

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

# MADRAS

## MUSINGS

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I'm the only pirated version here!  
Everything else is original... I think.

### The skull & crossbones in the City

He peers through the glass doors, rather like an enquiring tortoise. He glances furtively, this way and that. Is anybody watching?

No, all's clear. Clutching his booty under a voluminous shawl (in 38 degrees? That's a dead giveaway in itself), he shuffles hurriedly to his vehicle and drives home. Even his car appears to skulk and crouch.

The front door opens a little; he slips through. The windows, draped in thick black cloth, shut out light – and discovery. The small gathering inside greets him silently, raising their collective chins in a silent question. He nods tersely, in silent affirmative. The people cheer – silently. (There's a lot of silence around, as in all such dark doings).

He approaches the DVD/VCD player, slips in the secret object from under his shawl, then grins as the names of the newest flavour-of-the-month stars explode dramatically on the screen – and, somewhere in the city, various distributors and exhibitors leap out of their already disturbed sleep, sensing they've been done in again.

Is it worth it?

Is it so difficult to wait for a (mostly familiar) smorgasbord of song and dance numbers, gory revenge, and happy endings to officially hit the screen? Look, these guys work hard, in rain and shine, to put a smile on your face.

The least you can do is not pull a 'Captain Hook' or a 'Long John Silver' on them.

Ranjitha Ashok

## TN: No. 4 overall...

... but NOT No. 1  
on any parameter

(By Sashi Nair)

Tamil Nadu (TN) ranks No.4 among India's big states in *India Today's* 2004 rankings of the country's best and worst states, behind Punjab, Kerala and Himachal Pradesh (HP). These were the same rankings in 2003. Among the smaller states, Pondicherry ranks No.1, followed by Delhi. Mizoram and Goa tie for third place. Chandigarh leads the Union Territories, followed by Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar.

This year, the survey covered all of India (last year only 18 states were covered) – its 30 States and five Union Territories. Since it was difficult to judge large and small states on the same scale, the survey considered 20 large states and 10 small states separately. Large states were classified as those whose area was larger than 35,000 sq km and whose population was greater than five million. Eight parameters were used to rank states – macro-economic performance (budget and prosperity), agriculture, size of consumer markets, education, health, governance, infrastructure and investment scenario.

HP, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab emerge as the 'socially most progressive states', a criterion that combines the level of social development with the extent of social equality. Kerala enjoys the 'socially most developed' status; TN comes second with HP, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh following. Haryana, Rajasthan, HP, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar prove to be socially the most equal states.

With eight of India's top ten districts – Kollam, Pathanam-

thitta, Kottayam, Idukki, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur – in the State, Kerala monopolises the list of most devel-

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Singaara – or is it Ezhilmighu – Chennai's skyline these days. Hoardings and the skeletons of their props contribute to a visual experience that is anything but beautiful or pleasing.

## This is how we continue disfiguring the city

(By N.V.R. Swamy)

The outer walls of buildings in the city, both general public and government, are disfigured with all kinds of posters and notices. The "Bill stickers will be prosecuted" notices found at some places are surrounded by posters and such warnings are regarded as jokes. Cinema posters are fewer nowadays, but political posters keep increasing – making 'Singara Chennai' an eyesore.

We see again and again the sickening spectacles of the whitewashed wall of the Government Estate abutting Anna Road and other places full of cinema posters or posters announcing the celebration of birthdays of prominent leaders, the political processions (*perani*) of different political parties and public meetings.

In no other city in the country is there such indiscriminate pasting of posters and advertisements as in Chennai.

In Chennai, the Corporation licenses the posters (deriving a handsome revenue from the licence) but takes no further interest in the matter. The law as it stands protects Government buildings, but every other kind of building is fair game. Posters

are to be found even on traffic signals and electricity transformers – which no motorist will miss seeing!

Those responsible for these posters are not children, but commercial and political organisations who find the walls a convenient and cost-free medium for advertising their products and pet nostrums by getting such posters for them pasted on the walls by bill-stickers who are paid a nominal amount.

Even though every poster or notice pasted on a wall should be franked by the Chennai Corporation denoting payment of the necessary advertisement tax, there are hardly any wall posters to be found with this stamp. This clearly shows the indifference of the Corporation to the sizeable amount of revenue it loses on this account.

Public opinion against this practice of disfiguring public places, especially the outer spaces of private buildings, grew so vocal during the 1950s that a member of the Legislative Council introduced a Bill in 1956 to check this menace. He however withdrew it on an assurance that the Government

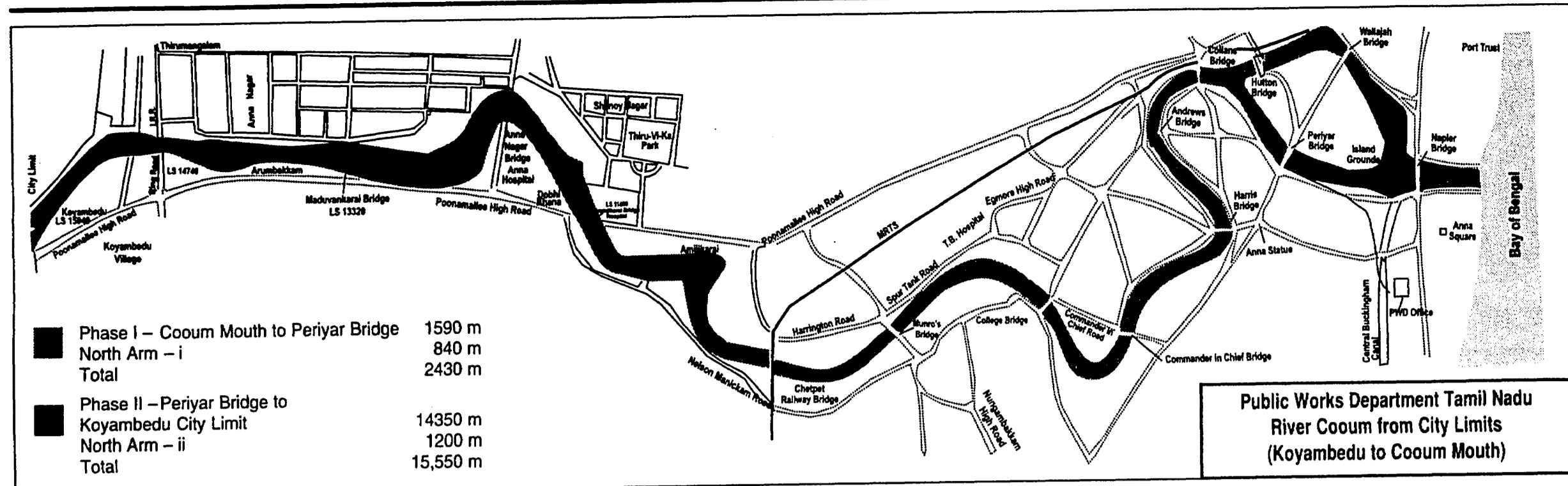
was drafting a legislation for the same purpose.

The Government of Madras initiated legislation in 1959 to curb and make unauthorised affixing, inscribing or exhibition of any advertisement on any place open to public view, without the written consent of the owner or occupier of the property concerned, a punishable offence, with a penalty extending to three months' imprisonment and/or a fine of Rs. 200/- (that was 42 years ago!). The offence was made a cognisable one. It was also stipulated that where an offence was committed by a company (such as a publicity agency) everyone connected at the time with the firm and its conduct would be held guilty and liable to punishment. Despite such a stringent law on the statute book, the bill-stickers go about their disfigurement unhindered.

The Chennai Corporation proclaims now and then that stern measures will be taken to put an end to this poster vandalism, but nothing effective has actually been done so far.

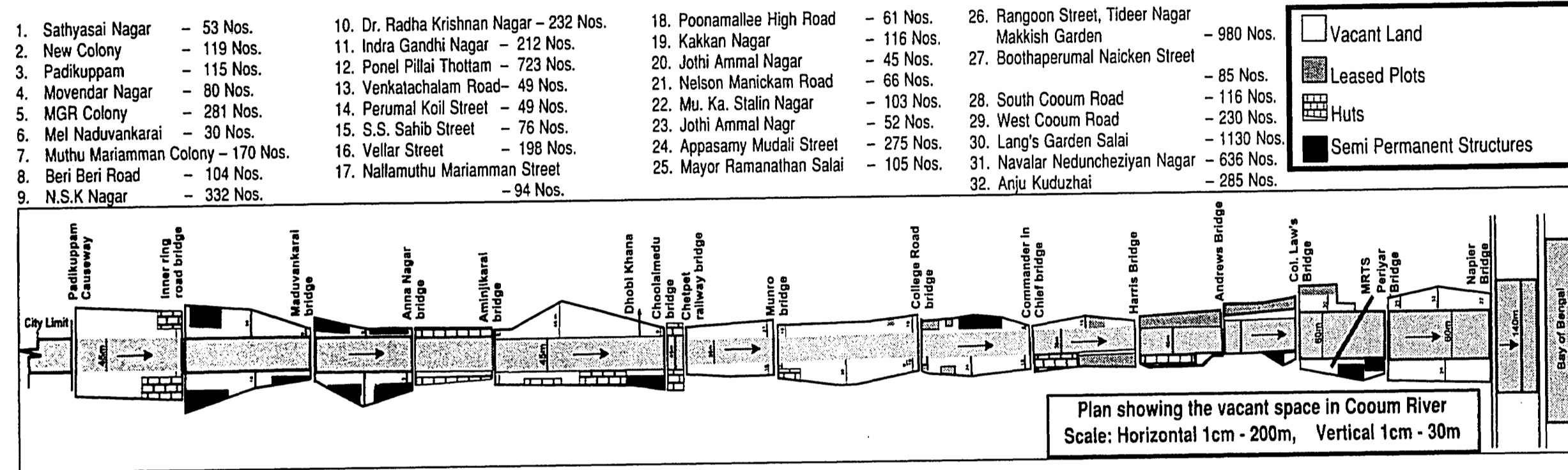
(Continued on Page 8)





# The plans for the Cooum...

(described in Madras Musings, October 1, 2004)



# ...& those for the Adyar — for better or worse

For long the Adyar River was the southern boundary of Madras. Its once land-filled estuary was much wider and is believed to have been the great port of the Pallavas in the 7th and 8th centuries. But the Adyar River and its forested banks, which after the 18th century Anglo-French battles were left to the birds and small animal life, have slowly and relentlessly been deprived of their natural fauna and flora and seen a catastrophic and much lamented 'disappearance' of the estuary that was unique to Chennai. And this in spite of the fact that, in 1987, the Forest Department had declared the estuary a protected area and, two years ago, the river came into the purview of the Chennai City River Conservation Project (CCRCP).

The Adyar River originates from the Adanur Tank near Guduvancheri and meets the Bay of Bengal near the Pattinappakkam-Srinivasapuram area. Of its total length of 42.38 km, 12.20 km is within city limits. The river's course leads from Manappakkam, Manimangalam, Thiruneermalai, Anakappathur, Kolappakkam, Nandambakkam, Jafarkhanpettai, Saidapettai, Kotturpuram and, finally, Adyar before entering the sea. It is widest (200m) from sea entry point to Kotturpuram Bridge, then comes down to 110m from there to Nandambakkam bridge, increases to 125m upto Thiruneermalai, then finally reduces to 10.5m at Adanur Tank.

The river carries a heavy flood flow during the North-East Monsoon, bringing a maximum flood of 7000 c.ft./sec during a storm. 71 outfalls have been identified in the Adyar. In addition, there are essential part of the river that has formed over millions of years. This unique ecosystem was an incredibly rich feeding ground for birds. In destroying the estuary, we've destroyed a geographical feature that was a treasure. Not many cities can boast of an estuarine ecosystem. We could have, but we have lost it.

Former Chief Urban Planner S. Dattatri says, "The degradation of the Adyar happened primarily due to three reasons - it could have been done with less disturbance to such a sensitive environment. Anyway, the situation is not irretrievable. After all, we can still recreate the earlier bird-friendly habitat with recommendations from researchers."

"Till about 60 years ago, the Adyar was fairly clean. I've seen dhobis washing clothes near the Saidapet Bridge when I joined Engineering College in 1943," recalls C.S. Kuppuraj, former Chief Engineer of the PWD. (That they still continue to do so, despite the current bad quality of the water is another matter.) And a PWD official - blissfully oblivious to the laments of environmentalists - reports, "From Adanur to Tiruneermalai, a distance of 18 km, work has been fully completed, both desilting - removing accumulated silt and providing a proper gradient to facilitate free flow of water without stagnation - and bund forming. Of the remaining 24 km, 70% has been completed in the 12 km from Tiruneermalai to Nandambakkam. Of the last 12 km from Nandambakkam to the sea mouth (at the Adyar Bridge junction) 90% work has been completed for around 1 km from the sea mouth."

Work progresses "at a brisk pace" because there are "not many slums on this stretch". Within city limits there are about 1000 slum dwellers along the Adyar in the Saidapet area and Kesavaperumalpuram. The land acquisition problem is negligible on the Adyar banks because the river itself is an encroachment-clearing agency (because of periodic flooding). Another official, however, says 6624 slum dwellers along the Adyar have to be relocated.

Says a PWD official, "The issue of the sandbar at the Adyar mouth, however, remains. During natural flow (a few cusecs) or floods, the sandbar automatically opens in a few hours. Now the mouth is opened once in 15 days, during a 6-hour operation. From April to August, this is done once in 15 days during high tides. During other months it is not necessary. In the future, consider using the sustainably tried out at the Cooum mouth using NIOT advice."

Another official says, "There've been objections alongside the Kotturpuram stretch of the river to our clearing jungles of Velikkathan. If the river is desilted and a bund put up along this stretch, it'll only be useful to the public and prevent floods." But a resident of the road adjoining this stretch feels, "Why do the natural flora and fauna of the area have to be disturbed, when the desilting and bund forming can be done without that? These indigenous fauna serve to strengthen the banks better

● by SHOBHA MENON

2001, there is roughly one private vehicle for every four persons or one vehicle per household. Given the limited road infrastructure, it is not surprising that there are serious congestion problems in Chennai.

**OUR READERS WRITE**  
Peripheral growth

In Madras Musings (October 1st), MMM asserts that "the growth of population in Chennai is considerably greater in the core of the city than in the periphery" and argues that there should be greater suburbanisation. The Provisional Tables of the 2001 Census indicate that the population of Chennai District (which is co-terminus with the limits of Chennai Corporation) grew by only 9.76 per cent during 1991-2001, i.e. at a rate of less than 1 per cent per year. On the other hand, the population of adjoining districts of Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram grew by 22.35 per cent and 18.84 per cent respectively in 1991-2001. Thus, the peripheral areas grew at twice the rate of growth of the city. The same pattern was observed in 1981-91 as well.

The congestion that we see on Chennai roads is not due to the growth of human population, but due to the explosive growth of the vehicular population during the last decade. In fact, older parts of the city like Chintadripet, Triplicane, etc. may actually be losing population. Suburbanisation is taking place at a fairly rapid rate in Chennai. The congestion within the City has increased because the residents of the suburbs commute to the City for work, education, entertainment, shopping, etc., mostly in private vehicles. Public transport has been extended to the suburbs, but is insufficient to meet the growing transport requirements. Paradoxically, suburbanisation has increased congestion rather than reducing it!

According to the Transport Commissioner, the total number of registered vehicles in Chennai increased from 5.5 lakh in 1990-91 to 12.57 lakh in 2000-01 — a decadal growth rate of 128.5 per cent. Two wheelers accounted for the largest share (9.31 lakh) followed by cars (2.26 lakh). Since the population of Chennai City was 42.16 lakh in

2001, there is roughly one private vehicle for every four persons or one vehicle per household. Given the limited road infrastructure, it is not surprising that there are serious congestion problems in Chennai.

Beyond Chennai  
A high-profile National Institute of Science, funded by the UGC and in co-operation with Madras and Anna Universities, is proposed to be set up in Chennai to promote studies in basic sciences — such as physical and life science, and maths — and to provide research scientists for technological, industrial and national development. The Union Government also plans to set up a Rs.50 crore Indian Institute of Information Technology near Chennai.

Chennai already has many technological institutions of excellence, like IIT Madras and Anna University, Indra Gandhi Institute of Atomic Research, Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, Central Leather Research Institute, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Periyar Science & Technology Centre and Birla Planetarium and National Research Institute of Ocean Technology. So Government may consider locating the proposed NISc and IIIT at Trichy, to enable development of technoparks, I.T. sector and other technology-based industries in the Trichy region.

Auto major Ashok Leyland Ltd. has announced a large expansion programme. The State Government has offered 250 acres of land near Chennai for a new engine plant, and a new assembly line for a new range of vehicles involving Rs. 550 crore. Ashok Leyland also plans to set up the country's largest grey iron foundry, involving Rs. 150 crore, and for this a 90 acre site is being offered near Chennai.

But why doesn't Government facilitate such major industrial investments in district centres in the rest of the State?

# Would supporters of MM please help?

About 20 years ago, I used to ride a motorcycle from my place of work at Ambattur to my residence in Anna Nagar. I still have fond memories of how trucks laden with cargo (the big fellas) used to dip their headlights as we neared from opposite directions on the then lonely Moggappair road. I used to reciprocate the gesture by switching off the headlight on my bike until we had crossed. This was a simple act of consideration between drivers to help each other to see the road better in the moonlight without the blinding effect of blazing headlights on oncoming traffic.

Against this backdrop, I was stunned a few days ago when a young motorcyclist unexpectedly wove his way in-between a parked MTC bus and the bus-stop on G.N. Chetty Road and then very nearly rammed the left rear door of a parked car which was being opened by an alighting passenger. Believe it or not, the motorcyclist glared at the occupants of the car in the manner of a most aggrieved party.

In the above incident, there are two points to note. The first is that cyclists and motorcyclists who ride into the space between the bus and the bus-stop can cause fatal accidents. A relative of mine was knocked down by a cyclist when alighting from a bus and eventually died in hospital. The second is that most drivers on the road today do not know the rules of the road. The rider mentioned above did not know that he ought not to be riding his bike between parked vehicles and the kerb.

There is, to my knowledge, no proper theoretical indoctrination and examination of a driver's knowledge of the rules of the road and of driving etiquette. Driving schools teach only the A-B-C (Accelerator, Brake and Clutch) of driving and encourage their pupils to develop a knack for squeezing into openings and for the thoroughly uncivilised practice of cutting into the line of adjacent traffic without any consideration. My own belief is that it would be asking too much to expect the Traffic Police or any government agency to find innovative solutions to this problem. They are bound down by too many of their own constraints and the situation has been allowed to drift far too much. Which is why I am prompted to suggest to the corporate supporters of Madras Musings, many of whom are big players in the auto industry, to come together and produce an attractive educational CD to get through to our high school students whose minds are receptive and still open to being taught. Almost all these youngsters are going to become some form of motorists tomorrow and to teach them now would be of tremendous value in the future.

An innovatively made CD with good visuals and audio requires (in addition to zeal and inspiration) only the initial production cost. Subsequently, it becomes easy to copy and distribute. The Department of Education can insist on it being screened in schools and a copy can be issued to all candidates applying for a driving licence. We may not be able to do very much to improve our roads and infrastructure — these being far beyond our control. Let's at least teach our young people to drive safely and well.

**S.M. Lamech**  
4/10, Ritherdon Avenue  
Vepery, Chennai 600 007

beneficial practice has been given up, which is the cause of many of the ailments such as joint pains, poor eyesight even at young age, etc.

Oil baths were very ritualistic in each household. Wednesdays and Saturdays were prescribed for men and Tuesdays and Fridays for women. The taboo days are Prathamai, Sashiti, Ashtami, Dwadasi, Chaturdasi, Ekadasi, beginning of Tamil month, New Moon, Full Moon and the person's birthdays.

The food on the oil bath day was special, with pepper assuming major portion in Poricha Kuzhambu and Rasam; the meal would be light, no physical exertion on the day to weaken the system and no exposure to sun. After the bath in hot water and drying, inhalation of sambraani (incense) smoke was a must.

Such regulations are no longer observed and no one places much importance on such a ritual because of ignorance of its benefits and discouragement by allopathic doctors.

Old oil baths  
The article 'From hot water baths to relaxing Art' (MM, October 1st) revived old memories. India being a tropical country, our elders had practised oil bath twice weekly, as it was beneficial for the body, cooling the system, cleansing the skin, and clearing the pores of dust, helping the knee and other joints to get adequate oil substance for their easy movements, and other untold benefits. Unfortunately, due to the influence of the allopathic system of medicine, which is purely based on Western way of thinking and lifestyle, this

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- 3) On editorial matters: The Editor, MADRAS MUSINGS, C/o Lokavani Hall-Mark Press Pvt. Ltd., 122, Greames Road, Chennai 600 006.

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.

J.W. Thomas  
9, Ritherdon Road  
Chennai 600 007.

T.M. Sundararaman  
19, Nallappan Street  
Mylapore, Chennai 600 004.

Boat travel  
Reader Shyam Sunder's reminder (MM, October 1st) of boats plying the Buckingham Canal took me back to my school days (1943-45 period) when we travelled by boat, 50/60 of us students embarking at Lattice Bridge and, after a comfortable sleep overnight in the boats, reached Mahabaliapuram the next morning. The boats used to be pulled or pushed with bamboo polls driven into the canal and the boatman walking the entire length of 60/70' of the boat with the poll in his hands to propel it for-

## A big 'Thank You' to 19 of you

We publish below the list of donors who have, between 16.09.04 and 15.10.04, added to the support Chennai Heritage and its voice, Madras Musings, have already received. We thank all of them for their support for the causes Chennai Heritage espouses.

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— THE EDITOR

(Continued on page 8)



# A rajah's wealth, a city's benefits

Savalai Ramaswamy Mudaliar was born on October 13, 1840 to Savalai Venkatachalam Mudaliar and Subbammal in Savalai village near Cuddalore. As his father was in the construction business in Pondicherry, he was later to be known as Pondicherry Ramaswamy Mudaliar. Venkatachalam Mudaliar had to flee from Pondicherry to escape his creditors and, arriving in Madras with his family, declared himself an insolvent.

Ramaswamy Mudaliar joined Dymes & Co, who were into teak imports and cotton exports. Before long, he became its dubash. He amassed a lot of wealth in a short span, settled all the old creditors and got discharged from the Insolvents Court in Madras in 1903.

In 1886 he was appointed the Sheriff of Madras, the first Indian to be so honoured in the Madras Presidency. He was appointed Sheriff again in 1887 and 1905. In 1887, he was knighted to mark the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria's Coronation and in 1891 he was conferred the title of Rajah in his personal capacity by the British Indian Government.

Rajah Sir was a trustee of Pachaiyappa's College from 1895 to 1906 and also created an endowment for an annual Gold Medal for Economic Studies. He was instrumental in inviting Mahatma Gandhi to speak to the public of Madras on the hardships Indians were facing in South Africa. This meeting was held under the aegis of the Mahajana Sabha on October 26, 1896, at the Pachaiyappa Hall. Rajah Sir was also President of the Cosmopolitan Club from 1893 to 1896.

He was one of the 12 Principal Trustees who were the principal subscribers to a fund raised in 1888 to build a Town Hall for Madras (later the Victoria Public Hall). This was a sequel to a committee formed for this purpose — of which he was a member — in March 1882.

When Rajah Sir was travelling in his coach near Stanley Hospital, he stopped the coach on seeing the plight of some poor women suffering from delivery pains on the road. Thereupon he decided to build a hospital for mothers and children in Royapuram and this was opened in 1880. It is now known as the Rajah Sir Ramaswamy Lying-in-Hospital. This hospital was handed over to the Municipal authorities in 1914. He followed



Rajah Sir Ramaswamy Mudaliar

this up with two other mother and child hospitals. One is near the Tirupapuliyur Railway Station in Cuddalore, close to his birthplace. This hospital, opened in 1899, was also handed over to the local municipality. The other, also opened in 1899, is in Kanchipuram and is now run by the municipality.

Ramaswamy Mudaliar also dedicated a choultry now known as the Rajah Sir Ramaswamy Mudaliar Choultry, opposite to Central Railway Station. It was inaugurated in 1884 by Lord Connemara. This property consists of nearly 40 grounds, starting from Hotel Roseland to Hotel Howrah, next to Siddique Sarai. This public charitable trust was administered well till the 1960s, but because of mismanagement the High Court intervened and, framing a scheme for proper and efficient management of the trust, appointed The Official Trustee and me as Co-Trustee of the Trust.

Other contributions by Ramaswamy Mudaliar included: — a choultry in memory of his senior wife, the Raneey Thayal Nayagi Ammal, and a free dispensary in his name, at Thirukazhukundram, — a polio dispensary in memory of his second wife, Lady Janaki Ammal, on the Poonamallee High Road, next to the Nehru Park subway, — a free reading room (library) at Harris Road, Pudupet (Komeswaranpet), in 1885 and — water troughs at several places for horses and bullocks.

Apart from properties in Moore Street, Linghi Chetty Street, Angappa Naikkan Street, Thambu Chetty Street and

Mooker Nallamuthu Street, he purchased roughly 200 grounds with two big bungalows along Flower's Road. He named them *Ramamandiram* and *Ramajayam*, and divided the acreage equally between them. *Ramamandiram*, facing Poonamallee High Road, was left to his first son Savalai Venkata Ramaswamy Mudaliar, and *Ramajayam*, facing Flower's Road, to his second son Savalai Subbu Ramaswamy Mudaliar, who received them after Rajah Sir Ramaswamy Mudaliar's death in 1911.

Rajah Sir also purchased around 500 grounds in Kilpauk from Lord Greenway, known as *Pritchard's Farm* which had been mortgaged to commercial banks by the children of Lord Greenway. This property was acquired by the City Improvement Trust in 1959 and is, today, Kilpauk Garden Colony. The State paid Rs. 5 lakh for the property after leaving only 10 grounds to the family. This is the family's private burial ground and in it are 12 *samadhis*, including one of Rajah Sir.

Rajah Sir also enjoyed on lease from the Peiyazavar Devasthanam, Mylapore, *Seavies Garden*, about 60 grounds with a garden house in Greenway's Road, believed to have been the residence of Lord Greenway. Later, several English judges were tenants here of Rajah Sir. This property was later bought by the family but ended up in litigation and finally sold.

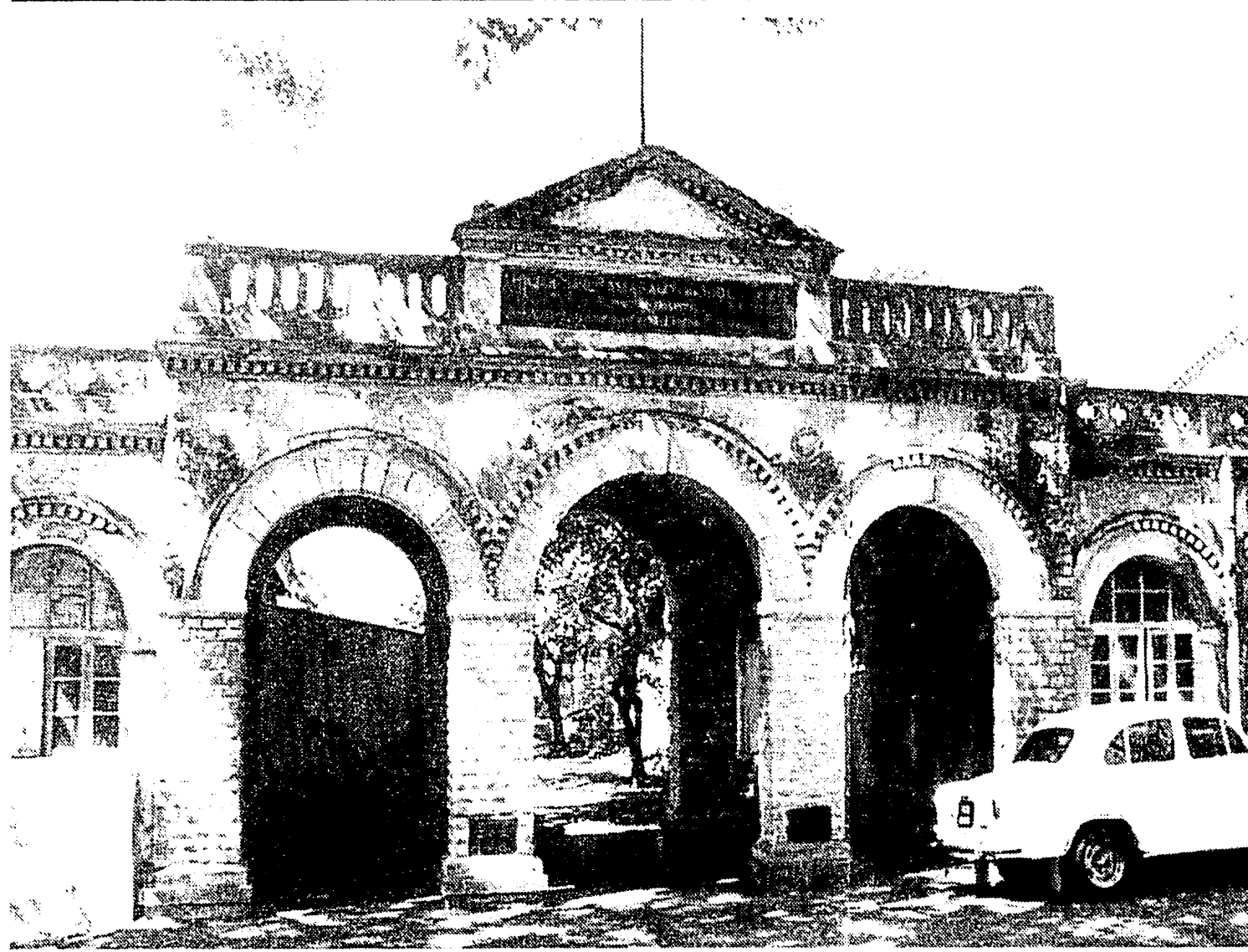
*Ramajayam* was purchased in the 1940s in court auction by the Perumal Chetty family. *Ramamandiram* was sold in several bits and pieces, only a Ganesh Temple with land of 1½ grounds remaining with me.

Ramaswamy Mudaliar's first son, Venkata Ramaswamy Mudaliar, became a director of the Imperial Bank and a member of the Madras Corporation. Very interested in art and antiques, he had a fine collection of various priceless and rare Moghul, Rajput, Persian, Chinese, Japanese, Raja Ravi Varma and Kalidas paintings, and bronze, marble and panchaloka sculptures. Devi Prasad Roy Chowdury, the first Indian Principal of the School of Arts, stayed in the bungalow with his sister.

Savalai Venkata Ramaswamy Mudaliar had only four daughters and adopted his own grandson S.V. Ramakrishnan, born to his first daughter. I am S.V. Ramakrishnan's son.

S.V.R. Ramprasad

## Two pages of Madras in another age

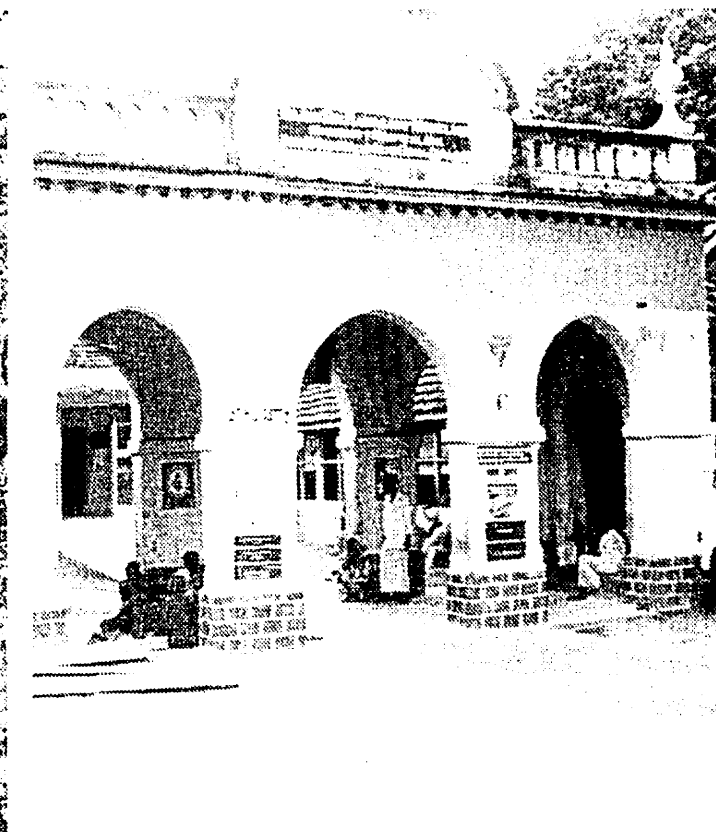
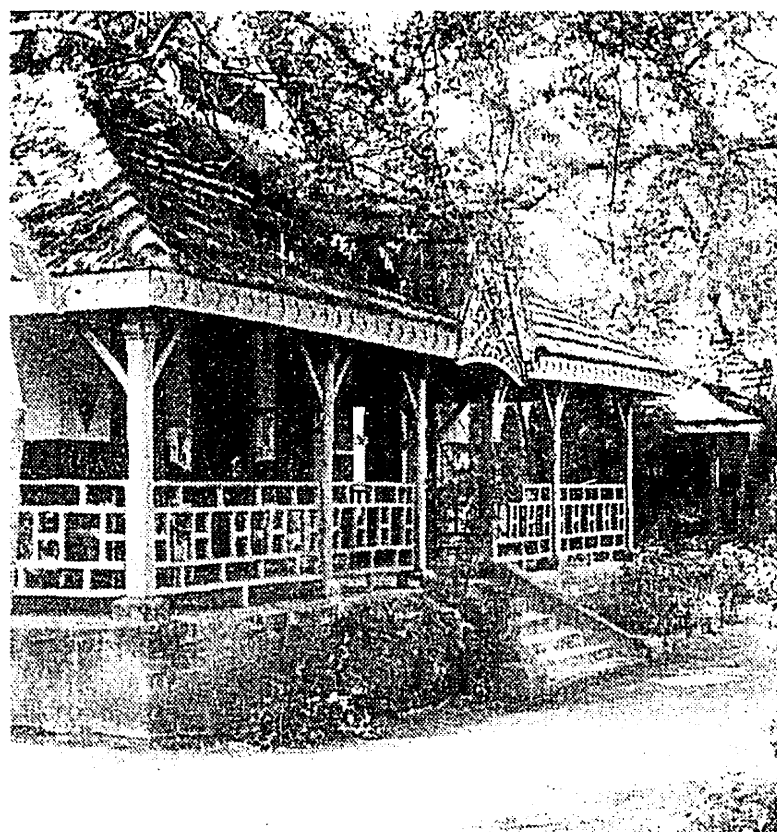


Our OLD is the striking entrance to the R.S.R.M. lying-in-home in Royapuram after it was opened in 1880. Also belonging to that era are the lying-in-homes built in the 19th Century by Rajah Sir Ramaswamy Mudaliar in Cuddalore (bottom left) and Kanchipuram (bottom right).

### THE OLD...

Our NEW is the R.S.R.M. lying-in-home as it is today, the OLD having been pulled down to make way for the strictly functional-looking NEW that the Corporation of Madras runs. That it is run and the historic name retained is something to be noted with satisfaction.

### ...& THE NEW



## A gift of 120 years ago

The absence of a choultry, situated in a convenient locality and spacious enough to accommodate all classes of the community, has been making itself painfully felt ever since the terminus of the Madras Railway was transferred from Royapuram to the southwest end of Black Town. Bad as things were during the early days of the Madras Railway Central Station, the necessity for a large choultry became more pressing and urgent as year after year the passenger traffic on the South Indian Railway developed to its present large proportions. The facilities for travelling afforded by these two lines of Railway daily bring from all parts of the Presidency into Madras hundreds of people, of all castes and creeds, on a variety of errands, who have only to stay here for a day or two, and who may not be in a position to secure a suitable house to live in during their short sojourn here. The idea of supplying this long-felt want entered into my mind many years ago. It struck me that it was a blot on the reputation of my well-beloved city that it lacked the means of affording a hospitable welcome to strangers; and I felt no peace of mind until, on the occasion of the celebration of the Vidhyarambam ceremony of my son, I made up my mind to erect a choultry in some central locality.

From the first, I have been most anxious that while the choultry should be large enough to meet the wants of all classes of the native community, the various parts of it should be so located and organised as to be in keeping and in harmony with the traditions, habits and customs of the people.

The site on which the choultry is built was selected by me as the best available. It is central in relation to the several suburbs of Madras; it is close to both the Railway terminal stations; it is within easy reach of the High Court, the Madras Pier and places of business like Banks and Mercantile Houses. It is sufficiently large in area, and will, under efficient management, be found to possess great sanitary advantages. I stand indebted to the late Governor Lord Connemara for granting me the use of this site.

When the sanction of Government was accorded for the site on which the choultry is built, the ground was little better than a swamp, low in level, dis-



The Rajah Sir Ramaswamy Mudaliar Choultry today with the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation signage atop its own.

figured by hollow pits and tanks, and overgrown with weeds. The tanks had to be closed, the pits to be filled up, the weeds cleared out, and the level considerably raised with sea-sand over nearly the whole area. The Hospital Assistants' quarters formerly located on this site had to be removed at my cost, and I had further to rebuild other quarters on the ground to the west of the choultry.

ditional notions of a choultry was to provide for the permanent employment of a Brahmin cook for supplying food at a reasonable cost to travellers irrespective of caste.

The choultry with all its adjuncts, appurtenances and equipment, and with the endowment of Rs. 20,000, has involved an expenditure of about a lakh of rupees. The building consists of blocks with kitchens, utensils

stitution of its kind in the city of Madras. Careful as I have attempted to be to provide against all difficulties, actual experience extending over a couple of years will be of great use to me in modifying my present scheme or adding to it. Inconveniences not foreseen by me may be brought to light. Accommodation that I at present consider sufficient may prove insufficient. The management under rules of a body like the Municipality will want the freedom and the elasticity required for effecting improvements. I have, therefore, thought it desirable to have the choultry under my own management till the end of 1894. On January 1, 1895, the choultry will pass into the hands of the Municipal Commissioners.

I have also a strong desire to constitute a separate fund for providing one meal a day at the choultry for 100 destitute invalid poor. This much-cherished object, I hope to be able to accomplish within the next years. After the first trials are over, I shall most gladly consign it to the care of the Municipality, who will, I have no doubt, stand to it foster-mother and guardian and see that, as the years go by, its usefulness is in no way impaired, or its stability endangered.

Your Excellencies will afford me great pleasure by planting two trees in the choultry compound in commemoration of this occasion. My Lord, the tree that I desire you to plant is known to us as the *Arasu*, or the king of trees. The tree that Lady Wenlock will do me great favour by planting is the Indian *Margosa* tree, the traditional spouse of the *Arasu*. These two trees in wedded union represent, according to Hindu traditions, fecundity and prosperity.

● Excerpts from Savalai Ramaswamy Mudaliar's address in 1884 on the occasion of his gift to the city of a choultry near Central Station, inaugurated by the Governor, Lord Wenlock, and Lady Wenlock.

I came to a conclusion in regard to the general plan and design of the buildings only after personally inspecting some of the larger choultrys in the Presidency. The idea of providing separate and suitable accommodation for people of different castes and creeds made it necessary that the plan should be carefully considered. The entire structure is of stone and brick in chunam, plastered with cement.

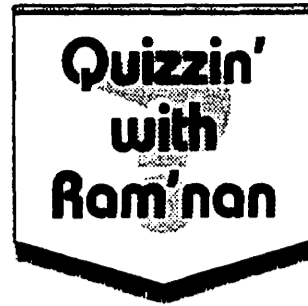
One important and necessary adjunct to a large choultry is a bazaar at which the articles ordinarily required for food could be bought without long distances having to be gone by comparative strangers to the town especially after sunset. I have accordingly provided for a number of bazaars which, I trust, will meet all ordinary requirements. I may state in passing that this bazaar will also be a source of revenue towards the up-keep of this choultry. Another thing that had to be done according to the tra-

and pipes for the supply of water. The first block is to be appropriated for the use of Mudaliyars, Nayudus and Pillais. The next block is for the Brahmin cook to lodge in. The third is to be reserved for all classes of Brahmins. The fourth is for Marwaries and Chetties. The two blocks at the eastern end of the compound are to be used by Muhammadans, Native Christians and Eurasians. In addition to the six blocks, there is a seventh block, expressly built for the use of myself and my descendants who are to have an exclusive right of using it.

It is a matter of prime importance that an institution like this should be placed under efficient management... willing to treat all classes of the community alike, without partiality or prejudice. Such a body I find in the Municipal Commissioners for the town of Madras.

This choultry is the first in-





(Current Affairs questions are from the period September 15th to 30th. Questions 11 to 20 pertain to Chennai and Tamil Nadu.)

- Who was elected new president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India?
- Of the three weightlifters on whom the IOA has imposed life-bans, one is S. Sunaina. Name the other two 'Olympians'.
- Name the eminent writer, considered one of a troika with R.K. Narayan and Raja Rao, who passed away at the age of 99 on September 28th.
- Which person, an awardee of Bharat Ratna, celebrated his/her platinum birthday on September 28th?
- Which company in the Indian engineering sector became the first to list its securities on the NYSE recently?
- Who won the biennial ICC Champions Trophy in London on September 25th?
- Name the brain behind India's first nuclear test in 1974, and the doyen of the country's nuclear programme, who passed away on September 24th.
- Which Indian public service institution, the largest of its kind in the world, celebrated its sesquicentennial on October 1st?
- Which controversial Act was repealed by an ordinance on September 21st?
- Name India's exclusive satellite for educational services that was launched recently.

- Which eminent Chennaiite's visiting card will now have a logo designed by Vidya Sagar, a school for children with disabilities, to indicate he is their global brand ambassador?
- If MGR was Puratchi Thalaivar, who is Puratchi Kalaignar?
- What is the title of the recently-announced Rajnikant starrer to be produced by Sivaji Productions?
- Name the ASI heritage fort, built in 1687 by Vijaya Raghunatha Thevar, located about 20 km from Pudukkottai town.
- What do the initials P.S. stand for in P.S. Higher Secondary School that will celebrate its centenary next year?
- Who has again been posted as the Commissioner of Police of Greater Chennai?
- If it's Moubrays Road for TTK Salai, what was it for Ramakrishna Math Road?
- Who have been chosen for the State Best Actor and Actress awards for 2002?
- Who won the inaugural ATP Open tennis tournament in Chennai (then called the Gold Flake Open) in 1997?
- Name the former Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker (between 1989 and 1991) who passed away on September 21st.

(Answers on page 8)

# School life in another age

(Continued from last fortnight)

"At this rate, boys, you will not clear the School Final hurdle even at your sixth attempt."

This warning was not administered to us when we were in the School Final class, but when we were on the starting line, as it were, in the First Form.

V.A. Sundaram Iyer, who taught English in the First Form at the beginning of the Twenties in the P.S. High School had no narrow view of his duties. From First Form to Sixth Form the course was an integrated whole, and if a boy did not get the rudiments at the very start, further progress could not be vitiated.

**C.P. Seshadri**  
News Editor, *The Indian Express*  
Madras

I vividly remember the tall Sethurama Iyer and the fair V.A. Sundaram Iyer, the former noted for caning and the latter for lifting the boys by the ears on the bench, or for screwing their ears till they became red—really terrors among the V Standard boys in those days.

**S. Rajagopalan**  
Superintending Engineer  
(Public Health)  
Government of Madras

Not all bookworms, we held sports in high esteem. Javad Hussain, who flashed like lightning over the Football field, was a popular hero. Histrionics too were much in demand. On several occasions, V.C. Gopalaram, our Tamil Star, drew to our rehearsals in *propria persona* the then young and sprightly playwright-actor P. Sambanda Mudaliar.

**Prof. K. Swaminathan**  
Retired Principal, Government  
Arts College, Madras

The year 1923 witnessed the passing away of Panchapagesa Aiyar. With him, we may say, a chapter in the history of the school closed... I still remember the hushed silence that fell on the large gathering of boys as, in solemn words, he called out a boy who had been held guilty of an act of gross misconduct and caned him in the open prayer hall.

**K. Narayanan**  
Under Secretary, Ministry of  
Transport, New Delhi

When I first attended the Secondary School, I almost ex-

pected to see Subramania Iyer, who was described by my grandfather as being extraordinarily heavy and whose liking for horse-riding was to the disadvantage of the horse. The story was that he used to get on the horse by standing on an elevated verandah and land on the poor steed which would buckle under his weight.

I saw in my young life two Headmasters, the second one for a brief period of one year or less. The first was a more robust personality, that was how he struck us then. He was more popularly known by his nickname than his real one. Even now, I can recall him marching to the School preceded by a peon with book, chalk and cane as if to drive the ghosts away! Then, the Headmaster came striding, a roly-poly type of a man, after his lunch, chewing his *paan*, his coat unbuttoned, as if he was prepared to take one and all in a free style wrestling. We were firmly convinced then, and I have no reason now to doubt it, that the School recognised the hour of ten, the opening hour, only when the Headmaster reached the School.

**P. Chentsal Rao**  
Secretary, Federated Chamber  
of Commerce, New Delhi

I remember very vividly that day of days, thirtyseven years ago, when with my hair done into a pigtail like a girl and decked with flowers I entered the Third Class room with great awe and timidly took my seat.

**V. Vasudevan**  
Secretary to Government  
Agriculture Department, Madras

My reminiscences will not be complete without a reference to the Mirza brothers, Daud Ali and Hifazat Ali. Daud Ali was an ardent nationalist even in those days and I recollect myself, Daud Ali and others seeking shelter in a building to escape injury from a hail of stones and brickbats hurled by followers of the opposite camp. His brother Hifazat Ali, a lanky chap, used to be very good at athletic sports. Competitions at the annual Founder's Day celebrations were very keenly contested by Hifazat Ali and T.R. Ramabhadran, another equally tall figure.

**K. Ranganathan**  
Deputy Secretary, Ministry of  
Transport, New Delhi

The mention of the Headmaster (A. K. Krishnaswami Ayyar) reminds me of his lessons in optional Mathematics. He was a class by himself in teaching algebra and geometry. For this purpose, he brought into his armoury several weapons. One was a generous use of pieces of chalk of various colours. It is an unforgettable sight—his walking into the class room with a grim face, piloted by the peon dutifully carrying the cartons containing chalk pieces of various hues. His more formidable weapon to drive home the lesson, however, was his acrobatics on the platform. As he made a liberal use of the colours to demonstrate a geometrical problem, he would run hither and thither traversing the whole length of the platform and making full use of the long blackboard. For every step in the solution of the problem, he had a meaningful gesture. With a jump and a thud, a glee on his face and a clapping of the hands, he would come down on the platform as the theorem was finally established. We would all be in glee too...

**N. Krishnamurthi**  
New Delhi

About 1905, several public institutions came into existence. They are:

The Mylapore Provincial Co-operative Bank founded by the late Sir V.C. Desikachariar; The Mylapore Club, The Ranade Library, and The Venkataramana Ayurvedic Free Dispensary and the Mylapore Sanskrit College founded and endowed by the late Hon'ble V. Krishnaswami Aiyer, who earned much and spent a lot for charity; The Ramakrishna Mutt was founded in a new building on the Brodies Road (south of Big Tank)... and lastly the Sri Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home was founded by Swami Ramakrishnananda, in collaboration with my uncle, the late Rao Saheb C. Ramaswami Ayyangar. When all these great institutions came into being in 1905, a need for a High School in this part of our suburb was very keenly felt... Our new high school was very lucky to secure for its habitation at its very start a big commodious, spacious building, *Sarada Vilas*, which belonged to my father V.C. Seshachariar... Shortly after, this school managed to procure another spacious and big building (adjacent to *Sarada Vilas*), *Krishna Vilas*, belonging to

When we were students of V Form, Bhuvanahamurthi Rao started the 'Study Circle'. Soon, we began to publish a Weekly News Bulletin... In 1955, the first issue of our School Magazine was published... Our standard can be appreciated easily if I mention that an article on 'Appraisal of Mahatma Gandhi' written by late Sri K. Srinivasan, one of my bosom friends, was published in the *Christian Science Monitor*, U.S.A., when he was only a student of V Form.

**A.V. Krishnamurthi**  
Superintendent, Remounts,  
Veterinary and Fams Directorate,  
New Delhi

(Concluded)

Dewan Bahadur R. Raghunatha Rao, to house the Primary section. Just behind this building lay the open spacious playgrounds of our school. I remember very vividly that even as early as 1908 or 1909 our school Football team had started playing its matches with teams from different schools in the city and had established a high reputation for itself. In those days, cricket was not as popular as it is today.

P. N. Srinivasachari introduced the system of student chairmanships for several meetings which students were asked to conduct during the class hours; debates were arranged... He had another system in his class. He appointed one of its students as 'Monitor' and he was asked to maintain what was called 'The Conduct Register'. In this Register, the monitor was asked to mark the mischievous conduct of students during class periods. Thus the undesirable students were given due warning to behave better in future. This system thus served a very useful purpose though the monitor often got the odium and curse of his fellow friends.

**V.C. Krishnaswami**

Sir C.V. Raman, the famous scientist, was presiding over a Founder's Day celebration, I think in the year 1921. K. Swaminathan, another old boy who shed lustre on our school, proposed the toast to the present boys. My brother, Viswanathan, who was then in V form responded... After he had finished, Dr. Raman asked the Headmaster how many such boys the school had on its rolls. 'There are a few', replied the Head. Dr. Raman said, 'I heard an after-dinner speech from a young boy of Cambridge. Upto now I was under the impression that it was the best speech any young boy could give. Your boy has beaten him hollow. If you have a few more boys like this, you need not despair of making your school an Eton or a Rugby.'

**P.S. Sundaresa Sastri**  
Advocate, Vellore

# TN: No. 4 overall

(Continued from page 1)  
oped districts in India. Two Pondicherry districts, Mahe and Karaikal, are the others in the list. Sex ratio, poverty ratio, hunger, literacy, female to male literacy ratio, gross enrolment, infant mortality and immunisation were the parameters considered to determine social progress.

In Agriculture, TN is No.3. Punjab ranks No.1 and Haryana No.2. Pondicherry is first among the smaller states.

Punjab is the best Consumer Market in India among the big states. HP, Haryana, Kerala and Maharashtra follow. TN ranks No. 8. Among small states, Pondicherry ranks No. 3, behind Delhi and Goa.

As far as observance of Law & Order is concerned, TN

ranks No. 2. Kerala is No. 1 and HP No. 3. Pondicherry heads the small states.

TN ranks No. 3 in Health, with Kerala and HP occupying the first two places. Pondicherry is not one of the best three on this count.

In Education, TN ranks No. 3 with Kerala and HP taking the first two places. Pondicherry again does not figure among top three small states. Yet it is the only state to provide free noon meal schemes as well as breakfast, textbooks, notebooks, slippers and even spectacles free of cost. It is also one of the few states offering English medium education in government schools from kindergarten to the higher secondary level.

Punjab has the best Infrastructure, followed by HP,

Maharashtra, Uttaranchal and Gujarat. TN ranks No.8. Pondicherry is third among the small states.

On Budget & Prosperity, Punjab ranks No.1 and TN No.5. Haryana, Gujarat and Maharashtra rank in between. Pondicherry is once again third amongst the small states.

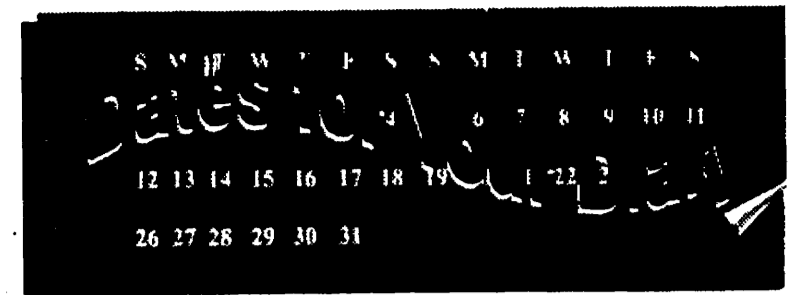
One of the surprises of the survey is the relatively poor performance of Maharashtra and Gujarat. Pockets of backwardness in several districts have pulled both states down in rankings. The central and eastern states have not made a mark at all, a pointer to the growing socio-economic fragmentation of India. HP has emerged as a model for combining high levels of social progress with impressive gains in economic development.

Another significant indicator is that none of the ten most populous states of India, which together contribute 84 per cent of the country's population, figures among the top two rankers on any of the parameters. Pondicherry, the best small state, has a population of less than 10 lakh. With a higher urban population, small states do not have to deliver public services to remote rural areas. There is easier access to administration, too.

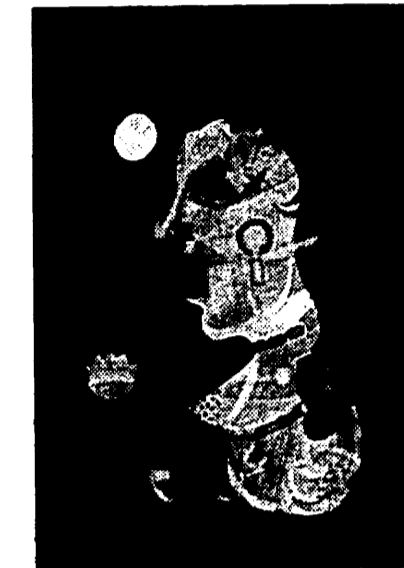
Meghalaya is the only state to send more girls to school than boys. In Andhra Pradesh, 970 girls for every 1,000 boys attend primary school, the best record among big states. Despite the difficult terrain, 70 per cent of Sikkim's households have tap water at home, compared to only 9 per cent in Assam. Limited access from the rest of India has kept big investments and productive jobs away from the northeast.

Punjab's prosperity (nine out of ten people own a two-wheeler), the survey explains, has a lot to do with the headstart it gained with the Green Revolution. Kerala's success is one of irony—high unemployment and low economic growth exist along with high literacy levels and an excellent public healthcare system (even the tiniest of hamlets has a government hospital, the survey points out). The State positioning itself as an attractive tourist destination has also helped.

The *India Today* survey projects that, by 2020, the economies of TN and Karnataka would treble in size. As a percentage of the national GDP, Maharashtra would remain the No.1 State in 2020. West Bengal would improve to become No.2 (from No.4 now) and Karnataka would displace TN for No. 3 position. TN would be No.4.



From October 20: An exhibition by Dhileep Sharma. (At Apparao Galleries.)  
October 20: Turning Tables 1 - UK D.J. Darren Knott. (Buzz @ the British Council Courtyard.)  
Till October 21: FACES, an exhibition of the recent work of S. Ravi Shankar.



His faces are certainly not portraits. Rather, they are representations of beings from a different world. A more colourful, concrete yet unreal world, with a strong poetic energy. These paintings in brilliant colours on wood seem like some primitive and sacred works. (At the Alliance Francaise.)

From October 21: Watercolours and abstracts by N. Murugan. (At Vinyasa.)  
From October 22: An exhibition of the works of masters of Indian contemporary art. (At Artworld.)  
October 26: Noel Sharkey of the University of Sheffield speaks about his path-breaking work on computer science. (At Anna University.)  
October 26: Bacteria, a popular science presentation by Dr. Jean-Marc Reytrat. Reytrat will explain

how the combination of both genetics and genomics helps us understand what distinguishes a 'good' from a 'bad' bacterium. (At Birla Planetarium, 3 p.m.)

October 27: 'We're British, But...' a short film package on cultural identities. (At the British Council.)

October 29: *Ani Matter*, a popular science presentation by Dr. Richard Tahlet. Tahlet is an Assistant Professor at the University of Savoie, and a researcher at the Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and High Energies of France. Antimatter is detected in space, in the vicinity of Earth, as well as on larger scale in our Galaxy. Its origin will be discussed and its importance in astrophysics and cosmology. (At Birla Planetarium, 3 p.m.)

October 29: Theatre Y presents a reading from *The Arrangements of Love*, followed by an interaction with the author, Timeri N. Murari. The novel is about family and home and the intricacies of ordinary human relationships in Chennai.

October 29: Nature Quest conducts career counselling in wild life. (At Bookpoint.)

From October 29-November 5: *Drishiti: a contemporary vision*, an exhibition of the work of a large group of veteran contemporary artists of repute and standing in South India.

Three generations of South Indian artists offer a wide diversity of themes, formats, medium and artistic expressions in their paintings. The younger group of the generation of the 1980s appear driven by an urge to clarify diverse issues at hand as cataclysmic changes take place in urban India. (At Lalit Kala Akademi.)

## 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: .....



# How we disfigure the city

(Continued from page 1)

At one time, the Corporation talked about providing at specific places concrete hoarding sites for exhibition of posters etc. They were to have been erected at places where they would not distract the attention of motorists or mar the beauty of the landscape.

Today, all along the main thoroughfares, hoardings are erected in a manner that does not add to the beauty of the skyline. The traffic police seem to think that only neon advertisement boards need to be regulated. These huge hoardings, sometimes with super size cut-outs of popular film-artists, can be a dangerous diversion on heavy traffic roads, like Guindy bridge and Meenambakkam airport area and the bridge on the western side of Tambaram on the main road.

As a first step, in 1972, towards the implementation of a Government decision to prevent indiscriminate display of posters in the city, the stretch of Marina between AIR station and Fort St. George was declared a prohibited area for bill-sticking. The then Chief Minister, M. Karunanidhi, said in the Assembly on March 27, 1973 that the Government proposed to earmark certain places in the City for pasting posters. When N. Veeraswamy drew the attention of the Government to certain handwritten slogans that had appeared on the walls of Queen Mary's College and Lady Willingdon Training College, the Chief Minister said that writing by hand had perhaps been resorted to by those responsible for the slogans, because bill-sticking was prohib-

ited in that area. Nothing further was done.

The main issue is to prohibit the pasting of posters indiscriminately on public/private walls and to confine them to hoardings expressly provided for advertisements by the Corporation or rented out for publicity by private owners. This is the system in vogue in all other major cities in the country. It is obvious that, at present, the Corporation does not provide enough hoardings for the volume of poster-advertising that is resorted to.

The Divisional staff of the Corporation should be strictly instructed to go around once a week or so and remove all the posters which do not bear the seal of the Corporation (indicating payment of the advertisement tax). This will discourage pasting of posters indiscriminately.

The City is also disfigured by the erection of pedestals on pavements for the hoisting of party flags. Some decades ago there was an altercation at the junction of Pycroft's Road and Venkatarangam Pillai Street, Triplicane, over the poles for hoisting party flags, ultimately

resulting in the murder of a person. Immediately there came an announcement by the Police Commissioner that all such pedestals on pavements in the City would be removed and the pavements cleared. Some pedestals were, no doubt, removed but the action was not continued, with the result that more and more party flags have been raised, these pedestals on pavements obstructing the free movement of pedestrians.

In this connection, the then Chief Minister sought the cooperation of all the political parties. A proposal to bring forward a new legislation for the purpose was dropped, as it was felt the civic authorities had enough powers under the existing enactments to prevent construction of pedestals for party flags and other buildings along the roadside. But slum-dwellers and auto-rickshaw stands have been putting up small temples on pavements with immunity. All these should be removed under the existing enactments and pavements made available for free flow of the pedestrians.

There are laws against unauthorised poster-sticking, but if these cannot be effectively enforced, they could be utilised at least for adding to city's hard-pressed revenues.

# Lower divisions deserve better

Cricket's popularity in the State can be judged by the fact that five leagues are run every year with over 130 teams competing for five shields. The Raja of Palayampatti Shield is for the 1st Division, the C.P. Johnstone Shield for the 2nd Division, the C.R. Pattabiraman Shield for the 3rd Division, the Bishop Waller Shield for the 4th Division, and the Dr. P. Subbaroyan Shield for the 5th Division.

Apart from the First Division teams, there are 36 teams in the 2nd and 3rd Divisions — 12 in the Second Division, 24 in the 2 zones in the Third Division — 36 teams (3 zones, each with 12 teams) in the 4th Division and 48 teams in the 5th Division, 4 zones, each with 12 teams. The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association also has 28 District affiliated members.

C.R. Rangachari, G. Parthasarathy, N. Kannaiyram, A.G. Kripal Singh, K.S. Kannan, V.P. Raghavan, M.V. Kasturirangan and S. Annadorai are all remembered in cups and other trophies for zonal championships.

Teams are promoted and relegated to and from each division. Knockout matches between the zone champions decide the winners of the respective divisions where there are two and more divisions.

Each league team among the 120 teams in the 2nd to 5th Division plays 11 matches. That gives us 660 matches a year outside the First Division. Regular tours are organised for teams chosen from the 120 teams in the 2nd to 5th Divisions.

For all this enthusiasm, there is little recognition of the contributions of these teams. Such recognition is something that the numerous community newspapers could offer to teams in their respective areas. Once, N.S. Ramaswami, famous columnist, 'Maypole', as famed for its literary style as its cricketing insights, used to pay attention to a lower division match each week. Both attention to such teams and felicitous cricketing prose are things of the past today. — (Based on a report in *Straight Bat.*)

The Corner Flag

# Adyar — for better or worse

(Continued from page 2)

than most official interventions. Vested interests in laying a road in the area or adding to the existing slum tenements on the bank seem to be behind such unnecessary action." Another resident laments, "In 1983, a mud bund with haphazard stone backing was built along this stretch, apparently 'to save the area from floods'. Now, PWD officials — who are both disorganised and erratic in their

work schedules — seem to want to tamper with the existing arrangement in the name of new and 'better' measures. There has also been a recent proliferation of slum tenements close to the river bank nearer the bridge, whose residents seem to have political backing."

"We've evicted 75 dwellers from Kothamedu near Saidapet and have constructed 500m of retaining wall between Maraimalai Adigal Bridge and Saida-

pet Railway Bridge. Earlier, in 1984, a 1400 m-long floodwall was built at the Jafferkanpettai area. The entire work should be completed by June 2005 (or a few months after)", confirms a senior PWD official. By which time, I suppose, the numbers of diverse bird species that frequented the Adyar and its environs will slowly dwindle or disappear forever from their century-old familiar feeding grounds.

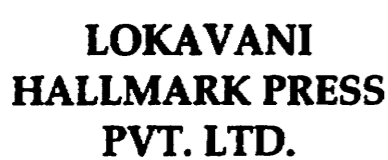
# Answers to Quiz

1. Ranbir Singh Mahendra; 2. Sanamacha Chanu and Pratima Kumari; 3. Mulk Raj Anand; 4. Lata Mangeshkar; 5. Tata Motors; 6. West Indies; 7. Raja Ramanna; 8. The Indian Posts; 9. POTA; 10. EDUSAT.

\* \* \*

11. Viswanathan Anand; 12. Vijayakant; 13. Chandra Mukhi; 14. Tirumayam; 15. Pennathur Subramania Iyer; 16. R. Nataraj; 17. Brodie's Road; 18. Madhavan and Meena; 19. Mikael Tillstrom; 20. Tamizhkudimagan.

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