

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS

MUSINGS

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INSIDE

- Why neglect of North Chennai?
- G.I.S. at CMDA
- City's ecological sites
- End of an era?
- Recalling Marina cricket



Not to worry, Sir, unless you are on a diet. The early birds have already been here.

Burrowing in

It is true that there are many new-fangled diets in vogue these days, suggesting unusual combinations of food groups to ensure that slim, eternally-school-kid look. You can't open a newspaper or magazine without running into column after column filled with the eat-right, weigh-right, feel-right sort of guilt-inducing information. But now... Worms in chocolates?

Now that was a shocker.

What were those guys thinking? And how did our slithery friends manage to get themselves so snugly and firmly ensconced inside bars and bars of chocolate, escaping initial detection?

After that scare, parents began to watch their off-spring in guilty fear, wondering how many of the creepy-crawlies their young ones had feasted on in the recent past.

Oooh — the horror.

Those enterprising worms, of course, must have been a richly happy lot. Having drawn a slightly shortish straw in the evolution stakes, they've grown accustomed, over centuries, to being shuddered at, rejected, destroyed, and being treated, in short, like worms.

And then — came the dawn. Attention, TV coverage, magazine and newspaper articles — talk about an Andy-Warhol moment. All this while being able to dip themselves thoroughly, decadently, in loads of dreamy, yummy chocolate.

While we shunned them, as though we were on diet.

However, there was a flip side, and the unhappy humans in charge of chocolate-bar production were enmeshed in it.

Where were the early birds when you needed them?

Ranjitha Ashok

Jatropha to change T.N.'s agri-face?

(By Sashi Nair)

Jatropha, from whose seed fuel oil can be extracted, is set to change the face of agriculture in the State, if Government's plans for its cultivation are successfully implemented. Tamil Nadu, taking a cue from Rajasthan, intends to encourage the cultivation in a big way of *Jatropha curcas* (Tamil: *Kattu aamanakku*). That the State Government is determined to pursue production of eco-friendly, cost-effective Jatropha fuel is clear from the fact that the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University's Horticulture Development Centre has conducted several workshops on 'cultivation of jatropha'.

This desert shrub's seed yields an oil that has the combustion properties of diesel fuel. Jatropha oil can be burnt directly in diesel pumpsets and diesel engines without refining. Ideally grown in dry wasteland, of which Tamil Nadu has a large acreage, jatropha requires little investment, making it an attractive proposition.

Oil from the jatropha seed can be extracted by crushing it either manually or mechanically. This bio-diesel has low viscosity and is wholly combustible. Thus, compared to conventional diesel, there is no solid waste or particulate matter residue. Also, the energy content of bio-diesel is nearly the same as that of diesel.

While the unrefined oil can be used separately or as a 20 per

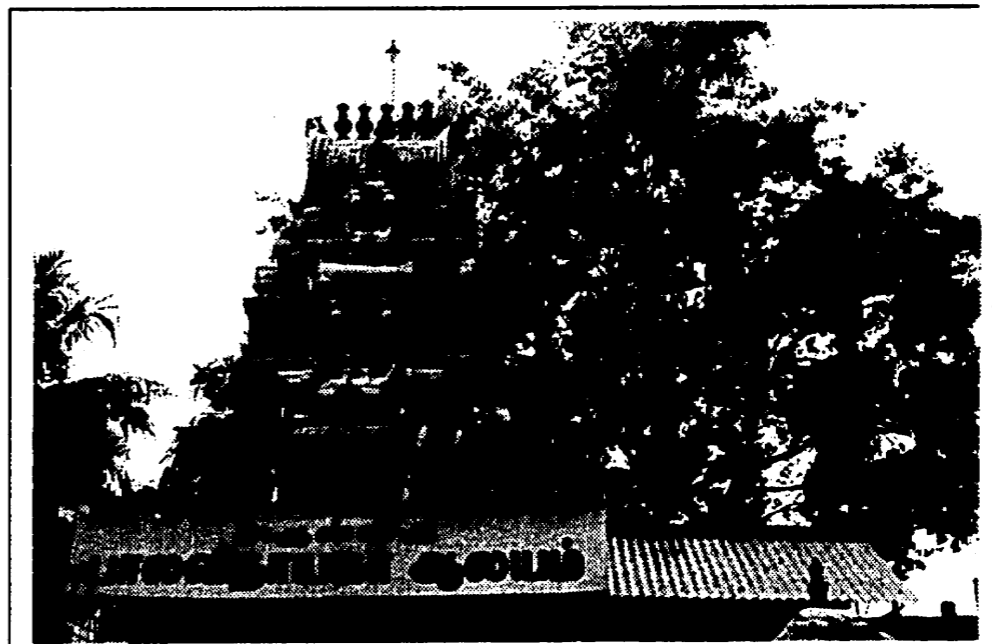
cent mixture in the low-speed diesel engines of tractors, generator sets and pumpsets, the refined oil can be used in the high-speed diesel engines of automobiles. With the country's increasing demand for motor fuels, jatropha is set to become an important commercial crop. In fact, Indian Railways is already using a 20:80 bio-diesel - diesel mix in its locomotives. Indian Oil Corporation has also shown an interest in *jatropha* cultivation, reports suggest.

With its low oxygen content, jatropha emits less smoke while burning and almost no carbon monoxide. It can be mixed with kerosene and used in households too. Jatropha's by-products include glycerol and bio-manure. Glycerin can be used in the manufacture of soaps. Detoxified jatropha oil cake is an ideal cattle feed.

Jatropha can be widely cultivated in Coimbatore, Erode, Salem and Nagercoil Districts. In its first year of cultivation, jatropha requires an investment of about Rs. 12,500 per acre; investment reduces to Rs. 2,500 from the following year onwards. During the first ten years, 3,500 kg per acre can be harvested annually. The yield increases by another 1,000 kg from then for a further 25 years, when the plant's productive period draws to an end.

With a net crop area of 5.5 million hectare available, Tamil

(Continued on Page 6)



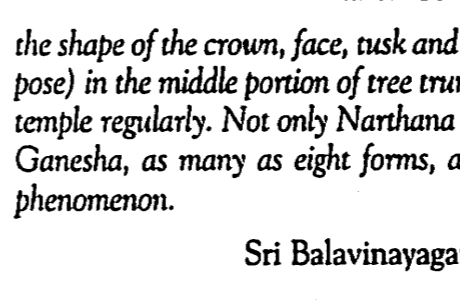
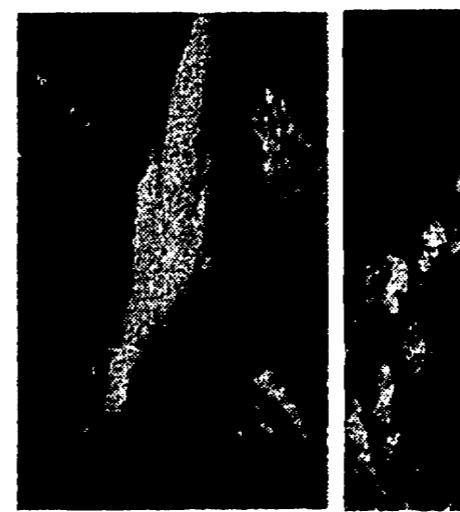
The temple and the tree whose roots are taking various forms of Lord Ganesha. (Photographs: REFLECTIONS.)

Rare phenomenon in temple

• The Sri Balavinayagar Temple in Bharani Colony, Saligramam, Chennai, was consecrated in 1983. A small temple to begin with, it has grown with time through the efforts of the residents of Colony as well as outsiders.

At the southwest end of the temple is the Ashwatha Vriksham (Arasa Maram; Peepul tree). As is the tradition, upanayanam and marriage were performed for the Arasa Maram and a Naga prathistai was done at its base.

Some eight months ago, it was proposed to install 16 Ganapathy (Shodasa Ganapathy), and people readily came forward to contribute towards this. But God's intentions seem to be different. Roots started coming up on the trunks of the peepul tree, which is a rare phenomenon. In about a few weeks, the roots took



the shape of the crown, face, tusk and the trunk of Narthana Ganapathy (dance pose) in the middle portion of tree trunk, to the surprise of devotees who visit the temple regularly. Not only Narthana Ganapathy, but also many other forms of Ganesha, as many as eight forms, are yet coming up. It is truly an amazing phenomenon.

K. Subramanian, President

Sri Balavinayagar Aastheega Samajam, Bharani Colony Saligramam, Chennai 600 093.

Agro-industries in each T.N. block planned

(By A Special Correspondent)

The Tamil Nadu Government intends to establish one or more agro-based industries through the New Anna Marumalarchi Thittam with an investment of at least Rs. 1 crore in each of the 385 blocks in the State.

The scheme will be co-ordinated by the Small Scale In-

dustries Department and the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation, the principal funding agency.

The projects under the scheme will be linked to the wasteland development pro-

gramme, which envisages the corporate sector participating in a big way.

Intended to increase employment opportunities in rural areas the scheme is planning for horticulture processing and manufacture of flower-based extracts and coir-based products to provide neighbouring

outlets for the produce of wasteland development.

A district-level committee headed by the Collectors will facilitate the projects, identify potential projects for promotion, organise for contract farming and link it to the wasteland development programme whenever feasible.

Why the neglect of North Chennai?

A study which *The Man From Madras Musings* considers as being one of considerable significance is to be shortly undertaken by two scholars, one into social studies, the other into architecture, under the aegis of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage-Tamil Nadu Chapter. It will focus on the consequences of Government's determination to develop Chennai as a global city — particularly the impact it will have on large parts of the city which are not seen as the preferred addresses.

The study, MMM understands, will look at the globalisation of Chennai under three broad heads: Aesthetics, Public Space and Uneven Development. All three, judging from a presentation MMM recently heard, include several areas of concern that this journal and your columnist have been pointing out for years.

On the question of aesthetics, there are those glass and steel and concrete monsters coming up in several parts of the city — often at the expense of heritage buildings and more often not only dwarfing heritage buildings but affecting them in the course of construction. As important is that these new towers provide Chennai with an international anonymity that contrasts loudly with the characteristic architectural development of the last 200 years which give the city its character and provided it a great degree of spaciousness and graciousness. Most important of all, this is development without the infrastructure needed for it — and if that infrastructure ever gets provided, it will be at not only an enormous cost but will make it a city too costly for the bulk of its citizens.

The glass towers of today are power and water guzzlers — and the city lacks both. Yet MMM can see these structures getting preference in development plans, at the expense of the majority. The study, MMM hopes, will not just look at aesthetics that are robbing Chennai of its character but will also examine in detail the cost of these 'aesthetics' to the average citizen.

Mega schemes

Public space is already being threatened by mega schemes and unplanned development, much of it at the cost of the citizen. Road widening schemes have been at the cost of both the encroacher — who is seldom provided alternate space — as well as the private owner, who often has had his space taken over without so much as a by your leave. Giant secretariats are being talked of here, there and everywhere and beachside development *à la* Singapore and Miami is mooted, the occasional words of protest unheeded.

With the explosion of traf-

fic threatening the city with gridlock, with pavements being suddenly remembered and returned to the city as nothing more than cosmetic measures, and with scant attention being paid to the majority of road users who are pedestrians and cyclists, how can the existing space be saved for the public to whom it belongs? With no space to widen roads, what are the other solutions? Considerable improvement of interlinked public transport needs examination on the one hand and no further development in the city has to be considered seriously on the other. MMM hopes the study will focus on these areas in its examination of public spaces and not just on the plans to over-run the city with megabuildings.

Goodies to South

Uneven development has been going on from just before Independence but has grown many-fold in the last 25 years. And that is an almost total neglect of North Madras — the area north of Fort St. George where the city first developed — and the concentra-

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

tion on providing all the goodies to South Madras. Why this has been so, MMM does not really know — and perhaps the study will provide the answer — but surely it is time to pay as much attention to the Ennore Highway to the north, where the 'dirty industries' grew, as it is to the East Coast Road and the Old Mahabalipuram Road, homes of the new 'clean' industries? While existing infrastructure in the north is allowed to go to seed, with little or no attention being paid to it, the development of the South, particularly south of the Adyar — not so long ago not even a part of the city — has the authorities falling over themselves to please the new investors and those who have, employment-wise, benefitted from them.

When, MMM wonders, are we ever going to look at neglected North Chennai and consider its citizens as much citizens of this city as those who invest in and live in the city's South? MMM has in recent weeks had the opportunity on several occasions to visit West Mambalam, Avadi-Ambattur, George Town, Royapuram-Tiruvottriyur and Kelly's. And if you live in South Chennai, and think of the city in terms of development there, then the areas MMM has just mentioned above would not even be seen — or even considered — as part of Chennai, so different are they from the city's South. Why has this discrimination continued over the years, even though the vote banks live in North

Chennai and the other areas mentioned? This not only needs to be answered by the study but it needs to also suggest how this situation of uneven development could be remedied.

Secretariat or no?

Just when *The Man From Madras Musings* thought that the plans to build the new Secretariat would go through unchallenged, with the residents of the Kotturpuram area strangely silent (at least, as these lines are written), a group of citizens has decided to seek a stay on these building plans. How the court is going to rule on their plea, MMM does not know, but all grounds the petitioners have cited in their support have been mentioned repeatedly in these columns for months now and in other contexts over the years, with never a satisfactory answer forthcoming. MMM hopes that the courts in dealing with this petition will provide answers and lay down guidelines for future action not only in this case but also for all such mega development plans in the future.

The petitioners have pointed-

edly drawn attention to the fact that any such mega project which would put a strain on local infrastructure should be preceded by — assessments of impact not only on the environment but also on the citizenry; — viability studies, particularly in terms of cost effectiveness; — an assessment of its necessity; and — scrutiny by the public in the context of a properly developed master plan for the city.

In this context it should be pointed out that no master plan of the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority has felt the need for a new Secretariat. MMM wonders how the town planners have suddenly changed their minds on this point.

The petition also draws attention to the fact that all the Government departments concerned did not conduct any prior study on whether the roads, water supply, sanitary arrangements and sewage treatment in the Kotturpuram-Saidapet-Guindy area were adequate to sustain not only such a mega complex but also the thousands of daily visitors to it. In this connection, it might be mentioned that some of these studies have begun *post facto*!

MMM notes that the petitioners have also pointed out that the departments concerned have not carried out studies to assess whether the cost and administrative benefits of the new Secretariat would outweigh the

cost of dislocation of students, disruption of academic life, disturbance to fauna and flora of the Guindy National Park and its spillover, and disarray in the lives of residents, the stakeholders who were not once consulted.

Also queried is whether the State can afford expenditure amounting to the hundreds of crores the project will entail.

MMM was particularly glad to note that amongst the petitioners was C.S. Kuppuraj, a former President of the Alumni Association of the College of Engineering, Guindy, and a former Chief Engineer of the PWD. MMM knows that there is no more loyal alumnus of Guindy Engineering nor anyone prouder of that institution which pioneered engineering studies outside Europe than this very senior citizen. A history of that institution was something he was committed to getting done to demonstrate to its generations of alumni what a proud institution they had belonged to. With his commitment to Guindy Engineering, it is no wonder he has taken the lead in this instance when Johnny-come-latelys have neither sense of heritage or history nor pride in their campus.

The horticultural way

Elsewhere in today's issue, The Editor tells *The Man From Madras Musings*, there is attention drawn to jatropa, a crop which could change the agri-face of Tamil Nadu and the fuel scenario in the country. But even as Government focusses on encouraging this fuel oilseed producing crop, there are numerous other opportunities in horticulture and floriculture that are opening up. But despite the oral commitment to the new openings in agriculture, the kind of progress seen in other States in switching to less water-dependent crops is, MMM is sad to note, lacking in Tamil Nadu.

Gherkins — those small cucumbers ideal for pickles that tickle the American Continental European palates — and the less pungent rose onions, much sought after in Southeast Asia, are not only being assiduously cultivated by thousands of Karnataka and Maharashtra farmers but they have also successfully captured substantial export markets. Roses and carnations and a host of other flowers from the two States are now becoming major players in the export markets. Litchis from the U.P. and exotic vegetables like babycorn, broccoli and snow peas from the Punjab are also capturing export markets. In fact, agricultural scientists and Government see eye to eye on the sky being the limit for horticultural and floriculture exports from India.

To nurture success in these fields, training abroad has been found beneficial. Maharashtra has regularly been sending out farmers to Israel and, on their

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— CHENNAI HERITAGE

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return to Maharashtra, a wide variety of fruit crops have benefitted considerably. Other States are beginning to follow the Maharashtra and Punjab examples in learning from abroad the best ways to cultivate the requirements of countries abroad. And many of those who have benefitted have been non-professional farmers, in fact, professionals from other fields that have seen the money they can harvest from non-conventional agriculture.

It is in this area too that Tamil Nadu lags behind, MMM is inclined to think. Stating it wants to encourage horticulture and floriculture is one thing, demonstrating it on the ground is another. Encouraging business houses and non-professional farmers to enter these fields must be a priority. And this should include getting tea estate owners — many of them in trouble — to begin looking at other crops and not Government sops. Helping the professional farmer to go abroad to study cultivation methods is something else the Government should be doing. And setting up a cold chain should be a priority. In fact, Government should be paying as much if not more attention to diversification in agriculture than it is paying to the hitech and biotech industries. It will find not only exports increasing, but it will also see the dangerous trend of urbanisation decreasing — and, thus reduce its investments.

— MMM

OUR READERS WRITE

A military reason

Time and again many of your readers have written to you suggesting to shift the capital of this State to a location between Thanjavur and Tiruchirappalli, quoting various reasons. Now here is a reason from the military point of view why the capital must be changed for its own safety and survival.

Our neighbour has acquired nuclear power and is trying its hand at various rockets. Tamil Nadu is making rapid progress in all fields. To halt this progress during a war, Chennai would be an easy target for a nuclear attack.

By shifting the capital, the scientists will have more reaction time to divert the attack. The new capital would still function in an uninterrupted manner.

The Tamil Nadu State Government would also be functioning from the centre of the State. Keeping in view the welfare and progress of the entire State, it would be wise to shift the capital.

Wg. Cdr. K.P.A. Narayanan
9A, Ex-Servicemen Enclave
Agaram Then. Road, Selayur
Chennai 600 073

Use for wasteland

The State Government in recent years has shown tremendous urgency to set up an Administrative City. From every place and every quarter there has been some opposition for this project for some reason or other.

The Government has been fiercely advocating development of wastelands. It has also been encouraging various sectors to actively participate in wasteland development projects.

The proposed Administrative City is a wonderful opportunity for the Government itself to develop large wasteland areas and convert them for productive use. It is estimated that Government needs around 2000 acres for its proposed Administrative City. If proper wastelands are identified and developed in an eco-friendly manner with all self-sufficient infrastructure facilities, it will be a model project

A duty to convince the people

The essential feature of a healthy democratic society is that the government should recognise and appreciate the views and sentiments of the common man. If government intends to carry out an act whose merit is doubted by even a section of the common people, it is its bounden duty to explain its stand in a convincing way to the extent possible. If there be a situation where government would be unwilling to recognise the prevalence of an opposite view, then it amounts to the defeat of the philosophy behind a democratic society.

Such a situation appears to have taken place in the case of Government's move to construct a massive Secretariat complex in Kotturpuram in Chennai. There are a number of valid arguments against this decision, which have not been commented upon by the government, which appears to have totally ignored such objections. This amounts to some sort of arbitrary behaviour.

The objections have not come from politicians whom the government can suspect of having political motives. They have come from citizens who have a long-term genuine interest in having ecologically acceptable living conditions.

One of the pleasant and beautiful aspects in Chennai is the large number of deer that live in the Guindy-Kotturpuram area providing a little of "naturalness" to the city. The construction of a massive Secretariat building which would invariably involve the movement of men and materials in a big way in the area, would certainly upset the "naturalness" brought by the beautiful deer. Certainly, driving away the deer would be considered by nature enthusiasts as too big a price to be paid and would certainly upset them. If loud enough protests have not come from such sections, it does not mean that such protests are not there; it only means that the nature enthusiasts are disorganised or are not adequately determined and committed.

for the entire world to see and appreciate.

Vatsala Shanker
'Kylas', 6, Giri Road
T. Nagar, Chennai 600 017

Pay & use parks

The TNHB did a good job in vacating a large tract of land, possibly over a couple of acres, on 4th Avenue in Indira Nagar, Adyar, where businesses, presumably unauthorised, were flourishing for several years. It is now time that the authorities used this space fruitfully. I do not know TNHB's plans, but here are some thoughts.

This piece of land is surrounded by several residential localities and there is no open space anywhere near for people to take a leisurely stroll or for children to play. It would be worthwhile developing a park there on the lines of Joggers' Park in Bandra, Mumbai. This park is kept open only during specified hours, say 5 am to 10 am and 3 pm to 9 pm. There are separate tracks for walking and jogging. There are places for children to play and for the elderly to sit and relax. No pets are allowed inside; nor radios and

establishes. No hawkers inside or near the entrance. All users pay. It used to be Re.1 for adults and 50 paise for children. The collection goes towards the upkeep of the park.

I think we can follow this model for the vacant land in 4th Avenue, Indira Nagar. If the right kind of trees and plants are chosen, this park can become an attraction in the neighbourhood. Rainwater harvesting can also be done here to augment the groundwater in the area.

At present, buffaloes graze there, people use it as an open toilet and rainwater pools attract breeding mosquitoes.

If we can think of "Pay and Use Toilets", why not "Pay and Use Parks"?

P. Narayanan

3, Indira Apartments
8, Fourth Avenue, Indira Nagar,
Adyar, Chennai 600 020

The gentleman Scout

Randor Guy's 'In Memoriam' on 'The gentleman barrister' Govind Swaminadhan (as he spelt his name) was replete with delightful anecdotal snippets of this 'leg-

endary legal luminary'. May I add yet another aspect of this multifaceted personality? He had a deep interest in the Scout movement, then hailed as the greatest youth movement of the 20th Century. He strongly believed in bringing up the young to develop an attitude of service to the community even while they enjoyed the simple pleasures of camping and outdoor life and living in harmony with everyone else.

When Madras was flooded due to torrential rains and thousands were stranded without food or shelter, he led his Scouts in a mission of relief by raising free supplies of milk and transport. During the heavy influx of refugees from Burma, he was active in their relief work for which he utilised the services of his Scouts.

He often made it a point to spend time with the young in their camping activities. In a central 'jamboree' in the camping grounds in Perungudi, then abounding with huge open spaces, greenery and vast stretches of water, he brought the then Governor of Madras, Sir Archibald Nye, with his wife to spend a night under the tents with the campers and do the mandatory 'bit inspection' of the entire campsite in the morning. We have to hand it to the British. They have a genuine interest in such things.

Facilities for swimming were hard to come by in those days, but he got his Scouts and Guides the opportunity at nominal cost when a new swimming pool came up in the YMCA College of Physical Education. He would enthusiastically arrange cricket matches for his Scout teams to play against British 'tommy's' stationed there during the War. A strong believer in bringing together boys from different social strata for common activities, particularly camping, sharing the same tents, playing the same games eating the same food, and generally thrown into each other's company, he set up a special trust fund for the purpose in camp Torakela where he was the leading light for several years.

He was a stickler for old values. Punctuality for one. At a function in Camp Torakela specially got up

in expectation of a handsome donation from a well-known banker, it so happened that the banker failed to turn up in time. Govind insisted on the programme commencing punctually on the dot. Fortunately, the banker subsequently came and did announce a financial contribution.

S. Ketharaman
Gandhi Nagar, Chennai 600 020

Polluted reservoir
A reservoir in the Southern Railway premises in the city measuring about 200,000 square metres, just opposite to Integral Coach Factory in Ayanavaram is very polluted and is affecting the residents of Railway Colonies.

Being the largest water reservoir in the city, it is now being polluted by discharging oil waste and emissions from nearby railway workshops. Immediate action is needed to protect this reservoir, beautiful water source.

K. Ramadoss
4/1, P.R. Koil West Madam Street
Ayanavaram
Chennai 600 023

The Public Prosecutor

In the article 'Gentleman Barrister' (MM, November 1st), it is stated that Govind Swaminathan conducted the Alavandar Murder case. May I point out that Mr. J.P. Athanasius was the public prosecutor in the case.

M.R. Ananthanarayanan
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PLEASE NOTE

All letters for The Editor's attention should be addressed to The Editor, c/o Lokavani Hall-Mark Press Pvt. Ltd., 62/63, Greaves Road, Chennai 600 006.

All business correspondence should be addressed to The Director, Chennai Heritage, 260-A, TTK Road, Chennai 600 018.

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Catching up with G.I.S. at CMDA

With the click of the mouse, you'll soon be able to wade through mountains of information on area-specific data in Chennai very soon (at least in some areas), going by the projections and figures cited by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA). The aim of this CMDA initiative is to enable you to go to the CMDA website, and click on a map of an area you want information on and it will provide you everything you want to know of the area—whether there is a hospital, cinema theatre, playground, market, school, bus stop, railway station and so on, even the type of soil and the quality of water. And all of a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) the CMDA has been developing.

Member and retired Chief Planner, CMDA, Anandaranjanadoss, under whom developing the GIS began three years ago, says, "The implementation of such a project that involves so many attributes—land use, planning permission details, environmental impact of development projects—is a long process. As a nodal agency, CMDA's special GIS division works full time on coordinating with various government departments in a continuing process that needs a lot of support from the participating organisations."

With the Government of Tamil Nadu given a grant to start the GIS for Chennai, the CMDA has begun focussing on the following:

1. Building GIS for the Alandur, Adyar and Sholinganallur areas with the following layers:
 - Land use
 - Land ownership
 - Revenue details, such as property tax

- Infrastructure details—water supply, sewerage, telephone, electricity, streetlight, locations of post boxes, sewerage lines etc.
2. Digitisation of base maps for the municipal areas
3. Digitisation of base maps for the 49 approved Detailed Development Plans (DDPs)
4. Building a Land Use Information System for the Municipal area and approved DDPs
5. Preparing a Land Use Information System for the rest of the CMA.

• by
SHOBHA MENON

With the project likely to get funding under the TNUDP for these initial areas, it is expected to take around five years to complete. It will thereafter be extended to the rest of the city and other areas. The information systems will cover land use, electricity connections, telephone lines, etc. The Survey Department, as 'the best single point source for delivery of digitised maps', will supply the base maps, of 90% accuracy, with the ground survey contributing 10% (taking into account the encroachments over the years). Currently, digitising all the DDPs that furnish particulars of land-users, like ownership (at the time of preparation of the DDP), area of land etc., is going on. Long-term benefits could mean interlinking all the connected departments like infrastructure, revenue and registration.

While other cities have already embarked on similar

projects—in Mumbai, the outsourced project began about five years ago, with Bangalore and Calcutta starting three years ago—Chennai is the first city where the nodal agency, the CMDA, is developing the GIS in-house: Calcutta has set a welcome precedent with local councillors being allocated maps to locate facilities like streetlights, cables etc. Says Anandaranjanadoss, "Outsourcing of GIS work is a quicker option, but it is better to do it in-house because the staff develop the expertise and the relevant knowledge is resident. Since any kind of relevant information can be superimposed by another department or institution on the initial digitised maps produced by the Survey Department, GIS is an excellent tool for good decision-making."

But practical problems abound in the collection of data from different departments in a process that involves careful planning and coordination and, most of all, cooperation from the different sources. The transformation of information (in different formats) to the GIS format is made even tougher because in some departments there are not even line sketches for the relevant data. Many times, raw data needs to be converted to the GIS form. Not to speak of the many subdivisions that have occurred. For instance, whenever a Town Survey is carried out, the subdivision records or Revenue records are updated according to their particular time-bound schedule. Coordination between the schedules of the different user departments is also imperative for easier implementation of the system.

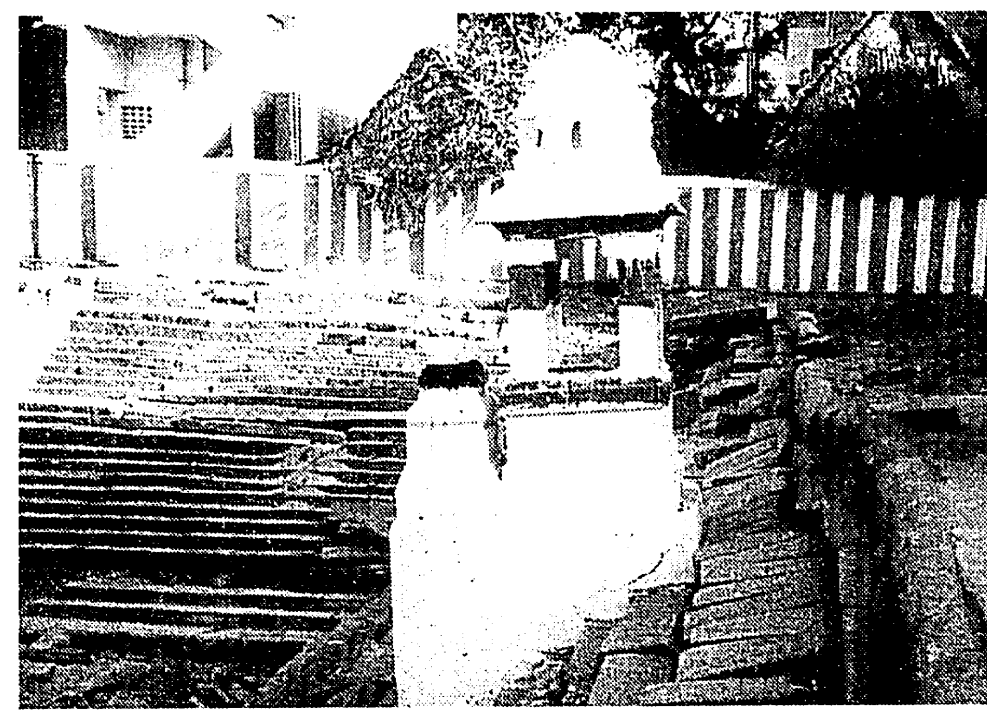
GIS will soon be more rel-

evant to even the most technologically challenged Chennaiite, for it will also soon help out with pertinent water facts. Says S. Saravanan of the Rain Centre in Mandaveli, "With Chennai's complex 3500-million-year-old geology, there isn't any detailed study that is available in the public domain regarding the depth of sand formation. Borewell litholog has been gathered from various drilling agencies and Government departments, and then GIS software used to come out with a terrain guide map to find out the depth of the water table, quality of water etc. So even a visitor to the Rain Centre can immediately find all these factors at the click of the mouse and use this information to design the most appropriate RWH system. Thematic maps—regarding the formation, groundwater quality and the depth of water table—will be ready by January 2004 and thereafter integrated to form GIS-based terrain guide maps."

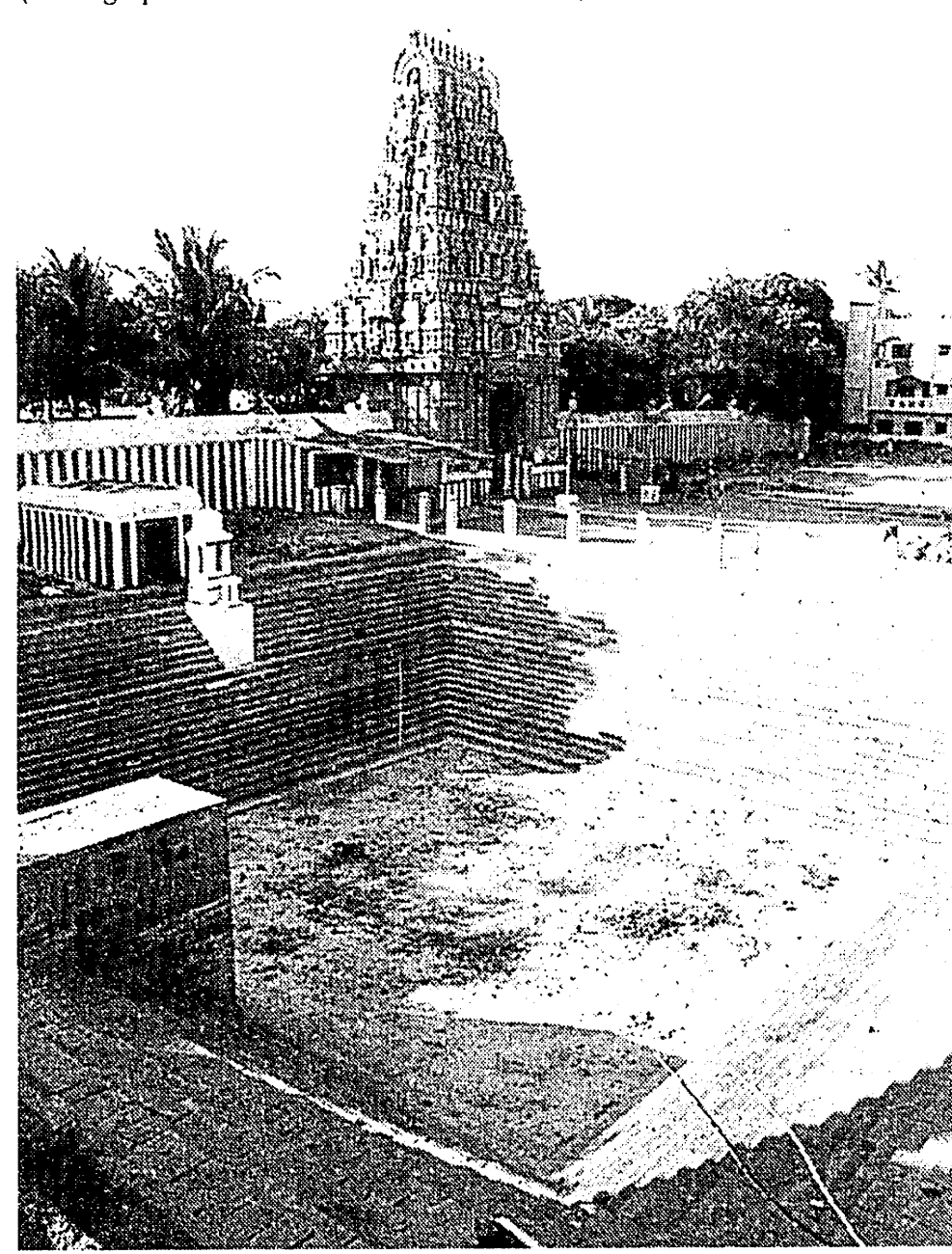
other criteria such as location, type of construction, built-up area and age of building.

The property tax should be assessed on plinth area basis only, since that would be easier to verify and measure. Owner occupation can be given 30 per cent relief.

The Chennai Corporation has nearly 4.5 lakh property assessments, including 3.69 lakh residential properties. Between 1995-96 and 2000-2001, while the demand of property tax rose from Rs. 109 crore to Rs. 262 crore, the collection fell from 63.27% in 1995-96 to 51.75 per cent in 2000-2001.



Work on restoring the tanks of the Marundheeswarar Temple has been proceeding apace with exemplary teamwork by government agencies (working together!), NGOs and the Tiruvanniyur citizenry. Our OLD shows the state the steps of the Chitrakulam were in and our NEW shows them after restoration—granite block by granite block. Similar work is underway at the main tank. (Photographs of the NEW: REFLECTIONS.)



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The biggest advantage of the GIS is its flexibility, which means the system can be updated continually to facilitate communication and dissemination of valuable information. But this would be possible only if a cooperative, work-in-tandem approach from ALL concerned is generated.

These wetlands are ecological sites

Wetlands are areas inundated or saturated by groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support the prevalence of vegetation typically adapted to the saturated soil condition. It includes marshes, swamps (*jheels*), lakeshores, peat lands, wet meadows and estuaries (World Wide Fund-India, 1987). In India, 40,494 sq. km. is classified as wetlands, only 1.21 per cent of the total land area.

Wetlands are home to diverse and fragile living organisms. They help to check floods, prevent coastal erosion and mitigate the effect of cyclones and tidal waves. They store water for long periods and are the home and breeding place for myriads of birds and animals. Recently, eleven wetlands in India have been identified for seeking international assistance to save them from destruction. These include Point Calimere in Tamil Nadu, Astamudi, Sasthankolka Lake and Vembanad wetlands in Kerala, Kolleru Lake in Andhra Pradesh, Bhitarkanika mangroves in Orissa, Pong Dam Lake in Himachal Pradesh, East Calcutta wetlands in West Bengal, Bhoj wetlands in Madhya Pradesh, Tsomoriri in Jammu and Kashmir and Deepor Beel freshwater lake in Assam.

Chennai used to have about 150 small and big water bodies in and around it, but today, the number has reduced to 27. According to Prof. Sanjeeva Raj, Adambakkam Lake, Mogappair Lake, Red Hills, Manali *jheel*, Madhavaram *jheel*, Korattur Lake, Ambattur Lake, Pulicat Lake, Pallikaranai, Velachery and Chembarambakkam Lake are a few of them. Rettai eri, Porur Lake, Sunnambu Kolathur Lake and Chitlapakkam Lake are some of the other water bodies that still exist today.

Four of these, the Pallikaranai swamp, the Manali and Madhavaram *jheels* and Pulicat Lagoon, are discussed here.

Pallikaranai swamp is about 80 sq. km. (width 3 kilometres, length 15 km.) in extent.

On February 20, 2003, the Kancheepuram District Collector issued a gazette notification announcing that 548.14 hectare of the marsh area has been classified as Protected Land.

The Pallikaranai wetland is a freshwater swamp adjacent to the Bay of Bengal, 20 km south-end of Chennai. The topography of the swamp is such that it al-

ways retains some storage, thus forming an aquatic ecosystem. It has been home for naturally occurring plants (61 species), fish (46 species), birds (106 species), butterflies (7 species), reptiles (21 species) and some exotic floating vegetation such as water hyacinth and water lettuce, which are less extensive now and highly localised. Recent reports of the appearance of the white-spotted garden skink, for the first time in Tamil Nadu, and Russell's viper, the largest and the most widespread among Asian vipers, confirm its invaluable ecological status. Fish such as dwarf gourami and chromides that are widely bred and traded worldwide for aquaria, occur naturally in Pallikaranai. Besides, the windowpane oyster, mud crab, mullet, half beak and green chromide are some of the estuarine fauna present in the marsh.

Due to encroachments and other developmental activities, the Pallikaranai marsh is on the verge of extinction. It is shrinking day by day due to developmental activities such as dumping of solid waste, discharge of sewage, construction of buildings, establishment of a railway station and a new road to connect Old Mahabhalipuram Road and Pallavaram. The swamp is

bankment had not been breached, there would be water spread to some extent during summer. Madhavaram *jheel* is situated near the Manali *jheel*, covering an area of 30 acres. It has patches of floating vegetation: lily, wetland rushes and islands of grasses.

The *jheel* harbours such fish as tilapia, freshwater gastropod, applesnail, insects such as dragonfly, damselfly, water skater, diving beetle and keelback water snakes. Birds like pheasant-tailed jacanas in breeding plumage, sandpipers, snipes, stints, stilts, lapwings, plovers, terns, gulls, moorhen, dabchick, snake bird or darter, five coots, two cormorants, winter-visiting waders and wagtails, ducks like the whistling teal, cotton teal and the migratory garganey teal, three different species of bittern, egret and raptors like osprey and the marsh harrier, are found in the Madhavaram *jheel*.

Effluents flowing into the *jheel* from the Madhavaram Dairy cause oxygen depletion in the water. During this period, fish mortality is high due to asphyxiation.

Before deepening, the sloping topography of the *jheel* served as an ideal habitat for wetland birds. Till the mid-1990s, the Madha-

• A CPREEC Survey by M. AMIRTHALINGAM

helpful in charging the aquifers of the region. It is one of the last few remaining natural ecosystems in Chennai.

Madhavaram and Manali *jheels*, above 70 acres in extent are in the north of the city. This ecosystem is listed in the Directory of Wetlands published by World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

The Manali *jheel* covers about 40 acres and has a straggling representation of birdlife, such as purple moorhen, bitterns and cattle egrets.

During the Northeast Monsoon (October to December), the *jheel* gets filled to 7 or 8 feet. The stone embankment along the western flank helps to hold the water. This storage causes flooding of the low-lying eastern flank, where people displaced by the Manali Refinery have built settlements. To avoid flooding, they breach the embankment in the north. If the northern em-

bolically represents the death of the *jheel* ecosystem.

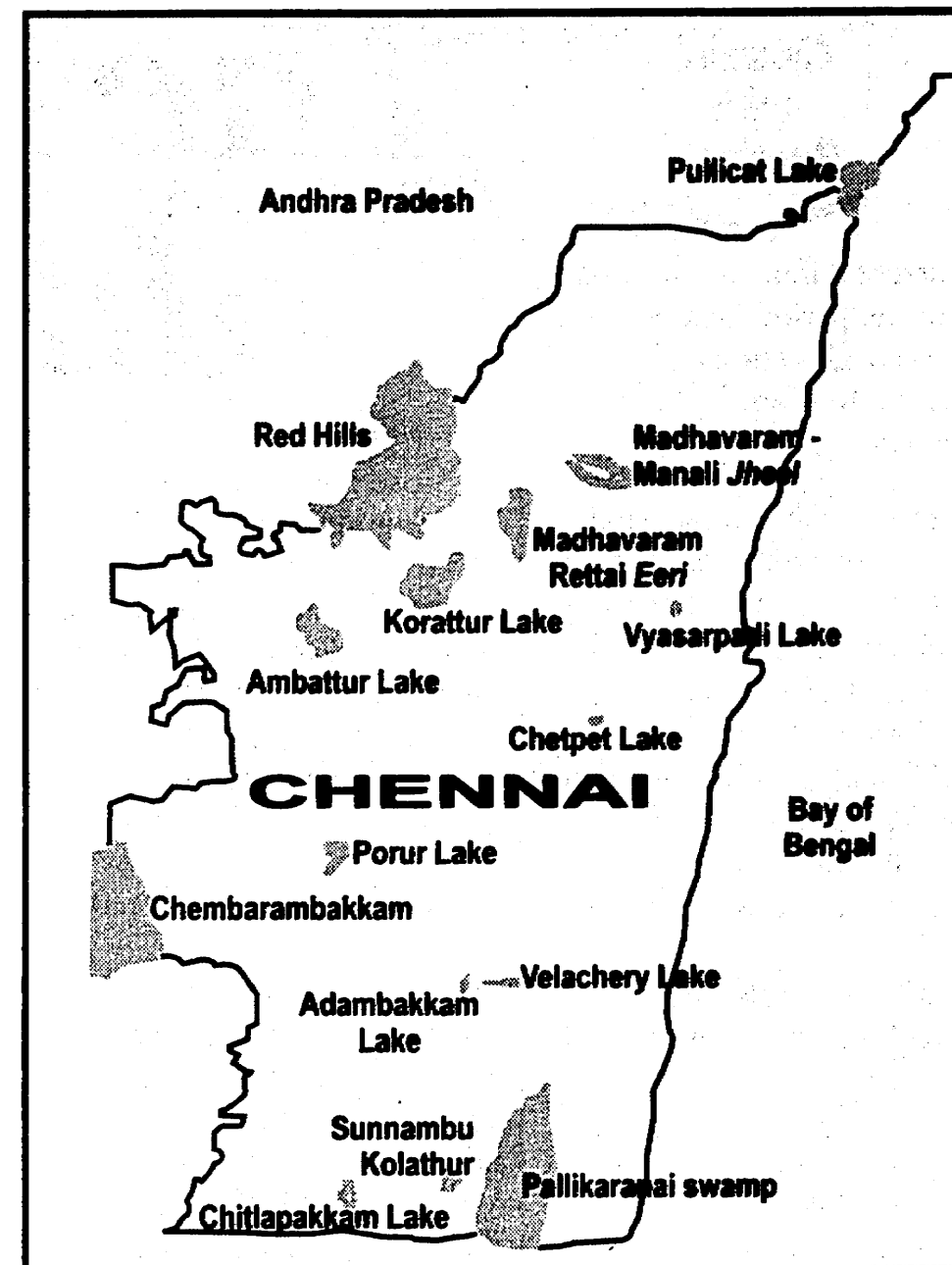
Pulicat Lagoon, about 18,440 hectare is about 60 km north of Chennai. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) recently declared the Pulicat Lake system as a Ramsar Site of international importance and the World Wide Fund for Nature has declared it a protected area.

It is the second largest brackish water lake in the country, running parallel to the Bay of Bengal across the Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh border. The Buckingham Canal, which runs parallel to the Coast, passes through the southern end, where the Pulicat lagoon opens into the Bay of Bengal. Since the lagoon receives freshwater from the Swarnamukhi, the Kalangi, the Araniar and the Royala Kalava rivers, Pulicat is endowed with diverse natural resources, which include both aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna. Its aquatic resources include white and tiger prawns, mud and lagoon crabs, mullets and catfish, edible oyster and clam varieties such as *Meretrix casta*. Its rich fauna comprises rare and endangered reptiles, insects, amphibians, snakes, sea turtles, birds and mammals. It is home to 50 species of water birds. Many mangrove species, herbs and cultivated crops such as paddy and cashew are found here.

The most common problem to both the *jheels* during the monsoon months is snail gathering and invasion by livestock. This results in the lack of nesting sites for the jacanas to lay eggs or shelter their nestlings. Poaching has only been curbed. Due to silting, the storage capacity of both the *jheels* has reduced. People have started making the *jheel* the abode of the dead. Three graves were dug last year. This in a way sym-

bolically represents the death of the *jheel* ecosystem. The NCTPS lets out hot water into the Buckingham Canal and discharges toxic fly ash, in the form of slurry, which causes siltation in the lagoon system. Tiger prawn, mud crabs, threadfin fish and bhetki have become rare. Nevertheless, the lagoon still supports a major commercial fishery and carries about 10,000 tonnes of seafood, but as a result of ecological changes within the lagoon, the production of fish has drastically decreased.

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Quizzin'
with
Ramnan

(Current Affairs questions are from the period October 16th to 31st. Questions 11 to 20 pertain to Tamil Nadu and Chennai.)

1. The world's tallest building came into being on October 17th. Name it and where is it?
2. How will Mother Teresa be known after her beatification on October 19th?
3. Which famous revolutionary transport carrier touched down for the final time on October 24th at Heathrow airport, London?
4. Who recently became the second Indian to win the world amateur snooker crown?
5. Name the former Indian cricket captain who passed away recently.
6. Name the update to Apple's Mac OS X launched recently.
7. Why were S.A.R. Geelani and Afsan Guru in the news recently?
8. Who is the winner of the prestigious Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2003 award?
9. Which two national-level political parties merged on October 30th but retain the name of one of them?
10. Who is the "Wisden International Cricketer of the Year"?
11. To whom is the Raja of Palayampatti Shield awarded in Chennai sport?
12. On the above theme, who retained the hallowed trophy this year?
13. Where in the State is the first bio-medical waste treatment unit located?
14. Which historic fort in the State, with buildings like Tipu Mahal, Hyder Mahal etc., was built by Chinnna Bommunaicker in 16th Century?
15. Which Chennai-based dancer-choreographer has been awarded the prestigious Kalidas Samman of this year?
16. The century-old J. Fenn & Co. is the best-known name in the city for which activity?
17. Name the medical college in Tiruchi, which is to be the branch of the AIIMS in the South soon and which was accorded MCI recognition recently.
18. Where was the 'Great Choultry Plain' in Madras of yore?
19. What institution of repute on Mount Road is where once stood the Raja of Bobbili's Gopala Bagh?
20. Name the 'Pitamaha' of Carnatic music who passed away in Chennai on October 31st, aged 95.

(Answers on Page 7)

The last of the old patrons

Does his passing spell end of Carnatic Music's Golden Age?

Close on the heels of Semmangudi's death, which brings the curtains down on the old guard of musicians, comes the death of C.V. Narasimhan. He was the last of the old guard among patrons. It was as though the two deaths were programmed to happen together to mark a clean finish of the golden age of Carnatic music.

Narasimhan was among the galaxy of government officials who in the 20th Century took an active interest in Carnatic music. Others of his ilk were S. Venkateswaran, S.M. Ananthanarayanan and S.Y. Krishnaswamy, all ICS. All of them were on very friendly terms with musicians and indeed many of them were no mean singers themselves. Almost all of them took active part in the affairs of the Music Academy, Madras, and CVN was to remain active in it right till his death.

CVN may have been the *Chief de Cabinet* of three Secretaries-General of the UN and the first and last (till now) Indian to hold the senior-most position in that international body, but many in Tamil Nadu will perhaps best remember him as a close associate and admirer of Musiri Subrahmanya Iyer. The relationship began from CVN's early years, when he listened to the gramophone records of Musiri and, in his own words, "simply fell in love with his music". Over the years he had occasions to listen to Musiri sing whenever the latter visited Tiruchi and stayed at the Double Mall Road residence of the well-known patron Ratnachalam Ayyar. However, CVN came to know Musiri personally only in 1937 when, having returned from Oxford and qualified for the ICS, he made bold to call on the singer at his Oliver Road residence. In 1938, he had occasion to listen to Musiri perform live at the Rasika Ranjani Sabha, Sundaeswarar Street, Mylapore, and his rendition of the song *Enta vetukundu* of Tyagaraja was a complete revelation to CVN. He renewed his contact with Musiri and called on him whenever he visited Madras, coming down from his place of official posting, Visakhapatnam.

In 1940, when CVN was posted to Dindigul, he began organising many concerts in that town and in neighbouring Palani, especially in connection with the *Panguni Utiram* festival at the temple, and almost all

the great singers of Carnatic music performed there. This was also when CVN formed a close friendship with M.S. Subbulakshmi and her husband T. Sadasivam. CVN also organised dance programmes of the famed devadasi duo, Varalakshmi and Bhanumati. This must have required some courage, for CVN was moving against the tide of the anti-

devadasi mood that was then prevalent. The Egmore Dramatic Society too came to Dindigul and staged plays at his invitation.

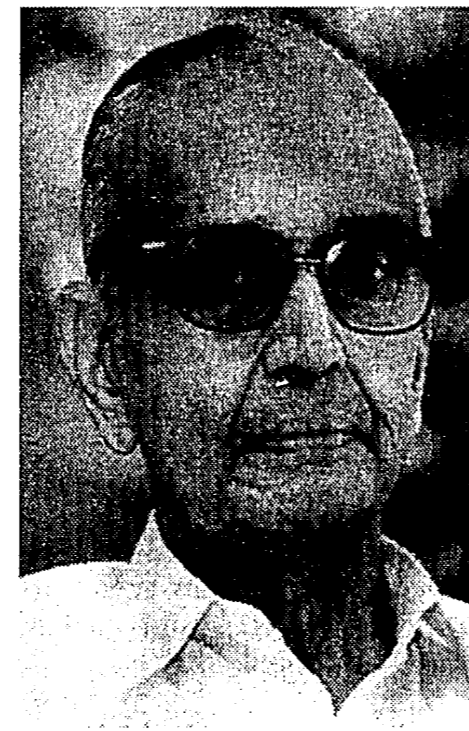
In April 1942, when Madras was evacuated, CVN played host in Dindigul to Musiri and his wife and thus was forged a close bond between the two families. Later the same year, when CVN was posted to Madras, he took a house close to Musiri's and became his student, starting lessons from the basic notes. The tutelage continued until 1948 when CVN's career took him elsewhere. He however remained in close touch with Musiri and considered him to be his *gurunatha*. In between, in 1943, CVN, along

with S. Venkateswaran, formed the Mylapore Sangeetha Sabha which held its concerts in the PS High School. The *sabha* however folded up after a few years. During his stint in New Delhi, CVN continued playing host to a number of musicians who came to perform at the AIR and elsewhere in the city. He also continued paying annual visits to Madras — which he continued when posted even in Bangkok and then in New York. And each time he continued adding to his repertoire of songs, all of them in the Musiri style.

Yet another place that he visited each time when he came to Madras was *Kalki (Sladen's) Gardens*, where M.S. Subbulakshmi and T. Sadasivam lived. After-dinner concerts were a regular feature and CVN would sing accompanied by his sister Jayalakshmi (aka Roji) on the violin. She is one of the last few remaining disciples of violin maestro Papa K.S. Venkataramaiah. On one memorable occasion, CVN sang along with Musiri at *Kalki Gardens*.

While in the UN, CVN was instrumental in getting that organisation to invite M.S. Subbulakshmi to come and perform. She did so with great success on October 23, 1966. CVN introduced her to the audience, and at her concert in Carnegie Hall. During the benediction, *mairim bhajata*, he joined her in the singing. His voice can be heard faintly in the background in the recorded versions.

In 1975, CVN's revered Musiri passed away, but as CVN later wrote, "I live bearing my



C.V. Narasimhan

gurunatha at all times in my head and in my heart."

While he was with the UN, he had been given the honour of inaugurating the annual conference of the Music Academy in 1976. Back in Madras after his retirement in 1978, CVN played an active role in the affairs of the Academy. He made it a point to attend concerts, special programmes and lecture demonstrations that interested him. He would frequently be seen in the front row. He also donated liberally to the Academy and the recording room has equipment that he gave the institution. In addition, he made endowments for the conferring of the Sangita Kalanidhi Musiri Subramania Iyer memorial award and the Sangita Kalanidhi Papa K.S. Venkataramaiah memorial award to outstanding vocalists and violinists respectively. He used to frequently write in *The Hindu* about music maestros whom he knew and his tribute to Semmangudi appeared only a few days before his own death. CVN's last public appearance in connection with music was at the 20th anniversary of the magazine *Srutu*.

It is not very often that patrons of the fine arts are remembered. But Carnatic music lovers will be grateful to men like CVN who in the post-independence scenario did much to sustain the art.

JATROPHA TO CHANGE T.N.'S AGRI-FACE?

(Continued from Page 1)

Nadu's agri-business sector is poised for a sea change, with immense possibilities in crops for ethanol and bio-diesel production. A switch to alternative fuel crops could drastically reduce the country's dependence on imports while at the same time provide an excellent opportunity for farmers.

If its new policy statement is any indication, Tamil Nadu is focussed on becoming the country's most important source of farm-based power and fuel crops. The emergence of opportunities in ethanol (sugarcane-based), bio-diesel (from jatropha), biomass power (casuarina) and medicinal herbs

(*juliflora*) will all now help agriculture to fast develop as a business, especially against the backdrop of globalisation.

More and more companies are entering the agri-business in India. ITC Limited, for instance, plans to invest about Rs. 1,000 crore in this segment over the next few years. Farmers too, most of them now educated, are slowly turning entrepreneurs, applying proven technologies to generate substantial earnings. But the uneducated farmer, too, can use such technology — there is no high investment in farm machinery or irrigation systems that are required. All that is needed is good nutrients for the plants.

That more and more farmers

are turning into successful entrepreneurs is evident from the fact that more than 4,000 farmers ship their produce to markets worldwide from agri-export zones (AEZs) in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttaranchal. Produce includes gherkins (a small version of the cucumber), mangoes, vegetables and leeches.

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEEDA), the coordinating agency that works with several Central and State government departments, estimates, AEZs will export more than Rs. 10,000 crore worth of agricultural produce by 2007.

Nostalgia

When 'Marina' was sheer magic

The Marina cricket ground, a name that spells magic to oldtimers of Madras cricket. In the days before one-day internationals and channel television, cricket enthusiasts delighted in watching live action of local cricket at the city's many grounds, the one belonging to Presidency College on the Marina was among the more popular venues. Besides the league matches conducted by the Madras (later Tamil Nadu) Cricket Association and games involving Presidency College in the inter-collegiate league and knockout tournaments, it hosted matches involving the City XI vs. the Districts XI, junior teams of the Southern States, university teams, participants in the Buchi Babu tournament — even Ranji Trophy matches — were played here in the pre-Independence days. Those were the days when the ground received loving care from "Subbu" as P R Subramaniam, the late Physical Director of Presidency College, was known to all. He once laid and prepared a brand new turf pitch there in just a few days.

I write of 'Marina' from personal experience. I was a player or captain of the Presidency College team during the period 1964-70, practising every evening during the cricket season, and playing several matches on the ground. Bicycles, scooters and cars parked at vantage positions on the Beach Road were a common sight those days, as hundreds and even thousands on occasion gathered to watch cricket there on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. Inside the ground, spectators made themselves comfortable under trees shade all around the ground, and the gallery on the western side was usually densely populated. A

fielder near the boundary line was often the recipient of friendly advice from dhoti-clad onlookers who knew the league table by heart and the statistics of each individual player backwards. God help him if he dropped a catch or let one go through his legs! The taunts and ribbing would go on for the rest of the day, unless he made amends with a spectacular effort with bat or ball or in the field.

Just outside the boundary, children would often play their own matches and with some of the talent on show would be very impressive. Unfortunately, many of these young cricket fanatics would be forced by economic necessity to give up playing the game as they grew into adolescence and beyond. I particularly remember wondering aloud to a teammate what would happen to a young left arm spinner, probably the son of a fisherman, who bowled a vicious legbreak and googly in these delightful side games. The

• by V. RAMNARAYAN

reply was matter-of-fact and uncaring: "He will come to nothing. He will grow up and take to drink and gambling." Though I was angered by the heartlessness of my colleague, I did nothing either about trying to nurture the boy's unusual talent.

I was extremely fortunate to be a member of some of the strongest combinations the College fielded after its glorious days in the 1950s, and before its steady decline began. The year I joined Presidency, the soft-spoken Bhaskar Rao, a younger brother of the better-known State player Vasudeva

teammens, with yours truly, gentle spinner P.S. Ramesh and medium pacer S.P. Balachandran, now a retired Indian Army Brigadier, bringing up the rear.

Several other colourful cricketers joined in the succeeding years — R. Premkumar, a senior IAS officer in Maharashtra now, Gupta of Shanti Vihar fame and the singing all rounder S.V. Suryanarayanan — both snatched away from our midst well before their time — the indefatigable all rounder C.S. Dayakar, that resolute defender John Alexander, and K. Swaminathan who cycled to wherever we played matches, however far, and could recite a whole book of Subrahmanya Bharati's verses, were some of them. We won most matches and were only outplayed by the best teams in the city — Guindy Engineering was one and Vivekananda was another.

Though there were many memorable matches played at Marina, one exciting contest between Pachaiyappa's and Vivekananda stays fresh in memory. The Vivekananda opening pair of K. Suresh, popularly known as Milburn, after Colin Milburn the English opening batsman he resembled in girth as well as execution, and V. Krishnaswami, made

light of a seemingly impossible target set by Pachaiyappa's. 'Milburn's' batting that day was of a quality not often seen at that level of cricket.

Ask anybody who watched cricket in Madras through the 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s, and he will tell you how much he enjoyed the experience. Even on a particularly hot day, the seabreeze made life on Marina bearable, sometimes even pleasant. If you were a home team bowler who practised and competed there regularly, you learnt to use the wind to your advantage. If you were a strong spinner of the ball, you could pose huge problems to the batsman while bowling into the wind, because the ball dipped just short of the batsman's forward stroke and often had him mistime or spoon catches. You could also surprise the batsman with your faster delivery, which could be unplayable with the wind behind you. Swing bowlers could exploit the breeze too. The slowish inswinging bowler Krishnan of Vivekananda became quite deadly when he bowled at Marina. My brother Sivaramakrishnan, better known for his batting, once dismissed eight Jolly Rovers batsmen in 1980s league match with his slow inswingers on the same ground. Left arm spinner Dayakar bowled his arm ball to splendid effect, the ball swinging in and hitting the stumps before the batsman brought his bat down.

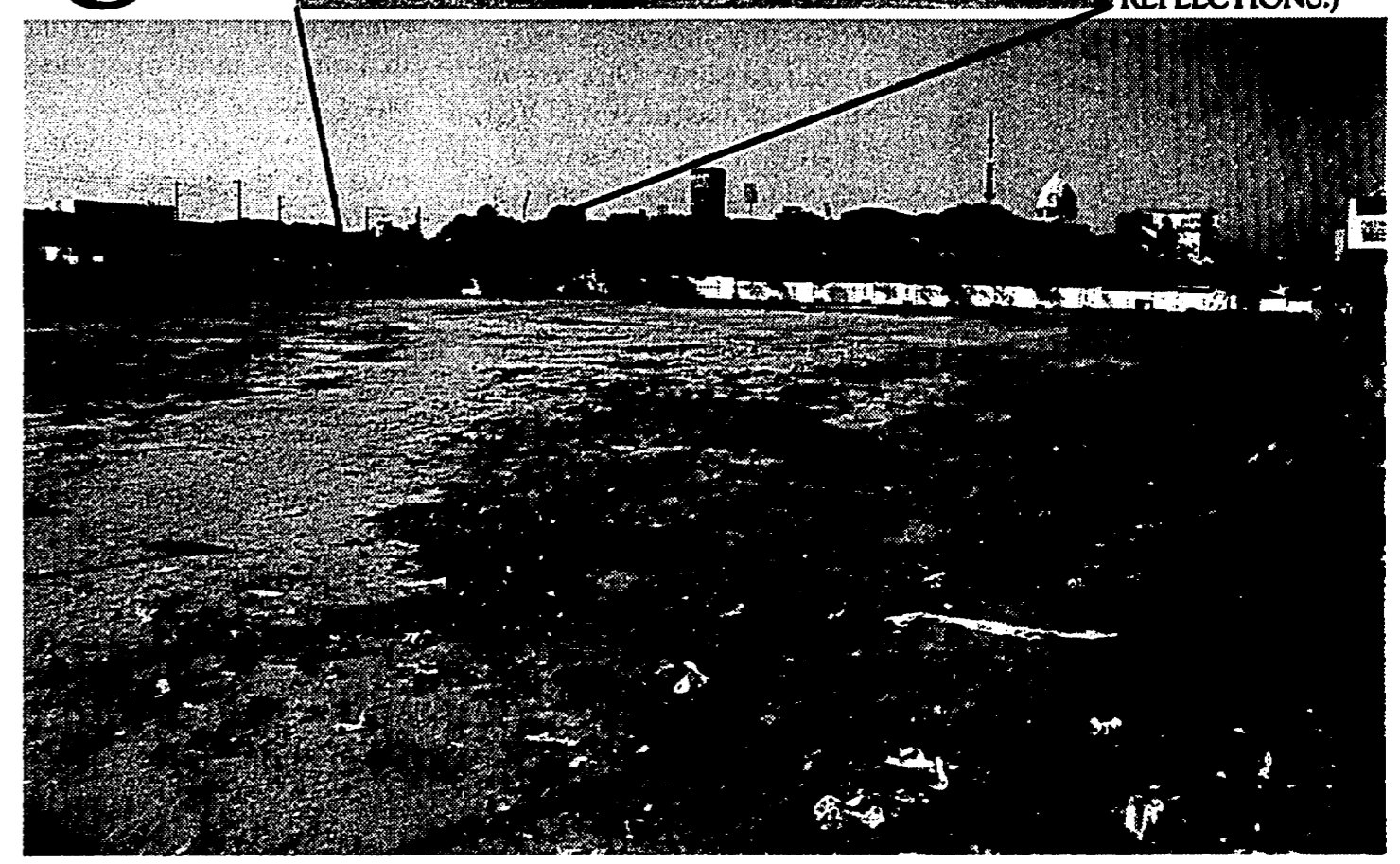
There were other characters who added to the Marina ambience. Umpire MDS Murthi, one of the earliest captains of Young Men's Association founded by S. Sriraman, the late TNCA and BCCI Secretary, and 'YMA' Kannan, a founder of the club, with his trade mark white khadi shirt and veshti,

were constant presences at the ground. In their twilight years, they came to reside there; perhaps their economic circumstances forced them to seek shelter there, their home consisting of the old pavilion with tiled roof, the tiny dressing rooms, which were no more than store rooms for cricket kits and the bathroom and toilet at the back. The markers who maintained the ground in splendid condition were the other characters. Players of my time can never forget Munuswami, Perumal and Raji, especially the last named. Over the years, we established a tremendous rapport with them — they were our cheerleaders, helpers, friends. Cricket had been their only life.

The Marina ground has been in sad disrepair since the 1990s. A signpost at the ground suggests that the ground is being renovated, perhaps by a corporate body, though a spruced up pavilion provides the only evidence of any such activity.



The Marina grounds (below) — still a dump, the pavilion alone (on left) renovated. (Photographs by REFLECTIONS.)



Answers to Quiz

1. Taipei 101 in Taipei; 2. The Blessed Teresa of Kolkata; 3. Concorde; 4. Pankaj Advani; 5. Hemu Adhikari; 6. Panther; 7. They were the two acquitted in the December 13th Parliament attack case; 8. Ratan Tata; 9. Samata Party and Janata Dal (United). It will now be called Janata Dal (United); 10. Ricky Ponting.

11. Winner of the TNCA Senior Division cricket league; 12. Jolly Rovers; 13. Thennelpakam off Chengalpattu; 14. Vellore fort; 15. Chandralekha; 16. Undertakers; 17. KAP Viswanatham Medical College; 18. On either side of Mount Road, upto Teynamper; 19. TVS Motors offices and workshops; 20. Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer.

CHENNAI HERITAGE

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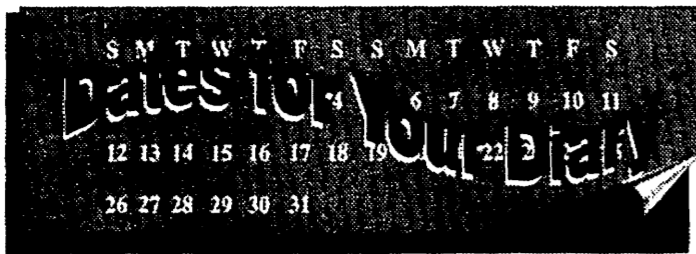
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Till November 22: 'Sequestra', a photo exhibition by N. Prasanna Kumar. (At Alliance Francaise.)



From November 17: Venkatachalapathy, exhibition of his work and of his students. (At Lalit Kala Akademi.)

From November 18: S. Dhinakara Sundar's paintings on a lotus leaf. (At Ashvita Art Gallery.)

November 19: Tara Publishing workshop on illustrating. (Alliance Francaise for details.)

November 21: *The Travelogue* series this month features Suresh Krishna, Director of Sundram Fasteners (TVS) which adopts a zero level defect policy defining the limits of the company. (At Alliance Francaise 7 p.m.)

November 21 to 23 : Scroll-painting and mask-making workshop for adults. Presenting a hard-to-come-by-opportunity for anyone interested in acquiring a new traditional skill. Nageshwar Rao from Cherial in Andhra Pradesh, a torchbearer for the cause of a dying craft. His is the only family practising this age-old tradition of painting the Telengana style scrolls.

From November 21: Exhibition of paintings by B. Santanam. (At Vinyasa.)

From November 21: German film festival for children. (Please contact Max Mueller Bhavan.)

November 22: Serguei is an out-

of-the-ordinary person. Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he learnt to play the piano as well as to draw as a child. He was forced to flee the country and France became his home. He drew for various magazines but saw success when the *New York Times*, *Express* and *Le Monde* published his cartoons. Today, his cartoons on current events are published every day in France's most prestigious newspaper, *Le Monde*.

However, he had not quit music. In the evenings, when he returned home, he composed one song every day on his piano. For the last few years, he has been recording them and has cut a disc. Serguei sings in several languages songs on the themes that he draws every day: life, death, misfortunes and happiness of the world.

Serguei will start his Indian tour in Chennai: a concert-expo where you can admire the cartoons of the musician and listen to the songs of the cartoonist! (At Alliance Francaise 7 p.m. By Pass.)

From November 26: Exhibition of sculpture by Patnaik. (Forum Art Gallery.)

November 29: Nina Menezes and Neeicia Majolly in vocal and piano concert. (Max Mueller Bhavan 7 p.m.)

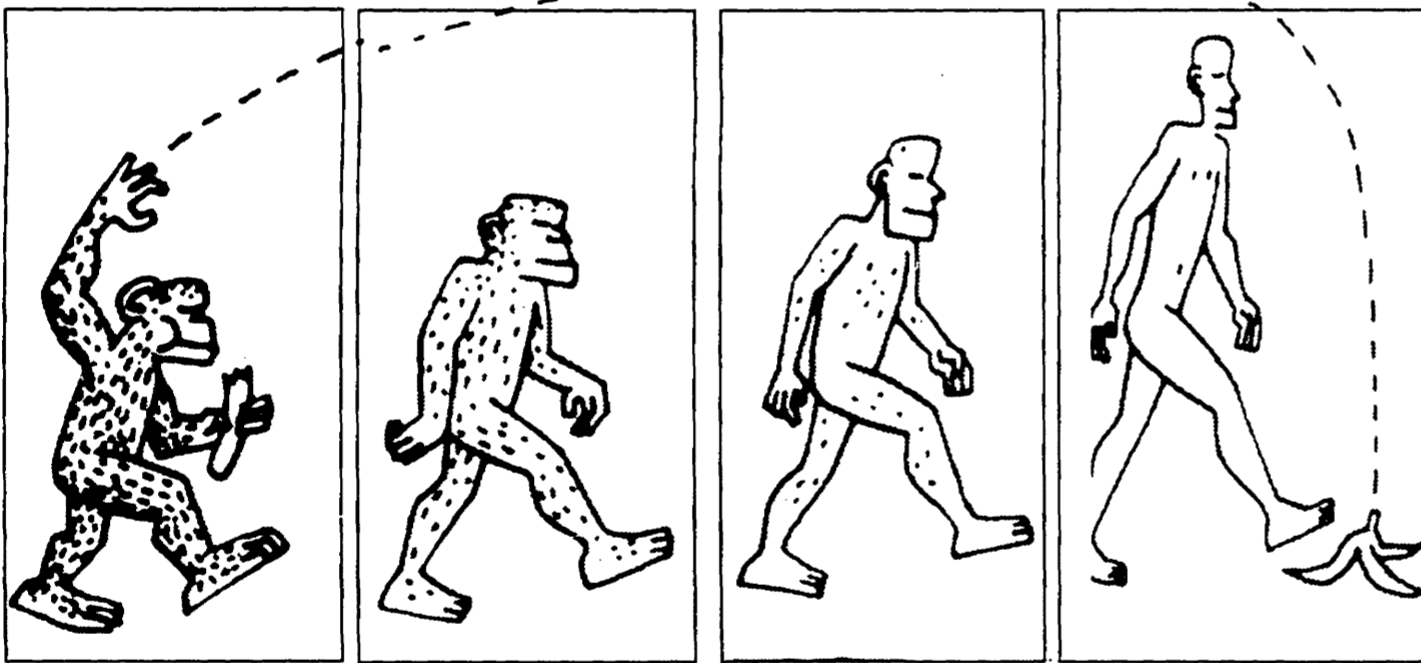
The Other Festival in its 6th Year

Celebrating Music, Dance, Theatre and Art in all their myriad forms, *The Other Festival*, organised by Anita Ratnam and Ranvir Shah this year, presents a range of talents from around India, USA, UK, France and Taipei from December 1-7 at the Chinmaya Heritage Centre, Harington Road, Chennai. Daily from 7 p.m. onward.

The programme is as follows:

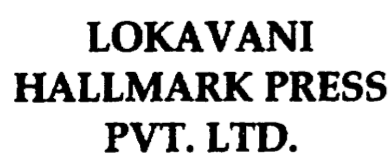
Day & Date	Short Performance	Long Performance
December 1-7	Exhibition of ceramic art curated by Pothole at The Park	
December 1		Zohra Segal (New Delhi), Poetry (50mins)
December 2	Taipelli-Yiian Chinese Opera Theater (Taiwan), "The woman who went mad upon losing a son", Contemporary Dance (30 mins)	Nadaka (Auroville) Music (60 mins)
December 3		Brigitte Reveili (France) & A Selvaraj (Chennai) "Never For Ever", A puppets, masks and actors' performance. An Alliance Francaise Collaboration (80mins)
December 4	Pritham Chakravarthy (Chennai), Solo Theatre (30 mins)	Jonaki Sarkar & Dancers Guild (Kolkata) "She Said", Contemporary Dance (Group) (50mins)
December 5	Lee Sibley (USA), Solo Music. A US Public Affairs Collaboration (30 mins)	Nissar Allana (New Delhi) "The Mahabharat Project" - Theatre (55mins)
December 6		The Phoenix Players (Mumbai), "Sufiana" - Theatre (50 mins)
December 7		Maya K Rao & Vismayah (New Delhi), "A Deep Fried Jam", Dance, Music, Theatre & Video (75mins)

Sport on Page 7



A Serguei cartoon.

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