

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

# MADRAS

## MUSINGS

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## Regulations or Heritage Act?

Will Tamil Nadu ever get its promised Heritage Act? Present indications are not exactly heartening. There seems a willingness on the part of the authorities to introduce Heritage Conservation Regulations in the Chennai Metropolitan Area, but more than that seems uncertain at present.

Ananda Ranjana Doss, Member, Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority and Chief Town Planner, and his team have drafted Heritage Conservation Regulations for Chennai which appear to be acceptable to all concerned with heritage preservation. Member Secretary Rajiv Ranjan of the CMDA is keen to introduce these regulations. It is expected that they will become part of the CMDA's development rules before long. That was the indication at a recent meeting held in the office of the Secretary, Housing and Urban Development.

While this is a step forward, the question causing concern is what about heritage preservation in other parts of the State. With no development control

rules in force in other towns and cities in the State, the Chennai approach cannot be adopted elsewhere. Government will have to get the Town and Country Planning Department to first introduce Development Control Regulations in the State's other towns and cities and then these urban areas will have to be advised to adopt the CMDA's regulations.

### ● By A Special Correspondent

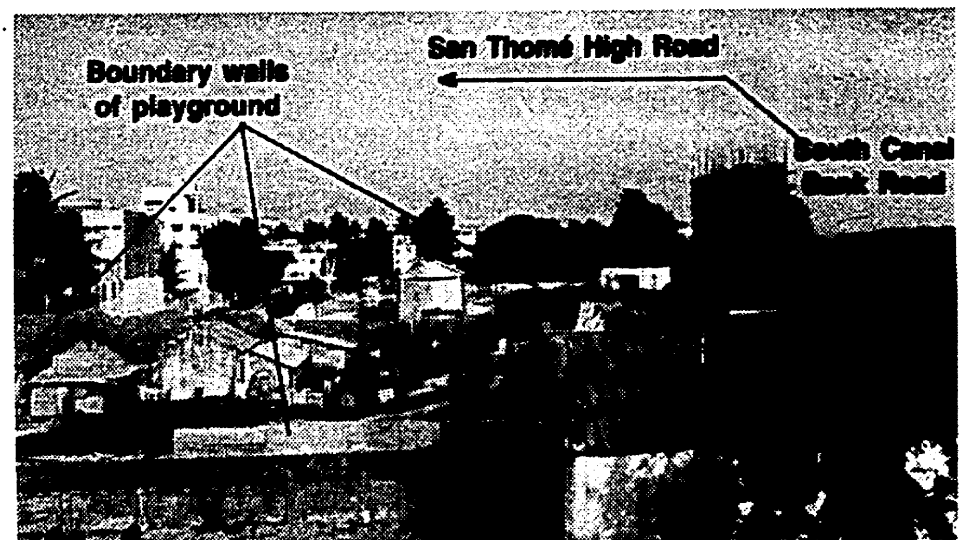
But even if this happens not too long after the CMDA Heritage Conservation Regulations are in place, heritage preservation in smaller towns, villages and rural areas will still not be ensured. A Heritage Act covering the whole of Tamil Nadu is, therefore, absolutely necessary, INTACH's Tamil Nadu Chapter has pointed out to Government.

Meanwhile, the Chapter has urged the Secretary to instruct various local planning authorities in the State to list heritage

buildings, sites and areas and has advised that this identification and listing be done by a committee in each town comprising the District Collector, Municipal Commissioner, two historians from local academic circles, an architect and an environmentalist, and two local NGOs. The Chapter has also suggested that INTACH's national guidelines on what constitutes heritage sites, buildings and areas and its listing and grading procedures be followed for this work.

Can the City and the State expect such action shortly?

**Editor's Note:** While appreciating all the work done by the CMDA on the Heritage Conservation Regulations, *Madras Musings* sees this as only a step along the way. This journal has always been clear in its mind that a Heritage Act for the whole State is not only an absolute necessity but also an urgent one. We feel implementation of the first and legislating the second must begin simultaneously — and immediately. Is the present too early for all concerned?



## Occupied territories

A recent order of the Government of Tamil Nadu permits ownership *pattas* to be given to those who have encroached on government poramboke lands, tank beds etc., provided the government does not require those areas!

Public use land earmarked as open playgrounds, 'lungs', park zones and tank beds, wetlands and other areas that harvest rainwater could be threatened by this order, feels INTACH, for many of these have been encroached on already.

A matter of as much concern as encroachments is misuse of such areas, particularly by the government itself. An example of this is seen in RAJIND N. CHRISTY's picture above. A once-popular playground on South Canal Bank Road, across from Foreshore Estate, San Thomé, is now stores and a storage yard chockablock with materials to build flyovers. The children of the area no longer matter. And with the children forgotten, will something else occupy this space when the flyovers have been completed? Such orders as mentioned above will, no doubt, help towards such occupation.

RAJIND N. CHRISTY's pictures below show a different kind of encroachment where doing good is not necessarily a boon to the public. Giriappa Road in T. Nagar was recently the recipient of an award for corporate beautification of a road. In this case the pictures from the Venkatanarayana Road end and, below it, from the Vijayaraghavachari Road end show well-kept gardens and a temple occupying a width of above 4 feet on either side of the road. Presumably these were once pavements or a part of the road width. In either case, the road has become narrower in width, particularly as pedestrians (circled) now have to use the road and not its pavements or verges. The narrowing down of the road endangers not only pedestrian traffic but also cycle traffic. But in Chennai roads are apparently meant for car users alone — not to mention beautification. It should, however, also be stated that such road-encroaching beautification is commonplace throughout the city.

— The Editor

## A plan to make urban TN green

Central Minister of Environment and Forest, T.R. Baalu, has a massive afforestation project in mind for Chennai and other urban areas of Tamil Nadu. The project, named 'City Green Cover Project', will cover the state's six Corporations and 105 municipalities and aims at planting 7,77,777 trees in these urban areas starting from June 1st.

"We are planning to make planting of trees a public movement," says Baalu. Collectors, presidents of chambers of commerce, private and public sector heads, principals/headmasters of colleges/schools and even heads of religious institutions/mutts are to be involved

in the project, which the State's Forestry Department will coordinate. Besides the Forestry Department, the State Ministries of Education, Pollution Control and Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowment are involved in the project, Baalu told *Madras Musings*. A high level meeting of the secretaries of all departments will be held in the middle of March to firm up modalities.

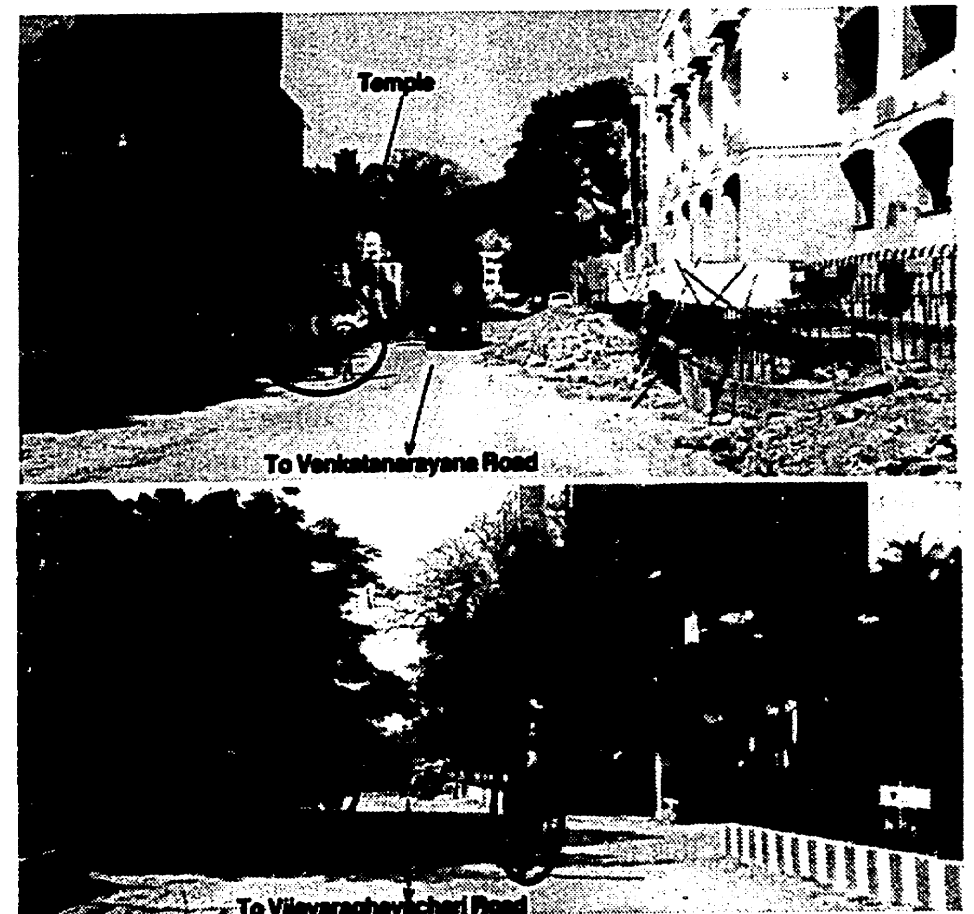
The Minister envisages every home being given a sapling and advised that it would be the occupant's responsibility to nurture the tree for the common good of society. Nursery preparations are already underway and a 2 metre tall (expected)

saplings would be made ready by the notified date, the Minister told *Madras Musings*. These would also be given to temples to create groves and to factories and institutions with plenty of open space.

The Rs.4.55 crore project (Rs.1.5 crore for the Metro and Rs.3 crore for the other areas) is an attempt to reduce the pollution levels in urban areas by planting more trees.

It is learnt that the Central Ministry would only assist in the implementation part of the programme; finances will have to be generated by officials from corporates/industries etc.

K Sridhar





# February rains; will April showers follow?

The rain in February was welcome, but it caught everyone by surprise. When do you ever have rain in February, was the general perspective of those surprised. But the more optimistic, like *The Man From Madras Musings*, not only thought that rain in February-March had a record to back its occasional appearances but there'd be April showers as well to ensure May flowers and a good mango season this year. MMM and his ilk hope they'll be proved better prognosticators than the Met.

To support his contention about January-April rains, MMM went searching through the pages of one of his Bibles, Col. H.D. Love's *Vestiges of Old Madras*, and found that Madras was hit by 17 cyclones between the founding (1639/40) and 1800. Of these 12 were during the regular monsoon period in October-November, but the other five are worth recalling to remember that we should never be surprised about anything that happens in Madras.

The first of the five was just three weeks after the work began on the foundations of the factory that was to become Fort St. George. On March 12, 1640, two of the three ships the founders, Andrew Cogan and Francis Day, had arrived in were lost in a cyclone. The *Unity* was lost in the Roads, but the flagship, the *Eagle*, rode out the storm before drifting and being beached three days later at Alampuri, a fishing village. The battered condition of the *Eagle* made it unsalvageable.

The captain of the *Eagle* later reported, "...the Country people say that never was the like knowne at such a time of the year, not by the oldest man living in all them parts."

Of the cyclone of February 28, 1662, it was said, "Such a hideous storme that the like hath not hapned in the knowledge of any man alive, at that time of year." Nine ships were lost in Madras Roads and 21 others between Masulipatam and Porto Novo.

The storm of April 23, 1674, led to the loss of a French ship in San Thomé and two Dutch vessels off Triplicane with "great loss of life". Another April storm was on April 7, 1717, when once again San Thomé bore the brunt of it. Four vessels were lost in Madras Roads, but many more were lost in San Thomé.

The fifth of these unusual cyclonic storms greeted the New Year in 1761. Though it struck Madras, the "centre of the cyclone passed over Pondicherry, where H.M. Squadron sustained immense damage, accompanied by deplorable loss of life".

Perhaps the Met would like to tell MMM all about the storms that have occurred during the January-April period in the subsequent 200 years. But what seems clear is that about 30 per cent of the storms that strike Madras do so at this "unusual" time of the year and always have people saying, "We've never had rain like this at this time of the

year for as long as we can remember!"

## Any more water?

So history shows it can happen. In February. And March. And April. But is what we got this February sufficient to tide us over the crisis *Madras Musings* highlighted in its February 16th issue? From what *The Man From Madras Musings* hears, it's no more than a month's supply we received and those April showers are badly needed for something more than mango flowers. Meanwhile, the Telugu Ganga is expected to flow this month — and if that happens and April showers follow, we should be fairly comfortable till the Northeast rains. But there are too many ifs and buts about all this — and, so, the best thing possible is for Metrowater to launch those 'Save a Drop' campaigns and take other measures suggested by the concerned citizens of Chennai at that discussion a month ago that *Madras Musings* reported last fortnight.

MMM wonders whether Metrowater plans to take seriously all those suggestions made at that discussion at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation or whether the ideas put forward are likely to amount to so much time wasted? Certainly, MMM has no where seen any Metrowater

parts of the city and that not only would several more such federations be formed but that these federations themselves would unite into a citywide federation that would have the clout necessary to persuade all the authorities connected with public utilities that it was time they got their act together. Could this, then, be the beginning of a citizens' movement? MMM hopes it is; Madras badly needs such a force to get the civic authorities stirring.

## Whither tourism?

*The Man from Madras Musings* was recently invited to a seminar on 'Pilgrim Tourism' in Tamil Nadu. MMM wondered whom we were trying to attract to our pilgrim centres. The domestic tourists — particularly the rural groups — flock to Madurai, Rameswaram, Tiruchendur, Tiruvannamalai, Palani, Chidambaram and any other important pilgrim town you can think of. Are we then thinking of the Hindus settled abroad, NRIs as well as long-term settlers like those in Mauritius, Fiji, Guyana as well as in South and Southeast Asian countries?

Many, particularly from the neighbouring countries, do travel the Tamil Nadu pilgrim circuit, but most of the rest hardly think of coming to India, leave alone

And the price they mentioned to MMM was not exactly out of reach. More significantly, Kerala is talking of several more such places.

## The Bekal plan

The Bekal fort-cum-beach area in north Malabar — offering a tourist hinterland of Mangalore, Kannur, Kozhikode, Wayanad and the Nilgiris — is soon to be developed by the Kerala tourism authorities. Why then are we dragging our feet in Tamil Nadu over such areas as the East Coast Road, Pulicat, Tranquebar, Rameswaram-Mandapam, etc.? Coastal Zone Regulations and environment groups are certainly stumbling blocks. And both certainly have strong cases for many of their fears, MMM agrees. But it also needs to be said that coastal tourism, carefully handled, implemented with the strictest of regulations, and keeping out any other development except eco-friendly tourism can be a success and is an area developing countries need to exploit.

MMM has seen the Sri Lanka experience from its first years and has had glimpses of Kerala and Goan tourism. None of them is a monster threatening the environment. Of course they could be better — and some of the

our democratic society is to persuade owners of heritage properties not to destroy or sell them and, instead, maintain and use them for their heritage value."

What surprises MMM is the scale of the project. CRUTA is talking of over 35,000 identified heritage buildings in the old city of Ahmadabad and hundreds of large and small monuments. We in Chennai have taken over two years to move from 42 heritage buildings and precincts to a DISCUSSION of a little over 100 more! Now that's commitment to heritage!

## Wedding bliss

"When the most memorable moment in a play is provided by an actor straining at the leash and growling and scratching himself on his master's leather boots, you can't help but have serious doubts about the production." Geeta Doctor might have also included the actor who was the high-spirited, snorting horse the master had ridden on-stage on with his dog in tow, but she didn't really need to embellish further that delightful, say-it-all review of the experience she shared with many others at the recent performance of a British production, *Jane Eyre*.

That review appeared rather later than usual, no doubt because Geeta was at last beginning to catch up with being the mother-of-the-bride. The bride had looked lovely in white, strings of jasmynes trailing over her head and behind her, forming a white cap and the train of a bridal veil. It's a traditional North Malabar floral styling for a bride, *The Man From Madras Musings* was told. Nobody, however, told MMM whether it was custom for the mother-of-the-bride, elegantly simple wedding and sumptuous all-India cuisine lunch over, to regally sail in for an evening's theatre a few hours later. Such aplomb — and that happy beaming smile — certainly deserved the front row. Such happiness could have also added more power to Geeta's pen.

PS: A silly question some days later got the answer it warranted: "Don't you think I deserved an evening out after putting up with all the excitement of the others?"

Another person who decided to be different about a wedding was Shanthakumari Rajan of the British Council. When she planned to say 'I do' at a private ceremony she 'invited' the blessings of a wide circle of friends with a card of information and explanation. Her card began, "I am delighted to share with you the happiness of my wedding which will be solemnised on ...", then went on to introduce her "other half", and concluded:

"I am sorry not to have the pleasure of your presence on the occasion of my wedding which will be, primarily, a family celebration. "I request you, however, to keep me very specially in your thoughts and prayers on my special day as I step into the future with ..."

The sensitivity of the words certainly made MMM feel he was there on the happy occasion.

MMM

# My Loyolite years

An old boy looks back on the occasion of Loyola celebrating 75

The best years of my youth, between 1939 and 1942, were spent at Loyola College. Father Murphy was then Principal a kinder, more understanding person there surely never was. It was a treat to hear him in the Moral Science class and he did not so much as lecture but spoke the tongue which Shakespeare spoke when he did *Twelfth Night* for us.

There was much fun and laughter at Loyola College. I can feel the warmth and pleasure to this day of a time when "the world was our oyster". Most of my classmates had come from 'European High Schools' in the hills of the Madras Presidency. Narayan Kudva, who later worked at Bokaro, Mohan Kini who finished as a top official in the Communications Department and I had swotted through *Twelfth Night* with "music be the food of love" our theme song. Then there was Ramesh Rao who bubbled with energy and mirth in every bit of his chubby frame. He was des-

tration of a highly myopic scholar peering over a book, with his hair tied to a nail in the wall to prevent him from falling asleep.

It contained spoofs of Vinobha Bhave recruiting volunteers for an attack on Belsen, Churchill joining the Wardha ashram to study Gandhiji's secret on *ahimsa*, and the Aga Khan having a 'date' with Sarojini Naidu.

Later there was Masalamani, who became an expert flying instructor, and the tall, well-built and handsome Sujir who survived the war as a pilot but died while ferrying a cargo freighter in Canada.

Loyola were tops in sport, be it hockey, football or cricket. Balkrishna Mardi, who later opened for Madras, was my classmate and so too was Edward Philips who distinguished himself in sport as well as scholastics.

It was at Loyola that I realised what a splendid game hockey is, for after a UTC

by  
K.N. Prabhu

tinued to die young. Ramesh got his wings even before he had completed his Intermediate and this achievement with his photograph was featured in *The Hindu*. Mohan Kini used to tease him, saying he feared Ramesh had "bought it". That was an uncanny forecast. For Ramesh lost his life on the Burma front. His plane, trying to bomb some Japanese sampans, ran into a wire across the Irrawady.

Ramesh used to race me to the library for the *Strand* magazine which contained the latest P.G. Wodehouse short story. He was also my partner in the innocent practical jokes we played, some of them rather childish, like getting the Loyola college bookseller to get us a copy of Belfer's mathematical tables, a book which did not exist. The poor man, deluged by such demands from all our classmates, spent an entire day trying in vain to track it down!

We also amused ourselves by bringing out a handwritten journal called *The Loyola Mugger*. Its front page had an illus-

tration of a highly myopic scholar peering over a book, with his hair tied to a nail in the wall to prevent him from falling asleep. Later, the visitors from the North were engaged in a thrilling final against MUC in the MCT Gold Cup. I recall MUC winning the second replay thanks to a last-minute goal by Ramanathan, a Loyola student, who made good use of a through pass by centre half M.J. Gopalan.

The reference to UTC reminds me of our drill sergeant. In Civvy Street, he was an ordinary Iyer student, anonymous and orthodox to the core. But in khaki shorts and uniform, he took on another avatar, a typical bully, foul-mouthed like the cockney who was the chief officer. Those of us who had read P.C. Wren's *Beau Geste* thought he took Lejune, the sadistic French Foreign Legion commandant as his role model! I wonder if they make men like him — or those others — any more at Loyola College. Acharya who taught us physics, Lakshminarayana who behind his affable, cheerful countenance was dreaming up ways



Loyola College, one of the premier institutions of higher education in the country, known particularly for its humanities and science sections, was established in 1925 and this year celebrates its 75th birthday.

Fr. Bertram was its Principal when the College opened with 75 students and he was responsible for the development of its 54-acre campus, much of it reclaimed from Nungambakkam's 'Long Tank', and its "spectacular growth" during the next five years. Amongst the buildings raised was the main block, our OLD this fortnight and seen at the top of the page. In front of it has been erected as part of the jubilee celebrations a statue of St. Ignatius of Loyola (left) after whom the College was named.

THE OLD... ...& THE NEW

Our NEW (above) is a block behind the OLD and comprises the Kurialose Block (on left in the picture) and the Lawrence Sundaram Auditorium (on right). The NEW closes the fourth side of the green quadrangle and blends harmoniously with the OLD and the two blocks on the two sides which echo the main block. What's significant about the NEW is that even as it harmonises with the OLD, there is a greater degree of modernity to it. Look closely at the two pictures and you will spot the more modern look of the NEW; yet, in no way does this jar with the overall effect the four buildings round the quadrangle create. Congratulations, Loyola, both for the architectural harmony as well as on the Jubilee. (Photographs by RAJIND N. CHRISTY.)

to bowl us a 'googly' in the terminal exams, and old Manivannan, with his broad caste mark, severe looking but with a kind and generous heart. And leading them all was Father Murphy who would tune Bobby Talyarkhan's commentary loud enough so that we cricket lovers in the corridor opposite his study would know what awaited us when got off the college bus which made a special trip to Chepauk in time to hear Bobby Talyarkhan ask us in his unique Tamil accent, "Madras jaykkamudiyumaa?"

And Chinnappa, the resident poet laureate, penned the following doggerel to describe Manivannan,

His roll collars always did roll  
Their soporific effect was quite droll.  
When sums went wrong, "Sir",  
was his song  
"Just meet me at five o' clock.  
Just"

To appreciate this limerick, I must say that Manivannan was in the habit of fingering the knot of his tie and using the word "just" before and after each sentence.

I must not forget the English lecturers. Among them N.

Balakrishnan, quite the gentleman with his soft, muted voice and gestures; D.V. Krishnamurthy who conveyed to us all the nuances of Carlyle's Abbot Samson and A.L. Krishnan, whose loud resonant voice reciting Tennyson's *All day long the noise of battle rolled* summoned up images of Britain just then struggling for survival in the Blitz.

When I think of those days I am reminded of those lines by Hilaire Belloc: "The men who were boys when I was a boy, shall sit and drink with me." Now, in Mumbai I raise my glass, in salute to them.



## OUR READERS WRITE



### Looking back

While sorting out old papers to dispose of I came across a copy of *Madras Musings* dated April 1, 1996. Its headline on page one "Will City be water-short?", caught my eye. It began, "*Madras Musings* learns that from June onwards there will be scarcity of water in Madras." Madras hadn't become Chennai then, but the water shortage was even then being caused by failure of the Northeast Monsoon. We are facing the same situation all over again. When I asked the Metrowater zonal office about the situation, I was told, "Krishna thanni vandha than".

There has been success in stopping the shooting of the film *Water*. So much energy and destruction spent on it. Why not do that for the sake of drinking water!

**Anna Varki**  
Central St.  
Kilpauk Garden Colony  
Chennai 600 010.

### The 'Metro' cake

Metrowater's decision to sell drinking water (the product 'Metro' is already available) in the wake of a severe water shortage, reminds me of Marie Antoinette's well-known saying, 'If the people do not have bread, let them eat cake'.

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

### Wasting water

S.L. Chitale's interesting and thought-provoking article 'More water by taking tanks work' provided us some excellent ideas to enable us to stretch our scanty resources to the maximum.

It will not, however, be out of place to point out that during the copious rainfall in September 1999, Chennai-ites were shocked to learn that vast quantities of heaven-sent rainwater had been 'let out' into the sea to prevent floods in the areas surrounding the reservoirs that supply precious water to Chennai!

In most countries, as well as in several of our states, not only tanks but also large reservoirs are deepened during the dry months and the silt or soil, as the case may be, utilised to raise the bunds. This ensures that the storage capacity increases from year to year with each monsoon — abundant or meagre.

It is not too late to concentrate on improving the existing sources of water by making the deepening of reservoirs and tanks a top priority.

**Mrs. S. Rajagopal**  
(The first octogenarian)  
15 Rutland Gate IV St.  
Chennai 600 006.

### OWWWW!

The largest slum of Madras is on the bed of the former irrigation tank in Perambur/Vyasarpadi (MM, February 16th). It was during the first tenure of Chief Minister Karunanidhi that the slums were

Mylapore, which belonged to P. Adinarayana Chetty.

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

### Wanted advice

I happen to own and live in a bungalow in George Town constructed by my grandfather in 1931. The out-house of the bungalow, which is tiled, is tenanted but is in infirm condition. Recently, as you may have read in the news, the balcony of an old building in Andiappa Naicken Street collapsed killing some pavement dwellers who were sleeping under it. Promptly some irate citizens stoned the building. The DCP Flower Bazaar promptly arrived and arrested the owners of the building and they were remanded.

I request your readers to share with me their views on what preventive action can be taken by me to avoid similar fate should my outhouse collapse on its occupants. What is my *locus standi* vis-a-vis the law in this situation?

**C.G. Prasad**  
9, C.S. Mudali Street  
Kondithope  
Chennai 600 079.

### Rajaji blues

The incident narrated by T. Raja Iyengar (MM, February 1st) in his letter 'Rajaji blessed' was stated to have happened while Rajaji was a student of Law. Swami Vivekananda asked Rajaji (then he was mere Rajagopalan), "Rajagopalan, why is Lord Krishna painted in blue colour?" to which he answered, "Look at the sea through this window; please also see the sky: both are blue and they are both vast and limitless. Similarly, Lord Krishna is also limitless and hence his portrait is coloured blue". On hearing this, Swami Vivekananda blessed Rajagopalan and said he would attain great heights in his life.

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

### Gopalan's great days

I must thank 'Octogenarian' for his kind remarks on my references to Tamil Nadu Cricket and plead guilty of ignoring M.J. Gopalan (MM, February 16th), though I have 'circumstantial evidence' in my favour.

Gopalan's great days, including the hat-trick came years before I had been 'ensnared' by the game. But in the HOS, I saw enough of him to realise what a talented allrounder he was. Watching him from the Federation Gallery (behind Wallajah Road), you ducked instinctively when Gopalan moved forward to drive the ball. In those years, only B. Frank of Mysore and 'Polly' Umrigar of Bombay thumped the ball with such force. In later years, whenever I met him I felt I needed an iron glove, for his handshake was in a vice-like grip.

I spoke to him the other day when he complained of not being well, but his voice was clear and firm — as it always used to be.

I once wrote an article for Philip Spratt's *Mysindia* when I dubbed Gopalan and Ram Singh as the Castor and Pollux (or was it Roland and Oliver!) of our cricket and I must

confess that I preferred MJ to Ram Singh who with his beard and turban looked like an outsider to one who had barely travelled beyond Basin Bridge!

Indeed, in those days club teams used to hire unofficial PROs who went by the name of "Mylapore Gopalan". A match in which these two stalwarts played was always well attended. May MJ attain in life the century which I was never fortunate to witness at Chepauk.

\* \* \*

I would trot out the familiar excuse of "extenuating circumstances" for the errors (call them printer's devils) which have crept into figures in this or any of my other contributions to *Madras Musings*. Hopefully, they will not occur in future, for I have undergone cataract operations in both my eyes at Chennai's famed Sankara Nethralaya Hospital.

The operation was performed by Dr. Prema Padmanabhan, demure, dainty and delicate. As a cricket writer, I would associate her expertise with the style and precision of a wristy stroke by Gundappa Viswanath.

**K.N. Prabhu**  
1A, Alsa Regency  
165 Eldams Road  
Teynampet  
Chennai.

### Why 'Nandanam'?

Many are under the impression that Nandanam is corrupt form of 'Nandavanam', the site of what was formerly a sacred grove or flower garden.

But, I was privileged to be at the naming! It was way back in the 50's, when, as a school boy (of P.S. High School, Mylapore), I used to attend most of the functions of Rajaji.

I believe it was in 1953 that he inaugurated a CIT housing colony. Requested to name it, he said, with his characteristic touch of tradition

### Unfair to Madras

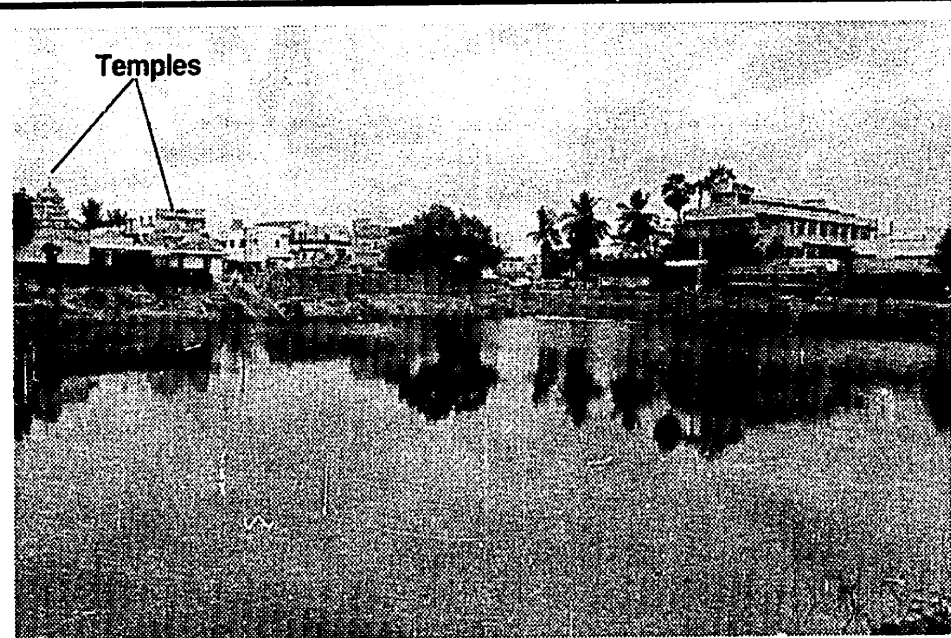
This has reference to MMM's piece (MM, February 1st). It is surprising that Chennai does not figure in *Asia Week's* list of 40 best cities in Asia 1999, whereas Delhi does, that too at No. 30 — ahead of Mumbai! Even according to some of the important parameters of *Asia Week*, Chennai should have found a place and not been ignored so blatantly.

In the matter of paramaters like quality of education, transport and healthcare, Chennai is certainly better than Delhi. In fact, Chennai is widely considered to be the best in India in so far as these criteria are concerned.

Having lived in Delhi for over 40 years I very well know about its horrible transport system. Though it is the capital of India, public transport in Delhi is the worst. Pollution is another nightmare. Municipal authorities, business leaders and ordinary citizens — all of them vie with each other in being indifferent to matters civic. *Asia Week's* classification is thus unacceptable.

**S. Raghavan**

Ranga Flats (1st Floor)  
33, Gangai Amman Koil Street  
Valasarawakkam  
Chennai 600 087



## A new temple tank at Valasarawalkam

K Sridhar writes:

Three Rotary Club s of Chennai Mambalam, Vadapalani and Porur are joining hands to develop and sustain a big tank from a small waterbody abutting the Sri Agastheeswarar and Velveeswarar Temples in Valasarawalkam. The estimated cost is Rs. 20 lakh and project will involve the participation of the local people in a big way. The past and present Chairmen of the Valasarawalkam Panchayat Union Council are taking part in the project, with all political parties actively supporting it. The presidents of the local colony associations too have joined hands on this project.

The 315 ft x 232 ft tank is to be constructed on a site of about 1.5 acres belonging to the temple, where there is ahead a small 9-feet deep waterbody. This small pond was surrounded by wild vegetation and the first steps of the project were to clear the shrubs and make the pond accessible (seen in RAJIND N. CHRISTY's picture.)

The project involves purifying the existing water, systematically improving the ambience of the tank, constructing steps on all sides of the tank, erecting compound walls, and eventually building a (140 ft x 140 ft) Neerazhi Mantapam in the centre of the waterspread. A nandavanam is also being planned around the tank for regular supply of flowers to the temple.

To ensure the proper maintenance and upkeep of the tank and the temple premises in the future, the space adjoining the tank, about half an acre in area, is to be commercially developed for fund-generation. Work is to be completed in a year's time. To create awareness about the temple and its history, a laksha deepam (one lakh lights) had been organised on the first day of 2000.

The organisers feel generating such community participation is the way to ensure sustainability when projects are undertaken to restore waterbodies.

and statesmanship, he would call it 'Nandana', the running Tamil year, and expressed the hope that a new colony would spring up every year to ease the shortage of shelter.

After the formal inauguration from the dais, he came down to inspect a few houses. As he was proceeding, I ventured to tag along with him. A police official escorting him brusquely asked me who I was. With matching spirit, I told him boldly to ask him, pointing to Rajaji!

Finding me a fair, small Brahmin boy, the police officer presumed that I must be Rajaji's grandson or close relative and left it at that. And so I completed the tour with Rajaji.

**N. Dharmeswaran**  
21 Kumaran Nagar  
Guduvancherry 603 202.

### Hope College

The story about Sir Arthur Hope (MM, January 16th) brought back memories of my engineering college days (1946-50). I did my engineering in what was then the Sir Arthur Hope College of Technology, located in Peelamedu, Coimbatore. The college shifted to its present location in 1950 and its name changed to Government College of Technology. The benefactor of the college was G.D. Naidu of UMS fame, a great admirer of Sir Arthur. I was told that the Governor in turn would refer to G.D. Naidu as the Lord Nuffield of India.

Sir Christopher Masterman, I.C.S., who was a member of the Board of Revenue until August 14, 1947, became the first British Deputy High Commissioner, Madras, on the very next day.

**Raghu Tagat**  
Flat 12/III floor  
"Srinivas"  
294/295 Lloyds Road  
Royapettah  
Chennai 600 014.

Editor's Note: Reader Tagat is right about Sir Archibald Nye, who inaugurated the British Council in Madras on March 12, 1950. Reader Tagat was with the British Information Services from 1947.

### Jeffares and others

I stand corrected (MM, December 16th) by cricket historian M.C. Spurrier. In a letter to me he states that 5/5 (Royal) Marathas was the machine gun battalion of 8th Indian Division in Italy in 1944; the battalion had three companies of machine guns and one company of 4.2 inch mortars. Major Jeffares commanded the 4.2 inch mortars and was an infantry officer.

In the same letter he asks if I can help him in getting any details of any Indian first class cricketers (officers or other ranks) who were decorated or killed in action in WW2. He has details of Maj. Gen. K.P. Dhargalkar, MBE, of the 3rd Cavalry and Lt. Gen. K.S. Rajendrasinhji, DSO (Ranji's nephew) of Gardner's Horse. Obviously he would welcome any help from any reader.

**Lt. Gen. I.S. Gill (RETD.)**  
31, South Bank Road  
Chennai 600 028.

\* \* \*

### Spitteler of Yercaud

M.C. Spurrier sent us the following information on Captain Ralph Alexander Spitteler, 3rd Bn., 10th Gurkha Rifles.

Capt. Ralph Alexander Spitteler, son of Charles and Daisy Spitteler of Fern Dell, Yercaud, India, died 14.3.46 at the age of 30. He had a B.A. (Madras) and is buried in the Djakarta War Cemetery.

He died from a severe neck wound received in an exchange of fire on the Bandoeng-Seokaboemi road with some Japanese POWs who had broken out from their camp.

**Wg. Cdr. K.V. Lakshminarayanan (RETD.)**  
198, Defence Officers Colony  
Chennai 600 032.

C.A. Reddi adds: G.D. Naidu also, along with C. Rajam (of India House), founded the MIT (Madras Institute of Technology), Chromepet, Madras. C. Rajam ran the Royal Mail Service on contract basis for the Postal Department.

### Nye not Hope!

In an article in MM, January 16th, Sir Arthur Hope has been described as the last British Governor of Madras Presidency. My remembrance is that the last British Governor was Lt. General Sir Archibald Nye, who continued in that office even after August 15, 1947, and carried the urn (or at least participated in the public ceremony) of immersion of the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi in the Bay of Bengal at the Edward Elliot's Road beach. On laying down the Governorship, Sir Archibald became the first British High Commissioner in India in March 1948. There was only Charge d'Affaires in the interval between August 15 and Sir Archibald's accreditation.

# Dangerous driving

The suggestion to straighten out as many as 272 out of 336 curves judged to be 'dangerous' on the East Coast Road (MM, January 16th), appears to have overlooked one aspect. And that is the possibility of more accidents taking place on these straight stretches! Past experience on some of the national highways in our State has clearly proved that the incidence of accidents on long, straight stretches is much higher than on a road with curves. This is obviously because motorists tend to over-speed on such tantalisingly attractive stretches. This is particularly true of light and heavy commercial vehicles including transport buses.

Further, unless sufficient lay-bys are provided on both sides of the road, there is the danger of stranded vehicles causing serious accidents, particularly during hours of darkness

There is therefore an urgent need for the authorities to ensure that speed-checks are conducted without much fan-fare, using the latest type of speed-check equipment. On-the-spot deterrent action for those exceeding safe speed limits should be ensured. Further, particularly at night, breathalysers should be used at the toll gates proposed to check cases of driving while under the influence of alcohol. Wherever the breathalyser indicates alcohol levels above safe limits, the drivers should be detained at the toll gates till they turn sober. Government should also arrange for highway patrols on the various sectors to check dangerous driving as well as drunken driving.

Last but not least, the authorities should, side by side with the completion of this new type of highway, identify one suitable trauma care centre for every 50 kms stretch of road so that victims of accidents could be rushed to these centres for medical attention. To begin with, a trauma care centre could perhaps be identified/located at Palar, since Chennai and Pondicherry already have such centres.

**K. Ravindran, IPS (RETD.)**  
President, AASI  
AASI Centre  
Chennai 600 006.

### The Mani example

50 Not Out, in MM, January 15th was simply superb. Is it C.K. Subramani or Supermani? Young cricketers should have an approach like his and not just go after money alone.

**C.V. Krishnan**  
1595 J Block, 'Anukul'  
Anna Nagar (West)  
Chennai 600 040.

**S. Rangarajan**  
B-11, 285, Kendriya Vihar  
Numbal-P.H. Road  
Chennai 600 077.

### Suffering sound

After I read the article on the Acine theatre of the millennium (MM, January 1st), I went to see a movie after some years in a theatre — Sree Theatre. I was shocked at the decibels of sound produced in the theatre by the Digital Dolby system. It was way beyond the acceptable limits of human tolerance. Since the theatre management have put a lot of thought into giving the public a theatre with a difference, I think they should, in the public interest also conduct a thorough research into the acceptable decibels of sound.

I hear from other regular moviegoers that this is the same problem in most theatres in Chennai. We Indians are a very tolerant lot, but I am sure a lot of people must be grumbling or suffering the sound in silence.

The management of Sree Theatre can be first again if it reduces sound to acceptable limits and sets an example for all theatres.

**Kamla Ravikumar**  
Chennai 600 090.

Sethuraman in his contribution. I should perhaps clarify that I was a student of Madras Christian College and a resident from 1939 to 1946. I was also an activist in the 'Quit India Agitation'.

The incident involving the removal of the statue of Dr. Miller and hiding it in the bushes actually took place during the academic year 1939-1940 and was really a prank by a group of high-spirited students after a football game. In fact, the leader of this incident never did become involved in the 'Quit India Movement' later, though he may have been sympathetic. If I remember right, the leader of the group which played this prank later became a respected member of the teaching staff.

**Dr. Esao John**  
278, J.J. Road, 1st Floor  
Alwarpet  
Chennai 600 018.

### Peaceful Illam

We should thank the Tamil Nadu Government for entrusting Vivekanandar Illam to the Ramakrishna Math for restoration and administration.

A visit to the Illam was a great revelation to me. Throughout the time I spent in it during a recent visit (it takes more than an hour) to see all the exhibits pertaining to the Swamiji's life and also get a glimpse of our ancient culture both in the art section and photo section, I had a feeling that the Swamiji was actually present at the location and that I had gone there to have his *dharshan*! The small prayer hall is a wonderful place for undisturbed meditation! The whole place is spotlessly clean and well-maintained.

I am sure this temple of peace will attract tourists from far and wide and help promote peace and harmony in a strife-ridden world!

**Cdr. R. Ganapathi, I.N. (RETD.)**  
116, Defence Colony  
Ekkattuthangal  
Chennai 600 032.

### Copies available

We have a limited number of copies of the booklet on Tamil proverbs brought out by us. Those interested may collect the booklet at our office on any week day.

We intend to bring out future editions and we invite readers to contribute proverbs for inclusion.

**V. Ramnarayan**  
'Kalamkriya'  
286, T.T.K. Road  
Chennai 600 018.

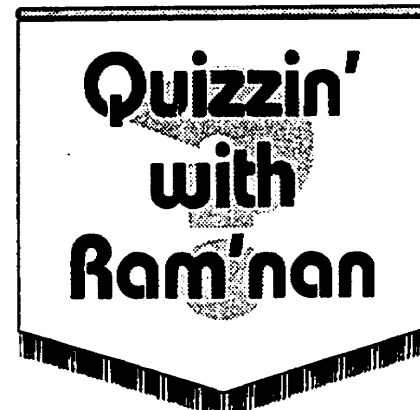
### 'Mess' in courts

In a recent T.V. interview, former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram stated that the justice system is in a mess. Rightly so. If you visit the courts in Chennai — Egmore and Parry's Corner — you can see the 'mess' that is being created outside by visitors due to lack of proper toilets (even the Marina Beach has one for the public while the Bench has none). We seem to have entered the new millennium unveiling the portraits of judges, but strangely we are unable to provide veils to cover nature's call outside our courts.

On the professional side, I am told that all judgements which have been delivered are contained in the concerned case bundle and consigned to the record office. I understand no compendium of judgements year-wise or subject-wise has been compiled to date. A nation like ours maintains cricket statistics covering a period of 7 or 8 decades — but, alas, try asking for the number of cases handled by a single judge and the judgements delivered during his career and you will be in for a big surprise. Record-keeping of such information/statistics does not exist.

**Cdre. Prem Kumar (RETD.)**  
Flat No 3B,  
"Rear Block"  
Sri Venkatesa Nilayam  
107, St. Mary's Road  
Chennai 600 018.





(Questions 1 to 11 are from the period February 1st to 15th. Questions 10 to 12 pertain to Chennai. Questions 13 to 20 relate to Tamil Nadu.)

1. Who was presented the Dada Saheb Phalke award on February 15th?
2. Who became the second Indian to receive the *Commandeur de la Legion d Honneur*, the highest French civilian award?
3. Who is to chair the 11-member Constitution Review Commission?
4. Name the creator of the Peanuts comic strip who passed away on February 12th.
5. How did 20-year old 'Mixer' of Hanover create news on the Net recently?
6. A famous French film director made the controversial film *And God created woman*, which introduced his teenage wife Brigitte Bardot. He passed away recently. Who was he?
7. Who is the new National billiards champion?
8. W2K made its launch on February 17th. What is W2K?
9. Which U.S. computer firm is to supply India a Cray Super-Computer, for weather forecasting, at a cost of \$ 102 million?

\* \* \*

10. Which respected Indian research and educational centre celebrated its 50 years of existence on February 14th?
  11. Where in the city was the country's second largest Universal Temple of the Ramakrishna Mission consecrated on February 7th?
  12. Where in the city were the first two 'mini' flyovers inaugurated on February 5th?
- \* \* \*
13. Which Tamil author has been awarded this year's Saraswati Samman?
  14. Three students of which University were burnt alive in a gruesome incident at Dharmapuri?
  15. Name the first film directed by MGR.
  16. What prestigious honour did the Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andamans NCC contingent regain at this year's Republic Day Parade?
  17. Which Tamil cinematic legend made his debut in *Annakili*?
  18. Under what pseudonym does S. Rangarajan write stories and film screenplays?
  19. Which famous Tamil magazine has a comic or a jester as its logo?
  20. On which railway route would you see the ABT rack and pinion principle used for 19 kilometres?

(Answers on Page 8)

The setting was dream-like. A vast empty bowl of darkness, held together by the branching shadows of raintrees along the back and sides, with the suggestion of the walls of a fortress stepping down to meet the stage that floated on a trelised floor that seeped with light from below. Every now and then, the bats that were disturbed from their nocturnal pursuits, swooped down, blinded by the stage lights that hung high over the amphitheatre.

They may well have been amazed. Girish Karnad's play *The Dreams of Tipu Sultan* that was performed by the Madras Players at the YMCA open air theatre during five recent evenings had a gorgeous unreality about it. The play moved in fits and starts. It took shape in the recollections of two historians, one colonial, the other Indian, who were tracking down the momentous events that had led to the death of the Tiger of Mysore. They talked of the dreams that he was supposed to have recorded. Then Tipu himself appeared, a contradiction as a king, a man of action and a dreamer. The interweaving of Tipu's dreams with his interpretations of them took place in the shadows of the steps that led down to the central space. The menacing presence of the British, just lurking outside the Kingdom of Mysore, with his other enemies and rivals, the Marathas and the Nizam, plotting their revenge, was revealed in tented outlines, and in a giant shadow play panel that was full of treachery.

Nobody knows when he gets into the compartment nor from where. He unobtrusively crawls in and silently begins sweeping the floor — without so much as a glance at any passenger.

He lifts the pairs of footwear with his left hand, wipes the grains of sand and patches of dirt in the space under them, then replaces them exactly where they had been. We don't hear even a noise when he puts the footwear back. He does it so smoothly and gently. He sweeps the floor space around our pieces of luggage, but scrupulously avoids touching them not to speak of displacing them. He collects all the rubbish and dirt in the corridor in a small heap and then, his round completed, he looks up, still sitting on the floor, and appeals with his eyes for, shall I say, alms?

No. That will be the worst insult to the sense of unconscious self-respect that is in him.

He glances from passenger to passenger for his legitimate

## The place is the thing

As we the audience watched from the shadows, the sky outside our space was filled with the stray sounds of exploding fireworks. They sounded like the gunfire that was about to destroy the dreams of Tipu Sultan. No matter what you felt about the play — it was interminably convoluted and dropped off to an uneasy end-

semble the same seedy hotel where the characters meet. Ashok Nehru took the part played by Richard Burton and, as far as I can recall, it was his wife who played the role the sizzling Ava Gardner took in the movie. There was a marvelous cameo role by Thambi Kadamayanam also and when the two boys went chasing after

● by  
Geeta Doctor

ing, as indeed most dreams do — the choice of the open-air setting in a faded amphitheatre was absolutely inspired. It brought to mind some of the other local productions that have moved out of the constraints of the proscenium stage and stretched out their theatrical arms to embrace the world.

The Madras Players themselves had a splendid production on the beach of *The Night of the Iguana*, Tennessee William's play about longing and loss in the American Deep South. It was so long ago that few people will remember it, but the set had been built to re-

the iguana of the title, they wrestled with it in the sand just by our feet.

Equally memorable in its own way was an open air production of Noel Coward's *South Sea Bubble*, a comedy that was performed by an all-Brit cast (except perhaps for the bartenders who were brown) on the back verandah of the Madras Club. The most innovative use of the large open space afforded by the lawns of the Club was that, half-way through the play, all of us in the audience had to turn our chairs and face the second stage, again a grass-roofed shack, that had been

built for the occasion, just behind us.

The Calicut University once tried the wooded area at the back of the Museum for an inspired production of Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. Those who were lucky enough to watch Richard Schechner's production of *Mother Courage* back in the '70s will remember the absolutely riveting use he made of a small school quadrangle (in Bombay), using rough scaffolding and planks to seat his audience, who were then thrown almost face to face with his actors as they went through the de-humanising bargain with death, greed, dismemberment and what seemed absolutely electrifying at that time, a casual display of sexual favours demanded by the marauding armies. Compared to this, Peter Brooks' nine hour recreation of the *Mahabharatha* in a deserted quarry, and later in a theatre at Le Gard du Nord in Paris that had been stripped and re-created to look like the quarry, seemed more like pure entertainment, a gorgeous pageant of performers from all over the world who evoked the spirits of fire, water, earth, colour and sound, to satisfy the senses.

Perhaps that is what watching a performance in the open air does for an audience. It puts you back in touch with the earth. It makes you look up at the stars between branches. It reminds you that the world is also full of mosquitoes, the very same type had to turn our chairs and face preceded Tipu in his dreams!

## The spirit of cleanliness

Nobody knows when he gets into the compartment nor from where. He unobtrusively crawls in and silently begins sweeping the floor — without so much as a glance at any passenger.

He lifts the pairs of footwear with his left hand, wipes the grains of sand and patches of dirt in the space under them, then replaces them exactly where they had been. We don't hear even a noise when he puts the footwear back. He does it so smoothly and gently. He sweeps the floor space around our pieces of luggage, but scrupulously avoids touching them not to speak of displacing them. He collects all the rubbish and dirt in the corridor in a small heap and then, his round completed, he looks up, still sitting on the floor, and appeals with his eyes for, shall I say, alms?

No. That will be the worst insult to the sense of unconscious self-respect that is in him.

He glances from passenger to passenger for his legitimate

A slice of Chennai life  
recorded by  
D. Raja Ganesan

thing; one fumbles for small coins in his pockets. Nobody seems to be spontaneously willing to pay this poor but self-respecting worker.

Then one takes a coin and drops it from a decent height, signalling thereby that he treats it as alms. There is sometimes a chain reaction: quite a few give him a coin each. Each successive offer comes faster than the

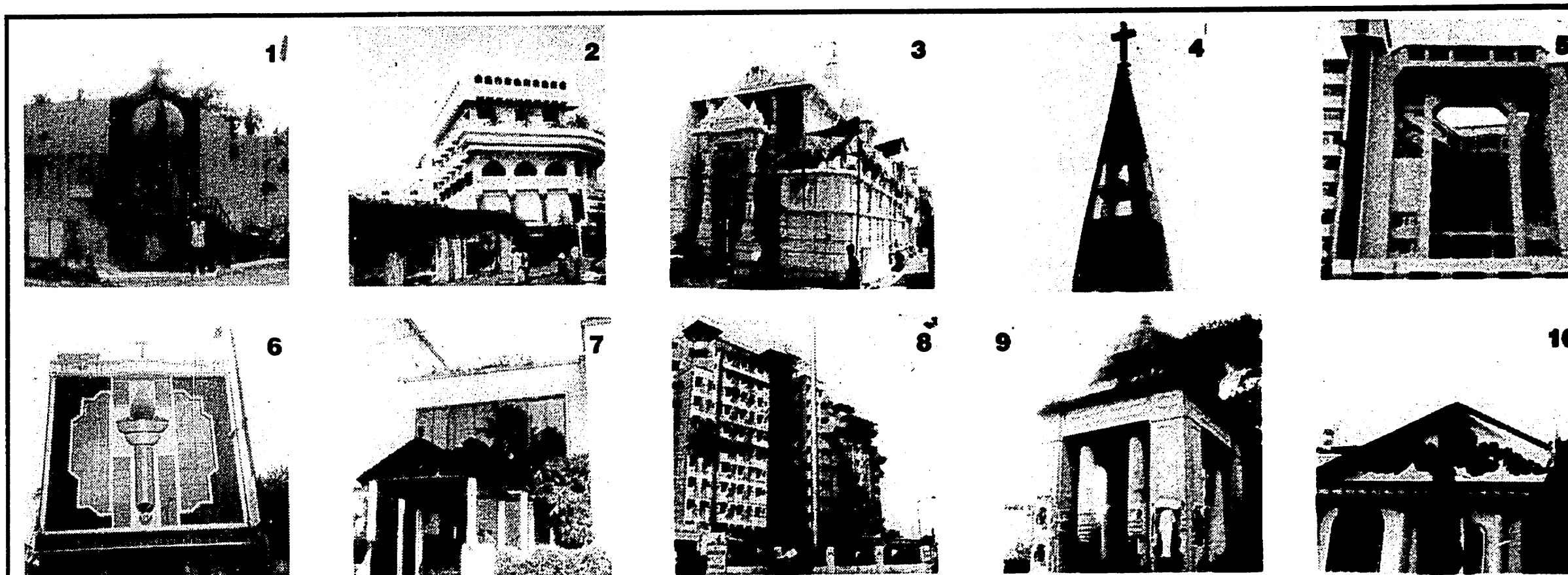
the coins he has just twice — no more — and moves on. His face does not visibly brighten in gratitude or cheer, not even when somebody pays a rupee. Nor does his face reveal any disappointment, hatred or contempt at the miserliness of others.

He moves on — from bay to bay, compartment to compart-

ment, train to train, back and forth on a route that's his own. He seldom stands up and seldom demands his due — unlike the beggars in and out of the train who do nothing but vocally seek alms. He has accepted his lot long ago and does not appear to have ever questioned it.

The moment I sight him I take out from my wallet a fifty paise coin to place in his palm at the first jingle. I have made it a habit to have with me several fifty paise coins for those like him — who may be disadvantaged but who have an innate self-respect, are willing to work and show a superb indifference to the fruit of their labours.

Maybe I am violating an injunction of the Indian Railways, namely not to encourage an unauthorised hawk — in this case, of a service. But this service — of ensuring cleanliness — is next only to godliness and is rendered in a laudable spirit. We must appreciate that spirit — especially in an uneducated boy.



The Advertising Club, Chennai, recently held its annual Treasure Hunt. It was a fun-filled event in which over a hundred participants (almost double the number compared to last year) took part. Each was given a set of ten black and white photographs (featured here) and they were required to identify and visit these places within the shortest possible time. The approximate running distance was about 70 Kms. within the city. Some were fairly easily identifiable, and there were some that were quite tricky. The first three

## Hunting for a prize

teams were awarded cash prizes of Rs. 10,000, Rs. 6,000 and Rs. 4,000 respectively and there were special consolation prizes. All participants received complimentary hampers too.

For diehard rally enthusiasts it was a fun morning driving across the city, frantically trying to remember where that 'Oh, so familiar, but just can't remember

it now' building was, jumping excitedly when the guess was right and the Marshal would mark our visit to the spot, cursing the Sunday traffic, the signals were against you all the time, the crew member who gave all the wrong leads and led to a wild goose chase... All in all, truly enjoyable morning.

One small dissonant note. The

rules and regulations laid down clearly that carrying of cell phones or pagers by the driver or any member of a team would lead to disqualification of the team. The rule was not adhered to at all and those who used these means of communication had an unfair advantage over those who didn't. The organisers need to ensure that these rules and regu-

lations are followed next year to make the competition really fair and all the more fun.

Bina Raju

Editor's note: We wish the organisers had included several heritage buildings in their portfolio. It would have ensured that the competition was more meaningful than being merely a hunt for a prize.

(Check-in landmarks — on page 8)

### Statement about ownership and other particulars about the newspaper

(As required to be published under Section 19-D Sub-section (b) of the Press and Registration of Books Act read with Rule 8 of the Registration of Newspaper (Central Rules), 1956.)

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I, Anu Varghese, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated : 28.02.2000

ANU VARGHESE  
Publisher

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# Just reward for quality bowling

Rahul Dravid has been saying for at least a year now that Kartik Murali is the best left arm spinner in the country. Mohammed Azharuddin was so impressed by his recent Wills Trophy performance that he expressed surprise that he hadn't played for India yet! Those involved with India Cements' cricket teams — he plays for one of them — in Chennai have been convinced for a while that he is ready for the elevation. *Madras Musings* too has been watching his progress closely for quite some time. In short, Kartik Murali's selection to the Indian team for the Mumbai Test against South Africa comes as no surprise to anyone in the know of things in this part of the country. It was a question of when, not whether.

Like his senior from Karnataka, Sunil Joshi, Kartik will remember for long the role played by Bishan Singh Bedi in his progress as a cricketer. It is said that it is the Sardar who converted him from an energetic young medium pacer to a quality spinner. And but for his father being transferred by his employer Bharat Overseas Bank to Delhi, Kartik may still have been languishing as a run-of-the-mill fast bowling wannabe.

Vinod Sharma, the Railways coach, is another mentor responsible for Kartik receiving early recognition. Realising that the young man did not stand a chance in the Delhi team, he took him under the Railways wing, where the young player graduated into

the Ranji trophy team via the under-19 route. As a Hindu College student, he made a fine impression on all concerned in Delhi with his easy action, natural arc and appreciable bounce. Coming into the Railways team in 1996-1997, he was an instant success, but he had already made a mark as India U-19's main spinner, teasing and tormenting the South Africans in the Test series in 1995-1996. The South African seniors kept an eye open when they toured India soon afterwards, but he was not yet in the main picture at the time.

Kartik's father has been transferred back to Chennai, but the young player had continued to represent Railways and Central Zone, resisting the temptation to switch to his home state. His entry into the South Zone team would hardly have been a foregone conclusion, with Venkatapathy Raju and Sunil Joshi around. He has strictly followed Bishan Bedi's advice in this matter, risking the possibility of being overlooked by the selectors as his zone, Central, is a rather weak combination overall. There is a stubborn streak in Kartik which has worked to his advantage, not only in this steadfast loyalty to his zone but also in helping him do what he believes is right in bowling, ignoring much of the well-meant advice from all and sundry that can so often confuse and adversely affect budding cricketers.

A student of Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan, Kartik played under-13 cricket as a medium pacer in Chennai before shifting to Delhi. On his



Kartik Murali

return a few years later, it was V.V. Kumar, who knew his parents and who introduced Kartik to India Cements. He first played for UFCC T'Nagar, India Cements' so-called second eleven, before earning a promotion to the senior side, Vijay CC. He had to compete with Syed Meeraj, a talented Hyderabad who bowled left arm spin for Vijay. He passed that test without much ado. The greater test was the loss, a few years ago, of his mother to renal failure, a tragedy the young man has borne with fortitude.

spinners, but he must learn to rein it in when it tends to lead him to outbursts he may have cause to regret later.

Six foot tall, Kartik delivers the ball from a considerable height. This perhaps explains the unusual bounce he extracts from most wickets. He is not a big turner of the ball, but is able to fool the batsman with his nice loop. The ball lands most of the time at that uncomfortable length that batsmen find most difficult to negotiate, not knowing whether to go forward or back. He has a nice arm ball that fetches him quite a few wickets. Not afraid of punishment, he is a positive bowler, capable of quick recovery from a batsman's calculated assault.

Kartik is a capable left hand batsman but, mercifully, for Indian cricket, here is one spin bowler who prefers to concentrate on his bowling rather than dissipate his energy in trying to

● by V. Ramnarayan

## Answers to Quiz

1. B.R. Chopra; 2. Pt. Ravi Shankar; 3. Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah; 4. Charles Schulz; 5. He devised a software which jammed major U.S. websites and slowed the traffic on the Net by as much as a quarter; 6. Roger Vadim; 7. Ashok Shandilya; 8. Windows 2000 OS; 9. SGI (formerly Silicon Graphics Inc.).

\* \* \*

10. The British Council Regional Library; 11. On the R.K. Mutt Road in Mylapore; 12. Peter's Road and Sardar Patel Road.

13. Indira Parthasarathi; 14. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University; 15. *Nadodi Maman*; 16. The Prime Minister's Banner; 17. Ilayaraja; 18. Sujatha; 19. *Ananda Vikatan*; 20. On the Nilgiris Mountain Railway route.

\* \* \*

**Editor's Note:** We regret an error in last fortnight's 'Answers'. The answers to Questions 11 and 12 were inadvertently interchanged.

## Check-in landmarks

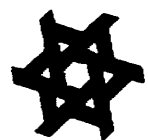
These were the landmarks the treasure-hunters had to check in at: 1. On the 100' Road near Vijaya Studio in Vadapalani. 2. A Haj complex near Salt Cotaurs. 3. The Jain Temple on Cutchery Road. 4. A Church on Velachery Road, near Europa. 5. CMDA building, Egmore. 6. The Hebron Literature Centre, near Loyola College. 7. The Gandhinagar Club entrance. 8. Villivakkam apartment complex. 9. The Dalrymple Memorial, St. Thomas' Mount. 10. *Madras 350*, where the New Avadi Road begins.

That India Cements has a number of experienced first class cricketers, including Dravid and skipper V.B. Chandrasekhar, both Test players, has helped Kartik's development as a bowler. Of an independent bent of mind, difficult to convince in matters of technique and strategy, Kartik, like many of his generation of 'thinking' cricketers, tends on occasion to overtheorise and here someone as firm as VB is able to assert himself in no uncertain terms. Another aspect of Kartik's cricket is his supreme confidence in his ability. It enables him to dominate the batsman no matter what the conditions, and especially on good batting surfaces. He is all aggression on the field, an admirable quality not often seen among present-day Indian

become an allrounder, diluting his bowling in the process. He is an enthusiastic and often agile fielder, but needs to improve his speed. He is working hard at it.

In action at the recent Wills Trophy and South Africa vs. Board President's XI matches, Kartik Murali was a delight to watch. His confident strides, his lovely action and the doubt he cast in batsmen's minds took us back to another time, the era when Indian spin dominated the world of cricket. Bowling along with Anil Kumble and that spirited, if workmanlike off spinner, Nikhil Chopra, will the young left armer play a key role in the revival of India's Test cricket fortunes? My bet is that he will — provided our batsmen can withstand the onslaught of Donald, Hayward, Pollock and Co.

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