

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS

MUSINGS

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No! That's not the runway... It's a giant hoarding!!

Flying too low

The hazards of having the more attractive members of the human race splashed larger-than-life at traffic signals have already been discussed here.

A recent newspaper report now points out an even more dangerous facet in this link between advertising and traffic, demonstrated rather spectacularly by the illuminated hoardings near the airport.

Pilots, we're informed, have a hard time distinguishing between the hoarding lights, the road and the runway beacons at night.

How scary is that?

Apparently, landing in Chennai is no picnic for pilots, contending with the foot of St. Thomas Mount, the Trishul Hills, and the bustling NH 45 that runs parallel to the runway. And, what with all the lights and all, they sometimes get confused.

So, the next time you are bowling along cheerfully on the old 45, and suddenly find noise levels rising, making your ears ring, and your hair fly off your head, run like hell. You might find yourself, unintentionally no doubt, driving alongside a slightly irritated A380.

Imagine racing to receive your cousin, thinking you've miscalculated the time he'll take to "get through" the "formalities", only to see his astonished face, peering through an oval window, going right past you, in a vehicle that has no business to be there.

Makes you think a bit, doesn't it?

Guess what? I think I'll just take the train next time. Or better still - walk.

Ranjitha Ashok

Admiralty House gets new life

(By Shobha Menon)

For years now, the Archaeological Survey of India's regional headquarters has occupied this protected building in Fort St. George. The sorry state it had deteriorated into 18 months ago was a disgrace to its occupants. Today, it's a different story; it gleams like new, reflecting what restoration can do.

It is restoration that took place "when we were approached by the coordinators of the 2004 Madras Day Celebrations, who broached the subject of the 250th year celebrations of the building. Which was when we thought, why not a restoration itself? And the directorate was extremely supportive!" says T. Satyamurthy, Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

Of the building, the 1933 *Handbook of the Madras Corporation* states, "Originally the residence of an Armenian merchant, the building was leased out by Clive and others. It was finally acquired by the Company after the Armenians were evicted from the Fort and served as the Admiralty House as well as a place of entertainment." And a 1936 record in the *Asylum Press Almanack* says, "The present Accountant General's Office was Admiralty House of old days. It served as the Town Residence of the Governor. The Court of Admiralty was held here, besides State functions. Clive occupied this house at the time of his marriage. It was for some time appropriated as the Guests' House of the Governor." Both records refer to the 250-year-old building, now popularly known as

(Continued on Page 5)



Renovated Admiralty House in Fort St. George.



'The Great Hall' Admiralty House, before and while the renovation neared completion. (Photographs: Archaeological Survey of India, Southern Circle, Tamil Nadu.)



Build green, urges INTACH

Consultants of INTACH's Natural Heritage Division have advanced the new concept of *Green Building*, which is targeted to make new development sustainable and have a minimum footprint on the environment. The concept of the *Green Building* is to use renewable resources/material for construction as well as management of the building.

These *Green Buildings* feature:

- Efficient use of water
- Energy efficient & eco-friendly equipment
- Use of renewable energy
- Use of recycled/recyclable materials
- Effective use of landscaping
- Effective control & building management system
- Indoor air quality for human safety and comfort.

The benefits of a *Green Building* are:

- Environmental, by reducing impact on the environment
- Health and safety, by enhancing occupant comfort

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Talking it over

A certain computer/business society, having hired a hall in a premier five-star hotel to hold an exhibition, decided to withhold payment of the last instalment of 1/3rd of the rental, claiming that the rooms were defective and the services below par. The hotel promptly sought legal services to institute a case in court for the recovery of the amount. It was then that an alternative process for resolving their problems was suggested: *Mediation*. In a couple of sessions, lasting a few hours each, both sides reached an agreement on the issues. A written agreement was drawn up. The parties readily signed, shaking hands before going their separate ways.

A conflict-ridden process involving weeks or even years of accusations, counter-accusations, blame, liability, interim motions and trials had been successfully avoided.

With overburdened courts and escalating levels of conflict, Mediation is an idea whose time has surely come, says Sriram Panchu, Senior Advocate, Founder, Indian Centre for Mediation and Dispute Resolution, and Organising Secretary, Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre.

Mediation is fast becoming an integral part of the legal process, proving a most effective method in settling legal disputes.

Mediation has been a facet of social dynamics ever since human beings began to interact with one another. As a tool of legal practice, however, Mediation is about 30 years old. It began with trade unions in the United States, when the American Department of Justice, finding that far too much time and expense was being expended on industrial strife with little resolution in sight, decided to find alternatives.

The movement has since spread worldwide.

Mediation is still a very new concept in India. The Indian Centre for Mediation and Dispute Resolution was founded in Chennai in 2001, a pioneering effort, and a largely private initiative, designed to introduce the practice and spread awareness. In April 2005, the Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre, the first Court-annexed Mediation Centre in the country, was created in Madras High Court.

Were there initial doubts? Certainly, says Sriram Panchu, even hostility. In one city, the Bar boycotted a programme on

Mediation. Lawyers were beset with fears about its effect and impact on their own practices, a natural and real concern. "We had to address and work around these very legitimate fears. We held a series of awareness workshops to expressly address these concerns, and dispel apprehensions."

Why Mediation?

In keeping with its win-win strategy, Mediation offers benefits to all those involved in the process. For the litigants, it offers a mode of resolution that stresses workable solutions, respects and heals relationships, and comes with reduced time and cost. In most cases, Mediation bears fruit within a handful of sessions. The time span involved is in terms of weeks, rather than years or decades. Clients respond positively when they see that a case that could have dragged on for 15 years, with tons of additional expenditure, and untold relationship damage, has been settled

● by RANJITHA ASHOK

quickly and well. For the legal profession, Mediation represents a new avenue of professional practice, a remunerative one with quicker resolution of cases. Private Mediation, either single individuals or firms, does very well. Sriram Panchu speaks of very successful lawyers who have given up lucrative practices, taking up Mediation full time. "We get to finish cases; package solutions," they state.

Additionally, there is both professional and human satisfaction in bringing about solutions by invoking the better human elements of cooperation and harmony.

For the courts, Mediation offers a method of reducing their burden, enabling them to concentrate on the cases that need their attention most. Court-annexed Mediation Centres will enable the judiciary to supervise the application of Mediation and ensure the requisite competence and credibility.

While anyone can become a mediator, trained lawyers are best, because, with their knowledge of law, skills at analysis and persuasion, they help litigants reach a realistic understanding of their own case.

Mediators do not play judge. They talk to both parties, jointly and separately, help them talk to each other, clear away all that is perhaps hampering the resolution process, and gradually bring the litigants to a point

where they come up with workable, acceptable solutions on their own. Talking and listening are the keys – the chief element in conflict being the fact that parties just don't listen to each other. The mediator structures the process, establishes ground rules, ensures all parties get to have their say, enforces listening, and does not allow interruptions.

Then, "we cast the issues". What is really going on here, what needs to be sorted out? This ensures clarity of thinking, with both sides getting realistic legal inputs. A mediator also makes people look at their long-term interests, something most litigators tend to overlook.

Mediation helps people look at alternatives. "Through these phases, as a mediator, I am softening people. They have become hard, bitter, angry, aggressive, clinging to the positions they have taken."

Long-term interests, legal realism, inherent weaknesses of each case – these are all the factors the mediator addresses.

The mediator then gives litigators the freedom to come up with options for a settlement. By this time, a welcome change of energy has taken place, from disputing to finding ways of ending the dispute. Options are worked on and refined to enable reaching an agreement. The clients control the outcome.

This stage, of placing various options on the table, is a very dynamic part of the process. Workable solutions, compromises begin to surface. In one case, a company had given raw material to its supplier for conversion into an intermediate product. The supplier, however, sold the raw material, put the money into the stock-market, expecting a quick return. Unfortunately for him, the market imploded. The supplier now owed Rs. 6 million to the company. His assets, consisting of plant and machinery, were already mortgaged to a bank.

The irate company was all set to take him to court for every paisa he had. The difficulty lay in the fact that he simply did not have the money. The company would have gained little except a chance to vent their spleen. Mediation was then suggested. Through this process, the company was actually brought around to keep working with the errant, now contrite, supplier, but with certain strict conditions and safeguards imposed. Both sides survived the crises. Innocent workforces caught in a situation not of their making went unharmed, and in a few years the company recovered its dues. The converter stayed in business and became a valued supplier to the company.

The process of Mediation is virtually risk-free, unlike litiga-

A personal take on Mediation

Sriram Panchu has been a lawyer for more than 30 years, and a mediator since the early 1990s.

What drew him to this process?

"I wasn't too happy with my work, because I found, even when I won a case, the lives of my clients were not really getting any better. Conflict stayed unresolved. I began to ask myself: 'What is the point of all this?'"

It was in 1991, at a seminar in Salzburg, that he first heard of Mediation being used as a process to solve legal disputes. He felt he had found the answer. He informally incorporated Mediation into his conventional work system, and immediately began to see results.

Sriram explains: "This is a high-tension profession riddled with alcoholism, breakdowns, unsuccessful relationships, and lost esteem among peers. I figured this is because we are forced to do surgery on every case." He quotes Mark Twain: "If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail."

Mediation is an opportunity to break this stranglehold. It brings justice in its most pristine form back into the system, in a gentle, but effective, way, and adds a different quality to the profession.

Psychology, and the understanding of the human psyche, plays a very big role in Mediation. The mediator practically learns on the job, honing his or her skills with each case. "You become watchful; you observe body language, subtleties. You learn to hear what is not being said, zoning in on the thought behind the thought."

Sriram talks of a client, an old gentleman, involved in the heartbreaking process of litigating with his own child. "I told him he was keeping some-

thing back. The gentleman denied it repeatedly, then finally admitted: 'You know, my son didn't say sorry to me. Not even once.' All his anger stemmed from that one fact."

"Mediation is hugely emotionally draining," admits Sriram. "You are wrung out by the end of the day, and have to control and watch your emotions."

He says it is quite easy to learn to be objective. "You empathise; you understand. You do not agree or disagree, judge or draw conclusions."

Mediation has changed him as a person in crucial ways. "I listen better. And I do not prejudge people." In almost all disputes, there is something to be said on both sides.

Are you a different kind of lawyer now?

"I can answer that best by saying that I am learning to make distinctions. In an adversarial case, I know I cannot be the mediator. I go straight for the solution. But when I understand this to be a case where Mediation will work, I suggest it to the judge, to the clients. Today, having seen the results of our work, people are willing to listen, and agree."

But isn't there a dark side to Mediation? Who controls the mediator?

"There is no denying that the mediator is in a psychologically powerful position, easy to manipulate," Sriram agrees. "This is a position of trust. An unscrupulous person can do untold damage. So choose wisely." The parties concerned have to be alert; and walk away should they feel any sense of distrust and discomfort.

He gives lectures to law students on this subject. "People now see me as a person on a mission," he laughs.

R.A.

tion, which has many factors beyond client-control. Courts use coercive processes; Mediation is voluntary. Parties opt for it of their free will. Even when directed by a court to try it, a party to the dispute can terminate the Mediation if it feels its interests are not being served. As opposed to a legal proceeding, which largely excludes the litigants in the decision-making process, Mediation involves the participation of the parties themselves, even when accompanied by their lawyers. A litigative process works along adversarial lines, while Mediation brings out cooperative behaviour from the parties. Arbitration requires a judge, who then pronounces a verdict, not a solution. In Mediation, the adversarial content is lessened.

Most cases are settled in two to four sessions, depending on the parties, although there re-

ally is no way to estimate how long each process will take.

There was a case, instituted nearly 10 years ago, lying in an Appellate Court. A development company had agreed to buy a piece of land from the owner. The occupant had been granted ownership rights under an acquisition and settlement process initiated under the land reform laws. A sizeable sum of money was paid and plans made to build a large complex. The city development authority sanctioned the project. Orders were booked. Just after commencement of construction, a religious body intervened. It claimed the land, questioning the basis of the acquisition proceedings. An interim injunction was issued by a Court, restraining any construction on the land. After seven years and a prolonged

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OUR READERS WRITE



Light and sparkle

The enormous tamarind tree in our garden recently presented a spectacular visual delight! After three days of constant rains, every tiny leaf of the tree had a droplet of water on it. And when the early morning sunlight fell on the tree in shafts, the whole tree glittered as though there was a tiny diamond on every leaf!

The magical moment lasted only a few seconds as the sun's rays quickly covered the entire tree. But the beautiful scene made us realise the importance of watching out carefully to enjoy these gentle flashes which Nature often provides.

Our young neighbour and my daughter, both of whom appreciate these simple shades of nature, were the most thrilled watching this passing light-and-sparkle show!

Parvati V. Menon
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Power play

Today, when every Thyagarajan, Dinakaran and

Hariharan ('desi' Tom, Dick and Harry) owns every electrical gadget invented by man, the supply of power, being unequal to the demand, frequently trips. The TNEB has thoughtfully provided a helpline '1912' to report power failures. The catch is that when you report a power failure, the person at the other end says sympathetically, "Appidiya Sar", and gives vague promises of help. If you insist on getting the complaint docket number, she suddenly becomes frosty and gives the number as if dragging it out of her entrails. That is the characteristic Chennai service with a scowl.

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Chennai's name

Reader Raman's letter on Chennai's name (MM, November 1st) recalled the remarks made about it by S. Krishnan, in his column 'Between you and me' in *The Hindu*. A strong protagonist of

retention of the name Madras, he wrote that the revised name was being pronounced by foreigners as Chen-naai meaning red dog in Tamil.

When a Tamil word is prefixed by *Chen* or *Chem*, the word denotes a red object, like *Chengal* (brick) or *Chembaruthy* (a flower). In other contexts, they mean pure or classic as in the words *Chenthamizh* or *Chemmozhi*. If the name is pronounced as *Chen-nai* it means pure ghee.

There is a hill temple in Erode District called *Chenni-malai* where the presiding deity is *Chenniandavar* (Murugan). Many persons have the name *Chenniappan*. So Chennai is not only a Telugu or Kannada word but also a Tamil one.

* * *

While the already famous heritage sites and landmarks require to be well-preserved, we should be on the lookout for new places which provide scope for development and conversion as tourist destinations. Ooty and Kodaikanal and, to a lesser extent, Yercaud, in Tamil Nadu are well-known hill stations which can compare favourably with any others in India.

But we have other small hill station like Valparai, Tirumurthy hills, Yelagiri and Kollimalai which abound in picturesque scenarios and points. These could also be made tourist attractions. Again, while Courtallam and Hogenakkal are two of the best waterfalls in India, smaller and not well known Kovai Courtallam and Kambakkara falls can be

How my garden grows!

Early morning sunlight touches the green-silver fronds of the three tall, ageing coconut trees of my home's garden. These coconut palms are laden with raw green coconuts which, when fully brown and ripe, are plucked by tribal coconut-tree climber; he drops in at 3-month-long intervals, choosing his visits with uncanny timing (or is it 'intuition?') when the fruit are fully ripe, and ready to be plucked.

This morning, the golden sunlight has not yet woken the deep aquamarine blue flowers of the *Clitoria ternata* (*Sangupushpam* in Tamil), so gracefully bell-shaped, with a large standard petal, and two wing petals and a keel upturned to welcome nectar-sucking butterflies. Of these last mentioned, the common butterfly of South India, the yellowish-orange *Danaïa bengalensis*, or Yellow Tiger, is a relatively rare visitor, while the quiet, moth-like *Précis lemonai lemonai* comes more often during the North-East monsoon (October-December). This species of butterfly is superbly camouflaged to blend with the leaf-litter, wings all brown-grey, like dead leaves, with a startling cobalt-blue peacock eye on the forewings, to distract even the canny bird-predator to think these are its eyes.

This garden has been my pet hobby for the last 30-odd years. Since May 2002, I have diligently and industriously practised the 'wu-wei'

concept of Lao Tzu, the Classical Chinese philosopher, which suggests the practice of 'do-nothing' or "Let Ma Nature take her own course" as applied to this mini-scale home garden. I did this by strictly stopping the use of all chemicals, be they herbicides, pesticides or fertilisers, and by the use of organic compost.

So, Ma Nature has abundantly responded by bringing forth lush tropical herbs and lovely flowers, like the *Perandai* (*Cissus quadrangularis*), *Sundakkai* (*Solanum tarvum*), the Curry leaf (*Karuveppilai*, in Tamil - *Murraya koenigii*), and the rarely-found-in-the-city herb, *Ponnanganni*, reputedly a medically potent Siddha herb. There are three Distinct Species of Ponnanganni in the Tamil Nadu countryside, of which two (the *seemai* and the *naattu* types) once grew in my garden, until they simply faded away.

And so, as time moves on, this small mini-scale 'Live-Experiment' in the Natural Way of Gardening, with borrowed concepts from Zen Buddhism and Taoism, has proved its salt by producing an abundance of useful, nutritive and medicinal herbs.

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No personal visits or telephone calls, please. Letters received will be sent from these addresses every couple of days to the persons concerned and you will get an answer from them to your queries reasonably quickly. Strange as it may seem, if you adopt the 'snail mail' approach, we will be able to help you faster and disappoint you less.

THE EDITOR

READABILITY PLEASE

Dear Readers,

As letters from readers increase, we are receiving more and more handwritten letters, many of them in a hand so small and illegible or large and scrawled as to be unreadable. Often this leads to our discarding a letter, particularly if some part of it is unreadable.

If you wish us to consider your letter for publication, please type it with enough space between lines or write it using a medium hand, clearly dotting the 'i-s' and crossing the 't-s'.

Many readers also try to fill every square centimetre of a postcard space, making reading or editing impossible.

Please help us to consider your letters more favourably by making them more legible for us.

THE EDITOR

improved, which can provide pleasant diversion for the common man.

It is a pity that very few people are aware of the riches of Tamil Nadu.

M.R. Pillai
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Not engineering problem

Reader M. Susikaran (MM, November 1st) seems to feel that if only the Sri Kapaleeswar Temple tank bed is paved, the tank would retain water. He compares it with the Sri Parthasarathy Temple tank in Triplicane.

Paving the temple tanks defeats the very purpose of the tanks, as these tanks are not only intended for the religious purposes of the temples, but also as a social measure to recharge the groundwater.

If the problem is 'engineering', then how come other temple tanks, not only in Chennai, but also in mofussil areas like Kumbakonam, are totally dry, which was not the case in the previous decades? It is a question of overdependence and over-drawal of groundwater to meet our ever-increasing needs. The consecutive draughts have only added to the problem. Added to these, the inlets to all these tanks have also been blocked and the tanks have become dry.

If only the groundwater is recharged commensurate with its drawal, then these tanks would retain water. For this, there should be supply channels from

the nearby rivers in Chennai, like the Adyar. In Kumbakonam and other places, river Kaveri or any other nearby flowing river could be tapped.

Overdependence on the groundwater should be curbed.

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Writers' association?

Is there any association of "Writers" in Chennai. If so, kindly give their address, telephone number, and the name of person to be contacted.

By 'writers', I mean freelance writers, occasional journalists, and regular writers to magazines/journals, who have formed an association. I am a freelance writer and hence the interest.

P.J. Mathew
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Editor's Note:

We know of no such association, but perhaps readers could help. There is, however, the Madras Book Club, whose membership includes several persons who fit reader Mathew's description. For more details he could contact by email: ewb@touchtelindia.net

Why the name?

Will reader Sundaram care to enlighten us on the historical reason for the name of his home, *Burma House*?

N. Dharmeswaran
Bangalore



The AMPAA House, Pallathur (above) and its mugappu (below).



The Kalyana Kottagai...

Where there is a will renovation's possible

These photographs are of the common house of the AMPA family in Pallathur that have been recently renovated at a reasonable cost. The house was constructed by my father, the late AMPA Annamalai Chettiar in 1925/26.

Though we had lived in the house for years together, I had never thought of the large area being used by us. While discussing with my uncle the sad condition of many Chettiar houses, I discovered that our house had a built-up area of over 20000 sq.ft! That's when I realised that I could not dream of building such a house in my lifetime. This drove me to think of at least maintaining what my father had given us. This is how I started on Project Renovation.

The sorry state of many houses in Chettinad, when it comes to repairs/renovation, is due to the lack of co-operation among family members. As for our house, I took it as a challenge to enlist the co-operation of other members of our joint family. Though initially one of them was not willing to share the expenses, he decided to come in once he saw how the house was turning out.

At 75+, the present senior member of the family, I undertook to supervise the restoration with the experience I had in building four houses in Chennai for my three sons and myself. No doubt other members of our joint family also co-operated by giving me sufficient assistance. The project took about 10 months for me to complete.

I started doing the job stage by stage, segregating the areas. First, Kalyana Kottagai, front Hall, Valavu,

Pattagasalai, Reception Hall, Front Mugappu and so on, at the same time rectifying the First Floor at every stage.

I took the advice of my friends at ICI Ltd. to maintain the artwork/painting etc. I have used ICI paint all over.

The new additions have only been grilles to ensure security and installation of separate bathrooms/toilets for each family.

By voluntarily consulting the other members of the family at every stage, I was able to complete the renovation without any interference.

Now, our house in Pallathur has become a showpiece in Chettinad.

While I was restoring our house, quite a few fellow Nagarathar discussed with me the work I was doing and mentioned their difficulties in doing the same. As one of them put it, "I am financially in a position to renovate on my own such a big house in which I have a share, but my co-occupants are not willing to share the expenses and at the same time are not willing to allow me to spend on my own either. It's a question of prestige."

My answer was that people like him in Chettinad should take up restoration as a challenge and find a way to renovate their properties. No doubt there is money with many, what is needed is the co-operation of other members and the will to get the work done. I hope many more will find a way to do what we have done.

A.A. Palaniappan



... and its ceiling



Before and after: The valavu and the first courtyard, with the flooring of the corridor, detailed, below left.



Another Victoria Town Hall put to good use

The Victoria Town Hall has once again become the venue for meetings of the Coimbatore, Municipal Corporation council after INTACH, Coimbatore, spearheaded a restoration drive. INTACH architects prepared the blueprints, along with plans for creating a museum, tracing the history and efforts of eminent citizens who contributed to the growth of the city.

INTACH Coimbatore convener Shashi Ghulati has also drawn attention to must-see destinations in the city, including All Soul's Church, a 19th Century building reminiscent of Oliver Goldsmith's vicarage in Yorkshire, and built with contributions from the European/Eurasian community, and the 1912 Mahalaxmi Illam, now a banking centre.

* * *

Financial incentives for heritage buildings

The Tourism Department, Pondicherry, has introduced financial incentives for heritage buildings – similar to the 'matching grant' scheme of the Asia Urbs Program.

The Pondicherry Planning Authority (PPA), however, cites the bye-law of 1969 that only those buildings with ground coverage of 60% in Tamil Town and 50% in French Town will be given the incentive. The PPA insists that excess built area should be demolished before applications are considered. However, the Tamil Town has ground coverage of 60-80% and French Town 90% with buildings that are more than 100 years old.

INTACH Pondicherry is currently trying to find a middle path. — Virasat, the journal of the INTACH.

ADMIRALTY HOUSE GETS NEW LIFE

(Continued from page 1)

Clive Building, situated to the west of the St. Mary's Church and just across it.

Satyamurthy says, "Since those days, many government offices have functioned here over the years. In the 1970s, when I joined the ASI, the rooms used to be thronged by senior citizens waiting for their pension, since the Pension and Accounts Office functioned here, with about 1500 employees working in the premises. This meant that additional space was randomly added on as and when the need arose through structures that paid absolutely no regard to the principles of conservation. The PAO even constructed an additional floor in the 1950s. The western wing that was occupied by Clive had totally collapsed by the early 1970s. And due to the additional weight, the walls of the ground floor were actually disintegrating very quickly." Which was when the ASI stepped in.

First a decision was taken to very carefully remove the additional floor. Jilani Basha, Conservation Assistant, says, "Cracks had begun to appear in the Central Hall's roof and the side walls were peeling off. Here there are actually two kinds of roof styles –

one Madras Terrace (brick-on-edge) with wooden planks at the bottom, and the other without. Earlier, the walls were made of brick in mud mortar. Those portions that had disintegrated were removed and replaced with new bricks in lime mortar. Two of the massive existing iron girders sourced from Dorman Long & Co. Ltd. Middlesborough, England – 15 m long, 40 cm deep and 20 m wide, each weighing about a ton and a half – had to be replaced from local sources at a cost of around Rs. 20,000. The wooden joists needed for strengthening the roof were sourced from the forests of Kerala."

Basha adds, "It was very challenging work because the height of the rooms is about 6.5 m. The entire area of the building is 2000 sq.m. Work on the Central Hall alone took about eight months. Even mistakes made during conservation efforts in the British period – where they've used bricks instead of Madras Terrace – have been rectified in this restoration effort."

Experience the Cental Hall and be awed by the massive, towering Gothic pillars of 3 ft diameter – two double pillars at the extreme ends and eight single

ones in between – rising from the wooden flooring interspersed strategically by skylight windows from Hayward Makers, Union Street, Borough, London. This was where the Court of Admiralty sat in earlier times a couple of centuries ago. Go down the side stairs into a central courtyard and you'll find another wooden stairway with ornate handrails leading onto the second and third floor. This too, earlier in a broken-down state, has been completely restored.

The ASI had begun to occupy some parts of the building as far back as 1861. By 1958, the Archaeological Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Remains Act was passed, the ASI's need for space had increased, and so other offices were gradually moved out by 1970s.

The restoration process began last September and the process is now complete. The relaying of roof, plastering and removing of additional structures itself cost Rs. 10 lakh, while restoring the fallen portions cost about Rs. 20 lakh.

"The challenge now is, 'What is the best way to go about making use of such a heritage building?'" says Satyamurthy. "Since we've collected several paintings,

portraits and other Clive memorabilia, we plan to set up a Clive's Corner. We might also have a permanent exhibition on the heritage buildings and plans. There are also plans to use the Central Hall as a Conference Hall, for cultural and heritage meetings. We plan to time the formal 'reopening' to coincide with the 325th year celebration of the St. Mary's Church, sometime in January. The Church is also being restored by us at present."

Also of historical interest in the building is the well-protected old Treasury Room with its massively thick walls. This space is now used as a store and office by the ASI. It was probably once used by the Reserve Bank, a former occupant, to safeguard gold. However, since the room now functions as an office, it is not open to the public except for researchers, on special permission.

On the downside is the hassle visitors to Fort St. George face, with entry at times even being denied. But Satyamurthy is optimistic, "This is an issue that can be overcome if we get a positive response from the public and heritage enthusiasts, whose support in preserving this heritage building we look forward to."

REDUCING THE IMPACT OF THE CAR

In the UK, cars are responsible for around 14 per cent of total carbon dioxide emissions. Emissions from cars, lorries and other forms of road transport are also responsible for significant amounts of the pollutants in the air we breathe and can have serious effects on people's health and environment.

The UK is taking a lead in taming these negative aspects of the car, whilst retaining all of its advantages. As a consequence of

Government action – and technological progress – a modern car emits only one-sixtieth of the noxious pollutants of an equivalent model from 30 years ago and lead has been all but eliminated from exhaust gases. In terms of reducing greenhouse gases, fuel economy has increased significantly. But the UK Government is continuing to push for greater progress. In tandem with its European partners, it has come to an agreement with the major car manufacturers to increase fuel ef-

iciency by 25 per cent above 1995 levels by 2008.

The UK and devolved administrations are also investing heavily in public transport to give people viable alternatives to the car. Over the next ten years, it is committed to spending over £22 billion on improving the railways. Extra money is being invested in bus and tram networks. The Government and devolved administrations are also encouraging road pricing, such as London's pioneering congestion

charge, which has successfully cut car use in the centre of the city. Cycling and walking are also being encouraged.

The car is hailed as one of the greatest liberators of all times, but it also has a significant environmental impact. Taken together, the world's 600 million cars consume vast amounts of fossil fuels and produce huge quantities of greenhouse gases.

The congestion charge is a bold attempt to dissuade people from using their cars in Central London. Its aim is to encourage

them to use public transport, motorcycles, bicycles or their own two feet instead. Travellers are still free to use their cars in

the city centre, but they have to pay £5 for the privilege. The proceeds of the scheme are used to improve public transport.

So far, the congestion charge has been very successful. Around 60,000 fewer vehicles a day now enter the charging zone and emissions of key pollutants from traffic have fallen by 12 per cent. Journey times for car drivers have reduced by 14 per cent. But, importantly, the reliability of buses has increased and journey times shortened considerably. — (Courtesy: Global Warming: An overview of the UK and the Environment, issued by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.)

Quizzin' with Ram'nan

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

1. Who is the new Chief Justice of India?
2. Name the new Congress Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir.
3. What major educational impetus for the girl child has the CBSE announced?
4. Where in Bengal did the IAF and USAF carry out joint exercises recently?
5. The last resting place of which famous astronomer, known for his heliocentric theory of the solar system, was discovered in Frombork Cathedral in Poland recently?
6. In the context of the Volcker Report controversy, name the diplomat appointed as a special envoy to liaise with the UN.
7. Who is to succeed Alan Greenspan as the Federal Reserve chief?
8. The first person of East Asian descent to become head of a Latin American nation was arrested recently. Name him.
9. Which subcontinental neighbour moved its government headquarters to Pyinmana recently?
10. What did the initials K.R. stand for in the name of the former President who passed away recently?
11. The Golden Jubilee of which popular cricket club in the city being in the I Division was celebrated recently and its secretary honoured?
12. Name the Canadian couple after whom a rehabilitation ward for the handicapped was named recently as a gesture of appreciation of their immense work for the underprivileged in our country.
13. Name the new President of the prestigious Music Academy.
14. Which leader's wife recently relinquished her 20% share in Sun TV?
15. What began at Srinidhi Press on Mint Street in the 1870s?
16. Who was the first Indian Principal of the Madras Medical College?
17. When was the present San Thome Basilica built?
18. Name the battle fought between the French and Mahfuz Khan of Arcot on September 24, 1746.
19. After which Carnatic vocalist has Griffith Road in T. Nagar been re-named?
20. Who got his salvation at the hands of Siva at Puttuthoppu near Madurai?

(Answers on page 8)

Same old question: Can TN do it this season?

Tamil Nadu have had a damp start to their new Ranji Trophy season. The torrential rains in the State did not spare Tirunelveli where the first match against Gujarat was played. After bowling Gujarat out for 159, Tamil Nadu emerged with 2 points after gaining a substantial lead. During the little play possible, Tamil Nadu showed that it had an immensely talented combination, which should fare creditably in the national championship this year. The big question mark, however, is whether Tamil Nadu can win the trophy that it last held aloft in 1987, and only once before that – in 1955.

In some ways, the team has a better chance of doing that this year than it has for a while now. For, it seems to possess a balanced attack, besides its usual depth in batting. Lakshmi pathi Balaji spearheads the attack and he is well supported in the seam department by R. Jesuraj and R. Naresh, while its spin attack has been vastly strengthened by the return of in-form veteran off spinner Aashish Kapoor. Kapoor has two left arm spinners for company in R. Ramkumar and Vidyut Sivaramakrishnan. Hopefully, Balaji's injury problems at the start of the season will prove to be of a temporary nature.

Tamil Nadu's batting line-up continues to be impressive, though quite often in the past it has flattered only to deceive at crucial junctures. Like Balaji, S. Sriram continues to be in the reckoning for a place in the Indian team, though he is, relatively speaking, a fringe player. Balaji too has of late been finding competition hotting up, while Hemang Badani seems to have fallen out of favour with the selectors. What is bad news for these talented players is good news for the State's chances in the Ranji Trophy, as it will be at full strength, as a result.

In addition to Badani and Sriram, Tamil Nadu has a number of classy left-handers in Vidyut, C. Hemant Kumar, S. Sarath, Shrivasthadeva Das, and Ramkumar. The right-hand brigade is led by S. Badrinath, followed by Dinesh Karthik – distinctly unlucky to be upstaged by a rampaging M. S. Dhoni in the fight for a place in the Indian Test team – and new boy Amerada Srikanth. The

young Srikanth is currently short on runs, though the selectors obviously see potential in the former Test opener's son. He has taken the place of Sadagopan Ramesh, who has shifted to Kerala this season. Ramesh was a surprise omission from the Tamil Nadu team in the knockout stage of the Ranji Trophy last season. It is unfortunate that Ramesh's slide has been so swift; after all, he did perform at the highest level against high quality bowling.

Another accomplished young batsman struggling to break into the eleven is R. Satish, who played for Assam in earlier seasons. He was so successful there that he was selected to play for East Zone. Here is another very promising talent competing with an abundance of batting riches. His erstwhile teammate in the Assam and East Zone teams, Vasanth Saravanan, is another excellent cricketer lost to Tamil Nadu.

Sarath has done yeoman service for the State, but it is perhaps time for him to make way for a younger man. While it is good for young players to earn their spurs with consistent performances, it is also unfair to stifle their progress by taking the easy way out – of depending on experience and avoiding the hard grind of grooming talent. A good balance has to be struck and it's time the likes of Shrivasthadeva Das and Satish were given a fair run. All good things have to come to an end and a champion performer like Sarath should hang up his boots while still at the peak of his prowess and make way for the young guns.

Hemang Badani is an outstanding cricketer and an intelligent leader of men. He has a good chance of moulding his team into a fighting, cohesive unit, with a capable management team at his command, in coach B. Arun and trainer Basu. They need the solid support of a consistent selection policy committed to stability and dynamic growth. Every player should be made to feel that he is part of a meritocracy focussed on the ultimate goal of wresting the Ranji Trophy – and holding on to it with the kind of topnotch performances Tamil Nadu is eminently capable of producing, but has rarely achieved.

V. R.

They ensured Alwarpet's place in the senior division

(The second and concluding part. Part I appeared last fortnight)

In 1949, a few years after the Alwarpet Cricket Club had been formed by several players who met every evening at the Alwarpet junction, the cricketers approached their founder-president, S. A. Govindarajan, to get them a chance to play in the Madras Cricket Association's competitions. He spoke to Professor A. E. Subramaniam of Royapettah YMCA, and the team was accepted in the III Division of the league.

Losing its first match to Kerala Samaj on Independence Day, 1949, the Club won its next ten games to earn promotion to the II division. Its stalwarts for the next few years included medium pace swing bowler N. V. Seshadri (who could also bat a bit), off spinner C. B. Bharathan, and opening batsman-wicketkeeper N. Balasubramaniam. All-rounder 'Mandalam' Subramaniam and left-hander R. Nagarajan (elder brother of R. Chandrasekharan and R. Prabhakar) soon joined the team. Balakrishna Rao of the Dasprakash family also enlisted and the team fought its way into I Division in 1952.

By 1957, the elegant U. Prabhakar Rao and A. R. Sridhar

were playing for Alwarpet, and there were two new recruits in K. Rajendran and V. Rajagopal. The team won the Palayampatti Shield for the first time in the 1957-1958 season, toppling MCC, the holders.

Alwarpet had to wait four more years before winning the league title again. Tall and wiry V. Sridhar, who once scored 98 in the Ranji Trophy knockout against a Rajasthan attack that included Vinoo Mankad and Subhash Gupte, and A. K. Sarangapani, the leg spinner who played a key role in Madras' maiden triumph in a Ranji Trophy final, were the new reinforcements. Alwarpet also initiated the practice of playing host to players from other states who had moved to Madras. P. R. Ashokanand, Vasudeva Murthy, Paramasiviah and C. S. Venugopal all lent stability to the side, but it was the all-round ability of Seshadri that continued to dominate the Club's consistent performances.

G. Ramanathan, formerly of the Mambalam Mosquitos, was the captain who stewarded the varied talents of the club towards sustained performance during these exciting years. He was succeeded by N. Ram of *The Hindu* in 1969.

A young engineering graduate added a touch of class to

the Alwarpet batting, just as his elder brother Kripal Singh had done years earlier. A. G. Satvinder Singh came in to the Alwarpet side as soon as he graduated from Guindy, and played a pivotal role in its fortunes for the next two decades. He played several memorable innings during those years, but a wonderful 147 on the Loyola College ground against Jolly Rovers during the 1969-1970 season perhaps stood out as the best of them all. I remember that magnificent innings very clearly as I was the non-striker for the better part of it.

Medium pacer Michael Adie, the feisty left arm all-rounder C. S. Dayakar and talented off-spinner N. Bharatan were among the successful young players to join the team during this period.

The 1970s saw the emergence of Alwarpet CC as a major force in the senior division once again. Towards the end of the decade, it was to win the Palayampatti Shield three years in a row, under the captaincy of P. Mukund. A. G. Satvinder Singh, V. Sivaramakrishnan, P. Ramesh, S. Nataraj, S. Vasudevan and P. Sampath were the star performers during this period. A devoted supporting cast included P. P. Swathy, Naidu Anjiah, N. S. Manohar, P. R.

Venkatasubramaniam, Ashok Kumar, Bharat Rangarajan, L. Vasan and J. Satyaprasad.

At this time, Alwarpet benefited from the patronage of R. Ratnam of the TVS Group. His support continued into the 1980s, when the team was strengthened by the inclusion of K. Srikanth, K. Bharath Kumar, A. G. Harjinder Singh, L. Sivaramakrishnan, P. C. Prakash, R. Madhavan, W. V. Raman, M. O. Parthasarathi, M. Venkataramana and Arjan Kripal Singh.

As the 1990s began, R. Dinesh of TVS Madurai took over from R. Ratnam, and his son Srinath as sponsor of the Club. However, the Group gradually began to withdraw its support. During this period, a number of good cricketers came to represent the Club, including C. P. Sreedhar, P. T. Subramaniam, Ravishankar, J. Ramdas, V. V. Sankapani, Dinesh Mongia and many more, but the club was struggling to stay afloat in the I Division towards the second half of the decade. In 1999, Alwarpet found a new patron in the Sanmar Group, which invested considerably in rebuilding the team, including the provision of excellent practice facilities at the IIT

(Continued on Page 8)

What's ahead during the Season

Yet another Music Season is around the corner. Sabha secretaries are among the most active among the citizens of the city as they run around making last minute changes in season schedules, haggle over remuneration, worry about sponsorships, arrange for chief guests and keep a keen eye on the sale of season tickets and daily tickets.

The sabha primus of Chennai, the Music Academy, is all set to put up a powerful show this year, with an entirely new committee taking over and pledging to restore the organisation to its former glory. The Chief Minister of the State, J. Jayalalithaa, has consented to inaugurate the Academy's festival which will most probably begin on the 15th as usual. With this, Ms. Jayalalithaa joins a select list of the few who had the honour of inaugurating the Academy's conference twice so far. The others being Setu Parvati Bayi, the Junior Maharani of Travancore, R. Venkataraman, and M. Karunanidhi. I also hope that the Journal of the Academy, now in arrears for two years, will be released this year during the season.

During the past few years, the Season had begun in mid-November itself. This year was no exception with two high profile events kick starting the Season: *The Hindu's* Friday Review Festival and Carnatica's Bharath Sangeet Utsav 2005, both of which have had a healthy mix of Hindustani and Carnatic music. *The Hindu*, whose programmes saw large audiences, had a three-fold objective – raising the level of sponsorship, improving the audio quality and widening the base for the festival beyond Mysore. While the first two objectives were met, the last was not, for most of the audience was from *ye olde* Mysore with every one on first name basis with the others.

The December music festival will as usual throw up a mix of interesting lecture sessions and also give an opportunity for many artistes to perform. Apart from the performances of the usual top-ranking stars of Carnatic music, there are several programmes featuring young artistes, old time custodians of rare art forms, and an international attraction as well.

Among the young singers, Sikkil Gurucharan, the grandson of Sangita Kalanidhis Sikkil Neela and Kunjumani and the nephew of flautist Mala

Chandrashekhar, has been making waves as a singer. This year saw him being selected as the upcoming vocalist of the year by a city-based organisation. His concerts will be worth attending. Other young artistes who are now regulars during the Season include Abhishek Raghuram, M. Balamuralikrishna (Jr.), Charulatha Mani, Nisha Rajagopal and Sumitra Vasudev. Among the violinists, Amrita Murali and Charumati Raghuraman are two women artistes who are often chosen as accompanists. With the schedules of most sabhas yet to come out at the time I write, the exact venues of performances of these upcoming artistes are not available.

It has usually been the practice for the Music Academy to feature a Hindustani perfor-

● by **SRIRAM V.**

mance or two during the season. But this year, the Academy will play host to Zubin Mehta and his Philharmonic Orchestra on the 25th. On that day, Mehta will perform with his team for the benefit of the Academy's members. This will be a full dress rehearsal for the next day's performance, which will also be at the Academy. However, the second day's performance, which is sponsored by the Max Mueller Bhavan among others, is a ticketed performance with the collections going towards tsunami relief.

What would you do if you were left with an ancestral house on Eldam's Road? Demolish it, no doubt, and put up a block of flats or offices. This is exactly what journalist Lakshmi Venkatraman did NOT want to do. She has remodelled the house on traditional lines, but after providing enough space for her to live in, she has created an art gallery and a mini-hall for chamber music performances. *Sri Parvati*, as the building is called, will be open for the Season from November 28th onwards. This promises to be an exciting new venue, though not quite on the scale as Amethyst.

Harikatha performances are once again witnessing good crowds. T.N. Seshagopalan, the veteran singer and *veena* virtuoso, has been leading the revival over the past two years. Yet another crowd-puller has been young Vishakha Hariji of Srirangam, who will be performing at the Raga Sudha Hall and at the Sri Krishna Gana Sabha. Her style of storytelling

is emotional and packs a pretty punch. That the young woman, clad in a chic nine-yard saree, is a qualified Chartered Accountant is not known to many.

This year will also see the veteran custodian of the arts, P.R. Thilakam, being felicitated on turning 80. This will be organised by danseuse Indu Varma's school of dance, 'Tapasya', with which Thilakam has been associated for many years. Who is Thilakam you may ask. She happens to be the last surviving member of Tiruvarur's famed Kondi Paramparai which traces its lineage all the way back to Muthuswami Dikshitar's student Kamalam, beyond her to the original Kondi of Manu-needhi Cholan times and still beyond to Paravai Nachiyar, who married Sundaramurthy Nayanar. Thilakam's ancestors had hereditary rights to perform the 'Tyagesa Kuravanji' in the courtyard of the Tiruvarur temple. The dance-drama, which had been given up a 100 years ago, was single-handedly revived by Thilakam who staged it there last year. This year's felicitation will be a fitting honour to a gusty artiste. The venue is yet to be decided, though the dates – 29th and 30th of December – have been fixed.

The fine arts also have a cinematic twist this year, with Prasanna Ramaswami, presenting a three-day festival in the Sathyam Theatre complex from the 24th of December. All three films will have fine arts as the focus. Yet another interesting experiment is a study of how the seasons of the year have been handled by Western classical and Carnatic composers. The programme titled *Ritu Anubhava* will be a study on the 'Four Seasons' as handled by Tchaikovsky and Vivaldi in Western classical music and will look at Indian composers as well. The event organised by the Tchaikovsky Music Club, will be held on 3rd December at the Russian Cultural Centre, with students of the Music Department, Madras University, participating. Dr. Pramila Gurumurthy, the head of the department, has put the event together.

Build green, urges INTACH

(Continued from Page 1)

- Long term, through reducing operating cost
- Improving the productivity of occupants.

The Division is looking forward to incorporating this newly adopted concept from the US organisation LEEDS, which is certifying *Green Buildings*, into forthcoming urban development projects undertaken by NHD. — (Courtesy: *Virasat*, the journal of the INTACH.)

Subscriptions and contributions

● As readers are already aware — and hundreds have responded positively — we have no other alternative but to price *Madras Musings*. From April 16th (Volume XIV, No.1), *Madras Musings* has been priced at Rs.5 a copy, ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: Rs.100/-. Please make out your cheque only to 'Chennai Heritage' and send it, together with the COUPON BELOW, to CHENNAI HERITAGE, 260-A, TTK ROAD, CHENNAI 600 018 or C/O LOKAVANI-HALL MARK PRESS PVT. LTD., 122, GREAMES ROAD, CHENNAI 600 006.

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

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

Therefore, please keep your contributions coming IN ADDITION TO YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS. If, say, you send in a cheque for Rs.500, we will treat Rs.100 of it towards subscription to *Madras Musings* for 2004-5 and the remaining Rs.400 as contribution towards the causes Chennai Heritage espouses.

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

— The Editor

CHENNAI HERITAGE

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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:

Talking it over

(Continued from Page 2)

trial, a judgment was rendered, giving the occupant about half the land, being the area appurtenant to his house, and the rest to the religious body. Neither could do much with such an allotment. With victory and defeat going in equal shares, both parties filed appeals, looking at another decade or two of litigation. The issue was brought to Mediation. It was clear that if the legal issues and rights were to form the basis, no settlement would be possible. The legal questions were kept aside, and attention focussed instead on possible options and alternatives that would secure to each party what it needed most.

All parties had much to lose – the seller was an old man and did not expect to live long. He was keen on settling money on an orphaned niece before he died. The religious body worried that a decision against it here would affect other lands far more valuable to it. The developer was looking at an advance tied up and deprived of land for construction and sale. It took about three months, several meetings and exchanges of draft settlement packages that served the interests of the developer, the individual owner, and the religious body to reach a result satisfactory to all disputants. The parties' interests drove the case to solution.

But are there areas where Mediation cannot play any role? "Yes," Sriram states. "As in the case of serious crime, statutory violations, or if there is a severe imbalance between parties, where negotiation is just not possible."

Legal counselling differs from Mediation in that it mainly involves clients being advised of their rights, entitlements, and other aspects of the law. Settling out of court is an example of Mediation.

Mediation is changing the face of law. Courts are recognising that certain types of cases are best solved by Mediation, although pre-filing Mediation has not yet become part of the legal process.

How well does Mediation work? Sriram smiles, admitting that he is constantly being asked that question. "Interestingly, the success rate for Mediation worldwide is anywhere between 50 and 80%."

Mediation in India took a significant step forward on April 9, 2005, when the Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre was inaugurated by Justice Y.K. Sabharwal, Judge of the Supreme Court. "Our centre is within the High Court. When clients enter the court in Chennai today, the first thing they see is the Tamil Nadu Mediation Centre." The Centre's broad purpose is to foster the growth of Mediation. Under its first project, judges of the Madras High Court refer cases from the court's Cause List to Mediation, handled by former judges and practising lawyers trained by the centre. Appropriate cases for referral include commercial and contractual matters, family business and personal disputes, property, partition, insurance, banking, intellectual property issues, and several others. The Mediation Centre is run by a team of lawyers, with an overseeing committee of judges.

Sriram makes special mention of supportive colleagues like Aparna M. Vasu, Advocate, Director, ICMDR, and gives the former Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, Markanday Katju, all credit for being the guiding force and spirit behind the creation of the Centre. "He found the idea of Mediation captivating, and has since then done all he can to support this movement."

The Centre has 50 mediators, including middle level lawyers, senior advocates, solicitor-generals, and advocate-generals, who are trained by expert professionals during an intensive one-week training programme.

Many mainstream lawyers have had themselves trained in Mediation, including it in their conventional practice. With the profile of mediators on the panel – "the best in the Bar" – and the support from the Court, the whole concept has taken hold. "I now have 350 requests asking to join the programme – and this is just from the Madras High Court."

Two months ago, a Centre was created in Madurai. "Our work here is being acknowledged. Delhi has invited us to set up a Centre on similar lines, adopting the Chennai model."

A National Mediation Policy is in the process of being created. The Court has plans to create a National Mediation Institute in Delhi.

The phenomenon is still young, present only in a few metros in the country. Ideally, the movement needs to spread in such a manner that soon every court, in every corner of the nation, will have a Mediation Centre.

As Justice Sabharwal observed at the Centre's inauguration, Mediation is both an art and a science. Applied well, it can revolutionise the way we deal with disputes.

Dates for Your Diary

December 1-25: Display and sale of Christmas tree ornaments and a wide range of toys, gifts and decorations (at the Craft Shop, DakshinaChitra).

December 5-24: Street Photographers present *Oh! Wind Come*, a photographic exhibition by R.R. Srinivasan, a film-maker, photographer and writer who made the controversial documentary *Death of a River* in 1999 on the killing of 17 people in the Thamiraparani river by Tamil Nadu Police.

On the occasion of the exhibition, R.R. Srinivasan's documentaries, organised by the Kanchanai Film Society, will be

screened every day at 7.00 p.m.: **5th:** *The mask is the face*; **6th:** *Death of a river* (1999); **7th:** *Untouchable Country* and *Invisible Children*; **8th:** *Getting Lost*; **9th:** *The Ruins and Labryinth* and *Silk Route*; **10th:** *The old sea and the man*.

December 15-18: A special display of lamps. A variety of *divas* will be on sale at the Craft Shop (DakshinaChitra).

December 17-January 20: An exhibition of toys titled *The Magic Factory*, together with workshops, demonstrations and fun activities for children. (At DakshinaChitra.)

Till December 24: *Jambulingam* a Tamil adaptation of the Kannada play, *Samba Siva*, by the renowned playwright, Dr. Chandrasekhar Kambar.

Answers to Quiz

1. Justice Y.K. Sabharwal; 2. Ghulam Nabi Azad; 3. Free education for a girl who is a single child in a family; 4. Kalaikunda; 5. Nicolaus Copernicus; 6. Virendra Dayal; 7. Ben Shalom Bernanke; 8. Alberto Fujimori; 9. Myanmar (replacing Yangon); 10. Kocheril Raman.

* * *

11. Alwarpet CC (the secretary is V.A. Parthasarathy); 12. Eva and Dr. Ken Hobbs; 13. N. Murali of *The Hindu*; 14. Dayalu Ammal, the wife of M. Karunanidhi; 15. *The Hindu*; 16. Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar in 1939; 17. 1896; 18. Battle of Adyar River; 19. Maharajapuram Santhanam; 20. Manickavasagar.

Keeping Alwarpet in I Division

(Continued from Page 6)

Sanmar ground. Besides Mongia, who continued to play for Alwarpet before switching to Jolly Rovers, a number of prominent players have assisted the club during this period, though some of them have moved on to other teams. They include Venugopal Rao, Gyaneshwar Rao, Vidyut Sivaramakrishnan, J. Ramdas, D. Vasu, the present captain, and R. Jesuraj. This season, opener M. Vijay has been out-

standing with the bat, and medium pacer Avinash has also been impressive.

Over the decades, Alwarpet CC has enjoyed the patronage of some great cricket lovers, but its beginnings were made possible by generous individuals like Chengalvarayan and family of *Mangadu House*, who threw it open for the team's practice sessions, and S. Parthasarathi (Papa) of *The Hindu* family.

V. Ramnarayan

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