

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS

MUSINGS

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FREE ISSUE

February 16-29, 2000

O W W W!

Oh, what water waste!

*And unless all of us do something about it fast,
we are in for hard days ahead*

There are hard days ahead, unanimously agreed concerned citizens of Chennai when they met recently at the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation to discuss the greatly depleted water storage in the reservoirs that supply the city. The meeting, chaired by Professor Swaminathan and convened by N R Krishnan, former Union Secretary, Environment and Forests, M B Nirmal of Exnora International and A K Venkatasubramanian, former Union Secretary, Consumer Affairs, and at present Member of Metrowater's Consumer Service Committee, urged Government to take the following steps immediately:

- Appeals to Andhra Pradesh must be made by the Gov-

ernment and the people to line the canal as quickly as possible and release the promised water to Chennai.

- Linking other tanks in the Chengalpattu District with the City's reservoirs should be examined and implemented where practicable.
- Water for industrial use should be reduced and in-

● By A Staff Reporter

stallation of recycling and rain-harvesting procedures in factories or groups of factories should be made mandatory.

- Open water channels should be lined with polythene to reduce seepage.

— It should be ensured that there is no wastage of water in water tankers at any point from filling to discharge.

— Ethyl alcohol to be spread thinly over reservoir water to reduce evaporation, but proper treatment should be ensured before such water is released to the public in order to eliminate the consequent smell and taste.

— Close schools and colleges early and open late — except for classes sitting for public exams.

— Metrowater should mount a massive publicity campaign, with the media making its contribution to this end, to

(Continued on Page 3)

● Also see Pages 2 & 4



Chennai may be water-short, but does that mean that we need to reduce the City's wetlands and replace them with storage tanks and giant structures to pump the water? The latest wetland to suffer in the name of development is a part of Adyar Creek.

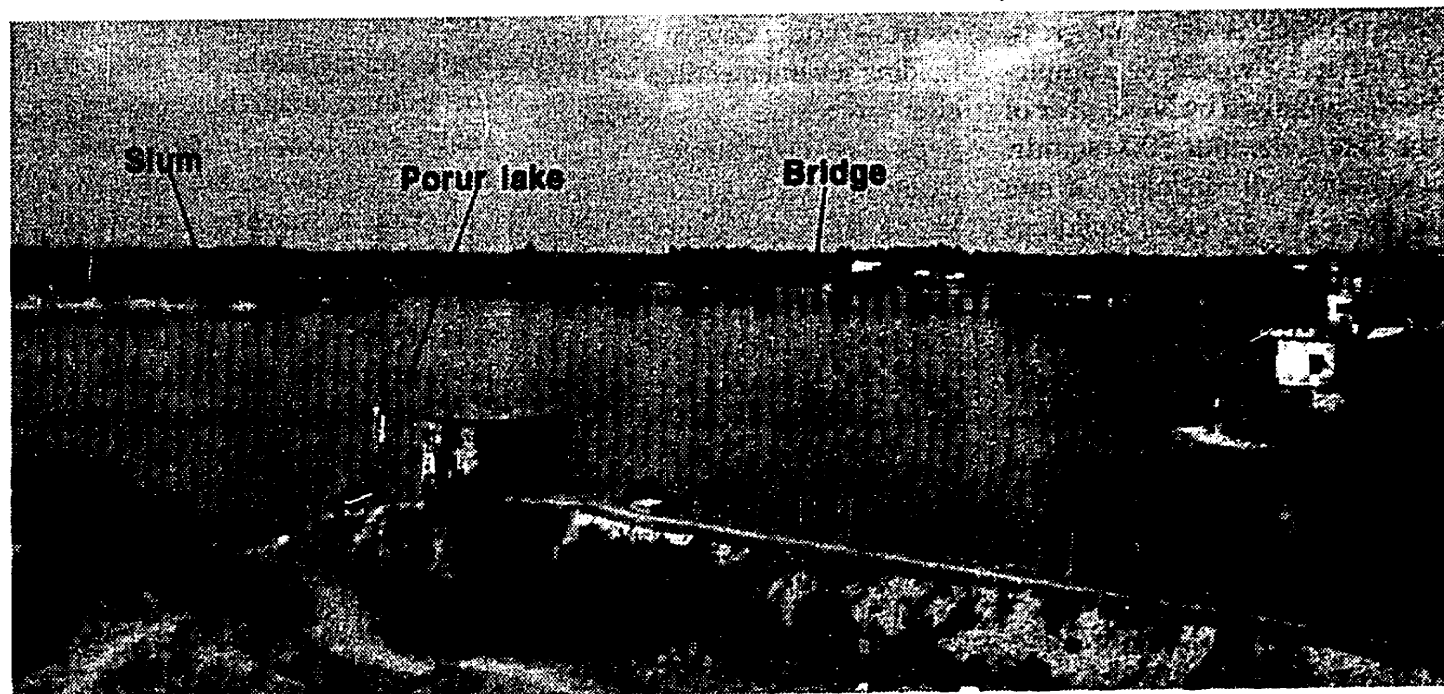
The High Court of Madras had ordered the Creek, an environmentally fragile wetland, to be protected and conserved. The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority was to hand over what was left of the Creek to the Forest Department to develop as a sanctuary for migrant and native birdlife, small animals, reptiles and rare flora. But all that is happening in the area is increased building activity every day!

The latest building activity is our NEW. Two giant water tanks would be built underground, it had been promised before the work started; the corollary was presumed that there'd be landscaping overground. What's happened in fact, as seen in our NEW, is that the tanks (foreground) are 1.5m ABOVE ground, even if they are also 3.5m underground. In addition to the tanks to hold 36 million litres of water, towering over the area is what is said to be the pumphouse and office, occupying nearly 1,100 sq.m. and rising about 20m. This was to have been a "single storey building"! All this has been raised in what had once been a Fisheries brackishwater pond, our OLD (below), which had not only stored rainwater but which had also helped recharge the groundwater of Quibble Island. Only a part of this wetland is left as seen in RAJIND N CHRISTY's third picture.

Bharat Jairaj, Legal Coordinator, Citizen, consumer and civic Action Group, told Madras Musings that when the land-filling activity took place here and it seemed likely that the natural flow of water to the creek would be disrupted, the CAG had brought this danger to the no-

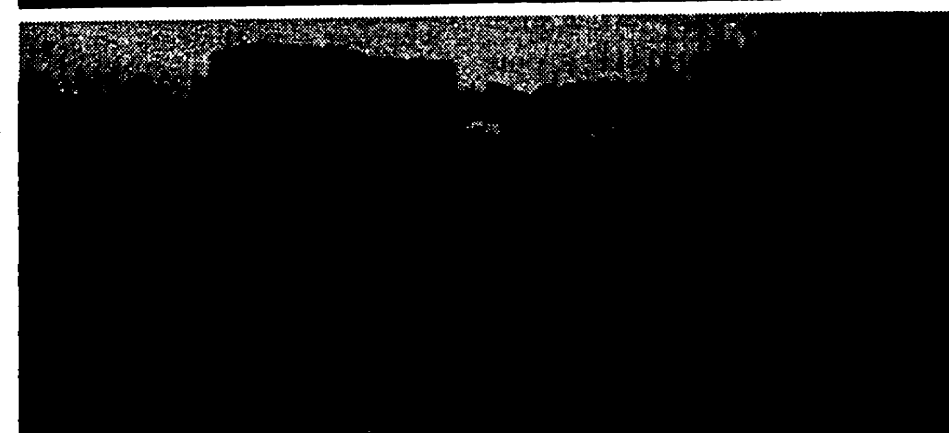
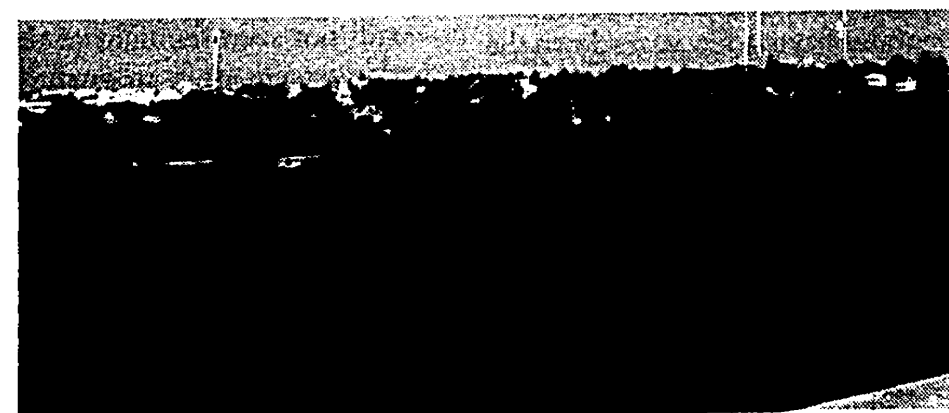
tice of Metrowater. The response was that the construction was not located across the flow route of the backwaters and would not disrupt the natural flow of the river water. It was also stated that the water in the area would get recharged once the structure was completed and the proposed rainwater harvesting measures were implemented by Metrowater.

These tanks which will get their water from Red Hills via Porur and for which the pipelines are also being laid, are a part of the Master Plan for water supply improvement. Under the Plan, 16 zonal water distribution stations are proposed for the city. Metrowater states that this construction will facilitate equitable distribution of water to the tail-end areas of Raja Annamalaiapuram, Mandaveli, Mylapore, Foreshore Estate, San Thomé, Azad Nagar, Bhimanapet, Karaneeswarapuram, Alwarpet and Avvai Nagar. But at what price to the city?! (Photographs by RAJIND N. CHRISTY.)



The Porur lake today (above)... in top left corner, a slum that's claimed a part of the water body and in the centre a Highways' bridge which will link Tambaram and Kunrathur with the road to Bangalore. A welcome bypass, but did it have to be IN a vital waterbody, even if it is a filthy one? In the picture on left, the development of the Chennai-Bangalore highway has led to the water-holding part of the tank being blocked by a wall of cement, while another part of the tank, on the right in the picture, has not only been built over (top right) in picture, but its barren area, meant for rainwater, it is claimed, is threatened with encroachment. (Photographs by RAJIND N. CHRISTY.)

● MORE NEWS ON PAGE 6



All firefighting, no long term action

It was a be-kind-to-Government-and-its-departments occasion. Let's not talk about what's NOT been done in the past, let's instead look at what must be done immediately and then we can gently press for solutions for the future, appeared to be the tenor of the presentations and much of the dialogue at the 'Need for Water Conservation' seminar organised at the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation recently by some concerned citizens of Chennai. With everyone in an amiable mood, no doubt as a result of each being given the opportunity to plug his particular line, there was no fault-finding to any appreciable extent. Instead, there were several suggestions that could be culled from each and they were summarised at discussion's end. But on who's going to do what about these suggestions *The Man From Madras Musings* was not very clear, despite one of the convenor's mentioning names of people to follow up some of the suggestions. Even a simple suggestion like Metrowater widely publicising a set of simple do's and don'ts couldn't get a "We'll get on with it rightaway" response. Perhaps it was a suggestion that needed to percolate and MMM will not be surprised at all by the time it will take to get absorbed.

Be that as it may, MMM can't understand the need for all this gentlemanly gentility. There is, everyone agrees, a serious water crisis and unless a miracle of April showers, May flowers or Krishna water even before that occurs, we are headed for a horrible eight or nine months ahead. It is not the weather gods alone who are responsible for this. Nor is it the irresponsibility of citizens wasting water, as appears to be implied in the call for all of us to be responsible citizens, at least as far as the use of water is concerned. No, as far as MMM is concerned, the responsibility for the present situation rests squarely on the shoulders of the authorities who did not take adequate conservation measure over the last eight or nine months and who have not for the last 25 years got down to examining and implementing major solutions. Why are the concerned citizens not insisting even now on some action that will ensure a better future on the water front a few years down the line? Why is it that only the citizens are being asked to play a greater role, not the authorities? Here and there through the three-hour discussion, MMM noted key points about omissions and commissions cropping up, but there was little follow-up or response to these points from the floor. MMM hopes the few questions asked below will elicit some answers and, more importantly, action. Perhaps that will demonstrate the earnest of the intent of the authorities.

Some questions

- Every time there has been a

water crisis, several suggestions have been made and action promised. Why is it that with the first rains everything is forgotten?

- There have been problems both political and physical with the Teluga Ganga scheme. Why have regular attempts not been made to find solutions to both problems?
- Why do we allow people to dig deeper and deeper borewells, even when in some instances this has resulted in neighbours being deprived of water?
- Why has not storage capacity been increased on a scale to ensure that no rainwater goes to the sea? This is something pointed out after every storm, and promptly forgotten when the existing reservoirs are reasonably full.
- Why is 30 per cent of Porur lake encroached on and no action taken against the encroachers?
- Why have the authorities not insisted on industrial units recycling water?
- Why have the authorities not insisted on water-harvesting schemes — not merely the drawings — in every new construction?

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

- Why have we not seriously looked at suggestions to shift the capital or at least shift several government departments?
- Why do we allow new industries to be put up in the Chennai area, ensuring that most of their employees live in the city?
- Why do we not introduce regulations to control the size of faucets, cisterns, sumps etc. in houses, housing and commercial complexes, and industrial establishments?
- Why is it that a one-year action plan drawn up by a committee comprising Metrowater, some university departments and Exnora for implementation from 22.3.1998 has still not seen the light of the day except as a colourfully printed document? Here was a one-year action plan that could have been tried out, yet two years later concerned citizens are still talking of an action plan.

Would someone please tell *The Man From Madras Musings* whether the answers to these questions should come from the citizens or the authorities?

Signs at last

It was in July 1991, in one of the first issues of *Madras Musings*, that the first call for a

permanent Trade Centre in Madras was given. It was a plea resulting from the Madras Printers' Association wanting a site to host a printing machinery exhibition in the city, following on their successful pioneering effort a few years earlier. *The Man from Madras Musings*, then associated with printing, recalls that, at the time, Bangalore was also bidding for the fair, to be held two years in the future, and the Indian Printers' Federation had promised the exhibition to whichever city developed the infrastructure the manufacturers insisted on. Not long afterwards there was mention of the IDPL site in Nandambakkam, near St. Thomas' Mount. But nothing came of it all — and Pragati Maidan, Delhi, continues to have a monopoly on all industrial fairs. Now, nearly ten years later, after discussion about sites in Taramani, Tirusulam and Meenambakkam, we are back to Nandambakkam. But MMM is glad to see that at last there seems to be some signed agreement, a foundation stone and some plans for the Trade Centre to come up in Chennai. Better late than never, *MMM* supposes, but he'd nevertheless like to see some action before congratulating everyone concerned. This journal has from its inception pushed for this Centre but there have been so

Centre ready so that the next Leather Fair can be held there instead of in a sports facility.

NGO togetherness

It's time the major NGOs got together and worked together, it's time there was greater networking among them, *The Man from Madras Musings* has long stated. Unfortunately that has not been the case in Chennai; each has his own patch and not only wants to safeguard it but also to establish a foothold in other patches. Often, this has led to even worthwhile plans failing for lack of information or co-operation.

A couple of recent instances are causes for concern, *MMM* feels. One is the trial attempt to privatise garbage collection and disposal in three wards of the city. Whatever the contracting company's problems, it does not need one NGO expressing the view that the company is treading on its toes and another talking of public debate being necessary before such projects and seeing all sorts of "dangers" in what has been proposal.

In another recent instance, one NGO has for years been trying to get the old Adyar Bridge restored and made a promenade

consider the restoration of Ripon Building and the main building of Guindy Engineering College, and that a project report has been sought for the restoration of Town Hall (Victoria Public Hall). It is only in the case of Senate House, where work was ready to begin, that there has been a decision to go slow. *MMM* wishes the University of Madras would show the way to the rest with Senate House rather than adopt a negative approach.

★ A question asked by a few people who spoke to *The Man from Madras Musings* in recent weeks was whether those responsible were ready for the grand Scout and Guide Jamboree held in a college campus in Thorapakkam. With 28 contingents from different parts of the country and all the SAARC countries except Pakistan sending contingents, it was a great gathering, but whether the arrangements suited the occasion was a question asked by many. The happiest thing about the Golden Jubilee Jamboree to *MMM*, however, was Chief Minister Karunanidhi's commitment to ensuring a scout or guide troop in every school in the State. With scouting a bit out of the picture in Tamil Nadu in recent years, this promise should give it a fillip. *MMM* has always thought that there's nothing like scouting and guiding to develop self-reliance as well as team spirit. May there be a development of both in the schools of Tamil Nadu.

★ A visit to T.S. Satyan's exhibition of black and white photographs, 'Focus on people' was a reminder to many who saw it of how expressive a black and white medium is. In fact, *The Man from Madras Musings* sees it as a far more dramatic medium than colour. The sad part of it is that few 'shoot' in black and white today, fewer still make proper black and white prints and still fewer presses print black and white well. What a book Satyan's portraits of the famous and the unknown would make if only there was a publisher in India willing to undertake a project out of the ordinary and if there was a press that could do justice to a book of these pictures. A laughing R.K. Narayan, a snarling and twisted Krishna Menon, a benign Vinobha Bhave... each is a brilliant picture that deserves to be preserved for posterity. Who will help this collection reach a wider audience and who will ensure its survival, wonders *The Man From Madras Musings*.

And in a third instance, all efforts to save the Adyar estuary — one NGO even taking it to court — and a couple of others holding several meetings — have come to a standstill, have perhaps even been forgotten. The damp squip it has turned out to be, *MMM* feels, is because they did not act in concert and generate even wider NGO support. Working individually, they have proved easy targets for glib persuasion.

If NGOs in this City are to succeed, they must form a joint forum, and regularly meet to discuss issues of mutual interest and how best they can work together on them selflessly! Who's going to set the ball rolling?

In brief

★ The beginnings made with the restoration of the DGP Building have certainly had a beneficial fall-out in Chennai's tiny world of restoration. *The Man from Madras Musings* hears with pleasure that restoration is going on at St. Andrew's Kirk, that committees have been formed to

MMM

OUR READERS WRITE

A dark side

Sir Arthur Hope (MM, January 16th) was not the last British Governor of Madras. He was succeeded by Sir Archibald Nye who held high military rank.

Sir Arthur Hope had a darker side. During his last days, he was an insolvent petitioner.

K.S. Shanker, MWO (RETD), 'Sowbhagya', Plot 208, 15, Chitlapakkam Main Road, Ganesh Nagar, Selaiyur, Chennai 600 073.

Sir Arthur Hope used to be welcomed at public functions with garlands of currency notes! Lady Hope divorced him and Sir Arthur died an insolvent in the UK.

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

In those days, a slide of Sir Arthur Hope would be exhibited on the screen in cinema theatres.

P.S. Krishnamoorthy, Tahsildar (RETD), 34, Ramanatha Iyer Street, Gobichettipalayam, Erode District 638 452.

Editor's Note: Sir Arthur was a dedicated drinker and drank had much to do with his debts. Lady Hope was an equally dedicated

social worker and did a lot of work with the Red Cross. A home for nurses in Egmore is stated to have been named after her.

Many times bigger

Ford India Ltd. is a Rs. 1700 crore project and not Rs. 86 crore as stated in MM, January 16th.

Bhuvana Ramalingam, Manager, Public Relations, Ford India Limited, S.P. Koil Post, Chengalpattu 603 204.

Editor's Note: We stated "Rs. 86 crore factory". Did the factory cost more? But perhaps we should have more correctly talked of project cost. Including manpower cost.

Preserving records

There are an enormous number of people doing family history in U.K. and as they travel further afield as years go by, many more are likely to want to follow in their great-greats' footsteps (as did the author of the article in MM, February 1st). Many libraries in the U.K. now have a local History Section which often contains information useful to genealogists. This is only a reference section and books, microfiche etc. have to be studied *in situ*, not taken home. A sensible precaution. It is interesting that someone has made a database of the St. Thomas Mount register and that

there is a copy with the parish priest. It would be good if there was a central library in Chennai which could also keep a copy of this, and any other material as it becomes available.

Josephine Felton, Littledean House Hotel, Littledean, Cinderford, Gloucestershire GL 14 3JT (U.K.)

Why separate taxes?

The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) at present collects Rs. 50/- per month towards water charges from domestic consumers. In the case of residential complexes comprising many flats, the Board collects individually from each flat. With only one water connection for the entire complex, and the availability of water being meagre, I am at a loss to understand how the Board can collect water charges individually from each flat. Considering the fact that only one water connection is made available for each complex, Board should abide by 'one connection-one payment' rule, and such payment should be collected only from the flat associations.

It should be pointed out that residential complexes are built at places where earlier individual houses were in existence, with one water connection. If instead of a complex only one individual house were to be there, the Board would collect only one charge, wouldn't it?

V.S. Jayaraman, 31, Motilal St., Chennai 600 017

Slow progress

The construction of the *rajagopuram* of the Vallee-

A last note

Dr. R. PARTHASARTHY, Science Adviser of *The Hindu* wants to add one last point to the discussion on Master Ramachandra, because this had not been focussed on by others. He writes:

Ramachandra should be remembered at the present time of controversy raging over the impossibility of teaching science in the mother tongue.

He worked even in 1843 as a missionary in his commitment to science education in the vernacular. He tried to develop his own pedagogy of education in his career (1843-57) as a mathematics teacher at the Delhi College (now known as the Zakir Hussain College).

For carrying out this great en-

deavour — on trigonometry, mechanics, algebra, optics etc — he translated a number of textbooks from English to Urdu in order to bring about the building up of a national character.

A student of his conveyed the message emphatically:

"The constant use of English from our childhood, so that we begin to express our thoughts in it instead of our mother tongue, will go far to denationalise us. If we wish to remain an eastern people, we must not neglect the language which we learnt at our mother's knee.... To forget it, or to despise it, is to lose one of the strongest factors in the building up of national character." — Munshi Zakaulah of Delhi. By C.F. Andrews, London, 1929.

warar Temple in Mylapore has been going on for more than four years. Consequently, the annual *Vaisakha Bramotsavam* of the temple had not been held. The devotees are much disappointed that a work well started has not seen the completion so far and are at a loss to understand why.

Due to the munificence of devotees in the past, the temple was paved with marble tiles and a mirrored Palli Arai, silver rishabha vahana for the Pradosha Murthy etc. were done in record time.

It is, therefore, hoped that the *rajagopuram* work will be similarly finished without any more delay and the *kumbabishekam* performed by the ensuing Tamil New Year and the annual *brahmotsavam* resumed, for there is neither dearth of funds nor sponsors for specific renovation work.

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

Error pointed out...

There is an error in the note on the Vaitheswaran Temple at Poonamallee and the temple at Kovur by A. Venugopal (MM, January 16). Thayal Nayaki is the consort of the Lord and not his mother.

About the second temple, I would like to know if it is the same shrine about which saint Thyagaraja has sung a set of five *kritis* which goes by the name *Kovur Pancharatnam*.

... & information sought

While on the subject of trams, could any reader enlighten me on this:

Many years ago when tramcars traversed the roads of Madras, an old native of Tiruvallur used to bag that his town also had a sort of tramway line connecting railway station and township. It appears a tramcar used to be drawn on rails by horse to transport men and materials. It was later given up as unremunerative. Was that true or just an empty boast?

M.Sethuraman

'Sankrithi', 6/16, Mahalakshmi Nagar, Second Cross St., Adambakkam, Chennai 600 088.

Painful sights...

I was surprised to see the construction of so many flyovers in Madras. It was a painful sight. But now that they being facts, I wonder why the Government or the con-

tractors did not think of building them wider (of course within the available space) supported by pillars at each point so that the upper bridge part could support one-way traffic and the bottom road part could have supported the return traffic?

At some point of time, even these new flyovers will get congested.

Secondly, through this process of road development, the lower part will eventually get filled with illegal occupants or shops and thus contribute further to overcrowding of roads!

...& painful expressions

Every time I fly in and fly out of Madras, the airport experience gets turning from bad to worse. I feel all the more disgusted about Madras because this time I transited via Colombo. A much smaller country with profound economic and social problems is still able to maintain the Bandaranaika airport in far superior fashion. Toilets are impeccably clean and the ground staff immensely polite. Why don't both these exist at Anna International Terminal? Let us not say it is all because of population pressure. Certainly Colombo airport is much more crowded and caters to more passengers than Madras airport. We seem to survive on lame excuses.

A. Raman

Orange Agricultural College, The University of Sydney, P.O. Box 883, Orange NSW 2800.

Gracious offer

K.T. Krishnaswami Iyengar (KTK as he was familiarly called) was a professor of English at the Madanapalle Arts College, A.P. He passed away in 1962. His wife left with me the manuscript of his essays — *India's Yesterdays in the Village* — and told me that KTK had desired these 'sketches' to be published. KTK had no children and I lost all contact with his family after 1963.

My social and financial position being none too good, it took me 36 years to have KTK's essays eventually published, at Bangalore, in 1998, at my cost. I now wish to offer copies of the book to KTK's heirs, if any, as my tribute to his revered memory. KTK's heirs may contact me and receive copies of his book.

K.N. Iengar

600-A, West I Cross, Kuvempunagar - C&D, Mysore 570 023.

Oh, what water waste!

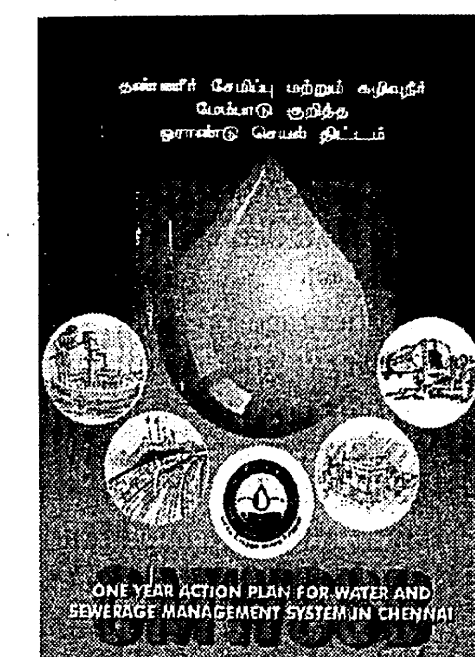
(Continued from Page 1)

get the public to implement some SIMPLE DOs and DON'Ts in the domestic use of water.

- The people at the head of affairs, like the Mayor and the head of Metrowater, should address the public through the media at regular intervals and keep them posted about the real position and how the public could help.

On a long-term basis it was suggested that the following steps should be taken:

- All buildings must mandatorily install water-harvesting systems, within one year, for which some tax concessions should be given.
- All apartment complexes, office blocks, hotels etc. should mandatorily introduce water recycling facilities within a year or two, for which some tax concessions could be given.
- Capacities of existing reservoirs should be increased, new reservoirs should be built to capture excess rainwater and means to reduce seepage from channels and reduce evaporation in reservoirs introduced.



The cover of the booklet *Metrowater published on the one-year action plan (22.3.98 to 22.3.99) drawn up by it and citizens' groups to effectively manage water and sewerage in the City. Neither has the booklet been distributed nor has the plan been launched one year after it was supposed to be completed. Why? No one appears to know, to judge by the silence that reigned when this was brought up at the recent discussion, on the current water situation, organised by some concerned citizens of Chennai.*

Water for the City

— Now and tomorrow

Due to the failure of the Northeast Monsoon in October-November 1999 in the catchment areas of the Poondi, Cholavaram and Redhills reservoirs that supply water to Chennai, the total storage available in these reservoirs stood at 1648 mcf on 21st January this year compared to nearly four times that quantity during the corresponding periods of the previous two years. The augmentation that could have been provided by the Krishna waters from Kandaluru reservoir has also not materialised due to desilting work in the approach channel. As a result, the city water supply has been curtailed from the normal 440 mld (with an extra 45 mld being the supply to industries) to 205 mld (this excludes the industrial supply of 45 mld). Unless the Krishna water supply resumes to the average level of 15 mcf per day in

ation of public awareness of the critical water supply situation. Regrettably, creation of such awareness and the garnering of support are not much in evidence. Consequently, an attitude of 'business as usual' marks public behaviour. This needs to be remedied.

A mass campaign, mobilising print and electronic media, visual displays, appeals by public figures such as TV, film and sports personalities and NGOs, and according wide publicity to simple easy-to-follow guidelines, needs to be launched.

A set of 'dos' and 'don'ts' with illustrations of commonly observed wasteful practices in the use of water at home and at the workplace, in hotels, at weddings and other functions (the wedding season is now on), in public functions and in places of public resort should be displayed and distributed liberally. With

● by **N.R. Krishnan,**
IAS (RETD)

February, the situation would continue to worsen. Parallels are being drawn with the difficult conditions experienced in the years 1983, 1987 and 1993.

The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (Metrowater in short) is making efforts to augment water supply through tested as well as novel means. To keep the distribution system going, it has pressed into service nearly 230 water tankers, which make over 1900 trips a day. Erection of new pumps, repairing defective ones, installation of new tanks, sinking of new borewells and rehabilitating the older ones, work on transfer of water from Chembarambakkam lake to Porur lake and from Porur to Kilpauk are some of the initiatives taken by Metrowater.

The question that arises at this juncture is the role of the individual citizen and the public at large. No effort of the government or of any authority can achieve the desired level of success unless it is fully backed by a cooperative public and responsible individual behaviour. The first requisite for mobilising public and individual support is cre-

the highly creative advertising industry in Chennai it should not at all be difficult to craft new and catchy material.

Inoffensive, humorous illustrations bringing out misuses of precious water should go down well with the public. Sensitising the young in water conservation would prove to be of immediate and future benefit. Schools and voluntary organisations can contribute a lot in inculcating in children and people of all ages the paramount need for utmost economy in water use.

No message goes down better with the public, particularly the young, than that delivered by personalities like filmstars and sportspersons. It should not be a difficult exercise for the authorities to approach these public figures for their active cooperation.

It is a matter of good fortune that quite some parts of the city are served by dug wells and borewells. The imminent threat to these localised sources of water supply is the depletion of groundwater. There are enough reports already to the effect that the groundwater table is going

(Continued on Page 7)

The Kala Ghoda festival

There's more bustle than usual in the Kala Ghoda district these days. The Khyber restaurant building is receiving a fresh coat of limewash, the old Watson's Hotel arcade opposite it is being spruced up to hold a temporary street-side cafe, Wayside Inn, Samovar and Chetana are making preparations to serve up special conversations as well as regular culinary fare, and various local institutions are getting ready to host concerts, exhibitions, films, art talks, heritage walks, the works.

Everyone's revving up for the annual Kala Ghoda arts festival... This time, the fortnight-long festival offers a bonanza of 80 events... Organised by the Kala Ghoda Association and the Urban Design Research Institute, the festival, which made its debut last February, aims at focussing attention on the aesthetic and cultural value of Mumbai's historic 'art district'.

The organisers' vision is not limited, however, to holding a high-profile annual artfest... its raison d'être is to promote a long-term urban conservation effort in the district — it boasts an array of splendid colonial buildings, many of which house cultural and academic institutions of national importance — and make it a model of sustainable urban development.

The last year has been "very intense", according to Sharukh Sabavala and Jamsheed Kanga of the Tata group (which owns the Army & Navy Building on M.G. Road). They have been painstakingly setting the various processes in place, they say, building up a corpus and getting all the official sanction required for the area upgradation programme...

"Our most important breakthrough has been that we've got local people to take pride in their environment," notes Mr Mehrotra. "We were always clear that we did not want the Kala Ghoda movement to be a 'parachute' effort in which outsiders drop in, clean up the place and push off. Rather, we wanted it to be a community initiative sustained by insiders. And that's starting to happen."

"For instance, the tenants of the Khyber-Kapoor Lamps building are currently painting the place, so that it looks nice and bright during the festival. They are paying for it themselves. They are also considering going in for a phased programme of repairs, as are the occupants of the nearby buildings on Ram-part Row. In addition, the owner of Watson's Hotel has allowed us to clean up its arcade and paint its pillars and have a pavement cafe there during the artfest. We'd like to spruce up the whole facade by and by..."

In addition, they've drawn up a full-fledged conservation project for the Elphinstone College building, a prime heritage structure that has gone to seed. "We are talking to the PWD and other government agencies involved in its up-keep and trying to mobilise funds for the project. They are being very receptive to our suggestions," says Mr. Kanga. A similar project has been devised for the Bombay high court building by Bombay Collaborative.

Gunvanthi Balaram

A facelift for a heritage road

If buildings could bleed, D.N. Road would be blotched with red. The road was once Mumbai's loftiest promenade, bordered by a stunning succession of neo-classical buildings — a *tour de force* of imperial hauteur. But that was in a more sensitive age... when a beautiful building was looked upon as a thing of beauty and not as office space with mezzanine floors.

Our cavalier attitude to our heritage has shamelessly reduced so awesome an architectural legacy to a grotty pile of dirty old buildings.

The road — which stretches from Flora Fountain to Crawford Market — forms one of the busiest commercial beehives of the city, with almost every building crammed with shops and offices. Commerce has ruined D.N. Road... D.N. Road's aesthetically planned frontage has been entirely obliterated by shop signs, the stone-work unforgivably gouged by metal struts, architectural detailing lost to decades of filth. Every other crack sprouts peepal and people with equal profusion.

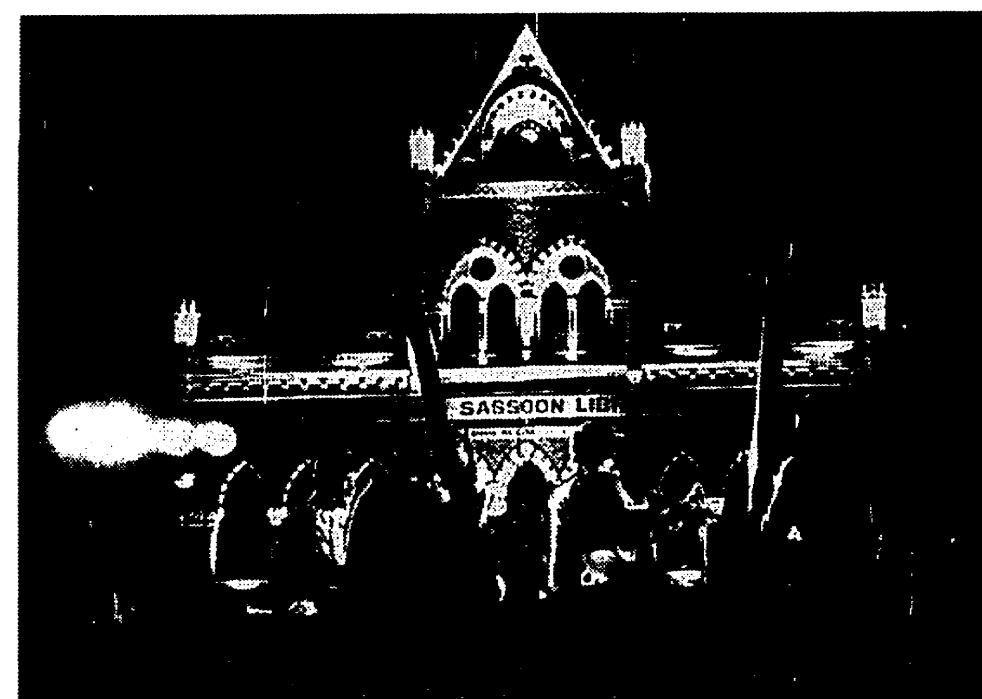
All of which begs the question: Can anyone rescue so ravaged a road?... The Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (MMRDA) and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) have launched a 'Rescue D.N. Road' mission...

Last year, the MMR Heritage Conservation Society actually financed a detailed study of D.N. Road with a view to improving the heritage precinct. A young conservation architect Abha Narain Lambah and her team... made a presentation to the no-tables of Mumbai's Gothic circuit... and more importantly, the big bosses of MMRDA and BMC, Ajit Warty and K. Nalinakshan...

"We will do it," said Nalinakshan, now in Churchillian mode, "Just give us some time", he added, swiftly returning to BMC mode...

The combined might of the BMC and MMRDA could force the merchant community to follow heritage laws. Lambah has some valid suggestions: no

Signs of commitment to heritage



The Sassoon Library, Mumbai, all lit up for the Kala Ghoda festival.

— The Mumbai example

The BMC commissioner had the final word, "What would you say if we were to make D.N. Road a pedestrian plaza?" he asked. "If I get your support, we can take this up at the political level. What do you say? Let's make history."

Aiming for the stars, sure. But it would even help if the commissioner aimed a little lower, at hoardings instead.

Nina Martyris

Now they can 'bank' on support

Many years ago, city historian and heritage activist Foy Nissen had prophesied that banks in the Fort area would one day come to the city's rescue, that these institutions, many of which are housed in magnificent heritage buildings, would get into the act of preserving their bit of the urbscape, possibly more.

That day has come. Taking their cue from the cultural institutions and corporate houses in the Kala Ghoda and Ballard Estate heritage districts which have successfully launched neighbourhood rejuvenation projects over the last year, the banking institutions located in the Horniman Circle precinct and surrounding 'banking district' have resolved to support a long-term, integrated urban conservation effort in their area.

"The Reserve Bank of India took the lead by convening a meeting of the 30-odd banks in this area about three months ago," says former Tata director Sharukh Sabavala, who heads the Horniman Circle Association (formed earlier this year to help restore the neo-classical buildings around the garden and upgrade the local environment).

"Since then, we have not done badly at all," he adds. "The Hongkong Bank has become our first patron. The RBI, State Bank of India, Deutsche Bank, ABN-Amro, Citibank, Bank of Madras and the Punjab and Sind Bank have promised to become full patrons too, while several smaller banks and businesses have agreed to become members... However, we need money less than we need public participation," Mr Sabavala observes.

He is pleased, therefore, that Dena Bank, the Zoroastrian

with the character of the precinct", adds architect Ajit Pai, properties manager of Bank of Baroda. Both UDRI and other local conservation architects hope that bigger banks like Citibank and Stanchart — which have a somewhat jarring brightly coloured sign band running right around their colonial stone buildings — will follow suit. They would do well to emulate the discreet signage used by, say, Hongkong Bank, they point out. Other local outfits could work on reducing the

● **Mumbai is throbbing with heritage conservation activity — and news about it. The Times of India has at least a story a day on heritage — from which we publish excerpts today. Would that Chennai's newspapers and all those in the city interested in heritage were as committed to the cause as these stories reflect.**

— The Editor

Cooperative Bank and Bank of Baroda, whose vintage buildings require to be repaired, have already begun to consult UDRI's Rahul Mehrotra and Abha Narain Lambah on design and developmental guidelines. This, as heritage watchdogs note, will help prevent anti-conservation actions and slapdash repairs, like those carried out previously in the Bharat Insurance Building opposite the Asiatic Library.

"It's not going to be easy to convince the other tenants in our building, as indeed in others, to go in for a sustained and scientific programme of repairs, but we are going to give it our best shot," says Farokh Banatwalla, general manager of Zoroastrian Bank. "We are already talking to Ms Narain about reworking our signage to bring it in sync

hoardings and billboards that shroud their buildings.

Gunavathi Balaram

Heritage gets healing touch

This seems to be the season of cheer in heritage conservation circles in the city. It started off with the Oval Trust throwing open the gates of a rejuvenated Oval Maidan to the public. Then Standard Chartered hosted a small dinner party, at which it elatedly made an audio-visual presentation of the restoration work carried out in the heritage building that houses the bank.

A few days later, INTACH and ASI opened a new site museum at Elephanta with much fanfare... And then Mumbai

or flake off when the paint is removed.

British researcher Christopher Andrew says, "It is important to laud corporate endeavour and community participation in the field of heritage conservation, but it's equally important to highlight any mistakes committed."

Gunavathi Balaram

Fire hazards in heritage buildings

One more bit of Mumbai's heritage, went up in smoke recently.

This time it was a section of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) headquarters itself. It was the latest in a string of "Fort fires"... The city's vintage buildings — listed and unlisted, public and private — continue to be fire traps. Bunches of old wires are all-too-visible in the lobbies and landings of these buildings. At the same time, safety measures like easily accessible fire escapes, smoke detectors and water sprinklers are conspicuous by their absence...

Gunvathi Balaram

Heritage structures can't be insured

The failure of BEST and the state PWD's electrical inspectors to identify substandard wiring, and the government's insurance policy, which does not allow its own buildings to be insured, have greatly endangered the safety of several heritage buildings.

In addition to the lack of fire safety measures in these old buildings, most of them, including heritage structures, have no general insurance against fire. Only a few privately owned heritage structures — notably, the Deutsche Bank (former Tata Palace), Standard Chartered Bank building, ANZ Grindlays building, Bombay House, Hong Kong Bank building and American Express — are well-insured and well equipped to deal with fire and other accidents.

However, neither the BMC building nor the GPO, both public institutions and Grade I heritage structures, is insured. Nor is their grand Gothic neighbour, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, nor for that matter the Mumbai University's Rajabai Tower and the Western Railway headquarters. "The country's insurance policy being what it is, it does not allow the insurance of its own buildings, not even those on the heritage list," points out a senior Western Railway official. "The policy is being changed, but it will take another 20 years for governmental-owned properties to be insured like in advanced countries," adds a Central Railway official.

The Prince of Wales Museum

is one of the few heritage buildings in Mumbai that is insured against fire. "But for a ludicrous sum: Rs. 86 lakh," director Kalpana Desai reveals ruefully. This works out to less than Rs. 1,000 per antiquity. The museum, however, has installed safety measures like smoke detectors, fire alarms and sprinklers the museologist said.

The five-storey Eruchshaw building, which was among the three listed buildings on D.N. Road that burnt down in August 1994, was insured for a measly Rs. five lakhs.

Engineers at Crompton and Greaves's lighting division, believe that the government should set up an expert team to survey heritage buildings for both structural strength and electrical faults. "The heritage committee and conservation groups should actively take up this issue. Also, the Indian Heritage Society should examine unglamorous, but vital issues like wiring and safety precautions, while deciding on subsequent urban heritage awards," suggests former chief fire officer D.J. Kulkarni.

A TOI Reporter

Carrot and stick approach needed

American architect and historic preservationist, Michael Tomlan, has a no-nonsense carrot and stick approach to heritage conservation.

The director of the graduate programme in historic preservation at the College of Architecture, Art and Planning at Cornell University says, "In fact, the key lesson of American historical preservation in the last 20 years is that the regulatory stick and the economic carrot should be used in conjunction. Don't just slap people for doing the wrong thing, instead encourage them to do the right thing by offering them incentives, and nothing works better than financial inducements..."

"Since 1973, federal funding for heritage preservation has been falling. Thus, the need to raise money from other sources. So various tax breaks — in property tax, sales tax, income tax — are offered at the federal, state and city level to individuals and private sector firms who are interested in caring for and preserving historic buildings or areas."

Part of making it financially work may involve changing the use of a building or a site. "Though the best use for any building being preserved is the use for which it was designed or a use as close to it as possible, if it can't reach that goal, it's best to change the usage than let it lie vacant abandoned and fall to seed," says Mr. Tomlan.

(Continued on Page 6)

Quizzin' with Ram'n'an

(Questions 1 to 11 are from the period January 16th to 31st. Questions 10 to 12 pertain to Chennai and 13 to 20 pertain to Tamil Nadu.)

1. Name the former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador to both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R who passed away recently.

2. Which two corporate giants agreed to merge to become the world's largest drugmaker?

3. Which woman chess star became the first Indian to earn her third Woman's Grandmaster norm recently?

4. Why was Maj. Sudhir Kumar of 9 Para in the news?

5. Name the three music legends awarded the Padma Vibhushan.

6. Which country's President was the special guest at this year's Republic Day parade?

7. Which government undertaking became the first to be privatised and who is the private investor?

8. Which famous foursome came together as a band again to perform after a gap of 25 years?

9. Name the first Grand Slammer in tennis. He died recently.

* * *

10. Where in the city did a MTC bus plunge into the Adyar River bed on January 27th?

11. In what fancy shape, 'to merge with the background', have two public conveniences been built near the Lighthouse on the Marina?

12. Name one of the doyens of South Indian industry and a keen patron of sport who passed away recently in Chennai.

* * *

13. Where was Tamil Nadu's first road project executed on a Build-Operate-Transfer basis commissioned on January 19th?

14. Name the four sportspersons given the Chief Minister's Award this year.

15. What is the State animal of Tamil Nadu?

16. Name the only film that starred both Sivaji Ganesan and M.G. Ramachandran.

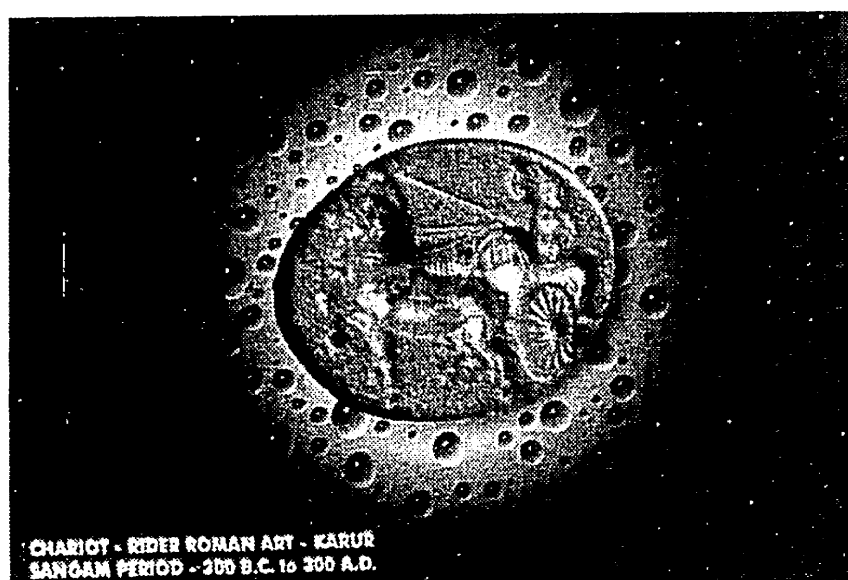
17. Which violinist perfected the 'double violin'?

18. Which dish was referred to as 'hoppers' in the days of the Raj?

19. Who wrote the literary epic *Ponniyin Selvan*?

20. In which film did former Chief Minister Jayalalitha make her Tamil film debut?

(Answers on Page 8)



More greetings with a difference. Two featured old finds: Archaeologist S. Vasanthi's is a beautiful colour print of what seems to be a copper engraving beneath the bubbly blue of the ocean. The engraving (above) features a chariot and charioteer and is an example of Roman art of the Sangam period (300 BC to 300 AD) found in Karur. From France comes Eric Auzoux's card featuring a gold medallion of the Abukir treasure (below) dating to the third Century A.D. Rather different is an Anugrah Madison Advertising fold-out (right) that opens out to convey a valuable message for a millennium that threatens us with road rage getting worse.



Monumental corporate largesse

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) have decided to set up a foundation for the development and maintenance of monuments, even as more corporate entities are queuing up to explore avenues where the corporate heart can be worn on the sleeve. The foundation, with a seed capital of Rs. 25 crores, was recently formalised.

The Oberoi group and The Park in New Delhi are involved in ASI's conservation projects and there are also sporadic contributions like donation of Omega watches for the maintenance of the Jantar Mantar. The IOC Foundation would get involved with maintenance of monuments that are identified through mutual agreement, even as ASI retains its privilege to handle the conservation work.

The Rs. 25 crores infused into the IOC Foundation would give an interest of Rs. 2.5 crores, which would proceed towards conservation efforts and IOC would put in Rs. 10 crores every year, from the next financial year.

A Memorandum of Understanding to this effect is to be signed by ASI and IOC. IOC has roped in Larsen and Toubro to help build the infrastructure around only monument that the foundation takes up for maintenance.

The Qutab Minar would be the first monument to be taken up by the foundation, followed by the setting up of a state of the art museum at Khajuraho. Six other sites have also been identified across the country.

(Continued on Page 7)

A COMMITMENT TO HERITAGE

(Continued from Page 5)
Mr. Tomlan also believes you have to make heritage relevant to people in order for them to show any interest in preserving it.

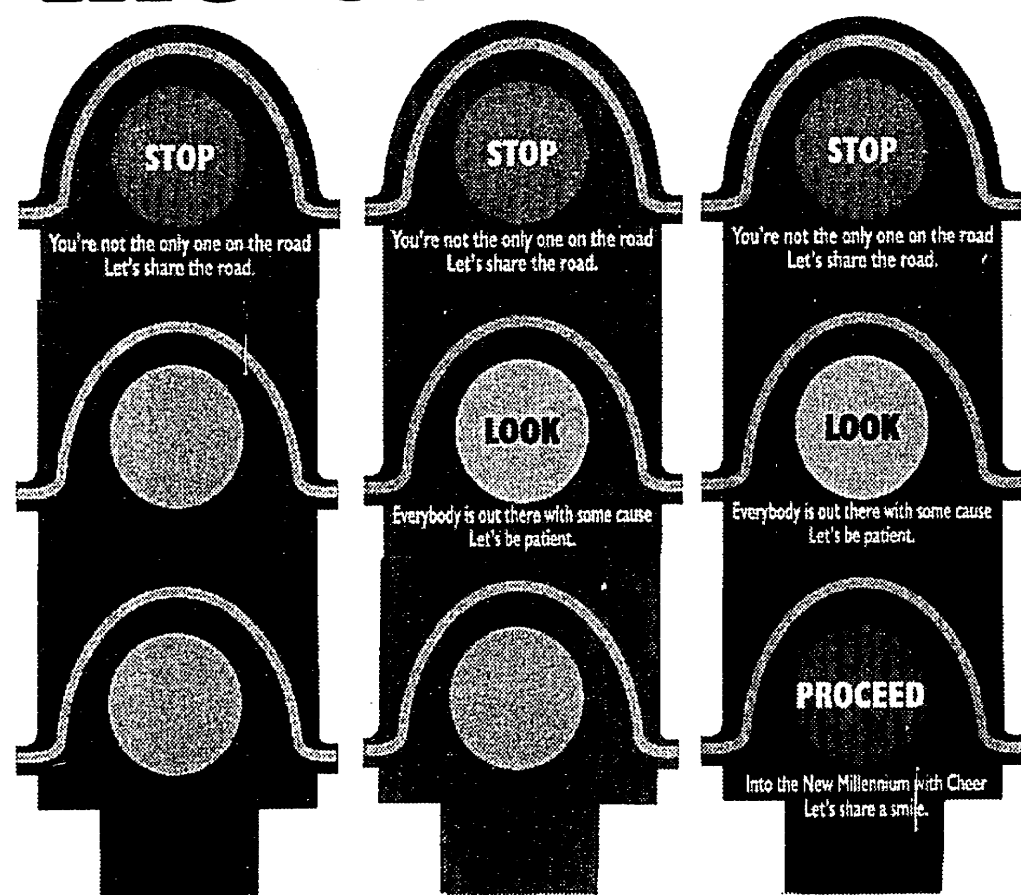
In America, since the passing of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966, the process of saving historic sites and districts has expanded to embrace every type of property from airports to zoos. "America is a younger country, so anything that goes out of produc-

tion is considered historic," laughs Mr. Tomlan. "That may be quite different from the British or Indian view of conservation which is very antiquarian stressing on connoisseurship."

Not that Mr. Tomlan does not "appreciate the view which admires things with regard to their historical and cultural aspects", but he does wonder "how does this connect it to the lay person?"

According to him, when we teach history, often we get so

The stories the cards tell



Southern comfort in the U.S.

Chennai is from where the largest number of infotech workers have been granted permits to enter the US and play a key role in developing its new knowledge on systems-based economy. From 1996, Chennai has not only topped all Indian cities in receiving H-1B visas from the US, but it is also stated to be the city where the US issued the largest number of such visas in the world.

A recent report by Indrani Bagchi in the *Economic Times* states:

"More than 40 per cent of all H-1B visas have been given to Indians. And out of these, Chennai has been grabbing two-thirds.

Between October 1998 and September 1999, for instance, the US consul in Chennai is-

sued 21,371 visas. The next was Mumbai - less than half - at 9,734, followed by Delhi (5,460 visas) and Calcutta (1,367 visas). The year before, Chennai led the way and the year before that as well. With each passing year the gap between it and the other cities has been widening as the table shows:

	Chennai	Mumbai	Delhi	Calcutta
Oct '96-Sep '97	10,768	9,330	1,500	673
Oct '97-Sep '98	15,799	8,279	4,353	958
Oct '98-Sep '99	21,371	9,734	5,460	1,367
Oct '98-15 Jan '99	7,751	3,637	2,095	513
Oct '99-15 Jan '00	4,671	2,905	1,785	463

US immigration officials say the demand for IT workers in the US is powering the H-1B visa boom in Chennai. The brains of Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai have apparently built a super brand equity in IT circles in the US. They are considered special-diligent, innovative and inventive. And their reputation is spreading.

Indians now constitute 42 per cent of the skilled work force entering US. IT workers head the list, but there is demand for healthcare personnel, fashion models and even science teachers.

With the fear of Y2K over, the flow out of India is no longer a flood. Between October 1999 and January 15, 2000, the Chennai consul issued 4,671 H-1B visas as against 7,751 the previous year. And the trend is similar elsewhere. Come 2002, the cap on H-1B visas will come down from 1998's 1,15,000 to 65,000, again.

Sameera Khan



Till February 20: 'Vasantha Vizha', an exhibition sale of colourful craft presented by the Madras Craft foundation and the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India. (At Dakshina-Chitra).

February 20: Mandolin Sreenivas and Zakir Hussain on the tabla in a south-north fusion concert. (At the Music Academy, 6.30 p.m.)

Till February 21: Crafts Mela with crafts and craftspersons from the four southern states featured. Speciality for the period will be low-priced toys for children. (At DakshinaChitra.)

February 22: A choir concert. (At the Russian Cultural Centre.)

February 24th: 'Medley of Dance' by Students of the Artwork Academy. (At the Music Academy.)

February 24 and 25: Window dressing: Chik-craft, an exhibition. (At the British Council, 11.00 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.)

The usual form of window dressing has now reached saturation point with its textile drapes. Ideally suited to the tropical climate are bamboo chiks, elegant in their handcrafted beauty.

However, during a documentation project undertaken by Delhi Crafts Council (affiliated to Crafts Council of India headquartered in Chennai) it became clear that this craft has reached a point of saturation in terms of its design repertoire. To expand the design vocabulary and give it a new dimension a design intervention was undertaken by DCC in 1998. Crafts Council of India, supported by British Council, are organising this exhibition to expose the people of Chennai to chik-craft and the contribution of three craftspersons — Sunder Singh, Shankar Lal and Laxman Singh — without whose individual inputs it would have been difficult to put this project together.

February 24-26: Fun for children, a show by Reach Out. (At the Museum Theatre, 24 & 25th, 10.30 a.m. and 1.00 p.m., 26th 6.00 p.m.)

February 26: 'geMS 2000', an auction of paintings and sculpture, mainly by South Indian artists, to spread awareness of Multiple Sclerosis. Organised by the Tamil Nadu Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of India. (At Park Sheraton Hotel & Towers, 6.30 p.m.)

February 27: Second in the British Council series, Music Matters: Rag Foundation, a new three-piece band from Wales creates electri-

CORPORATE LARGESSE

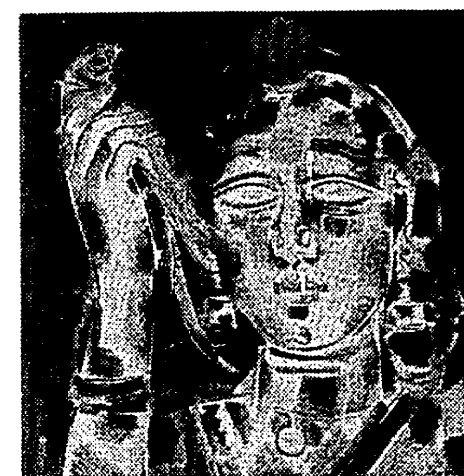
(Continued from Page 6)

The foundation would come under the aegis of the National Culture Fund, involving a 100 per cent tax concession. But where the outfit would really benefit is through the visibility that it would get: credit on site; they could advertise their involvement in

fyng music with just an acoustic guitar, a voice and a fiddle. Led by charismatic singer Neil Woolard, who comes from a family of traditional Welsh singers, they take traditional song, dress it up in fashionable new clothes and present it with flair and imagination. Their forte is moody ballads. (Invitations at the British Council, performance at the Museum Theatre, 4.30 p.m.)

February 27: A Vintage and Classic Vehicles Exhibition. The vehicles will be flagged off from Drive-in Woodlands at 9.00 a.m. and drive in parade formation to DakshinaChitra along the East Coast Road. Visitors to DakshinaChitra will have the opportunity to interact with the drivers and view the exotic and beautifully preserved Classic cars against the backdrop of the heritage houses (11 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Till February 28: An exhibition of paintings by Alphonso A. Doss, one of Chennai's best-known artists. Slide show on February 20. (At Vinyasa Art Gallery, 6.30 p.m.)



Oil on Canvas: 'Message' by Alphonso A. Doss.

Till February 28: Sudhakar's exhibition of mixed media paintings. (At the Apparao Galleries.)

Till February 28: Children's Mela, exposing children to culture and heritage through folk performances and craft demonstrations. The children will be guided through demonstrations of glass-blowing, puppetry, pottery and weaving under the care of special educators and volunteers. Toy-making, popular science experiments and environment-friendly crafts are scheduled for specific days. Adding to the fun on certain days are bullock cart rides. (At Dakshina-Chitra.)

February 29: Welsh-born Bernice Reubens will read from her work.

Her many novels to date include the Booker Prize Winner *The Elected Member* (1970) and *Five Year Sentence*, which was short-listed for the Booker in 1978. She also won the Welsh City Council Prize for *Our Father*. Two of her books have been successfully transferred to film: *I Sent a Letter to my Love* and *Madame Sousatzka*. (At the British Council, 6.30 p.m.)

March 1 to 8: Paintings by women artists, organised in collaboration with Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai. (At C.P. Art Centre.)

conservation efforts; and would be allowed to develop tourism infrastructure — (Courtesy, Business Line.)

P.T. Jyothi Datta

Editor's Note: Who are the Corporates in Chennai who'll take on a heritage building or two?



Misquith & Co (Right), at Round Tana, (left). — (Courtesy: Vintage Vignettes.)

Music exams & cinema halls

Celebrating its centenary this month is the Madras Exam Centre of the Trinity College of Music, London. Present at the commemorative functions was Dr Roger Tower, who headed the education programmes of the British Council till his retirement and who is now the Director of the College's exam programme. That visit might lead to Trinity College's Effective Communications Exams being conducted in India. But that's another story.

Musée Musicals has been in charge of the College's activities in Madras since 1935, and M.H. Das, who took over Musée Musicals, has been the College's representative in Madras since 1966. The company, however, has a longer history, succeeding as it did Misquith & Co which was founded in 1842 by Wallace Misquith.

It was in the 19th Century that Misquith & Co built a splendid building at Round Tana, now Anna Circle, next to The Hindu's famed home, 100 Mount Road, alas now rebuilt and happily hidden by hoardings. Misquith's, which sold musical instruments, had several music salons on its first floor for lessons and those who wanted to practise by the hour.

The Company changed hands in 1907 and Cohen, the new owner, started the Lyric, converting that first floor into a hall of entertainment, which included cinema shows from 1913. That was when the Lyric became the Empire, a popular venue till it was ravaged by fire in 1914. J F Madan of Calcutta, then running the country's largest cinema chain, took over the building the next year and established the Elphinstone there, the first per-

manent cinema theatre with a balcony in Madras.

The Elphinstone should not be confused with the New Elphinstone Theatre built across the road from it by Shorab Modi in 1932. It was in the New Elphinstone campus that there flourished Jafar's Icecream Parlour, blessed be that name, where the jelly rich icecreams were manna to those who might now be called senior citizens. Meanwhile, Misquith's became Musée Musicals, thanks to a french owner, passed through a couple of more hands and in time moved out of its splendid home to more homely premises just past the Cosmopolitan Club. Its connection with Trinity College, however, continued through the changes.

A.S.R

WATER FOR THE CITY

(Continued from Page 4)

down in many parts of the city. There should be strict control and regulation over the digging of new borewells. The depth of borewells would also need to be regulated. Perhaps, electricity connection should not be given to energise new private borewells.

Supply of Metrowater for industrial use should be reviewed with a view to effecting a reduction in the quantity of water supplied to them.

One of the methods that has been tried in the past to meet the drinking water scarcity in Chennai is the transport of water through special trains from nearby regions. The State Government may consider resorting to this avenue of augmentation in collaboration with the Railways despite the measure not being quite successful when it was first tried in 1983.

Delaying the normal reopening of schools and colleges in June could be resorted to.

The one single source that would provide considerable relief is the resumption of Krishna water supply. Statistics have it that in 1997, 2400 mcft of Krishna water was received by Chennai during the period 4th July to 23rd November. Likewise in 1998, 2806 mcft of water was received from 25th July to 10th November. The supply was at a reduced level of 1833 mcft from 18th July to 11th November 1999. This translates to about 15 mcft per day. Assuming a transmission loss of 50%, 7.5 mcft can still reach Chennai citizens. This would augment the water supply by at least 200 mld. Therefore if augmentation of at least the level reached in 1999 becomes possible, then the water supply crisis in Chennai could be over-

come to a significant extent. Persuading Andhra Pradesh to resume Krishna water supply before the end of February would be a feather in the cap of the State Government.

During a period of crisis like the present one, only short-term measures can be thought of. But efforts to pursue actively medium-and long-term solutions should not be pushed on to the backburner. These measures, ranging from the simple and obvious ones like rainwater harvesting by individual households to networking of lakes and transbasin diversions, research and development into cost-effective seawater desalination technologies and recycling and reuse of water in industry need to be encouraged and investigated. Renovating and remodelling the water distribution system in the sprawling city would prove to be a sound medium-term exercise.

Gopalan's match – all the way

Vignettes from an Encyclopaedia (MM, December 16th) from the facile pen of seasoned correspondent K.N. Prabhu made interesting reading, raising nostalgic memories of Ceylon cricket and its cricketers in the past.

The reference to Woodfull having played in 1984 is obviously a mistake, may be due to the printer's devil. His playing days were in the late 20s and very early 30s with such outstanding players like the great Don, Ponsford, McCabe, Kippax, Oldfield, O'Reilly, Grimmett besides others. (Editor's note: It should have read 1934.)

beaten an Indian Eleven, which newspapers hailed as a victory for visitors in an 'Unofficial' Test. It was decades later that Ceylon reached Test status.



M.J. Gopalan in 1944 when Madras played Holkar in a Ranji semifinal.

In the match at Madras, the visitors suffered a severe defeat, the only one on the tour, Ceylon's first overseas. It was

Sutcliffe was another victim in the match. Again, in 1936, he took 6 wickets against Jack Ryder's Australian XI in the first innings and had a similar haul in the second, though Madras lost the match through some stupid fielding lapses. When the first official team was to visit England in 1932, he was a strong candidate, the discerning cricketer and journalist E.H.D. Sewell raving for his inclusion, but it did not happen.

I wish Prabhu would have referred to this match in some detail in his delightful review. It was a tribute to Gopalan's abilities that a trophy in his name was instituted for annual fixtures between Ceylon and Madras. It used to be a popular match which unearthed talent on both sides. It has languished in recent years; it is however heartening that Madras Musings in a recent issue strongly pleaded for its revival. May its efforts succeed.*

Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) has come a long way since those days.

*Editor's note: There has been an exchange of correspondence between the Indian and Sri Lankan authorities on reviving the annual fixture. The only thing to be decided is a consequence of 'Octogenarian's, last sentence. What is the Sri Lankan team to be called and what shall its strength be? An ex-Ceylon player, who has played in the series and has seen much Madras cricket, was in the city recently and suggested that it could be a Sri Lanka Board President's XI led by Mahela Jayawardena and have a mix of young first and second team players like Russel Arnold, hardhitting wicket-keeper batsman T.M. Dilshan, off-spinner M. Pushpakumara and legspinner R. Herath, if he's back in circulation.

●by
An Octogenarian

I particularly enjoyed reading the article, covering, as it did, some matches I had witnessed. There seems, however, a glaring omission about a great match in the 30s played at Chepauk which certainly must have found prominent mention in the book under reference. (Editor's note: It certainly did; it was played in 1933.) Players with great reputation, like Kelart, De Saram, Schokmana and the great Jayawickrama (hailed then as the Ceylon Bradman) had come to Madras with an undefeated record in other parts of India. They had

Gopalan's match all the way. He performed a hat-trick, that included the great Jayawickrama and finished with 6 wickets, most of them 'clean bowled'. He came up with another 5 or 6 wickets in the 2nd innings too.

Gopalan was then an outstanding player, one of the best in the country. It was the high-tide of his playing days. It was about this time that, against Vizzy's team, he had the legendary Jack Hobb's wicket on both occasions he played against Gopalan, in one skittling his stumps. Herbert

Swimming now part of SBOA curriculum

In a welcome innovation swimming has been made a part of the curriculum for students of Std. 4 to 6 in SBOA Matriculation School and Std. 4 to 7 in SBOA School, Anna Nagar.

The students use the Sri Chakra Indoor Swimming Pool near the school in Anna Nagar Western Extension. This is the only indoor swimming pool in the city located on the first floor of a building.

Boys are coached by K.T. Muralidharan, C. Vijayan and P. Ajith Kumar, all with National Institute of Sports certificates; and the girls are trained by Rani Anisia.

The students, who pay an annual fee of Rs.900 for using the pool, are taught the basics and different styles of swimming. They are also trained to participate in competitions.

The pool is open from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

Two sumps attached to the building are filled with water supplied by the Metrowater Board, private suppliers and a well. The water from the sump is pumped into the 40 ft. long, 25 ft. wide, 6 ft deep pool via filtration plants. The pool has a water purifier system.

To reduce this expenditure, a rain harvesting system has been introduced. Rainwater collecting on the open terraces of the pool building and the SBOA School building and unpaved areas around the two buildings is made to flow into the well belonging to Metrowater Board near the school compound. A number of filtration pits have also been dug around this well. Rainwater stagnating in the school ground is also made to flow into these percolation pits. (Courtesy: Anna Nagar Times)

Answers to Quiz

1. T.N. Kaul; 2. Glaxo PLC and SmithKline Beecham PLC; 3. S. Vijayalakshmi; 4. He has been awarded the Ashok Chakra posthumously; 5. Pandit Jasraj, Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia and Ustad Vilayat Khan (who has since declined it); 6. The Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo; 7. Modern Foods India Ltd. and Hindustan Lever Ltd.; 8. Crosby, Stills, Young and Nash; 9. Donald Budge, who achieved the feat in 1938.

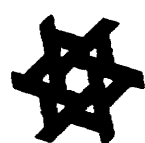
* * *

10. Over the Maraimalai Adigalar Bridge railings at Saidapet; 11. M.A. Chidambaram; 12. In the shape of a ship.

* * *

13. The 28 km. Coimbatore bypass; 14. Maria Irudayam (carrom); V. Pandeshwari and P.K. Jaison (athletics) and K. Gangadevi (weightlifting); 15. Nilgiri Tahr; 16. Koondukili; 17. L. Shankar; 18. Aapams; 19. 'Kalki' R. Krishnamurthy; 20. Vennira Aadai.

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