

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS

MUSINGS

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Appa, how come I get to celebrate my birthday only for one day while Chennai gets to celebrate its birthday for one whole week?

Conversation with a grande dame

She tosses her coloured, 'done'-by-the-best-parlour tresses, almost dislodging the precariously pinned jasmine strands. She adjusts the pleats of her red and yellow silk saree, briefly revealing trendily shod feet. She dunks a generous helping of *dosai* in a steel cup of *sambar*, while sipping delicately at a mocha frappe.

She's just finished celebrating an entire week dedicated to her.

The citizen, taking in her rather unique blend of traditional and contemporary, approaches the Grand Old lady nervously.

Citizen: You look great, not a day older than...er.. 366 years.

G-O-L (grinning): Despite all your efforts to wear me down, eh? Why are you late?

Citizen (deprecatingly): The traffic.

G-O-L: Hey, don't blame me. Try using fewer vehicles.

Citizen: How does it feel, to have a whole day and a week devoted to you?

G-O-L: Wonderful... I mean, Dhool!

Citizen: We're very proud. Except... (Her eyes narrow.)

Citizen: The... the weather, you know. Can't you...?

G-O-L (briskly): Not my department.

Citizen: 366 years - all the changes...

G-O-L (smiles): I don't change; you do - I merely reflect it. That's why you guys can't help using both my names. I am both, after all. I quite like the way I look now, incidentally.

Citizen: Your voice seems softer.

G-O-L: Switch off those cell-phones. You'll hear me clearly.

Citizen: How do you see yourself years from now?

G-O-L: Healthy, peaceful, significant globally! It's up to you guys.

Ranjitha Ashok

A week discovering Madras

(By A Special Correspondent)

With the second Madras Week celebration having just drawn to a close as we go to press, one thing is certain - it has been a huge success, judging by the spontaneity with which several organisations came up with ideas to mark Madras's 366th birthday and the week-long celebration. There was the feel of Madras Day almost everywhere. For instance, a colleague, driving into a petrol bunk, was gifted a sapling by Madras's new Ecotel, the eco-friendly Rain Tree, together with a letter from the hotel saying that it was celebrating Madras Day by encouraging people to grow more trees and they hoped their gifts would make the city "more green and liveable". When a friend took an auto, the driver handed her a booklet

and told her she could learn more about Madras from it and then proceeded to talk about each landmark they passed.

Madras Day started early on August 22nd at the Valluvar Kottam junction where members of the Lions Club International District 324 and volunteers gathered to launch an awareness campaign on various social issues. There were shouts of 'Happy Birthday Chennai' as a large banner emblazoned with the words was unfurled by the Lions District Governor K. Ramadurai and the Chennai Police Commissioner R. Natraj. Lions Club members spread out to 100 important traffic junctions in the city, talking to passers-by, carrying placards and distributing leaflets with pertinent messages in English and Tamil on a wide range of

subjects - AIDS control, diabetes, blood donation, prevention of child abuse, women's rights, road safety and the importance of education. The National Service Scheme and National Cadet Corps volunteers from Presidency College also participated. Some prominent citizens were honoured by the Club at an evening function.

The same day afternoon, L. Vasan and T. Eezhakathir of Raja Muthiah HS School and C. Praveena and M. Shanmughapriya of the Thiruvanniyur Corporation High School walked away with the top two prizes, respectively, at the Madras Day quiz in Tamil that was conducted by V. Ramamurthy and K a r t h i k Ramamurthy. More than 100 school children turned up at

the PS High School in Mylapore for the contest. Questions were not only about the history of Madras - important landmarks and achievers in sport, literature and culture; there were many questions relating to contemporary events as well - businesses associated with Madras, multi-nationals entering the city, etc.

TI School, Ambattur (model of Sivan temple, Thirumullaivoyil), Padma Seshadri, TP Road (Chennai Central), Kavi Bharati Vidyalaya (Suzul Mettai) and Lady Andal Venkata Subba Rao Matriculation HS School (*The Hindu* office) were the first-prize winners in the City Heritage Project for Schools. Special prizes were awarded to Jaigopal Garodia Vivekananda Vidyalaya Matriculation School, Anna Nagar (Ice House), Sir Ramaswamy

An environmental reminder on Madras Day

The Rain Tree, South India's first 5-star Ecotel hotel, associated with Madras Day by inviting citizens of the city to join to make Chennai greener and more liveable. In a circular to citizens it urged them to practise and pass on to others the following suggestions to help make Chennai a better place to live in:

- Keep our roads and streets clean.
- Do not litter, use garbage bins, sort out dry/wet garbage.
- Reduce the use of electricity by optimising sunlight wherever possible. Switch off appliances when not in use.
- Avoid leakage of water by proper maintenance of fixtures. Always close water taps properly to avoid dripping.
- Use one-sided or used paper to take notes in offices / schools. Always do proofreading on computer screen to avoid paper wastage.
- Grow at least one tree per house.
- Avoid use of plastic materials / polythene bags.
- Purchase furniture made from bamboo and rubber wood, which will help us avoid cutting trees.
- Encourage children to practise these suggestions.

Mudaliar HS School, Ambattur (Rippon Building), St Columban's, Parry's (for overall presentation), and Padma Seshadri, Lake Road, Nungambakkam (Port Trust).

A disappointment was that only 16 schools (a disappointing number) from across Chennai participated in the project. All students, including students from the other schools that participated - Jawahar Vidyalaya, Ashok Nagar, Sankara Vidyalaya, Thiruvanniyur, Padma Seshadri, KK Nagar, Sivaswamy Kalayalaya, Mylapore, SSV HS School, Sowcarpet, Don Bosco, Egmore, Kola Saraswathi, Kilpauk, and Kola Perumal Chetty Vaishnav Sr. Secondary School, Kilpauk - will receive certificates. Judges from INTACH, Prema Kasturi, Padma, Suresh and Kalpana, visited the schools and looked at more than 60 projects before deciding the first-prize and special-prize winners (the schools were divided into four zones and each zone had one project as the winner).

Students of Lady Andal Venkata Subba Rao School, Chetput, organised an exhibition displaying detailed charts on the Madras Seva Sadan (the parent body of the school), the

Marina Beach and *The Hindu* newspaper. Students visited the beach, took pictures and these formed part of the display. They traced the origins of *The Hindu* newspaper organisation and the role it played during the freedom struggle.

Perhaps, the most fruitful programme of the entire week was the groups of students discovering a Madras they knew little about. A group from North Chennai was taken to the southern end of the city, and another from Mylapore visited North Chennai. Organised by Namma Mylapore, a civic volunteer group, and Avvai Kalai Kazhagam, Royapuram, the tours, led by Vincent D' Souza, editor, *Mylapore Times*, and S. Amarnath, history lecturer, Presidency College, saw 20 excited students from four North Chennai schools - Kalaimagal Vidyalaya, Royapuram, St. Mary's Anglo Indian HS School, Armenian Street, Revoor Padmanabha Chetti HS School, Thiruvottriyur, and Vellayan Chettiar HS School - soaking in the sights and sounds at the 500-year-old Portuguese-built Luz Church (referred to as the 'Kattu Koil'), the temples in Mylapore, the Ramakrishna

(Continued on Page 6)

The highs & lows of Tamil Nadu

(By A Staff Reporter)

Tamil Nadu remains at the No.4 spot overall in *India Today's* third annual ranking of India's best and worst states, results of which were published recently. Significantly, among the big states (states with an area greater than 35,000 sq km and a population of more than five million), the top eleven all remain glued to the same spots as last year, with Punjab, Kerala and Himachal Pradesh occupying the first three positions. Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Uttaranchal and Jammu & Kashmir follow Tamil Nadu in that order.

Among the small states, Goa climbs three spots to be ranked No.1; Delhi remains the second best, while Pondicherry slips to third place. Chandigarh not only retains its No.1 place among Union Territories, it is also way ahead of the other four Union Territories on various parameters; Andaman & Nicobar and Daman & Diu are ranked second and third. Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa are the worst among the big states; Meghalaya, Tripura and Nagaland are the worst small states and Dadra & Nagar Haveli the worst Union Territory.

The *India Today* study provides an excellent analysis of a State government's performance without bringing politics or personalities into play. The magazine's editorial points out that there are unmistakable signs of a new order emerging among states, with aggressive performers elbowing out the old states. The study, which relies on data (pertaining to 2003 and 2004) from "credible and consistent" sources, picked eight heads to rank states – macro-economic performance (budget and prosperity), agriculture, size of consumer markets, education, health, law and order, infrastructure and investment scenario.

The in-depth analysis by noted economists Bibek Debroy and Lavneesh Bhandari shows that India's demographics are changing and that the ranks conceal more than they reveal. For example, Kerala no longer leads the country in development indices like education and health, while Punjab has to

fight it out with Gujarat for attracting investment.

For the first time, states are also rated on their level of economic freedom, without which political and social freedom is inadequate, says the study, stressing that policies that promote prosperity are the policies that foster economic freedom. Based on the freedom index (the average score of each state on 26 parameters ranging from tax, expenditure and government ownership of enterprises to share of violent crimes in total number of crimes committed, vacant judicial posts as a ratio of total posts sanctioned to number of man-days lost in strikes and lockouts as a ratio of total number of industrial workers in a state and power shortage as a percentage of total demand, aggregated under facilitation, protection and regulation indices), the study reveals that the five most economically free states in India – Gujarat,

eracy rate, percentage of children with primary education, ratio of girls to boys enrolled in elementary school, teacher-student ratio, expenditure on primary and middle education), HP pushes Kerala to second spot. Although Kerala continues to have the highest literacy rate (91 per cent), compared to 76 per cent of HP, and it also has the largest percentage of girl child population enrolling in school, HP leads in the teacher-pupil ratio and spends more than double the amount that Kerala spends on school students. TN, fourth on the list, too, has recorded sizeable improvement. Pondicherry ranks No. 4 among smaller states, Sikkim topping the list. Lakshadweep tops the Union Territories.

On the health front, TN's performance is impressive – it is ranked third under the 'primary health' index (infant mortality rate, percentage of

● **India Today's third annual ranking of India's best and worst states places Tamil Nadu high on law and order, primary health and education, agriculture and literacy, but gives it poor marks for infrastructure, investment, water sanitation, poverty reduction and as a consumer market.**

Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Chattisgarh and Tamil Nadu, in that order – generate about 40 per cent of the country's GDP. While Tamil Nadu tops in the 'best protector' index, the State is only the eighth best facilitator and 16th best regulator. In Tamil Nadu, government services and revenue expenditure constitute a small part of the state GDP, a positive factor for economic freedom.

Economic freedom is higher if justice is served effectively and without delay, the study points out. The completion rate of trials by courts is high in TN, the second best state against the index 'law and order' (policemen per lakh population, ratio of pending cases to total court cases, incidence of murder, kidnapping and rape or molestation); Kerala tops in this regard while Rajasthan comes third. Pondicherry is first among smaller states, and Lakshadweep first among Union Territories. Gujarat, AP and Maharashtra are India's least corrupt states; J&K and Bihar the most corrupt.

In primary education (lit-

assisted births, of households with tap water, number of doctors, sex ratio, state expenditure on health and family welfare). Though it trails Kerala and Karnataka on infant mortality (Kerala is the only State with infant mortality in single digit per thousand children) and sex ratio, 62 per cent of families in TN have access to tap water and there are 111 doctors per lakh of population, lower only than Punjab and Karnataka.

Gujarat continues to be one of the best states for business. It recorded the highest rate of economic growth in the 1990s – 7.8 per cent a year – and is the fifth largest contributor to India's GDP. The state tops the charts in investment (percentage of GDP spent on administration, capital expenditure, per capita bank credit, industrial disputes, percentage of sick small-scale units, gross capital formation, industrial workers in the 15 – 59 population), followed by Chattisgarh and Punjab. Surprisingly, TN comes in at No. 9, with Karnataka ahead in sixth spot. Pondicherry ranks

Relief for the urban burden

Chennai, one of seven mega cities (Delhi, Greater Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kolkata and Hyderabad are the others), 29 cities with million plus population and 24 other cities with less than one million population are to be upgraded over the next five years. The Centre is committing Rs.50,000 crore over this period to improve and modernise the infrastructure in these urban centres.

The Centre claims urban India is bursting at the seams and, unless a massive effort is launched soon, India's quest to join the developed world in the next two decades would remain unfulfilled. Subsequently, the Planning Commission, which acts as the secretariat for the Prime Minister's Committee on Infrastructure, fleshed out the plan.

The blueprint for developing urban India has taken the shape of a National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM), which is expected to be unveiled soon, possibly in the coming Budget.

The initiative is estimated to cost approximately Rs.1,26,786 crore over the next five years and will see the involvement of the Centre, the States' Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and financial institutions. (Courtesy: *The Public Newscence*, journal of the Citizens Consumers and Civic Action Group)

No. 6 among the smaller states (Sikkim takes first place), while Chandigarh is still the best among Union Territories.

As far as infrastructure (percentage of households with electricity and LPG, villages connected with pucca road, per capita road length, per capita bank branches, density of post offices) is concerned, the southern states do not fare well. Tamil Nadu ranks No. 9, with Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh immediately following. Kerala ranks No. 6. The first three are Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra. Pondicherry is third among the smaller states with Delhi leading. Chandigarh has really no competition from any other Union Territory. However, the heartening fact is that all the States in India are improving in infrastructure.

Punjab, HP, Haryana and Kerala are the four leading consumer markets (percentage of households owning TVs, rural households spending over Rs.615 per person a month, urban households spending over Rs.1,120 per person a month, per capita bank deposits and two-wheeler population) in India. TN is the sixth largest, after Maharashtra and Gujarat. Pondicherry comes third among smaller states. Chandigarh is first among union territories.

In agriculture (percentage area under cash crops, state agriculture GDP divided by rural population, per capita power consumption in rural areas, loans to agriculture sector, foodgrain productivity, percentage of sown area irrigated), TN ranks No. 3, way behind Punjab and Haryana. Pondicherry is first among the small states, and Chandigarh among the Union Territories.

On budget and prosperity

(percentage of urban population and population above the poverty line, per capita capital expenditure, inflation rate, per capita state GDP and public debt, sales of state electricity board), TN is placed fifth, behind Punjab, HP, Haryana and Gujarat. Delhi tops the smaller states, followed by Goa and Pondicherry. Among Union Territories, Chandigarh is far and away the leader.

A new introduction in this year's study is the Bang for Buck Index that tracks States' performances in the 1990s on primary education and health-care, and provision of water supply and sanitation. The index is the ratio between the improvement in the performance and the increase in the expenditure on these parameters in the 1990s. This index ranks TN No. 6, behind Orissa, HP, AP, Rajasthan and Karnataka. Although TN scores high under the 'healthiest state' parameter, it comes in at a low No. 12 under the 'best in water sanitation' parameter, with Punjab first. The 'poverty reduction' index places TN at No. 10 spot, with Kerala and Karnataka ahead. J&K is the surprise leader here.

This year's study includes the human face of reforms – how far the States have been able to reduce poverty and whether money is being spent properly and whether outlays on public spending are matching outcomes. Writing a guest column in the same issue, Jairam Ramesh, economist, says that more money alone cannot give reforms a human face, only more efficient spending can. He recommends the marriage of Kerala-style welfare with Gujarat-style growth to ensure better outcomes. And, he adds that since the days of Kamaraj, Tamil Nadu has come close to approximating this ideal.

India Today has obviously considers Pondicherry as a smaller state, though it is a Union Territory.



Most endangered species

As a Chennaiite and a senior citizen, who has experienced living in India and abroad, I am really concerned about the plight of pedestrians on Chennai roads. I fondly recall the days when you could walk safely and enjoy doing so on our roads with their broad, tree-lined pavements. Slowly, since the 1970s, the roads have been broadened to make way for automobiles and other public transport vehicles. This meant felling of trees and removal of pavements. The pavements that survived this onslaught were, and are being, taken over by roadside gods, petty traders, workshops etc. Now, we find that an apology for a pavement is provided as per our traffic management system, which seems to be out of this world. Even these are encroached upon and are not usable.

So, you have to walk at your own risk almost in the middle of the road – literally at the mercy of speeding vehicles – risking your life. The zebra-crossings, where found, are not respected by the vehicle drivers. Besides, the traffic control system has little regard for the safety of the pedestrians who wish to cross the roads. Only in Chennai I find that the signals are different – vehicles are not allowed to proceed straight on both sides of the roads but straight on the left side with right turns – which make it impossible for pedestrians to cross the roads safely and freely. This is really confusing and adds to the indiscipline on the part of the vehicle drivers.

Unfortunately, the Walkers' Associations are marginalised and restricted to the beach-front. Why can't the residents of the streets who have to walk and carry on their normal activities take up the matter instead of being silent spectators and victims? Also,

the authorities could make designated areas, on specific days, vehicle-free zones.

I earnestly appeal to the authorities and all road-users to respect and ensure the rights and safety of pedestrians. This has become an urgent need in view of the explosive growth of vehicle population and the pressure on the infrastructure due to the concrete jungles that are sprouting everywhere, even in residential zones, in open defiance of regulations, parking, FSI, setback, commercial and residential areas *et al.*

Let us act before Chennai becomes a nightmare for all.

Srinivasan Pattoo

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Now, crow menace

The crow population seems to be on the rise. Its most obvious impact is the steep fall in the number of small birds, like sparrows. The crows are highly predatory and eat the eggs and young ones of the smaller birds.

People whose houses have trees within or very near their compounds face a danger from attacks by crows when they build nests on such trees during their breeding season. The residents are struck on their heads, sometimes causing even a deep wound. In their mistaken zeal to protect their nests, the crows turn very aggressive.

Here is a tip to avert such a situation. As soon as a crow starts bringing in dry twigs etc. to build a nest with, a piece of black cloth about one foot square must be placed at or near the spot in the tree. The cloth piece must be well tucked into a depression or crevice so that the wind does not blow it away. The crows get scared by what is taken to be an enemy apparition or a dead crow. They leave the tree at once.

A. Vanajakshi

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Desalination or not?

Our President's preference seems to be for desalinating seawater to obtain potable water for mass consumption.

The tide over the immediate chronic shortage of potable water in Tamil Nadu, no doubt desalination of seawater might be the only solution. But, then, just desalinating and then distributing the resultant salt-free but not heavy chemicals-free water is only addressing part of the problem. The existence of heavy chemicals in water might not be taken cognisance of, but these chemicals can create serious and, at times, catastrophic medical problems later for the population.

For several years now, we

have been making copious use of our groundwater resources and consequently the water table has descended to unprecedented low levels. From these levels, the water that is pumped out carries with it several chemicals such as fluoride (which weakens our bones) in Tamil Nadu, cadmium (which is carcinogenic) in Tamil Nadu and other states and even arsenic (present in a few districts in Bihar, West Bengal and Bangladesh) which is highly toxic.

The commonly available process for desalination is reverse osmotic, which is costly and cannot also remove these chemicals. The multi-stage flash process using nuclear energy, as reported in the newspapers, adopted in the demonstration plant at Kalpakkam might or might not be useful in removing these heavy chemicals. But then an enormous amount of energy will be expended in this process, which we can ill-afford.

In this context, the Tamil Nadu Government seems to favour setting up smaller desalination plants along the Tamil Nadu coast using the Kalpakkam experience.

It would be immensely beneficial to the people and their health if, instead of considering only desalination, we think in terms of distillation by which all impurities and chemicals including salts are removed. And distillation of seawater is almost astonishingly cheaper than reverse osmosis and perhaps than the multi-stage flash process too.

D.V. Rajan

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Losing Tamil Nadu

It is regrettable that in the National championship of three major games this season, the much-reputed Tamil Nadu teams let down their fans who had high hopes in them.

Runners up to Bombay in the last two Ranji trophy tournaments, the Tamil Nadu team was expected to do better this year, but the team could not even reach the semifinal stage.

In the Basketball and Volleyball championships in which our teams have long been formidable and were considered champions for several years, we lost in both the men's and women's events.

All these defeats were due to a lack of stamina and motivation during crucial moment in key matches.

May we hope that our players will get over such tendencies and rise to the occasion in the future?

M.R. Pillai

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Musings on the benevolence of powercuts

Meter reader from the MES came. I was pleasantly surprised to see a reduced power bill. It suddenly dawned on me that there had unusually been severest powercuts during May/June and this would have accounted for the reduced power bill. It then struck me that there, after all, seems to be a positive aspect to these powercuts: not only in terms of reduced power bills but in various other ways too.

First and foremost, your TV does not work. Consider the benefits. Less wear and tear of the TV, you can talk to your wife and children and freely exchange your thoughts. How long it has been since we socialised! Besides, you could visit friends and relations. But they should also have powercuts at those times so that they would talk to you without taking you to be a hindrance and spoilsport.

Then, you cannot operate your washing machine. So there is physical exercise for you in handwashing your clothes. Of course, the family may not relish manual grinding in the absence of the mixie and grinder. Then there is always the possibility of resorting to cooking without any of those messy batters and other ingredients that require to be ground. This may prove to be a blessing in disguise. Not only you are introduced to new varieties of foods, but they may also turn out to be more tasty, healthy and digestible. Instead of fridge-cooled water, you could revert to the good old mudpot and *sasaparilla* soaked water which is quite refreshing and will not give you a cold.

Since using *palmyra* fan might make you lose a good night's sleep, you could sleep on the open terrace. Consider the benefits of such exposure to nature. You would get fresh air. Also outdoor sleeping might help in restoring health lost due to being confined to a bedroom.

How long is it since you have had a look at the sky? Well, not in the near past. Now you can enjoy and study the sky, recalling your childhood days when you could freely observe it. As somebody said, "What is the use if you cannot stand and stare?" Now is the opportunity for you to teach your children astronomy. After all, they won't be busy studying or watching TV.

Remember those lovely days when we had moonlight dinners, lovingly served by our grandmothers. They used to tell stories while feeding us curdrice till we had more than our fill. Our children, who were denied this simple pleasure, will now be able to enjoy it.

You cannot operate your motor for the water. So, necessarily, you have to use the hand pump. Ah, now you are at last exercising! Imagine the untold benefits of coldwater baths, as you cannot use your geyser. All along you did not dare to take a coldwater bath. Now, perforce you take one and discover it has health-giving benefits.

So, friends, hereafter whenever you suffer from frequent powercuts, please do not fret and fume, but count your blessings as I've just enumerated.

T.M. Sundararaman

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READABILITY PLEASE

Dear Readers,

As letters from readers increase, we are receiving more and more **handwritten** letters, many of them in a hand so small and illegible or large and scrawled as to be unreadable. Often this leads to our discarding a letter, particularly if some part of it is unreadable.

If you wish us to consider your letter for publication, please type it with enough space between lines or write it using a medium hand, clearly dotting the 'i-s' and crossing the 't-s'.

Many readers also try to fill every square centimetre of a postcard space, making reading or editing impossible.

Please help us to consider your letters more favourably by making them more legible for us.

THE EDITOR

OUR ADDRESSES...

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No personal visits or telephone calls, please. Letters received will be sent from these addresses every couple of days to the persons concerned and you will get an answer from them to your queries reasonably quickly. Strange as it may seem, if you adopt the 'snail mail' approach, we will be able to help you faster and disappoint you less.

THE EDITOR

The engines that fire the NMR

(Continued from last fortnight)

Hugh C. Hughes has a special interest in steam locomotives and he has covered all the locomotives that ever steamed on Indian soil in one or the other of his books. In November 1967, in his article, *Ascent to Ooty* in *The Railway Magazine* he wrote:

The first engines to work on the Nilgiri Railway were small 2-4-0T Beyer Peacock ones with 4 cylinders – 2 normal and 2 working cogwheels... These were not really powerful enough and the maximum load had to be limited to 45 tons. Moreover, even when arrangements were made to carry extra fuel and water (which brought the weight over the stipulated maximum), the engines had to refuel halfway up the incline to Coonoor and arrived at each station with the water tanks almost empty...

In the early 1900s, the larger class "S" appeared, followed in 1910 by the "P" Class with eight coupled wheels, the maximum load being increased to 65 and 70 tons respectively for these two types.

Meanwhile, for working the extension to Ootacamund, four second-hand Fairlie locomotives were obtained from the North Western Railway. Part of a batch built in 1880 for a line on the North West Frontier which was not in fact constructed, had been used briefly on a later frontier line in 1886-87 and had then laid idle for 20 years before turning up in South India. They could barely

● by R.R. Bhandari

(excerpted from his book *Southern Railway – A Saga of 150 glorious years 1852-2003*, Courtesy: Southern Railway).

manage to cope with the traffic and, after proposals to electrify the entire Nilgiri line had been turned down because of the cost, it was decided to use rack locomotives over the whole route from Mettupalayam to Ootacamund, working them as ordinary adhesion engines above Coonoor.

In 1913, orders were placed with the Swiss Locomotive and Machine Works, Winterthur (SLM), for a new series of en-

gines to be known as Class "X". These 48-ton locomotives were superheated and were built to metric dimensions... One of the first batch (X-1) had the misfortune to be waiting for shipment at Hamburg in 1914 when the war broke out and it was not put into service in India until 1920. The class was highly successful, and the 1952 series differed from the earlier engines only in minor details; the maximum load for this type is 100 tons.

The locomotives are painted in an attractive shade of blue, lined out in yellow, with the divisional emblem on the side tanks; some of them have additional embellishments, including appropriate names such as Mountain Jewel (37392) and Hercules (37395) on rectangular plates attached to the hand-rail above the tanks.

In June 2003, the Nilgiri Railway had five working locomotives, two locomotives were at Golden Rock Workshops and one locomotive was preserved at Coonoor. The oldest work-horse is 37384 of 1914 vintage. Two diesel locomotives YDM-4 Nos. 6153 and 6481 work trains



September 16: *Paperdoll*, choreographed and presented by Padmini Chettur and troupe. Dancer: Krishna Devanandan, Preethi Athreya, Andrea Jacob, Anoushka Kurien and Padmini Chettur.

Padmini is a dancer and choreographer who has developed classical Bharata Natyam into a reduced contemporary style with fresh potential. She has worked intensively with German choreographers such as Sasha Waltz and Joachim Schloemer and with renowned European artistes. *Paperdoll* premiered in Europe in spring 2005 and was presented in festivals with great success. (Venue: To be announced) For



information contact 2833 1314/2343

September 17: *Rasa and Gefuhle* (Concert and Demonstration) by Nina Menezes. The programme attempts to juxtapose Western music with Indian aesthetics. The Western music repertoire chosen is vast, encompassing compositions from 16th Century Baroque to the 20th Century modern composers, from genres of oratorio arias, Opera arias, Lied and the Art Song (at the Max Mueller Bhavan at 6.00 p.m.).

between Coonoor and Udagamandalam.

In spite of the elaborate braking system adopted on the Nilgiri Railway, a serious accident took place on February 21, 1982, when a coal special rolled back killing 8 persons including 6 railway men. Following this, the train services were abandoned for almost seven months and every aspect of working was thoroughly examined by a committee of senior officers. Years of neglect was the cause of the accident.

The neglect was made good in the six months after the ghastly accident of February 1982. 150 gangmen, 15 mates

and 3 inspectors renovated the complete infrastructure. The locomotives were also thoroughly attended to. Now, only locomotives of 1952 make are allowed to work on the rack portion, as they are more adaptable.

The Nilgiri Railway, however, has had a difficult time for several years now with the aged steam locomotives.

The existing eight locomotives are over 50 years old. The Railway Board wanted to replace these locomotives with imported ones. M/s Swiss Locomotive Works quoted about Rs. 30 crore for each with an oil fired combustion system. This loco was steam-driven, using light diesel oil. On cost considerations, this tender was dropped. Southern Railway was then asked to convert the existing locomotives into oil-fired ones. A project was started in 2000 to convert one of the existing locomotives from the coal firing combustion system into an oil firing combustion system.

The heritage value of the steam locomotive was retained while the whole locomotive was modernised with the latest technology. X-37395 now regularly works trains on the Mettupalayam-Coonoor section. The innovation on this locomotive was adjudged the best for 2002-03 and won an award of Rs.3 lakh from the Railway Board.

Electrification of the Nilgiri Railway was announced in 1999, but the economics and the heritage aspect caused concern. Should the steam locomotives continue or the new diesel or electric locomotives replace them?

What we gain in terms of speed can easily be offset by the loss of the charm of steam black beauties. Will electrification affect the ecology? Will elephants frequenting NMR track have safe passage under electric traction? Will the electric traction be able to gear up with constant landslides? The Heritage Committee set up by

A WEEK DISCOVERING MADRAS

(Continued from Page 1)

Mutt, Foreshore Estate Beach and the San Thomé Basilica. At the end of the trip, each of the students was given a printed drawing of Luz Church. Reciprocally, 70 students from Sivaswami Kalayalaya, Mylapore, were absolutely delighted to see dozens of boats bobbing on the coastline and a war-time bunker on the coast road in North Chennai during their visits to Fort St George, the High Court, Armenian Church, buildings in the Esplanade, George Town and Royapuram.

The CP Art Centre organised a week-long exhibition of 'Old Maps and Photographs' of the city at its 200-year-old Vennirul Art Gallery. On display were some fascinating pictures in sketch and photographic print format. A purchase of a stone inscription stating that the name 'Madras' originated from the Portuguese Madra (Madeiros) family, was particularly a noteworthy part of the collection.

V.R. Devika's Aseema Trust and the Chennai Museum teamed to set up an innovative programme for students. During the four-day workshop, which included several interactive sessions, the children came

to learn about the treasures stored in the museum. The programme was inaugurated by the Director of Museums, M.A. Siddique, and officials from various departments – zoology, archaeology, numismatics, design and display, botany, children's museum, art, anthropology, education and geology – took active part in the proceedings.

The INODA Autodrivers' Association, which supervises about 30 auto-rickshaw stands in Chennai, volunteered support for Madras Day. Each of its drivers greeted customers by presenting them a questionnaire relating to Madras. Those who answered the questions correctly were eligible for prizes. More prizes were offered for the 'Madras – Old and New' photography contest conducted by the Srinivasa Young Men's Association, Triplicane.

At the renovate's Clive Hall in Fort St. George, Hemanth Chopra, D.H. Rao, president of the Madras Coin Society, and M.V. Sharma transported visitors in time through pictures and coins (minted in the three British Presidencies and by Aurangzeb, as well as cancellations from over 300 years and four volumes of the history of Madras) they had painstakingly displayed. Sadly, the atten-

dance here was poor. One of the reasons for this could have been the venue itself – Fort St. George, considered by many to be out-of-bounds. Another disappointed group was the tourist guides who wanted to pitch in with their bit for Madras Week. The Madras Approved Tour Guides Association, which has 120 guides in Chennai, had deputed some of its members to offer free guided tours of the Fort Museum, an important tourist spot in Chennai. Despite the organisers' efforts to publicise the tours, public response was poor.

Randor Guy, V. Sriram, K.R.A. Narasiah and S. Muthiah spoke at several clubs and service organisations during the week on different aspects of Madras history and were listened to by large, appreciative audiences, well over 100 in some places, and chef Praveen Anand of the Park Sheraton organised a food festival based on a 100-year-old Madras recipe book.

The final day (August 28th) of the celebrations commenced with three heritage walks – Suresh of INTACH leading a group of nearly 50 through Fort St. George, V Sriram leading another group of around 25 to explore the lanes and bylanes of George Town, and members of

the Madras Naturalists' Society accompanying about 20 nature lovers to the Pallikaranai Marsh and Nanmangalam scrub jungle. In the evening, at P.S. High School, there was an English quiz, following photographer D. Krishnan presenting 'Madras – its past and its present' in photographs. The curtain was brought down on this year's Madras Week by Revathy Sankaran and S. Amarnath who, through song, narration and performances by children attached to the Sr Sumukhi Rajasekharan Foundation, presented *Madras Nalla Madras* and enthralled the audience with the life and times of Madras.

Altogether, it was a memorable week, the media provided wide coverage to all the events – and more – during the week. While *Radio Mirchi* was a sponsor and disseminated information about Madras Day, All India Radio's FM channel devoted August 22nd to special programmes on Madras – on important landmarks, a compilation of film songs on Madras, on veteran music, theatre, film artistes and writers recalling the arts that flourished in the city, on well-known educational institutions and places associated with religious importance – and a quiz programme.

(Continued on Page 7)

Keeping Jazz alive



Frank Dubier

For some years now, Jazz has found increasing acceptance among Chennai audiences. Once confined to 5-star hotels and exclusive clubs, this vibrant music has built up a considerable fan-following in the city over the last 20 years. Responsible for this to a great extent has been Frank Dubier.

Madras-born Dubier's earliest childhood memories are learning to play the drums when he was seven! His mother Beatrice was a well-known violinist and pianist; thanks to her, Frank was able to master the violin at a remarkably young age. By his early teens, Frank was inducted into the Madras Governor's Band, where he got a firm grounding in music. It was there that he picked up his love for wind instruments, such as the trumpet, clarinet, saxophone and flute. His first love though, is the trumpet – an in-

strument that he is identified with.

Frank has moved around. He has led bands and worked with India's jazz greats, such as Pam Crain, Louis Banks and Braz Gonsalves. HE has done stints in Calcutta, Delhi and Bangalore. Frank's years in Delhi also saw him as the main flute player for the Delhi Symphony Orchestra. It was during this period that he got to interact and jam in with international jazz greats like Duke Ellington, Cat Anderson, Rolf Erickson, Miles Davis, Buddy Rich and Herbie Hancock.

Frank also made a name for himself on jazz circuits in Australia, UK and the US, during his many sojourns abroad.

Frank has played a major role in keeping the jazz music scene alive in Chennai with the Frank Dubier Jazz Ensemble. Founded in the early 1980s,

Frank has been the moving force of the band, taking on the challenging tasks of composer, arranger, conductor and soloist.

The Frank Dubier Jazz Ensemble comprises Frank – Trumpet, Saxophone, Alto Horn & Flute; Thomas – First Trumpet; Benny – Second Trumpet; Maxwell – Trombone; Creswell – Keyboards; Patrick – Lead Guitar; Raymond – Bass Guitar; Austin – Drums; and Mike – Special Guest Drummer from Bangalore.

– A Special Correspondent

THE CAREGIVERS

(Continued from page 4)

while this could work amongst an educated, perhaps Net-savvy, social group, it is hard to see how this could become the norm.

Do Caregivers experience a change in their own personalities in time? "Totally," is the emphatic answer. "You have to face even 'big' doctors, whom the smaller fry in the hospital are scared to talk to." 'Capacity-building' is something every Caregiver needs to develop. Recognise the onset of a problem, know what questions to ask, even when to say 'No'. Are you being given all the atten-

tion and information you require? Professional support systems, the fringes of the medicine world, must take in factors like childcare and daily cooking. Some even speak of 'community medicine', with efficient, reliable time-share centres, that help give "everybody a break".

Well, if the picture is not rosy, nor is it all gloom and doom. "There are many people who do so much good work." Many praise those doctors who develop such an affectionate sense of caring for their patients, often becoming so "concerned, they refuse to take any money."

At times, help and better advice have, in fact, come from junior staff.

Doctors can perhaps be replaced by other doctors in emergencies... but a Caregiver cannot be. The knowledge of the Caregiver in the context of the patient is very crucial, and much wider than that of the medical teams involved. Perhaps, if the medical professionals and the Caregivers were to see themselves as on the same team, that would help create a far more comprehensive healthcare system, providing help and care at various levels within the situation.

The engines that fire the NMR

(Continued from page 6)

the Railway Board was firmly against electrification and favoured oil-fired locomotives as a long-term perspective.

SLM, the pioneers of locomotive builders for the rack-rail system, made a comparative study of steam and diesel tractions. Their conclusion: steam is a superior traction to diesel and electric traction.

When speaking of a railway with tourist function, the attraction of steam must not be forgotten: it is capable of attracting additional passengers. Rail enthusiasts favour steam traction (with oil firing for easy operation). Some believe that Indian Railways has the capacity and capability to design and build its own locomotives for the Nilgiri Railway at a cost comparable to the foreign offers. May be, one of the old workshops could take it as a challenge and confirm our faith in Swadeshi (Indian) system.

In the Centenary year 1999-2000 'Heritage Steam Chariot', an organisation of steam enthusiasts, organised a celebration in Udagamandalam.

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway entered the 'World Heritage List' in December '99, the first mountain railway in Asia conferred with this prestigious status.

Taking a cue from this, the Southern Railway, through the Ministry of Railways, has made an application for inclusion of the Nilgiri Railway in the World Heritage List. The application pointed out:

- i) The Nilgiri Mountain Railway is one of the oldest and, with steepest rack and pinion technology, has successfully been operated for more than 100 years.
- ii) Most of the station buildings were built during 1897 to 1899 and are maintained with the same glorious look.
- iii) The Nilgiri Railway is a

cultural diaspora, bringing together the English rulers and the local tribes – Todas, Irulas, etc. – inhabiting the mountains for thousands of years. The introduction of the railway system brought out overall development of the region.

iv) The Nilgiri Mountain Railway has preserved the heritage of the original people, culture, structure and the organisation, though it introduced the technological advancements of the 19th Century.

v) The Southern Railway, in turn the Indian Railways, the owners of the Nilgiri Railway, are willing to maintain the Nilgiri Railway in its original style.

EDITOR'S NOTE : That application has proved successful. Now it is time to bring the NMR back to its original glory and work out plans to make it a tourist success.

(Concluded)

Subscriptions and contributions

● As readers are already aware — and hundreds have responded positively — we have no other alternative but to price *Madras Musings*. From April 16th (Volume XIV, No.1), *Madras Musings* has been priced at Rs.5 a copy, ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: Rs.100/-. Please make out your cheque only to 'Chennai Heritage' and send it, together with the COUPON BELOW, to CHENNAI HERITAGE, 260-A, TTK ROAD, CHENNAI 600 018 or C/O LOKAVANI-HALL MARK PRESS PVT. LTD., 122, GREAMES ROAD, CHENNAI 600 006.

An ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION of just Rs.100 covers only a part of our costs. Corporate support and YOUR support will continue to be essential for Chennai Heritage and *Madras Musings* to play a greater role in creating awareness about the city, its heritage and its environment. We therefore look forward to your sending us your contributions IN ADDITION TO your subscriptions.

If in the coming year Chennai Heritage receives repeated support from those of you who have already made contributions, and if many more supporters join the bandwagon, we will not only be able to keep *Madras Musings* going, but also be able to continue awareness-building exercises on on-going projects as well as undertake one or two more such exercises.

Therefore, please keep your contributions coming IN ADDITION TO YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS. If, say, you send in a cheque for Rs.500, we will treat Rs.100 of it towards subscription to *Madras Musings* for 2004-5 and the remaining Rs.400 as contribution towards the causes Chennai Heritage espouses.

We look forward to all readers of *Madras Musings*, and those newcomers who want to receive copies, sending in their subscriptions. We are indeed sorry we can no longer remain a free mailer.

— The Editor

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Senate House Conservation Fund

● The Senate House Restoration and Management Trust appeals to all alumni of the University of Madras and heritage lovers everywhere to contribute to the Senate House Conservation Fund which the Trust is managing for the purpose of restoring *Senate House* to its old glory by December 2005 and maintaining it thereafter in the same condition. Cheques should be made out to the Senate House Conservation Account and sent to the Registrar, University of Madras, Chennai 600 005. Contributions are eligible for benefits under Section 80-G of the Income Tax Act.

Dear Registrar,

I am pleased to enclose a cheque for Rs. as my contribution to the restoration and maintenance of *Senate House*. Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Name:

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I am an alumnus/alumna/heritage lover and wish the project all success. My college was

Date: Signature:

A guide to professionally managing sport

Recent years have seen the reemergence of modern management techniques in sport and the results have been as encouraging, if not more, as they have been in the corporate sector. In the foreword to A.J. de Souza's just-released *Handbook of Professional Management*, Daljit Singh, CEO-Operations, Fortis Healthcare Limited and once a passionate athlete himself who won medals at the Nationals and inter-university meets in the 1960s/70s, writes that a nation's prowess in sport is connected to its state of development. With governments finding it increasingly difficult to provide and sustain subsidies to further the cause of sport, there is need for massive investment from other sources, mainly business houses. With this need has also grown the quest for increased efficiency and optimal results. Needless to add, sport in India has become much more professional and sports associations are seeking the help of management consultants and marketing professionals to succeed. de Souza's book is, thus, very timely. But more than that, it is the range of subjects he covers that captures the sports enthusiasts' interest.

Stressing that for a sport to become more professional, it must be able to attract attendance and a large television audience, de Souza dwells on profitability in sport, management and administration, roles of realistic managers, ethic and conduct codes, behavioural audit, sportsmanship and fairplay, time and space management, human resources, coaching, of-

ficiating, medicare and drug control, potential sponsors, volunteers and public relations.

Stating that an office that is neat, clean and manned by efficient staff is an assurance that serious business is being transacted, de Souza gets down to the nitty-gritty, mentioning how exactly a sports association's office should be equipped. They must also employ and train staff to read and write correspondence, minutes, business letters and reports, he points out.

Published by DBAC Sport Envisions, Anna Nagar East, *Handbook of Professional Sport Management* is written in simple language and has an easy-going, informal style that you don't generally associate with such books. The reading pleasure is enhanced by the attractive illustrations by de Souza himself.

de Souza, popularly known as AJ, worked for many years for ICI as a senior executive, marketing explosives. He has been associated with athletics for nearly five decades. With Father McFerran and Ken O. Bosen, he founded the Don Bosco Athletic Club and for more than 35 years trained many boys and girls to become national champions. Although he took up coaching as a hobby, he excelled in it and contributed towards track and field literature, writing for newspapers and magazines. The development of an ethos in sport has always been a passion for him. It is reflected in this book, which Daljit Singh quite rightly calls "a true labour of love".

Another publication this year from DBAC Sport Envisions is de Souza's *Romancing the Decathlon*. The second editions of *Track Geography & Field Sites* and *Total Fitness for High Performance Sports* (V.R. Bedu co-authors the book with de Souza) are other DBAC publications in 2005.

Romancing the Decathlon is possibly inspired by *The Man of Bronze*, a film based on Jim Thorpe that de Souza saw as a 12-year-old. Focussing mainly on the decathlon, but also taking a look at the heptathlon and pentathlon (which comprises a

● by
SASHI NAIR

good mix of explosive and endurance qualities as well as technical skills), the book covers the histories of these events, training, competition, and describes the evolution of the scoring tables for all events. In decathlon, for instance, from Jim Thorpe, Paavo Yrjola and Bob Mathias to Rafer Johnson, Vasily Kuznetsov, Bruce Jenner, Daley Thompson and Dan O'Brien, the performances of the best athletes at the Olympics for a century (1904-2004) are analysed and explained to the reader. There are case studies and 12 pages devoted to what is expected of a top-class announcer.

Track Geography & Field Sites is structured around Ken O'Brien's *Track & Field Markings*, an earlier DBAC publica-

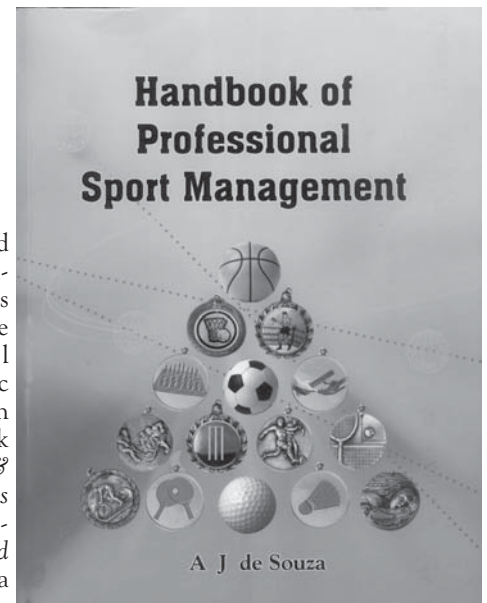
tion, and is based on the rules, explanations and notes contained in the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) handbook and its *Track & Field Facilities Manual*. *Track Geography & Field Sites* is more than a book on various track and field events; it is a complete guide to athletics, for the young trainee, apart from being a handy reference book for organisers, officials, coaches and athletes. The book includes detailed information about what the design and layout of a standard running track should be, track-marking procedures, starting and break lines for different races, setting points for hurdles, layout of steeplechase courses, track furniture, equipment, accessories and aids, field events (long jump, high jump, triple jump, pole vault) and drawing of circles for throws (short put, discus, hammer). Charts, tables and diagrams enrich the text.

Dedicated to former sports journalist, T. Govindarajan, *Total Fitness for High Performance Sports* is a technical book that provides an insight into conditioning for sport, guiding sportspersons on how to develop a balance of the motor qualities needed for every sport, with recommendations to reach fitness peaks. Any game involves more than just playing skill. However, Indian sport realised the importance of fitness and

conditioning only in the 1970s-early 1980s. Cricket is one sport in India that reflects considerable improvement after the advent of conditioning camps. Indeed, lackadaisical preparation breeds insensitivity, poor coordination and indifference to team or personal goals. Fitness, therefore, the authors stress, is the antidote to clay feet, faint hearts, butterfingers and butterflies in the stomach.

Endurance, flexibility, mobility, agility, power, jumping strength and speed are some of the subjects discussed in the book. Stretching, skipping and body-building exercises have been well illustrated. There is even a model health-check chart. Readers will be interested to see a segment-wise (for every 10 m) table showing the explosive power (although later found to be steroid-induced) of Ben Johnson while starting off from the blocks during his unforgettable clash with Carl Lewis in the 1987 World Championship.

Four books for the libraries of every institution in athletics, nay, sport.



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