

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS MUSINGS

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Metrorail to spread further...

At long last there are plans to expand the Chennai Metrорail Limited (CMRL) network to make it a public transport system that will cover a large section of the city. It is reliably learnt that even as Phase 1 of the Metro is nearing completion, work is underfoot on surveying the rest of Chennai for a second and more ambitious phase. This is being

undertaken by RITES (formerly Rail India Technical and Economic Services) Limited and will soon be submitted to the State Government. This is to the good, but speedy action in implementation will hold the key to making it an effective solution.

by The Editor

undertaken by RITES (formerly Rail India Technical and Economic Services) Limited and will soon be submitted to the State Government. This is to the good, but speedy action in implementation will hold the key to making it an effective solution.

Phase 1 of CMRL, which will connect Washermanpet to Chennai Airport via two corridors, is present becoming operational in phases. It has suffered a number of delays because of land acquisition, vendor defaults, prolonged neglect owing to change of party in power, and technical issues. After much cost escalation due to these reasons, the entire line is expected to be fully operational by 2017. It is in the light of this track record that the next phase is to be viewed.

Phase 2 is envisaged in three corridors. The first, will be from Madhavaram Milk Colony in the north to SIPCOT in Sholinganallur, via an eastern alignment, traversing Perambur, Otteri, Purasawalkam, Chetpet, Nungambakkam and then onwards via south Chennai. This will span 44.3 km and have 45

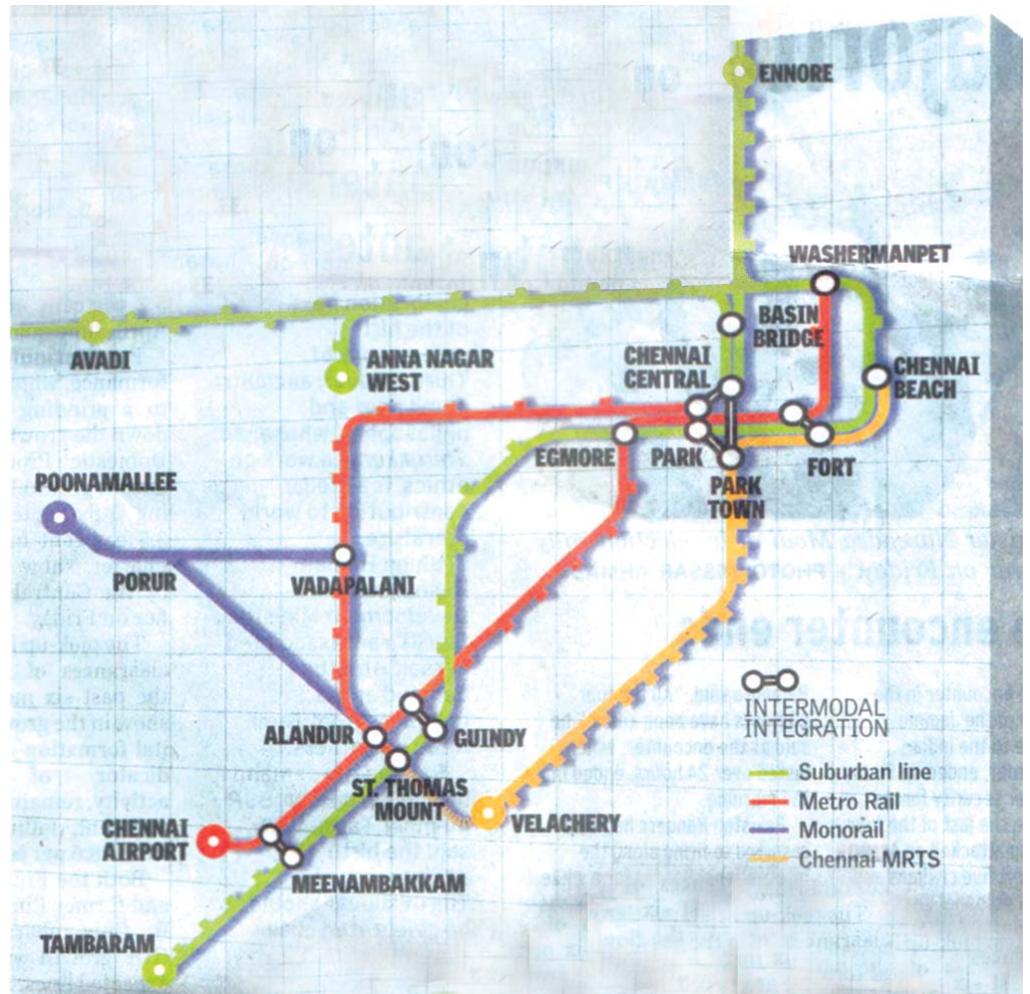
stations. The second will connect the same end points but on a western alignment, via areas such as Villivakkam, Anna Nagar, Ramapuram, Nandambakkam, St Thomas Mount and onwards. This will span 44.6 km and 42 stations. A smaller third corridor will be on a east west axis, connecting Lighthouse at the Beach to the mofussil bus station at Koyambedu. This will have 17 stations and span 15.7 km.

Much of these corridors is planned to be underground. Therein lies the rub. The current phase has a mix of tracks

(Continued on page 2)

It is heartening to note that the present regime in our State has taken up the task of getting on with the completion and enlargement of the city's Metro rail network in right earnest. This contrast with the complete lack of interest it displayed towards the project for unknown reasons five years ago. The present sense of urgency augurs well and may mean that we will have an operational system sooner than we think. At the same time, the project is likely to run into some rough weather, chiefly because the principal stakeholders, namely the Centre and State, are having some differences of opinion on accountability and consequent cost apportionment.

A few years ago, the very likelihood of the powers-that-be inaugurating the first



...but several questions remain

section of our Metro rail appeared remote. The tracks and rolling stock had been tested and waited for months on end before the flagging off actually took place amidst much fanfare. It was then said that the party in power was not so keen on seeing the project come to fruition chiefly because the idea of a Metro service for Chennai was that of a political rival that had previously been in office. Now, however, sentiments appear to have done an about turn. The ongoing Assembly session witnessed heated exchanges between the two principal parties, each one claiming credit for the Metro rail. While we applaud this eagerness, we would like to sound a word of caution – the currently operational section is a mere fraction of what has been planned and

the eventual success or failure of the Metro service depends on effective and speedy execution of the remaining portions. It would be wise to recall here that the much older MRTS is still a relatively poor performer, chiefly because of great delays in its execution leading to cost escalations and also because of very poor last mile connectivity.

It would also appear that the State Government is having some concerns regarding the liability it faces on account of the Metro rail. It has demanded that the Memorandum of Understanding on the Metro rail signed in 2011 between the State and the Centre needs a relook on certain clauses. The first of these concerns land acquisition. This is present to be borne entirely by the State. In

addition, acquiring of any land owned by the State for the Metro is to be free of cost while if any space belonging to the Centre is to be taken over, compensation at market rates has to be paid. This the State Government feels will skew its debt. Likewise, all escalation in cost of executions and the burden of any exchange rate fluctuations are to be borne by the State Government. Cash losses in operations are also to be the State's burden.

On the other hand, as and when Chennai Metrорail makes a profit, the Centre will be entitled to a dividend. Moreover, the railways have retained surface rights on all land they have leased to Metro Rail for underground work. The lease, which is for 35 years, is at market value. The State has (Continued on page 2)

INTACH Convenors urge focus on natural heritage

Tamil Nadu Chapter's Convenors' Workshop was held recently for Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Nagercoil, Salem, Thanjavur, Nilgris and Kodaikanal participants. It was stressed that greater emphasis needs to be placed on documenting bio-diversity and natural heritage in all cities and towns.

Convenors were suggested to seek broad-based membership to overcome the general apathy and neglect towards heritage issues at both local government and societal levels. Natural heritage and biodiversity is degrading at a rapid rate due to development activities and patronage extended to building lobbies.

Armed with an inventory, local administration/municipalities can be pressurised to notify such listings through Government Gazettes.

Chapters could also, it was suggested, adopt a nearby village which has heritage potential in order to involve common citizens in heritage related activities.

Capacity building courses for local PWD engineers and Municipal level workers could be conducted by each Chapter at their level with the help of IHA Division.

METRORAIL TO SPREAD

(Continued from page 1)

above and below the ground. The average cost comes to around Rs 300 crore per km of work done, the above ground cost coming to Rs 150 crore/km and the below ground around Rs 400 crore/km. If Phases 2, 3 and 4 are all largely subterranean, the expenses will be at the higher end. That means the Government will have to be ready with the funds. It is understood that like Phase 1, the other phases will also be funded with Japanese assistance. That may not be much of an issue as financial institutions in the developed world are keen to associate with projects in emerging nations, chiefly with an eye on earning higher rates of return. What is more important is that CMRL focuses on completing the latter phases according to planned deadlines. Each month of delay in completion will only push the costs higher. If these are to be recovered, it would mean more expensive fares and if these are not attractive, commuters may still continue to use private

transport. To what purpose, then, such an investment? It is high time that our State authorities wake up to the importance of deadlines and the financial impact of non adherence to them.

There is yet another aspect that the new plan is silent on. It was announced just as a couple of months ago that the Mass Rapid Transport System that operates from Beach station to Velachery would eventually be merged with the Metrorail. If that were to be done, execution of large part of Corridor 3 would be completed very soon with probably not much of a cost outlay. What happened to that idea? Perhaps the feasibility report when it is out will cover this aspect as well.

In the ultimate analysis, the Metrorail will be an immense boon to the city and help improve its public transport system. The five corridors would together account for 104 km of the city. It is to be hoped that the plans materialise into reality soon.

...but questions remain

(Continued from page 1)

questioned the logic behind this, arguing that if surface rights were retained, the lease ought to be at nominal rates.

It must be pointed out here that the MOU was signed between the Centre and the State in 2010, when the present regime's rival was in power.

While the present demand for revision of the MOU may be to settle political scores, it cannot be denied that the points set forth are logical. The Centre is yet to respond. An impasse over this could lead to delay in completion of the Metro. Are we to wait forever for a reliable and well planned public transport system?

The problems of permission

The Man from Madras Musings is forever being chivvied around by the Chief to conduct some heritage walk or the other. Every time he, the Chief, finds MMM taking a short breather between assignments, his (meaning the Chief's) eyes hood over and he (the Chief again), makes a pronouncement to as why does not MMM conduct a... The consequence of all this is that MMM is forever hunting around for walking spaces with heritage in their vicinity. During one of his searches he came across a temple in the outskirts that briefly shot to fame when a great 18th/19th century composer visited it and endowed it with five delectable songs. This being that great personage's 250th birth anniversary year, MMM decided to do a walk there. On visiting the place MMM discovered that it was really a thing of beauty. The road leading to the temple was flanked on either side by rows of 19th

these were men who did not answer phone calls from mere mortals of Madras who thought they could fix appointments.

So, that was that. MMM returned to office, got a letter ready and then sent one of his minions to the temple on a working day. Miracle of miracles, the EO was present and deigned to accept the letter. He would, he said, mull over the matter and send a reply. Buoyed by this, MMM announced the walk and was soon flooded with registrations from enthusiastic participants. MMM began planning the event with gusto, but at the back of his mind there was always this doubt – what if no permission came? What if MMM took a large group only to find the temple doors firmly shut on his face? What would people think? Would he not become a hissing and a by-word? All the while, in the meantime, the day of the tour kept nearing, and no sign of the

that he loves. For that matter, so does MMM. Years ago, the Chief once told MMM that each of these events was a learning experience and while he, the Chief, did not know what the audiences got out of it, he, the Chief, came away a wiser man. MMM has always looked upon many of these events as grist for this column's mill and so has rarely turned down any opportunity as well.

Of late, the learnings have got richer. MMM spoke at an event where everyone applauded except one gentleman who maintained a stony silence. At the end of the event he came up to MMM and said that while he enjoyed the presentation, he did not agree with MMM's story on how the Marina Beach got his name. MMM in his defence said he had picked up the details from the Chief's well-known book. To which the man clucked rather impatiently in a fashion that implied that the Chief did

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

century structures. The thoroughfare itself was broad, lined with trees and it appeared as though the entire setting had been imported from some never-never land. MMM, like Jim Corbett, made subtle enquiries of the natives and was informed that the reason why the place was maintained so well was because it was the location of choice for any Tamil feature film that needed a village setting. Nobody knew of the 19th Century composer but they all knew of 21st Century music directors who had won Oscars.

The priest, like the natives, was most welcoming though he did not know the rudiments of worship. For instance he never broke open the coconut that MMM offered and yet managed to complete the prayers. He was happy to know that MMM planned to bring people over but he was quite firm that MMM also needed to obtain the necessary permission for doing this from the Executive Officer, Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Board of the Government of Tamil Nadu. Also, it would be best that the Hereditary Trustee was also placated by means of an identical letter. Copies of course, would need to be marked to both. No, the EO and the Trustee were not present just then at the temple, the day being a Sunday and it would be best that MMM came in person on a working day between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm. MMM asked if the functionaries were at the temple on all weekdays between those hours. To this the priest said no, MMM would have take his chance. And no,

permission. MMM's minion made several visits. The EO informed him that the papers were with the appropriate authority. As for the Hereditary Trustee, there was no sign of him.

It was then that an angel in human shape by way of a senior Government officer called MMM and asked him as to what was biting him (MMM). When MMM poured out his tale of woe, the man smiled and said that this was the first time he had heard of permissions being necessary for visiting a house of God. Was MMM planning any unlawful event or anything that would sully the shrine? No, he was not. Why, then, he needed to just go ahead. That is just what MMM did. The tour went off very well. The priest was delighted to see such a vast throng and was even happier when he saw them all making fat offerings at the altar. There was no talk of any permission.

A couple of days later, on coming home, MMM found an envelope of Governmental hues. Inside was a paper that had clearly seen better days. It was from the EO. He was glad to grant permission, it said, but MMM and team would need to adhere to several rules and regulations, all of which in retrospect MMM realised he had abided by. The letter clearly mentioned the date of the tour but it was typed and signed a day after it!

Madras Rediscovered

It is that time of the year, when the Chief hurries from event to event, spreading sweetness and light, and also telling many stories of the city

not know all. He said he would send in his findings by email. MMM reproduces it verbatim below by way of proof to show how the Chief has misled us all along.

"Another story what I heard is one of the British Governor's sister name is Merina. When her husband died in London the Governor brought her sister to Chennai for change. During her stay usually evenings went and spends her time in beach during that time nobody was allowed. Hence people used to the beach is belongs Marina. From that moment onwards the beach called Marina Beach."

Who would have thought of that, Chief? These are the same people who go around saying that the Nawab tethered his horses in a place called Ghoda Baugh, which became Kodambakkam. Now, if the Nawab lived in Chepauk, why would he keep his horses in Kodambakkam? Must have been quite a commute each morning. The same creative lot have been going around stating that Nandanam takes its name from being a garden to an ancient temple. But you, Chief, have always been harping on how the name was given by a Chief Minister of the 1950s. Makes you think, eh, Chief? Certainly *The Man from Madras Musings* ponders over all these topics quite often. And on that note he would like to wish all the readers a Happy Madras Week with more such colourful, if wholly untrue, discoveries.

– MMM

OUR READERS WRITE



Was this the College's home?

Keezhadi

The Keezhadi archaeological remains (MM, July 16) are undoubtedly of "magnificent" origin. But how far a sustainable reconstruction of the history of these remains is possible, is yet to be seen. The more antiquated Aditanallur discovery (1866) and its place in the history of Tamil Nadu still remain elusive. There is no updated data whatsoever available on the Aditanallur excavations.

Romila Thapar (2002) once indicated the intrusion of foreign elements in the evolution of this culture. Nearly 170 clay urns containing genetically different human skeletons were unearthed from this site in 2006. Probable considerations at the time, probably brought about a reburial of this evidence. Some potsherds stumbled upon in the vicinity of Aditanallur in recent times seem to bear striking resemblances to some motifs found on earthen jars (of about 3000 BC) recovered from Egyptian sites. But such finds are yet to be suitably pursued.

If we are only looking for monolingual Tamil cultural ethnicity or hegemony in sites such as at Keezhadi or Aditanallur and at such earlier times, we certainly will have to relearn the vicissitudes of history. I happen to be an ardent student of Tamil Sangam text, but I do not consider their contents to be dovetailed all the time to the so-called archaeological time-frame or vice versa.

Whether it is the Indus Valley heritage or the glory of the Sangam Age or the antiquity of Keezhadi, a lot more homework needs to be done. How ancient is the name Keezhadi is not known. Was this site known by any other name has also to be investigated. Sangam-time references apparently do not seem to indicate any knowledge about the place. Hence, premeditated dates between the Indus Valley and Sangam times

This is an exchange that your Editor recently had with Rear Admiral Mohan Raman (Rtd.) who is at present Secretary of the Madras Literary Society (MLS) and is in charge of its Library and programmes.

Dear Editor,
So much we value today originated in the scholarly works initiated by F.W. Ellis at the College of Fort St George. All that was done in just 30 years, as the establishment was closed in the 1840s.

Sadly, its site is not too well known. It does not find a place even in the ASI's Chennai list, which goes back to Stone Age sites. Sriram V once told me that the old building in the DPI compound near the MLS was the College.

Is that true? I ask because the building looks like the MLS in age, and we go back just to 1905.

– Mohan Raman

Dear Admiral,
There used to be a large old red building in the campus in which CARE had its office. If I remember right, it was at the back of the DPI office blocks. It was believed that this was the main building of the College of Fort St. George.

I don't know whether the building still survives.

– The Editor



Dear Editor,
The building exists, and was handsomely restored and renovated a few years ago; I think Microsoft helped out. It presently houses the computer cell of Samacheer Kalvi.

Sriram V includes it in his regular heritage walks around the DPI compound. He tells me that the original building was probably pulled down in

the 19th Century and this one constructed on the cleared site.

I think he would be right. Apart from being the view of a committed researcher like Sriram, the building looks newer architecturally than 1812. In fact, many bits of ornamentation are identical to the MLS building, which dates from 1905.

Further, since the College closed in 1842, it is reasonable to infer that apathy and neglect would have set in. Bharat Insurance and the River Gate in the DPI Compound are examples. Perhaps euthanasia for buildings, as a prescribed remedy, has precedents dating from the Raj!

– Mohan Raman

cannot be so casually posited for these finds, as suggested in your report.

Rev. Philip K.Mulley
Anaihatti Road
Kotagiri 643 217

Lost at temple

I felt that I was not alone after reading MMM's article on visiting the temple to the God of skulls, not finding the chappal booth, left my expensive sandals near one of the entrances to the temple. When I came back from the shrine, found all the footwear scattered, some even beyond the fence around the temple

tank. But my diabetic-foot friendly sandals, which I had acquired just a few weeks ago, had disappeared. After walking for a while with my arthritic knees acting up and not finding any footwear shop nearby, I had to take an auto home. I vowed never to go to that temple again.

R. Usha
abayamba@gmail.com

OUR ADDRESSES

For matters regarding subscriptions, donations, non-receipt of receipts etc.: CHENNAI HERITAGE, 5, Bhattad Tower, 30, Westcott Road, Royapettah, Chennai 14.

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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.

ñ THE EDITOR

CHENNAI HERITAGE

No. 5, Bhattad Tower, 30,
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I am already on your mailing list (Mailing List No.....) / I have just seen *Madras Musings* and would like to receive it hereafter.

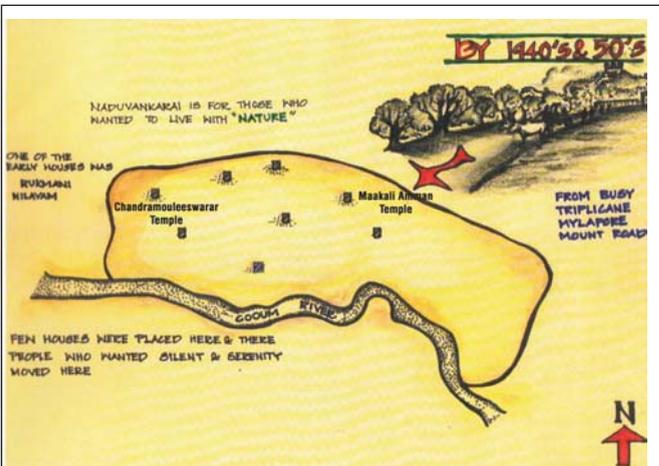
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- As token of my support for the causes of heritage, environment and a better city that **Madras Musings** espouses, I send Chennai Heritage an additional Rs..... (Rupees.....) Please keep/put me on your mailing list.

Name :

Address:

All cheques to 'Chennai Heritage'. DD/Cheque should be sent by Speed Post only.



In the last fortnight's article from 'Naduwakkarai to Anna Nagar' the map showing the shrines left out the names of the two most important and ancient temples. We correct the omission in this map.

• Two pages on automobile tales

Recalling the birth of *Mobile*

“When Mr. Viswanathan asked me to preside over this function, I readily agreed. As in everything else, whether in trade or industry or commerce, any spirit of adventure deserves to be welcomed. In industry I always welcome more and more first generation entrepreneurs. In technology fields. I welcome the increase in the number of qualified and able technicians. In the sphere of publications too. I welcome explorations into new fields. It requires courage to enter this sphere on one’s own. I also feel that, consistent with our growth in the industrial sphere and also the rapidity with which we are putting India on the industrial map of the world, it should add more specialised journals of specific interest. A matter of particular pleasure is that our chief minister Sri M. Bakthavatsalam is participating in this function.”

This was stated by A.M.M. Murugappa Chettiar, head of the Murugappa Group, at the launch of *Trade Wheel* in December 1964.

Two years earlier, I started my career in journalism by launching *Mobile*, a monthly focussing on transport and travel.

I began my career teaching at, first, Loyola College and, then, at Madras Christian College. Krishna Srinivas (KSri), editor of *Poet*, invited me to partner him in running his business. It was printed at a small printing press with a few cases of lead types and a treadle. There he printed the periodicals *South Rail News* for the Southern Railway, the *Indian Chemical Manufacturer* for a Bombay client, and *Indian Industries* and *Poet*, both owned by him.

He printed *Poet* out of love and mailed it at considerable expense to readers in India and several countries abroad whom he brought under the banner of the World Poetry Society. In the mornings he eagerly awaited the postman – an occasional subscription cheque of Rs 10 was expectantly looked forward to. The Pandian Bank in Ranganathan Street liberally took upto Rs. 1.50 as bank charges for discounting a Rs. 10 cheque. KSri would hand his wife Rs. 5 and used to take me

and writer Sandilyan to Nathan’s Cafe nearby. The three of us used to have breakfast for around Rs. 2.50 and the office attendant would be waiting for the balance one rupee! Remember, this was 50 years before Amma Unavagams. There wasn’t much money in the business even for KSri. He suggested that I start a magazine of my own. It was an honourable way of getting out of a rather tough unwritten partnership.

I had already begun campaigning to start a transport monthly, *Mobile*, for which I had applied for registration. It was at that time that I had to go

cheap and easy. With a couple of hundred rupees you could land up at a cousin’s house in Calcutta or Bombay, move around in trams, electric trains or city buses and campaign continuously for about a month, collecting material for articles, and advertisements and subscriptions.

I received good support and encouragement from several friends in business. Most notable among them was the Gandhian S.N. Ramasami who worked as Advertising Manager for TVS. He was impressed by my foregoing a steady job after taking two post-graduate degrees and taking the risk of

• by S. Viswanathan of *Industrial Economist*, a successor to *Mobile*

to Delhi for a medical examination after being selected for an Air Force interview. When I failed it, I used my time in Delhi to campaign for advertising and booked the first advertisement for the cover page in colour!

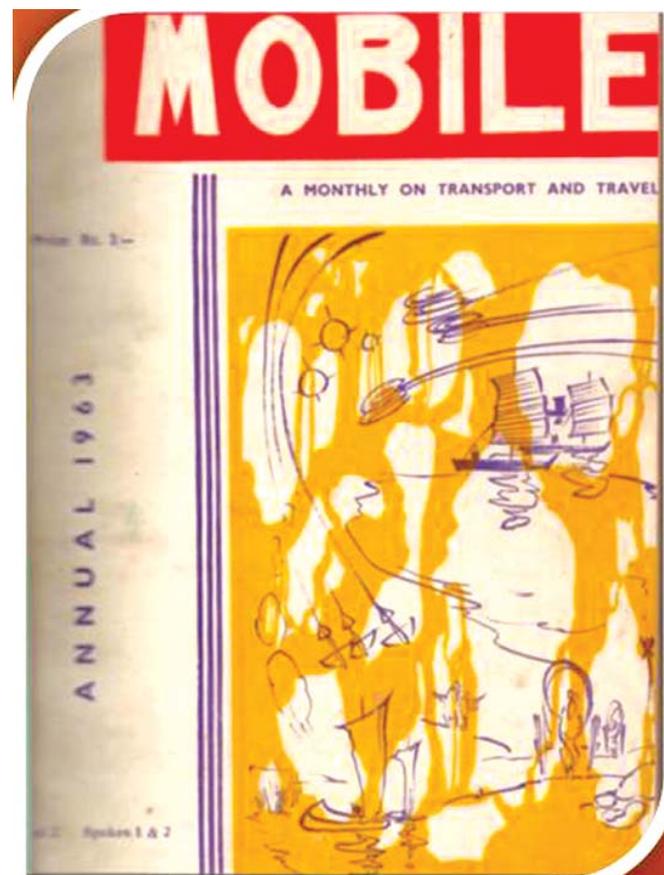
In the next three months, I travelled to Bombay and Calcutta, familiarising myself with the state of automobile production and the transport sector. How cheap those days were! You could purchase a circular tour ticket from the Railways for your own itinerary. There were just two conditions: you could not retract on the travel and the total distance covered must be more than three times the distance of the farthest station. I drafted the route as Madras-Calcutta-Jalandhar-New Delhi-Bombay-Arakonam-Coimbatore-Cochin-Trivandrum-Madurai-Trichy-Madras. The price for a third class ticket was Rs. 75.

Since this was a single ticket, I could demand reservations from Madras for the different segments. The clerk at the counter protested: he had to send nearly a dozen telegrams at railway’s cost to ensure onward reservations. Two years later, when I stabilised the business, I graduated to first class. The cost of the circular tour ticket then was Rs. 250. The rate was telescopic; the more you travelled the less you paid per km.

There was little capital with which I started. But living was

entering a field totally on my own. As mentioned earlier, it was a clean slate, being little equipped for journalism in the form of any knowledge, leave alone expertise, on reporting, editing, proof-reading or production. I used to spend long hours with him discussing the transport sector. He introduced me to several specialists including the head of engineering at Simpson’s, H.B. Stanford, who helped me so much to familiarise myself with the intricacies of the automobile industry. M.K. Raju of India Pistons, K.S. Ganapati of Bimetal Bearings, A.K. Bose of Wheel & Rim Company and A.R. Venkataraman of Simpson & Co., S. Seshadri of PanAm, Mendiretta of Caltex, Makarand Desai of Tube Investments, and N. Mahalingam of the Sakthi Group were others who gave me their support in the initial years.

The clean slate beginning was a big help in several ways. It lent for out-of-the-box thinking and course corrections. I had an interesting and extremely useful encounter with Seshadri, Sales Manager of PanAm in Delhi. I dropped into his office (without appointment) and requested advertisements. He pointed out that my publication was a small one from remote Madras with limited circulation and said that PanAm had to advertise across the globe, reaching prospects through mass circulated newspapers. I submitted that my specialised publication *Mobile*



was reaching high-end business literates who were high-flyers and that he could reach them at low cost. When he still pointed to budget constraints, I offered a barter arrangement: ad space for air tickets. We agreed on the release of 12 back cover colour advertisements in return for a ticket to Europe!

With the concentration of British-collaborated ventures in Madras, I explored the possibility of covering the collaborators’ plants in the UK. Stanford wrote to his friend in British Leyland who referred my request to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. SMMT agreed to provide local hospitality and facilities spread over two weeks to visit ten manufacturing plants of automobiles and auto components. These included Rootes Motors, British Motor Corporation, Leyland Motors, Standard Triumph, Forte Dunlop, Joseph Lucas, York Trailer, Edbro Tipper, Raleigh Industries, and J. Payen & Co. Each company being visited provided five-star hotel accommodation and transportation on the day of the visit. For the two week-ends, I shifted to the Indian YMCA which offered a room with bed, breakfast and dinner at 35 shillings (Rs 23) a day!

I also managed to get invited on a two-week visit to Germany. The Press Bureau of German industry offered to provide facilities for visiting the manufacturing plants of a consortium of six German companies – AEG, Mannesman, Krupp, GHH, Demag and

Siemens – that constructed the Rourkela Steel Plant; the German government then offered to provide facilities to cover Daimler Benz, VDO, Volkswagen and the Hanover Fair.

Getting the permit from Reserve Bank for travel was a herculean task. For nearly a month, I had to visit the Exchange Control Department (ECD) of RBI to get the clearance. All I had requested for was £150 for the month-long visit. The ECD manager relented at around 4 p.m. on a Saturday and issued the P-form which entitled me to travel to Germany with an exchange of 3 pounds and 10 shillings, but not to UK. Stanford kindly offered to arrange any foreign exchange I needed in Europe. I rushed to Delhi the next morning. Luckily, in those days, airline companies worked seven days a week and I could collect my ticket from PanAm and catch the flight to Frankfurt that night.

The visit to Europe (SMMT said it was the first such facility extended to a non-European journalist) provided deep insights into industry and management: Europe was booming with post-war reconstruction almost complete. A single auto manufacturer, Volkswagen, was producing 6200 cars a day! India was producing in three plants around 20,000 a year. The visit led to the phasing out of *Mobile* and the launching of *Industrial Economist*. (Courtesy: *Industrial Economist*.)

Six pages for Madras Week 2016

ACDs not among our vintage wealth

Travel down memory lane with me and let's recall the array of cars that once were a part of the Madras scene. The ABC of cars is ACD, these scene-stealers (even now they are great crowd-pullers): Auburn, Cord and Duesenberg. Their streamlined contours painstakingly designed, coupled with massive muscle power is a delight to watch even now in

● by
V.S. Kylas
Secretary of MHMC

pictures, movies or museums. Madras can be proud of the fact that we did have a dealership selling these cars, M/s. Rajagopal Motors, just behind Mount Road on Ritchie Street. Sadly, no one in Madras has one of them, even in a vintage car collection, today.

Apart from these, we also had quite a number of cars from Nash, Rolls Royce, Lagonda, Allegro, Renault, Mercedes Benz, Volkswagen, Skoda, Fiat, Alfa Romeo, Bentley, Daimler, Delage, Willys Knight, Kaiser, Rambler, Jeeps, Hudson, Hupmobile, Sunbeam, Humber, Cadillac, Buick 8, Pontiac, Oldsmobile, and Chevrolet. We also had Ford T models (Tinlizzy), Ford Tudor, Ford Prefect, Ford Anglia, Ford Popular, Ford Consul, Ford Zephyr, Zodiac, Taunus (from Dagenham Ford Motors in the UK) and we had Ford Teardrop model V8 1939 and then Ford Mercury V8, Ford V8 Custom, Ford Thunderbird, Custom *et al.*

Madras can also boast of having had the low slung yet very distinguished Studebaker models – the famous Aero Nose, the Champion, the Landcruiser, the Commander and the President, apart from DeSoto. They were a cut above the rest as they came with the overhead valve engine versions which were much ahead of their contemporaries – Ford and Chrysler. Film celebrities used to patronise Chryslers, Dodge Kingsway and Plymouth Savoy for their flamboyant fins and excellent contours along with their trims which used to be stunners, had to contend with low performance, their 0-60

miles per hour being slow when compared to the Studebakers. I have personally witnessed in the 1960s a Studebaker Landcruiser V8 racing past Plymouths and Dodges. This reminds me of Lee Iacocca mentioning in his book that the Ford V8, despite having a side valve engine, was no patch when it came to acceleration, 0-60 miles per hour, while competing with GM's Buick 8 inline overhead valve engine. The Ford V8, however, used to pip other at the poles because of cutting edge technologies that Ford had developed after World War II when the American war veterans had a lot of money and

panion. We also had the Roots group of cars in Madras like the Singer roadstar, Riley and Hillman series, starting with Minx, the Imp, Hunter etc.



Duesenberg.

buying power and used to prefer the V8s.

Colonial rule ensured that Madras had its array of English cars from the factories of Austin, Bentley, Daimler, Morris, Rolls, Humber, Jaguar, Landrover, Sunbeam, Singer, Triumph, Allegro, Standard, Ford, Hillman, Riley, and Vauxhall. The Austin range of cars comprised the Austin 7 Chummy, Ruby, Austin 8, Austin 12/4, Austin 16/4, Sheerline, Austin Princess, while the Morris range included the Cowley, the Bullnose, the Cut-door Morris, Morris 8, Morris 10, MG series, and the Morris 1000 (affectionately called the Tiger 1000 because of its peppy engine). There were also several models of Jaguar, Flying Standard, Standard 8, Standard Vanguard phases 1, 2 & 3, Ensign V6 Estate, Triumph Mayflower, Triumph Herald, Standard Super 8 basic model, Standard Super 10, the Pennant and Standard Com-



Cord.



Auburn

manufacture in Japan. After the initial round of discussions, they finally zeroed in on a model and wanted the drawings and prototype to be readied. GM indicated 8-10 weeks for development; the Japanese insisted on four weeks. The Chief of GM commented: "That soon" And a name was born – Datsun!

Madras once had two Plymouth Stationwagons, MSY 7293 and MSY 7294, white coloured cars used by the Chief of Police. They had extra boot space to carry the "Walkie Talkie" Radio equipment. The name Stationwagon was coined by the Americans for all models which had an estate version with a door at the back. The name was on account of the extra boot space required to fetch all traveller's bags while commuting from the railway station.

Many of the cars mentioned in this article will be exhibited by the Madras Heritage Motoring Club on Sunday the 28th at Turyaa Hotel on OMR, a kilometre away from Tidel Park. The Club was founded in 2002 with Patron Members M. Saravanan, Suresh Krishna and the late A. Sivasailam succeeded by Mrs. Mallika Srinivasan. Balraj Vasudevan was the Founder President, V.S. Kylas, the Founder Secretary, and the Committee Members were Ranjit Pratap, M.S. Guhan, Viji Joseph and Sumanth Chaganti. Members own close to 200 vintage cars and 150 bikes.

The uniqueness of the Club is that it has a lot of members who have single cars as well as members who have fleets of cars. All feel at home and the bonding is excellent. The Club also helps members restore their cars and bikes by providing the necessary expertise. On the anvil are plans to have the Club's own museum-cum-state-of-the-art education platform for automobile engineering students to learn more about restoration of vintage cars, apart from having cut-sections of the old and new for students to get a glimpse of car design then and now.

331 – combinations like 1331, 2331, 4331, 5331, 7331, 8331 apart from stand alone 331 with several prefixes in each of the series from MSC onwards. Kamaraj's Chevrolet Styleline bore the number MDT 2727 and MGR's Ambassador MGR 4777. Some of the prominent industrial houses had numbers totaling to 9. Madras car owners attached a lot of importance to superstitious beliefs and none of them would go near a number totalling 8 as it was considered a jinxed number. But when it came to cars, the suffix for cars like Buick 8, Morris 8, Austin 8, Standard 8, Ford V8 were not a bar.

I recall an incident that happened in the 1980s during the launch of the Allwyn Nissan Cabstar 576. The date was fixed for the launch of the vehicle on an all-India basis as this was one of the first JVs in India to manufacture commercial vehicles. Just days before the launch, the Japanese team were taken aback when the dealers appointed, especially those from the South had a peculiar request. They wanted the name Allwyn Nissan cabstar 575, which totalled 8, to be changed to Allwyn Nissan cabstar 576. Even though the Japanese initially resisted this, they finally had to relent and accept 576 which totalled 9.

Another of Japanese story. The Japanese are very good as reverse engineering and perfecting any existing design. A team of four Japanese were at GMs Detroit design office in the early 1950s wanting a new prototype to be designed by GM for

From Italy cars are the Bug Fiat, Fiat Millicento, Fiat 1100, Super Select and Fiat Delite to Madras. The French, East and West German, and Czechoslovakian cars too plied on Madras roads, like the Mercedes Benz, Volkswagen, Opel, Peugeot, Renault, Citroens, NSU and Skoda. There was also Russian cars like the Moskvovich, Tatra and Volga. And GMs Australia's gave us Caprice and Holden.

Madras has the unique distinction in this part of the country of giving importance to car registration numbers. Looking at the numbers you could guess who the owner was. Some of the numbers which were very prominent in those days were 2772, 7670, 9100, 5545, 786, 5445, 2313, 5193, 1962, 5515, 9682, 2838, 4777, 6777, 4852, 2919, 1, 7, 2829, 4077, 123, 4, 2728, 1917, 7374, 747, 7470, 5052, 4786, 7293, 7294 and 6666. There were also the numbers with the last three digits being

• Madras Week musings with Vincent D'Souza

From Broadway's churches...

When we lived on Mount Road, we often attended Sunday Mass at St. Mary's on Armenian Street and then walked down to NSC Bose Road to have breakfast.

On Sundays, you had the whole area to yourself. You still do - this densely commercial area shuts down on this day of the week. (I wish Ninan's was open, for its fish curry-rice. It is in its 60th year, I was told).

I was back on Broadway to prepare to curate a Walk for Madras Day 2016.

Walk focussed on the heritage churches on this road, and of it. And Sunday mornings are the best time to work in peace.

The morning I stepped into St. Thomas Cathedral of the Mar Thomas congregation, located off Loane Square, the community was celebrating the feast of Saint Thomas.

The church office was packed with Baskets of *appams*; these and more were to be served to the community after service.

Thank God, the volunteers hid them away when the service was on!

At Tucker Church, at 7.30 a.m. there was time to take in all the memorials, including a prominent one to Thomas Moore Lane, surgeon and oculist in Madras and physician to the Nawab. And a well-maintained pipe-organ, repaired at great cost.

The Young pastor at Arcot Lutheran Church who rides his Royal Enfield from his home in Manali knew less of the church history but a lot of the Church, established by Danish missionaries in the then united Arcot region, with headquarters close to Cuddalore.

He had time to explain the salient features of the service. I needed that lesson for it is only at Christmas carol time that I

visit the churches of the Protestant community.

On the long Walk towards Mint, there was a distraction - wondering why there was a large posse of policemen and a large number of people crowding a tea stall, I veered off the main road and found myself in a birds and chicken market.

I got a lot of stares, some stony ones. The men were selling some rare birds and racing pigeons and they did not like me taking pictures.

Street in these parts of the city hold old secrets.

Quietly, the Metro Rail line's underground section is being constructed and already, there are stories swirling around. There the Metro workers had to sweat to break down huge boulders, which had been dumped in the other century to level a low-lying Broadway.

Salesian priest Fr. Santhosh was happy to brief me on St. Xavier's, the only Catholic church on this road (at the far end). This year, the church celebrates 150 years since the core of the church was built; it was a sub-station of St. Mary's on Armenian Street.

... to City's food trails

What do you need to make a simple fish curry on the city's seashore?

Tomatoes, onion, tamarind, chilli powder and some salt should do.

The men who go out to sea for a few days must double up as cooks. So their fish curry has its limitation.

Their womenfolk do a better job.

The tangry taste matters and it goes well with steaming rice.

A city shows its colours through its food. Food made and sold off on its streets.

Walking around helps.

The old haunts are in Mylapore and Mambalam.

T'Nagar and Purusawalkam, Mint and Royapuram. Triplicane and Royapettah.

I wondered why a Sri Lankan food zone did not emerge in a place like Besant Nagar and beyond.

In the late 1980s, they made huge community, having taken refuge here following ethnic war and the seaside neighbourhoods of the city were their comfortable homes, for those who could afford rents here.



St. Thomas' Cathedral of the Mar Thoma Christians.

There are a series of Masses on Sunday mornings and I am hoping that when we do have the Walk we will get a window to step in and take in all the unique features here, including relics of Saint Francis Xavier.

Walks around old neighbourhoods reveal a different world, even readers must be aware of. Why don't you and your friends curate a Walk in your area for Madras Day 2016 (www.themadrasday.in)

The strands of Burmese food lingers on in the backstreets of Parry's Corner. It may not be the best. But it is cheap, quickly-tossed and street-food.

Newer food streets are emerging.

And one must appreciate the efforts of some members of Chennai Food Walks to explore the new street food zones in our city.

Muralidhar Shreedhaaran recently took off into the Kandanchavadi zone, into the

streets that lie in the shadows of the giant IT companies here to sample the food that was on sale in the evenings.

He says the 'classic' *vada pav* for 15 bucks was a steal at one joint, the egg chicken roll, at 90 bucks, was "awesome and a complete meal by itself" at another joint, the fish fingers for 80 bucks was a hit with his friends at a third place and elsewhere, he tried the chicken momos, at 60 bucks; 'Okayish but had to search for chicken in

momos. There are many such street food zones which feed the huge IT community of OMR; you should drive down the alleys after dusk to locate them!

And if you go beyond the menu cards and the food, you will appreciate the changing face of the food-makers and the character of their customers.

There trends also tell us stories of our city. (Courtesy Mylapore Times)



Till August 24: Art Exhibition, *Sacred Sensual* by N. Subramaniam at Apparao Galleries

Till August 30: *What a Colour - Watercolours* at Apparao Galleries, The Leela Palace



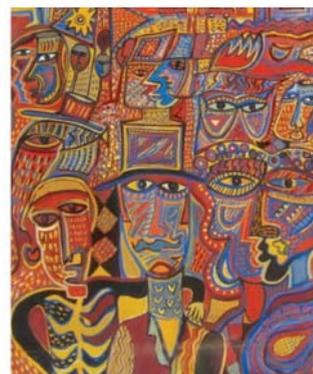
Watercolours.

Till August 31: Art Exhibition, *Layers and Journeys of the Heart* featuring the work of Akmal Hussain and Keiko Mima of Pondicherry at Dakshina Chitra

August 31-September 1: Onam celebration at DakshinaChitra

with Wayanad tribal dances by Wayanad Nattukootam Naatarivu Padan Kendram.

Till September 7: Art Exhibition, *Goblins, Gnomes & More* by Ganga Singh, Mahmud Hussain, Avishek Sen and P.G. Dinesh at Apparao Galleries, The Leela Palace



Goblins, Gnomes...



Edge III.

Till September 30: Paintings Exhibition, *Movement on the Edge II* by John Tun Sein at Sandy's, Cenotaph Road

Till September 30: Paintings Exhibition, *Movement on the Edge III* by Madhukar Maithani at Sandy's, Nungambakkam

September 9: *IndoSoul* by Karthick Iyer Live at 7 p.m. Goethe-Institut Auditorium

September 30: *Memory Space - Sounds of Berlin and Chennai*. A rare musical venture organised by the Goethe-Institut Chennai, composed and presented by Kammerensemble Neue Musik Berlin along with Indian musicians in collaboration with Kalakshetra (at 6.30 p.m.) Kalakshetra Foundation.

MADRAS MUSINGS ON THE WEB

To reach out to as many readers as possible who share our keen interest in Madras that is Chennai, and in response to requests from many well-wishers - especially from outside Chennai and abroad who receive their postal copies very late - for an online edition. *Madras Musings* is now on the web at www.madrasmusings.com

- THE EDITOR



Madras Week '16

August 13 to
September 3

Updated till August 12th

August, 2016

Exhibition: Paintings and sculptures. Organised by Cholamandalam Artists' Village in collaboration with Lalit Kala Akademi, Regional Centre, Chennai

Through August.

9.30 a.m.-6.30 p.m.
daily at Cholamandalam
Artists' Village

August 21-28

Exhibition: Photographs of IIT Madras from its founding till recent times. Organised by IIT Heritage Centre

IIT Madras
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

August 21-27

Digital engagement. Digital crossword quiz on Madras theme. Organised by British Council. For details: 42050700 / email: Valavan.S@in.britishcouncil.org

Digital

Till August 29, 2016

Exhibition: *Tamil Nadu Cuisine* – to create awareness of the diversified traditional and authentic food culture across Tamil Nadu. Organised by the Department of History and Tourism, Stella Maris College

10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Stella Maris College

Till August 30, 2016

Exhibition: Exhibition stalls on: 1. Miniature Models on Heritage buildings, (institutional and government); 2. Old and New Movie clippings or posters; 3. Videos on old cities and streets of Madras; 4. Names and Taglines of the streets and places of Madras; 5. Photo album on the old and later changes in Madras; 6. Photo Booth - heritage cut outs at the backdrop and a photo taken; 7. Handmade greeting cards, badges, bookmarks, *mehendi* designing on culture and heritage; 8. Display of literary works relating to Madras and old paper cuttings; 9. Heritage walk in Stella Maris College Campus. Organised by the Department of History and Tourism, Stella Maris College

10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Stella Maris College

Till August 31, 2016

Exhibition: *Ancient temples of Madras.* An exhibition of paintings curated by Gandhirajan

Kadambari Gallery
DakshinaChitra

August 16 (Tuesday), 2016

● **Talk:** *Madras Day* by Sashi Nair. Organised by the Rotary Club of Adyar. Only for Rotarians and their guests

Boat Club

August 17 (Wednesday) 2016.

Walk: *Explore Industrial Madras.* Walk through Guindy Industrial Estate, led by N. Ramaswamy.

Time : 4pm
Starting Point : Near
CIPET Main Gate

NOTE: No need for Registration. Contact: Ram: 9444062684. Route: <https://goo.gl/maps/mPGXwvccQR52>

August 18 (Thursday), 2016

Play session: *An Evening of Traditional Games* conducted by Kreedagames in partnership with Ashvita Events. Details: info@kreedagames.com

Ashvita Bistro,
Alwarpet

August 19 (Friday), 2016

Exhibition: *An exhibition on Tirukkural* by architect M. Dhanasekaran. Organised by MLS. Non-members of MLS: Rs. 50 per person.

11 a.m.
Madras Literary Society

Talk: *Chennai History through Church Architectural Styles* by Dr. Amaladass Anand

5.30 p.m.-6.30 p.m.
Dhyana Ashram

Films: *Madras Masters.* Screening of documentaries *Golden Flute* and *Kamadhenu*. Celebrating the city's two well-known artists, Alphonso Arul Doss and Veera Santhanam, directed by Gita, city-based painter and film-maker. Audiences can interact with the artists after the screening. Organised by Gallery Sri Parvati

6.30 p.m.
Gallery Sri Parvati

August 20 & 21, 27 & 28, 2016

Films: These documentaries will be screened by DakshinaChitra: *Shilpi speaks:* Conversation with Ganapathi Sthapathi and *Measuring the sky:* A journey to the Brhadiswara temple (IGNCA film)

11 a.m.-1 p.m. and
3 p.m.-5 p.m.
Seminar Hall, Dakshina
Chitra

August 20-21, 2016

Lecture: *Temples of Vietnam and Indonesia* by Vijay Kumar. Organised by Chennai Outreach.

6.30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Apparao Galleries

Exhibition: Anna Nagar. Organised by Nam Veedu, Nam OOr, Nam Kadhai

10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Swarna Mini Hall,
Anna Nagar

Email: annanagarshg@gmail.com; phone: 91 98404 95717

August 20 (Saturday), 2016

Walk: Marshall's Road (Rukmini Lakshmiipathi Road) led by Sudha Umashanker. Organised by Storycorner at Bookmine. To register: 9840247624

7 a.m.-9 a.m. Starting
point: just outside
Rajah Muthiah Hall
in-gate

Exhibition: *An exhibition on Tirukkural* by architect M. Dhanasekaran. Organised by MLS. Non-members of MLS: Rs. 50 per person.

11 a.m.
Madras Literary Society

Games: The participants would be introduced to the art of making board games and, as a team, they will make games based on the theme: Madras. Only for 12-16 years. Santhosh from Bambaram Toy Library will be facilitating the event which is hosted by Bambaram, YOcee and The Learning Community Quest. Please bring your own basic stationery materials. Charts and additional pencils, sketches would be provided at the venue. Free. Limited to 10 teams (2 members per team). Prior registration:

2 pm to 5 pm
The Learning Community
at Quest, Palavakkam

<http://goo.gl/forms/eTFCJleawzKrQ0BT2>

Contact: 9840544629 (Revathi), Santhosh (9962387624)

Talk: *Jesuit Participation in Chennai history* by Dr. Amaladass Anand

5.30-6.30 p.m.
Dhyana Ashram

Food Walk: *West Mambalam Food Walk.* Free but pay for what you eat.

4 p.m.
Starting Point: Venkatra-
mana Boli Stall, Tham-
baiah (Reddy) St.

Organiser: Sridhar Venkataraman. Register: 97909 57208

Walk: *British Blueprints 1 – Lighthouse to War Memorial.* Mode: walk. Distance covered on foot: approx 3 km. To register: Write to chennai@storytrails.in, Ph: 99400 40215. Organised by Storytrails. Things to bring: comfortable walking footwear, cap

6 a.m.-8 a.m. Reporting
venue: Gandhi statue,
Marina beach Maxi-
mum capacity: 30 PAX
Registration free

Walk: *Bird Walk at Perumbakkam Tank*

Please bring along binoculars and cameras. Organised by the Madras Naturalists' Society. For registration: Vijay at gopivkumar58@gmail.com

6.30 a.m. Bus stand opp
IT Park near Toll Plaza in
Perumbakkam. Group
Size: 25. Strictly on first-
come basis.

Walk for the diffabled: *The City and its Cinema – an accessible excursion.*

10 a.m.-12.30 p.m.
Starting point: Entrance
gate of L.V. Prasad Acad-
emy, Saligramam. Rs.
200 per person, towards
travel charges

An introduction to the fascinating history of cinema in Chennai followed by a walk across Prasad Studios and Prasad Labs. Lead: Venkatesh Chakravarthy, Regional Director of L.V. Prasad Film & TV Academy.

Organised by Explore Differently (www.facebook.com/exploredifferently) NOTE: See Also August 25th

Talk: *Sir CPR's Madras* by Sriram V. Organised by The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar (CPR) Foundation

11 a.m.
CPR Foundation

Lecture: *Chennai: From Metropolis to Megapolis: Demography and Social Mobility* by Sujatha Natarajan, Patron and ex-President, Family Planning Association of India. Organised by Observer Research Foundation (Chennai Chapter) **Note:** Email confirmation mandatory 3-5 days in advance. orfchennai2@orfonline.org

11 am-1 pm followed
by lunch. ORF-Chennai
Conference Hall

Talk: *Palaeolithic cultures of Madras* by Dr. Jinu Koshy, Department of Ancient History & Archaeology, University of Madras. Organised by MLS

11 a.m.
Madras Literary Society

Talk: *Prehistoric sites in and around Madras* by Dr. Jinu Koshy, Department of Ancient History & Archaeology, University of Madras. Organised by DakshinaChitra

3 p.m.
DakshinaChitra

Talk: *Cultural History of Colonial Madras* by K.R.A. Narasiah. Organised by DakshinaChitra

3.30 p.m.
DakshinaChitra

Talk: *Contemporary art in Chennai* by Vaishnavi Ramana-
than. Organised by DakshinaChitra

4 p.m.
DakshinaChitra

Launch: *Memories of Madras* – A card game celebrating Madras City followed by a quiz and a game session in association with Odyssey and produced by Kreedagames with guidance from S. Muthiah.

7 p.m.-8 p.m.
Odyssey, Adyar

For information: info@kreedagames.com

● **Singing:** *Bharati evening* -- singing Bharatiar songs. Organised by all-women Rotary Club of Chennai Bharati. Only for Rotarians and their guests

Haddows Club

Note: Limited seating/registration at all venues/events on first-come, first-served basis, but terms apply

● Not open to all. Only for members and guests.

Check www.themadrasday.in and Madras Week App for up-to-date programmes.
Promotion and Publicity: PRISM Public Relations.

August 21 (Sunday) 2016

Heritage Ride: *Madras Day Heritage Ride to Sadras Fort.* Organised by Cycling Yogis. The ride will start from the city and reach Sadras Fort. The return will conclude at DakshinaChitra Heritage Museum on ECR Road. There will be a Medal Distribution Ceremony and talk on 'Cycling in Madras 1877-1977' followed by special edition My Stamp release on S.Muthiah (Chronicler of Madras) at the finish (DakshinaChitra). NOTE: Helmet is mandatory. Please wear bright coloured clothing to enhance visibility. The ride is free of cost and has no registration fees. You are responsible for your own safety. Obey all the traffic rules. The road will not be closed for the event. Ride route is subject to last minute changes.

Walk: *British Blueprints 2 – Beach Station to Fort.* Mode: walk. Distance covered on foot: approx 3 km. To register: Write to chennai@storytrails.in, Ph: 9940040215. Organised by Storytrails. Things to bring along: water bottles, comfortable walking footwear, cap

Walk: Nature Walk at Kelambakkam backwaters. Please bring along binoculars and cameras. Organised by the Madras Naturalists' Society. For registration: Vijay at gopivkumar58@gmail.com

Walk: *Naduvakkara to Anna Nagar.* Organised by Nam Oor, Nam Veedu, Nam Kadhai. Registration: annanagarshg@gmail.com

Tree Walk: Nandanam. Register online: <http://bit.ly/29CT9LO>. Organised by Nizhal

Food Walk: *Sowcarpet Food Walk.* Free but pay for what you eat. Organiser: Sridhar Venkataraman. Register: 97909 57208

Play session: *Games from Chennai – A display and play session conducted by Kreedagames in partnership with Amethyst.* For information: info@kreedagames.com

Walk: *On the trail of the British Raj (for kids).* To register: Write to chennai@storytrails.in Ph: 9940040215. Organised by Storytrails. Things to bring along: water bottles, cap

Walk: *A tour of the Bronze Gallery,* Madras Government Museum, Egmore led by Dr. Chithra Madhavan. Registration: nammamylapore10@gmail.com

Storytelling: *Madras Nalla Madras – a storytelling feast by Jeeva Raghunath.* Organised by Kathai Kalatta

Walk: *Textile Walk of T.Nagar – A guided tour of the "Golden Furlong" to understand the heritage establishments, their industry and their special weaves.* This year's walk will include Pothys, RMKV and Sundari Silks. Led by Sreemathy Mohan.

Registration: sreemathy.mohan@gmail.com

Conversation: Three Chennai authors – V. Rajesh, Abhishek Krishnan, Naqiyah Hasan – in conversation. Organised by Odyssey, Adyar

Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture: *Madras under the Golconda Sultans* by S. Anwar. Organised by Madras Musings

Talk: *Traditional Games from Chennai – What they tell us about ourselves* by Vinita Sidhartha of Kreedagames at The Folly. For information: info@kreedagames.com

August 22-28, 2016

Art Show: *CWA Art Show 2016.* Chennai Weekend Artists are conducting an art show displaying around 300 art works of 'Chennai-on-location' drawings and paintings. Show includes public participation also. Inauguration by eminent artists of Tamil Nadu.

Exhibition: Prize-winning Madras photographs from Alliance Francaise Contest

August 22 (Monday), 2016

Play Session: *Never too old to play – A play session for senior citizens conducted by Kreedagames in partnership with the Old is Gold Stores.*

For information: info@kreedagames.com /sanjay@oldisgoldstore.com

Talk: *Some street names of Madras that is Chennai* by Sriram V. Organised by Press Institute of India (PII)

Lecture: *Digging the Past: Archaeology Norms, Practices and Legislations in India and the U.S.A.* by Dr. S. Suresh, State Convenor, Tamil Nadu Chapter, INTACH. Organised by Roja Muthiah Research Library

Storytelling: Storytelling for and by adults. Topic: *It happened in Chennai.*

Open Mic (ten-minute time-limit per teller). Facilitated by the World Storytelling Institute. To register: info@storytellinginstitute.org / 98403 94282

Start: 5.00 a.m.
Finish: 12.00 noon.
Registration is compulsory for all the participants. For more information contact: Ramanujar Moulana Ph: 9884023123 or log on to www.facebook.com/cyclingyogis/groups

6 a.m.-8 a.m. Reporting venue: Beach Station, North exit. Maximum capacity: 30 PAX. Registration free

6.30 a.m. Bridge on OMR-ECR link road at Kelambakkam. Group Size: 25 strictly on first-come basis

7 a.m.-8 a.m. Starting point: Tower Park – Ayyapan temple side entrance

8-9 a.m. Nandanam Extn. outside Boston School

9 a.m. Starting Point: Ekambareswarar Temple, Mint Street

10 a.m.-6 p.m. The Folly, Amethyst, Opp Satyam Cinema

10 a.m.-12 Noon Reporting venue: Fort Museum entrance
Free. Max. capacity: 25 PAX

11am- 1pm. Rs. 300 per registration. Organised by Namma Mylapore

1.30 - 2.30 p.m. The Spice Jar restaurant, Residency Hotel

3 p.m.-6 p.m.
Rs. 350/- per registration

6 p.m.-7 p.m.
Odyssey, Adyar

6.30 p.m.-8 p.m.
Hotel Maris

6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
The Folly, Amethyst

Lalit Kala Akademi.
Inauguration: August 22, 5.30 p.m. Contact: Muralidharan Alagar 9840082098

AFM Gallery

3 p.m.-7 p.m. Old is Gold Store, Opp. Kohinoor Asiana, Semmenchery

5 p.m.
Press Institute of India
CPT Campus, Taramani

5.30 p.m.
RMRL, Taramani

6 p.m.
Cafe Coffee Day Square
Khader Nawaz Khan Road
Nungambakkam

Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture: *Busting the idol racket* by Vijay Kumar. Organised by Madras Musings

Hotel Crowne Plaza
(Adyar Park)
6.30 p.m.-8 p.m.

- **Talk:** *Madras Port* by K.R.A. Narasiah. Organised by the Rotary Club of Madras Midtown. Only for Rotarians and their guests

Hotel Savera

August 23-27, 2016

Exhibition: *Water Science: Journeys from Australia to Madras:* Photo exhibition will showcase Australia's knowledge and expertise of water sciences in India with a special focus on Chennai and its history in irrigation and water management. The exhibition will include a glimpse into Alfred Deakin's (Australia's second Prime Minister) visit to the then Madras Presidency, where he researched and published on Madras 'superior irrigation facilities and canal systems'. Organised by Australian Consulate-General, Chennai

Centre for Water Resources, College of Engineering, Guindy

August 23 (Tuesday), 2016

Forum discussion: *Traditional Games from Chennai – Their impact on the development of Special Children.* Rasa in partnership with Kreedagames. For information: info@kreedagames.com

10 a.m.-12.30 p.m. Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataga Manram

Walk: *Linking Science and Society.* A walk through the campus of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF). Against a backdrop of water harvesting and solar power, the walk will also explore the labs where researchers work, and there will be an interaction with Prof M.S. Swaminathan. The walk will be facilitated by Prof P.C. Kesavan and Dr. S. Rajalakshmi. To register: pmb@mssrf.res.in

11 am to 12 noon.
Maximum registrations - 25.

Play session : Traditional Games for special children. Kreedagames in partnership with Rasa. For information: info@kreedagames.com

2 p.m.-4 p.m. Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataga Manram

Theatre: If Shakespeare was born in Madras, how would he have scripted his plays? A contemporary presentation of an act in a Madras setting from any Shakespearean play to be enacted by college students. A 10-minute presentation by each team. In English but might include words and phrases in the local dialect. Organised by British Council. For details: 42050700/email: Valavan.S@in.britishcouncil.org

4.00 p.m.

Talk: *The communities that make Chennai.* Anuradha Oberoi will look at the Parsi, Sindhi, Marwari, Bengali, and Punjabi communities in the city. Organised by Press Institute of India

5 p.m.
Press Institute of India (PII)
CPT Campus, Taramani

Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture: *Chandralekha and the Chennai connect* by Sadanand Menon. Organised by Madras Musings

6.30 p.m.-8 p.m.
Chamiers

- **Discussion:** Panel discussion on *Marrying into Chennai.* Participants four Chennai expats – Deborah Thiagarajan (American), Miri Vasu (South Korean), Shannon Zirkle-Prabhakar (American) and Peter Claridge (UK). Moderated by Nina John. The four panelists will discuss the pros and cons of living in Chennai with spouses from Chennai. Organised by Rotary Club of Madras South. For members and guests only

6.30 p.m.-8 p.m.
Hotel Savera

- **Talk:** Poochi Venkat will speak on biodiversity. Organised by Rotary Club Chennai Gemini, Rotary Club Anna Nagar Aditya and Rotary Club Alandur. Only for Rotarians and their guest.

Alumni Club

August 24, (Wednesday) 2016

Play session: *Never too old to play – A play session for senior citizens conducted by Kreedagames in partnership with the Old is Gold Stores.* For information: info@kreedagames.com /sanjay@oldisgoldstore.com

3 p.m.-7 p.m.
Old is Gold Store, No. 53, 1st Main Road Indira Nagar

Talk: *Reviving it to match its legacy.* Rear Admiral Mohan Raman (Retd) will talk about the historical role of the Madras Literary Society in South Indian 'orientalism'. Organised by Press Institute of India

5 p.m.
Press Institute of India (PII)
CPT Campus, Taramani

Lecture: *South Indian Languages during Colonial rule – History and growth* by K.R.A. Narasiah. Organised by Roja Muthiah Research Library

5.30 p.m.
RMRL, Tharamani

Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture: *Some personalities of this City* by Gopalkrishna Gandhi. Organised by Madras Musings

6.30 p.m.-8 p.m.
The Hyatt Regency

Talk: *British architectural photographers and the heritage of the Madras Presidency, 1855-1905* by Dr. Crispin Branfoot, South Asian Art & Archaeology expert from SOAS, University of London. Organised by INTACH and Association of British Scholars

4.00 p.m.
British Council

August 25 (Thursday) 2016

Walk for the diffabled: Arms Gallery at the Government Museum. A look at the amazing collection of weapons on display, most from the Tanjore armoury. Stories and trivia behind them. Lead: Rajith Nair. Last date for registration 16th August, 2016. Organised by Explore Differently (www.facebook.com/exploredifferently)

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Rs,200 per person,
towards travel charges
(*see also August 20th)

Storytelling: *Madras Nalla Madras* – a storytelling feast by Jeeva Raghunath. Organised by Kathai Kalatta

1.30 - 2.30 p.m.
Malgudi Restaurant,
Hotel Savera

Play session: *Never too old to play* – A play session for senior citizens conducted by Kreedagames in partnership with the Old is Gold Stores.
For information: info@kreedagames.com /sanjay@oldisgoldstore.com

3 p.m.-7 p.m.
Old is Gold Store,
AH 247, 1st Street
Anna Nagar

Presentation: *Select bronze sculptures in the Government Museum, Egmore.* A presentation by Chithra Madhavan. Organised by Press Institute of India

5 p.m.
Press Institute of India
(PII)
CPT Campus, Taramani

Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture: *Chennai's Style Influencers* – panel discussion: Rosella Stephen and panelists. Organised by *Madras Musings*

6.30 p.m.-8 p.m.
Amethyst

August 26-28, 2016

Competitions and Festivities: *Covelong Point Classic Surf, Music and Yoga Festival 2016* celebrating Madras beaches and surf. There will be an international level surf competition hosted by the Asian Surfing Championship, a diverse music line-up with two stages, a yoga and a meditation festival, evening film screenings, and a variety of beach side activities. And, of course, food. Organised by The Covelong Point Social Surf School

All day till 11 pm
Covelong Point,
Kovalam village

Exhibition: *Marvellous Madras Photographs 2016.* Organised by Gingerbead

Tanishq, Anna Nagar

August 26 (Friday), 2016

Talk: *Kapaleeswarar temple, Mylapore – History, Art, Architecture and Traditional Games* by Chithra Madhavan with Vinita Sidhartha of Kreedagames. Rs.300/- per person. To register, nammamylapore10@gmail.com

6.30 a.m.-8.30 a.m.
Eastern entrance to
Kapaleeswarar Temple
(next to Giri Trading)

Storytelling: *Madras Nalla Madras* – a storytelling feast by Jeeva Raghunath. Organised by Kathai Kalatta.

1.30 - 2.30 pm
Malgudi Restaurant,
Hotel Savera

Food Walk: *Mylapore Food Walk.* Free but pay for what you eat. Organiser: Sridhar Venkataraman. Register: 97909 57208

4 p.m.
Starting Point: Mylapore
Head Post Office,
Kutchery Road

Talk: *People, participation and panning out* – Madras Day celebrations over the years. Jayashree B. will showcase her study about how Madras Week has grown over the past decade. Organised by Press Institute of India

5 p.m.
Press Institute of India
(PII)
CPT Campus, Taramani

Lecture: The Tamil-South Korean Connection by Kyungsoo Kim, Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Chennai. Organised by Roja Muthiah Research Library

5.30 p.m.
RMRL, Taramani

Storytelling: *Madras Nalla Madras* – a storytelling feast by Jeeva Raghunath. Organised by Kathai Kalatta

4.30 - 5.30 p.m.
Shiva Parvathi Gardens

Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture: *Madras Bhashai in Tamil Cinema* by V. Mohan Raman. Organised by *Madras Musings*

6.30 p.m.-8 p.m.
The Park Hyatt

Book release: Meera Raghavendra Rao's *Madhwas of Madras* (Palaniappa Bros.). Organised by Odyssey, Adyar

7 p.m.-8 p.m.
Odyssey, Adyar

August 27 (Saturday) 2016

Heritage Walk: *Marudheeswarar Temple – and games thrown in!* Tiruvanmiyur in 7-8th Century. Pradeep Chakravarthy with Vinita Sidhartha of Kreedagames. Registration: Pradeepandanusha@gmail.com

7 a.m.-7.45 a.m. At
entrance to temple oppo-
site the temple tank and
facing the beach (NOT
the one on ECR)

Walk: *Steeple Chase.* Walk through Chennai's Christian history and stories. Registration: chennai@storytrails.in, Ph: 9940040215. Organised by Storytrails. Things to bring along: water bottles, comfortable walking footwear, caps. Mode: Tempo Traveller

8 a.m.-11 a.m. Reporting
venue: Storytrails office.
Max. capacity: 10 PAX
Registration Free

Heritage Talk: *Heritage of Madras before the Arrival of the British* by Pradeep Chakravarthy. Organised by the Department of History and Tourism, Stella Maris College

10.30 a.m.
Room M-0-1,
Stella Maris College

Talk: *History of Madras from indigenous sources and folklore* by K.R.A. Narasiah. Organised by The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation

10.30 a.m.
CPR Foundation

Lecture: Chennai: *From Metropolis to Megapolis: Psychology of a Changing Social Fabric* by Dr. Ravi Samuel, PhD, Psychotherapist. Organised by Observer Research Foundation (Chennai Chapter). NOTE: Email confirmation mandatory 3-5 days in advance. orfchennai2@orfonline.org

11 am-1 pm followed by
lunch followed by lunch
ORF-Chennai Conference
Hall

Recital: *Chennaiyil Gnanaratnam*, a recital and play on Bharati and Chennai. Organised by MLS

11 a.m. Madras Literary
Society

Storytelling: *Tales of Madrasapattinam* by Jeeva Raghunath. Organised by Kathai Kalatta and MLS

3 p.m. Madras Literary
Society

Storytelling: *Madras Nalla Madras* – a storytelling feast by Jeeva Raghunath. Organised by Kathai Kalatta

4 p.m.
DPI Library

Walk: *Understanding Tamil Nadu's Textile Heritage* – A guided walk in the Govt Museum. Get to know the vintage textiles of Tamil Nadu and textile related repositories available in the museum. Led by Sreemathy Mohan. Registration: sreemathy.mohan@gmail.com

Rs. 300/- per registration

Talk & Demo – *Lecture and Demonstration of Ancient Temple Games* presented by Apparao Galleries in association with The Leela Palace. Chitra Madhavan in conversation with Vinita Sidhartha of Kreedagames; Lakshmi Srinath / TVAM and Kreedagames will translate traditional games in the demonstration; For information: info@kreedagames.com

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Apparao Galleries,
The Leela Palace

Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture: *Chennai & Cricket* by R. Mohan. Organised by *Madras Musings*

6.30-8.30 p.m.
Hanu Reddy Residences

Storytelling: *Madras Nalla Madras* – a storytelling feast by Jeeva Raghunath. Organised by Kathai Kalatta

7.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.
Southern Spice restau-
rant,
The Residency Towers

Film: Documentary on Chennai Lakes produced by Environmentalist Foundation of India. The documentary highlights the plight of Chennai's lakes and aims at sensitising the larger public on the need for conserving our water bodies. To be followed by a brief discussion. Organised by British Council. For details: 42050700/email: Valavan.S@in.britishcouncil.org

4.30 p.m.
British Council

August 28 (Sunday) 2016

Heritage Walk: *Kapaleeswarar temple, Mylapore – History, Art, Architecture and Traditional Games* by Chithra Madhavan, with Vinita Sidhartha of Kreedagames. Register: nammamylapore10@gmail.com

6.30 a.m. -8.30 a.m.
Rs. 300 per registration.
Organised by Namma
Mylapore

Photowalk: Yocee (<http://yocee.in>) conducts its 8th annual Madras Week Photowalk for children Photowalk for children. Led by N. Ramaswamy. The walk will cover the Creek. For children of 10 years and above. Bring your own camera (any type). Carry light snacks and water bottle. Dress easy. Free. Register with Revathi at 9840544629. Open only to first 25 registrations.

Starts at 6.30 a.m.
Meeting Point : In front
of the Quibble Island
Cemetery.

Route : <https://goo.gl/maps/WFkneVivvx32>

Walk: *Harrington Road walk* led by Padmapriya Baskaran and Sudha Umashanker. To register: 9790918056/9840247624. Organised by the Coom-a-cultural-mapping group and Storycorner at Bookmine

7 a.m.
Starting point: Shoppers
Stop

Heritage Walk: 9th annual *Living Statues of Marina Beach* walking tour featuring six brief dramatic enactments (in English and Tamil) of the characters portrayed by the statues. Stopped at: Kannagi, NSC Bose, Thiruvalluvar, George Pope, Bharathidasan, and Avvaiyar.

7:30 a.m.
Meeting Point: Kannagi
statue, Marina Beach (at
Bharathi Salai)

Let us know if you might like to (a) Perform one of the statue characters (in English or Tamil). (b) Read-aloud poetry by the characters (Thiruvalluvar, Bharathidasan, Avvaiyar, etc). The suggested scripts (in English), and other details, are at www.storytellinginstitute.org/28.html. Organised by the World Storytelling Institute.

To Register, info@storytellinginstitute.org / 98403 94282

Food Walk: *Sowcarpet Food Walk.* Free but pay for what you eat. Organiser: Sridhar Venkataraman. Register: 97909 57208

9 a.m.
Starting Point: Ekam-
bareswarar Temple, Mint
Street

Exhibition: *Heritage Automobiles.*

Organised by the Heritage Motoring Club

9.30 a.m. All day.
The Turyaa Hotel, OMR
(1 km away from Tidel
Park)

Photowalk: Yocee (<http://yocee.in>) conducts its 8th annual Madras Week Photowalk for children. Led by N. Ramaswamy. The walk will cover the Adyar Creek. For children of 10 years and above. Bring your own camera (any type). Carry light snacks and water bottle. Dress easy. Free. Register with Revathi at 9840544629. Open only to first 25 registrations.

Starts at 6.30 a.m.
Meeting Point : In front
of the Quibble Island
Cemetery

Route : <https://goo.gl/maps/WFkneVivvx32>

● **Book release:** A book of selected writings on Chennai by Randor Guy. This will be followed by INTACH film on Madras narrated by S. Muthiah. By invitation only

9.30 a.m.
TAG Centre

- **Lecture:** Kizhambur Sankara Subramanian, Editor, *Kalaimagal*. Organised by Probus Club of Chennai. 10 am at the exhibition hall of Russian Cultural Centre, Kasturi Ranga Road, (Open to members)
- Heritage Walk:** *Stone Gallery of the Govt Museum* led by Pradeep Chakravarthy. Participants buy their own tickets at the gate. Registration to pradeepchakravarthy75@gmail.com by Aug 20, 2016. 10.30 a.m.-11.30 a.m. Registration free.
- Storytelling:** *Madras Nalla Madras* – a storytelling feast by Jeeva Raghunath. Organised by Kathai Kalatta. 1-2 p.m. Aloft. Chennai
- Tree Walk:** *Neer Vanam Chitlappakkam*. Organised by Nizhal. Register online: <http://bit.ly/29CT9LO> 4.30 p.m.-5.30 p.m. Chitlappakkam Erikkarai
- Talk:** Chennai Heritage Lecture: *The Co-Optex Story* by T.N. Venkatesan, IAS. Organised by *Madras Musings* 5 p.m.-6.30 p.m. The Park
- Quiz:** *The Madras Week Odyssey sports quiz* conducted by Partab Ramchand. For ages 12 years and above. Participation as a team of 2. Pre- registration at 24453191 required. Organised by Odyssey, Adyar 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Odyssey, Adyar
- Open Quiz:** *Murugappa Open Quiz*. Conducted by Sumanth Raman. For details: prasadr@corp.murugappa.com
- **Talk:** *From maattu vandi to Metro* by K.R.A. Narasiah. Organised by Rotary Club of Royapettah. Only for Rotarians and their guests. Presidency Club

August 29 (Monday), 2016

- Film Screening:** *The Anglo-Indians of Madras – A Fading Presence*. Screening of a film directed by Harry MacLure and Richard O'Connor. Organised by Press Institute of India 5 p.m. Press Institute of India (PII) CPT Campus, Taramani

September 3 (Saturday), 2016

- Quiz:** *Murugappa Madras Quotient Quiz*. For details: prasadr@corp.murugappa.com From 12 noon St. Bede's School Auditorium, San Thomé

COMPETITIONS

COMPETITIONS organised by Nam Veedu, Nam Oor, Nam Kadhai

Competitions	Results	Registration
Social history of Anna Nagar: Scrapbook	21st August 2016	Submission on or before
Power point		August 15, 2016

Competition 1: *Make your own social history album/scrap book*. Age: 8 to 16 (individual) .

Start with a 4 generation family tree (minimum), add pictures, plan of your house (before and now), write stories, add function invitations, postcards, sketches etc., and how your family moved to Anna Nagar, when? how? why? How your family history is related to Anna Nagar.

There will be prizes and selected works will be displayed at the 2nd Anna Nagar Social History exhibition.

Competition 2: *Video or Power Point presentation*. Age: 15 and above. No. of persons: 2 to 5

How your family moved to Anna Nagar, when? how? why? How your family history is related to Annanagar.

Quiz on Anna Nagar. Registration before August 18, 2016.

Drawing competition: Junior level, Senior level (topic – on the spot). **Registration before August 18th 2016.**

For details of all competitions: annanagarshg@gmail.com; Phone: 91-98404 95717

* * *

Documentation Contest organised by Kreedaa in partnership with Odyssey.

Games my Grandparents played / Memories of playing Traditional Games in Chennai – Documentation submission conducted by Kreedaa in partnership with Odyssey.

Last date for submission of entries: August 26th. For information: contest@kreedagames.com or contact the Odyssey staff

Photo Competition: *Graffiti Games in Temples / Monuments* conducted by Kreedaa in partnership with Ashvita Events. **Last date for submission: August 15, 2016.** For more information: contest@kreedagames.com

* * *

Photographic Society of Madras (PSM), is holding the ShootMadras photography contest and later an exhibition.

There are two sections: 1. Open, and 2. Students. There are three themes:

- 1) *My Madras:* The photographer's personal tribute to Chennai, including typical Chennai views like beaches, towns, eat outs, city life, cityscapes.
- 2) *Only in Madras:* scenes unique to Madras, be it a modern woman in Jeans and tops with jasmine flower on her head or The thenga maanga pattani sundal on the beaches, trade mark autos or 'flying trains'.
- 3) *Evolving Madras:* New buildings, roads, bridges, flyovers and metro lines, parallel with structures of yester years.

Entries to shootmadras2016@gmail.com by August 15th, 10 p.m. Maximum two entry per theme, per participant, but in only one of the two sections. Prizes: 6 first, 6 second and 6 third. Special Mentions plus complimentary PSM membership till 31st March 2018 for first and second prize winners.

For details: B. Ramana Kumar, Cell: 9841113024 / email: ramanasthirdeye@gmail.com

* * *

Quiz: Heritage quiz open to students of 6th, 7th and 8th Standards only. Rolling trophy to the winning team and other exciting prizes. Organised by DakshinaChitra. For details: Sarojha Gurunath 98414 36149/044-2446 2435/2491 8943

* * *

August 13-28, 2016

Daily Contest in Odyssey Facebook page 'odysseybookstore' and Twitter '@odysseypost'. Contest based on Chennai authors and their books. One lucky winner every day gets a signed copy of that Author's book and a book voucher from Odyssey. Organised by Odyssey, Adyar

* * *

Drawing Competition: *Madrascaples*. Theme – Madras. The drawing has to be of people or locations or life as it was in MADRAS in earlier times. For ages 8 years and above. Drawing sheet and colour pencils will be provided. Gifts for winners and participation certificates for all. Organised by Odyssey and Y PLUS. 3 p.m.-4 p.m. For registration call 24453191.

* * *

OTHER EVENTS

Odyssey Adyar Madras Week promotions

Display of books written by over 100 Chennai Authors. Authorwise Books display with separate info cards about the author. Madras Week 2016 Commemorative collage created with all these authors pictures.

'Chennai Books' Bag is a cloth Bag with cover images of books written by Chennai authors. Three different bags covering 90 book cover images. Buy any two books written by 'Madras' authors at an Odyssey store and get one 'Chennai Books' Bag free, buy four books and get two bags free, buy six books and get all three bags free.

* * *

August 21-28: The Chennai-based clubs of Inner Wheel District 323 are distributing a sheet giving some interesting write-ups on heritage, and an 8-question quiz with answers. Six variations of this have been created in Tamil and English. They will be distributed to diners in restaurants after diners have placed their orders, while they are waiting for their food. Distribution will be at Hot Breads-associated restaurants and at a few others. Creation of awareness about Madras heritage is the aim.

* * *

August 22: A Special Cover will be released by the Postmaster General at ASI, Fort St. George at 11.05 a.m. The theme: First Madras Exchange Lighthouse – 220 years. The Cover shows an artist sketch from archival records description and the rear of the cover will show how the twelve oil lamps were kept in front of local mirrors to act as reflectors. Organised by D.H. Rao.

* * *

INTACH FILM ON CHENNAI

Arrange to screen the film "The Story of Madras – The First City of Modern India" brought out by Intach Chennai Chapter and collected last year by many schools. Invite students of neighbouring schools to attend the screening at your premises.

The film, of 50 minute duration and in English, could be screened on any convenient day during the month of August 2016 to increase the awareness and appreciation among children of the heritage of the city they live in.

Details: intachchennai@gmail.com. CD please contact Chitra / Saravanan / Lakshmi at 24991696, 24994909, 24983619.

Some Venue Details

Aloft, Chennai: 102, Rajiv Gandhi Salai, OMR - IT Expressway, Sholinganallur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600119; **Alumni Club:** Boat Club Road, R.A.Puram, Chennai 600 032; **Ashvita Bistro:** 11, Bawa Rd, Alwarpet, Chennai, 600018; **Observer Research Foundation:** Conference Hall, Sixth Floor, A-1 Building, 89, Dr. Radhakrishnan Road, Chennai 600 004; **Dhyana Ashram:** 25, Madha Church Road, R.A. Puram, Chennai 600 028; **Chamiers:** Old No. 79, New No. 106, Chamiers Road, Nandanam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600028; **Dhyana Ashram:** 25, Madha Church Road, R.A. Puram, Chennai 600 028; **DPI Library/Madras Literary Society:** College Road, Thousand Lights, Chennai, Chennai 600 006; **The Folly, Amethyst:** next to Corporation Bank, Whites Road, Royapettah, Chennai 600 014; **Hanu Reddy Residences:** Left off Kasturi Ranga Avenue 1st Street; **Iyal Isai Nataga Manram:** 31, Greenways Road, Thendral, Thendral, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600028; **Odyssey, Adyar:** 1st Main Road, Gandhi Nagar, Adyar, Chennai, 600020. **Shiva Parvathi Gardens:** 51/55, Seemathamman Koil Street, Mettukuppam Main Road, Maduravoyal, Chennai 600 095; **Sri Parvati Gallery:** 28/160, Eldams Road, Alwarpet, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600 018; **Storytrails Office:** 21/2, TTK Road, 1st Cross, Sriram Nagar, Chennai 600 018; **Swarna mini hall:** 111, G Block, 2nd Avenue ext. Road, near Chintamani bus stop, Anna Nagar East, Chennai 600 112; **TAG Centre:** T.T.K. Road, Mylapore, Chennai 600 004; **Thambiah (Chetty) Road,** 700 metres west of Duraiswamy Subway.



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

1. Who bought the pioneering portal Yahoo! for \$4.83 billion in cash, ending the latter's over 20-year run as an independent corporation?

2. Name the craft that recently became the first solar-powered aircraft to travel around the world without fuel.

3. Name the eminent Bengali author and social activist, winner of the Jnanpith and Ramon Magsaysay Awards, who passed away recently.

4. Name the young javelin thrower who set a world record and became India's first-ever gold medallist in any world athletics championships.

5. In the recently released 2016 Fortune Global 500 list of the world's biggest firms, which oil major was India's top-most company at 161st place with revenues of \$54.7b?

6. How did Rohit Khandelwal make news recently?

7. Malcolm Turnbull has become the Prime Minister for the second time of which Commonwealth and cricket-playing country?

8. On July 17th, the youngest Prime Minister (aged 37) of the country was sworn in. Name him and the nation.

9. Which online giant has successfully tested *Aquila*, the first ever high-altitude solar plane, to bring Internet access to remote parts of the world.

10. Kerala's 86-year-old Dakshyani is all set to enter the Guinness World Records. For what achievement?

* * *

11. At which prominent Mylapore building did the RBI's Cash and Issue Department function during the World War II years?

12. Name the celebrated scriptwriter for films like *Mullum Malarum* and *Sakalakala Vallavan*, who passed away recently.

13. An Oregon State University team led by Dr. Mas Subramanian, who did his schooling and college in Chennai, has created a unique shade of blue. What is it called?

14. Which popular restaurant chain began as a small sweet shop founded by K.S. Thirupathi Raja and is now set to open its first outlet in the US?

15. What item of significance (that can't be photographed) to Tyagaraja followers is kept in a house at Varahappa Iyer Lane, Thanjavur?

16. Where in the State was the country's first green train corridor opened recently?

17. After which literary giant is the Taramani campus of the University of Madras named?

18. Which Chennai resident won the Ramaon Magsaysay Award recently?

19. The dome of which specific *ratha* at Mamallapuram served as the inspiration for the dome atop the multi-speciality hospital at *Government Estate*, Mount Road?

20. How do the resident's of Madras remember the British peer Richard Plantagenet Campbell Temple-Nugent-Brydges-Chandos-Grenville?

(Answers on page 12)

Introductions

The Madhu model

A lifelong journalist and who has made the introduction of speakers an art, S.R. Madhu has at last come out with his first book. Titled *Windows to the World*, it contains a selection of his much talked about circulars on the speakers at the weekly meetings of the Rotary Club of Madras South (RCMS). He has been organising these meetings for the last 18 years as the Club's Programme Committee Chairman and enticing members and their guests with the circular.

While Madhu is known for his introduction of speakers, I introduced Madhu to RCMS twenty years ago. I have had a ringside view of the tremendous time and effort he puts in to identify a good speaker, gets his or her biodata, talks to them about the topic to be covered, and does his own research on the topic before he prepares the circular. Since a copy of the particular circular also goes to each speaker, it is not uncommon for many speakers to start their talk with a note of thanks to Madhu for the introduction, but also complain in jest that Madhu has stolen that thunder by covering several points from their presentation in the circular.

While many Rotary Clubs complain about their inability to get good speakers, Madhu believes that "there is no dearth of good speakers in Chennai. This is a happening metro, it's an intellectual capital, a film capital, a music capital. It has businessmen, economists, entrepreneurs, scientists, lawyers, sportsmen, writers, singers, and dancers. It is a vibrant city politically, economically, socially. It has scores of achievers young and old. It has a little army of former IAS officers, plus thousands of youth with stars in their eyes and fire in the belly. Besides, most of Chennai-ites are loquacious and they love to talk".

No wonder Madhu has been able to get excellent speakers week after week to address RCMS.

Madhu's book was released at an installation meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras South at which Natarajan Nagoji, a member of the RCMS was installed as the District Governor. Madhu credits Nagoji for motivating him to come out with the book. The book is an excellent reference work not only for Rotary and other Clubs who are looking for good speakers but is also in a way a mini-directory of 'who's who' in Chennai.

To give you an idea about

the contents of the circulars, here are a couple of excerpts from the book.

About Sandeep Narayan:

"Sandeep is as fluent and mellifluous a speaker as he is a singer. The American upbringing is obvious but the emotional content is Indian – nay Tamil! The Indian influence on Sandeep was enriched last year when he married Radhe, a beautiful Bharata Natyam dancer and daughter of Sadguru Jaggi Vasudev. Story-telling, public speaking, music – Sandeep excels in all three. Good reason for you to dump other priorities on Tuesday and listen to Sandeep Narayan."

About Dr. Anuradha Uberoi who gave a talk on Punjabis in Chennai:

'And Punjabis? Vibrant, Boisterous. Loud. They work hard, play hard, sing with zest and dance with energy. They live life king-size. The women?

Svelte, smart, slim (till they get married), milk and roses complexion, articulate. They exude confidence and charm. Kushwant Singh put it better, Punjab is known for lusty men and busty women.

"Anuradha thinks that Chennai-ites are bit distant and reserved compared to the folks back at home. Make sure to give her a warm welcome."

And about Srikala Varma who spoke on 'Know Your Eyes':

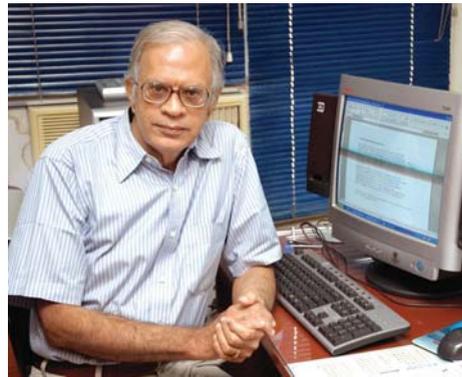
"You would not associate royalty with Ophthalmology. And not Bharata Natyam training either. But Srikala is no common princess. You will agree when you meet and listen to her."

As N. Ram says in his Foreword, "the book is a continuing essay in the science and art of communication".

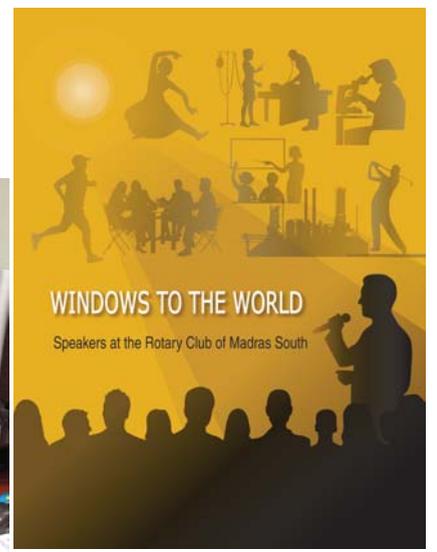
Madhu started his career

with the *Times of India*, Mumbai, in 1964. After spending 15 years in mainstream journalism with TOI and American diplomatic missions in Mumbai and Delhi, before he was deputy managing editor of their *Span* magazine, he switched over to development journalism when he joined the Bay of Bengal project of FAO (United Nations) that was head quartered in Chennai and dealt with fisheries. As the International Information Officer of the project he wrote, edited and produced scores of reports, books, brochures and video films.

It has taken over 50 years for Madhu to come out with his first book, "a book that gives an idea of the abundance and variety of the talents active in Chennai, a book that is also a tribute to Chennai." Now that he has started, he has a couple of more books in the pipeline.



S.R. Madhu and the cover of his book.



Ways forward suggested

The Alumni Association of the College of Engineering, Guindy, discussed at a recent seminar the December floods. The newsletter of the Association reported that the Chief Guest, G. Ganapathy Subramanian, Former Engineer-in-Chief, PWD, and Consultant-WAPCOS-Chennai, spoke on what needed to be done, rather than looking at the past. Giving a background of the meteorological, topographical and hydrological features of the Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA), the river basins and tanks within it, the influence of impact on the Pallikaranai Marsh Land and the Buckingham Canal, etc., he detailed how rapid urbanisation and encroachment, discharge of raw sewage/sullage, and dumping of solid wastes, illegal construction, etc., had degraded the entire system and suggested the following ways forward for the future:

– Proper planning and curbing of occupation of hydrologically sensitive areas

- Pre-monsoon cleaning and desilting of flood channels
- Flood-zone mapping of all the rivers for magnitude with various return periods
- Restoring the flood-carrying capacity of all the rivers
- Restoring and preserving the Pallikaranai Marshland
- Conducting hydraulic and hydrologic model studies and preparing rescue management plans
- Flood forecasting
- Restoration of macro and micro drainage systems
- Desilting of water bodies
- Linking storm water drains
- Beautification of lakes and maintenance
- Improvement of ecology
- Placing data on flow, water level, rainfall, etc., in the public domain
- Arming Government bodies with legislative powers to deal with encroachments
- Creation of a Disaster Management and Rescue Force
- Carefully planned and executed resettlement plans for people living on the river

- banks and right of way of rivers
- Linking of Buckingham Canal to the sea near Oggium Maduvu
- Keeping the mouths of Kusasthalayar, Cooum, and Adayar rivers open to the sea at all times

Another speaker spoke of the need to shift the airport to Sriperumbudur in the context of the inadequacies of the secondary runway and its impact on the flooding and operations of the main runway at Meenam-bakkam. Jaya Priya Rajiv, post-graduate student in M.Tech (Planning), made a case for approaches that could encompass flood plains regulation, permeable roads, rainwater gardens, blue-green infrastructure, underground water storage, rain water capture and delayed drainage etc, citing similar measures undertaken successfully in other parts of the world. (Courtesy: AACEG News)

(Continued on page 12)

A jolly evening with Guha & Kapil

It was an evening laced with anecdotes, nostalgia and camaraderie. Cricket and Chennai that was Madras have always had a special bond. The Chepauk crowd is acknowledged to be the most knowledgeable in the country. And the audience at the valedictory function of the 50th year of the Sanmar family's ties with the Jolly Rovers Cricket club was in keeping with tradition and reputation. It appreciated the eloquent keynote address of historian and author Ramachandra Guha on 'Five Forms of Cricketing Partisanship', the humorous speech of Kapil Dev who had no hesitation in poking fun at his once limited English, and the amiable ambience.

Everything was done in style with elegance and orderliness being the hallmarks. The entry to the hall itself was well lit, had a red carpet and had photographs on both sides to send guests on a trip down memory

lane. The spacious hall was again brightly lit and all round were memorabilia celebrating the various triumphs of the Jolly Rovers over the years. The well-attended function was the culmination of a year long celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Sanmar group's ties with Jolly Rovers which has been undisputedly the city's leading cricket club going by the number of trophies it has won.

Indeed, club affiliation was the first of the five forms of cricketing partisanship that Guha touched upon, the others being a State team, Test cricket, the importance of bowlers, and the affinity towards an individual's own generation of cricketers. Guha, with his love and knowledge of the game (particularly Test cricket, as he emphasised), reeled off anecdotes that embellished his 40-minute talk, though he did slip up on a couple of occasions when it came to facts and figures. He admitted that he had

not seen a single IPL game and compared Test cricket to single malt scotch whiskey and T-20 to country-made liquor, making clear his apathy towards cricket's shortest format in unequivocal terms.

But for all of Guha's impeccable English and excellent delivery, it was Kapil who brought the house down as he reeled off stories that revolved basically around his once lack of English

• by
Partab Ramchand

and how he got along as a player and captain taking this in his stride. He recalled a Selector's reluctance to appoint him as Captain because at that time he could not speak English at all. Kapil said he felt like saying at the time "Why don't you get someone from Oxford or Cambridge to speak and meanwhile I will play." He spoke about his love for Tamil Nadu and in particular South Indian food, but also recalled that his affection for Chepauk was deep since "I never failed in a Test there". While congratulating the Sanmar Group, Kapil said that running a cricket team for 50 years is a "tremendous achievement and it is such traditions that keep the game alive in the country."

But despite the entertainment provided in varying ways by Guha and Kapil, the most pleasant aspect of the evening was the ambience. A cricketing audience will always be lively



Ramachandra Guha (left) and Kapil Dev with N. Sankar of the Sanmar Group.

and affectionate and it was great to see cricketers who perhaps had not seen each other for an extended period exchanging pleasantries preceded by warm hugs. There was M G. Bhavanarayanan, a member of the Madras team that won the Ranji Trophy in 1954-55 for the first time, now pushing 90 and there were several young club cricketers just happy to be soaking in the atmosphere though they did not miss taking a selfie with Kapil.

For me, personally, it meant a lot to be present at the function for, as a sports reporter, I had covered a lot of league cricket and have observed closely Jolly Rovers' rise. I always felt that the main reason

for their success was that the management adopted a professional attitude even in the days when the game was largely amateur, with very little money in it. This attitude gained momentum when Bharath Reddy joined Jolly Rovers in 1983. The former Indian wicket-keeper was aware of the changing trends in the game and as captain, manager and talent-spotter played an inspirational role in shaping Jolly Rovers' triumphant march through the years.

A book by V. Ramnarayan, aptly titled Cricket for the love of it was released on the occasion and its engagingly told in word and picture the Jolly Rovers' story and the Sanmar Group's connection with it.

Ways forward suggested

(Continued from page 11)

In the question and answer session that followed, the following points were stressed: the need for an overarching Authority to ensure a holistic approach in the framing and execution of the works, enhancing the capacity of the tanks in the region, recourse to flood forecasting models based on rainfall distribution in the zone of influence that could re-

duce the subjective element in decision-making, proper execution and upkeep of stormwater drains, need for posting of staff with adequate experience in sensitive posts, greater coordination between the Central and the State governments in the execution of works, and dissemination of flood warnings down the line in the various departments etc.

— S. Suryanarayanan

Answers to Quiz

1. Verizon; 2. Solar Impulse 2; 3. Mahasweta Devi; 4. Neeraj Chopra; 5. Indian Oil Corporation; 6. The actor, model and TV personality became the first Indian and first Asian to win the Mr. World title; 7. Australia; 8. Pema Khandu (Arunachal Pradesh); 9. Facebook; 10. The oldest living elephant.

* * *

11. Lakshmi Vilas that later became Kamadhenu Theatre (and is now a marriage hall); 12. 'Panchu' Arunachalam; 13. YInMn Blue as it is a combination of Yttrium, Indium, and Manganese; 14. Adyar Ananda Bhavan; 15. The Rama idol that the great composer used to worship; 16. Between Rameswaram and Manamadurai; 17. Sekkizhar; 18. Musician T.M. Krishna; 19. Draupadi ratha; 20. He was the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos after whom the famous canal is named!

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