

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

# MADRAS

## MUSINGS

Vol. IX No. 18

FREE ISSUE

January 1-15, 2000

## INSIDE

- Will tortoise-pace succeed?
- A new life for the old
- Let's move capital
- Seeing 40,000 flamingoes
- Two 50 not out

## A commitment to heritage?

*Officials promise early action*

"Despite Government's several priorities, we'll do our best to not only see that the Heritage Act is enacted but more immediately list and notify landmark heritage buildings in the City and examine in what way they can be protected," said D Govindan, I.A.S., Secretary, Housing and Development, Government of Tamil Nadu, inaugurating a recent seminar on 'Heritage Conservation Regulations'. The two-day seminar was organised by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority and INTACH (TN) and was sponsored by 'Chennai Heritage', the support group of Madras Musings, and CMDA.

The whole-hearted support lent to the seminar by Rajeev Ranjan, I.A.S., Member-Secretary, CMDA, Ananda Ranjana Doss, the first Member of the CMDA's governing body from the technical ranks of the Authority, and officials from the CMDA associated with the CMDA's Heritage Advisory Committee, was certainly an indication and an echo of the

views of both Govindan and Ranjan that there is today a greater appreciation of and commitment to heritage preservation at both the political as well as administrative levels. Govindan and Ranjan both promised early attention to the suggestions made at the seminar and "positive action as soon as possible".

### ● By A Staff Reporter

The suggestions made at the end of the seminar resulted from the presentations made by the country's leading experts in the field of heritage regulations. They were:

— Shyam Chainani of the Bombay Environmental Action Group who discussed the Bombay experience and the improvements necessary to the regulations it had pioneered in India in the early 1990s.

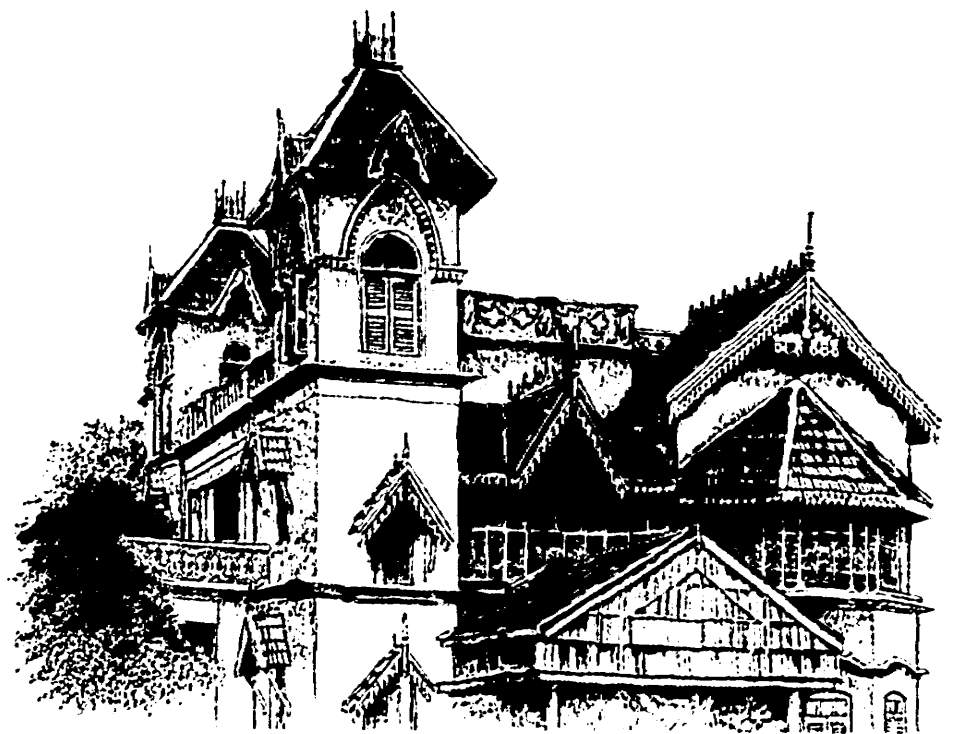
— S P Shorey, Member-Secretary, Hyderabad Urban

Development Authority, who has adapted the Bombay regulations for Hyderabad and made considerable progress with heritage preservation in Hyderabad during the last three years.

— Prof K T Ravindran, HOD, Dept. of Urban Design, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, who is helping preserve Cochin's heritage and working with the authorities on regulations to this end.

The three were unanimous that while the Act that Tamil Nadu was planning would, with some improvements, be welcome, the immediate necessity in Chennai would be gazetting of a list of landmark heritage buildings and natural heritage features — adding and subtracting from them as public debate arose — and introduction of regulations rightaway under the CMDA's charter. The officials of the CMDA, they pointed out, had at the seminar stressed that in the regulations of the CMDA framed in 1972, at the Authority's inception, there was recognition of the necessity to preserve and protect both man-built and natural heritage. All that was needed, felt the trio, was introduction forthwith of detailing sub-regulations to make more forceful the intent of the original regulations. Such elaboration of the regulations, or an altogether newly worded regulation would, they felt, prevent threats to heritage buildings and the city's natural heritage and force anyone with plans to threaten them or their environs to "negotiate" with what

(Continued on Page 6)



## A heritage reminder

● Committed as this journal is to heritage protection and conservation, this card beautifully illustrated by MANOHAR DEVADOSS and with text by MAHEMA must be our favourite this season, for it features a picture of a home that must undoubtedly be on anyone's heritage list of Chennai's buildings. This



house in Purasawalkam was owned by P.M.A. Muthiah Chettiar, say his kin, and it was the first house owned by a Nagarathar after the community began moving into Madras in the early 20th Century. The present owner of the house, however, believes that it belonged to SA RM M Annamalai Chettiar who later was honoured with the titles Rajah Sir by the British. If ever the owner

pulls out his records that question of earlier ownership will get solved, but documents are not needed to accept the heritage status of this home. It is one of the most splendid examples of that late 19th, early 20th Century South Indian architecture that favoured an English style adapted to the tropics; gables, monkey tops, towers and wrought iron railings teamed with tiled roofs, verandahs, louvered windows and arches. RAJIND N CHRISTY's picture above shows the house as it was as 1999 bowed out.

Mahema writes: "Many stately houses of this city are being torn down to make room for high-rise structures. But the present owners of this elegant building say that the edifice will not be demolished in the foreseeable future." And that's a heartening thought as 2000 begins.

## GREETINGS FOR THE SEASON, NOT THE MILLENNIUM

● Among the other greetings we received for the New Year was this letter from Dr. S. Krishnaswamy of Krishnaswamy Associates.

"Hearty greetings of the holiday season! We have at least another whole year to go before greeting you for a new millennium. For, the 21st Century (and so the new millennium) starts only on 1st January 2001. A million monetary reasons may have promoted this myth of a millennium change far ahead of time. However, celebrate you must, now, if you feared a Y2K problem and have joyfully solved it in time!..."

...here is wishing you all the best in the New Year — the last year of the 20th Century — prayerfully and happily leading to a peaceful new Millennium on 1st January 2001.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The glamour of three noughts and the Y2K hype, it has been suggested, have had much to do with advancing the Millennium celebration and forgetting that the first Millennium (the completion of 1000 years) began in I A.D. and not in O! — Also see Page 7.

## Do you have an 'auto' complaint?

(By A Staff Reporter)

The Chennai Police have nominated Afsar Babu, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Traffic Investigation (North), as the Nodal Officer to deal with consumer complaints against autorickshaws in Chennai.

Residents in Chennai can forward complaints against autorickshaws to the ACP, Traffic Investigation (North), Office of the Joint Commissioner of

Police, Vepery, Chennai 600 007 and mark a copy to The Citizen's consumer and civic Action Group (CAG), 7, Fourth Street, Venkateswara Nagar, Adyar, Chennai 600 020.

In the event of any deficiency of service by an autorickshaw, consumers are also advised by CAG to file complaints before the District Consumer Redressal Forum in Chennai.



# Will tortoise-pace win the day?

Is a Heritage Act or even introduction of heritage regulations a priority of Government in Tamil Nadu or even Madras? *The Man From Madras Musings* doesn't expect it to be so and is quite willing to go along with the view presented by officialdom at a recent two-day seminar held to learn from the experience of Mumbai, Hyderabad and Delhi in introducing heritage regulations which local governments appear to have felt were rather urgently needed in those cities, whatever be their other priorities.

The official view in Chennai appeared to be that water, shelter, garbage and transport, apart from "so many other things", were the city's priorities and that though there was a commitment to heritage conservation, it would inevitably make haste slowly. MMM quite understands this view and is fully in sympathy with organisations like the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority who don't need organisations like INTACH (TN), Chennai Heritage and the Consumer and Civic Action Group to add to the pressures they already are under.

But while appreciating the CMDA's travails, MMM would have thought a franker statement of its problems would have been more valuable at a seminar like this than talking about how conscious it has been about heritage issues for decades and how even Britain has been able to make haste only slowly. But if two such statements were felt necessary, then it should have also been anticipated that they would inevitably result in questions getting asked in the present context, MMM would think. And answers to those questions would have made a more valuable contribution to the debate than impassioned expression of the pressures the CMDA has to work under.

The two statements by the CMDA were that — in Britain it took 22 years to do a listing and, therefore, time was necessary in the Chennai context, and — CMDA regulations from their first framing in 1972, as well as a couple of other Government regulations, DID express the need for protection of man-made as well as natural heritage.

MMM watched amused as a rather arithmetically-inclined questioner asked a couple of innocent-seeming but loaded questions:

— While it took Britain 22 years to list its heritage buildings, it did eventually list 5,00,000 buildings. If it has taken the CMDA 27 years to list 42 buildings, would it take it 135 years more to list the 200-odd buildings initially suggested to the Chennai Heritage Advisory Committee? That's hardly the British rate of 20,000-plus buildings a year or nearly 2000 buildings a month, surely? And,

— If the CMDA has been conscious for 27 years of the need to protect heritage, why hasn't it stepped in in so many instances where heritage was threatened, like Moore Market, *Bentick's Building*, the *DGP Building*, *Senate House*, *Chepauk Palace* and several others.

These were questions that warranted the answer that heritage awareness was only now growing in official circles and that haste would be made faster in future, not an outpouring about how life was being made difficult for the Authority by NGOs.

MMM is glad to record that that kind of response was eventually made to end the proceedings. He now looks forward to a CMDA heritage list and regulations ensuring their protection emerging before long. And then, perhaps, a little while later, a Heritage Act for Tamil Nadu? He and many others present at the seminar are glad to take the CMDA advice that "you've waited 27 years, just wait a few months longer". MMM looks forward to the CMDA reaching the tape with affirmative action in the promised "few months".

## Three for heritage

Protecting the heritage of Chennai does not need a separate Act. All it needs is a commitment to enforcing the spirit of the rules in the Town and Country Planning Act and the CMDA regulations and introducing a few additions to them to make that enforcement easier. That was the view expressed by Shyam Chainani, who has been instrumental in framing the Mumbai heritage regulations and who was attending the seminar to offer his experience-based advice to Chennai. In fact, he pointed out, Article 51A of the Constitution of India tells us that it is the duty of every citizen to preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture and protect and improve the natural environment. What were we doing about in Chennai, *The Man from Madras Musings* wondered after listening to him, Prof K T Ravindran of the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi, and S P Shorey, a most unlikely bureaucrat who as Member-Secretary of the Hyderabad Urban Development Authority was doing everything in his power to preserve the heritage of Hyderabad. The three were in Chennai to help the CMDA, INTACH (TN), architects and heritage and environment-conscious NGOs get a better grip of the whole question of heritage regulations.

MMM, who had noted conservationists in Chennai take the safe route by listing for protection and conservation public buildings and areas owned by either Government or institutions, was surprised to find Hyderabad taking the private owners by the horns, so to speak. Of the 144 buildings in the preliminary Hyderabad list drawn up in 1997/98, 92 were

privately owned and 51 were less than the traditionally suggested 100 years old! The Hyderabad list also included a magnificent baobab tree a few hundred years old and a unique rock formation that had formed a natural tower in a rocky area.

One of the points Ravindran made was that a heritage precinct — like George Town, for instance, MMM thought — requires separate, location-specific normative by-laws to protect its unique personality. This must take into consideration the necessity for a heritage area to change — without destroying its past. And this could be done by introducing regulations that forced developers and those seeking change to NEGOTIATE the degree of change, and manner of it, with the law-makers and the conservationists.

The three who've done much for heritage preservation in Mumbai, Delhi and Hyderabad urged Chennai to look at its plans for heritage protection and conservation not as a banning mechanism but as providing an "opportunity for intervention" that would help work out a mutually acceptable solution to all.

## SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

The whole issue of heritage conservation needed to be looked at under the following heads, they advised:

- Legal and administrative regulations.
- Finding ways and means to get money to trickle into conservation.
- Providing for people's and political participation — especially after the 74th Amendment.
- Ensuring professional inputs, particularly during intervention.

With the considerable official participation in the workshop, MMM hopes the message has got through and there'll be more being done on this front earlier rather than later.

## Workshop thoughts

A couple of workshops and a seminar or two that *The Man from Madras Musings* recently attended posed several problems for audiences and other participants that need some thought if solutions are to be found.

English was the common language at all these meets and that posed its own problems. Many of the Indian participants spoke it well but with a variety of accents and a penchant for speed. The former did not pose a major problem in most cases, but the latter invariably lost those not familiar with the language. Worse, participants not familiar with the language mostly READ out papers with some difficulty and a great deal of mechanicalness.

The realisation that they would struggle in the reading process resulted in many being diffident about it, a diffidence reflected in the low voice used and the lack of audibility that resulted. In another instance, the lack of language skills hindered role play participation. Eager to participate in role plays they were, but unfamiliarity with English had many tongue-tied when they should have been animatedly conversing.

In yet another seminar — on a UN High Commission for Refugees project on 'Documentation of News Items in the Print Media on Sri Lankan Refugees in India' — the better part of the morning was spent on the methodology of the documentation. Did half a morning have to be wasted telling an aware invitee audience on how two Madras newspapers were scrutinised and the Sri Lankan refugee information in them indexed, collated and filed for summarisation and factual analysis? Might not the morning have been better spent on discussing findings, if there were any, or the problems of the Sri Lankan Refugees in Tamil Nadu they discovered during the process of documentation? If the UNCHR had wanted the methodology reported or taught to others, a different audience should have been invited: MMM and others like him had come to hear the refugee problem in Tamil Nadu discussed and there was precious little of that.

## In brief

★ When the Citizens' Run Trust organised its annual review meeting recently and did a bit of soul-searching, *The Man From Madras Musings* was delighted to hear the thought expressed that as a citizens' effort it should primarily concentrate on the raising of assistance from the local citizenry and not from efforts overseas, unless those too were from citizens of Chennai. Dr C T Kurien, Chairman of the Madras Institute of Development Studies, who was present at the proceedings as evaluator of the 1999 effort, felt that all those small NGOs who had received assistance during the past three years should not only network with each other but should also form an alumni group that would help raise funds each year to help others through the sale of Citizens' Run T-shirts. While donations from the Corporate had their role — particularly if they included bulk-buying of T-shirts to get their employees to participate — the main source of funds should come from the sale of the shirts, felt the trustees responding to Dr Kurien's suggestion. Target for this July's run: 15,000 T-shirts and 10,000 runners!

## Refugees in TN

Prof. V Suryanarayan, an expert on Sri Lanka, who recently retired after a long stint as head of the University of Madras's Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies, introduced the subject at the UNCHR seminar and brought the problems of the Sri Lankan refugees into clear focus. It is a pity that there was little time for the discussion of these problems.

The point he made was that whatever the category of the Sri Lankan Tamil refugee, the education of his children was a top priority. The demand for education was at such a higher level than among those who called Tamil Nadu home that this itself was a divide between the hosts and the 'visitors' even though they both spoke the 'same' language. The thought that struck *The Man From Madras Musings* about this point was: What happens to these educated children when they become educated adults? How do they get work commensurate with their education? MMM knows several young Sri Lankan refugees who have qualified in Engineering or Law or Management, but all of them are unable to get permanent work reflecting their qualifications. How is this tragic problem to be solved? Certainly not by talking of documentation.

Another point Suryanarayan made was about the three cat-

egories of refugees — those in the camps who can work as day labour, those living outside the camp and who have registered with the authorities and those in the special camps, the few hundred believed to be LTTE associates. Of the three waves of refugees, who at their peak numbered around 1,50,000 in Tamil Nadu, he estimated that about half that number now remain in Tamil Nadu. And most of them would go back, he felt, given the right conditions across the Palk Strait. But when MMM later met him, he agreed with MMM there could well be a five-figure number of unregistered refugees who have vanished into the mainstream of Tamil Nadu life. They, MMM doubts, will ever go back. What then becomes their international status? Here is another refugee matter for concern. And this one has no documentation at all.

## Information offered

Y. Ramachandra (1829-1880), about whom information was sought in MM, December 16th, was a self-taught mathematician who authored a *Treatise on Maxima and Minima* (problems solved by Algebra) and was Augustus De Morgan's Ramanuja. De Morgan, who was born in Madurai, was the founder of the London Mathematical Society and of mathematical logic. He published Ramachandra's book in London, in 1859 or so. Ramachandra had first published it at his own cost in Calcutta.

Ramachandra taught at Roorkee Engineering College for some time, before he returned to Delhi to teach Mathematics as a school-teacher.

The Association of Mathematics Teachers of India, Triplicane, Madras, is planning to bring out *Maxima and Minima*, with additional notes by Anantharaman and Prof. M S Rangachari, to suit the needs of present students.

The only original copy, printed in London, is with Dr. C Muses, Director, Maths and Morphology Research Centre, Sardis, B.C., Canada.

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

T.M. Sundararaman  
No.19, Nallappan Street  
Mylapore  
Chennai 600 004.

★ A recent news item that the Chennai Corporation has decided to 'go slow' on flyovers has been taken with a pinch of salt by *The Man From Madras Musings*. Work goes on and is planned for areas which least need flyovers, whereas where one is most needed, the Eldam's Road, Venkatanarayana Road, Anna Salai junction, the project has been conveniently handed over to other authorities; obviously problem areas are not what the Corporation needs. Meanwhile, MMM noticed some curious pronouncements by Corporation officials in this regard. The flyovers being built will be adequate for the next 15 years. What happens after that? And they say, "footpaths have not been removed indiscriminately and wherever possible a provision has been made for them". What happens where it is not possible? And what about cyclist safety? Sometimes, the bureaucracy can be as callous as the politician.

— MMM

# A 'Watchdog Committee' for such issues?

With urbanisation on the increase, the need for a watchdog committee for every locality in Chennai is being increasingly felt. We should realise, and also make the State government realise that the residents of a particular locality are more important than all others. The residents should be able to play a more positive role in deciding what is good and what is not good for them.

A 'watchdog committee' recognised and approved by the government can consist of 5-10 members chosen from the locality. They can be senior citizens with the requirement of having resided in the locality continuously for a minimum period of 25 years. This committee, free from political affiliation, should be empowered to take to task

anyone found to be violating any law of the land.

There have been several incidents in Chennai to show the autocratic nature of various government bodies:

- The residents of Besant Nagar, particularly the members of the Besant Nagar Residents' Forum, would clearly remember the protests they made in order to prevent the construction of that huge multi-storeyed government office complex — *Rajaji Bhavan*. But all in vain.
- The residents of Kotturpuram Housing Board complex are now staging demonstrations to prevent a Post & Telegraphs quarters being constructed in the open area originally allotted to them as a playground.
- Multi-storeyed residential

complexes have come next to Ashtalakshmi temple very close to the beach, violating the 500 metre rule.

These few incidents illustrate the callous indifference shown by the government to the interests of the residents of a particular locality. I am sure there are many more such incidents. Why does a democratically elected government, which claims to be of the people, by the people and for the people, exhibit such an 'anti-people' attitude?

The following problems faced by the residents of the locality should come under the purview of the 'watchdog committee':

- Any problem relating to encroachment of public land, whether it be a shop, workshop, garage, small tea shops, auto stand etc.

- Building materials, like bricks, sand and iron rods, being spread on the road and obstructing traffic.
- Wine shops responsible for creating public nuisance by being open beyond scheduled timings.
- Garbage including debris, thrown outside their premises by residents.
- The loudspeaker menace.
- Constructing flats/houses violating CMDA rules.

Further, any developmental activity, such as laying of roads, beautification of the beach, construction of new office complexes and public toilets, should be taken up only with the prior approval of the 'watchdog committee'.

The proposed 'watchdog committee' can be thought of as

an answer to an important question of 'Which is more important, the State or the Society?' From time immemorial upto the pre-British period, Indian society has felt itself to be more important than the State. The latter is supposed to govern the country with a set of rules framed by Society, serving only as an executive body.

This feeling of Society being more important should be brought back in order to remove corruption and bureaucratic arrogance, ensure a feeling of togetherness and for the welfare and benefit of the locality in which we are living.

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

## OUR READERS WRITE

**Editor's Note:** *Madras Musings* will certainly be the poorer for his passing away; he had been such an asset to us.

## Credit where due

A new format of the humble money order form caught my eye recently, though I haven't used one for ages (and most MM readers too, I guess, since we have access to modern modes of cash transfer). It evoked memories of struggling with complicated multiple entries on both sides of illegibly printed sheets of dirty blotting paper, often ending up with the address of payee/recipient or something else in the wrong space. The delightfully simple and clearly printed form I saw was indeed a pleasant surprise. The form itself is smaller, with fewer entries required, sensibly arranged on one side only, having logical fold lines and a postcard size acknowledgement portion. The reverse side is exclusively for a second language. A semi-literate labourer in a city or construction site should find it that much easier to remit some earnings home to a remote village.

We know that even in much-maligned government organisations there are creative and industrious persons, though they are often frustrated by bureaucratic procedures, lack of recognition, hostile bosses, jealous colleagues, or 'vested interests'. This is one instance where a good idea actually got implemented, though how much time or effort was involved is anybody's guess. I would say the general public has a duty to acknowledge such examples which come to light, in whatever manner seems appropriate, instead of merely cribbing about all the things that are not as they 'should' be, if only to encourage the good work by unknown angels. One only hopes this particular case is not one of too little too late, what with the postal service itself (divorced from the lucrative telecommunication branch) being under threat from a variety of alternative systems which cater mainly to the affluent.

In spite of several frustrating experiences, I am still inclined to appreciate the thankless job being accomplished by the postal authorities and innumerable faceless employees down the line, when I can send over a dozen postcards to far-away places for the same cost as that of a cup of lukewarm brown water which passes for tea on a railway platform. To quote a personal experience, an important communication was once sent to me by a certain government department. The brown window-envelope finally reached me several weeks later, bearing a variety of notings and odd-shaped postal seals with different dates. The reason was that the despatch clerk had merely scribbled my name and address in devanagari script. (Someone here had quite logically transliterated the name back into Roman script as 'Gopal Vyas'!) What really impressed me was the fact that without opening the envelope, some diligent souls in the postal system

succeeded in deciphering the clues in the almost unintelligible address to locate a non-existent Mr. Gopal Vyas. I was quite prepared to condone the delay despite the embarrassment and complications it created.

**Thomas Tharu**

4-A-7 Kasyap  
Nehrunagar Fourth Street  
Adyar, Chennai 600 020.

## Number, please?

Time was when all telephone numbers were of five digits. Then some became six and, today, most are seven. How should a telephone number be written? And how should it be pronounced? Different people write/say it in different ways: there is no uniformity at all.

Perhaps we can all decide to follow the American system where telephone numbers of seven digits (excluding the 'area code') are written and pronounced in two parts of three plus four, e.g. 495-8092, 762-1138 etc. This method is appealing as the authorities are proposing to introduce the American method of 'area code' (that will eliminate the need to have separate STD code for each city) and by doing so we can follow the American system in toto.

The area code consists of three digits and is written in parentheses preceding the seven digit portion and is pronounced as one unit, e.g. (408) 581-2134, (718) 398-4630. The area code pertains to a contiguous area and need not be dialled for calls made within the area.

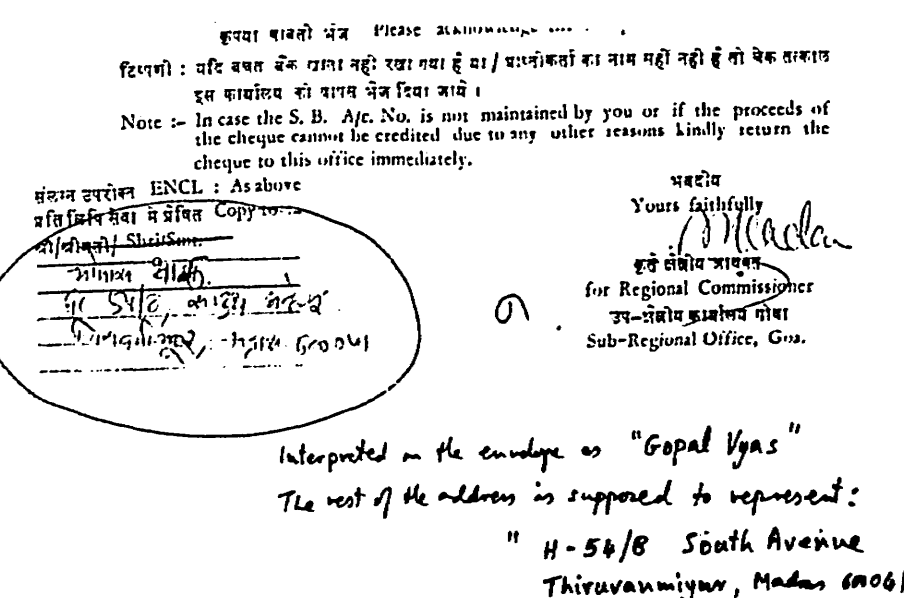
**B. Gautham**

122, Wallajah Road  
Chennai 600 002

## A boon to housewives

There is an acute shortage of domestic help, and housewives are put to a lot of hardship. There is no stainless steel vessel or dish wash machine in the market. This writer feels the existing clothes washing machine itself can be used for washing stainless steel vessels with some minor changes. Would any technical minded person comment?

**K.S. Pattabhiraman**  
51, 16th Cross Road  
New Colony  
Chromepet, Chennai 600 044.





# A historical monument comes to life again

**Vivekanandar Illam** is a place of pilgrimage for every student and devotee of Swami Vivekananda's life and teachings. For full nine days, Swamiji stayed here, he met visitors, he sang, he prayed, and he meditated. The place is still charged with his invisible, divine presence.

*Vivekanandar Illam* on the Marina was built 158 years ago to store ice, whence it got its popular name, *Ice House*. Subsequent events have raised this building to the status of being a historical and cultural monument.

Frederic Tudor, the 'Ice King', built three houses in Calcutta, Bombay and Chennai to keep ice under proper insulation so that it could be stored for months together. Amongst the three buildings, the one in Chennai alone stands today. It was built in 1842. Tudor ran his business in Chennai from 1842 upto around 1880. After the invention of making ice by the 'steam process', his business collapsed.

*Ice House* was sold to Biligiri Iyengar, a successful advocate

years, he returned to India via Colombo, Pamban and Rameswaram reaching Chennai on February 6, 1897. He was given a tumultuous welcome at Egmore Railway Station. Being a disciple of the great Swami, Biligiri Iyengar offered *Castle Kernan* for the stay of his Master. Swami Vivekananda was taken there in a grand procession along with some of his Western devotees (J.J. Goodwin, Capt. & Mrs. Sevier etc.), some Eastern disciples (Swami Sadananda etc.) and two of his brother monks (Swami Shivananda, Swami Niranjanananda).

He stayed there till February 14th and delivered seven electrifying lectures in which he revealed his plan of campaign to restore India to her pristine glory. The *Indian Mirror* of 6.2.1897 stated:

"*Castle Kernan*, where Swami Vivekananda is lodged, presented a picturesque scene on Saturday evening. The castle itself is beautifully decorated and fitted up for the reception of the Swami and party. Two magnificent pandals

March with Swami Sadananda and, after a short stay of a few days at Flora Cottage, a building on the *Ice House* Road (now Dr. Besant Road), shifted to *Ice House* and established a shrine for Sri Ramakrishna there with the help extended by Biligiri Iyengar, the owner of the house. Thus, the first branch of the Ramakrishna Math, which is now flourishing as an international spiritual organisation, was started in Madras.

Even after the passing away of Biligiri Iyengar in 1902, Swami Ramakrishnananda continued his work here till 1906. In 1906 the property was brought to sale by auction by the mortgagee.

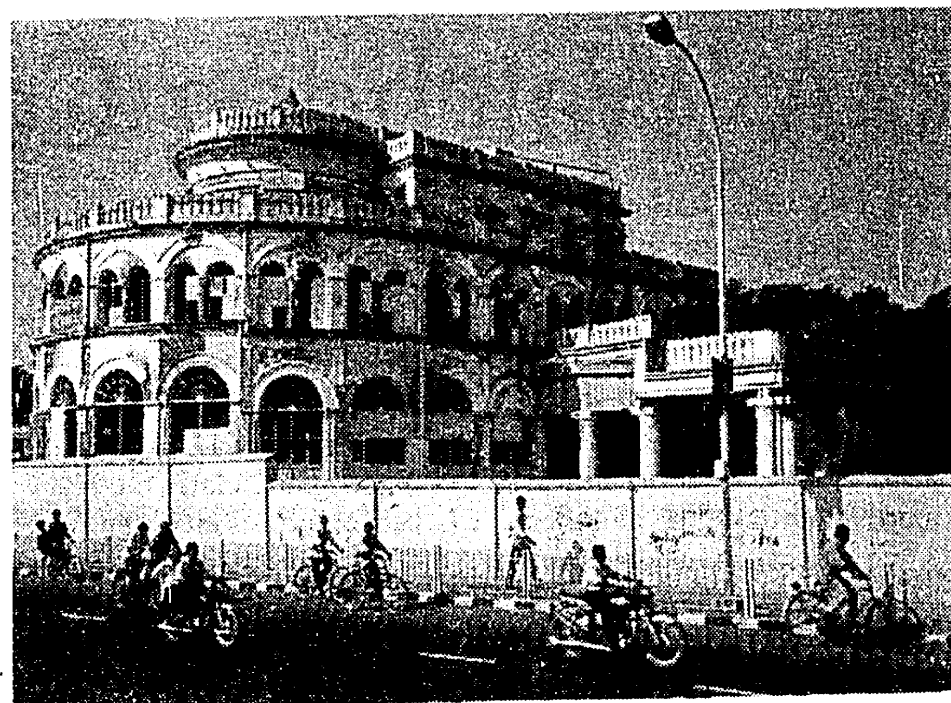
In 1917, the Government of Madras acquired *Ice House* as part of a social welfare scheme for the Government Secondary Training School for Women.

It was a government-run Widows' Hostel from 1917 to 1922. It appears that the building bore the name *Marine Mansion* for a short while during that period to judge by a marble plaque recently found. From 1922-1941 it served as Elementary and Secondary Grade Teacher Trainees' Hostel and T.P.T. Hostel. Then, from 1941 to 1993 it served as B.Ed. Trainees' Hostel.

*Ice House* was named *Vivekanandar Illam* by the Government of Tamil Nadu in 1963, the centenary year of Swami Vivekananda. The Ramakrishna Math tried at the time to acquire the building to preserve it as a national, cultural and historical monument. It had a long wait ahead of it. On February 6, 1997 the Government of Tamil Nadu announced at the meeting held near Vivekanandar Illam in connection with the 'homecoming centenary of Swami Vivekananda' that it would hand over the historical monument to the Math. The formal announcement followed a few days later.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has given Vivekanandar Illam to the Ramakrishna Math, Mylapore, on lease to set up a permanent exhibition on Swami Vivekananda and India's Cultural Heritage. Both renovation and exhibitions were estimated to cost Rs. 1.5 crore. So far about Rs. 50 lakh has been spent on renovations.

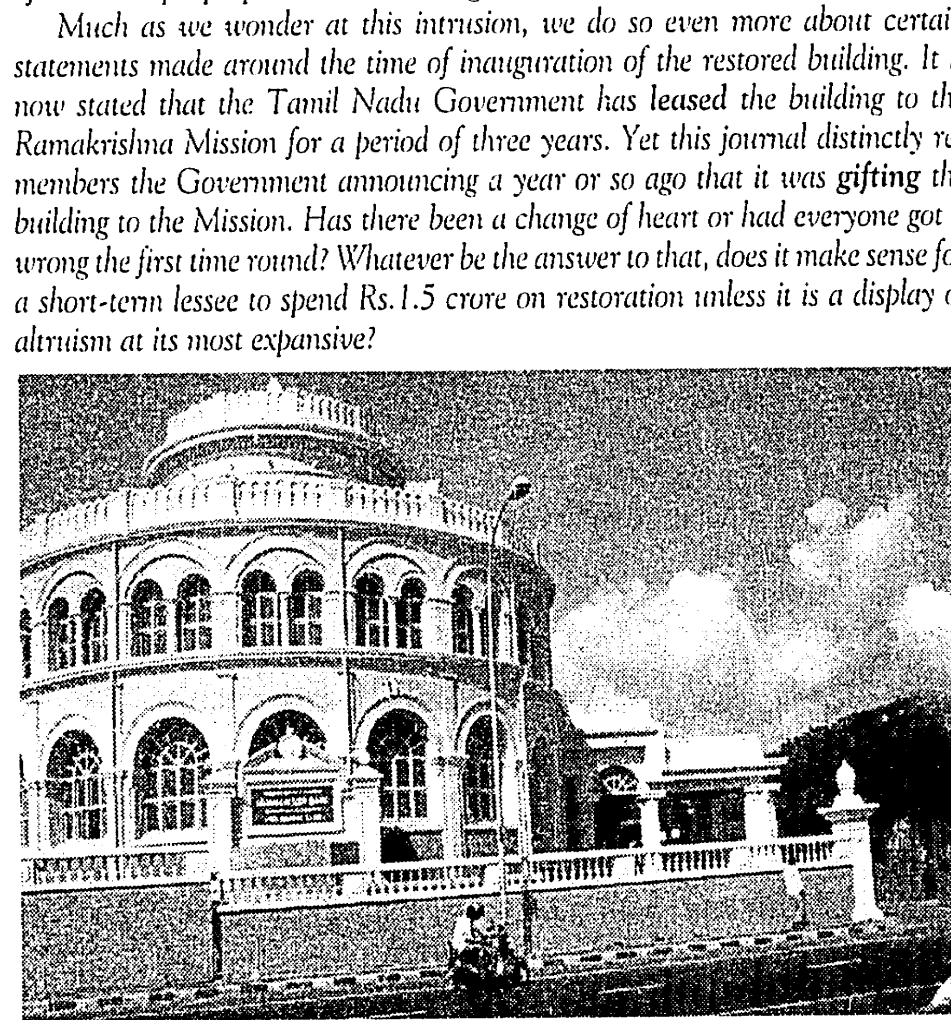
A permanent exhibition depicting the high watermarks of Indian culture and Swami Vivekananda's life and message are planned, as follows:



Once, as the text says, it used to be called *Ice House*; a name deriving from the time it was used as a store for ice from New England and the bergs off Newfoundland. Later, it was called *Vivekananda House* to commemorate Swami Vivekananda's sojourn here after he had created an indelible impression in the World Parliament of Religions. Our OLD shows the building as it was in its more recent days when it was used as a women's hostel for teacher trainees.

Our NEW today is Vivekanandar Illam (as it is now called) after restoration in 1999 and inauguration as a Vivekananda Museum and Exhibition Hall in December. The restoration work, not exactly appreciated by purists, has nevertheless made the building on the Marina something to stop and look at. But such a look will make many wonder what the necessity was to break its lines and hide a portion of it from view by a totally unnecessary pedimented signboard of rather ample proportions. The new gate, however, was a necessity.

Much as we wonder at this intrusion, we do so even more about certain statements made around the time of inauguration of the restored building. It is now stated that the Tamil Nadu Government has leased the building to the Ramakrishna Mission for a period of three years. Yet this journal distinctly remembers the Government announcing a year or so ago that it was gifting the building to the Mission. Has there been a change of heart or had everyone got it wrong the first time round? Whatever be the answer to that, does it make sense for a short-term lessee to spend Rs.1.5 crore on restoration unless it is a display of altruism at its most expensive?



Floor 1 – India till the Advent of Sri Ramakrishna (Painting Section)

Floor 2 – Sri Ramakrishna and the making of Swami Vivekananda

Floor 2 – Verandah – Photo gallery with photograph of Swami Vivekananda and other pictures specially donated by

the Vedanta Society of St. Louis, U.S.A.

Floor 3 – Swami Vivekananda's Contribution and Relevance

Basement – An education centre equipped with books, journals, and audio/video tapes to study India's cultural heritage and Vivekananda's philosophy.

## Want to muse with MUSINGS?

If you would like to be put on *Madras Musings'* mailing list, just fill in the form below (use block letters/type) and post it to M/s. Lokavani Hall-Mark Press Pvt Ltd, 62/63 Greames Road, CHENNAI-600 006.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

.....

Note: Overseas postage extra. Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Gulf: Rs. 375/year. US & Europe: Rs 425/year. Cheques payable to M/s. Lokavani Hall-Mark Press.

# We said it in 1992...

● The lead story in the *Madras Musings* issue of February 15-29, 1992, urged the shift of the capital, Madras, to a new location. That was as early as our first year of publication. Under the headlines 'Why not move the capital?' and 'Some thoughts – and an answer – to the ills of Madras', a Staff Reporter wrote:

At the 'Madras 2011' seminar organised by the Madras Metropolitan Development Authority and The Times (Bombay) Research Foundation. (early in 1992), passing mention (was made to the fact) that "Madras was founded for trade", provided the opportunity for one speaker to suggest, "Why doesn't it, then, concentrate on that?"

The burden of his intervention was that all this effort being put into planning the revival of Madras could be put to better use in planning a new capital and leaving Madras to its future in the hands of those responsible

for the past. In other words, MOVE THE CAPITAL and let Madras survive only as the commercial capital of the state.

Chief Minister M G Ramachandran had once made this proposal and an area between Thanjavur and Tiruchirappalli was briefly looked at. But then the whole problem seemed to get more bogged down in whether the new capital should be in Chola Nadu or Pandya Nadu than in the modalities of the transfer. The proposal was, thereafter, shelved. It would seem time now to pull it out of its pigeon-hole and take a second look at it.

When Madras became capital of this region, the rays of the Presidency radiated out to Land's End in the south, Malabar in the west and Ganjam in Orissa in the north. It was a central location that made sense, when a trading post was converted into an administrative capital. It was also an accident of history, British sentimentality wishing its

power to be rooted in Fort St George where it all began.

Those reasons don't hold good any longer. Government might do well to leave Madras and its development, or rather, its rescue, to commercial interests, and think of moving to a more central location, closer to the people. By moving the largest employer in it, from the overcrowded city, half Madras's problems would be solved.

If there is reluctance to moving the capital – and that includes the legislature – from Madras, an alternative could be considered. Why not move Forests & Wild Life to Coimbatore, nearer the forests of Tamil Nadu, Agriculture to Thanjavur, in the heart of the rice bowl. Fisheries to Tuticorin on the Fisheries Coast, Education to centrally located Tiruchi and so on and so forth.

If Madras is to be saved, these ideas too must be debated as alternatives.

# To save Chennai, let's move to Trichy

*Former Chief Secretary advocates shifting capital*

would each give 5 TMC out of their respective shares, a total of 15 TMC, to meet the drinking water requirements of Chennai in accordance with the Krishna Water Award.

This agreement at official level was formalised at Government level a few years later, but it is only from the beginning of this year that we are at long last getting Krishna water. Inciden-

Pollution control checks are said to be carried out, but do not seem to be adequate.

Free movement on the roads is a dream of the past. At

tally, the proposal to have pipes to carry the water was changed to an open canal systems in order to save on cost but, as I feared, seeing the water flow, farmers in Andhra Pradesh have not been able to resist the urge to tap the water, according to newspapers reports. The entire canal cannot be kept under surveillance and, I fear, as years go, Chennai will not get much water from the Krishna. But even with whatever supplies come from the Krishna to supplement the Red Hills water, the big question remains: Can it sustain an ever-growing population? The answer is NO.

The population density is increasing in all parts of the city, permissions are given to construct multistoreyed buildings even in congested areas without ensuring improvements are in a position to take care of the consequent increased load in respect of water supply, sewage, drainage, electricity, telephones, etc. Only after complaints are made is action taken by the concerned authorities but complaints out-strip action as the population grows.

The Government and other authorities are spending crores of rupees improving the civic services, the condition of slums, etc., but all these cannot solve the root of the problem, which is the flow of people to Chennai for employment and for other reasons – medical, education, legal etc. In short, the city is a powerful magnet which draws people. All the factors which inhibit Chennai being liveable, will worsen so long as the population of Chennai keeps growing. Hence the answer lies in reducing the compulsion to live in or to visit Chennai. While the activities dependent on the ports, railways etc. cannot be shifted, as there are no alternatives, those which are not dependent

(Continued on Page 6)

# ... And Harry Miller repeated himself... and the CM... in 1994

● In 1994, flipping through his scrap books HARRY MILLER came across a cutting from the *Indian Express* of August 12, 1981, headed, "Shifting of State Capital 'definite'." He sent a xerox of it to *Madras Musings* which used it in the September 16-30 issue together with an article by him which he concluded, "You see, I wasn't the only one to think of moving the capital, for it seems that our late Chief Minister, MGR, all on his own too, thought of the idea. As my cutting shows, S D Somasundaram, his Revenue Minister at that time, announced it... And yes, I still think it could be done. It will never be too late. Flogging another dead horse then, am I? Perhaps like Mark Twain, the announcement of its death is premature."

Harry's reference to a dead horse was because this was a theme he had written on in the *Indian Express* several times long before 1981. In the 1994

article he argued his case again thus:

The idea of shifting the political and administrative capital of Tamil Nadu (not the business capital, mark you) to a place perhaps in the Thanjavur delta (which, after all, is the original centre of Tamil culture and glory), instead of keeping it here in Madras, right at the very remote tip of the entire state, would make a lot of sense.

I've always said that Madras is a non-city, by which I mean that if you remember your elementary or primary education, you'll remember being taught that great cities are where they are for very good reasons. They may be planned at the site of a fine natural harbour; there may be valuable minerals or other resources in the nearby hinterland; they may just happen to be at the junction of important trade routes. And so on.

None of these parameters applies to this monstrous metropo-

lis we call Madras. We have no natural harbour, so needs must construct one – several in fact – at astronomical expense, instead of looking further south to where there are hints of natural harbours, such as Cuddalore. We have no minerals or other natural resources nearby. And worst of all, we have no water. It was just an accident that around 350 years ago two rather desperate young Englishmen named Francis Day and Andrew Cogan, plumped for this place since they could find no other to trade from, and we've been stuck with it ever since.

In the days of the Raj, when it was capital of that huge territory called the Madras Presidency, it did make some sort of sense, though not much, for, the Presidency included not only Tamil Nadu but large parts of what are now Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and Orissa, as well as the whole of Malabar on the West Coast. When that fell apart when linguistic states were

formed, Madras was stranded at the very tip of the state it had to govern and no one at the time had the imagination to think that it might be a good idea to move the capital a little nearer the centre of the State, which would also, as I have said, be very satisfying to those like myself who are great admirers of Tamil culture and its heritage.

After all, it's not a particularly original idea. Lots of people have done it. New York remains the commercial capital of the United States, and a hideously ugly, unpleasant place it is too, but beautiful Washington is its political and administrative capital. Australia has Canberra, the Punjab has Chandigarh, even our Pakistani friends had the good sense to move from the scorching deserts of Sind to Rawalpindi and finally built a brand new capital called Islamabad. And who could dream of running India from Old Delhi? Why not move the capital of Tamil Nadu, then?



## Quizzin' with Ram'nan

(Questions 1 to 12 are from the period November 16th to 30th. Questions 10 to 12 pertain to Chennai and Questions 13 to 20 are general questions pertaining to Tamil Nadu.)

1. Name the author of *Catch 22* who passed away recently.
2. Name the popular cricketer nicknamed 'Sherry' who called it a day recently.
3. Which famous waterway changed hands on December 14th?
4. Simple. Name the new Miss World.
5. Why was eight-year old Jyotsna Jethani in the news recently?
6. Name the umpire who gave 'controversial' decisions against Sachin Tendulkar in the first Test at Adelaide.
7. Who were voted the Best Olympians of the Century by a panel of experts?
8. Which famous East Indian transportation system has been put on UNESCO's World Heritage list?
9. Douglas Daft is the new CEO of which global giant?

\* \* \*

10. The projects of which famous Chennai-based medical institution were dedicated to the Nation on December 8th?
11. Name the book agency authorised by the Regional Passport Office to distribute application forms.
12. Which famous London church is the inspiration for St. Andrew's Kirk, Egmore?

\* \* \*

13. What is the more popular name of Kaveripoompatinam?
14. Which place of pilgrimage is said to mark the place where Shiva came to the rescue of Markandeya?
15. What is the name of the big cannon (*birangi*) in the Thanjavur East Kothalam (ram-part)?
16. Where is the famous *dargah* of Hazrat Meera Sultan Syed Shahabul Hameed?
17. Which temple has the biggest temple chariot in Tamil Nadu?
18. What was the real name of Veeramamunivar?
19. On which riverbank is Tirunelveli situated?
20. Where was Veerapandia Kattabomman born?

(Answers on Page 7)

# A cine theatre for the Millennium

*The old order changeth, yielding place to new....*

True to Tennyson's words, many cinemas in the city are yielding place to sprawling commercial complexes. But there is one Chennai theatre-owner who has decided to stick with the old — but with a difference. The Madras-based Balaji group is adding one more theatre to its Sathyam complex (which already houses three theatres — Sathyam, Subham and Santham) and this promises to be the most modern theatre in the South.

Sree Theatre, as it is being named, is set to create new

standards with its luxurious ambience. "We are fully aware of the diminishing returns the cine industry is facing today. But we are not interested in making money out of this new venture; we only want to secure a unique niche for our theatre in the city's cinema history," says its chief manager, K.R. Subramaniam.

The lobbies are air-conditioned and the toilets are five-star. The flooring of the main hall is in black galaxy granites, the seats have holders for cool drink cups, and the steps are illuminated with imported fluid neon lamps. A special balcony, 'The Rendezvous', for couples

only, is furnished with just 15 twin-seater sofas. It will have arrangements for orders of snacks, drinks etc. being served through the show.

While all these meet the eye, there are many invisible, exclusive features too. Sree will be the first theatre in Chennai to be equipped with a state-of-the-art water sprinkler fire fighting system, which, if used, will give everyone in the theatre a free shower! The theatre offers the Dolby digital and DTS systems. And it has adequate generator capacity (totalling 325 KV) that can take care of even the air-conditioning load.

K. Sridhar

# LET'S MOVE THE CAPITAL

(Continued from Page 5)

on these and which are primarily administrative in character, can certainly be shifted. Therefore, the State Government and all its offices, the High Court and some of its courts, and some of the Central Government offices in Chennai can all be shifted. Where to?

It has to be in a place geographically central in the State, so that distance does not make some people feel they are ne-

glected. It must also be a place where water and vast dry lands are available. The obvious place is Trichy, where water can be drawn from the perennial Kaveri River and adequate dry land is available. A new administrative capital, like Gandhi Nagar in Gujarat, can be developed.

When the proposition was first informally mooted about 25 years ago, it found favour with the then Planning Commission Chairman, P.N. Haksar, who said the shifting of

the capital amounted to a surgical operation, but a must and that central assistance would be forthcoming. Medical treatment can relieve pain, but not cure the tumour. A major surgery is what is called for. This seems to be the only solution in the case of Chennai.

Men of vision should take a

P. Sabanayagam,  
I.A.S. (Retd.)

## The day they saw 40,000 flamingoes

All these developmental activities planned for Ennore island — mentioned on several occasions in these columns — may, if they are not curbed, result in the picture word-painted below never being seen again. Is that what the planners intend? It would be tragic if we never had reports like this one Mr. Chandra-sekaran of the Madras Naturalists' Society made a month ago:

"Amidst intermittent showers, we 15 members of the MNS sped on the SHAR Road towards Pulicat around 11 A.M. after visiting Nellapattu Bird Sanctuary. After a few kilometres of travel inside the lake, we had our first sighting of flamingoes, about 200 in number, 500 yards away. We saw both the Lesser Flamingoes and Greater Flamingoes with several juveniles. The Lesser Flamingoes could be easily distinguished by

the brighter pink plumage and by their smaller size. That was the humble beginning for us, as for the next one hour we started sighting more and more of them, mostly to our right. Next was a flock of nearly 2,000 flamingoes, but even that number seemed to pale into insignificance because we started seeing them in even greater numbers as we progressed towards the SHAR Gate. At one stage we could see thousands and thousands of flamingoes. We would have seen more than 40,000 flamingoes out of which nearly 15,000 were sighted near the road itself.

The sighting of Pelicans and Shovellers, 75 Painted Storks, 300 gulls, 1000 pintails and a few Gullbilled Terns and White-backed vultures in Pulicat Lake was over-shadowed by the presence of the Flamingoes which seemed to be everywhere in Pulicat that day."

# Sculptor who favours stainless steel

At the corporate headquarters of the Transport Corporation of India (TCI) at Gurgaon, near Delhi, stands a 15-foot tall stainless steel sculpture of *Garuda*, seen below.

"The theme of the sculpture was dictated by the nature of the company's activities," says the sculptor, S. Nandagopal of Cholamandal Artists' Village near Chennai, "namely 'speed' and 'transport'.

With this in mind, the *Garuda* was decided upon as the most appropriate sculpture as it was associated with a *vahana* (mount) and 'speed'." *Garuda* (a huge bird resembling an eagle) is the mount of Lord Vishnu.

Stainless steel was chosen to avoid corrosion and periodic maintenance. Nandagopal says, "One of the great advantages of stainless steel as a medium is in the fact that it is self-cleansing. Every shower of rain leaves the sculpture bright and shining. The steel I used ensures 75 years of bright, corrosion-free life of the sculpture.

About 600 kg stainless steel went into the making of the *Garuda*. The main skeleton is supported by stainless steel tubes which rest on this bell-shaped base. Stainless steel plates are joined together by a number of rivets to form the bell. The sculpture can be viewed both from the front and the back.

About four months of work at the sculptor's workshop and at S S Engineering, Chennai, went into creating this piece. The raw material was sourced from Salem Steel Plant, SAIL.

The sculptor had earlier created a 20-foot tall stainless steel 'tree', which was commissioned by the National Centre for Performing Arts, Mumbai. This is the largest stainless steel sculpture in India. The tree is on display at the Priyadarshini Park, Mumbai. (Courtesy: Stainless India.)



# Saying it with our proverbs

• This little booklet was yet another Season's Greetings with a difference we received in December 1999. It came to us from CHANDRA SANKAR of Kalamkriya, a small advertising agency, and, besides the gentle, attractive cover illustration, features several 'proverbs for the new millennium'. The introduction reads:

"The proverbs of a region are a true mirror of the mores and customs of the people inhabiting it. Their idiom is typical of the language and cultural idiosyncracies of the area.

Tamil proverbs reflect an ancient civilisation steeped in tradition and lore. Commonsense and wry humour as much as high philosophy and axiomatic doctrines characterise them. They have been passed down from generation to generation via the oral tradition and it is only in recent times that serious efforts have been made to preserve these gems of native wisdom and wit.

This is the first collection of proverbs to be brought out by us...."

Some of the proverbs compiled by Chandra Sankar and her friends include these:

அத்தைக்கு மீசை முளைத்தால் கெடும்பா  
If your aunt grows a moustache, will she become your uncle?

ஆசை அறுபது நாள் மோகம் முப்பது நாள்  
Love lasts sixty days, infatuation merely thirty

இருக்க இடம் கொடுத்தால் படுக்க பாய் கேட்டானாம்  
Offered some space to squat, he now asks for a mat to sleep on

ஈ அடிக்க ஓலக்கை எதற்கு?  
Why wield a hammer to swat a fly?

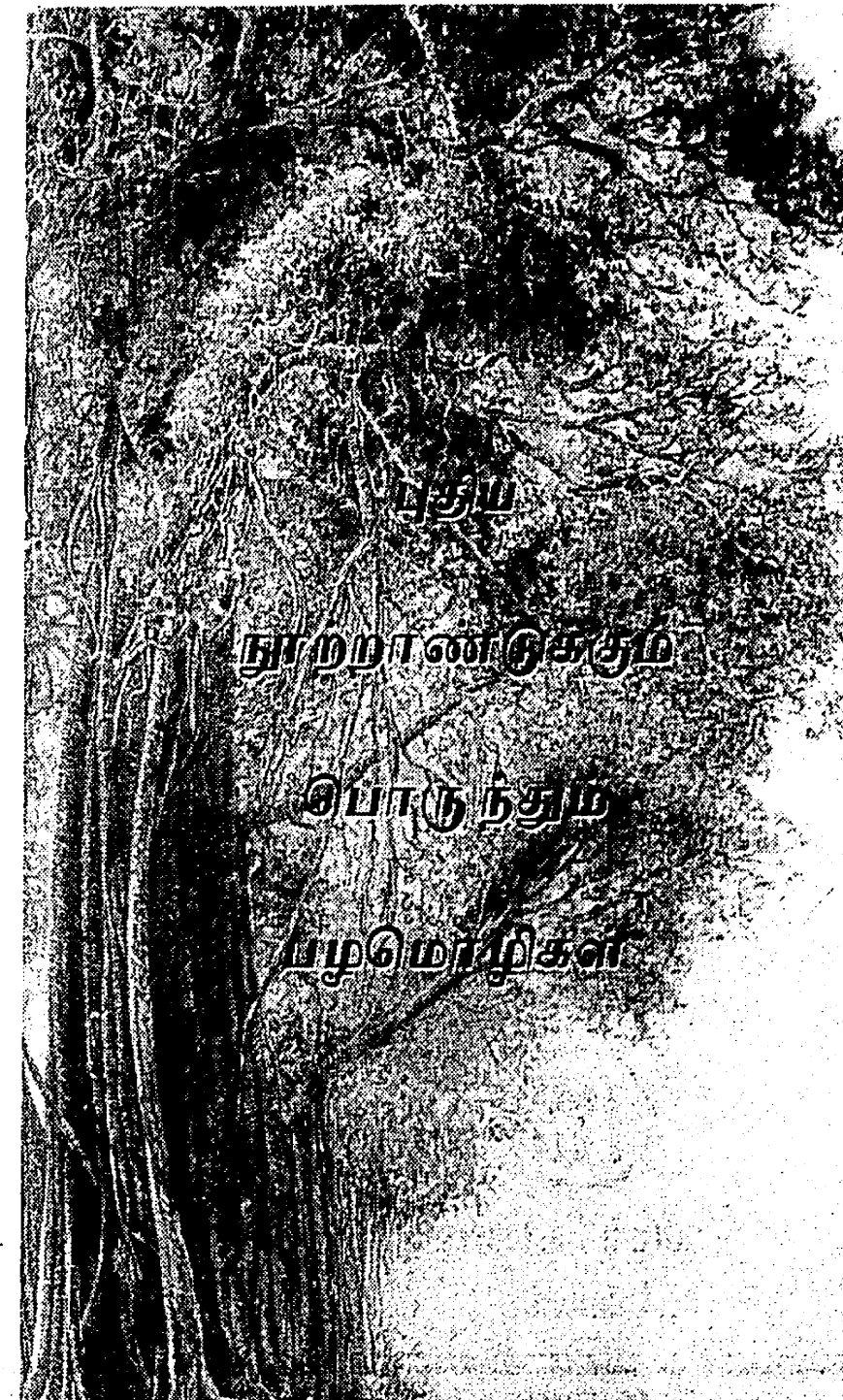
உயர உயர பறந்தாலும் ஊர்க்குருவி பருந்தாகாது  
Soaring high does not make a sparrow a hawk

ஐந்து பெண்கள் பெற்றால் அரசனும் ஆண்டியாவான்  
Even a king will become a pauper if he sires five daughters

காமாலைக் கண்ணுக்கு கண்டதெல்லாம் மஞ்சள்  
To the jaundiced eye, all is yellow

வெங்கலக் கடையில் யானை புகுத்தது போல  
Like an elephant in the bronze store (Like a bull in the china shop)

விடிய விடிய ராமாயணம் கேட்டு சேதக்கு ராமன் கித்தப்பா என்றான்  
Having listened to the Ramayana all night, he stated that Rama was Sita's uncle



Seen rehearsing the closing scenes of the play Pavazhakkodi (or Kudumba Vazhkai) are members of 'Voicing Silence'.



January 4-10: WWW.india-light.com. presents 'Sangeeth Yatra', a photo exhibition on Indian dance and music by Avinash Pasricha (At Manasthala, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.)

January 8: Pavazhakkodi or Kudumba Vazhkai (Family Conflict), directed by K.A. Gunasekharan of Pondicherry, is not for the faint hearted. Nor for the sophisticated urbanite who is too delicate to handle ribald humour and bawdy dialogues and uninhibited realistic acting by women.

'Voicing Silence', the women's theatre Project of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, presents a play based on real life stories narrated by actresses who are all professional actresses in the genre of theatre known as 'Novels', which are either social dramas or stories of Kings and Queens. Some of them have taken part in a highly successful all-women *koothu* produced by R. Rajagopal.

In this play, K.A. Gunasekharan has juxtaposed a real life story of sexual harassment of women with the romanticised story of Swami Shankaradas's play *Pavalakkodi*.

Mina Swaminathan of Voicing Silence says, "We have not tried to make the presentation suitable for city viewing. Our city theatregoers must try to see rural theatre on its own terms. Rural folks are a large chunk of the population and they have a voice too which should be heard in rural as well as urban ambiances." — (V.R.D.)

January 14-28: An exhibition of paintings by T. Anwar. Drawings, prints, lithographs, simple canvas painting and pastel show his mastery over colour. An unabashed Hindustani classical music fan, music has provided an extra dimension to Anwar's oeuvre-mystique. (At the Apparao Galleries)

January 18: Poetry reading and a poetry exhibition (At 6.30 p.m. at the Lecture Hall, British Council.)

January 19-20: Poetry Exhibition, celebrating the magnificent range and sweep of contemporary poetry in English. The exhibition provides a backdrop of colourful and informative posters that capture the seminal moments and the prime movers in the history of poetry in the 20th Century. (At the British Council)

January 20: Indian Writing in English. A discussion at a meeting of the Madras English Association. (3-5 p.m. At British Council.)

January 23 (7.00 p.m.) and 24 (3.00 p.m.): Shared Experience's *Jane Eyre* combines the stunning visual imagery and powerful performance style that have become the company's hallmark.

Polly Teale's assured adaptation is grounded in a powerful personal vision of the novel, exposing the bare psychological bones, and has been described as "riveting spectacle".

Since its beginning in 1975, Shared Experience Theatre has been instrumental in pioneering an exciting and distinctive performance style that celebrates the union of physical and text-based theatre. This is the company's second theatre tour of India. Chennai audiences will find it hard to forget their production of *Mill on the Floss* which they brought here in 1995. (At the Music Academy. Invitations on a first-come, first-served basis available at the British Council from Monday, January 10.)

## ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Joseph Heller; 2. Navjot Singh Sidhu; 3. Panama Canal, handed over by the U.S. to Panama; 4. Yukta Mookhey of Mumbai; 5. She was the girl tragically killed in an escalator accident at the Indira Gandhi International Airport; 6. Daryl Harper; 7. Carl Lewis and Jackie Joyner-Kersey; 8. The Darjeeling Mountain Railway; 9. Coca Cola;

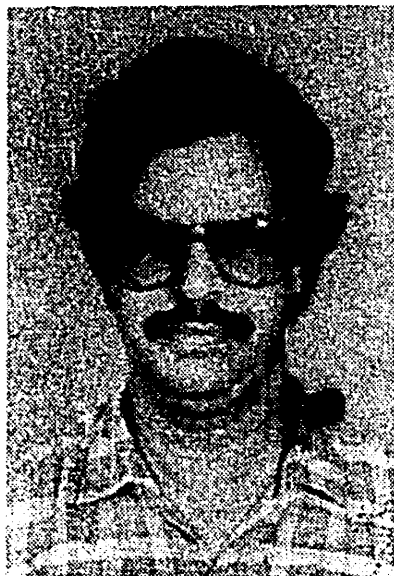
10. Sankara Nethralaya; 11. M/s. Sitaram & Bros.; 12. St. Martin-in-the-Fields;

\* \* \*

13. Poompuhar; 14. Tirukkadayur; 15. Rajagopala *birangi*; 16. Nagore; 17. Tiruvavur; 18. Fr. Joseph Beschi; 19. Tambraparni and 20. Panchalankurichi.

\* \* \*





C.K. Subramaniam

# 50 not out!

of V. Pattabhiraman. He continued to play the game in Ghaziabad, Modi Nagar and Meerut and is now on the cricket field in Mumbai. But some teams hit the top spot from the mediocre level. Standard Cricket Club (Tondiarpet) was lucky with a gifted all-rounder in C.K. Subramaniam.

soundly, bowled leg spin after his early years and fielded with agility.

At the age of 20, while still in college, he passed the MCA's tests and became an umpire. While in Madras, he coached the SBOA boys in Anna Nagar (West). His writ-



V. Deenadayalan

SIAA'S Wellington Cup tournament in a match at the Nehru Stadium. The Police team included Rangachari, Joseph Michael, Richards, Andrews, Scurville, Vadivelu and Gopal. He remembers a player named Gilbert who hit the ball from the MUC hockey ground into the adjoining Pachaiyappa's College ground during a match.

His passion for the game led him to umpiring. The high point of his umpiring career

## On the cricket field...

It's enthusiasts like C.K. Subramaniam of Standard Cricket Club (Tondiarpet), who've helped make the country cricket-crazy, no matter the moderate standard of the game in India. When he celebrates 50 on January 7th, he would have been playing the game from the time he was 13. That was when he threw down the wicket of the opponents' star

Born into a cricketing family, Subramaniam progressed up the Madras cricketing ladder. He carried his bat in a Division IV league match, scoring 23 not out of 66 playing for the Sir Theyagaraya Recreation Club against Shivaji CC. He captured 7 for 28 playing for Sir Theyagaraya College against Madras Engineering College. In his first over, he claimed 3

### ● By A Staff Reporter

left-hand batsman twice in a match with direct hits from the square leg region. From then on, he's been player, coach, umpire, freelance writer, statistician and cartoonist – besides being a banker and humane.

When he made it to the school team, he claimed 6 for 9 in his first match in a fiery spell of new ball bowling. *The Hindu* headlined the feat 'C.K. Subramaniam deadly'.

A solid opening bat, he played a sheet anchor role in every match. He was instrumental in helping the Syndicate Bank Recreation Club win major tournaments in Madras. He was a regular at Chepauk's 'Subramaniam Nets' alongside Venkat and Clubwallah and benefitting from the guidance

wickets and put the much-fancied college side on the backfoot. He also represented the Madras Aryan Club and Gandhi CC. He helped the Standard Cricket Club (Tondiarpet) win a division title. But it was for the Syndicate Bank Cricket Club wherever he was that he turned out regularly. He made his highest score of 89 in Madras playing for Syndicate Bank RC at the University Union Ground in a 30-over game.

He led the Sir Theyagaraya College side creditably and was in the running for a berth in the University team at a time inter-university cricket was of appreciable standard. Considered fine fielder in the cover region, he was also a good fielder in the slips. He batted

ing on cricket has found a place in almost all the English sports magazines in India. His write-up on the Ranji final in 1986 was published in the *Cricketer International* (London). He is a member of the Statistical Association of India and has compiled the innings by innings records of Sunil Gavaskar, Don Bradman and Sachin Tendulkar. His statistics of Don Bradman's game were shown to the star batsman and are preserved in the Bradman museum in Adelaide.

His elder brother C.K. Ramanathan was a DDCA Umpire and his younger brother C.K. Suresh was a Railways Ranji Trophy player.

The turf wickets in Mumbai suit his style of bowling and have helped him bag wickets regularly there. In a cliffhanger tie he bowled the slog overs against Kotak Mahindra not long ago and finished with 8-0-39-3! His last two wickets changed the course of the match in favour of the Syndicate Bank Recreation Club.

Despite his busy schedule as Chief Officer of the service branch of the Syndicate Bank, he makes regular time for the game he loves.

At 50, he looks forward to many more years on the cricket field.

## ... & the hockey field

Players, past and present, all making a beeline say hello to this retired hockey coach V. Deenadayalan. If ever you are at the Chennai Hockey Association's Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium, you will find him there. After 50 years in the game, he still keeps in touch by acting as a technical delegate or timekeeper.

Deenadayalan who was educated in Burma, returned to Madras during World War II. He began playing hockey for several local clubs – the Young Indians SC, Mylapore, Indians SC, Evermerry SC, Madras United Club and Ashley Biggs. He was a goalie at a time when there was less protective gear.

The major hockey teams in those days were the Police, M&SM, Railway, Anglo Indians, Telegraphs, the Madras Cricket Club, the Madras United Club and the South India Athletic Association teams. The MCC comprised many Europeans and the only Indian would be the marker, Deenadayalan recalled.

He played for the Young Indians when they created a major upset by beating the Police team led by Francis during the

was when he officiated in the Nehru Memorial Cup matches in Delhi after being appointed a National Umpire. As a National Umpire, he also officiated in the Bombay Gold Cup and Calcutta Beighton Cup tournaments.

After his stint at umpiring, he became a coach in 1963 when the first District Sports Council was set up. He was posted to the Chengalpattu District Sports Council and then was transferred to Madras where he coached students of YMCA Sports School at Nandanam. His hunt to 'catch 'em young' netted Mohamed Riaz from the Madrasa-I-Azam School.

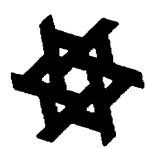
An autograph of Major Dhyan Chand appears in his Umpires' rulebook, the first such book produced by the Madras Hockey Association. He got it after Dhyan Chand's Khalsa College team lost to a local club at the Madras United Club grounds in 1950.

Deenadayalan was also a cricket umpire and officiated in city league matches and in one first class match when Madras University played Ceylon University at the Marina's now neglected ground.

He is now working on a couple of books on hockey.

Rajind N Christy

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



Amalgamations Group

**APCOM**

Apcom Computers Ltd.



Ashok Leyland



Bank of Madura Ltd.

**EIH ASSOCIATED  
HOTELS LTD.**

**HDFC**

Housing Development  
Finance Corp. Ltd.



India Cements Ltd.

**KASTURI &  
SONS  
LTD.**



Murugappa  
Group

**Rane**

Rane Group

The  
**SANMAR**  
Group



Sundaram Finance  
Limited



Sundram Fasteners  
Limited



Thiru Arooran  
Sugars Ltd

**TVS-SUZUKI**

TVS Suzuki  
Ltd.