

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS MUSINGS

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Back to renaming our roads

(By The Editor)

The Corporation of Greater Chennai falls back on certain repeat activities whenever it finds time hanging heavy on its hands. One is the beautification of the Marina and the other is the renaming of roads that commemorate the colonial

William Montieth entered the Madras Engineers in 1809, became Lt Col in 1826 and Lt Gen in 1854. Fraser's Bridge gets its name from John Fraser who designed the municipal waterworks. Not undistinguished names certainly, one working for the army and the other ensuring water supply. Both noble professions. And certainly, these men can at best be local heroes, which means once their names are removed, they stand forgotten. This is not likely with the Red Cross and the TNPSC, both of which are very well known institutions that really do not need commemoration by way of street names.

There is also the question of tampering with local history. A
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The names over and over again

• The statistics below are from Eicher's city map. While we understand the desire to commemorate our leaders, it is time we realised Chennai's repetitive street names have become somewhat monotonous. Perhaps retaining the old names would help retain some local colour.

Names	Times repeat
Anna Nagar	16
Anna Salai	56
Indira Nagar	23
Kamaraj Nagar/puram	24
Kamaraj Salai	54
Kalaigñar Karunanidhi Nagar	7
MGR Puram/Nagar/Colony	19
Ambedkar Nagar/Colony	21
Ambedkar Road	36

masters. The latest to suffer from this are Montieth and Fraser's Bridge Roads, which are to now become Red Cross and Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission Roads respectively.



See what happens when we cut down trees! This picture the Internet brought us from abroad could well be used by Nizhal for a poster. Nizhal has several awareness-creating walks this Madras Week. (See programme pages 9-12.)

If announcements were horses...

The recent flurry of announcements of schemes being contemplated by the Tamil Nadu government should gladden the hearts of Chennai residents. When completed, and if done so on time, these schemes should make a noticeable difference to the quality of life in greater Chennai. Closer study of the information provided on the projects and our experience of the track record of public agencies in project execution suggest that celebration must wait till we feel assured, by actual prompt follow-up action, that transformation of announcements into tangible facilities

and services is going to be different this time.

The most important of these schemes is the Rs. 1,442 crore proposal to shut down the vast dump yards in Kodungaiyur and Perungudi. The scheme envisages stoppage of further dump-

• by A Special Correspondent

ing, remediation of the existing accumulated dump over time, revamping the present conservancy process and setting up two plants to convert waste to energy, thereby absorbing, we presume, the current incoming waste as well as gradual conversion of the accumulated heap. It

is expected that in a period of 15 months the waste heaps would be fully degraded, biologically and chemically.

The heap conversion may be a slower process as it was not subject to proper segregation before dumping. Segregation is

ness and proactive cooperation are elements of responsible citizenry.

Another important aspect that could make or mar the waste-to-energy conversion project relates to its financial feasibility and sufficiency of returns to the investor. There are many imponderables and "immeasurables" in a project of this nature where everything depends on cooperation of a large multitude and a massive collection system. The output of energy is the source of revenue to the contractor, but the output ratio is conditioned by the composition of the input. Under

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If announcements were horses...

(Continued from page 1)

such uncertainties appropriate protection of return is necessary to the investor and toward this a different contractual model may have to be adopted from the normal. A guaranteed margin over actual cost as the basis for pricing the energy seems more likely to be mutually beneficial both to the government and to the investor. If such an approach leads, as it might, to a higher cost of energy bought from the contractor compared to other sources this must be treated as a conscious subsidy for creating a hygienic environment. The social returns are in the form of healthier surroundings. Waste-to-energy should not flounder on the rocks of financial returns.

The second project is the Tamil Nadu Infrastructural Financial Services Ltd.'s commissioning of a study to formulate a plan for solid waste management in the city on a public-private partnership basis. This appears to be meant for taking forward the main project for re-vamping present conservancy services. As part of this package, the extent of contamination of the aquifer and the areas affected in Kodungaiyur and Perungudi will be assessed. It has been known for a long time that the ground water in the Kodungaiyur and Perungudi areas are contaminated and the atmosphere has a high percentage of particulates. It is surprising that the need to measure it has been realised only now. What have we been doing all these years? All this does not inspire much confidence in the minds of the lay public over the Government's seriousness. Appointment of a Committee is an age-old trick to create an aura of action without taking it.

The third important plan is the Cooum river restoration of the last 32 km of the river's 72 km stretch. The scheme would include de-silting, marking and defending boundaries, resettlement of 55 slums along the river bed, solid waste removal, laying interceptors, installation of sewage treatment plants, expanding an underground sewage system and providing cycle tracks and walk-ways. That is much more than cosmetics and is to be welcomed. But what about the Adyar?

While such announcements are good by way of reassurance to citizens that the Government is mindful of improving basic public services, they do not go far enough in terms of specifics to lend credibility. When would the Rs. 1,442 crore be sanctioned? What are the module-wise targets for completion? The Cooum restoration project

does indicate a time-frame of 36 months, but there is no mention of the cost, when monies would be made available and when it would start. The report itself cites enormous delays in getting clearances from CRZ (Coastal Regulation Zone) authorities and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in executing bits and pieces of this project which has been going on for quite some time. Initiated in 2006, clearance was given only in June this year by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. There are four different arms of the government that would be executing different parts of this project and coordinating it could be a nightmare for the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Our anxieties and doubts are not unfounded, going by the track record of execution. The comprehensive underground sewerage connection to residents of Pallikaranai is in a state of paralysis and has so far suffered a delay of four years. The scheme was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 58.61 crore in 2009 but work began only in 2011, after two years. It should have been completed by 2013 but there is still a large amount of work to be completed with the date of completion surrounded in uncertainty.

An example of bad planning and disregard for completion targets is the appalling state of parks in the city for which the capital budget was raised from Rs. 230 crore in 2015-16 to Rs. 280 crore in 2016-17 but there is little visible evidence of such an amount having been spent. According to the Greater Chennai Corporation, the city parks should have manicured lawns, ornamental hedges, walkways, children's play areas etc. Most parks fall short of these standards and you cannot but feel that the park project provides scope for exploitation by unscrupulous intermediaries free from fear of detection.

Besides tardy implementation, it is surprising that, amidst paucity of funds, even budgeted funds are surrendered unutilised – example of Rs. 446 crore unutilised in 2015-16 for important projects like desalination and Heritage City development, cited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

If wishes were horses, beggars would ride, is an English proverb. It suggests that if wishing could make things happen, then even the destitute can have everything they want. That goes for announcements. Loss of confidence in governance and lack of accountability to the public need urgent correction.

Messages for massage

As he gets older, *The Man from Madras Musings* has several parts of his body craving for attention. The lower back has sunk low in terms of its ability to hold up, and as for his left knee, there are certain sounds emanating from it that would not be out of place in a metal-forming workshop. The right foot has days when it becomes very communicative and, of late, is engaging in a conversation of sorts with the left elbow. There are times when the general noise level rises to an extent that MMM gets the idea that he is eavesdropping on a group discussion among body parts.

MMM's good lady, also known as She Who Must Be Obeyed decreed that a good massage would set all of this right and, so, of late, MMM, whose private life, he will let you know, is an open book, has a burly masseur coming home to knead, rotate, pummel, etc. All of this has MMM feeling as though he has emerged from a boxing bout with Mohammed Ali, but it does help all the talkative body parts quieten down a little. Call it coincidence or whatever, but massaging as a service appears to be going through a boom even as MMM takes his first steps in it. And some of these services appear to be offering a lot more than a massage, in this holy land of Chennai that was once Madras. How else do you explain this epistle that keeps coming up on MMM's cell phone at least once a day?

“உ-ஃSummer Offer! B-o-d-y m-a-s-s-a-g-e Starts from 1299/-

Kerala,Thai,Swedish done by Best Offer in 4in1 combo package”

MMM would like to know why the words bodymassage are stretched out like that. Is it a visual depiction of what happens to your tissues? And what is a 4in1 combo package when only three, namely Kerala, Thai and Swedish are mentioned? What is the fourth service offered? Above all, what is the pound symbol doing upfront? Is that the currency in which you are charged?

The pound is not the only one. You also have this, liberally festooned with Euros:

“BODY MASSAG€ Starts from 1499/ K€rala, Thai, Sw€dish massag€s don€ B€st Offer in 4 in 1 combo packag€”

And once again you have a 4in1 service that has only three massage styles on offer.

The following one is more graphic:

“Body massage offer for u Relaxation only Dry Massage @ Rs-999 OIL massage @ Rs-1999 Done By 2 female Therapist (South & North)”.

Now when they say the 'two female therapist' are south and north do they refer to the

extremities of your body or the regions from which these women come from? But at least the charges are clearly in rupees.

And, lastly, you have this:
~Massage~in#Kilpauk# of fer... Relax* your* Mind&Body ~Massage~offer..Oil, Thai, Swedish, Deep Tissue , Balinese, Tigger Point

**SHORT
'N'
SNAPPY**

And so it appears that the fourth style is Balinese. MMM wonders if the masseurs and masseuses dress up in floral skirts and wear hibiscus garlands. As to what is Tigger Point, MMM does not know. Perhaps it has something to do with Winnie The Pooh. Whatever be the service offered, there is no denying that the imagination boggles at all of these. Who said Chennai is not exciting? You just need to press it here and there for rich dividends.

Great Stress Tax

The Man from Madras Musings usually reserves his photographs for the tail-piece, but the current one deserves a better position and so he is keeping it mid-text. Driving the other day by the Sales Tax offices he was impressed by a black granite signboard that now declared the new name of the building to be GST Bhavan. The Tamil translation of the word 'goods' in GST, this being Goods and Services Tax, in-

and those who could not care less. The political class comes in the first lot, the vast middle class in the second. The third is truly democratic, for it involves the uber rich and the stony broke. Neither class is in anyway bothered by GST.

But what interested MMM the most was the way the tailoring class of Chennai objected to this tax. And by these MMM does not mean those small hole-in-the-corner garret tailors who spend the whole day poring over a sewing machine. He is speaking of those up-market boutiques that managed to get by all these days by collecting money in cash for services rendered by way of bespoke suits and designer dresses. Billing was almost never done, it transpires, the money collected making it directly to the bank with receipts being issued on slips of paper. These cash-and-carry enterprises have finally woken up to the horrors of being taxed. They could do with a few stiff helpings of the *sarakku* described above.

On Ma & Pa

The Man from Madras Musings, as several of you who read this column know, spent his formative years in the second city of the Empire, viz Calcutta that is Kolkata. Consequently, during the years that he was a cherubic child of Calcutta (CCC), the way the local lingo developed in Madras that is Chennai was quite a closed book to him. In later years, when he became an *mmm* (mere man of Ma-



trigued MMM, for it was *sarakku*, which, while being the correct equivalent, also colloquially stands for the spirit that cheers. And then MMM realised that this was not so inappropriate after all, for the terms and conditions concerning GST are so confusing that it would be no surprise if those impacted by this tax take to the bottle in increasing numbers.

From what MMM can see, Chennai is now divided into three classes – those that talk about GST but probably don't pay any, those that pay GST,

dras) he took to observing the changes and found that the suffixes *ma* and *pa* had replaced the usual *da* and *di* with which people addressed contemporaries and juniors. And what's more, the term *ma* was used when men spoke to each other and *pa* was used by the women. The etymology of these two modes of address has long remained a mystery to MMM. Do you readers have any clues, *ma*? No *pa*, it does not matter if you don't.

– MMM



Samuel Vedanayagam Pillai T. Muthusamy Iyer Pammal Sammandha Mudaliar Bhashyam Iyengar S. Subramania Iyer C. Rajagopalachari V.L. Ethiraj Alladi Krishnaswamy

They bestrode this 125-year-old building

(Continued from last fortnight)

Of the four reasons that provide justification for celebrating this building, the third is that it is an institution where many important and sensational cases have been decided. The list is too long for me to do justice to them, but I will highlight a few here.

V.O. Chidambaram was a member of our bar and a member of the Madras Bar Association as he was a barrister. He was sentenced to 40 years rigorous imprisonment on charges of sedition. The charges against him were flimsy and evidence scant, but he had put the commercial interests of the British empire on the back-foot by starting the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company. This annoyed the British no end and through Collector Winch they, quite successfully, managed to fabricate a case of sedition against him and have him convicted. An appeal was filed by him before the Madras High Court and the case caused quite a sensation. Ultimately the High Court reduced the sentence, which was reduced even further by the Privy Council. However, it left V.O.C. a broken man. The shipping company's assets had been sold and he was left practically penniless.

The case relating to the murder of collector Robert Ashe followed soon afterward. Robert Ashe was an ICS officer and a young sub-collector at Tuticorin. Ashe hated Indians and the target of his attack was V.O.C. He vowed to put down that cheeky impudent native lawyer. Ashe's actions against V.O.C. angered Indians. On June 17, 1911, when Ashe was travelling by train with his wife, a young firebrand revolutionary, Vachinatha Iyer, got into the compartment and shot Ashe dead. When the police gave chase, he ran into a toilet in the railway station and shot himself.

Letters seized in his residence pointed to a conspiracy. Fourteen young men were implicated, including one Nilkanta Brahmachari. Normally the trial should have been conducted in Tirunelveli, but the attention this case attracted

persuaded the High Court to take it on its own files. Several of the accused were defended by that stalwart T. Prakasam. The case was first heard by a three-judge bench which convicted the accused, but in appeal some of those accused were acquitted. Vanchinathan came to be treated as a martyr of the Independence movement, but unfortunately Nilkanta Brahmachari has been forgotten.

The Poondi Mirasdar case is of interest for the use of technology in legal proceedings,

● More excerpts from a talk given by N.L. Rajah, Senior Advocate, at a function organised by the Madras Bar Association on 12.7.17 to "celebrate the 125th anniversary of this epic building".

possibly the first in the country. The Mirasdar of Poondi was accused of murdering his daughter-in-law. The entire family appeared to have had a strained relationship with the victim.

This feud was primarily triggered by bad blood between Dhanam, the daughter-in-law, and her sister-in-law who had been widowed and had returned to live in her father's house. Dhanam was found dead on her bed hacked to death horribly. The Mirasdar of Poondi was implicated.

Before the Trial Court, the accused was represented by that redoubtable criminal lawyer, Dr. S. Swaminathan. Dr. Swaminathan's life must truly be an inspiration for young advocates. He came from a poor family, but through sheer grit and determination he pursued studies relentlessly and came out with flying colours. A Nair family in Kerala who funded his education helped him pass the Bar-at-Law and from there he sailed to Harvard in America, where he got his doctorate in record time. He came back to Madras to practice law. Appearing for the Poondi Mirasdar, he was deeply disturbed by the judgement of the High Court. He then did something incredible. He telegraphed the entire grounds of

appeal to Privy Council in London. The presiding judge was on a holiday in France. He received the appeal and granted a stay. The case was thereafter argued in Privy Council and the Mirasdar of Poondi was acquitted.

There have been other sensational cases too. Noteworthy are A.K. Gopalan vs State of Madras which for the first time in the constitutional history of this country gave an opportunity to the Supreme Court to examine the scope and ambit of Article 21; Champakam Doraisamy's case which ruled on the scope of reservations in the Constitution and led to the first amendment to the Constitution by Dr. Ambedkar; Romesh Thapar vs State of Madras that led to the Supreme Court dilating on the concept of freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under the Constitution; amongst others. This brief list serves to highlight how some of the very significant cases in the history of the country happened in this great building.

The stalwarts

The last aspect I mentioned was as to how this building has nurtured the growth of some towering stalwarts who contributed much to the public life of this country.

They include:

Samuel Vedanayagam Pillai, a District Munsif, must easily top the list. Though he predates this building he was very much a part of the profession. He wrote the first novel in Tamil, a book called *Pratapa Mudaliyar Charithram*. He has written several *krti-s* which have been set to Carnatic music *raga-s*. Some of them even deal with court life.

T. Muthusamy Iyer, the first Indian to be made a judge of the High Court, became a by-word for judicial conduct, learning, integrity and discipline.

Pammal Sammandha Mudaliar, a judge of the Small Causes Court, set standards for Tamil drama which artistes are striving to emulate even today.

Bhashyam Iyengar, the first Indian to hold the position of Acting Advocate General in the whole of British India.

(Continued on page 7)

OUR
READERS
WRITE



TINA

There Is No Alternative

Margaret Thatcher's oft-used phrase was never more appropriate than it is today in our city.

It is time to stop blaming the authorities, the neighbours, the traffic or pointing fingers at other such contributors to the general mess. It is time to take responsibility for our own mess – TINA.

Residents of this beautiful city of Chennai that was Madras have to take ownership of its problems, and join together in a crusade to say ENOUGH! The rot stops here!

This is best done through co-operation with neighbours in manageable groups – Residents' Associations (RAs).

There are a number of areas that do have well-functioning, active RAs. They need to up the ante by refining what they are already doing. And the rest need to learn from them and follow suit.

At 4th Street, Abhiramapuram, we have initiated the process of forming an RA. The response so far has been very encouraging. Flyers giving a broad outline of our initiative were personally delivered by a core group of us to each household, and a tear-off with contact details was collected. This will help form a database for future communication.

The obvious first step is to deal with garbage disposal. Beginning with a simple 3-bin segregation. With the help of Ramky (garbage collectors in this area), we hope to considerably reduce the quantity of garbage that reaches the landfills.

Other concerns, like roadside trees, pavements, RWH systems, reduction of plastic usage, a session for domestic workers and other ideas, will soon be taken up for action.

Our plan is to have an informal inauguration some time in August, as a tribute to Madras Week. The plan is to have the local MLA and some other concerned powers present, so that the lines of communication are opened up.

Formal registration of an Association will be done a few months down the line, when our working is more defined.

If more areas in the city follow suit, a uniform system can be set up, which will hopefully benefit all residents and the city itself.

Do write in if you can do this in your area. Keep the number of households manageable (about 200-250). We can then network, hold a seminar to bring our ideas to a common table, and involve the service providers and others who work in allied fields in a meaningful dialogue.

Chennai-ites – our city needs us. Let us be there for her.

Sushi Nataraj
Chennai Heritage
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* * *

Fires in Govt. departments

Besides Neal Baker's article (MM, July 1st, 2017), the authorities and the general public should read *The Economist* of London (June 24th) for three articles on the Grenfell Tower fire in London and the causes of similar fires all over the world.

When I was with the Ministry of Urban Development in Delhi in 1990, I learnt to my horror that more about 300 fires had taken place in government buildings, including the famous *Vigyan Bhavan*, during summer every year. Hope Grenfell will teach us to use the proper material the proper way.

Dr. G. Sundaram, IAS (RTD.)
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From India's Digital Archives – 2 – Karthik Bhatt

Natesan and his Indian Review

The *Indian Review*, a monthly periodical “devoted to the discussion of all topics of interest” was founded in 1900. Over the course of the next fifty years, it gained renown as one of India's leading intellectual journals thanks in no small measure to the fact that its contributors included the best of names from across the legal, political and literary spectrums. That it was able to attract a stellar list was due to the tireless efforts of the founder, the well-known publisher and nationalist G.A. Natesan.

Born in 1879 in Kumbakonam, Natesan graduated with a B.A. degree from Presidency College. A keen debater and thinker on social issues, he was the Secretary of the College's Literary Society. Advertising as “G.A. Natesan, Student, Presidency College” in his search for lecturers and chairpersons, he was instrumental in organising lectures by several eminent personalities of the time.

Despite being offered a job in Government Service, Natesan chose to train as a journalist and joined the offices of the *Madras Times* as an apprentice under Glyn Barlow, its longstanding editor. Having learnt the ropes of journalism, he quit the newspaper when it was time to be employed, as important positions, especially in newspapers, were out of bounds to Indians thanks to the European ownership. He was unwilling to take up the small post that Barlow offered to create for him. With the knowledge gained out of his apprenticeship, he founded the eponymously named publishing house, G A Natesan and Co in 1897.

The idea driving the starting of *The Indian Review* was to bring out a journal that would be devoted to the welfare of India, but at the same time would be independent enough to ensure that both Europeans and Indians could contribute to its columns without any inhibitions. Reflecting this ideal, the design comprised a European and an Indian standing side by side. The motto, “Away with Ill feeling” was chosen by Glyn Barlow.

The magazine was a success right from its inception. Edited by Natesan himself, it covered topics of varied interests and championed several causes both within the country and abroad. Over the years, its contributors included the likes of Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyer, Rt. Hon'ble V.S. Srinivasa Sastri, V. Krishnaswamy Aiyer, C.A. White (Chief Justice of Madras), J. J. Cotton, Alfred Chatterton and R.C. Dutt.

G.A. Natesan as early as 1896 had been in touch with a barrister in Natal who had been fighting for better treatment for Indians in the colony. In 1915, when this barrister came to Madras, he stayed with G.A. Natesan at his residence in Thambu Chetty Street. Their friendship grew closer as the Independence movement gained steam and the barrister gradually changed his role to become known as Mahatma Gandhi.

Natesan passed away in 1949 and the magazine was edited thereafter for some time by his son Maniam Natesan. It wound up in 1962 and was resurrected in 1970 by T.T. Vasu, who bought the journal as a space for his father T.T. Krishnamachari to voice his views on the happenings of a young nation. Helping out in this venture was M.C. Subrahmanyan, veteran journalist and founder of the Public Health Centre in West Mambalam. After TTK's death in 1974, Subrahmanyan kept it going for a few more years. His demise in 1982 brought about its closure.

The DLI has in its archives several editions of the magazine whose contribution to the Independence movement and in shaping the political and social discourse of the times through its pages largely remains in the shadows today.

Thank you, donors

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We today, publish donations received with thanks for the period from 1.07.16-15.08.16 – The Editor

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Lord Ripon with the Vizianagaram Fountain, Mount Road, in the background.

In memory of 'Father' Ripon

This is a tale of two lost landmarks; well not actually lost – one vanished and the other was merely relocated. It is, nevertheless, a story worth recounting.

The intersection of Blacker's and Mount Roads is best known today for what is known as the Bata Building but which in its time was D'Angelis', then Bosotto's, and finally, Airlines Hotel before it became the Durairaj Nadar Complex. It then 'mysteriously' caught fire and is now being demolished internally with the façade standing chiefly because the High Court's judgement regarding heritage buildings has been interpreted to mean protecting just the fronts of such structures. So that too will soon become a lost landmark. Fronting it were the two monuments that are no longer there.

LOST LANDMARKS OF CHENNAI – SRIRAM V

similar fountain that the Maharajah constructed in Hyde Park at around the same time. A plaque in Hyde Park, however, commemorates the donation.

Facing the Vizianagaram Fountain and fronting D'Angelis/Bosotto/Airlines Hotel was the statue of Lord Ripon, the one we now see in front of the Corporation headquarters – *Ripon Building*. It has been there for so long that most researchers have assumed that this was where it was first installed. After all, where else would you expect to find a statue of Lord Ripon but in front of a building named after him? But a closer look will reveal that the statue is not symmetrically located with respect to the handsome edifice. The centrepiece there is Sir Pitti Theagaroya Chetty's statue, with the one to Ripon's memory standing on the right and sideways to the building.

ture was the occasion of unprecedented public adulation, all of it from Indians. The European population detested him chiefly because they felt he was conciliatory to Indian aspirations. Had they only played along with him, Indian history may have been different.

There were many path-breaking legislations under Ripon. First was the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act thereby giving the Indian language Press the same status as the English one. His Local Self Government Act enabled Indians to participate in municipal affairs, thereby taking their first steps in public life. There were other Acts involving Education and Financial Decentralisation, all with a pro-Indian slant. His request that the Imperial Civil Services Examinations be held simultaneously in India and England so that more Indians could sit for it was shot down, but he did succeed in enhancing the age limit for the exam from 18 to 21.

The British establishment viewed all these steps with suspicion. It was, however, the Ilbert Bill of 1883, named after Sir C.P. Ilbert, Law Member, Viceroy's Executive Council, which sought to do away with “Judicial dis-

England, retiring from public office only in 1908.

It was therefore no wonder that Indians by and large felt that a memorial of some kind ought to be raised for this most Indian-hearted among Viceroys. But it was a long time in coming. The Congress Party met in Madras in 1903 and passed a resolution requesting a statue. Nothing happened thereafter, but, in 1910, the publisher G.A. Natesan took up the cause. Money was collected. Almost simultaneously, a similar effort was being made in Calcutta. It is noteworthy that in both cases, not a single rupee came from any European. The Indians in Calcutta commissioned the sculptor Francis Derwent Wood to make a bronze statue of Ripon. Those in Madras followed suit. The sculptor was a familiar name here, for his statue of V. Krishnaswami Iyer was already gracing the beachfront.

The Calcutta statue was unveiled by the Viceroy, Lord Hardinge of Penshurst in 1915. Hardinge was another detested figure in that city, for he had planned and executed the shifting of the imperial capital to Delhi. Sir C. Sankaran Nair, by then Member for Education, Viceroy's Executive Council, got the Governor, Lord Pentland, to unveil the Madras statue. It was installed at the entrance of D'Angelis hotel. The statue remained there till 1939, when increasing congestion in that area forced the Corporation to move it. The Corporation Headquarters, completed in 1913 (and coincidentally inaugurated by the same Lord Hardinge) had been named after Lord Ripon, in gratitude for what he had done for local self-government and so it was felt that the statue ought to be located in the same compound. And there it remains. Interestingly, Ripon served as Mayor of his eponymous hometown, long after he had served as Viceroy.

The statue in Calcutta too moved after Independence and now stands in the lawns of the Victoria Memorial. Dotted all over India are other memorials to Ripon. The municipal offices of Multan, now in Pakistan, are housed in a handsome building completed in 1888 and named *Ripon Hall*. This was renamed after Jinnah in 1948. Riponpet in Shivamugga, Karnataka, and Ripon Street in Kolkata commemorate Ripon too. Mumbai has a Ripon Club, exclusive to Parsis. Kerala has a town called Ripon, located in Wynad.



The statue at the junction of Mount Road and Blacker's Road.

Ripon's statue has an interesting history, deserving of a Viceroy who was different in many ways. He was the only Viceroy to be born in 10 Downing Street, for his father Lord Goderich was Prime Minister of England. He was also the only Roman Catholic to be Viceroy of India, serving from 1880 to 1884. He was the only Viceroy to be sworn in at Simla, the hot-weather capital and not in Calcutta. Ripon was the first of two Viceroy's to resign mid-term (the other being Curzon), leaving India after four, and not the usual five, years. Lastly, unlike many of his predecessors and successors, his depart-

qualification based on racial discrimination” that brought on British wrath. According to the proposed Bill, Europeans in India could be tried by Indian magistrates and judges. The opposition to the Bill from the officials and powerful business houses ensured Ripon's resignation. He left India in 1884 but not before experiencing one of the longest farewells ever, being met by deputations of Indians in practically every railway station that his train stopped at between Simla and Bombay. “*Ripon Engal Appan*” (Ripon is our father) was the cry in Madras. He went on to have a distinguished career in

Exclusivity is the lure

(Continued from last fortnight)

As I wander further down the Akhader Nawaz Khan Road, I wonder whether I should give the Silk Worm boutique a miss. It's just a saree store, I think. But then I haven't bargained for the delightful explosion of colours and textures that meets me once I step inside; nor the impeccable attention of young Hisham, the store manager. Hisham is your ultimate seller of sarees – he is courteous to a fault, and tireless in displaying the textiles on his neatly ordered shelves. It's difficult these days to find a boutique that sells mainly sarees and Hisham's own excitement about the colours and textures he spreads before the customer is infectious. Even if you don't buy anything right then, you know you will return soon and buy those gorgeous sarees. Hisham seems to know that too. “Call me when you come next,” he says confidently. “I'll make sure we have something special to show you!”

It is perhaps this attitude that sets the boutiques on this street apart from other shops in the city (where the attitude of the sales people is either businesslike or indifferent). When you enter the smart, cool interiors of *Evoluzione*, you do so with some trepidation. Apart from the fabulous clothes from the best Indian designers that hang endlessly from the racks, the sales women all look as if they are ready to walk the ramp themselves. Tarun Tahliani, Rohit Bal, Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Manish Arora, Ritu Beri – the labels that hang from the dresses read like the roll call in India fashion week. Despite their looks and fine grooming, however, the sales people in *Evoluzione* are surprisingly friendly and understanding. “We do a lot of bridal dresses,” says Shilpa Patel, Vice President, Luxury Retail, looking cool in black and white. “We sometimes get together a theme for the whole family. We even do special *lehenga-s* for toddlers.” I look at the heavily beaded, sequined and embroidered *lehenga-s* and tops hanging from the rack nearest to us and gulp. As if reading my mind, Shilpa says, “We actually cater to all age groups. A lot of college kids come here. They might buy the occasional expensive dress, but we have plenty of



The signs of 'Bond Street' (Picture: S. Anwar).

clothes starting at the Rs. 2,000 price range. We even have costume jewellery starting from Rs. 500.”

If you want to take a break from shopping at this point and grab a coffee, as I do, you have the choice of walking into the Starbucks outlet across the road or enter the Café Coffee Day parlour, a few shops ahead. I love the aroma of the Starbucks store and the small bits of shopping

man here has an opinion on why many VIPs shop on this road. “Firstly, it is quiet and private here,” he points out. “They won't get mobbed here. And, secondly, you get a far wider selection of goods in these shops than say, in the outlets in the malls.”

Come to think of it, the cycle shop is not all that much of a surprise. I look around and see several stores selling fitness machines. Then there are the gyms and spas that generously flank the road. After being greedy about clothes and food, it seems only right that people sweat it out to reach the goals of leanness and fitness.

And then there are the furniture and furnishing stores. There is a Simply Sofa outlet that sells pure leather imported couches and arm chairs. If you stagger out after learning how much they cost, you might cross the road and enter Atmosphere, the boutique furnishing store where the swathes of linen and furnishing material take your breath away by their understated beauty. The shop has been here for 14 years, which is saying something in this street of quick turnovers, and seems to breathe style and quality. Former Chief Minister Jayalalitha apparently bought all her bed linen and furnishing material here. But the bulk of the shop's clientele is made up by the big hotels and industrial houses. It has to be said that the shop has a lovely interior that showcases its fabrics and, well, if you can't afford the smooth as silk bed linen and sheers, then maybe you can buy yourself a couple of

by Janaki Venkataraman

(Continued on page 7)



(Quizmaster V.V. Ramanan's questions are from July 16th to 31st. Questions 11 to 20 relate to Chennai and Tamil Nadu.)

1. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently rolled out the 'Muntra' at its Chennai lab. What is 'Muntra' the first of its kind?

2. Name the frontman for the popular rock band Linkin Park who committed suicide by hanging recently.

3. The remains of which eminent 20th Century painter was exhumed recently to extract DNA to settle a paternity case?

4. Britain's Chris Froome won which prestigious and gruelling sporting event for the third straight time and and fourth in five years?

5. Microsoft because of a public backlash, has reneged on its decision to end which programme and, instead, have in its app store rather than bundled with future editions of Windows?

6. Which two cities will host the 2024 and 2028 Summer Olympics?

7. Ram Nath Kovind is the first person from which State to hold the office of President since Independence?

8. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has banned the use of stapler pins in which commonly-used edible package from January 2018?

9. The United States Navy officially inducted the world's largest nuclear-powered and most advanced aircraft carrier recently. After which 1970s President is it named?

10. On July 18th, which corporate giant became the second firm to cross Rs 5 lakh crore in market capitalisation?

* * *

11. Who started the Mylapore Sangeetha Sabha as a counter to the Music Academy?

12. Which Tamil word, now used for a specific topographical feature synonymous with Madras, meant 'underground water' and was used to refer to wells?

13. Name the temple that was submerged because of the creation of the Poondi reservoir.

14. Who set up the pioneering Documentary Films Limited on Lloyd's Road that made the first documentary on the Mahatma.

15. In 1940, which Governor was responsible for retracting compulsory Hindi tutoring in Madras schools?

16. Name the two animals that are recurring motifs on the outer walls of the High Court in Chennai.

17. On August 15, 1947, at 4.30 a.m., what song did the local All India Radio broadcast to celebrate Independence?

18. Which fashionable road in Nungambakkam is named after a civil servant who retired as the Collector in the Revenue Department in the early 20th century?

19. Who was the recipient of the Bharat Ratna had a car with the registration number TMX 4777?

20. Who wrote the play on which the film *Thuli Visham* was adapted in 1954 with Sivaji Ganesan playing the villain?

(Answers on page 8)

90+ and still going strong

Finding a way, that's her way

Educationist and Padma Shri recipient Mrs. YGP, a.k.a. Rajalakshmi Bhavan (PSBB), has been primarily responsible for Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan (PSBB), one of Chennai's premier schools.

I met Mrs. YGP just as she returned from an alumni meeting at the school, all excited to meet her old students and be a vital part of their exuberant camaraderie. "All of us are busy with recordings for the celebration of our upcoming anniversary," she says. She is 'in touch with all the PSBB Schools across Chennai' – five branches with over 8,000 students and 500 staff members – as their Dean and Director, and actively involved in policy decisions, focusing on 'an application-oriented and not knowledge-oriented education'.

Most times there are at least three official meetings she has to attend in a week, sometimes more. "I enjoy interacting with students and teachers thoroughly! Wherever in the world I am, I run into my students and it is so heartwarming to reconnect with them. I remember how in 1990 in Broadway, New York, on the way to the theatre, I heard a *Sri Gurubyo namah* (the customary greeting in our schools) and how we enjoyed exchanging notes over the years!"

"Generally, newspaper, bath and breakfast is the routine and after that I get onto each day, in anticipation!" she says with a smile. "Being up-to-date with all the goings-on in the country, the State and elsewhere too is

● by
Shobha Menon

what I enjoy... whether reconnecting with an old acquaintance I read of in the day's newspapers, or pitching in in some manner to alleviate the distress of a lonely pet dog in my neighbour's home! Some people may think it is a voice from their past, but well... it is always good to reconnect," she says with a twinkle in her eyes.

Mrs. Parthasarathy has degrees in mathematics, journalism, education and history and a rich repertoire of interests. Education and these apart, other areas that she is actively interested in are Music, Dance and Theatre. "There are so many interesting things to learn

and enjoy, on radio and television too. Whether Carnatic music or the *Spic Macay* concerts, each session is energising. I also enjoy veteran maestros on the *shehnaï* and the *thavil*. Every week is meticulously planned, sometimes even a month ahead. Actually, my diary is currently fully booked with appointments for the next two months... weddings to attend, music, drama, the preparations for the YGP Centenary, Bharat Kalachar programmes," she rattles them off effortlessly. "And, yes, I love to go to the beach whenever possible, for the calm and peace it brings into me!"

"Being able to recognise new patterns in Arts and Literature – Music, Dance, Drama and Education has been greatly refreshing, across all these years. I remember arranging a session where M.S. Subbulakshmi and Balasaraswathi sang *Neelamayil-vahanan* together in 1951! Making the Arts an inclusive process was how the Bharat Kalachar began and we con-

tinue to invite some of the best dancers and musicians of the country for the benefit of students, besides offering cultural scholarships to over 500 students," she says.

"While I used to travel every year to USA and Russia earlier to study methodology of teaching and exchange programmes, a medical condition in the last two years has made it difficult for me to move around on my own, and I have to use a wheelchair. But of course, 'Never say die' has been my motto throughout my life. It will be hereafter too!" she smiles. "Philosophical and practical is my way. I believe in taking life as it comes and overcoming obstacles that come up.

"Don't give up. Find some way, has to be the plan! When at a certain point, the Directorate of School Education said that a woman cannot be a principal of a boys' school, I was furious. That was the time I happened to meet Indira Gandhi at a conference in Kashmir and I expressed my anguish. She helped me cross that hurdle!! Or when we had to move out of our old school premises when the Valluvar Kottam was built. During its inauguration, one of our students read out a touching poem asking for space for the 'evicted' school! And so it came to be... granted by the powers that were!"

"My energy levels, I attribute to the happiness I feel when I meet people and through staying connected with everything around me. If it is bad news, I try and help in some way, if it is good news, I am happy to celebrate together. I have no regrets at all because I have made good use of the qualities I had. And I will look forward to take life as it comes," concludes this '92 years young' (as she often says) personality.



Mrs. Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy.

RENAMING OUR ROADS

(Continued from page 1)

street name that has been around for two hundred years lends a certain gravitas and character to a place. A colonial name in Egmore or George Town speaks of the area's colonial history. What imagery does naming after the Red Cross or TNPSIC evoke? Generations in future may just assume that these streets had no history before these two institutions came to occupy them. The next question: What happens when TNPSIC and Red Cross move out of these roads? Will the new locations be named after them too? Will that not cause problems of multiple roads having the same name?

As it is, Chennai suffers from having the same political heroes lending their names to road after road, colony after colony, and place after place. If these are new creations and those who occupy them genuinely want these names nobody can object. But what is the purpose in renaming existing roads?

Why cannot newer areas of the city sport these names?

The timing and the process followed in the present name change too are not correct. An elected council is not yet in place. The polls are imminent. A name change is to be ratified by the Corporation council and then passed on to the Legislative Assembly which, too, has to approve it. In the present instance, the Special Officer has simply arrogated to himself to change the name. Officialdom may quote precedent from the 1970s, '80s and '90s when the Special Officer in charge of the Corporation authorised changes in name. But there was no Corporation council functioning then, the civic body having been suspended following the muster roll scandal. That example does not hold good now.

Lastly, do the residents of the streets thus renamed not have any say in the matter? Both Montieth and Fraser's Bridge roads have a number of residents other than the Red

Cross and TNPSIC. Have they been consulted? It does not appear to be so.

It is high time our civic body begins focusing on matters beyond the cosmetic. It could clean up Fraser's Bridge Road, or present a filthy stretch. It is also time for it to bury this renaming activity for good. No earthly purpose is served by such activities. Changing Madras to Chennai achieved nothing beyond some short-lived parochial posturing. The city has not improved in any way since. Changing street names is going to mean even less. It is only the local resident who will have to go through the pain of notifying banks, couriers and others of a change in address details.

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

Closing the chapter on Veerappan

In 2004, he was yet another who had led a force to put an end to the murders and mayhem committed by Veerappan and his men. With his book, *Veerappan, Chasing the Brigand* released this year, K. Vijay Kumar IPS has resurrected the life and times of the brigand on whose head there was a reward of Rs. 5 crore. In an anecdote in the book, a villager asks, "How much is that in goats?" He was told that assuming each goat cost Rs. 2,500, it would amount to 20,000 of them. "What would I do with so many? It's better to preserve one's life than run after an unmanageable reward, which you may not even live to see," the villager bluntly responded.

Vijay Kumar, who had three stints in Tamil Nadu's Special Task Force (STF), has retold the story of the meteoric rise of Veerappan. The book also tells the stories of the forces pitted against him. Having put together in one narrative the 20-odd years of Veerappan's life of smuggling, poaching, killings and kidnappings, the author tells us upfront that many of the episodes in the book have been recounted by piecing together secondary reports from multiple sources. Differing versions of the same event have been reconciled to give readers a logical and accurate account. Woven into the narration are recollections of his colleagues – Inspector Karuppusamy, DSP Ashok Kumar and TN and Karnataka STF joint chief W.I. Dawaram, among others.

Speaking to his men at the Force's headquarters in Sathyamangalam on taking

over for his final stint with the STF in 2004, Vijay Kumar pointed out that Veerappan's gang of 150 had been whittled down to single digits. But this was not before the official count stated that 44 police and forestry personnel and at least 80 civilians had been killed by the Veerappan gang. Not to speak of the kidnappings of Kannada cinema demigod Raj Kumar, Karnataka Minister Nagappa, DSP Chidambaranathan, and some wildlife photographers. Veerappan's notoriety reached dizzying heights, even *Time* and a Chinese daily carried reports.

According to a horoscope of Koose Muniswamy Veerappan obtained by intelligence

began recruiting gang members from among jobless miners and resentful villagers. The village folk served as his couriers, guides and his eyes and ears. As a leader, he gave the impression of holding sway over all the villagers. He also employed them for cutting down sandalwood trees and smuggling them.

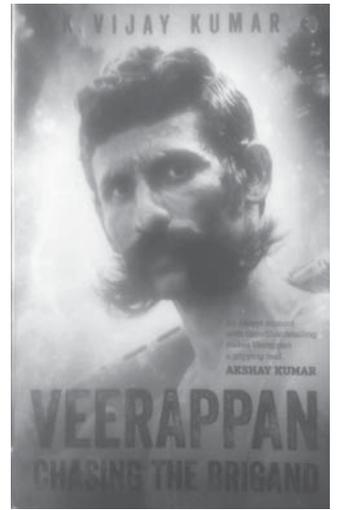
The Veerappan saga would have taken a different turn in 1986 when he was arrested in Bangalore. But he escaped. The incident echoed 14 years later in the Supreme Court during a hearing on the Raj Kumar kidnapping case. In Bangalore to buy ammunition, he was arrested and handed over to a superintendent in the forest cell.

fallen back and the Deputy Conservator of Forests was trapped.

The see-saw battles between Veerappan and the STFs of two States – at one point even the BSF was brought in – continued. Around midnight of May 19, 1992, Veerappan and his men attacked the Rampura police station leaving five policemen dead and two grievously injured. It was Veerappan's response to the death of his right-hand man, Gurunathan, in police custody. The forest brigand's tactics were guerilla warfare at its best, while from the STF's side they were able only to weaken Veerappan by a man here, a man there.

On April 9, 1993, Veerappan ambushed the jungle patrol headed by 'Rambo' Gopalakrishnan. The former DSP of Ramnad District was taunted by a huge banner in Kolathur village daring him to catch Veerappan at a designated place. In spite of warnings not to take up the challenge, the police officer persisted. The bandit had planted explosives all along the route Rambo's party was to take. The body count – 21 charred to death. Rambo escaped with serious injuries. The book calls the tragedy 'The Good Friday Massacre'.

Another event that catapulted Veerappan to national and international attention was the abduction of Kannada film star, Raj Kumar, on July 30, 2000. The consequence was the calling off of all STF operations. Like a seasoned politico, Veerappan made demands pertaining to the Cauvery water



The cover of the book.

dispute, release of members of the terrorist group TNLA, and even one on the procurement price of tea leaves. After 108 days, Raj Kumar was released.

Fast forward to October 18, 2004, Veerappan and three of his men fell into the STF's trap of being taken away to the safety of the LTTE-held parts of Sri Lanka and also to a doctor to remove the cataract in one of Veerappan's eyes. The encounter and shootout at Padi, 12 km from Dharmapuri, codenamed Operation Cocoon, started at 10.50 pm and ended 20 minutes later. The encounter was high-profile. Other than Vijay Kumar, only four others were aware that their target was the 52-year-old Veerappan. Two of them were driving Veerappan and his cohorts in their last moments in a police vehicle remodeled as an ambulance. The two policemen jumped out at the last moment.

Dedicated to J. Jayalalithaa and to all search teams, Vijay Kumar's book has won encomiums from writers like Amish Tripathi: "True stories have rarely been this exciting," and Ashwin Sanghi: "A meticulously researched non-fiction work that hooks you like a compelling thriller."

● by T.K. Srinivasa Chari

sources, he was born on January 18, 1952 in the thickly forested area where Gopinatham village is, in Karnataka, near the Tamil Nadu border. Every other family in these jungle areas had a crude firearm, typically the unlicensed native muzzle-loaders, to keep wild animals at bay. Veerappan did not have to go far to become a marksman. Even as a juvenile, he got on the wrong side of the law for hunting wild boar but made good his escape into the forest, the first of many times in his life. He then joined Sevi Gounder's gang to poach elephants. As villagers of the tiny hamlets were wary of officials of any hue, Veerappan became famous by defying officialdom. He

Srinivas, a forest official, took custody of Veerappan but the brigand escaped from him into the Boodipagada forest. The escape proved costly, especially to Srinivas, who was much later shot and beheaded by a vengeful Veerappan. Srinivas had mobilised villagers to stand up against the gang leader. He successfully raided one of Veerappan's hideouts and confiscated nearly 800 kg of sandalwood and got 20 bandits to surrender. Eventually, Srinivas was fooled into meeting Veerappan who had expressed his willingness to surrender. Srinivas made the mistake of going in the company of only some villagers. As they neared the meeting point, the villagers had

They bestrode its corridors

(Continued from page 3)

S. Subramania Iyer, the first Indian to be appointed as a Government advocate, was elevated to the Bench. After he retired, he rendered sterling service to the Madras University and also the Home Rule movement of Annie Besant.

Advocates like C. Rajagopalachari, Sathyamurthi, and T. Prakasam were all part of the freedom struggle. On that aspect alone, there is a list of at least fifty names.

V.L. Ethiraj contributed immensely to the education of

women by donating his palatial residence to the cause of women's education. So too Sir Mutha Venkatasubba Row. And the contributions of Justice Basheer Ahamed Sayeed to the education of Muslim women has few parallels.

Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer's contribution to drafting the Constitution of India is well known. And Rajamannar served with great distinction as the first Indian Chief Justice of the Madras High Court and was the envy of courts in the country.

(Concluded)

EXCLUSIVITY IS THE LURE

(Continued from page 5)

cushion covers – that would only set you back by a few thousands.

It's past one pm. Time for lunch. I have several choices before me. There is Love, Peace and Karma that sounds intriguing. But the man at the gate says hastily, "Madam, it's a hookah lounge!" "Is it vegetarian?" I persist. "It is," he answers, "but it is a hookah lounge." I sigh. Obviously, greying, saree-clad women might not fit in with the decor. I could go to Mana Andhra, that has great reviews as serving authentic and tasty Andhra food. I worry, however,

that it might be too spicy and walk away. There is Mamagoto, that serves Thai and Pan Asian food. There is Ink 303, very popular, but mainly a bar with very interesting alcoholic and non-alcoholic cocktails. The eats are small ones, like nachos, chicken wings, brownies and so on. The Cascade serves Korean food. Shanghai Annachi serves South Indian food, a little heavy on the meat, but the *parotta*s are crisply layered and recommended. Some of the shopkeepers recommend Nasi and Mee that has a South-east Asian menu. I ponder about these options and then meekly walk

over to Toscana in Wallace Garden Road, nearby, and have my standard thin crust pizza with vegetable toppings.

What is the allure of Khader Nawaz Khan Road? Exclusivity, I think, or the appearance of this rare commodity. There is something gracious about the place, something that only comes with wealth and good taste, things that everyone aspires to but is not always able to achieve. At the very least, it is a great street to wander down, browse a little, buy a little, eat a little and feel contented with life. If only they'd fix that road.

(Concluded)

Remembering Jaggu

Jaggu was a loveable, endearing man, a privilege to have as a friend. But it was all cricket with him, ever. I used to know him, remember him in my younger days, as that player for Egmore. I am talking about the years around and after the 1940s. As a boy (playing for PS High School), I used to go along on Sundays when (Mylapore) Kamyuth Club used to play league (cricket). Of course, I was too young to be in the team. Tendulkars were not accepted those days.

When Jaggu started cricket as a player, rarely did I talk to him whenever I had a chance to see him in the field. He developed into a fine (leg) spin bowler, an all-rounder in fact. It is a shame that I never played league cricket. I regret this because I would've clashed with this man Jaggu with my bat.

Politics took me away from cricket for two years. In between, I resumed cricket only at Allahabad in 1943. I had the fortune of being an opening batsman for my university along with my captain (Prince) Balendu Shah who in 1947-48 became eminent as captain of the UP Ranji team. And then I left for USA on training in 1946... thus never again to play cricket. Shame on me. One day watching the Brooklyn Dodgers clash with the Boston team was enough for me. How could you call this a game? This mock form of Gali Danda – this is called baseball – of my village. It was and is cricket ever and ever. Thus it's Jaggu for me ever.

But with Jaggu it was ever cricket. In the history of Indian cricket, I doubt whether there could be many like Jaggu. So devoted. No wonder he never missed a single committee meeting of the Madras Cricket Association (later Tamil Nadu Cricket Association). He was, of course, a Vice-President and all that. And I am emboldened to make this statement. If, like me Jaggu had an opportunity to go to the USA for studies, I am quite sure that Jaggu would've declined. Of course if it took him to UK, he'd have gladly gone. He would then be playing on turf that was denied to us in those days. It was either coir mat or jute mat for us. I believe

even Kanpur had only a matting wicket for Test matches. Today, of course, Kanpur like any other Test venue in India has turf wickets.

Jaggu had come to know that I was a writer of 'sorts'. Once, he pulled me aside at a concert, even as music permeated the air.

"Swaminathaa! How could you ever? I mean how could you be a writer?"

"Ah Jaggu! Why not Jaggu! If one is a cricketer and even if he is not a great cricketer, but dedicated to cricket. Nothing is impossible to him in life."

● by

L. Swaminathan

The 93-year old author was a close friend of the late S.R. Jagannathan.

And I told Jaggu what that century-an in real life and century-an of many innings for Maharashtra, Poojya Sri Professor Deodhar told me, at, of all places, Chicago in 1947 in front of his beloved daughter Tara who was a student there:

"Remember, Cricket is Thapas."

Nothing is beyond a Thapaswi. If Jaggu fancied something else in life, it was there for the taking. But Jaggu was totally devoted to cricket. And with that devotion he founded *Straight Bat*.

But I doubt whether many a batsman plays with a Straight Bat today. You don't really need a cricket bat for T-20s. A large wide *danda* would do, ah?

And Jaggu ever remembered. When on an Annual Day, Jaggu had invited the one and only Kapil Dev as honoured guest, Jaggu remembered his el-

ders. The "deities" (idols) of yesteryears. I had the privilege of bringing with me old Sambasivam of Kamyuth Club (now defunct) and then great all-rounder (batsman, pace bowler, hockey wizard) M.J. Gopalan. Together with A.G. Ram Singh and a few others, they were all sitting together at the front, even as Kapil was honoured with a diamond ring for bringing glory to Indian cricket. Jaggu may not be so particular with the "God of Gods" at Tirupati. In honouring Kapil with this costly gem, he was only paying his respects to his God **Cricket**.

When on another occasion Jaggu decided to honour India's greatest and foremost opening batsman Sunil Gavaskar, summons were issued (like court order). His friend, Swaminathan, must be ready with a speech to welcome Sunil Gavaskar.

Just a couple of days before, a sort of tragedy hit Swaminathan: chicken pox. The cassette was promptly dispatched to *Straight Bat*, ready for the occasion. Nothing could and should stop Jaggu. Swaminathan, lying on the floor as a patient, receives a phone call – Urgent. Whom else from than Jaggu?

"Tomorrow, come what may, you dress up well, cover up your 'bubbles' and read out your speech at the function and then you may leave."

That was Jaggu's commitment. That was Jaggu for you.

Nothing stops Jaggu, if it has anything to do with Cricket.

Of course, I could not make it. The function went off well, I heard from friends. They even narrated to me how Sunil began his address. Usually in cricket, it is a batsman who gets all the attention. And Sunil Gavaskar

was senior to Kapil as well. Normally, he should've been honoured before Kapil. Yet, the Little Master, the batsman of all times said:

"I am of course ever the opening batsman for India. But remember only after the bowler bowls my work begins. No wonder I am to face you all only after our pace bowler Kapil. So I congratulate Straight Bat for this small detail."

Jaggu had scored even here.

Cricketers in India today, in the hi-tech world, cannot imagine what all has gone into this game called 'Cricket', invented by the British. Many have served this game. They served out of love and endearment and not for any status or monetary gain. I recall how that fast bowler from Madras, that policeman as A.F.S. Talayarkhan used to call him, Rangachary, took leave for a week, took a third class ticket by GT Express and in the morning at the Feroze Shah Kotla broke the stumps of one of the three "Ws".

I remember my friend P.E. Palia with a small furniture shop, making a living at Bangalore in his later years. The list is endless. Not only did he play for India, he was also a national selector. Jaggu, as a teenager, as a player, today would probably be "sold" for many lakhs.

India had many Jaggus those days all over the country. They served cricket in many ways. Jaggu never played for India. No need to. Let lesser men than the likes of Jaggu play for India.

But if India is ranked amongst the top cricketing countries, it is due to the service rendered by so many dedicated men like Jaggu.

Yet, no one remembers the Jaggus. So what?

For them all that mattered was cricket. – (Courtesy: *Straight Bat*.)

Dates for Your Diary

August 20: Military Tattoo featuring Equestrian show, Motorcycle stunts, Military band performance and others. Organised by Colours of Glory Foundation (at MCC Higher Secondary School grounds, Chetpet. 4-7 p.m.).

Till August 20: Art Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by the artists of Cholamandal Artists' Village (at Dimple's Art Gallery from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.).

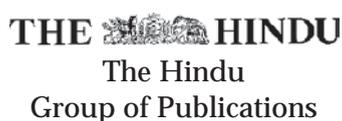
Answers to Quiz

1. India's first unmanned, remotely operated tank, 2. Chester Bennington, 3. Salvador Dali, 4. Tour de France, 5. MS Paint, 6. Paris and LA, 7. Uttar Pradesh, 8. Tea bags, 9. Gerald Ford, 10. Reliance Industries Ltd.

* * *

11. T. Sadasivam, the husband of MS, 12. Coom, 13. Thiruvembakkam, 14. A.K. Chettiar, 15. Lord Erskine, 16. Swan and snake, 17. 'Aaduvomey Pallu Paaduvomey...' (sung by D.K. Pattammal), 18. Khader Nawaz Khan, 19. MGR, 20. Chandilyan.

Madras Musings is supported as a public service by the following organisations



Since 1856,
patently leaders
— A WELLWISHER

**Till August 24**

- **Exhibition:** *Military Heritage Exhibition.* 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
A rare opportunity to have a peep into the rich military heritage of our country, know about the wars fought and the weaponry used and film shows on our military history. Organised by Colours of Glory Foundation and C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation
C.P. Art Centre
Alwarpet

Till August 30

- **Exhibition:** Photo exhibition by Sujatha Shankar Kumar titled *Lands through My Lenses: Journeys from Chicago to Chennai.* 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Organised by DakshinaChitra
DakshinaChitra
Museum

Till August 31

- **Film:** Documentary film screening on members of Madras Art Movement, like K.C.S. Panicker, Alphonso Arul Doss, P. Perumal, Suriyamoorthy, Vidyasankar Sthapathi, Achuthan Kudallur, K.V. Haridasan, S.G. Vasudev and R.B. Bhaskaran 11 a.m.-1p.m. and 3-5 p.m.
DakshinaChitra

August 18-20

- **Exhibition:** *Eyes of Madras* – Photo exhibition of The Chennai Photowalk Group. The theme of the Exhibition is “Essence of Madras”. Photographs taken by the Chennai Photowalkers in and around Chennai during the Photowalks will be displayed. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
C.P. Arts Centre
Mini Gallery

August 18

- **Walk:** *Peacock trail.* An easy walk through Mylapore. For regn: chennai@storytrails.in or call 99400 40215. For details: www.storytrails.in/india/traildetail/peacock-trail 4-7 p.m.
Reporting venue: Outside Rasi Silks
Rs. 550 per person
- **Talk:** R. Kannan speaks on *Anna* a.k.a. *C.N. Annadurai.* Organised by Roja Muthiah Research Library (RMRL) 5.30 p.m.
RMRL, Tharamani
- **Quiz:** Annual Heritage Quiz competition for children aged 10-13 years. The quiz will include topics on General Knowledge, Heritage & Culture, Current Affairs, Identifying the Artifacts etc. There will also be audio-video rounds. Only for students of 6th, 7th and 8th standards. 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.
The participants should assemble at DakshinaChitra by 9.30 a.m.
No participation fee.
Each school can send one or more teams. Each team should comprise of 3 members. The first prize will be high-end cycles from TI Cycles of India, the second and the third prize winners will receive exciting gift vouchers and coupons. All finalists will be awarded certificates from DakshinaChitra.
Registration is mandatory and further information and to register contact: Lakshmi Thyagarajan: 98417 77779; Adhi Vishnu 98842 17393; Prabu: 98412 49600

August 19 and 20

- **Walk:** *British Blueprints trail.* This walk is being done in two parts: Lighthouse to War Memorial on Day 1, Beach Station to Fort on Day 2. Discover colonial Madras through the 5.30-8 a.m.
Reporting venue: Lighthouse on Day 1
Beach Station, Day 2

buildings the British left behind. For regn: chennai@storytrails.in or call 99400 40215.
For details: www.storytrails.in/india/traildetail/british-blueprints

August 19-24

- **Exhibition:** ‘Maps of the Coromandel 1705-1909. From the collection of Dwaraknath Reddy. Organised by Amethyst. The Folly, Amethyst

August 19-27

- **Exhibition:** Vintage photographs of Old Madras: People, Culture from 1800s. The exhibition will showcase rare photos of life in the city back in the 19th Century. DakshinaChitra.

August 19-31

- **Exhibition:** *The ART of Traditional Games* – an exhibition of artwork and the traditional games of Chennai. The exhibition will exhibit artworks of artists like Achuthan Kudalur, B.O. Shailesh, Biswajit Balasubramanian, Chandra Morkonda, Harsha Biswajit, K. Muralidharan, Lakshmi Srinath, Neerajaswamy Valimindi, Ramesh Gorjala, S. Kalaiselvan, Santhosh Kotagiri, Shalini Biswajit, Thejo Menon, Y. Shivaramachary. The exhibition will open with a short talk on the traditional games of Chennai by Kreedaa and will be followed by an informal play session. Available for play at the gallery during the duration of the exhibition. Organised by Kreedaa in association with Forum Art Gallery 10.30 a.m.-6.30 p.m.
Forum Art Gallery
info@kreedagames.com

August 19

- **Walk:** *Justice Party Heritage Walk – T’Nagar* led by Govi. Lenin, Editor-in-Charge, *Nakheeran.* Thyagaraya Nagar (T’ Nagar) was created as an urban suburb of Madras during the 1920’s by the Madras Presidency government led by Raja of Panagal of the Justice Party. The streets, parks and localities in the new neighbourhood were named after important members of the Justice Party. To register: call 94440 77171 6-9 a.m.
Assemble at: Panagal Park, Usman Road Jn (opp. Saravana Stores)
Rs. 100 per person payable at the spot
- **Walk:** *Trace the history of Anna Nagar by walking down the Naduvakkarai-Anna Nagar route.* Organised by Nam Veedu, Nam Oor, Nam Kadhai. Thirupurasundari +91 94442 53532 7-8 a.m. Starting point: Tower Park, Ayappan temple side
- **Talk:** Sriram V. speaks on *Down Memory Lane – Madras and Madras Chamber.* Organised by MCC. By invitation only 8.30-10.30 a.m.
Hotel Raintree, Anna Salai
- **Seminar:** *Peninsular Perspectives of Maritime India.* Organised by C3S, National Maritime Foundation & University of Madras. For details: 94440 71788 10.30 a.m.-1.30 p.m.
C.P. Arts
Convention Centre

- **Talk:** K.S. Sripathi, former Chief Secretary, speaks on *Planning for an Expanding Chennai.* Organised by ORF, Chennai Chapter. By invitation only. Tel: 98410 10718 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
ORF Conference Hall
Reliance Building
Radhakrishnan Salai

- **Nature Walk:** *Butterfly Walk.* Organised by Madras Naturalists’ Society. Please bring along Binoculars & Cameras. Car parking, entrance and camera fees payable as per Poonga Rules. Please email Umesh at umeshmani1@gmail.com to confirm your participation. Confirmation strictly on first-come basis. Reporting Time: 2.15 p.m.
Adyar Poonga
Group size: 20

- **Quiz:** ‘Know Your Madras,’ a quiz by S. Muthiah. Organised by Madras Literary Society. Free for MLS Members. Rs. 50 for non-members. 3-5 p.m.
Madras Literary Society. Regn. by 2.30 p.m.

NOTE: ● Open to all, but terms apply. Limited seating at all venues on first-come, first-served basis.

Check www.themadrasday.in and Madras Week App for up-to-date programmes.
Promotion and Publicity: PRISM Public Relations. Email: info@prism-india.com

For enquiries contact : Rejith :+91 99404 58435;
Thirupurasundari: +91 94442 53532 or mail to
madrasliterarysociety@gmail.com

- **Competition:** Make your own Social History Album/Scrap Book. 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? For 8 to 16 year-olds. Organised by Nam Veedu, Nam Oor, Nam Kadhai. Thirupurasundari Sevel +91 94442 53532

Presentation: How your family moved to Anna Nagar. When? How? Why? How your family is related to Anna Nagar? Organised by Nam Veedu, Nam Oor, Nam Kadhai. Thirupurasundari Sevel +91 94442 53532. Once you register for the event, the venue details will be communicated. Prizes will be distributed and selected works will be displayed and felicitated in the 2nd Anna Nagar Social History exhibition, to be conducted in August.

- **Talk:** Air Marshal M. Matheswaran will speak on *Madras, Aviation and the Indian Air Force*. Organised by Colours of Glory Foundation. For details: 94440 71788
- **Game session:** Launching a traditional game from Chennai. Talk about the game followed by an informal play session. Organised by Kreedaa. For info: info@kreedagames.com
- **Food Walk:** *Mylapore Food Walk*. Organiser: Sridhar Venkataraman (97909 57208). This is an evening walk

August 20

- **Nature Walk:** *Kelambakkam Backwaters*. Organised by Madras Naturalists' Society. Please email Umesh at umeshmani1@gmail.com to confirm your participation. Confirmation strictly on first-come basis.
- **Heritage Walk:** *The Arcot Nawabs' Trail* conducted by Kombai S. Anwar. Beginning from the Chepauk Palace, the walk takes you through the various monuments in and around Triplicane associated with the Walajahi Nawabs. To register: call 94440 77171. Walk ends with breakfast
- **Talk:** Pradeep Chakravarthy speaks on *Thiruvottriyur Temple – History, Inscriptions and Games*. Organised by Kreedaa. For info: info@kreedagames.com
- **Bicycle Tour:** Madras Day Heritage Ride along the Adyar River. Organised by Cycling Yogis. Start & Finish Point: Santhome Inn, Santhome High Road. U Turn Point: Manimangalam Dharmeswarer Temple. Total ride distance: 100 km. For details: Cycling Yogis/Ramanujar. M: 98840 23123
- **Walk:** *The Women who made Madras – A walking tour by Prajnya*, who will lead you through a discovery of the women who played an important role in the establishment of Madras as one of the most important urban centres in India. The walk in the southeast will be led by Archana Venkatesh. To register, please email psw.prajnya@gmail.com/http://www.prajnya.in
- **Walk:** *A History of Madras Museum* by Rejith Nair with the Explore Differently group. For details: Rejith: +91 99404 58435

- **Exhibition:** Exhibition/play session on games from Chennai. Organised by Kreedaa. For info: info@kreedagames.com
- **Quiz:** Madras Quiz. (Open Quiz) Organised by the Murugappa Group
- **Tree Walk:** *Natesan Park*. Organised by Nizhal. Registrations: nizhal.shade@gmail.com or by calling 97910 29568, 98406 27376, 98404 44010, 99410 04642
- **Tree Walk:** *Tower Park* Organised by Nizhal. Registrations: nizhal.shade@gmail.com or by calling 97910 29568, 98406 27376, 98404 44010, 99410 04642
- **Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture:** Sriram Ayer speaks on *The magic of Nalandaway and The Chennai Children's Choir*. Organised by Madras Musings
- **Talk:** Launch of book *Madras on My Mind – a city in stories*, by Chitra Viraraghavan and Krishna Shastri Devulapalli, followed by an interaction with some of the contributing authors featured in the book
- **Food Walk:** *Sowcarpet Food Walk*. Organiser: Sridhar Venkataraman (97909 57208). This is a morning walk

August 21

- **Walk:** Food trail. A walk through Sowcarpet – with your appetites leading the way! Taste street food and learn about communities that have contributed to Chennai's culinary scene. For regn: chennai@storytrails.in or call 99400 40215. For details: www.storytrails.in/india/traildetail/food-trail-chennai
 - **Talk:** S. Muthiah speaks on *Madras – the American Connection*. Organised by the Press Institute of India (PII)
 - **Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture:** Samyog Wedding Planners on *The evolving role of wedding planners*. Organised by *Madras Musings*
 - **Quiz:** Quiz on Anna Nagar. Registration before August 18. Organised by Nam Veedu, Nam Oor, Nam Kadhai. Thirupurasundari Sevel +91 94442 53532.
 - **Competition:** Drawing Competition: For children in junior and senior categories. Topic will be given on the spot. Organised by Nam Veedu, Nam Oor, Nam Kadhai. Thirupurasundari Sevel, +91 94442 53532
 - **Workshop:** Workshop on traditional games and the Maths behind them. Organised by Kreedaa in association with Ramanujan Maths Education Centre. Info: info@kreedagames.com
- Presentation:** Audio visual presentation on Madras that is Chennai, to children of Class 5, sharing the story of this historic city, followed by a painting session where the young children will have an opportunity to unleash their creativity on canvas, by adding colour to images of Madras. Organised by the Dept. of Fine Arts, Stella Maris College

- **Tour:** A tour of important locations at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Perambur, including the Chennai Rail Museum where an art camp for students will be conducted. For transport service, call M.M. Dhanish at 90031 41010. Limited seats.
- **Talk:** Partab Ramchand speaks on *Covering Sport in Madras – A* senior journalist recalls his experiences over fifty years. Organised by PII
- **Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture:** Arun Krishnamurthy speaks on *Vanishing Science when it comes to Chennai's Waterbodies*. Organised by *Madras Musings*
- Talk:** Anuradha Uberoi speaks on *The making of a book on communities in Chennai*. Organised by Rotary Club of Madras South
- **Talk:** Capt. D.P. Ramachandran will speak on *Madras Soldier: A Military History 1704-2017*. Organised by Colours of Glory Foundation and C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation. For details: 94440 71788
- **Talk:** A. Srivathsan speaks on *60 years of City Planning in Chennai: What went wrong and how to go forward?* Organised by Chennai Architecture Foundation (CAF)
- **Talk:** *Madras in Fact, Faction, Fiction*. Introduction by S. Muthiah and speakers: Sriram V., Krishna Shastri Devulapalli & Sivasankari. Organised by *The Hindu* 'Lit for Life'
- **Contest:** *Heritage of Chennai* – Finals of multimedia presentation contest for city schools. Theme: *Old city markets*. Organised by *Mylapore Times*
- August 23**
- **Talk:** Swapna Satish speaks on *Value, Nostalgia or Showmanship – How the Nabobs took a part of empire back home*. Organised by PII
- **Competition:** World Storytelling Institute presents, *A Drawing Session* for people of all ages. For relaxation, creativity, and imagination. Hosted by Eric Miller. Participants will be invited to draw their impressions of Madras/Chennai – characters, buildings, events, etc. Contact: 98403 94282 info@storytellinginstitute.org <http://storytellinginstitute.org>
- Talk:** Sriram V speaks on Chennai. Organised by Rotary Clubs. For members and their guests only
- **Talk:** Pradeep Chakravarthy speaks on *Daily life in Madras 1000 years ago*. Organised by INTACH – Chennai Chapter and Alliance Francaise, Madras
- **Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture:** Vinita Siddhartha speaks on *Chennai – A Storehouse of Traditional Games*. Organised by *Madras Musings*
- August 24**
- **Talk:** D. Hemachandra Rao speaks on *Rediscovering the Buckingham Canal – 1782-1806*. Organised by PII
- **Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture:** Ishwar Achanta speaks on *The Madras Golf Club*. Organised by *Madras Musings*
- 10.30 a.m.
Pickup point:
Railway Officers' Club
(Sterling Club)
Sterling Road
- 6 p.m.
CPT Campus
Tharamani
- 6-8 p.m.
Hanu Reddy
Residences
4/19, Poes Garden
- 6.30 p.m.
Savera
Only for Rotarians
- 2.30 p.m.
Shakuntala Art Gallery
C.P. Arts Centre
- 6.30 p.m.
Spaces, 1, Elliot's
Beach Road
Besant Nagar
- 6.00 p.m.
Starmark, Express
Avenue Mall
- For info:
www.themadrasday.in
- 5 p.m.
CPT Campus
Tharamani
- Anytime from
5:30-8 p.m.
World Storytelling
Institute, Chetput
Rs 100 per person
(includes drawing
materials and
tea/coffee)
- 5.30 p.m. Hyatt Park
Hotel, Velachery
- 6.30 p.m.
Alliance Francaise
Auditorium,
College Road
- 6-8 p.m.
Hotel Savera
- 5 p.m.
CPT Campus
Tharamani
- 6-8 p.m.
Chamiers
- August 25**
- **Talk:** Sreemathy Mohan speaks on *The magic of textiles of the Madras Presidency*. Organised by PII
- **Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture:** Dr. Sunil Shroff speaks on *Why Chennai is India's Organ Transplant Capital*. Organised by *Madras Musings*
- August 25**
- **Book release:** *A Difficult Choice*, a book of short stories by Madras author R.V. Rajan. Two other Madras authors participate in a Madras Week 'Author Speak' programme
- August 26**
- **Walk:** *The Women who made Madras – A* walking tour by Prajnya, who will lead you through a discovery of the women who played an important role in the establishment of Madras as one of the most important urban centres in India. The walk in the northeast will be led by Archana Venkatesh. To register, please email: psw.prajnya@gmail.com/<http://www.prajnya.in>
- **Heritage Walk:** Third Annual *Trace Origin of Madras heritage walk* at Pazhaverkadu (Pulicat). The heritage walk will also include a visit to a 1515 CE built church, 25th milestone on east coast canal and Dutch buildings. Organised by AARDE Foundation. To register email: info@aarde.in or contact 98846 33409/98840 33409
- **Walk:** *Walk around Shenoy Nagar*. Organised by Nam Veedu, Nam Oor, Nam Kadhai. Thirupurasundari Sevel: +91 94442 53532
- Talk:** Bombay Chanakya, GM, Kavithalaya, Film-maker & Theatre director will speak on *Madras in the eyes of legendary film & drama director late K. Balachandar and now Chennai, in the eyes of Sri Bombay Chanakya*. Organised by Probus Club. Open to members and guests only
- **Music:** *Sounds of Madras* – presented by the Students of School of Indian Film Music. Come and experience the essence of Madras through music and sounds. Organised by Madras Literary Society. Free for MLS Members. Rs. 50 for non-members. For enquiries contact : Rejith :+91 99404 58435; Thirupurasundari: +91 94442 53532 or mail to madrasliterarysociety@gmail.com
- Talk:** Dr. Shobha Varthaman speaks on *Tamil Jains*. Organised by ORF, Chennai Chapter. By invitation only. Tel: 98410 10718. Tel: 98410 10718
- **Photowalk:** Yocee (<http://yocee.in>) conducts 9th annual Madras Day photowalk for children – *A peninsula next to an island*. For children of 10 years and above. The walk is led by N. Ramaswamy, Chennai Daily Photo & Chennai Photowalk. Open only to first 25 registrations. Bring your own camera (any type). Carry your water bottle. Dress easy. Register with Revathi at 98405 44629.
- **Quiz:** Madras Week sports quiz by Partab Ramchand. Rs. 6,000 worth Odyssey book vouchers to be won as prizes
- **Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture:** Mahesh Ramakrishnan speaks on *Bespoke Suited*. Organised by *Madras Musings*
- 5 p.m.
CPT Campus
Tharamani
- 6-8 p.m.
Raintree
Anna Salai
- 7 p.m.
Odyssey, Adyar
- 7 a.m.
Register by 24th
- 7.15 am. From
Loyola ICAM
by AC coaches with
lunch and water
Rs. 975 per person
- 8-10 a.m.
Starting point: Shenoy
Nagar Metro Station
- 10 a.m.
Russian Cultural
Centre
- 11a.m.-12 noon
Madras Literary
Society.
- 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
ORF Conference Hall
Reliance Building
Radhakrishnan Salai
- Meeting Point:
Chintadripet MRTS
Station
Starts at 4 p.m. and
ends at dusk
- 5 p.m.
Odyssey, Adyar
- 6-8 p.m.
Crowne Plaza

August 27

- **Nature Walk:** *Perumbakkam Tank.* Organised by Madras Naturalists' Society. Please email Umesh at umeshmani1@gmail.com to confirm your participation. Confirmation strictly on first-come basis. Reporting Time: 6.30 a.m. Group size: 25 Reporting place Bus stand opp. IT park near Toll Plaza in Perumbakkam
- **Walk:** Chennai Storytelling Association presents the 10th Annual *Living Statues of Marina Beach Walking Tour.* Performers and audience members will walk to six statues. At each statue, there would be brief enactments — in Tamil, and then in English. The suggested scripts (in English) are at <http://storytellinginstitute.org/28.html>. If you might like to perform a character and/or read/recite/sing a character's poetry — and for additional info about this event — call 98847 28412, email to suriyalakshmi@icloud.com, and/or see <http://storytellinginstitute.org/28.html> 7:30 -8:30 a.m. Assemble at the Kannagi Statue, on Marina Beach, Bharathi Salai
- **Heritage Walk:** *The Arcot Nawabs' Trail* conducted by Kombai S. Anwar. Beginning from the Chepauk Palace, the walk takes you through the various monuments in and around Triplicane associated with the Walajahi Nawabs. To register: call 94440 77171. Walk ends with breakfast 6-9 a.m. Assemble at Statue of Labour (opp. Madras University) Rs. 300 per person
- **Tour:** Bronze Gallery, Egmore Museum led by Dr. Chithra Madhavan. Organised by the Apparao Galleries. 11.15 a.m. Egmore Museum
- **Talk:** Major V.V. Narayanan speaks on *The predominant mental state of Madras and Madrasis, then and now (Is it parent, adult or child?).* Organised by NLP and TA Circle. Admission free for members. For invitees: 91500 00615 4-6.30 p.m. Deshbandhu Plaza Near Express Mall Royapettah
- **Tree Walk:** *Harrington Road Park.* Organised by Nizhal. Registrations: nizhal.shade@gmail.com or by calling 97910 29568, 98406 27376, 98404 44010, 99410 04642 5-6 p.m. Meeting point Shoppers Stop Jn. Chetput
- **Tree Walk:** *Chitlapakkam Neer Vanam.* Organised by Nizhal. Registrations: nizhal.shade@gmail.com or by calling 97910 29568, 98406 27376, 98404 44010, 99410 04642 5-6 p.m. Meeting point Chitlapakkam Eri
- **Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture:** Vallabha Srinivasan speaks on *The beauty of Tamil Literature in Sculptures.* Organised by *Madras Musings* 6-8 p.m. Hotel Maris
- The Madras Week special edition of *The Bliss Catchers*, a monthly event series, that celebrates people who went on to do what they love doing the most in Life. In this edition Chennai's most famous voice — and RJ — Niladri Bose and popular actor-producer-director Mathivanan Rajendran of Stray Factory will participate 7.00-8.30 p.m. Odyssey Bookstore Adyar
- **Artwork:** Odyssey in association with ITC Classmate presents *Celebrating Madras through Sketches* using sketch pens. Theme: People/Places of Madras. Age group: 2 groups — 8-10 years, 10-13 years. ITC gift hampers will be given to winners of both groups. Special Discount Coupon 10% OFF on all ITC products will be given to all participants Odyssey Adyar Odyssey Thiruvanniyur

August 28 and 29

- **Exhibition:** Fort St. George, traditional food stall, philately, traditional games, photo booth, What's in a name! (streets of Madras), bioscope and cinematic Madras, merchandise Dept. of History and Tourism Stella Maris College

August 29

- **Walk:** Heritage walk in Stella Maris College, Mylapore, Madras Day Quiz for colleges in Chennai, storytelling by students on Madras Dept. of History and Tourism Stella Maris College
- **Talk:** Dr. G. Santhanam (Retd. IAS officer) speaks on *Administering Chennai and Tamil Nadu: My Experiences.* Organised by Rotary Club of Madras South 6.30 p.m. Savera Only for Rotarians

August 30

- **Talk:** Nina John (Toastmasters Club). Organised by Dept. of History & Tourism Stella Maris College

August 31

- **Presentation:** *Vanishing Heritage in Mylapore.* Organised by Ashvita Foundation. For details: 90033 65436 6-8 p.m. Ashvita Bistro Bawa Road
- **Talk:** *Madras on my mind — beyond Stereotypes.* Sriram V. in conversation with Chitra Viraraghavan and Krishna Shastri Devulapalli. Organised by Madras Book Club for members and their guests only. 6.30 p.m. GRT Convention Centre

September 1

- **Talk & Film:** S. Muthiah will speak on 'The Anglo-Indian: their 500-year story' followed by a documentary by Harry MacLure and Rehard O'Connor on 'The Anglo-Indians of Madras'. Organised by INTACH, Chennai. 6.30 p.m. The Folly Amethyst
- **Talk:** Storytelling session by Eric Miller (Director, World Storytelling Institute) Dept. of History & Tourism Stella Maris College

September 9

- **Quiz:** Murugappa Madras Quotient Quiz 2017. Organised by Murugappa Group. 1 p.m. onwards St. Bede's Auditorium

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Video/PPT Presentation:** *How your family moved to Anna Nagar, When? How? Why?* How is your family history related to Anna Nagar? Open to individuals of age 15 years and above. Submission of video/PPT to Nam Veedu, Nam Oor, Nam Kadhai. Thirupurasundari Sevvai, +91 94442 53532
- Cycling Yogis will mark Madras Week with a booklet called *Cycling Trails*. It includes 40 trails with details about what to see on them. Every trail in the booklet has been cycled on by the compilers over the last year. Some of the noteworthy trails are called *Madras the First, Madras the Oldest, Historic Residences, Mahatma Gandhi* and *Police Heritage*. For booklets, contact ramanujar4u@gmail.com, then make use of them during 'Madras Month'.
- **Tamil Short Story Contest:** Kizhakkupathippagam is hosting a Short Story contest. Stories must have Chennai/Madras as its character/landscape or be set in Chennai and should be in Tamil only. Stories should be fresh ones and should not have been published elsewhere. The results will be announced during the 4th week of August. Shortlisted stories will be published as a book by Kizhakkupathippagam. For more details: kizhakkupathippagam@gmail.com
- An extensive display of books of over 150 Chennai authors will be held at Odyssey, Adyar and Thiruvanniyur. Commemorative Madras Fridge magnet worth Rs. 99 FREE on purchase of any 2 books by Chennai authors. Display-cum-sale of specially created 'Celebrating Madras' merchandise.
- **Shoot Madras 2017 Photo Contest:** Photographic Society of Madras (PSM) is holding a photography contest marking Madras Week. There are two sections: 1. Open to all and 2. Open to students. There will be three themes: **My Madras:** The photographer's personal tribute to Chennai, depicting what it means personally, **Only in Madras:** Scenes which are unique to Madras, be it a modern woman in jeans and tops with jasmine flowers on her hair or the *thenga maanga pattani sundal* on the beaches, and **Evolving Madras:** Shift from the ancient to the old to the modern. Buildings with modern facades, yet vintage structures at the rear. Brand new bridges, flyovers and metro lines. Evolving roads, markets in parallel with structures of yesteryears. An exhibition of prize-winning and other striking entries will be held later.