

dding to Randor Guy's article Aabout Kumudam (MM, August 1st), the film Neethikku Pin Pasam evoked the response bathikku pin

The film Neeya Naana produced by my father and his partners had this one line review: "A fight between the producers and the

> Dr. P.S. Venkateswaran 7/5, Gopalakrishna Iyer Street T. Nagar, Chennai 600 017

Citizen Cane

am an old 'boy' of Madras Chris-Ltian College High Schoo (MCCHS) 1957-61, but reading the reminiscences of an older 'boy (1942-) in the (MM, July 1st) left me with mixed feelings as it is difficult to imagine MCCHS in any campus except the present one. For all of us who studied there when Mr. Kuruvila Jacob was the Headmaster, it was nothing short of a mix of Tom Brown's Schooldays and Goodbye Mr. Chips. Everything about the school was terrific, even the chlorinated water that gushed from the taps diagonally opposite the Miller

The teachers were legends in their own right, each with a hallowed 'nick name' that was used for scores of years by the boys as historical references. You were in MCCHS? Which section? Tooth brush or Thairsadham? Engine Driver or Puncture?" and so forth established a bond closer than any Masonic Lodge.

One such venerable personage was the Assistant Headmaster Mathias whose personality was incomplete without his cane in hand. Once, a classmate and I tested our aim during recess by throwing stones near the glass windows. The Assistant Headmaster found out our names through an informer, arrived in our class and gave us three stinging hits on the palm with his celebrated cane. Fully twenty years later, Mathias landed up at SBI Madras Main Branch, where I was the Deputy Manager. For one mad moment in a Pavlovian reflex, I thought he had come to cane me again and almost stretched out my palm. To my astonishment, he did something never thought he could. He smiled!

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

The Valparai debate continues

lover of nature, I personally feel that places like these should be left as they are, rather then converting them as tourism spots. As seen by most visitors, Valparai would appear to be a good place for a tourist to spend his vacation, but he will soon find that joy-ride or a park-like atmosphere, can enjoy in Valparai. Eco-tourism has not taken its place in countries like India and a tourist who does not know the value of ecosystems in these types of place and has no civic sense will only help degrade the place rather than protect and appreciate nature's bounty. There is no way tourism can attract the right kind of consumerism. But the good times didn't last long. people to Valparai.

Please spare this place, don't let it become another hill station like Ooty or Kodaikanal where senseless tourism has only degraded the sylvan places and made them dumps.

> P.G. Rangarajan 170. Thambu Chetty Street Chennai 600 001.

7 alparai experiences high rainfall. It has Y many tea plantations, an Upasi research station and is close to the Anamalai Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary. This is the catchment area for west- and east-flowing rivers, the former towards Kerala (to the west) the latter toward Tamil Nadu. On the eastern side, the waters are dammed at Aliyar, on the road from Pollachi to Valparai. To the west, the waters flow via four tributaries (Sholayar, Parambikulam, Tekkadi and Karappara) to join the main Chalakudy River in Kerala. The whole area is the site of dams and hydroelectric projects.

A little away from Valparai, on the road to Chalakudi, is the Tamil Nadu Sholayar Power Station II at Manamboli, where electricity is generated for Tamil Nadu. The endangered Lion-tailed Macaques may be seen from the road itself en route to Manamboli, itself a fascinating place for birdwatchers. The used water flows to the Kerala Sholayar dam on the Chalakudi road. At another place, from Tunakadavu dam at Parambikulam (Kerala), water flows to Tamil Nadu at Sarkarpathy. There is an interstate agreement for sharing of the waters of the whole basin. These agreements are supposed to be reviewed every thirty years from

Encouraging tourism of any kind will be detrimental to Valparai. I hope the citizens of Valparai and nearby areas will realise the long-term detrimental effects, rather than the short-term gains and act wisely.

> A. Rajaram C2, Century Anchorage 4 Seaward Road, Valmiki Nagar Chennai 600 041

7 alparai's economy revolves almost entirely V around the local tea industry and its 55,000 workers. The total acreage under the plantations 32.825 hectare (tea 25.254 hectare, coffee 4,517 hectare, cardamom 2,906.75 hectare, as well as cinchona, rubber and other crops).

The majority of the 41 estates are owned by eight corporates - Jay Shree Tea & Industries Limited. Tata Tea Limited, Hindustan Lever Limited. Parry Agro Limited, Bombay Burmah Trading Company, The Peria Karamalai Tea and Produce Company Limited, Wood Brayer Tea Industries Limited and NEPC Agro Foods Limited. These tea estates and nature's bounty in the form of good rainfall have made Valparai one of the richest townships in India. Even before Coimbatore got its Cable TV service, Valparai got its own. It is also said that Valparai ranks ahead of several cities in terms of vehicle population vis a vis human population.

When excerpts from the Guide to Urban Markets, by ad agency R.K. Swamy, ranked Valparai district as one of the richest in the country, the news report that followed rattled many in the small hill town. The local tea estate labour unions were caught on the backfoot as the companies, citing the survey,

join Vena Kapoor, (MM, July 1st) in expressing stiffened their negotiation stance to resist wage in-Amy agony on plans to convert Valparai as a tour- creases. Branch managers of nationalised banks in ism spot. As a frequent visitor to Valparai and a great the sleepy hill station began receiving calls from their head offices, pressing them to double their efforts to increase business.

But the reality today is totally different.

It is true, when the tea market - domestic and exports - faced little or no competition, permanent there is nothing the general tourist, who expects a labourers were paid good daily wages. The companyowned estates rewarded the workers with bonus overtime and also used to hire additional hands, usually from the families of the permanent workers as casual labourers. With the tea companies providing free water, housing and medical facilities, the labourers had sufficient disposable income to sustain

The break up of the erstwhile Soviet Union reduced tea exports. Further, the advent of WTO and globalisation has created difficulties for the domestic tea industry. And the domestic market has not grown as much as the tea manufacturers would have liked.

Nature, too, lent a hand in the decline of the area's tea-dependent economy, when rains started playing truant, thanks to extensive deforestation. With the sun shining bright, the production of tea started going down, thereby pulling down the town's economy. Also, the average price realisation of tea has fallen drastically.

Only the organised-sector workers have an annual family income of around Rs.24,000 as stated in the survey. In the unorganised trading sector, the annual income is much lower.

Labourers often land in debt because of the high cost of higher education, which they incur on their children. Unlike the earlier generations, today's labourers have realised the importance of education. However, since Valparai does not have a college, they have to send their children to Pollachi or Coimbatore, incurring expenses, on not just fees and books, but on personal expenses, food and hostel accommodation, as well.

Without suitable employment opportunities, Valparai has been losing its college-educated young to the hosiery factories of Tiruppur, which pay higher wages. Even those who could have stayed back prefer to move out since the town lacks even normal recreational facilities.

With the tea industry bringing nothing much to cheer about, the local community wears a worried look. They yearn for the Tamil Nadu Government to act fast to make the town an active tourist spot which they hope would help transform the local economy from being dependent on tea to a vibrant tourism economy.

The development of Valparai as a vibrant tourist destination is also constricted by absence of freehold land for building hotels and other support infrastructure, as the mountains are owned / leased by the tea companies. Further, most of the scenic spots and waterfalls are located inside the estates.

As an ecological zone, Valparai has tremendous wealth and this potential waits to be tapped. Speaking of tourist attractions, the 64-km drive from Pollachi to Valparai is itself an exotic experience. En route is the Indira Gandhi Wild Life Sanctuary, where the Lion-tailed macaque, the Nilgiri and the common langur, Malabar giant squirrel, elephant, gaur, spotted deer, sambar, barking deer and wild boar live. The unique grass forests, the grass hills, are also located near Valparai. The hills sport tall grass and houses elephants, boars, leopard and other wild animals.

From Valparai, you can visit the Aliyar, Sholaiyan and Nirar dams. Tunnels bored into the mountains and canals to harness the water from Parambikulam Aliyar, Nirar, Sholaiyar, Thunakadavu, Thekkadi and Palar rivers for irrigation and power generation nterconnect these.

But Tourism has to be developed in a sensible way, keeping in mind what has happened to the famous hill stations of the South.

Valparai will benefit from Ecological Tourism, but with care for the ecosystems.

> Dandapani Alagiri No.47, Alamelumangapuram Mylapore, Chennai 600 004.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: No further correspondence on Valparai will be entertained.)

Building castles in the air?

The budget allotment of Rs.1000 crore for setting up a desalination Chennai would be the first one of its kind in India and would be

a day. Smaller bottles may be used by those who are inordinately have no role to play whatsoever! concerned about sanitation.

A project in Chennai has been provided without Detailed Project

The determination of economic capacity for such a project, based on

technology factors, level of investment and realisable price figures. is

the basic input for decision taking and is normally discussed in the

Detailed Project Report. Such reports are prepared based on extensive

study of the various factors such as the capacity for technological viabil-

ity, source and choice of technology, the planned investment level,

affordable price for the consumer and the extent of subsidy provision

that the government would be willing to commit itself to. When such a

Detailed Project Report has not been prepared, the tendency is to

suspect that the datas have not been collected and analysed to the

Under the circumstances, a person cannot be criticised if he argues

It is said that the desalination project for seawater would use Reverse

Osmosis Technology. Though it is known that Reverse Osmosis

Technology would have lower energy consumption, it is also a fact that

the operating costs of the Reverse Osmosis Technology based project

It is not clear whether other comparative technologies have been

evaluated and, if so, who has done it. A Detailed Project Report would

provide such answers. Internationally, around 70% of the desalination

plants are said to use membrane technology, while around 25% project

use thermal process while other processes are used by the remaining

producers. Without proper study of alternate technology, particularly

based on Indian conditions, it is not correct to jump on to the band-

wagon of any particular technology. Since the proposed project in

that the allotment of funds of the project has been premature and

circulation and reduce the number of trips by killer water tankers. Most importantly, the government need

size would involve a high level of risk.

subsidy element from the Government.

analytical figures.

engineering support for the project from abroad.

Apart from saving water, this will

flushing by a litre per flush, saving

Chennai a few million litres of water

trendsetter, extreme level of caution is necessary with regard to basic

Though there is some Indian experience with regard to setting up

and operating desalination plants, they are not adequate to set up large

capacity projects. The Indian experience in large scale desalination

plants is limited. A hybrid Multistage Flash Evaporation (MSF)-RO

plant with a capacity of 6.3 MLD is operational at Kalpakkam, at

reported cost of production of about Rs.50 per Kl. A few other units

have also set up facilities at pilot scale level only. But, scaling up the

technology from such a small level of operating plant to massive project

Therefore, it may become necessary to source technology and

While the concept of setting up desalination projects to overcome

the water shortage in the country is well recognised and has caught the

economic sense at large production levels. It is also essential to define at

this stage as to whether the desalinated water would be used for

industrial or drinking purposes. If it is for drinking purposes, it is

possible that the large sections of the population who are poor may not

be able to pay for it, which would call for the introduction of a heavy

Under the circumstances, it is not surprising that the private sector

N.S. Venkataraman

M 60/1, 4 Cross Street

Besant Nagar, Chennai 600 090.

entrepreneurs and potential investors are not enthusiastic about partici-

pation in the project at this stage and want to have greater clarity and

imagination of the country, it is necessary that the project should make

The first District Science Cen-L tre in the State was established in Tirunelveli in 1986. Realising the N Bala Ganesan vital role of such centres in creating nbg@eth.net scientific awareness and promoting a

subsequent Governments had proposed to set up science centres in towns. However, during the last 18 years, only one other such centre the Tamil Nadu Science and Tech-Others at Kumudham nology Centre, was established — in

The Government should give priority to implement the long-pending rial board of Kumudham also played proposal to set up district science a significant part in making the centres in Vellore, Cuddalore, Tiruchi, Madurai, Coimbatore, Salem etc. to benefit the people living in the districts.

J.W. Thomas read. J.R. Sundaresan's Appaswamy 9, Ritherdon Road serial was a hilarious comedy after Chennai 600 007 Devan's Thuppariyum Saambu

Inspiring surprise

A UNIQUE WEDDING



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

1. A simple one to begin with. Who was India's flag-bearer at the Olympics Opening Ceremony?

2. Name the convict who was hanged on August 14th, after much delay and publicity, for murdering a schoolgirl in Kolkata

3. Of the three Indians in Fortune magazine's 'Most powerful business people in Asia', one is Wipro's Azim Premji. Name the other two.

4. Who is the country's new Foreign Secretary, replacing Sha-

5. Name the legendary French photographer who passed away recently. (Hint: His shot of Prime Minister Nehru announcing the Mahatma's assassination pions and became world-famous.)

6. Name the Tibetan lake that was in the news for threatening to inundate a town in Himachal Pradesh.

7. Which famous, cantankerous Disney character got his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame recently?

8. Which film has won the National Award for Best Film this Year?

9. The international Astronomical Union has named Asteroid 78118, orbiting between Mars and Jupiter, after which Indian name?

10. Which Northeastern State, which also partially lifted the Armed Forces (Special Powers) vate club to do so. Act from its Capital city, was in turmoil after civil clashes?

11. The decision to build public toilets at which place raised a stink amongst a section of the public for some time in the city recently?

12. Who began a 42-day 'renaissance' walk from Tirunelveli to Chennai on August 5th?

13. Where is the Chennai Mathematical Institute's new campus coming up?

14. Name the indigenously built Main Battle Tanks that rolled out of the Avadi factory on August

15. Name the legendary headmaster of the MCC School whose centenary was celebrated on August 3rd.

16. For playing which character has Vikram been chosen for the National Award for Best Actor this year?

17. The Government of India has agreed 'in principle' to create a 'Special Economic Zone' at which place near Chennai?

18. If Zulfigar Ali Khan was the first in 1690, who is the latest? 19. Name the Collector, and his

District, presented with the Best Collector award by the Chief Minister recently?

20. Who was the first Mayor of Madras under the City Municipal Act of 1933?

(Answers on page 8)

Two pages of sport

Return of the champions

The Madras Sporting Union L Club (MSU) was struggling in the Chennai Football Association's third division when a few people decided to take charge and

change its fortunes. The result was nothing short of spectacular - The Club emerged third.division cham-



was promoted to higher levels as either winners or runners-up of the divisions till they were placed fourth in the 2002-03 senior division league, losing just one of their eleven matches. Then, last year, the team won the first division title as well as the Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Trophy and the Fr. McFerran Trophy. However, its finest moment came when it won the Chennai Football Association super league this year, creating two records. MSU became the first promoted team to win the super league and the only pri-

earned a name as great soccer scout. Potential talent was tapped and new players emerged. All the top-ranking players in the city played for the team at one time or another. Several of them went on to play for the State. After being runners-up in

the M&SM Railway Indian Institute Tournament in 1940, MSU won the final the following year beating teams such as Tilak-Moti and M&SM Railway. The MSU 1941 team was possibly its best, comprising players such as Mahomed Hussain, Jambulingam, Gaffoor, Muniswami, Mohommed Syed, Gomalingam, Anwarullah, Ganesan, Sundaram, Sivagnanam, Parthasarathi, Achayya, Nageswara Rao, Panidyan and

When Mudaliar quit the Madras football scene in the late 1940s, several MSU players left for greener pastures. A few even served clubs like Mohun Bagan in Calcutta. MSU's fortunes declined thereafter. After decades in the wilderness, MSU's fortunes took a turn for the better with the arrival of V Thivagarajan, a Chennai Cus-

Father of Madras **Football**

In the 1930s and 40s, no football match in Madras, whether practice, league or knockout match, was complete without the presence of A.R. Rajaram Mudaliar who formed the Madras Sporting Club in 1936. Mudaliar would always be at the ground on time irrespective of whether the players, officials or referees turned up or not. The diminutive Mudaliar was not only a keen follower of the game, he was also a promoter of it, spending from his own pocket what was a princely sum in those days.

Mudaliar ws involved with football activity in Madras long before the formation of the State Association. In fact, before the Association competitions took shape, Mudaliar was connected with the topranking teams and was the organiser and honorary secretary of the famous Tilak Memorial team, an outstanding city team from 1923 to 1936. When the team was amalgamated with Moti Juvenile and re-christened Tilak-Moti, Mudaliar moved on - he went on to form Madras Sporting Union. Mudaliar was not content with promoting football alone; he encouraged sport in general - hockey, badminton, athletics, indoor games - to foster a feeling of brotherhood among the Club's members.

who had coached the Tamil Nadu junior and senior teams for the Nationals for many years as well as the Indian Youth teams in 1994 and 1996.

Thus, when Thiyagarajan took MSU under his wing, he Tamil Nadu players have to enlisted the services of Sugumaran and former State footballers such as R. Shanmugham (earlier ICF coach, now MSU president), A. Mukundan (assistant coach) and A. Anandan (former secretary of the Metal Box Recreation Club, now MSU manager). Together, they spearheaded MSU to victory in the first division in 2003 and the super league this year.

Several coaching camps were conducted by MSU in the under-21 team, Edwin Raj (demofussil to train local players as fender) who played for the State well as spot talent - in and Ghanaian strikers Rashid

gal are given the time to attend conditioning camps in the morning and workouts in the evening: they are fussed over and cared for. We cannot do that here for the simple reason that most work at a job to survive," says Thiyagarajan.

September 1-15, 2004

MSU's first objective is to win the State league before establishing itself nationally. The Club has 19 players from Tamil Nadu, two each from Kerala and West Bengal and two players from Ghana on loan from FC Kochi. The pick of its players are strikers Venkatesan and Bharat and defender Karthik, who played for the Tamil Nadu Kudgo and Samuel Jackson.

MSU, according to Thiyagarajan, lacks adequate bench strength. Due to financial constraints, the Club is not able to field enough strong substitutes. This question of substitutes is important, he feels, because, "The Tamil Nadu Football Association's calendar does not keep in mind the players' welfare. Players need adequate rest in between games. Tamil Nadu players end up playing more matches in the league, super league, Champions Trophy and State league, than in tournaments," points Thiyagarajan.

Thiyagarajan emphasises that if MSU is to progress, financial assistance is necessary, corporate house can sponsor

Districts to the fore in Buchi Babu

The Buchi Babu tournament, which got under way on August 15th, clashed with the KSCA Trophy at Bangalore this time. There was only token participation by Tamil Nadu teams in the Bangalore event, while there was an obvious attempt to make Buchi Babu more broad-based and competitive. A round robin league format was also introduced this year, facilitating greater match practice and exposure to all concerned, particularly significant for young aspirants trying to impress the selectors. The quality of the competition was quite good, with teams from Maharashtra, Punjab, Bihar, Assam, Hyderabad, Delhi and Kolkata, and outfits sponsored by Sahara and IOC taking part,

subscriptions.

in addition to TNCA XI, TNCA President's XI and Districts XI.

Watching TNCA XI's first league encounter against Hyderabad at the CPT-India Pistons ground at Taramani, I happened to overhear a rather condescending remark about Districts' cricket by a 'knowledgeable' spectator watching the match from the pavilion.

This gentleman dismissed the contributions made by our mofussil players as below par and wondered aloud why TNCA wasted so much time and effort on these undeserving cricketers. I wondered if the self-styled critic was not a bit premature in his utterances, considering the fact that the

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contributions

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- we have no other alternative but to price Madras Musings. From April 16th

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— The Editor

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Districts XI was just beginning its campaign in the tournament I hoped he would be proved wrong by some sterling performances by the mofussil boys, for I hold exactly the opposite views of the critic.

treated our country cousins shabbily and they have nobly pursued the game for sheer love of it, despite the limited opportunities they receive. I am referring not only to the rare Districts' player who rises to State cricket and above, like N. Kannaviram, George Thomas, K.S. Vaidyanathan, B.R. Sekhar, Chinnadorai, P. Vijayaraghavan, M. Venkataramana, M. Senthilnathan, U.R. Radhakrishnan and J. Ramdas, but also to many relatively unsung, unhonoured heroes from 'interior' Tamil Nadu. Over the years, playing for the TVS cricket team, and taking part in matches at out of the way locations, I ceased to be surprised by the courage and enterprise of some of these players. Moreover, the spectators' enthusiasm for a cricket match staged in any

shown by Chennai spectators. In recent years, there has been considerable interest in improving the infrastructure in the semiurban cricket centers of the State. There was an abortive attempt at providing a turf wicket in Salem, but the facility at Sankarnagar, Tirunelveli continues to be first rate, and it has been the venue of some memorable contests, including a Ranji Trophy semifinal match, in which Tamil Nadu conguered Bombay for the first time. There has also been much coaching activity that had spread to the far corners of Tamil Nadu — of course, fed by the tremendous enthusiasm for the game fostered by satellite

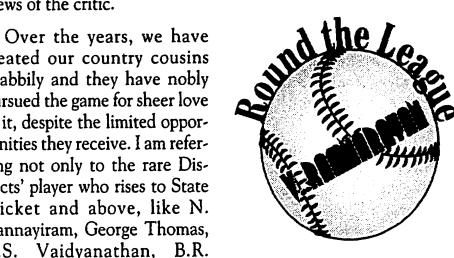
of the district centres is in com-

plete contrast to the apathy

In this year's Buchi Babu, the results were there to see. In the league stage of the championship, Districts won two of their matches, both against more fancied teams, namely Vidarbha and Bihar. Against Vidarbha, the Districts had a poor start, but paceman G. Vignesh rescued them with a fighting 98 in a total of 228. After yielding a first innings lead of 70 runs, they then bounced back to make a thrilling 302 for 6 in 45 overs in the second essay, thanks to an unbeaten hundred by E. Suresh, supported by V. Gautam (73) and M.K. Sivakumar (63). Medium pacer

R. Jesuraj (4 for 74 in the first innings) and offspinner Huzefa Patel (5 for 62 in the second) clinched the match for their team with some incisive bowl-

In their encounter with Bihar, the Districts' batsmen fared really well, making 355 in the first innings, led by a young man answering to the name of a freedom fighter. Subramania Siva made an impressive 114, while V. Gautam scored 41 and



the consistent Kishore V. Nath 62. Huzefa Patel took four wickets, bowling well again, and T. Siddharth picked up eight in the match. Gautam followed his first innings performance with a 50 in the second.

Though Districts came acropper against Maharashtra. they fought gallantly, restricting the visitors to 241 and 168, Vignesh dismissing eight batsmen in the match. M.K. Sivakumar was in all-round form, claiming five wickets and scoring an unbeaten 69 in the second innings. The Districts' party was spoiled by MRF Pace Foundation left armer Sachin Nair who, with Kiran Adhav, engineered a first innings collapse for a paltry 122.

teams, led by Vidyut Sivaramakrishnan and State skipper S. Suresh, duly made it to the semifinals, but not before suffering a hiccup or two along the way. For the TNCA XI, left handed batsmen Vidyut and Vasudeva Das made hundreds while another of their tribe, Hemant Kumar missed one by 2 runs. Wicketkeeper Vikram Kumar was also among the runs. The bowling honours were shared by left arm spinners Ramkumar and Vidyut, off spinner Badrinath and medium pacer R. Naresh.

TNCA President's XI started on a positive note beating IOC XI comfortably in the opener, but struggled a bit in the second league match versus Delhi & District Cricket Association, before second innings' hundreds by skipper Suresh and veteran S. Sharath, gave them a formidable lead. Two southpaws, Badri Attavar and Sadagopan Ramesh, were in excellent form with the bat, followed closely by right hander J. Hariesh. Medium pacer Desappan, off spinner S.R. Ganesh Kumar, left arm spinner Raghuram and left arm allrounder Sunil Viswanathan, all played valuable supporting

As we go to press, the semifinals are in progress, with TNCA XI taking on Punjab Colts, and TNCA President's XI meeting Maharashtra XI. While there is a distinct prospect of two TNCA elevens clashing in the final, given the run of form so far, the Districts team can be proud of their fighting display in the tournament. After all, but for one bad day at the office, they might well have The other two TNCA figured in the semifinals too.

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 ntribution to the restoration and maintenance of Senate House. Indly acknowledge receipt.
	Name:
	Address:
	491999999999999999999999999999999999999

	0,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,
su(l am an alumnus/alumna/heritage lover and wish the project all ccess. My college was
	Date: Signature:



The successful Madras Sporting Union Team. Assistant Coach A. Mukundan is seventh from left (standing).

July 24, 1936 by A.R. Rajaram Mudaliar (see box), together the Club in 2000. with C.P. Balan, D. Alexander, N. Visweswara Rao and Antony. The Club started with 30 members on its rolls and its activities were confined not to football alone; hockey, badminton and

indoor games were also played. In its first year, the MSU won the Madras Football Association league title, winning four matches, losing two and drawing one. In 1937, it was promoted to the first division, where it remained till 1949. During this period, the Club ance of coach E. Sugumaran,

The MSU was formed on toms sports officer and a lover Thuthoor (Nagerkoil), Poonaof football, who took charge of mallee, Minjur and Sewapet

While at Madras Christian University athletics championship 1974. After joining School. Chennai Customs, Thiyagarajan took charge of its teams in outdoor sport. Sports recruitment was revived and Chennai Customs began excelling in athletics, football, basketball, volleyball and swimming. In 2000-01, the Customs football team won the league as well as the super league under the guid-

(Tiruvallur). Promising players were spotted and invited to resi-College, Thiyagarajan won the dential camps in the Poonamallee Government Boys High

capable of playing on equal terms with teams from Kerala and Karnataka. Unfortunately, there are no financial or other says. He is confident that if a incentives, nor are there the support system and the facilities in the Club to the tune of Rs. 20the State. If these were available, 25 lakh a year, all hurdles can we could offer the best teams in be overcome in MSU's progress India a fight. For instance, look beyond the State's borders. at the way players in West Ben-

both for playing facilities as well as players' diet, training etc. "If Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 can be paid as salary to each player, then their families would be secure and the player would be "Players in Tamil Nadu are able to focus on his game. Although we provide them food, accommodation and pocket money, it is not enough," he

Address: . Note: Overseas postage Rs. 550/year extra. Cheques for overseas postage alone payable to M/s. Lokavani Hall-Mark Press Pvt. Ltd.. All other cheques to 'Chennai Heritage'.

Sashi Nair

Little Questions

66 A ppa, here it is written, ∴ 'Hospital Zone — Don't Horn' ... Then why are all these autos, cars and scooters blowing their horns so loudly, exactly at this place?", asks my eight-yearold pillion-riding son, as I make a U-turn. Now that he is getting more comfortable with reading all these signboards and is getting increasingly curious about this maddening world he is born into, I am at a loss for words. I am left wondering how to explain this crass behaviour of a lot of otherwise sensible-looking uncles and aunties without turning him into a cynic. Could some smart and caring parent out there help me out and tell

by BASKAR S. AYER

me how you handled something like this coming from your little son or daughter?

There are a few more questions for which I need your help.

With all the repetitive and impactful advertising on AIDS on so many popular TV channels (all absolutely well-intentioned), what I had feared all along came to pass one fine evening when my son stopped me half-way through a TVviewing-cum-dinner with, "Appa, how do you get AIDS?" Mind you, he has just started studying science and his wellmeaning teacher has already kindled the questioning spirit in him.

Not really knowing how to answer that one without lying or short-changing him, I told

Two pages of Sport pages 6 & 7

him, "Yea... I was expecting that question from you. There is a clear answer to that one, but I don't know just how that should be explained to you. lust give me a few days' time, and I'll certainly answer that one." Being a thoroughly gentle-child (he has taken after his mother), he said 'Alright!' and continued with his mouthful, oblivious of the delicate situation he had just placed me in. The next morning, I assigned my wife the unenviable task of checking with her colleagues, who had older children, how they had handled similar questions.

All day, my mind was on the question, but I could find no satisfactory answer that both my son and I could be comfortable with. And, yes, my helpful wife did come back with a tip: "You just tell hint that it is caused by using the same injection needle that other AIDSinfected patients have used... No need to explain to him the more embarrassing things now. That can wait for a later day!" Somehow, I couldn't quite accept that, although it would take care of today's question, I was very apprehensive that, very soon, he would turn and ask me,"What is a condom? How does wearing one prevent AIDS?" Or, worse still, "Get me a condom, Appa. I want to wear one and prevent an AIDS infection." After all, almost every day, he is subjected to exhortations on TV to use a condom and prevent the deadly disease.

Can someone help me with that?

Then, the other day, he decided to get a little bit more curious about me and what I did for a living.



From September 1: Ganesha, a one-man show by Padmavasan. (At Vinyasa.)

September 4: Krishna Jayanthi celebrations with a dance drama and exhibition. (At Dakshina-Chitra.)

September 5: Cross Roads, a dance performance featuring the traditional and the contemporary. (At Music Academy, 7.00 p.m.)

From September 6: Asha Radhika, a Hyderabad-based artist, exhibits her portraits in contemporary styles. (At Lakshana.)

September 7: Concert by Thierry Gregoire, a classical musician, winner of the Yehudi Menuhi Foundation competition. (Alliance Française at Luz Church, 6.30 p.m.)

From September 10: Exhibition of work by artists selected for CWIT awards 2004-05. (At the British Council.)

From September 11: Reproductions of old masters by Sundar. (At Vinyasa.)

But we hope that an apprecia-

tion of heritage will prevail, that

at least such a technical

committee is appointed. Alter-

natively, we hope that the

CMDA scrutinises any plans

proferred to it, preferably with

the help of its now dormant

Heritage Committee, before

sanctioning them. Robert Chis-

holm's General Post Office

building is too classical a build-

ing to be left to a fate decreed

for it by government engineers.

From September 13: Kamini Vellodi, a graduate of the Royal College of London, exhibits her water colours and oil paintings. (At Artworld.)

September 14: Vinayaka Chaturthi celebrations. (At DakshinaChitra.)

From September 16: Photo exhibition. (At Lalit Kala Akademi).

September 17-19, 24-26: The Odd Couple by Evam. (At the Sivagami Pethachi Auditorium.)

September 18: Magic Lantern Theatre Group presents adaptations of two of Vaikom Muhammad Basheer's wellknown stories — The Love Letter and The Cardsharper's Daughter. (At the Alliance Française.)

A talk by Dr. K.P. Misra, renowned cardiologist. (At Hotel Quality Inn Aruna, Nungambakkam. 6.30 p.m. For more details contact 2447 2162.)

From September 19: Exhibition of the work of Bhavna Sonwane, a Mumbai artist. (At the Apparao Gallery.)

From September 20: An exhibition of three inter-related medias, photo-video-computer, by Mohandas. (At the Alliance Francaise.)

From September 21: Mixed media by Kalaiselvan, Puroshotaman, Rukmini, Vinay and Saravanan. (At Vinyasa.)

September 24: Jazz with Carlos Bica (bass), Frank Mobus (electric guitar) and Jim Black (drums). (At the Music Academy, 7.00 p.m. Invitations from the MMB.)

September 25: Culture Café Poetry Circle presents reading from Pablo Neruda's poems translated from Spanish to English by writers like Alastair Reid and W.S. Merwin. (At the British Council, 6.30 p.m.)

September 30: The third Marga Festival of dance theatre and music. Day 1, Bharata Natyam duet by Sathya Narayana Raju and Anjana. Day 2, Attakalarai, a contemporary dance performance. Day 3, Ther-k-koothu. (At Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.)

WHAT'S PLANNED FOR GPO RENEWAL?

(Continued from page 1)

With Tamil Nadu, leave alone the whole of India, having no Heritage Act, there is no way to insist on the Postal authorities appointing such a committee to draw up the plans and for those plans to be vetted by a city heritage committee.

"You are not an engineer, are you?" he quizzed.

"Of course not," I said.

"Are you a businessman?" "No, certainly not."

"Then, what are you, Appa?"

"Well, I am a consultant – a Market Research Consultant."

"What exactly do you do as a Market Research Consultant?" he grilled.

"Well, basically, I conduct market surveys... I carry out studies by going and meeting people to find out how companies can better sell their products..."

"What's so great about that, Appa? If you give good quality products at a price less than others, everybody will buy your company's product. That's all... Why do you need to do research for that?"

Now, how does one handle this one?

Madras Musings is supported as a public service by the following organisations:

Answers to Quiz

1. Anju Bobby George; 2. Dhananjoy Chatterjee; 3. Reliance's Mukesh Ambani and Infosys' Nandan Nilekeni; 4. Shyam Saran; 5. Henry Cartier-Bresson; 6. Pareechu; 7. Donald Duck; 8. Shwaas; 9. Bharat, the Indian name for India; 10. Manipur

11. On the southern side of the Mylapore tank; 12. The MDMK's Vaiko: 13. SIPCOT IT Park at Siruseri; 14. Arjun; 15. Kuruvila Jacob; 16. Chittan in *Pithamagan*; 17. Ennore; 18. Nawab Mohammed Ali, the Prince of Arcot and the descendant of the Nawab of Arcot; 19. Kancheepuram's R. Venkatesan; 20. Kumararajah Muthiah Chettiar.



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