### R.N. 53640/91

### WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

# THE STATE OF THE S

INSIDE

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FREE ISSUE December 1-15, 1998

### Thank you, says Musings

Vol. VIII No. 16

Indeed, 'Thank you' say Madras Musings, its contributors, staff, publishers, supporters and readers for the recognition given to the journal on National Press Day, November 16th, by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The recognition may have come in the form of felicitation of your Editor as an 'elder in journalism', but the citation and felicitations made it clear that the awareness of Chennai that Madras Musings was creating, the catalytic action it had had in this regard on other publications and the contribution it had made to getting the DGP building restored were being recognised on this occasion. It gives Madras Musings great pleasure to acknowledge Government's appreciation of the role the fortnightly has been playing in Chennai.

That the Chief Minister, 'an elder in journalism' himself, wanted National Press Day celebrated for the first time in Tamil Nadu, was stated by State Information Minister, V. Mullaiventhan. The choice of Madras Musings for recognition would indicate the Chief Minister's interest in heritage and commitment to its preservation. We at Madras Musings and all those associated with the publication now look forward to Chief Minister Karunanidhi taking the next step: GIVING TAMIL NADU A HERITAGE ACT. The suggested Act has moved from the Town Planning Department to the Secretariat. We now look forward to its speedy enact-

Madras Musings also takes this opportunity to thank its supporters and wellwishers. Without their support the journal would not have survived to see the recognition of its concern for the city. May their support of this cause long continue.

The 'elders in journalism', veterans all, who were felicitated on November 16th were A.N. Sivaraman, former Editor, Dinamani; S. Viswanathan, Editor, Savi; I. Mayandi Bharati; Journalist; Arandhai Narayanan, Film Journalist; I. Shanmuganathan, former News Editor Dinathanthi; A.M. Swami, Editor, Rani; and your Editor.

—THE EDITOR

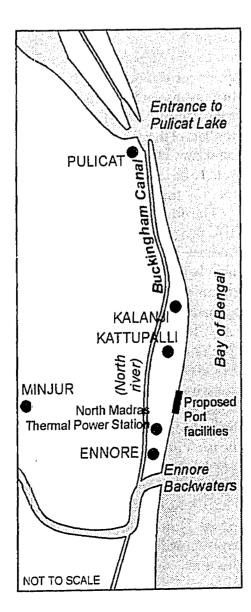
As Ennore further industrialises

# Threat to island?

n island of approximately 125 sq. km in north metropolitan Chennai, a stretch described as 'a green lung', is under threat. The island, about 25 km in length and 5 km at its broadest, has the entrance to the Pulicat backwaters to its north and the entrance to the Ennore backwaters to the south, the sea to the east, and the Buckingham Canal (once the North River) to the west. Once this island was considered a holiday resort, having on it the building of the Ennore Club, the Binny holiday bungalows and the second Lord Clive's rest and recreation

A petroproduct park is what awaits about 7000 acres of this 'green lung', an ecologically sensitive, picturesque, manmade forest with it own flora and fauna.

Already on the island are the new North Chennai



Thermal Power Station and many of the buildings for the new Ennore Satellite Port. The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) now wants to set up here a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal for a 2000 MW power generation facility and a petroproduct park.

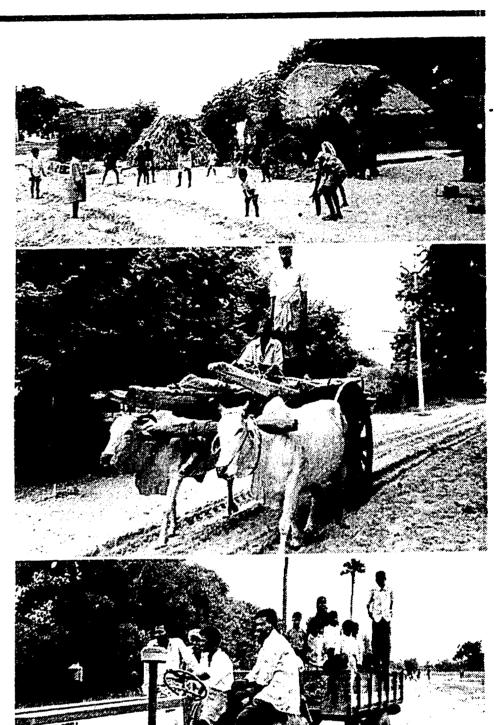
Such facilities would affect the villages of Kattupalli, Kalanji and Vayiloorkuppam. A feature of these villages is their sand dune formations, which require study by scientists. Cashew, coconut, paddy, and casuarina groves thrive in and around the villages. The casuarina plantations are a natural barrier against coastal erosion and, if felled, will lead to sea erosion of the sort seen along the Ennore Expressway.

With the construction of the North Chennai Thermal Power Station, a road and a bridge have been laid on the island leading to the Ennore Satellite Port. Otherwise, there are only sand tracks here and transport is by tractor-trailer, Jeep and bullock carts. The villages were once accessible only by catamaran and boat from Ennore through the Buckingham Canal.

The Pulicat Bird Sanctuary, about 6 km north of the villages, is categorised under

### (Continued on Page 7)

• These pictures (on right) by RAJIND N CHRISTY are from threatened Kattupalli village on the island between the entrances to the Pulicat and Ennore backwaters. From top to bottom: In India, you'll find cricket being played anywhere, even on a 'road' of beach sand; bullock cart and infrequent tractortrailers provide the only transport you can hitch a ride on; cashew and casuarina are two of the 'crops' that thrive on an island of sand dunes.





# Are we really suffering a national crisis?

**TI7** hen the Department VV of Journalism/Communication. University of Madras, and the Government of Tamil Nadu decided to celebrate National Press Day on November 16th, The Man from Madras Musings was rather shocked to hear that the theme for this year suggested by the Press Council of India was 'National Crisis and the Role of the Media'. The way the subject was worded it appeared quite clear that the Council thought the country was suffering a national crisis — and that type of assumption MMM expects from the Press the Council is expected to monitor rather than from the Council

What is that "national crisis" that the Council sees the nation afflicted by? Coalition governments? Political squabbling? Corruption? Lack of infrastructure? Recession? An almost comatose stock market? Sanctions? Natural disasters? Failures in sport? Surely these are part of life in any country! Surely these are not so alarming as to be termed individually or together a "national crisis"! MMM's definition of a "national crisis" is a crisis that brings a country to its knees, that will lead to its total collapse. Like what happened to Japan when the A-bomb devastated Nagasaki and Hiroshima, like what the recent hurricane did to the Honduras in particular and a couple of other Central American countries in passing, like what Hitler did to Europe and like what the Great Depression did to America. Can we compare any of our crises with these? By implying that we could in its phraseology, "national crisis", the Press Council was making a mountain of, if not exactly a molehill, at least some rugged foothills. And that's more like what the Press does than what is expected

of the Press Council. Nevertheless, speakers on the occasion at the University did find several crises in India that needed more attention paid to them by the media than at present — not so much by unearthing scandal as through creating greater awareness and helping to develop more positive attitudes. The crises mentioned were the Crisis of Character (corruption, inability to ensure sustainability etc.), Crisis of Intolerance (religion, language, caste etc.), Crisis of Identity (caste, status etc.) and Crisis in Family Planning. Undoubtedly all these are major crises for which India has to find answers. But none of them is a crisis MMM would rate as a national crisis, though he'd consider them, especially the last-named one, more serious crises than those the Press generally frets

MMM's hobbyhorse is family planning; rather, the strict conrrolling of the population of India if the country is ever to attain an acceptable level of prosperity. Scientists like Dr. M.S. Swaminathan also see the country's population as India's major problem, but they feel the answer is in increasing agricultural productiv-

ity. The economists and sundry Finance Ministers feel the answer lies in economic liberalism and greater industrial production. MMM would rather seek a quicker, simpler solution; let's go the tough Chinese way and ensure small families.

### No local focus

The Press Council of India had also suggested the day be observed in memory of Nikhil Chakravarthy, who had died earlier in the year. With its Delhi moorings, the Press Council's request was understandable. After all, whether the rest of the country had read Mainstream or not, Nikhil Chakravarthy's was a name which figured in the headlines of the national Press for one reason or another over the years and had, thus, attained eminence. But it appeared passing strange to The Man from Madras Musings to be asked to remember Chakravarthy when the organisers did not take the opportunity to recall one of

Harry Miller, who contributed much to Madras journalism over the last fifty years, deserved similar honour on the occasion. But like all major Indian newspapers which opt to be called 'national' newspapers and prefer news from other parts of India to what is happening in the cities they publish from, all those connected with journalism prefer to remember the national figure to the local one.

Swadesamitran and who graced the occasion. Scholarship was something the erudite Sivaraman had always pursued and he still hadn't given it up; he was now busy studying the Koran, a speaker related, commending such scholarship to other journal-

Among the usual requests made to Government on such occasions, two, MMM thought, merited consideration. One sought the establishment of a training academy for journalists with a focus on Tamil journalism. The other sought a library — along the lines of a large newspaper's 'morgue' — which would offer assistance to journalists and writers contributing to the numerous small newspapers and journals being published from Madras and which did not have any such facilities. Both MMM considers essential; he was, in fact, involved about two decades ago with a plan for a training institute proposed by Government along the lines of the Film Technicians' Institute. That is a proposal that must be lying in some Government pigeonhole; it might be taken out and looked at again — and the library included

Also deserving another look is Rajaji Hall, where the function was held. MMM found its pillars, capitals, paintings and, particularly, its chandeliers surprisingly well-maintained for a Government venue. But it is a historic

### Place of English

The State Government's A recent command that Tamil should play a greater role in the schools it runs, assists and, no doubt, examines needs to be tempered with greater caution, The Man From Madras Musings thinks. Much as it might not like taking a lesson out of the pages of the Sri Lankan experience, the Government would be well-ad-

vised to do so. As far back as 1946, there was introduced in the Island the mother tongue experiment, compulsory study in either Sinhalese or Tamil. The consequences of that experiment are to be seen today not only on the battlefield. In several parts of the Island the biggest business appears to be the business of learning English to meet the growing needs of a burgeoning, liberalised economy. And to teach the language the over 60-year-olds are much in demand, MMM noted after a recent visit. A rather similar demand is already felt in Chennai and if Government goes through with its plans it will only grow still further in the Sri Lankan fashion after a couple of generations of the young have been deprived of an international medium of communication.

In this connection, MMM recently came across a couple of news items of interest. An eminent scholar and linguist from England, David Daley, told a gathering of scholars at the famed

# SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

And so Harry Miller was not remembered on the day, despite his mmense contributions to photojournalism and human interestjournalism in the South.

### Hall of honour

Miller did not **IV** posthumous mention at the Government function held later in the day either, when the Government of Tamil Nadu honoured seven veteran journalists, elders in the profession. This function, though enthusiastically supported by the Chief Minister, unfortunately lacked his presence. But as 'Savi' Viswanathan said in his response, if Mu Karunanidhi had attended he would have had to be the first one felicitated for eminent contributions to journalism in Tamil Nadu. His founding of Murasoli and his regular contributions to it could not be forgotten. He hoped that this function would become an annual one and that when Karunanidhi called it a political day, he would be honoured as a veteran journalist that year.

The highlight of the occasion, The Man From Madras Musings thought, was the presence and felicitating of 94-year-old A N Sivaraman who led the Dinamani's challenge to the pioneering

building also in need of restoration. Peeling walls, unpolished wooden floors and stage and the raucous pink of its walls do not do the building any justice.

Tatty jamkalams on the floors only emphasise the state the once gleaming woodwork is now in. As for the furniture, plastic chairs in several loud hues is hardly the kind of seating such a grand building warrants. Some solid, polished teak-and-cane chairs and thick carpets in a rich colour on polished floors is what such a grand hall needs. And the building itself needs its original white, the colour of the tropics.

MMM met a frequent air-traveller the other day and he said that every time he comes into Chennai at night these days his eyes are drawn to the most beautiful scene on the ground; the glowing Police Headquarters building, a visual treat with nothing quite like it anywhere else in India. Whether he exaggerates or not, the building lit up at night does capture a lot of attention from the passing crowd every day. And the example should be followed for many another place in the City, starting with Rajaji Hall and its neighbour, the former Government House, and going on to others in time, like Senate

Institute in Pune recently that by 2010 India will be "the centre of gravity of the English language" as it would have "the largest number of speakers of the world's language of communication". The poet Dilip Chitre who is working with Dalby, added, "What this means is that sometime in the 21st Century we will dictate the norms of the English language"! Already the reflection of this revolution is the demand for persons with technical skills from Tamil Nadu to man the frontiers of the computer world of tomorrow. Does Tamil Nadu now

want to be left behind — or even out of — this exciting revolution? The other news item was on a BBC programme by a historian, Andrew Roberts. It might not have been a well-received programme in India, but one point made should have been of interest to the Tamil Nadu Government. He said that among the benefits the British left behind in India was the English language which has proved to be a "unifying language". MMM is sure that the party in power will remember how hard it fought to keep English from being replaced by Hindi. That decision did a world of good for the State. MMM hopes that decision will be remembered at this time.

Bhandarkar Oriental Research

### In brief

★ It was at the British Council

recently that Theodore Baskaran, former Chief Postmaster General of Madras, spoke of his other interest, the Tamil film. This time he was talking about the Raj's attitude to films and pointed out that some of the 19th Century enactments of the Rai were still being implemented in India. As in the case of the Godse play that was recently banned and in the case of action taken following the fire in the Upahaar Theatre in Delhi. A few days later The Man from Madras Musings noticed a suggestion in a national magazine that several of the 3000-odd Central statutes, the earliest going back to 1836, need to be revised or completely changed on grounds of obsolescence. The author listed 58 major laws concerning business that need changing. And they include: The Carriers Act, 1865; the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908: the Court Fees Act, 1870; the Indian Contract Act, 1870; the Indian Penal Code, 1860; the Indian Stamp Act, 1899; the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885; the Land Acquisition Act, 1894; the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881; the Societies Registration Act, 1860; and the Transfer of Property Act, 1882. That's quite an impressive set of 19th Century laws we still live by! But to get back to films, the highlight of Bhaskaran's talk was a clip of a film that was in the Dublin Film Archives and which in copy, was gifted to the Indian President by the Irish President and is now in the Film Institute Archives in Pune. This film of village life — including the toddy drunk — was shot in the Tiruvannamalai-Gingee area by nn Irishman in 1921 and was the first 'documentary' shot in what is now Tamil Nadu. This was also its first screening here.

★ When the United States Information Service had Ambassador Shirin Tahir-Kheli speak recently on 'Nuclear Non-proliferation and South Asia', The Man from Madras Musings was very disappointed in hearing a hesitant speaker who almost seemed nervous before the audience. This good-looking ambassador of Pakistani origin and with a background of "my father is a physicist, my brother is a physicist and my husband is a physicist" was much more confident during the question and answer session, making MMM wonder why she had been so diffident in her presentation. There was nothing in it that was really new, including the conclusion that America is quite willing to use the stick if it is really necessary. Ambassador Tahir-Kheli now a Senior Fellow in a Philadelphia-based think-tank, is working on a project which she hopes will link Pakistan and India in joint consideration of energy and environment projects and on another project which brings together key leaders of both countries to discuss measures to prevent conflict. MMM wishes her luck.

--MMM

### OUR **READERS** WRITE



### **Bombay Silence**

December 1-15, 1998

**T** shall certainly miss Miller. There Lwas nothing at all about him in the Bombay papers. Had he been a gangster or a corrupt politician we would have read the usual clichés about his death being a loss to the nation.

> K.N. Prabhu 63, Ocean View Dumayne Road Colaba Mumbai 400 005

### Hours with Harry

Tonly met the dear Lcurmudgeon once and he was very obviously ailing, but he held me captive in his bungalow for hours in the nicest possible way. I was waiting to see how Musings would bid him goodbye. You exceeded my hope.

> Peter Popham New Delhi Bureau The Independent (London) 6-A, Sujan Singh Park New Delhi 110 003

### Harry's knowledge

was very distressed to learn that Harry Miller is no more. Although I did not know him personally, I always enjoyed his wonderful photographs of and commentaries on Madras. I admired his extraordinary knowledge of animals that put us professional biologists to shame. I am sure his soul will be happier to be part of the soil of the once beautiful Chennapattinam and the present ugly Madras that continue to adore, in spite of geographical isolation.

> Anantanarayanan Raman Orange Agricultural College Orange NSW 2800 Australia

### Threatened building

Throughout the world, various **I** governments take a keen interest in maintenance of old structures of varied aesthetical hues and which tell historical tales. Many structures such as the Southern Railway Building and Chepauk Palace reflect history.

Another such building is the roomy, airy main building of the Cosmpolitan Club with its massive pillars, palatial hall and splendid interiors. It is now threatened by the destroyers of beauty, who crudely and barbarically are changing the face of it, adding unbearable loads that crack the walls. The club should consult specialists in preservation before testing the strength of this Victorian structure.

Here is a building that deserves be rescued and preserved.

> M. Selvaraman Chennai 600 010

### Alternative available

am as concerned as so many others about ACME (MM. September 16th) not having come up to our expectations.

(i.e., Chennai) we need not feel unduly sad. We have another, wellreputed institute of national standard: LIBA — Loyola Institute of Business Administration.

LIBA is now in its 20th year and

I appeal to the captains of

B-12/4, 25th Cross Street Besant Nagar, Chennai 600 090.

ndia House' was renamed 1 'Gemini House' after S S Vasan bought it from C. Rajam. I think, a vacant site of 'India Govindurajulu Naidu, Jeweller, and Hotel Savera is now situated on it.

The prominent industrialist C. Rajam sold the main house, India House', to the Raja of Sivaganga and the outhouse to T.K. Govindarajulu, a jeweller in NSC Bose Road. 'India House' was renamed 'Sivaganga House'

and productive re-use. (Photograph by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)

sold the outhouse to the proprietors—enue for the Corporation.

T.K.S. Mani

48, Arcot Road

Flat 17, Majestic Terrace

Subsequently the Raja of

Sivaganga sold the main house to

S.S. Vasan and T.K. Govindurajulu

Truly what was 'India House' is

Saligramam, Chennai 600 093.

The Koyambedu Wholesale

■ Market Complex on a 65-acre

plot is adjacent to the Madras Air-

port and could become a source of

birdhits to aircraft because of the

dumping of garbage in large quanti-

a landmark but is used mainly for

of the Savera Hotel.

Against the rules?

cinema shooting.

However, as residents of Madras

has already acquired a national reputation as one of the best in South India, thanks to the efforts of its Director, Dr. Louis Xavier.

industry to support LIBA and help make it the best management institute in the country.

V. Chandrashekhar

### 'India House' — I

House', was bought by T K

### 'India House' — II

C.A. Reddi 57, Rundalls Road Vepery, Chennai 600 007.

# Sad state of literacy and happy state of Johnsonese

A s one who has been in the ment by us are at present meas-'business' of colleges of Maured by 'lifting the ... College prize twice', 'delivering special lectures dras, I am in no way surprised by the Principal's letter seeking supat ... Colleges', and 'publishing a paper by ... College'. These measport for his election to the Senate of the University of Madras (MM, urement indices sound sillier than October 16th). After reading the the status the contender is aiming report in MM, the contender's to achieve. Where are the standards which we talk, talk and talk probably justifying to himself that knowledge of the English lanabout? Principals need no stand ards? When will we ever realize guage is no longer necessary in Tamil Nadu! Reading your note. I that we are living in a fool's parafelt that MM has been rather too kind in referring to this new item The English of this letter may as "a reminder of the state of edube a laugh, but on the question of cation", and I would have pre-

reminder of the state of literacy. I am getting all the more anxious that the levels of achieve-

ferred it being described as a sad

preme command over the English language in such high esteem as most 'elite' Indians do Johnsonese is the most sophisticated mode of communication, and in India, the ability to write and speak a flamboyant, circumambulatory English is a vital skill; it is supposed to characterice cultural richness. The following from a letter from a friend will illustrate the point: "I feel extremely sorry for this delayed letter even though I wished several times to contact you through e-mail, but 'poorer' English in India, where my preoccupation with the con-

duct of the marriage of my niece many speak/write/read English caused so much delay in sending well. I must point out something less funny. I am not sure if Boswell the message"! held Samuel Johnson and his su-

— Anantanarayanan Raman

the Sri Sarangapaniswami Temple

and other tanks at Kumbakonam,

which used to be brimming with

water all the year round, are sub-

jected to the same fate of the

Chennai temple tanks. All these

tanks can and should be revived by

repairing and restoring these inlets.

Our Chief Minister, who is to be

congratulated on his efforts to desilt

all the water sources in the State,

can also pay some attention to re-

viving these blocked inlets of the

are concerned, the only recourse

appears to be to interconnect all the

temple tanks with the stormwater

drains with outlets into the

Buckingham Canal. Besides, the

possibility of laying inlets from the

Advar River (which has floods ev-

ery monsoon) to these tanks can

also be explored, so that these dy-

ing tanks can be brought back to

T.M. Sundararaman

Mylapore, Chennai 600 004.

19, Nallappan Street,

their original glory.

In so far as the city temple tanks

temples in the districts.

ties and the non-prompt removal of it by 'Singara Chennai' authorities. Am I right in thinking that no perishable market or slaughter house should be situated within a 10 km 2000. radial distance of airports, either civil or defence, according to aviation rules?

> C.A. Reddi 57 Rundalls Road, Vepery, Madras 600 007.

### Hoarding solution

There has been a hue and cry Labout the hoardings in Chennai, marring the view. But the businessman needs hoardings to advertise his product, particularly as it is economised one hits the eye, again and again, getting registered in the buyer's mind.

I agree that the ugly hoardings mar the view and are obstacles on the major roads. To get over this, the Corporation can put up permanent small boards fixed on all lamp posts in city. Businessmen, politician, etc. can paste their posters or

to choose the financial year as opposed to the calendar year. And presumably this year was chosen because it encompasses January 1,

A news item referring to the

Y2K problem states, 'Even as preparations are on to celebrate the dawn of the new millenium in just about one and a half years, there are also serious misgivings as to what is in store for global society as the clock strikes twelve on the night of December 31, 1999'.

How many of us (including the Government of India) know that the 21st Century does not begin until January 1, 2001? Notwithstanding, we can be certain that the entire world will go into a frenzy (meaning get drunk) on January 1, 2000 (the eve of December 31 1999 itself)! In contrast, the celebrations on lanuary 1, 2001, if any, will turn out to be a damp squib.

Mark my words!

B. Gautham 122, Wallajah Road, Chennai 600 002.

### Save temple tanks Road Sense

A recent issue of Reader's It was recently reported that the Digest says India is the second LSri Parthasarathiswami Temple worst country in traffic discipline among 10 Asian countries. China precedes us. This is no surprise to us, the citizens of Chennai MTC buses are above law and they have no regard for the Traffic Police. Autos, fish-carts etc. are no

The other day, while I was riding on the Jawaharlal Nehru Road (Inner Ring Road), I found a youth riding a motor cycle trying to mask his nose with both his hands and his In Thanjavur District, all the handkerchief. I was taken aback. When I warned him to ride properly, he abused me, while

chasing me for a distance. Similarly, I found a person driving a Maruti car, receiving a call over his cell phone and after finishing it, dialling a number at the Kathipara Junction around 10 a.m., while driving at a speed of about 40 kmph.

How do we make our roads safer? Who is to ensure road user's

> V Rajagopalan Flat-F, Bagmar Flat 20, 8th St. Extn., New Colony Adambakkam Chennai 600 088.

'India House'....'Gemini House'.... a landmark that awaits restoration

Flat No.1, Seaview Apts, Leith Castle Road, Santhomé, Chennai 600 028.

### The millennium

paint their news for a fee. This will

have a dual effect. It will not look

ugly and will keep generating rev-

Union Tourism Minister, Madan Lal Khurana referred to a 'significant event', viz., the celebration of 'Visit India Year' from April 1999 to March 30, 2000 to bid farewell to the 20th Century and welcome the 21st Century. Perhaps the government finds it convenient

C peaking at a function, the

Tank, Triplicane, was in a deplorable state. But then this phenomenon is not confined to this temple tank alone in the city. Due to indiscriminate drawal of groundwater and failure to take suitable steps to recharge the fast-depleting groundwater, as well as to restore the inlets to these temple tanks, the once famous and beautiful temple tanks are now reduced to a pitiable con-

temple tanks have inlets from the river Kaveri and during freshes one can witness water flowing into these tanks through these inlets. These inlets were obviously constructed during the Chola regime hundreds of years ago and have been functioning efficiently till the recent past. But, alas, due to carelessness while digging the roads, relaving the roads etc., most of these inlets have either been blocked or disturbed, severely affecting the free flow of water, with the result that even

present a desolate appearance. For instance, the tank inside Sri Adi Kumbeswaraswami Temple, the famous Potraamarai Tank of

these once beautiful tanks now



Our OLD and NEW take a different shape this fortnight. They focus on plans to move a market.

THE

On top is the rubble of the vegetable market on Kapaleeswarar South Mada Street, Mylapore, that was razed to the ground. Already taking over the space as a parking lot is a variety of traffic, particularly four-wheelers of every description. No one says a word about their occupancy. Neither is a word said about the row of shops (on left in picture above, taken on North Mada Street). Why are they permitted, while the vegetable market is not? "None of your business," said a municipal employee!

Below are West Mada Street and East Mada Street (where work has started on rebuilding the protective wall that had collapsed) alongside Chitrakulam, a .... & THE

block away from the erstwhile vegetable market. Space is being allotted here for a new vegetable market, but the vendors are reluctant to move.

The new area will be too crowded and people will avoid the market, they contend. The answer to that is to allow NO traffic at all along the four Chitrakulam Mada Streets, except residents with passes. As for the temple procession once a week, that would be the best day for the market holiday. All parking can be on Kapaleeswarar South Mada Street. And it is time this street and its three fellow streets are made one-way in a clockwise direction, with bus traffic alone being permitted two-away travel on West Kapaleeswarar Mada Street

All this could be worked out amicably if only the Authorities sit down together with the traders' leaders and respected old-time residents of the area and discuss a solution which has and hasn't something for everyone.





## Welcoming another Music Season

What N PATTABHIRAMAN expects from young musicians:

'No prostitution of the art'

speak as a rasika. I have been what he conceived and initisome 61 years now. I became a rasika by listening to great stalwarts. They have opened my eyes to the beauties of Carnatic music with the depth and breadth of their artistic vision and the individuality of their

With this background, let me tell young musicians what I look forward to when I attend a Carnatic music concert.

Let me start off by saying: Don't sing or perform!... That is, don't give a performance on the concert stage unless and until you are equipped to do so. [To older musicians, I say: stop performing, if you are no longer able to do it well]. I don't like to listen to under-equipped musicians any more than I like to eat halfbaked bread or undercooked idlis or rice. You may argue that you need to get practice. I understand that, but don't practise on the kutcheri platform. I don't like that any more than I would like a student of surgery to practise on me!

I expect you to sing raga music. You must grasp the fact that the concept of raga is unique to Indian music, that Indian music, guess you need to offer some enthat Indian music is raga music. Therefore, your endeavour must be to image the raga, using the kriti or composition as the focal point.

Concert music is art music. In art music, what must prevail is the element of art, as perceived and presented by the performer as artist. So you, as a performer, must provide your listeners with an elevating experience, through your art, through the expression of your artistic conceptions and sensibilities.

I expect you to have studied the composition well — its structure, and so on, specifically its sahitya bhava, so that, when you sing, you develop the raga taking into account the clues given in the composition. The raga's manodharma segments should accord with the sahitya bhava of the kriti, so that the entire kriti suite projects a single image of the raga.

The kutcheri paddhati or format that prevails today is, in a sense, largely the creation of the late Ariyakudi Ramanuja lyengar, but as it is generally utilised today, it is a travesty of

Ulistening to concert music for ated. His purpose in fashioning the format was to introduce variety, to replace the earlier format in which the emphasis was on the elaboration of a single raga, with only one or two other compositions preceding it or following it. He himself preferred brief expositions of a number of compositions— in this, he was like a short story specialist. Other stalwarts like Semmangudi Srinivasa Iver and G.N. Balasubramaniam, who revered Ariyakudi as their manaseeka guru, grasped that the essence of Ariyakudi approach was variety and not brevity and they chose to make elaborate presentations of the main kriti suites in their performances. To present a string of kriti-s one after another, virtually jettisoning the manodharma aspect, is to misperceive Ariyakudi's approach and miss altogether the unique feature of Indian classical music.

Ariyakudi showed one way to present variety in a performance. There are other ways too. So by all means avoid the formula approach, but display your skills in

I said art must elevate, but I tertainment in order to please the lay listeners in your audience. Don't overdo the entertainment bit, don't be beguiled into thinking that you must cater to the lowest common denominator at all cost. Strike a balance between art and commerce — and never favour commerce to the point that your artistic integrity is compromised or your artistic growth is arrested. In your quest for commercial success, don't prostitute the art.

ferred to as the grammar. It is the tension between lakshana, on the one hand, and lakshya, meaning the current application of aesthetics, on the other hand, which invests a classical application of aesthetics, on the bhava as developed in the other hand, which invests a classical art with dynamism. It is lakshya that represents the dynamic element in the equation. But this does not give licence to every Ram, Seeta and Lakshman in the music field to be indifferent to the canons of music, to do what he or she pleases in the name of lakshya.

Lakshana is generally re-

(Continued on Page 6)

# 'This won't do', a wider view

Name,' a theatre pro- who were trying deliberately to duction by Avanti Meduri is destroy the devadasi system. being presented around the Avanti's presentation was based country. Chennai saw it a few on the work she had done for her weeks ago and here it created a Ph.D. on the devadasis and the small stir. A European from the abolition of the system. audience rushed on to the stage met at home to discuss the perand is said to have screamed. "This won't do". This incident went almost unnoticed by the audience. Many, so confused by the same topic and I wanted to the form of presentation, hear her views. Usha Srinivasan, thought it was part of the script.

early, unable to understand what Avanti was trying to say. Others thought it was crude. Several of those who stayed and had understood what it was all about, disagreed strongly with the view that the British and the Hindu reformist movement

A few days later, a few of us

formance and the theme. Tiziana Leucci's Ph.D. was on Tiziana's guru, had her own Many in the audience left ideas. We ended up hotly debating the subject. But we all agreed that there could be no one opinion on the complex subject of the devadasi; every view will be partisan and limited. Avanti Meduri's, placing the blame squarely at the British, was, we felt a naive and simplis-

evidence that the British did bring in laws in the light of women who did not marry and who were dedicated to the



higher-ups had no interest in touching the devadasi system, calling it an internal matter. One Viceroy even wrote to the Governor that these were artists and should be considered artists and treated as such; their

od has Changed His were the villains of the piece tic point of view. While there is personal affairs were not the problems of the state.

> Muddu Palani's poem, which was banned by the British, was known only after a translation was available. A century later, another devadasi, Bangalore Nagarathnamma, published these poems. Tiziana says the British banned sati because they considered it murder. But the devadasi system was too complicated for them to handle. The puritan attitude of 19th Century temple having children, the however, did have its effect on some educated Indians who called for a ban on the system and the ban on it came after India got Independence.

> > The debate goes on. 'Devadasi' was a word not uttered by people in the Seventies and Eighties. Now it has become fashionable to invoke the name of the devadasi in every study. Avanti is the latest to study her showing her in such a poor light as to make a ragdoll of her.



Until December 6: The Other Festival presented by the Arangham Trust. A series of new radically different works by actors, dancers, musicians and painters. (At the Museum Theatre. Details telephone: 8524917)

Throughout December: An exhibition of the origins of Christianity in India.

Christmas carols at the weekends by the children from the neighbouring village. From mid-December, the Margazhi festival temple processions. The craft shop stocks with an exclusive and specially designed collection of Christmas gifts, table linen and Christmas tree decorations. (DakshinaChitra)

Till December 10: Exhibition of the work of V. Ramesh (Apparao Galleries)

December 6: Carols and Solo performances by Young Artists. Choirs: Polyphonics (+Juniors) Subjuniors, Conductor: Gita Menon. (Max Mueller Bhavan Library, 6 pm)

December 9 : Piano-recital by Holger Mantey. He performed at the Jazz Yatra. (Max Mueller Bhavan, 7 pm).

December 12: Pottery Workshops (Dakshina Chitra) 10 am to 4 pm. Details telephone: 4918943.

December 12-22: Exhibition of the work of Mithuna (Apparao Galleries)

Till January 10: Exhibition of the work of Haku Shah (Apparao Galleries).

### Tiziana Leucci, of Rome, whose The dancer from Rome, dedicated

to India

The discussion we had L gave me an opportunity to learn more about Tiziana Leucci, a familiar figure in Chennai art circles for over a decade now. She is everywhere... at dance programmes, art shows, theatre, lectures on yoga, other performances. At the Krishna Gana Sabha's Natyakala Conference she has always made her presence felt, but few have had the patience to listen to what she has to say; her passion and her Italian accent do not help her gain serious attention.

But there are few more serious scholars than Tiziana who learnt Bharatha Natyam from guru Usha Srinivasan and the martial art of Kalari from Raju at Hastha. Chennai, on an ICCR scholarship. Her PhD was on the devadasi tradition of South India which she compared to the priestess cults of early Mediterranean cultures. The high priestesses of Greek and Roman temples were also dedicated to the temples. Their moral rules were much more liberal than those of other women. These rules were related to the earth and fertility cult and the priestesses had children out of wedlock. They were also war-

Tiziana's introduction to India was when she was 16 and learning ballet in Rome. She had enrolled for a summer ballet camp and was going to attend a lecture-demonstration by a visiting ballet dancer from Paris when she walked through the wrong arch at the University of Rome. A lecture on another topic was in its last minutes there and she found herself fascinated by it. The

young woman speaking was demonstrating beautiful gestures with her hands. Someone told Tiziana they were from an Indian dance. And, from that time, the memory staved with Tiziana and she kept dreaming of learning the form.

Years later, the dancer

Kamadev was visiting Rome for a three-month workshop on Indian dance. Tiziana made sure she was there and, after the workshop, decided he was going to devote herself to Indology, doing her post graduate dissertation on the Tandava and Lasya aspects of dance and life and the devadasi system for her

doctoral thesis. Wanting to learn the art form of the devadasis, she applied for a scholarship to go to India and was successful in her second attempt. She came here and became a student of Kalakshetra on an ICCR scholarship in 1987. She felt very comfortable in Madras. "Roman and Madrasi cultures seem to have a lot in common and I felt very much at home," she says.

Feeling the need to learn from a traditional nattuvanar, she went to the late Muthuswamy Pillai. Muthuswamy Pillai was skeptical in the beginning but was very helpful later. While learning dance from him, she spoke to him at length about the devadasi practice. While the priestess cults had been abolished centuries earlier in Greek and Roman cultures, it had survived into the 20th Century in India. She

worked on anthropological sociological and historical material. She went to the Chidambaram temple. She began to cry and laugh at the same time. Though the temple did not touch her in the same way the aesthetics of the Brihadeeswara temple or Hampi had done, she had a strange feeling of belonging at Chidambaram.

Tiziana one day went to a

Nadi Josiyar. He located her palm leaf and began to chant some facts from her past which were very accurate... like the violent death of her father's first wife, her mother's upbringing and the death of her siblings. He then went on to tell her about her previous life. "You were the first born girl in an Iyer family in a village near Chidambaram. Your mother had more girls and then the family decided to give you up to the temple as a devadasi to get the boon of a boy. They did not get a boy but you were trained in music and dance to be a devadasi. You fell in love and ran away from the temple and were drowned at sea. You have come back to finish your debt to Nataraja..." Tiziana danced in the Chidambaram Temple one day and experi-

Tiziana is fascinated by the things that happen to her in India. Ten years ago, she was walking on Mount Road and saw a little boy with a sad face with a book in front of him. He said he wanted to sell it for food. It was obviously stolen property. She paid him five rupees and took the book. It was a book on

enced fulfillment.

and put it in her attic. Years later, she was looking for some archaeological evidence to support an argument and she searched high and low for a book that would give her a clue. She wrote to the British Library, sent letters to her friends all over Europe, only to stumble on the book again and find in it exactly what she was looking

"What fascinates me about

Turkey. She brought it home

Chennai is its mingling of the present with the past... the Kapali temple and all the plastic shops around it... swank cars in small gullies.. it is like going to school in Rome... waiting for the bus by an ancient monument... the activity in the streets. The vendors, their rhythmic cries while selling, the mixture of garbage with unbelievable beauty. Like in Rome, everything is alive here, even garbage has its own reality, it is all so sensual."

She has a dream of going back to Rome and founding a cultural centre that will try to bring the two civilisations closer. This Indo-Italian centre will look at Arikamedu inscriptions, Marco Polo's observations as well as today's realities, emphasising the similarities in culture.

Muthuswamy Pillai had made her promise that she would finish her studies and not give them up. She dedicated her Ph.D. thesis to that unknown Indian girl at Rome University into whose lecture she had accidentally walked. But for that mistake...

- V.R.D.

(Quizmaster V.V.RAMA-NAN'S questions are from the fortnight November 1 to 15. Questions 16 to 20 pertain to Chenani.)

- 1. Why was Nishant Bharadwaj, a student in Rajasthan, in the news on November 9th?
- 2. What historic judgement was delivered in Bangaladesh on November 8, 23 years after a gruesome killing?
- 3. Which Indian won her second World chess crown in Spain on November 16th?
- 4. What far-reaching judgement did the Madras HC deliver as regards the Jayalalitha corruption
- 5. What world record did Mohd Azharuddin set on November 6th
- 6. Who is the new Formula One world champion?
- 7. Where in India is the world's tallest building, built by the Maharishi Vedic University, scheduled to come up?
- 8. Who on November 4 bettered Milkha Singh's 38-year-old 400m
- 9. What much anticipated telecommunication announcement was made on November 7th?
- 10. The creator of Batman passed away recently. Who was he?
- 11. Name the senior official with Reliance Industries who has been linked to Romesh Sharma, who was taken into custody in Delhi
- 12. Name the historic daily, operating from Lucknow and considered a torch-bearer of the Freedom movement, whose properties were sold to pay compensation
- 13. How muh has Bill Clinton agreed to pay Paula Jones in an outof-court settlement in a sexual harassment case?
- 14. With which coveted award have 8-year-old Anjali Grover and her brother 10-year old Akash Grover been honoured?
- 15. Name the Indian named the 'Man of the Year' by the world's leading biographical institute, the American Biographical Institute.

\* \* \*

16. Which Chennai-based vocalist has been appointed the 'Asthana Vidwan' of the Sri Ahobila Math? 17. What new facility was recently introduced at the Chennai Medical

18. Name the industrialist honoured with one of Japan's most coveted awards the 'Order of Sacred Treasure, Gold & Silver Star'.

College Research Institute?

19. Why was Ms. Loretta Andrews, the librarian of the SS Universe Explorer, the floating university which visited Chennai recently, in the news?

20. Where in the city were advance reservation facilities for the inter-State bus service operated by SETC opened on November 9th?

(Answers on Page 7)

### There being a noticeably dif-L ferent level of hygiene here in India than in most Western countries, it has been known for newly arrived expats to get somewhat disturbed about it. Ladies I know of get a sudden passion to see that everything is boiled — not only the water but also the things you put the water into. If the truth were known they'd like to boil everything in sight, if only they could! Only the other day I heard of an expat who, while in his cups ("fully drunk" to use Indian English), sacked his driver for refusing to wash his

car with boiled water. Not to worry. Think of all the expats who used to visit my fabulous village house called The Frogs, because it was always full of them at the delightfully named village of Thirumullaivayal (means "A Gateway of Jasmine" — isn't that nice?). On many a Sunday morning we'd have rather more expat guests than we'd expected or could reasonably be expected to cope with, and would run out of Spencer's soda water (long gone, I'm afraid), or whatever they liked to put in their gin (Scotch was only on the rare occasions when a diplomatic friend felt kindly towards us!) so we would have to send someone off to the

vilage to buy soda water there. When that happened, he would return with what was known as a Codd's Bottle of soda water. Ever seen a Codd's Bottle? No ? I thought not. A Codd's Bottle was made of thick, crude glass with a neck fashioned in such a way that a blue marble was confined in a little chamber inside it. When a bottle was empty the marble rattled about freely. I often wondered how they got it inside there, in the first place. The bottle was filled with water and the gas — CO, I suppose

# To boil or not to boil?

— somehow added, presumably with the bottle inverted. Above the blue marble was a rubber ring, and when the bottle was turned the right way up again, the blue marble was forced against the rubber forming a gasproof seal. To release it you struck the marble sharply with your thumb held rigidly. The bottle could, of course, be

> One Man's Madras — HARRY MILLER'S

used again repeatedly. Splendid things, those Codd's Bottles. Original idea. Wonder who originally thought of it. Who was this chap Codd, anyway? I never found out. And I never found out, either, exactly how those bottles were refilled, and how they always got that marble back in place after the CO, was forced into the water. Clever, really clever. If you see one about, grab it quick and take it back home with you. Many years ago I was told that in the U K they were regarded quid apiece. At that time I could have brought thousands, but I haven't seen one for years.

But to come back to those sodas from the village, I never inquired closely mind you, but I knew that for some reason wells in that area produced only saline water, and I strongly suspect that, like all the villagers' water supply, our soda water came from the lotus pond, outside the Mariamman temple just up the road. Rather lovely and idyllic, no doubt, but of questionable hygienic standards. I very much doubt whether any of our villagers would have thought even of filtering the pond water, let alone boiling it.

Successions of expat visitors to The Frogs, and of course their many children, therefore came and went, having partaken of our village pond water in their drinks, never dreaming that the source of that water might be open to the skies and to many other possible but unmentionable sources of pollution. And do you know, I never once heard of any of our visitors going down with the trots, let alone the nastier things like amebiasis, or hepatitis, all those other virus problems that seem to plague newcomers to the tropics, much to the interest as antiques and were worth 25 and profit of the medical profession, not to mention the pharmaceutical companies.

So let's be realistic about this. Spencer's sodas, for example, had been consumed by generations of Brits and others long before you and I ever produced all contained water that had been boiled? If it had, the price would have been trebled.

Now I know what you're go-

ing to say. They use things called aquaguards with highpowered ultra-violet sources, since UV light kills all living things, including viruses. Well, maybe they do, but considering the millions of soft drinks consumed in this country every day, they'd need an awful lot of ultra-violet sources, unless they took their bottling plant down to the Antarctic and set it up under that celebrated Ozone Hole. Even so, remember the old days before there were any aquaguards and ozone holes, the days I am talking about. How did they sterilise the water for soft drinks in those days? Dare I suggest that they never even tried? I suspect that like us at The Frogs they contented themselves with filtering it to remove gross matter, and let the viruses look after them-

You see, dear, you're in the tropics now and you really can't be all that fussy. Grin and bear it, is what I always say, and what the best doctors will tell you — like the wonderful missionary doctors I used to know at the great Christian Medical College and Hospital at Vellore, ninety miles west of Madras — the soor er you build up a little resistance to the local bugs the better.

So don't let fanciful worries about hygiene and boiling everything get you down. -(Courtesy — At a Glance, Global Adjustments' House

thought of coming here, without any noticeably ill effects. Do you suppose the thousands of sodas, tonic waters, lemonades, and other drinks they

December 1-15, 1998

## **'OOKING** handra

**CABBAGE VADA** 

Ingredients cup finely chopped cabbage f green chillies finely choped 6 tbs choped coriander leaves Oil for frying tbs gram flour onion finely chopped pieces ginger finely egg chopped

Method:

salt to taste

Mil all the ingredients except egg, gram flour and oil. Crush well with your hand.

Add egg and gram flour and mix well.

Heat oil.

Form the cabbage mixture into small vada. Place in hot oil and deep fry to a golden brown. Serve with coconut chutney or budina chutney.

— Chandra Padmanabhan

NOSTALGIA

# The turbanned intellectuals

It was mentioned in a recent from the purview of the law Larticle that appeared in a minister. Sastriar once deli-Chennai paper that Dr. S. Radhakrishnan wore a black turban. I was rather taken aback. I first heard S. Radhakrishnan 70 years ago when he addressed the State Scout Council at Mysore. I later had the opportunity to listen to him in Coimbatore, Periyanaikkan Palayam and Ottappalam, Kerala. He always wore a graceful white turban. The mention of 'black', therefore, comes as a surprise.

If also reminds me of a galaxy of giants from Madras, all turban-wearing intellectuals, who would frequently visit my hometown, Bangalore.

P.S. Sivaswamy Iyer used to visit Bangalore every summer. Several friends would join him on his walks. D.V. Gundappa was one. He writes in his memoirs that Sivaswamy Iyer was very strict about dress decorum. Once, Gundappa turned up with dhoti tied as dhutty. This was not what Sivaswamy Iver expected a grihastha to do. He frowned and asked D.V.G. if he had no time to tie a pancha-kucchey (traditional style).

C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer spoke in 1928 to a well-attended gathering in the Central College High School quadrangle. K.P. Puttanna Chettiar, a respected senior citizen, was the Chairman. Just as the lecture was about to begin, the Diwan, Mirza Ismal, the highest dignitary of the town, dropped in unannounced so keen was he on listening to C.P. Seating arrangements were rapidly rearranged on the dais. With a white turban crowning his head and wearing an impeccable three-piece European style suit, polished shoes and white spats, C.P. spoke on the Indian political scene till the late 20s, pouring out precise dates and happenings. As a youngster listening to all this, I wished C.P. had been my history teacher. I also felt that he was a fastidious fashion

T.R. Venkatarama Sastriar who frequently visited Bangalore on legal work, was famous for resigned the Law Membership of the Madras Governor's Council, just a week after accepting it, as he found that the Governor had removed the police portfolio

vered the convocation address of the Mysore University. His erudite lecture included many



...and V S Srinivasa Sastri

Upanishadic sayings. Pronoun cing them all in the correct chanting style, he provided a rare experience for the lucky listeners like me and the Maharaja who presided. V.S. Srinivasa Sastri deliv-

ered many lectures in Bangalore, the most prominent one being a three-evening series he delivered on Gokhale. When my scout troop had troop day to celebrate, we made bold to request Srinivasa Satri to preside. He readily accepted, to the consternation of people like D.V. Gundappa who was present on the occasion. They felt that a small scout troop should not have disturbed such an important person like the Rt. Hon. Sastri for such a small function. Nevertheless, the great man turned up on time and enjoyed the time he spent with the boys. In the agenda for the President's talk we had printed "President's yarn", as was the habit of scouts. When it was the President's turn to

speak, he got up and said, "I am going now to spin my yarn" and spun a 'yarn' of correct length and quality!

A. Rangaswamy Iyengar, the Editor of 'The Hindu' was another I heard at the Central College, Bangalore.

Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer was frequent Bangalore visitor He once appeared for the bar in the famous 'Chief Justice Mahadevaiah v/s the Bar' case in the High Court of Mysore. The hall was filled and he made a forceful speech emphasising that dignity and diplomacy necessitate good understanding between the bench and the bar. C. Vijayaraghava Chariar

under whom Rajaji com-

menced his practice at Salem, was another who wore a graceful turban. Yet another whiteturbanned legal luminary Bangaloreans regularly saw in those days was Justice Vepa Ramesam. He presided over the Vidurastswatha firing enquiry committee. L.S. Raju, the counsel for the public, was trying his best, by defiant and sometimes discourteous manners, to question the district magistrate. Justice Ramesam



The turbanned intellectuals...the Arcot Twins...

tolerated all this with great restraint. (Several years later, when I chanced to meet Sir Vepa Ramesam's son, he told me how annoyed his father had been over Raju's behaviour).

V.V. Srinivasa Iyergar, who visited to do legal work as well as deliver learned lectures always sported a laced turban.

The famous Arcot twins Ramaswamy Mudaliar and Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar, also wore their turbans well, blending more with the Mysore style. Another who wore a lace turban was T.L. Venkatarama Iyer, the Supreme Court Judge who gave erudite talks on matters of music.

T. Vijayaraghava Chariar. the expert on agricultural matters, once spoke under the chairmanship of N.S. Subba Rao, another intellectual Vijayaraghava Chariar wore a red turban reminding me of the Madras police constable or the red headed matchstick of those days. T.V.C. narrated how at a social gathering in England, a prize was announced to the

person who would pronounce his name correctly and he was the only person to do so!

C.V. Raman had made Bangalore his home though Madras had every claim on him. The real Raman effect was once you heard him speak. He wore a dignified turban always.

Chakkarai Chettiar, a prominent public figure in Madras, wore a turban. But it was

One lady in the Madras of those days wore a turban. As a scout, one early morning, I accompanied others to welcome the Commissioner of the Indian Boys Scout Association who was arriving by the Madras Mail. The train came and from the first class compartment stepped Dr. Annie Besant dressed in scout uniform with a scout turban on her head.

What a galaxy these famous personalities of Madras were, all brilliant, all turbanned. It's sad we have to bid such brilliance and turbans goodbye.

T. Raja Iyengar

## ISLAND UNDER THREAT

(Continued from Page 1)

Coastal Regulation Zone 1 (CRZ) in the Coastal Management Plan of Tamil Nadu. The avifauna that migrates to the sanctuary also roosts in these villages. Foxes, jackals, and rabbits can also be spotted. Any erosion of the Pulicat Lake may see the sea engulfing the lake,

endangering the brackishwater fauna, particularly the wealth

The villagers of the area sent a memorandum to the Chief Minister in 1994, when the Government contemplated setting up industries here. Now Government has issued notice to the Kattupalli village

panchayat to acquire land for the petroproduct park.

Madras Musings wonders whether the authorities have done an Environmental Impact Assessment here. Certainly, no public hearing has been offered the villagers concerned. So, what happens next?

Rajind N. Christy

### **ANSWERS TO QUIZ**

protest against the slow declaration of results by Rajasthan University; 2. Death sentences to 15 persons involved in the assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, the founding father of Bangladesh, and his family members; 3. Koneru Humpy; 4. It upheld the Constitutional validy of the Judges appointed for the cases; 5. Highest run-getter in one-day Internationls; 6. Finland's Mika Hakkinen; 7. Karondi village of M.P.; 8. Paramjit Singh of Police; 9. Privatisation of Internet service providers; 10. Bob Kane;

1. He immolated himself in 11. V. Balasubramaniyam; 12 National Herald; 13. \$850,000 14. Geeta and Sanjay Chopra awards for bravery; 15. Prof Prithiranjan Sengupta

> 16. Thrissur V Ramachandran; 17. A specialist clinic to treat patients afflicted with spastic and movement disorders; 18. A.M.M. Arunachalam, Chairman of the Murugappa Group; 19. Crossing transnational boundaries, she had donated her eyes and kidneys; she was killed by a city bus; 20. T' Nagar and Tambaram.

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them properly.

### 'No prostitution of the Art' that it becomes capable of

(Continued from Page 5) Such an attitude, in my view, represents alakshya.

In this context, a special word or two about gamaka-s. The gamaka-s have a very important place in Carnatic music. Sensitive used, they help in projecting different raga-s properly in the distinctly Carnatic idiom. Don't overdo them. Don't misuse them. And don't avoid them where they are difficult to execute or rather, practise them and sing

Now, about voice culture. To speak of voice culture merely in terms of a pleasant or appealing voice is to miss the point. The sweetness of honey or the warmth of whisky in the voice is not enough. What is required is the 'culturing' or the cultivation of the voiced so

meeting all that it is required to do in a particular idiom of music. A voice that is good for classical music is different from that needed for light music, and vice versa. The important point is that the voice must be cultivated and preserved, it is pointless to blame god or whatever for the deficit in voice culture. An instrumentalist must similarly gain complete control over his chosen instrument and acquire mastery in making use of it in producing music in the

selected idiom. The concert must offer a pleasant experience to the listener. It is pertinent to recall, in this context, a slogan that gained currency in the U.S. during the Vietnam War, among the anti-war crusaders. The slogan was: Make Love, you leap. Not War! I'll translate this for

Whether you are the main performer or the accompanist, display your talent, yes, but do so in a sensitive manner. Use your imagination rather than brute strength. Create harmony, not cacophony. Don't look to the sound technician to boost your 'image'; to adapt the warning found on cigarette packets, excessive decibels may cause iniury to your music, not to mention the eardrums of the lis-

Finally, if you believe that there is a contradiction between good music and appealing music, forget it. Many a past master has demonstrated that music can be both good and appealing, that it needs no gimmicks or artifice. Learn our music properly and learn before

Courtesy: Sruti

# TN trio carry India's hopes

Three Chennai hockey play ers will play major roles in the Indian team's attempt to repair the damage it has suffered in the internatinal arena in the recent past. Former Olympian Charles Cornelius says Tamil nadu's L. Prabhakaran and Mohammed Riaz, both forwards, and Thirumalvalavan, half back, are playing very well at present and India will depend on them much as it targets a medal at the 13th Asian Games in Bangkok in the next two weeks.

Riaz and Prabhakaran are products of the SAI Hostel, Chennai where they fine-tuned their skills under Charles. He helped Riaz improve from a slow mover to an attacking allrounder who could play both half and forward. In the past, forwards did not defend and vice versa. Nowadays, you have to be an all-rounder to be successful in hockey. "We, at SAI, trained him to meet the international standard", says Charles of his association with Riaz. "Like Riaz, Prabhakaran is now a complete player and can be used anywhere," he adds.

The SAI aims to teach total hockey to those who have learnt the basics of the game, and reached a certain level. The 40-week-a-year training programme is divided into five stages, according to Charles, Officer on Special Duty in charge of the SAI Hostel, Chennai. In the preparatory stage, physical training is given

importance. Technical and tactical aspects of the game are a part of the next two phases, while the last two phases encourage the trainees to play in various competitions. Experts are called in to supervise the building up of strength, speed and endurance levels and to monitor their physical fitness.





Mohd. Riaz, an all-round player on whom India pins its hopes.

Thirumalavalvan, following in Riaz's footsteps.

Riaz, Prabhakaran and Thirumalvalavan have shown the way to Chennai. SAI Hostelites by winning the national colours. Many promising players are waiting to follow them. Among them are Senthil Kumar, a member of the silver medal-winning Indian team in the Junior World Cup at Milton Keynes last year; India's second team player to Hamburg, Germany, Radhakrishnan; goalkeeper Natarajan, full-back Rajkumar, Mohammed Nuwaz (younger brother of Riaz), Vimalnathan and Gopinathan.

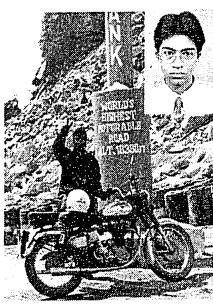
The training includes three sessions a week, of two hours each, on the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium's astro turf. Each player is given a kit worth Rs 3,000. Importance is given to diet, the monitoring ensuring a calorie content of 5000 to

Retired NIS coach Deenadhayalan trained Riaz for some time in his formative years at the YMCA. He spotted Riaz in the catch them young competitions in Dindigul in the early Eighties. "He impressed everyone with his scoring ability and passing," he recalls.

Former State player, Indian Bank's R. Senthil, who has spent many years with Thirumalvalavan and Prabhakaran on the bank team, says India lacks a scorer and it is here that the Riaz-Thiru combination can come in handy. Senthil who took over as the State coach recently, went to the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur as an IHF observer. Recalling that competition, he says, India failed with scoring opportunities and penalty corner conversions. Thiru was very consistent and Prabhakaran moved fastest with the ball in possession.

India's main weakness lies with its penalty corner conversions. "We must also concentrate on possessing the ball for longer durations and run fast with it", feels Senthil. Both he and Charles hope the three Madras boys will make the difference at Bangkok.

— G. Krishnan



S Varun atop the highest point on the world's highest motorable road, not far from Leh.

Kashmir were the bigger problems he had to face, but perseverance saw him through. He had learnt some simple repair skills before leaving but, fortunately, they were not needed. During the entire journey, he had just one flat tyre enroute to Delhi, and he had to go in for a new tyre-and-tube set to take him across the deserts of Rajasthan, the rocky roads and steep climbs ahead.

After three-and-a-half weeks of hard riding, he reached Leh and following two friendly Kashmiri truck drivers, passed through Kargil and Drass to reach the world's highest motorable

### 18-year-old's 41-day expedition

# To Leh & back on a mo'bike

n advertisement in a A neighbourhood newspaper in March 1998 inspired 18-yearold S. Varun to set out on an expedition to Khardungla, 40 km from Leh, on a motorbike. The 40-odd applicants dropped out one by one and finally, Varun alone ventured out on his uncle's 350 cc Enfield Bullet, covering approximately 9,500 km in 41 days in August-September.

"The idea was to explore the country and meet as many people as possible," says Varun. Threeand-a-half-years ago, he had toured South India on a bicycle along with his school athletics coach. It was after this trip that Varun began showing a greater interest in adventure ... and the trip to Leh has been the ultimate

Having secured his driving licence on completing 18, Varun began working on his route chart with Girish, who had done the same route twice. Language would be no barrier as he knew Hindi.

Loneliness and damaged roads, especially in Jammu &

**DuPont Nylon** 

road, its altitude at Khardungla being 13,830 m.

His father, Santhanaraman, who deals in medical equipment, bore the tour expenses of around Rs. 40,000 while Santhanaraman's friends honoured the petrol bills. Enfield's provided free services all along the way.

"His cycle expedition experience helped him a lot," says his mother, who adds, "he would call home every evening to inform us about his whereabouts so we never had to worry, it was only the nights he had to spend in the chill that worried me."

The bespectacled Varun is now planning to explore Northeast India. And then China in two or three years time. But he has an eye on motor-racing for the future. That he has an empathy for vehicles and tracks is amply attested by his achievement: undertaking such a trip within just a few months of obtaining his driving licence, and that too, all alone.

— G. K.



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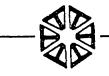


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