

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS

MUSINGS

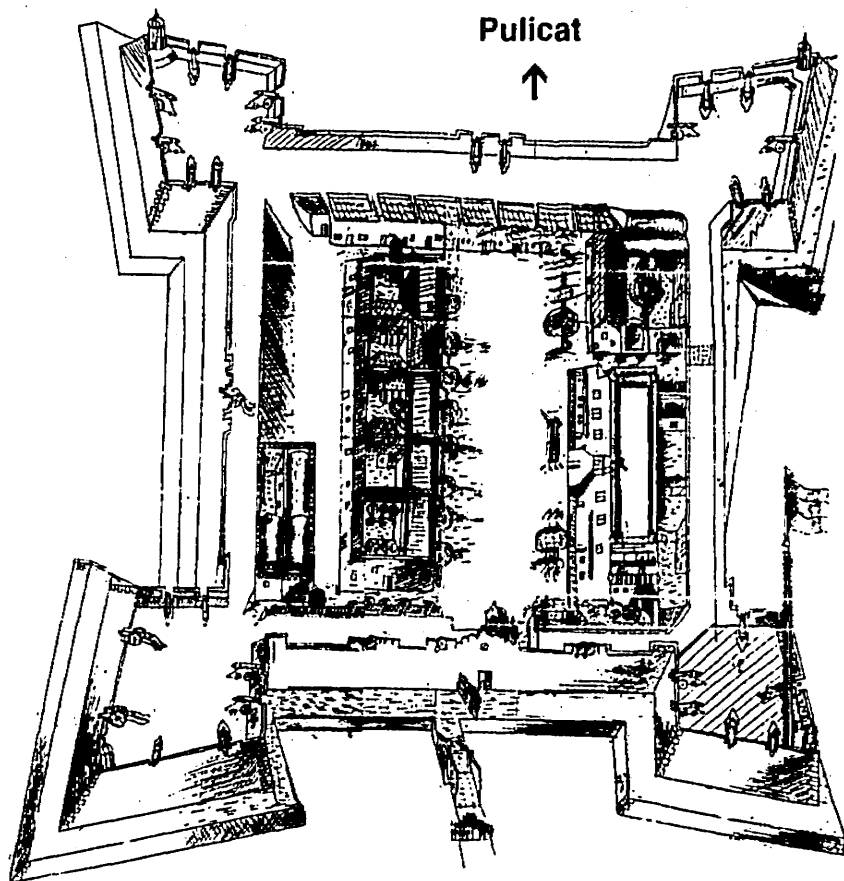
Vol. IX No. 3

FREE ISSUE

May 16-31, 1999

INSIDE

- The young DO care!
- TCS leads revolution
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Taking a look at Pulicat

(By A Special Correspondent)

When a Dutch engineer recently walked into INTACH's office in Chennai, he set off yet another look at Pulicat. Dr Sanjeeva Raj and

his CRENEIO team are already studying the Pulicat Lake and backwaters from the ecological point of view. So are study groups from Madras Christian College. On the other hand, Government with its plans for the industrial development of Ennore's islands is also looking at Pulicat Lake and its environs — possibly with a view to finding ways and means to mitigate the environmental disaster it will cause in the lake and surrounds if all its plans are implemented. Now the Dutch engineer has spurred INTACH's interest in the area, particularly Pulicat town and neighbourhood.

The Tamil Nadu Government has identified 38 heritage towns in Tamil Nadu and it has commissioned studies for the development of the first lot of them. Pulicat is not in the list of 38, despite its heritage. What INTACH plans to do is to do a model study of Pulicat on its own and submit it to the Government so that the studies of the other towns may be made along the same lines.

Pulicat (Ta: Palaverkadu, Pulikadu, Palayakadu??) was the first Dutch settlement on the Coromandel. The Netherlands East India Company sinking roots here in 1609. By 1619 the Dutch had built *Castle Geldria* and made it their eastern headquarters. But when Dutch interest moved to the East Indies (now Indonesia), the importance of *Castle Geldria* waned and, eventually, in 1781, the British took it over. By then Fort. St George was Britain's pride on the Coromandel, so *Castle Geldria* was allowed to fall into ruin. Today, its moat is filled with shrub. Bits

(Continued on Page 6)

Hope for Project, not for villagers

(By a Staff Reporter)

If the villagers of Kattupalli on Ennore 'island' had hoped that they would have to face one threat less when a 1047 MW gas turbine power project that was to come up near their village was stalled by a court dispute, they were mistaken. Luxembourg-based GMH has taken complete control of the project by buying out its Indian partners with whom it was locked in dispute.

GMH originally held 60 per cent of the stake in the project, the House of Kedia the rest. The dispute, over who should have controlling rights over the project, has now been settled with GMH buying out Kedia and it has informed the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board that it would implement the project.

Originally a naphtha-based project, the promoters changed it to an LNG-fuelled project when it was informed that naphtha was not likely to be available. LNG, it was expected, would be supplied from the LNG terminal at the new Ennore port that is under development.

Madras Musings, however, understands that the TNEB is in two minds about the location of this project. With Siemens already drawing up plans for a 2000 MW LNG-based power project near Ennore, the TNEB is wondering whether two LNG-based power projects in one area might not be one too many. As for Kattupalli's villagers, they keep wondering what their fate will be with all this development.

Rewarding the violator

First it was VDIS. Then Samadhan. Now, it's the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority's regularisation drive. "The scheme is nothing but a reward for violators," says Louis Menezes, Executive Director, Foundation for Fair Practices in Property Development (FAIRPRO), and a former member secretary of the MMDA. The move is a blow to honest builders, residents and even the general public," he adds.

CMDA is the authority that is empowered to sanction plans and layouts in greater Chennai.

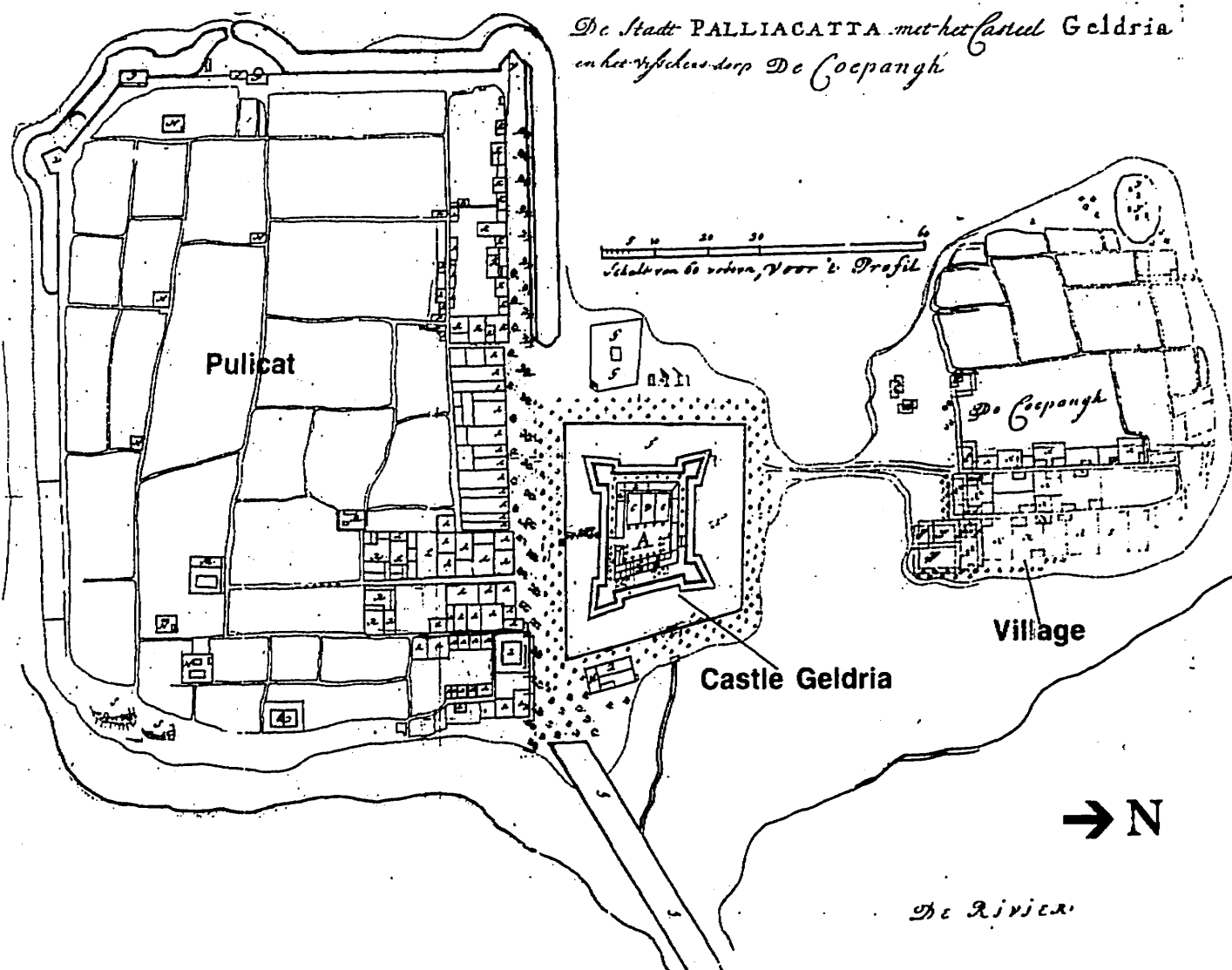
It is accepted that it has no field level staff, like the Corporation of Chennai has, to supervise construction activities in its area of jurisdiction. But that should not be the reason for CMDA to escape from its primary responsibility. It should have made adequate arrangements with the Corporation to bring any building violations to its notice immediately. Whether it had or not and whether the Corporation staff failed in their duty is not the issue. What is that one of these organisations must be held accountable for what the author-

ity itself acknowledges, namely that around 50 per cent of the city's constructions are in violation of sanctioned plans. Instead of CMDA considering itself accountable, we get this regularisation scheme which will largely benefit the violator. Even if the scheme is open only up to May 29, 1999 (and only for those buildings constructed upto March 1, 1999).

The CMDA had hoped to rein in all the violators and build up its coffers through penalties. But in spite of announcements that those who voluntarily ad-

(Continued on Page 6)

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Concerted action against adulterated fuel?

When some of the members of CONCERT, "a young consumer organisation of old and experienced persons" met K Srinivasan, IAS, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, and told him of the level of adulteration in the petrol market in Chennai — and that this was no different from elsewhere in the country — he immediately promised to help organise a workshop where all the leading players in the petroleum products business could hear CONCERT out. No sooner said than done... and a closed door workshop was held in Chennai recently to discuss the problem. And the good news was that apart from Srinivasan, there were three other senior IAS officers at the head table, *The Man From Madras Musings* understands: T S Vijayaraghavan, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; M Ramu, Secretary, Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection, Government of Tamil Nadu; and Santha Sheela Nair, Special Commissioner and Commissioner Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Government of Tamil Nadu. What heartened the organisers was that every organisation involved with the problem was represented by senior officials with some clout. The workshop was patently being taken seriously, MMM was told.

MMM understands that the workshop almost unanimously agreed that petrol and diesel were being adulterated with hexane and kerosene. And the poor were being deprived of their kerosene by this diversion. This near-consensus only echoed a Tata Economic Consultancy Services report for the Indian Oil Corporation in 1995 (see box). IOC, apparently, never agreed with the findings, but the smoke generated

by TECS has never quite subsided since, as was seen at the workshop, MMM was told. In this context, CONCERT's presentation only emphasised a problem that everyone present seemed fully aware of. But it did get them to look at the problem in concerted fashion.

The CONCERT presentation, MMM hears, focussed on the three tests recommended by IOC to check for adulteration of a petroleum product and stated that they were not conclusive. Instead, it recommended a Gas Chromatograph test which would show the "individual footprints of every single molecule" and suggested the setting up of labs equipped for such testing in all towns over 500,000 population. Stating that profits from adulteration amounted to an estimated Rs.3500 crore a year, CONCERT pointed out that setting up such labs would not cost "even 1%" of that amount. It also pointed out that bulk users like the Railways and the transport corporations and lorry owners' associations could set up their own labs.

But while the tests suggested by CONCERT and others — in

Inaction the bane

CONCERT, so caught up with its testing successes, did not pay enough attention to the question of penal action and ways and means to prevent diversion. *The Man from Madras Musings* felt. It did point out that unless the enormous price differences between petrol and diesel and kerosene were brought to the level of Rs.10, Rs.7 and Rs.6, there would be no way to stop the greedy from indulging in adulteration. But since that was a political decision no party was likely to take, "arresting the scope for diversion" by the transporter "with the connivance of the dealer and retailer", making mandatory any buyer being given on demand a sealed sample from any point in the distribution chain, and "quick and adequate penalties for adulteration" were recommended by CONCERT. These appeared almost an afterthought.

MMM understands that the petroleum companies had stated at the workshop that they had in the recent past introduced all sorts of new sealing methods that had made the tankers almost

was interested to hear about is called Project Chola. It's a project being undertaken by the Institute of Oriental Studies, Pune, and it plans to duplicate an 11th Century Chola naval expedition to "Sumatra, Java and Malaya". This duplication, MMM is told, will include using ships similar to the ones the Cholas used and built with Chola ship-building methods, as well as the same navigation and sailing techniques of yore. Heading the Project, it has been announced, will be Prof. B Arunachalam, retired Head of the Geography Department, University of Bombay.

What intrigues MMM about this whole project is a question he has asked several times in these columns. Namely, is there a drawing, fresco, bas relief or sculpture anywhere in India of a Chola ship? And the only answer to that he has is that there is a bas relief or two in Borobudur, none elsewhere. Dr. Arunachalam was asked this question on the couple of occasions he spoke in Chennai on India's maritime tradition, but he had no answers to it either. In fact,

seek an American higher education but don't do anything to get our educational institutions to emulate the American formula that has led to excellence in a large number of American universities. The American system thrives on each university having a small Board of Governors comprising persons of excellence, who are both fund-raisers as well as 'spiritual' guides, a President who plays the Board's role daily and Deans who with their department heads plan and even raise funds to ensure academic excellence. It's time we began to examine that model, MMM feels. And we can do that in two ways. Colleges that are institutions of excellence as judged by a national body could have their autonomy enhanced and made into degree-granting institutions. As for Universities with colleges affiliated to them, these could be made smaller institutions with Boards of Governors to advise them and Vice-Chancellors given greater powers to enhance the academic quality and improve management.

But this also means there will have to be an element of quality control when picking a VC. MMM hopes that starts with the selection now being done.

In brief

★ *'Madras Musings'* stories last fortnight about the flyovers that are going to take over the City in the next five years have stirred up a hornet's nest. There was His Worship the mayor saying how wonderful they were going to be and grabbing the headlines in one newspaper with this prediction and there was another newspaper asking the public to be patient and then enjoy the comfort the flyovers would offer over the next 20 years. No answers given as to what was going to happen in this earthly paradise after that. But why worry about the future; a mark in the present is what matters. And that those marks receive favourable treatment appears to have kept the Corporation's publicists busy this past fortnight, it would seem to *The Man From Madras Musings*.

QC for VCs

With Quality Control being the buzzwords of the time, it's time it was also practised in the case of appointments of persons to high positions, particularly in such crucial fields as education, administration, science and technology. *The Man From Madras Musings* mentions this in the context of several recent Vice Chancellorial appointments in Tamil Nadu which have been anything but impressive or effective. MMM also mentions this in the context that an appointment of a Vice Chancellor for the University of Madras is due.

Madras University has a hoary tradition of excellence in the past. Even today its lustre has not been entirely dimmed. MMM hopes that the new selection committee will nominate someone of excellence and that the Chancellor will act on such a suggestion before it is too late. What is needed is a person of academic excellence who can address any for in the world proudly, a person of stature whose administration will be accepted by all connected with the University, and one who will consider the Syndicate and Academic Council as advisory bodies, not the supreme authorities. It strikes MMM as amazing how thousands in this country

Chola study

A Millennium project *The Man From Madras Musings*

— MMM

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

Malaysia, where adulteration is said to be rampant, there was said to be an instrument that provides the octane level almost instantaneously (it should be 87) — will help prove adulteration conclusively, what use will any of them be, wonders MMM, for they only confirm a fact all agree on. Ways and means to stop adulteration and punish the guilty rigorously, struck MMM as a greater necessity.

State-wise Diversion of SKO and Modus Operandi

SL Regions	Total Diversion (%)		Modus Operandi or Diversion		
	Total Supply ('000KL/month)	Assessed Diversion (%)	Petrol Pumps HSD/MS	Indust./Comm.	Black Market
I. WESTERN					
1. Maharashtra	160	(20-25)	45-50	20-30	15-20
2. Gujarat	85	(20-30)	30-50	15-25	15-25
3. Madhya Pradesh	40	(25-30)	50-60	5-10	20-30
Western range (Avg.)	285	(20-35)			
II. SOUTHERN					
4. Andhra Pradesh	60	(20-25)	50-65	5-10	15-25
5. Tamil Nadu	70	(15-25)	40-50	10-15	25-35
6. Karnataka	47	(15-20)	35-45	5-15	20-40
Southern range (Avg.)	177	(15-25)	35-45	5-15	10-25
III. NORTHERN					
7. U.P.	100	(30-35)	60-70	5-10	15-20
8. Punjab	35	(20-30)	50-60	5-15	20-25
9. Delhi	25	(20-25)	35-45	10-15	25-40
Northern range (Avg.)	160	(27)	40-60	5-10	20-30
IV. EASTERN					
10. West Bengal	80	(25-30)	45-55	10-15	20-30
11. Bihar	59	(27-35)	55-70	5-10	15-20
Eastern range (Avg.)	130	(25-35)	50-60	5-10	20-25
For ten states and Delhi	752	(20-30)	40-55	7-15	20-30
All India Annual Consumption (1991-92): 10.79 million KL or 8.39 million tonnes.					

OUR READERS WRITE



Endangered parks

I refer to your report 'A threat to four parks' (MM, April 1st). Urbanisation has already led to shrinking of open spaces such as lakes, ponds etc. The only ones that remain are these parks and corporation playgrounds, besides college campuses. If they are also converted into shopping complexes and amusement parks, I am afraid we may have to learn to live in concrete jungles.

These parks, besides providing vital green space, enable rainwater to percolate into the soil and recharge the aquifer. If these open spaces are converted into shopping complexes, then flooding around these areas will increase and larger amount of rainwater will be let off into the sea through stormwater drains. In fact, it has been suggested to the Corporation to connect a few stormwater drains to nearby open spaces, such as parks and playgrounds, as a rainwater harvesting measure.

In this connection, I would like to raise a very important issue, namely, the construction of stormwater drains in almost every locality of our city. It is very unfortunate that an awareness regarding the damage that stormwater drains do to the groundwater resource is lacking among residents, bureaucrats and politicians. A fear among the general public about floods caused by rains has been taken advantage of by those who are in favour of the construction of these drains, without bringing out the importance of conserving (harvesting) rainwater as groundwater in cities like Chennai.

Madras Musings should initiate a healthy dialogue on this important issue of stormwater drains, which is closely related to, and works very much against, the cause of rainwater harvesting.

Sekhar Raghavan
D15, Bayview Apartments
Kalakshetra Colony
Besant Nagar
Chennai 600 090

Editor's Note: A article on stormwater drains by the writer will be published in *Madras Musings* shortly.

Better name?

Kudos to the founders of 'Chennai Heritage'. The formation of their organisation is indeed a significant step towards the preservation of our city's heritage.

I do, however, feel 'Heritage Chennai' is a much, much better name than 'Chennai Heritage'.

B. Gautham
122, Wallajah Road
Chennai 600 002

Millennium capers?

May I bring to your kind notice that in the article 'Saving a Tree' (MM, April 15th) the compositor has made a slight mistake in typing DHA for KUMA giving me a delightfully new name. But more important is the fact that April has started having one more day in its calendar month (under the masthead)! Not a new computer virus of the new Millennium, I hope.

K. Sreekumara Menon (dha)
2, II Street
Ormes Road
Chennai 600 010.

Editor's note: Sorry. We too hope the computer will stop playing tricks — long before the Millennium.



Beating the heat... a picture for the season by RAJIND N CHRISTY

A memorial needed

You have done a great service by writing about Thillaiyadi Valliammai, one of the earliest martyrs of Indian freedom struggle (MM, April 1st). Most people are unaware that she was from South Africa, and in 1913, when she was only 15 years old and still in school, she joined Gandhiji's Satyagraha Movement and was sent to prison. Sadly, the prison trauma took its toll and she died at the young age of 16 years. Gandhiji visited her when she was ill and later often spoke of her with admiration. I feel she deserves a more fitting memorial in Tamil Nadu. I wonder if a photo of hers is available with anyone.

In the same issue, Jasper Utey has pointed out that both the

British General Eyre Coote and the French General Lally, who fought against each other in the Anglo French war of the Carnatic were of Irish descent and that the Iron Duke, Wellington too, was Irish born.

During my stay of some months in Ireland, I found the Irish among the most friendly people in the world.

Dr. H.D. Singh
(Retd. Dean, Kilpauk Medical College & Hospital)
3362-O, AE 8th Street
Annanagar, Chennai 600 040.

Erratic power supply

During summer months, examinees are put to great hardship and mental agony by power interruption while brushing up on their lessons.

During my recent visit to Singapore city I did not notice any interruption or a voltage drop, even while the city experienced torrential rain with gale force winds, thunder and lightning.

Can our EB do some electrifying rethinking, even seek consultancy from abroad if need be, to minimise interruption.

J. Krishna Murthy
Easwari Apartments
49-A, Bharathi Nagar Main Road
Pallavaram, Chennai 600 043.

commenting whether it is worthwhile to cut down 'naughty' trees. But we should remind ourselves that the perception of naughtiness varies with people.

The plant(s) referred in the letter as damaging buildings and walls should very probably be the plants of figs (*aal: Ficus benghalensis; arasu: Ficus religiosa; athi: Ficus glomerata*). Almost all figs require a viable and 'safer' substratum to start their growth. Interestingly, all the species of *Ficus* are natives in India, unlike the two-glanded *Parkia*, and we have very strong cultural links with almost all the species of figs. That is why in the rain forest areas we see them growing on other trees. In urbanised environments, because we have been usurping their domains, have they begun to invade 'our' environments? I am not sure who is to be blamed. The plants or humans? I wholeheartedly agree with Gautham that we must view such issues dispassionately and objectively.

Since I have referred to *Ficus* in this letter, I wish to use this forum also to appeal for the conservation of at least one extraordinary species, *Ficus krishnae*. As far as I can recall, one specimen survives (happily) in the campus of Presidency College (Madras), thanks to the untiring efforts of the Botany lecturer, the late Masilamani. If the WWF (Madras) and similar natural history organisations would take an interest to inventurise the available *F. krishnae* and seek to protect any existing, they would be doing a great service to the heritage of Madras.

Anantanarayanan Raman
Land Management Team
Orange Agricultural College
The University of Sydney
PO Box 883
Orange NSW 2800, Australia.

Sensible suggestions

In MM, March 16th, the details of the workshop conducted by the University of Madras in collaboration with the University of Waterloo have been reported. A suggestion that there should be an independent Chennai Waterways Authority has been mentioned as an outcome of the workshop.

In article on the city waterways written by me in 1997 in MM, I had suggested the creation of an autonomous City Waterways Authority, and had also given details of its composition, responsibilities and linkages.

We do not need to wait for external agencies for such sensible suggestions.

P.M. Bellappa I.A.S. (Retd.)
Environment Consultant
1-A, Gee Gee Minar
23, College Road
Chennai 600 006.

Tilakar Tidal

Madras Musings has been highlighting the need for the preservation and restoration of structures, etc., which symbolise the heritage of the nation and the city. Much else of the past could inspire and elevate too.

In this context, why should such a memorable name as *Tilak Ghat* be forgotten and the meaningless name *Seerani Arangam* used? *Tilak Ghat* on the vast sands of the Marina had played a distinguished part in the annals of the Freedom Movement. Rajendra Prasad, Pandit Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose,

The young DO care!

Who says the young are not concerned about their city? All they need are the encouragement and the opportunity. This girl from Sacred Heart, Church Park, got an opportunity in YES VIBES when her school was chosen 'School of the Week' by this Indian Express weekly supplement and she expressed her dreams — which are ours too — in an emphatic manner. If other boys and girls are encouraged to think like this, by being taught all about their city and why we should care for it, we will one day indeed have a 'Singara Chennai'.

The Editor

Fast FORWARD

My city, my dream

The Chennai of my dreams has clean and smooth roads. People follow traffic rules. Driving is a pleasure.

There is clean drinking water for all and no stagnant water that aids mosquito breeding. The garbage is cleaned every day and there are no stray dogs, cows and pigs.

The Cooum is a clear river with sailing boats and children playing on the banks. The Marina is bright and clean with no hawkers and litter. The roads are lined with trees and the people would do their part to keep the city clean.

P.M. Bellappa

Rajagopalachari, Satyamurti, Kamaraj and other eminent leaders orated on these sands. The Triplicane Beach prided itself in assuming his name 'Tilak Ghat' or 'Tilakar Tidal'.

May parties and institutions use the matchless name of 'Tilak Ghat or Tidal' and remind the people of the great patriot and his sacrifices.

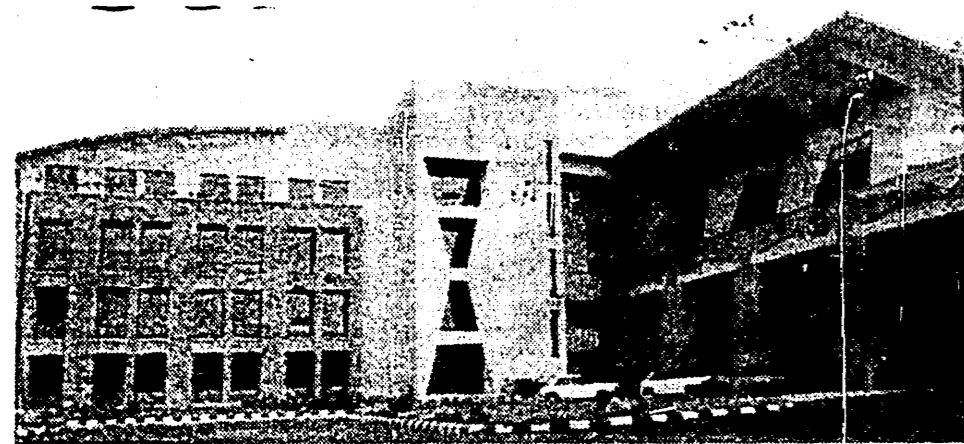
N. Rajagopalan, I.A.S. (RTD.)
Carnatic Classics
No.2, 24th Cross Street
Indira Nagar
Chennai 600 020.

Speedbreakers please

Will the Chennai Corporation arrange to erect a number of speedbreakers on EVK Sampath Road, Vepery, to arrest the rash driving of buses and lorries, as there are a number of educational institutions located on this road?

C.A. Reddi
57, EVK Sampath Road
Vepery
Chennai 600 007.

A building that's a metaphor for TCS...



fifth in a series of specialised buildings. By the end of the year, we will be opening a similar facility at Calcutta, another one at Noida and yet another at Hyderabad. We will be spending Rs. 130 crore on new facilities this year," Kohli said.

Ratan Tata paid a handsome tribute to the pioneering

Leading India into the IT Revolution

"It's rather a magnificent building," said Ratan Tata, chairman, the Tata group of companies, on one of his rare visits to Chennai, this time to inaugurate the TCS Software Development Centre at Sholinganallur on the old Mahabalipuram Road.

The state-of-the-art facility, in which over 1400 software professionals can work in an area of over 160,000 sq.ft. has a four-storey high lobby which gives a glimpse of the scale and complexity of the building.

Frank Glynn, from SAGA, a firm of architects from California, who designed the Centre says, "The building is a physical representation of the corporate aspirations and identity of TCS." With a turnover that crossed Rs.1500 crore for

needs of his customer before conceptualising a structure that would combine aesthetics with functionality and which he .. in there today.

In 1994, a complete survey of the ICS facilities in Madras was made. At that time, TCS was operating from five separate locations and had a staff of approximately 800. The plan for the new building was formulated to accommodate 1000 workstations. The idea was to bring the entire Madras staff to one location and to provide them with unsurpassed ancillary facilities like a cafeteria, a technical library, a 250-seat auditorium, a research and training centre etc.

The Sholinganallur Centre, built in 8 acres of land at a cost of Rs. 40 crore, provides a virtual corridor for TCS clients spread over the globe: project teams can log straight into client machines in Europe, the US and Asia Pacific any time. 1000 workstations have been provided in 20 modules of 50 workstations each. A powerful IBM system installed is capable of serving more than 1000 servers at a time. An 8-km optical fibre cable links a digital telephone exchange nearby. A tall microwave tower built within the premises ensures instant transmission to the VSNL terminal to reach any part of the globe. Captive generation facilities produce 1950 KVA of power.

Madras TCS alone today employs around 2600 persons at its HP Centre and US West Centre at T Nagar, its CAD/CAM Centre at Lloyd's Road, the corporate office at Cathedral Road and the Y2K and software factory at Ambattur. At the Y2K factory, the demand for manpower is so large that TCS has been retaining smaller software firms to work on contract at the TCS facility. The demand for more Sholinganallur type centres is already strong!

At the inauguration, F C Kohli, deputy chairman, TCS, referred to efforts made to match infrastructure with growth. "This building is the

work done by Kohli. "How well TCS has grown under Kohli's leadership! We account for 18 per cent of software exports from India and are by far the largest software company in India, recognised by many countries in the world for our performance... As early as in the late Sixties and early Seventies, TCS believed in the future of IT and India excelling in it." That belief was, Kohli's, he should have added.

It did require a great deal of foresight and courage to enter the software sector almost three

(Continued on Page 7)

Chennai firm offers low-cost rural phone

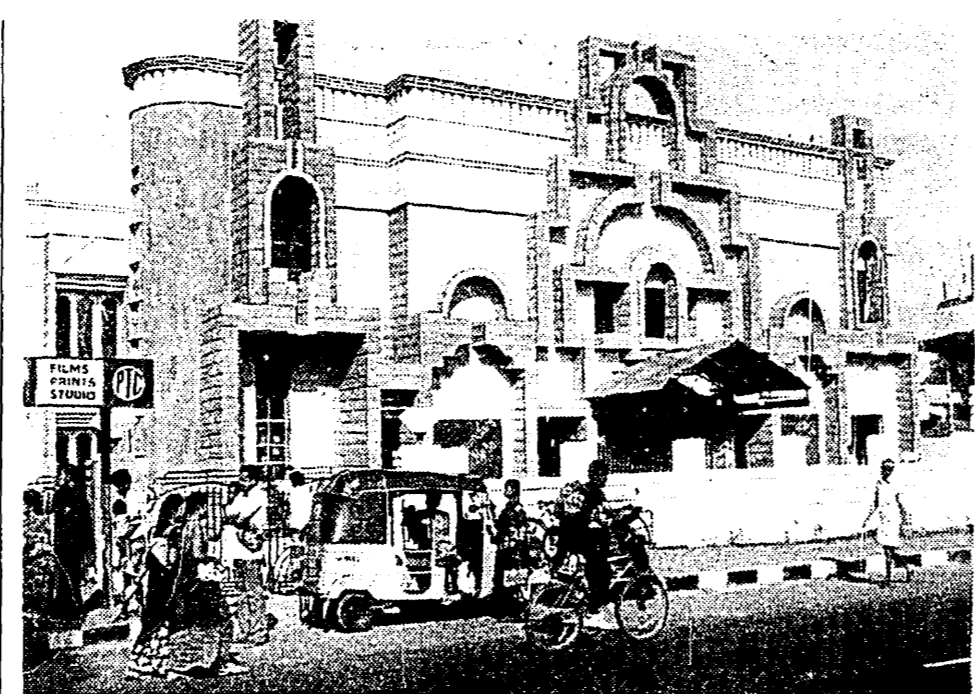
A mere fifty paise a call; cellular phone mobility; unlimited air time... all offered by a one-room telephone company!! Incredible, did you say?

"But that is what we promise with our integrated wireless local loop access system called IWILL — 2000", claims a Aboobucker, Managing Director, President Telecom of the Hotel President group.

Chennai-based President Telecom has been appointed by Comtech Wireless Inc., US, as its sole Asian distributor for the IWILL — 2000 system.

Comtech Wireless is a wholly owned subsidiary of Comtech Telecommunications, a Fortune 500 company and the seventh largest in the US. IWILL-2000 was invented by an Indian, Dr Shiv Verma, President of Comtech Wireless, who has lived in US for the last 30 years.

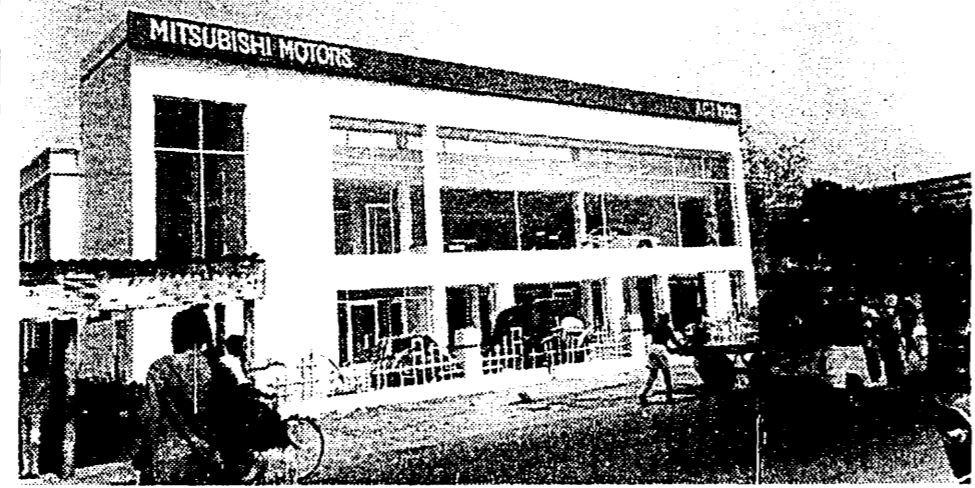
IWILL-2000, according to Dr Shiv Verma, "is a low cost but advanced wireless telephone system, suitable for the



We tried our best to get a picture of the old EROS THEATRE, the first cinema theatre in Adyar, for our OLD this fortnight, but unfortunately could not lay our hands on one. Perhaps a reader will oblige us one of these days. Meanwhile, we DID get a picture for our OLD of what the theatre became four or five years ago: a rather fancy kalyana mandapam in a rather fanciful Jaipur style. But not only are cinema theatres not doing particularly well these days, it would seem kalyana mandapams too are not proving successes. The 'in' thing would appear to be rather sleek, streamlined motorcar showrooms, like the one for our NEW. This is ACT's showroom for the Mitsubishi Lancer — and it's certainly an eye-catching one. But with car sales in the doldrums, we can't help but wonder whether or not there's another avatar ahead for this building. (Photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)

THE OLD... & THE NEW

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• by
S. Viswanathan

1998-99, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is nearly three times as big as the second largest software company in India. TCS, a division of Tata Sons Ltd., has a market value that many believe exceeds the combined market capitalisation of the two best known Tata companies, Tata Steel and TELCO. Employing around 11,000 software professionals, TCS is expected to become a billion dollar company in three years. The sweeping vaulted curves of the roof area are a metaphor for the far reaching global nature of the operations; the composed, ordered and distinguished north facade relates to the solidity of the organisation and the strength of relationship TCS has with its clientele; the reflecting pool indicates the constant introspection and rethinking that elevate TCS above its competition; the large interior spaces evidence the encapsulation of the large pool of talent and brain-power within the company and, finally, the dramatic entrance welcomes clients and employees alike into the heart of the TCS family. The architect had spent nearly two years in understanding the

• by
Venkatachari Jagannathan

nectivity to rural population would also enable them to make ISD/STD calls, and send faxes (using the DOT backbone) with their handsets. The system also has voice, data and voice messaging capabilities, multisite calling, digital and analog trunk interfaces to public switched telephone networks (PSTN). It also has an advanced billing system whereby a subscriber can pay in advance and use the service.

Apart from providing telephone connections to rural areas, IWILL-2000 can be used by closed user groups, say, by a company to communicate with its mobile employees. According to Dr Shiv Verma, Comtech Wireless is doing research to upgrade the current system to handle city telephone traffic without compromising its low-cost advantage.

Costing less than Rs. 1 crore, IWILL can be installed in two days, with 16 channels to handle about 1000 subscribers, within a 30 km radius. It is estimated that at fifty paise a call, a service provider can break even in two years' time, charging Rs. 3000 as the connection fee and Rs. 2000 for a handset (universal platform of AMPS offering future compatibility with IS-136, GSM, CDMA).

President Telecom plans to sell its rural telephone service to only one operator in a State, thus making the service provider's venture viable. Tamil Nadu, it is estimated, would require about 42 exchanges to network its rural areas.

Apart from providing telephone connections to rural areas, IWILL-2000 can be used by closed user groups, say, by a company to communicate with its mobile employees. According to Dr Shiv Verma, Comtech Wireless is doing research to upgrade the current system to handle city telephone traffic without compromising its low-cost advantage.

Pedestrians: A species endangered

Archaeopatrix, dinosaurs, Adodos... Chennai pedestrians may soon be joining them if the transport policy in Chennai does not change. While all over the world there is a move towards improvement of facilities for pedestrians, and transport policies are formulated to encourage walking, it is only in India, and particularly in Chennai that we seem to be moving in the reverse direction.

The last few years have been a sharp rise in the number

ments at crossroads and traffic junctions has not been contemplated anywhere in the city.

This problem is made worse by the positioning of electricity and telephone junction boxes, transformers and badly maintained garbage bins on the pavements, making their use virtually impossible. Similarly, the extension of roadside shops onto pavements and sometimes onto the road itself, pushes pedestrians off the pavements.

The problems of pedestrians



Left, construction spreading on the pavement... and piling the dirt on what's left of it. Below, a pavement 'parking lot', 'store', 'pitfalls' and hurdles. (All photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)

of accidents involving pedestrians — and their numbers do not include victims of such incidents of hoardings falling on pedestrians, pedestrians falling into open manholes, storm-water drains and the like.

The City Planning Authorities are making all efforts to accommodate the ever-increasing volume of vehicular traffic by increasing the carriageway — at the cost of pavements and avenue trees. Most of the footpaths are already of inadequate width in relation to the demand of pedestrians. For instance, the pavement alongside NSC Bose Road in North Chennai has a volume of 10,600 pedestrians per hour on one side, while the capacity of the available 2-metre width footpath, at a minimum level of service, is 4,800/- per hour. (Times Research Group, 1990).

The few footpaths that do exist are frequently obstructed by debris, broken or missing slabs, uncovered manholes and uneven terrain. For the disabled and the elderly, it is all the more difficult to walk on a pavement, since pavements have varying heights, often requiring the person to jump off one section and jump back to the next. A simple solution like sloping the pave-



Everything but the kitchen sink on this pavement moves the pedestrian onto the road.

own time. For several years, citizens' groups have been requesting the Government to allow only one central body to be in charge of digging and covering up roads when required for a specific purpose. But this has not found favour with the government.

A number of roads in Chennai have been converted into one-ways to facilitate quicker movement of motorised traffic, and 'free-entry' has been provided into these roads for this purpose. However, no thought has been given to pedestrians, for whom these are death traps, as no provision to cross the road have been provided. A prime example of this

At this late stage in the life of our city, some facts need to be restated for The Planners' and implementers' benefit.

The prime concern for pedestrians is safety. Then comes the need for an uninterrupted clean and adequately segregated surface. In order to ensure that these minimal con-

quences of a policy. For example, while deciding whether to construct a flyover, as has been unilaterally decided by the Corporation, it is necessary to keep in mind, and provide, for non-motorised traffic.

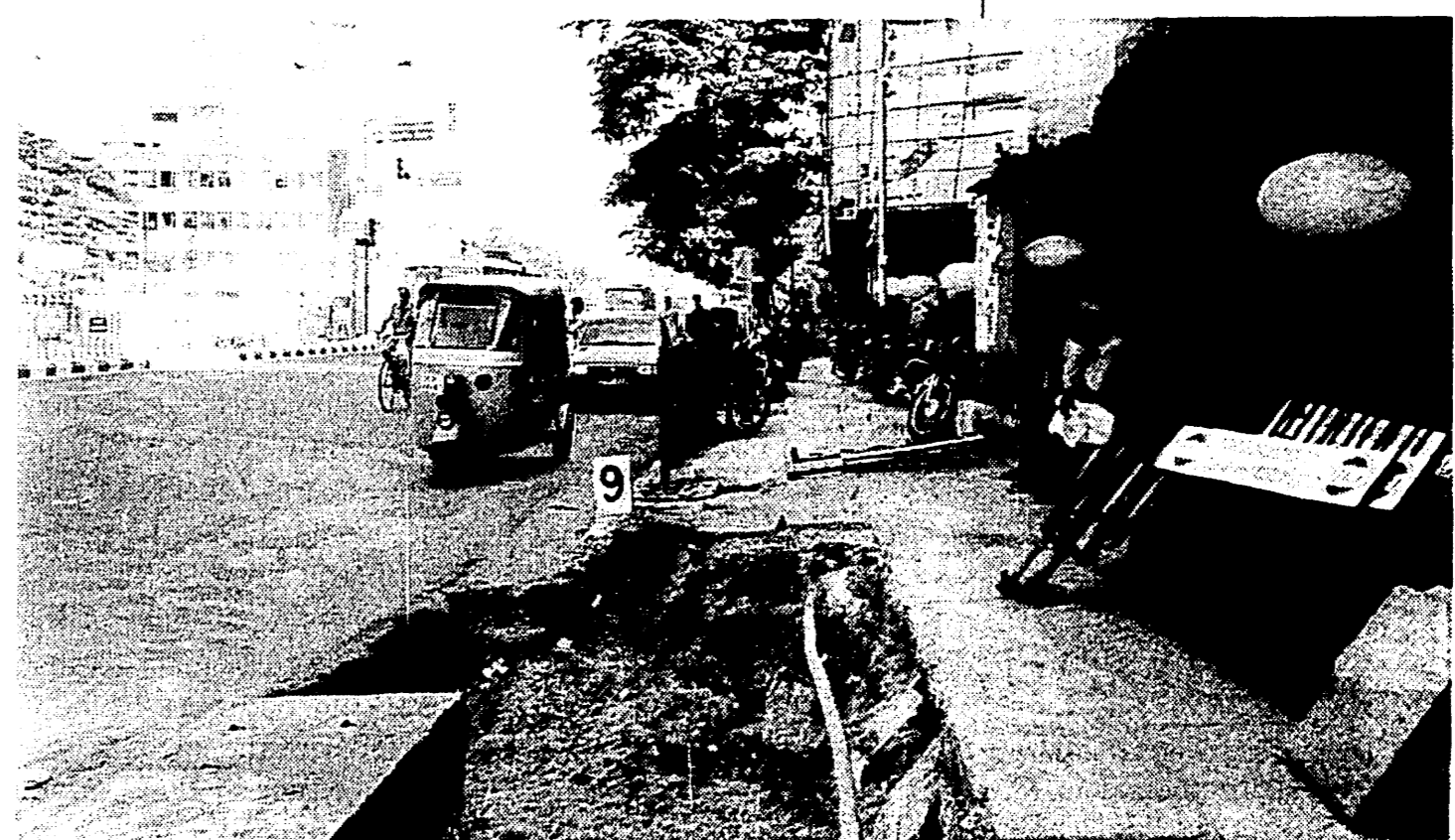
The planners must consider if it makes more sense to ask motorised vehicle users to apply more pressure on the accelerator pedal or make a pedestrian

or cyclist physically trudge over the flyover? They must consider the requirement for shade along roads and direct the planning and maintenance of avenue trees. And all these must be done not as an afterthought, but at the time of inception of the policy.

However, it is not enough to have only good policies, for more often than not, it is the lack of implementation that is a problem in India. One way of ensuring implementation is to hold a certain authority directly accountable to the public, and by making them liable for their actions or inaction, as the case may be. Proper and immediate implementation of policies is possible only if there is this direct liability.

The work of the authorities cannot end here — since it is equally important that continuous maintenance and monitoring work is done. Regular maintenance will also help conserve financial resources, since new foreign-funded projects will not be required.

The last resort for pedestrians will probably be the Courts in India, which have upheld the rights of a citizen to safe and clean pavements. If the Chennai authorities do not actively come forward to protect the rights of the pedestrian, we may well see a petition in the Courts arguing for initiation of penal action against the authorities for failing to provide these to pedestrians. If that fails, we will then only see the extinction of another species — the pedestrian. — (Courtesy: CAG Reports)



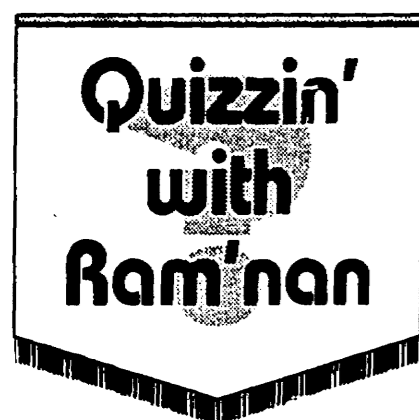
are compounded by the taking up of what is left of pavement space by hoardings, arches and cutouts that obstruct the movement of pedestrians which, due to their size, require large support-stands that force pedestrians off the pavement and on to the road. The pedestrian on the road has to contend with an anarchic and insensitive fleet of private and public transport; no wonder, then, the accident rate.

is Nungambakkam High Road, which has witnessed a number of accidents due to this.

On some roads, pedestrian crossings exist, but only the courageous will attempt to make use of them, since they have deal with the continuous stream of flowing traffic. Most vehicle drivers who sight a pedestrian beginning to cross the road behave like they do when they see the green traffic light turn amber — they speed. The alternative provided by Government at some busy crossroads is the pedestrian subway. But these too, due to lack of maintenance and safety measures

cerns are taken care of, there must be a two separate policies worked out — a road policy and a transport policy. These policies must then be synthesized so that the needs and requirements of pedestrians and non-motorised transport are provided for and safeguarded, and that public transport gets priority over private transport. There must be a centralised method of co-ordinating these policies with citizen involvement and participation.

The primary requirement is to arrive at policy decisions only after in-depth discussions on all aspects, effects and conse-



(Quizmaster V.V. RAMANAN'S question are from the period April 16 to 30. Questions 16 to 20 pertain to Chennai.)

1. Name the Karnataka player who scored two half-centuries and captured seven wickets while helping his team to retain the Ranji Trophy.
 2. Business. Who is the new CEO of the corporate giant Larsen and Toubro?
 3. Name the eminent photographer and author of such internationally acclaimed books as *Ganges and Calcutta* who passed away recently.
 4. Why were Rev. Marcellin Champagnat, the French founder of the Marist Educational Order, and Italians Sister Agostina Pietrantoni and Rev. Giovanni Calabria in the news recently?
 5. Mohd. Azharuddin has signed up to be an ambassador of which global watch brand?
 6. How did American teenagers Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris achieve infamy?
 7. Name the South African cricketer convicted of rape and thrown out of the World Cup team.
 8. What dubious distinction did the recently dissolved 12th Lok Sabha achieve?
 9. Which Indian took top honours in the Commonwealth Chess Championship recently?
 10. Where in Guwahati, Assam, have archaeologists unearthed an ancient city on the banks of the Brahmaputra?
 11. Which West Indian all-rounder hung up his boots recently?
 12. A British businessman has agreed to shell out \$100 million for a week long on what?
 13. Name the legendary football player/manager of England's 1966 World Cup winning team who passed away recently.
 14. Following the Melissa virus, another virus named CIH plagued computers on April 26. It is nicknamed after a terrible tragedy that occurred on April 26th. What?
 15. Who was adjudged Ceat's International Cricketer 1998-99?
- * * *
16. Where was the city's modernised Traffic Control Room inaugurated on April 26th?
 17. What are the three new enclosures that have been set up at the Arignar Anna Zoological Park?
 18. Which institution has bagged the 'Clean City Award' of HUDCO?
 19. Where in the Metro was a 'millennium clock' activated on April 29th?
 20. To literally paint a new picture of traffic, what two measures has the Chennai Police undertaken?

(Answers on Page 8)

Rewarding the violator

(Continued from Page 1)

mit violations will not be penalised severely (like receiving demolition or even legal notices) and only be fined for their violations, the response to the scheme has not been encouraging. The fear of being reprimanded later is in the minds of everyone. The CMDA has received only 60 applications under the scheme for regularisation till the third week of April 1999.

A cross-section of the general public feels that the scheme is a fall-out of the Central Government's successful VDIS scheme. The comparison is absolutely wrong, says Bharath Jairaj, the Civic Action Group (CAG) activist. "The VDIS scheme was strictly between the tax authorities and the violator and it had no direct effect over other individuals. But the CMDA regularisation cases will have a bearing on every individual. For instance, if a multi-storeyed building like a hospital, comes up without providing adequate space for parking of vehicles, the vehicles would be forced to park outside the public road. Does this not affect the free flow of traffic? Is not free movement on that particular public road blocked by such parking of cars? Does levying a penalty on the hospital solve the problem? Even after levying one, will it provide the required parking space?" wondered Jairaj.

Or, says Jairaj, "Consider the case of your neighbour encroaching into your compound and building a wall there. He can easily apply to the CMDA

and have it legalised by paying a small penalty. The builder is happy because his action has now been sanctified and the CMDA is happy because it has earned something from the violation. But what about you, the real owner of the land?" The CAG activist compares the owner of the land to the general public and says that it is their rights that the CMDA is trying to usurp and is cashing on it. The crux of the matter is that even after collection of penalties, the problem remains, leaving no tangible improvement on the ground.

Another major lacuna, according to Bharath, is that the CMDA failed to differentiate between 'deviations' and 'violations'. For example, changes in the positioning of cupboards, distancing windows to suit personal preferences etc., are common in any building. These are only 'deviations' and not 'violations', Bharath points out. But building eight floors when only six floors are sanctioned by the authority is a gross violation. Such violations should not be equated with the deviations mentioned earlier, the current CMDA scheme might result in treating the two on equal terms, Bharath cautions.

Bharath feels only honest persons who have deviated from sanctioned plans will make voluntary disclosures, preferring a small penalty to a guilty consequence. But wilful violators would never confess for they know fully well that the law does not empower the authorities to demolish structures violating the rules, says a senior lawyer, "If a building violation

Tough days ahead

Madras Musings understands Government has decided on giving the CMDA the go ahead to act tough once this regularisation drive is over. Several changes in the statute books are being contemplated to ensure strict compliance with sanctioned plans in letter and spirit. One of them is action along the lines in Mumbai: severing power connections to unauthorised structures.

CMDA had recommended this penalty to Government as early as 1989. Whereupon the Government through an executive order in 1993, instructed the TNEB to disconnect the power supply to structures in violation of sanctions. But the violators obtained an interim stay and, finally, the court struck down the government instruction on the grounds that the order came in the form of an "executive instruction" and not through a "properly passed legislation".

Government has been more cautious this time. It has introduced the recent regularisation drive through legislation so that it cannot be struck down by the courts. Likewise, the power to

disconnect electric supply is also likely to be attempted through a local amendment to the States' Electricity Regulation Act (a Central Act that applies to all States in the country). The amendment awaits Central Government ratification and presidential assent. The CMDA is of the view the amendment would eventually become an Act and come into force in a year's time.

Meanwhile, 6,700 demolition notices had been served to owners of unauthorised constructions in the city. Government says it will go ahead with demolition if the violators fail to regularise their constructions by paying the stipulated fines in time.

Hefty fines have been stipulated by the CMDA for those violating building sanctions. The fines could be as high as Rs.2,500 per square metre for a special or a multi-storeyed building in the Corporation area. The rates are less in panchayat-controlled areas.

The heavier fines could boomerang on the scheme itself, many feel. Only time will tell.

K.S.

Taking a look at Pulicat

(Continued from Page 1)

of the outer wall and the Dutch cemetery remain, protected by the Archaeological Survey of India. There is also an older Dutch cemetery by a church which might have beginnings centuries old. And the Pulicat town plan remains much as it was in Dutch days, with several ancient temples and mosques in and around it. Perhaps the most interesting feature of Pulicat is the architecture of its small homes, all built after Dutch times but showing signs of the Dutch influence.

A starting point for INTACH was the 17th Century map published with this report and the sketch of *Castle Geldria* developed from records. Both arrived with the Dutch engineer and stirred INTACH's imagination. INTACH's model study will report on what remains in Pulicat, how it can be restored, and how Pulicat's citizens can display the heritage of their town and its environs to visitors. The study is likely to be ready around August, according to INTACH.

K. Sridhar

NEXT FORTNIGHT: The final instalment of the series on the *Sruti* seminars on the transformation from *devadasi* to Bharata Natyam dancer will be published next fortnight.

Only 95 transplants in four years

There were 37,693 transplants worldwide in 1997. 544,313 transplants in all have been done (upto 1998) since the first ones which were: kidney, 1954, Boston; pancreas, 1966, Minneapolis; liver, 1967, Pittsburgh; heart, 1967, Cape Town; lung, 1983, Toronto.

As against this, the following transplants have been done in Tamil Nadu between 1995 and 1998:

Hospital	Kidney	Heart	Pancreas	Lung
Apollo Hospital	45	2	3	—
General Hospital	8	—	—	—
Madras Medical Mission	1	6	1	1
Malar Hospital	1	—	—	—
Sri Ramachandra Medical College	18	1	—	—
Stanley Hospital	2	—	1	—
Sundaram Medical Foundation	1	—	—	—
Tamilnad Hospital	4	—	—	—
Total	80	9	5	1

Two Heritage Centres

Tamil folklore in documenting hands

(By A Special Correspondent)

The Folklore Resources and Research Centre, Palayamkottai — associated with St. Xavier's College — has done much to document the folklore tradition of Tamil Nadu and even help preserve some of the folk forms. The Centre, since its founding in 1987, has been developing projects and activities which bring out riches of Tamil folk culture through field study and theoretical research.

Its findings are published in books (in Tamil) and in *South Indian Folklorist* (in English), a biannual journal. FRRC also publishes a newsletter about its activities. Its masthead is published in Column 3.

The FRRC 'archives' has a sizeable body of folklore material in audio and video cassettes, photographs, slides, paper manuscripts and palm leaf manuscripts. Its library holds over 8,000 books and 29 research journals.

The Centre promotes folk arts by reviving and modernising the ancient performing arts. To promote folk art forms, it organises training for interested persons in various folk arts. It supports traditional artists through a service desk. Now it facilitates the folk artists to avail themselves of benefit schemes announced by Government and other agencies.

FRRC's forthcoming workshops/seminars include the following: Dalit Story Telling (May 17 to 22), Tamil Performing Arts (September), Folk Aesthetics (October) and Festival of Tamiraparani (January, 2000).

The FRRC field trips in 1998-99 for video and photo documentation included the following: River Tamiraparani (River valley culture); Folk medicine conference (Kutturalam); Folk deities (Trichy, Vaalparai, Tuticorin and Tirunelveli); Folk craft (Samadhapuram, Tirunelveli); Pongal (Eathamozhi, K.K. District); Bullock cart race (Puthiamputhoo); Thookam festival (Puthurkuli Kovil-Kollangode, K.K. District); Kurathikkali (Aathikesava Perumal Kovil, Thiruvattar, K.K. District); and Anuman Thoothu Nadagam — Nallan Pillaiyapetral — (Villupuram).

During 1998, FRRC organised several training programmes for the students of St. Xavier's College to help them learn and appreciate at least one folk art of Tamil Nadu, like *paraiyattam*, *kolattam* and *silambattam*. Such exposure

helped in the formation of an SXC folk arts troupe. This troupe has performed in several villages and institutions in the Tirunelveli District.

During its workshops on 'Ethnicity and Identity' and the conference on 'Folk Deities of Tamil Nadu' held in 1998-1999, both the SXC folk arts troupe and several traditional folk artists performed *kaniyaan koothu*, *karagattam*, *naiyandi melam*, *brindavan kummi*, *samiyattam*, *iraniyan natakam*, *silambattam*, *thevarattam* and *oyilattam*.

A major production of the folk arts unit of FRRC in 1998-1999 was a two-hour long spectacular involving ten folk arts on the story of St. Xavier's College. The three-month long preparation brought a lot of understanding between theatre and folk artists.

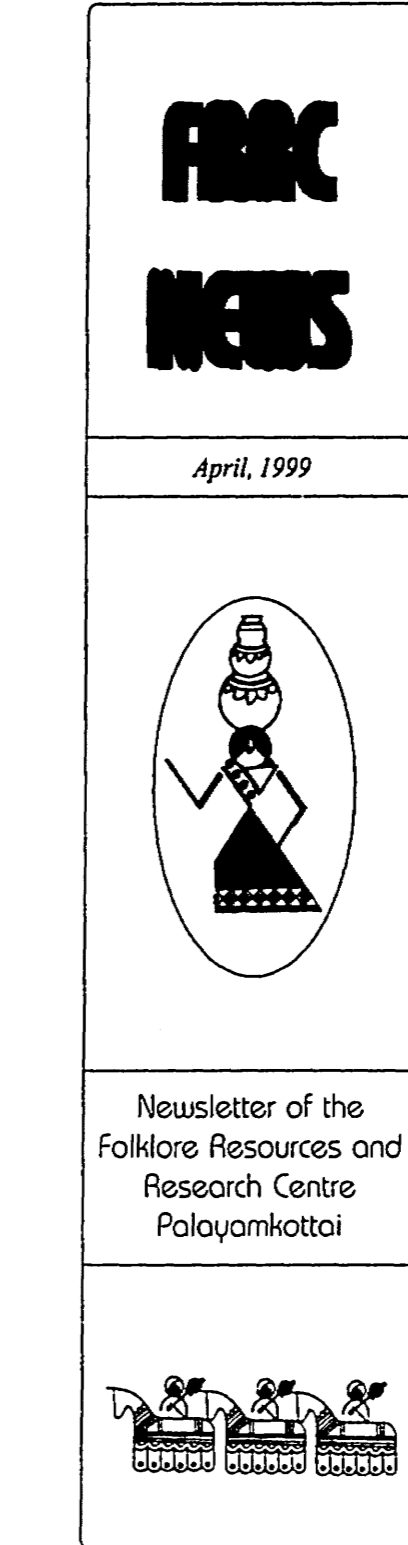
The FRRC theatre troupe was formed with the initial help of Dr. M. Ramasamy, Tamil University, Thanjavur and Ms. Arouna who directed the play 'Nagamandalam', which exposed students and the public in the southern districts to a new way of doing theatre and even to new ways of thinking.

(Continued from Page 4)

decades ago. Kohli had these in abundant measure. S Mahalingam, executive vice president in charge of the Chennai operations, who joined the company at early stages, recalled: "In the Seventies, we were not even part of a computer company. The scope for application was so limited! The challenge lay in starting the operations here, but playing the game internationally; to bring technology to India, use it and then export. We brought in mainframe computers, the latest of those times and, through the export route, trained the manpower and used their skills overseas."

Kohli, considered the Bishma Pitamaha of the computer saga, provided a glimpse of those exciting, formative years: "We made our first export in 1974. The technology was new, even in the West. Our first job for Burroughs was done from India. It was found to be quite effective."

Mahalingam referred to the qualitative and quantitative expansion witnessed in the Eighties. There was increasing realisation that there was no



A LIBRARY IN A TANK

The temples of Thanjavur always boasted of libraries of palm leaf manuscripts. Kings who were scholars organised libraries in their palaces. Wealthy and eminent individuals also started collecting books and allowed their friends to use these private libraries. One such private library is the Mavur Tank Library, in the village of Mavur, about 12 KM from Tiruvavur on the Tiruvavur - Tiruthurai-ponndi Road.

It is doubtful whether there is any other library of this kind in India, even in the world, for it is situated in the centre of a big water tank. The raised edges of the tank are lived with trees making the place cooler still. Arch-type staircases on two sides of the banks lead to the library which has two floors. The ground floor has been designed in such a way that people can sit and read comfortably in a cool atmosphere. The books are stored on the first floor. An idea .. this is usually associated with a king or a prince who has wealth to spend so lavishly. But in fact it was established by a person who rose from rags to riches.

Mavur R R Sarma, whose original name was Srinivasan, lost his parents when he was a boy. During his school days he was attracted towards the free-

dom movement and lost interest in education. He moved to Calcutta and joined Bengali journal as a proof reader and then became a sub-editor. He later went to London and wrote about the Montague reforms in *The Times*. Subsequently he became the General Manager of the Garden Reach Jute Mills. When he decided to settle in Tiruvavur in 1924, he refashioned his house in British style. Sarma wanted to do some social service for his own people and purchased a whole village, which he called Mavur. There he established his library.

A loss in an election made him leave his home town for Calcutta again. He gave his property to his servants and offered the books free to the Tiruvavur Government Arts College. But the college selected only about 100 books (one of which was a rare set of Nelson's Encyclopaedia) and returned a tractor-load of books. Several rare old books were destroyed and knowledge lost for ever. It is unfortunate that this library continues to be neglected. It is hoped that the Government of Tamil Nadu will step in and preserve this heritage. — (Courtesy MALA newsletter)

— T. Padmanabhan

Leading India into the IT revolution

way out of IT.... "Our major difficulties at that point of time related to poor communication facilities, which hindered effective development of software. We could work on small systems, but not interconnected."

"The software industry benefited enormously by the improvements in telecommunications and the availability, in large numbers, of educated manpower," said Mahalingam.

The Y2K factory is specially equipped to offer Y2K solutions to clients across the globe. The factory serves more than 50 customers through 1000 workstations operating in two shifts.

Y2K accounts for around 15 per cent of TCS total business. TCS is estimated to have earned around \$1000 million on the Y2K business.

The Ambattur facility also provides offsite development centres (ODC) for some of its large, regular, overseas clients. In these ODCs, a lot of computing work is handled for dedicated clients. With the relationship built by TCS with several of these over the years, custom for such ODCs has been expanding.

Kohli's genius was called into full play when Tata

Burroughs was formed as a separate company skimming the cream of business TCS was doing for Burroughs. S Ramadorai (presently CEO of the company), opened the first US office of TCS and the company built on the work it had done earlier for several American corporations and institutions: "Openness to new ideas and commitment to continuous learning and to satisfy the needs of clients globally have been the major planks of TCS," said Ramadorai, who joined TCS in the early Seventies.

TCS's activities are spread over India with different centres specialising in specific areas. Research, development and design are at Pune, Mumbai focusses on Tandem Systems, Bangalore on Micro-soft platforms and mainframes, Chennai is the major IBM centre and has built a lot of expertise on insurance and Y2K. New Delhi works on banking and medical systems, Calcutta concentrates on digital-based systems and Hyderabad has been specialising in advanced systems integration.

The entire software for Tata Telecom was developed by TCS. The considerable exper-

rise gained in working on software solutions for clients across the globe, like SEGA for clearance and settlement for banks in Switzerland, and dozens of securities and insurance companies across the globe, has had its fallout in India. For a number of years, TCS has been providing software solutions for Central and state governments and local bodies.

Kohli estimates the value of software produced in the country last year at around \$3 billion of which around \$2 billion was exported: "We also spent around \$500 million on importing software. India accounted for less than 0.5 per cent of world software market estimated around \$6000 billion. Sadly, we used only a small portion."

"India could not participate in the industrial revolution and in the subsequent manufacturing revolution. "We have plenty of high quality minds. We should participate in the IT revolution and, for the first time in our history, we have the opportunity to play as equals, even to assume leadership roles. If we fail, the future will not pardon us." The passion of the 75 year young Kohli is among the biggest promises for India making up for the time lost. — (Courtesy: *Industrial Economist*.)

IOBians spring a surprise

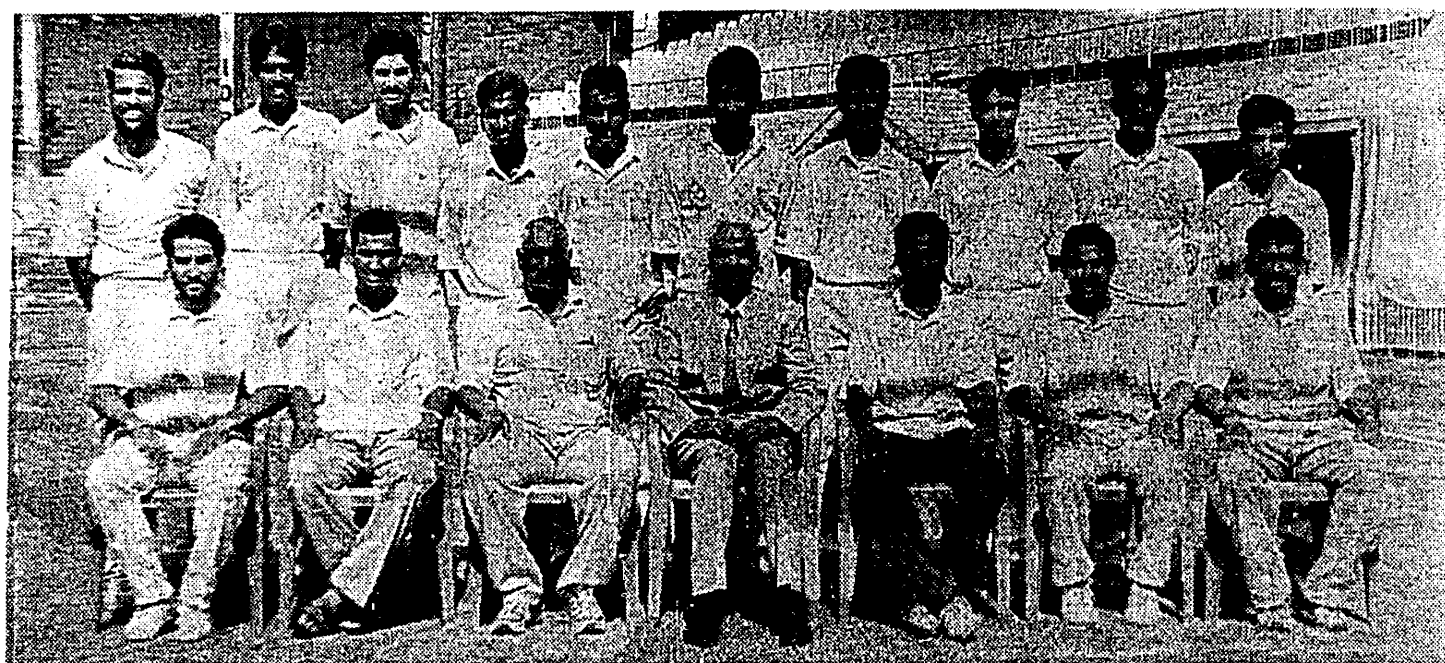
The winner of the Palayampatti Shield for the TNCA First Division league this year was decided only in a playoff match that was contested by last year's winners, Vijay CC, and Indian Overseas Bank. The Bank sprang a surprise by defeating Vijay CC convincingly, after posting an impressive 298 in their allotted 95 overs.

Vijay CC, which a week earlier had won *The Hindu* Trophy for the fifth year in succession, has been in the forefront of Chennai cricket for some years now. Led by former India, Tamil Nadu and Goa opener V B Chandrasekhar, the team has quite a few star players. The most famous of them, Rahul Dravid, is unfortunately not available to the team most of the time, thanks to his international engagements.

The Vijay CC batting seemed to have gone on vacation this season and that is probably why it struggled to maintain an appreciable lead in the race for the championship. In fact, but for a loophole in the

rules, which allowed Globe Trotters to bowl overs short in its league match against IOB, the title might have been won at the end of that match by the Bank. A spirited 186 not out by Andhra batsman Amit Pathak, took IOB within three runs of their first innings target of 362. Pathak scored over 400 runs in the league season for IOB. Nagini Kumar and Shankar were the other batsmen to do well.

S Sharath, who has probably played his last match for the Bank, was its outstanding batsman of the season, crossing the 1,000-run mark. In fact, he started with a flurry of hundreds, raising visions of a phenomenal season ahead, but things did not quite pan out as anticipated. It was perhaps a case of peaking too soon, but Sharath was also frequently guilty of becoming overcautious in search of big scores in first class matches. While such an approach might have harmed his personal prospects, it evidently served IOB's cause well, taking it to its first Palayampatti title in



The surprise winners of the TNCA First Division League title, the Indian Overseas Bank. In the picture, standing (l-r) are: M. Shanmugam, P. Subbiah, S. Shankar, K. Saravanan, V. Sivaprasad, R. Balasubramanian, Sreekumar Nair, V. Naginikumar, P. Rajesh Kamman, V. Sridhar. Seated (l-r) are: Amit Pathak, S. Sharath, P. Swathy (Cricket Manager), K. Subramanian (Chairman & MD — Indian Overseas Bank), K.N. Ananthapadmanabhan (Captain), B. Venkatesh, S. Sivakumar.

15 years. Sharath, it is reliably learnt, is joining India Cements, the sponsors of Vijay CC, before the next season commences.

"It was a team effort," said that IOB manager, PP Swathy, predictably. A former captain of Vivekananda College and TNCA Colts, Swathy has been a fierce champion of IOB's cricket for many years and it must have given him great satisfaction when his not-so-star-studded team managed to prevail over more fancied opposition.

The captain of the team, Ananthapadmanabhan, is a classy leg spinner who has played for India 'A'. He is an experienced cricketer whose batting has blossomed in recent seasons, giving him all-rounder status in first class cricket. By all accounts, he is an unassuming, soft-spoken captain, who usually gets his way from his mates. In the playoff, in what seemed a calculated move to upset the rhythm of freestroke 'VB' and 'Sweety' Suresh, he opened the bowling. The ploy apparently worked and Vijay CC never recovered from the loss of early wickets.

Left-arm spinner Sree Kumar Nair of Kerala was the outstanding bowler for IOB, taking 55 wickets in the 11-

match season. He did the star turn in the match against Jolly Rovers by picking up 13 wickets and surprising the home team on an underprepared IIT-Chemplast wicket. This was the turning point of the season. Before the match, IOB had been nowhere in the picture in the hunt for the league championship. A bowler of commendable control, Nair has spinning ability as well, but has recently acquired a tendency to push the ball through in an effort to contain rather than attack. He has a natural arc, which makes him such a good spinner. Selective listening to well-meant advice from all and sundry is what saves talented young players, and unless Sree Kumar Nair learns to master that art, he will become yet another trundler.

Tamil Nadu off spinner P Subbiah is another bowler who did well for IOB with a bag of 43 wickets in the season. A very accurate bowler, Subbiah gives the impression of being a restrictive rather than a match-winning bowler. Here is another bowler who will improve by giving the ball more air.

Of the men behind the scenes responsible for IOB's good showing, pride of place goes to the Bank's Chairman, K Subrahmanyam, who since

assuming office a few years ago, has been a great source of encouragement not only to the cricket team but also of other sports like volleyball and basketball. He authorised fresh recruitment of sportsmen during this period and took a very active interest in the team's fortunes, often visiting the grounds to watch matches. Understandably, the cricket team has performed creditably during this period, finishing in the first four in the league during the last four seasons.

Critics of corporate supporters of cricket in the city are quick to pounce on this opportunity. According to them, they pamper their stars and look what happens, a team of relatively underpaid bank players turns the tables on these fancy outfits, without even the advantage of a home ground. According to these critics, the malaise of the State's cricket can be attributed to the high wages paid to cricketers and the demise of so-called club loyalty. I, for one, do not subscribe to such an extreme view, or such a ready answer to a complex problem. But while I heartily congratulate the deserving winners IOB, I do not see any impending collapse of company teams.

V. Ramnarayan

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Vijay Bharadwaj; 2. A.M. Naik; 3. Raghubir Singh; 4. They were canonised by the Roman Catholic Church; 5. Tissot; 6. They went on a shooting spree in their school in Littleton, near Denver, killing at least 16 people; 7. Makhaya Ntini; 8. Shortest term of only 412 days; 9. Aranu Lahiri; 10. Ambari; 11. Carl Hooper; 12. On the Mir Space station; 13. Sir Alf

Ramsey; 14. Chernobyl; 15. Jacques Kallis.

* * *

16. Vepery; 17. The otter house, amphibian house and squirrel enclosures; 18. The Chennai Corporation; 19. Near Anna Statue on Anna Salai; 20. Painting messages to motorists and marking accident spots.



Amalgamations Group
APCOM
Apcom Computers Ltd.



Ashok Leyland



A V Thomas
& Co. Ltd.



Bank of Madura Ltd.



Housing Development
Finance Corp'n. Ltd.

EH ASSOCIATED
HOTELS LTD.

INDIA
CEMENTS
LTD.

KASTURI &
SONS
LTD.



Murugappa
Group



Pond's



Rane Group



The Sanmar Group



Sundaram Finance
Limited



Sundram Fasteners
Limited



The Taj Group
of Hotels



Thiru Arooran
Sugars Ltd



TVS Suzuki
Ltd.



WELCOMGROUP
Chola Sheraton