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MADRAS MUSINGS

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

Vol. XXVII No. 23

March 16-31, 2018



D'Angelis hotel when it was opened.



The rear of the hotel building brought to dust in 2018.

More heritage ground to dust

● by The Editor

— As citizens watch helplessly

Close on the heels of the demolition of Binny's Building on Armenian Street, the old D'Angelis building, which stood at the corner of Anna Salai and Blackers Road has been ground to dust. Those not so familiar with its past will know of it as Bosotto's or, better still, associate it with the Bata Showroom that functioned for long from its ground floor. That it was not in any weakened condition is evident from the fact that it has taken more than a year to bring it down. That the High Court of Madras listed the structure as Grade 2a in the Justice Padmanabhan committee report obviously did not offer any protection to it. It just goes to show that the builder-bureaucrat nexus can thwart any legal ruling. There will always be a way. That the core of the building dated to 1906, has also not made any difference.

The exterior of the building had undergone considerable alteration in the hands of several successive owners. But the interior, apart from sections gutted by a fire that invariably comes to all heritage buildings in the city, retained much of its original grandeur. INTACH

had even graded its state of maintenance as fair as late as in 2006. From then to demolition within a decade is monstrous to say the least.

Rather ironically, it is this modified exterior that is being retained after the interiors have all gone. This is to comply with the Government's interpretation of the High Court order

that it is only the facade of a building that needs to be protected.

The Heritage Conservation Committee of the CMDA is wholly to blame for this situation. Given that the other Heritage Committee following the passing of the Heritage Act by the Tamil Nadu Assembly in 2010 was never constituted, the

earlier body evidently still remains in operation. But in a decade and more of its existence it has done precious little. Mandated to study and notify the 400-odd buildings listed as being of heritage value by the High Court in 2006, it never went about this task. For a start it declined to accept the list that had been put together by

INTACH and agreed to in toto by the High Court. Had this been done, a lot of time would have been saved, as would countless heritage structures. On the other hand, the Committee is still debating on the best way to identify and list the structures and has, when it felt like it, enlisted college students for assistance. The net result is that ten buildings or so (out of

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State's Public Health Services need to work better

A NITI Aayog survey, in collaboration with the World Bank, published in February 2018 ranks Tamil Nadu as the third best State in India for 2015-16 in terms of medical infrastructure. At the ground level, however, results of a grassroots study by an NGO reveals unsatisfactory working conditions in Primary Health Centres and tertiary hospitals.

In Tamil Nadu, according to the local study, state-run hospitals are not the first choice for treatment of TB. In rural areas, especially, three out of five, that is, 60 per cent, go to private hospitals before enrolling in public centres/hospitals for free treat-

ment. By then people have spent considerable sums of money besides losing valuable time in early detection and timely treatment. Delay could lead to complications besides commu-

pre-project sociological survey ensures that every feature of the project recognises the target beneficiaries' needs, cultural compulsions and habits.

● by A Special Correspondent

nifying the disease to others in the community. Quite often what seems like minor features have an important bearing on the usefulness of the service to the beneficiary — example: working hours of the facility. A

The report of the local NGO records that 49 per cent paid bribes for service, 73 per cent experienced poor/average drinking water availability, over 45 per cent had to suffer long wait and most said that public

health centres are not open in the evenings. It must be said, however, that as high as 69 per cent were satisfied with services by doctors.

The report of NITI Aayog focuses on one aspect of health — child health, i.e., neo natal mortality, under-5 mortality, etc. This basic aspect of health could well serve as a reliable proxy for all other facets of public health. The Study has compiled index numbers for performance by States for three components — Health Outcomes, Key Inputs and Governance. Based on the index scores, it has ranked the States.

(Continued on page 2)

Health Services disappoint

(Continued from page 1)

The NITI Study assigns Tamil Nadu an **Overall score** of 63.28 in 2014-15 and 63.38 in 2015-16, the two years being the Base Year and the Reference Year respectively. Based on the index score, it is nationally ranked second for overall performance in Health and Family Welfare services.

On **Health Outcomes**, the State fell from 64.04 in the Base Year to 62.56 in the Reference Year and is ranked third.

On **Key Inputs**, Tamil Nadu scores 78.06 in 2015-16 and is ranked Number One.

On **Governance** aspects, no index score could be compiled by the Study due to limited data availability, but several indicators of governance have been rated wherever data was available.

On overall performance, Kerala got 82.89 compared to Tamil Nadu's 63.38, the latter still getting second rank and that a far second. Kerala has set the benchmark indicating that there is much room for Tamil Nadu to raise performance – by about 30 per cent.

There is an interesting angle on the **Key Inputs** scores. Tamil Nadu getting Rank 1 is laudable as it sets the benchmark for other States. Kerala with a lower score of 74.17 on Key Inputs has been able to make the Number One spot for **Health Outcomes** with a score of 82.89. With less infrastructure Kerala has been able to perform better on outcomes. Management and monitoring, making possible a high quality of service, has made the difference between Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu numbers show that on **Health Outcomes**, low weight at birth is as high as 13 per cent compared to 5/7 per cent in Telangana. Sex ratio at birth is 911 girls per 1000 boys born, whereas it is 967 in Kerala suggesting that sex-selective abortions on a significant scale were probably happening unchecked.

Regarding **Key Inputs**, Immunisation coverage is 82.7 per cent in Tamil Nadu whereas several states in the country have completed 100 per cent or over 95 per cent. Institutional delivery in maternity cases has the effect of lowering maternal and infant mortality and on such an important aspect only 81.8 per cent go to institutions for delivery whereas nearly 100 per cent has been recorded by more than one state. Percentage of districts with functional cardiac units is woefully low at

56.3 per cent in the State compared to a benchmark of 76.9 per cent in West Bengal. The ease of effecting improvements over a very short period is illustrated by Rajasthan's determination – from 2.9 per cent in 2014-15, they made a sustained effort and equipped 76.9 per cent of the districts with cardiac units in one year. Primary Health Centres functioning 24/7, on a norm of one per 100,000 population, is 35 per cent of the norm whereas States like Assam and Haryana set the benchmark with 76.9 and 77.6 per cent coverage respectively

Governance of infrastructure determines outcomes. Here is only one example of governance deficiencies. The continuity of District Medical Officers, who are the frontline force for implementation, is an abysmal 7.3 months compared to 25.4 months in Chhattisgarh and 18.1 months in Gujarat.

The foregoing analysis shows that there is no contradiction between the NITI Report assigning high ranks to Tamil Nadu and the grass-root level surveys by local NGOs reflecting serious deficiencies at the ground level. The first measures the infrastructure quantitatively and the second qualitatively.

Going by the Funds assigned for Health for the years 2010-11 and 2017-18 as cited in Budget Speeches, Rs. 7265 crores were earmarked in 2010-11 and Rs. 32,231 crores in 2017-18, reflecting a 4.44 times increase; as share of total expenditure, it grew from approximately 9 per cent to 16 per cent. The importance accorded to the health sector and the resultant infrastructure are well up to the mark. The focus should, therefore, be on making things work better. Effective governance comes out as an area for major improvement. Honest feedback on efficiencies and outcomes at predictable periodicity, preferably, every half-year should be obtained. This would help the departments concerned to make course corrections and ensure compliance.

Above all, public health needs a sanitary environment which pervades many aspects – water quality, slaughterhouse hygiene, food safety. Experts emphasise that safe drinking water and sanitation are critical determinants of health, which would directly contribute to 70-80 per cent reduction in the burden of communicable diseases.

Of mugs given & taken

Of late *The Man from Madras Musings* is invited to all kinds of events. The expression all and sundry would be the mot juste with emphasis being on the sundry. MMM imagines his position to be equivalent to that of an ageing and waterlogged boot that gets regularly caught in the fishing nets cast by event organisers. They cast him back into the waters after their respective events are over so that other organisers can then haul him in.

Perhaps it is the way MMM looks especially when being photographed that inspires these people, for by way of memento (or momento as MMM has often seen it spelt in this our land), they invariably gift him a coffee mug. MMM now has a huge collection of these, varying in size, design and overall ghastliness. Some sport oriental designs, others bear cartoons and some have plain messages. There is one common factor – they cannot be recycled by way of gifting them away to someone else. That is because all of them have personalised messages immortalising the giver or the taker. Take for instance a gift of a mug from an institute of technology's alumni association that has its logo engraved on it. How can MMM pass this off to anyone else? The first question the mug at the receiving end is bound to ask on opening the gift is whether MMM is an alumnus of that institution, which he is not. The receiving mug is then bound to ponder over the gift mug and come to the conclusion that MMM had made a mug out of him. And so, MMM is stuck with hundreds of mugs.

The problem is that you cannot make a coffee set of six out disparate mugs. And even if you did, how many such sets can you have? After all, MMM is not the British Royal Family to throw tea parties for hundred where all these mugs can be used. You can use a couple as pen stands but then how many of those can you have? Add toothbrush holders and a planter for some indoor foliage in miniature but even after all these uses, there are still several mugs left over. The only possible use that MMM can think of is to carry these mugs each time he goes on an overseas visit. Many countries have an abhorrent policy of paper instead of water for what are known as ablutions. MMM is strongly pro-water. These mugs are bound to come in handy and the advantage is that you can leave them behind in the toilets used as a kind gesture for future visitors from India who may be desperate to wash as opposed to wipe. There is however the matter of excess baggage. MMM won-

ders as to how many mugs would constitute a kilogram of baggage.

Having come to the conclusion that he has been made a mug out of thus far, MMM has taken to asking event organisers who invite him if they intend gifting him a mug for his services. And then, not waiting for their response, he also makes it clear that he is not in the market for any mugs and would be glad if they desisted from offering him any memento. He then proceeds to list the other items he does not want – shawls of brocade or any other variety, black lacquer or silver plated Tanjore plates, papier-mâché figurines, photo frames, tinsel filigree garlands with balls of sandal that leave a yellow stain on your clothes thereby making you remember the event forever... the list is seemingly endless.

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

The inevitable reaction on MMM issuing such a caveat is that such gifts are part of our tradition. MMM wonders since when mugs became part of our tradition. Coffee yes, but mugs? Anyway, he has since managed to deter many a determined organiser from gifting him these assorted useless items. He has made bold to suggest flowers or fruits as options but these have not met with much favour. Probably the expense involved (you cannot order flowers and fruits at the beginning of the year for all the planned events in the calendar and strike a bargain price for wholesale purchase as you can do with gimcrack what-nots) makes organisers think twice.

Summer (not yet) here

The suspense is killing. And *The Man from Madras Musings* for one is not amused. When will we get the weather we are familiar with? MMM alludes to the sticky and hot season that really keeps us Chennai peoples on our toes. We are also at our happiest grumbling about it and when it is not vouchsafed us, we begin to fret. We as a people are unused to good weather and do not know how to enjoy it. Give us this day our daily sweat we pray.

But the weather gods or whoever/whatever else that decides on the climate have decided to play games with Chennai. How else can you explain these chilly mornings? The temperature was down to 18 deg C in Meenambakkam last week one night. That is enough for Chennai to shiver and pull out from the moth-

balls all the shawls, sweaters and other woollies that had not seen the light of day since the last time everyone went to Bangalore. The nights are pleasant as well and as for the day, while it is warming up after the harsh and dark winter we had, it is not yet summer. Considering that it is already mid-March, we are a puzzled lot. Heat we understand, but all this cold? No way. This is Madras, or at least was till we took to calling it Chennai.

All over the city, quarrels are happening over the temperature in which the air-conditioners are to be set. The majority of our citizens somehow imagine that office spaces need to be at arctic temperatures in summer and oven-like heat in 'winter' (you know the Chennai winter – a slight reduction in the overall heat). But now they are confused, not having ever used intermediate temperature settings. One half wants the air-conditioner to be set to near freezing on the grounds that it is summer while the other lot, that coughs and wheezes like clockwork from October to March, insists on ratcheting up the heat.

Similar is the ill will between those who get bitten by mosquitoes and those that don't. This intermediary weather, known as spring in other parts of the world, has seen the proliferation of these airborne vectors as our Corporation refers to them. Our civic body in MMM's view also looks on these insects with a paternal affection for it has done nothing to eliminate them. Their surge in numbers is causing much distress to the majority while a minority watches and scoffs.

All of this is bound to result in unrest of some kind, hopefully not of the jallikattu variety. The weather had better take a turn for the worse, and soon at that.

Tailpiece

The Man from Madras Musings took this picture a week back. It is clear that the helmet law is being taken to extremes by some of our two-wheeler riders.

—MMM



English made easy in recent book...

The *Words in Indian English: A Guide to English Communication in South Asia* by S. Muthiah, (Palaniappa Brothers) was recently released. The overflowing hall reflected the audience's interest in the etymological theme of the evening and their high regard for the author and his writings.

Dr. Albert P. Rayan, a Professor of English, and Editor of the *Journal of ELT*, expounded the implications of adapted English and how even that was not uniform all over the country as each region had its own cultural variant. Shanta Gabriel, a former English Language teacher, explained select portions from the book in a delivery marked by authentic pronunciation and diction, which, incidentally, demonstrated how English should be spoken. In a discussion with S.R. Madhu, senior Journalist, the author said that spoken and written English among the younger generation are today poor mainly because of lack of qualified and trained language teachers. He believed that this situation must be corrected if India is to retain the unique advantage of being an English-knowing nation. But at the same time, whatever we are taught, we will continue to **spea**k our own variants of English.

The book catalogues Indian usages that have crept into Indian English, almost making it a different language from the original. The book would, therefore, come in handy to visitors to India to be able to understand English as spoken and written here – peppered with local expressions and literal translations of culture-

related usages and idioms. The book is *English Made Easy*.

The proceedings would have led several among the audience to introspect on their present speaking and writing styles. Such an exercise might at times be unsettling. Years and years ago, a friend suggested I read *Plain Words* by Ernest Gowers, an ex-Post Master General of UK, which was a classic in those times, on "correct English". The reading knocked out my confidence to speak and write. I was all at sea till, after a time, I managed to regain my orientation. The second knock-out came years later when I submitted my very first professional report, of quite some length, to my boss. He was an Englishman who was a product of a Public School and

Oxford. Incidentally, Englishmen, who were not fortunate enough to go to Public School, developed a complex in engaging with their own fellow countrymen of the Public School variety. To return to the story, my boss told me that all I needed to do was to re-read the report and remove superfluous articles, prepositions, adverbs and adjectives. I did just that. Not much of my report was left. I relived this experience listening to the speakers of that evening. I felt like the centipede, in a Greek saying, which was advised to go to a consultant to know how to use its hundred legs in a scientific manner. After the consultation, the centipede is said to be standing still at the same spot to this day.

The MC held the meeting on a tight leash and ensured that it did not ramble into irrelevance. The speaker chosen on the spot, either by arrangement or by chance, to propose the vote of thanks was it seemed, accustomed to speaking English the Indian way. At the outset, he calmed fears of a long speech under the guise of a vote of thanks, by assuring us that he had no time to make a speech, much as he would like, as "his wife was not well, was lonely at home and being the only husband of his wife, he had to go home very fast to take care of her". The occasion, however, demanded that he should thank the speakers on the dais and praise their accomplishments. He said they were all *nice* people when someone whispered to him that it is not nice to use the word *nice* in this context as the word, in *propa* English, really meant *slimy* or *tricky*. He defended his usage saying what I *tell*, in India, we *tell like that only*. Eventually, he yielded and said that the people on the dais were not *nice* at all. At this, again, there were murmurs and he corrected himself saying that the persons on the stage were *not nice* and they were good. Even this did not go down well. Having got into a verbal trap, he decided to wind up the meeting by thanking everyone profusely and concluded that it was time for all to *go and come*, a phrase the author of the book regularly uses.

OUR READERS WRITE



Tamil Nadu downturn

Your correspondent has pointed out that Tamil Nadu is not among the top three on various parameters (MM, March 1st) of development. Time was when the State was quoted as the shining example of development.

The slide began when MGR became the Chief Minister. His very first statement was that Government would not open colleges any more nor would it accord permission for aided colleges and that all new colleges would be self-financing private colleges. This dictum was carried to nursery level. Similar was the case with government hospitals being deprived of funding. A moratorium on filling up vacant posts not only in Government Departments but also in aided schools led to classrooms without teachers.

Now, the latest entrant to Tamil Nadu politics has proclaimed that he would establish MGR's rule. Will there be more of that same?

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... & more of it

Reference MMM's column on Indian English (MM, March 1st), here are a few suggested inclusions:

- What is your good name? (As though there is a bad name)
- You may be rest assured
- He gets annoyed at *small small* things
- *Britisher*
- *Native place*
- He went on talking about *this thing and that thing*
- Honourable Supreme Court / High Court
- *History sheeter* – This uniquely Indian (Madras?) expression for a habitual offender has gained a fair amount of respectability, with even news papers like *The Hindu* freely using it. The honorific is bestowed probably only on some one who has a crime history at least one foolscap sheet long.
- I will give you a ring – the speaker has no intention of presenting a diamond ring but intends to only call you on the phone.

Then there are some English-Indian (Tamil) combo expressions:

eg. *This is the wayaa?* for 'Is this the way?'

The list could go on..There is a delightful book *Indlish* by Jyoti Sanyal, formerly of Statesman, Calcutta (published by Viva Books, 2006) which has delved deep into this fascinating subject. But of course, the field is constantly evolving.

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Wordless Gopulu



• The late Gopulu during his *Ananda Vikatan* days had a series of wordless jokes that brought about loud laughter. These were brought out as a book, in 2005, and a copy was recently sent to me by Charukesi. We are pleased to publish these cartoons for a new generation of Madrasis.

– THE EDITOR

THE MISSING LINK

In the 1980s, Madras pioneered in India the elevated railway system, MRTS, the Mass Rapid Transport System. In the first phase, 8.55 km was constructed from Beach to Mylapore. The original estimate of around Rs. 55 crore overshot and ended with Rs. 269 crore due to much delayed construction.

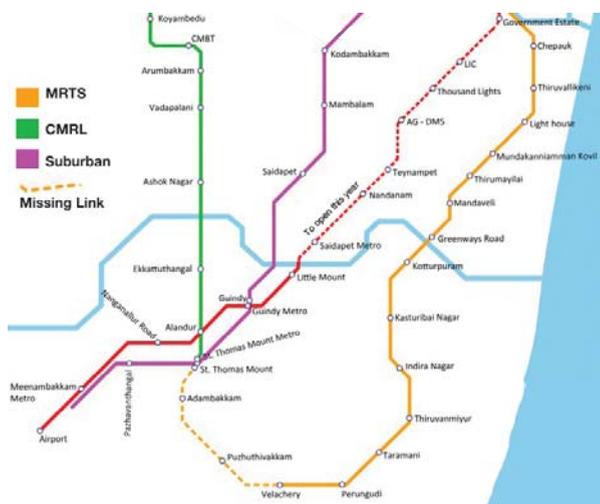
Extension of this again got stuck with the State government treating it as a Central project and refusing to share a portion of the cost. The Tamil Nadu Government relented later and, over time, extended it to Velachery. Of course, prices had escalated, and the State ended up spending Rs. 769 crore.

The original plan was to connect Velachery with St. Thomas' Mount just 5 km away. Of this around 4.5 km has been constructed, a small balance portion remaining unfinished due to litigation on the part of property owners demanding ever-increasing prices.

Connecting this stretch with St. Thomas' Mount on the old Beach-Tambaram section, already connected with the Chennai Metro Rail Corporation (CMRL), will ensure convenient rail connectivity to Adyar, Mylapore or Triplicane from any point on the other two lines. The convenience and comfort lost in not doing this can only be imagined.

There are other anomalies: vast differences in pricing tickets by the Indian Railway (suburban and MRTS), CMRL and the state-run Metro Bus Transport Corporation (MTC). The CMRL charges Rs. 36 for travel from Anna Nagar to Ekkattuthangal. The parallel bus service is priced at Rs. 7.

There is no denying that the Indian commuter is price-conscious. Delhi Metro increased the fares twice during 2017; each



time ridership suffered a sharp decline. But if this short link is completed, services coordinated and fares rationalised, commuters gaining familiarity with shorter travel time and higher comfort levels, would be willing to pay more for the better service and greater comfort.

This may happen sooner than I thought. The acquisition left is only a couple of hundred metres, I am told. The value of property involved has been zooming in two decades from around Rs. 10,000 a ground (2400 sq.ft) to over Rs. 4 crore today but Government is sorting out on a priority basis the issue, I understand, to pave the way for completing the project in quick time. – (Courtesy: *Industrial Economist*.)



A street of ill-repute no more

We have thus far in this series been looking at lost/barely surviving landmarks in our city, but what of an entire street that has vanished from the map? That may not be fully correct, for Odakkal Street does appear to exist but with a new name and a completely different profile. In its heyday, this was a place that at least every sailor on shore leave was familiar with, for it was one of the most notorious red light areas of the city.

Odakkal/Odacaal/Odocal/Vodacaal/Wodacaal Street, for these are the various names by which this particular thoroughfare was referred to in city maps, ran west to east, connecting at its eastern end Moore Street to North Beach Road (Rajaji Salai), just north of General Post Office.

I was first alerted to the colourful past of the place when I read Dr. K.N. Kesari's delightful memoirs *Chimnani Mucchathu* (translated into English as *Life and Times of Dr K N Kesari* by Vasantha N Menon). He writes:

Nellore Brahmins were well known for their water transport business. They also had pearl and coral business. They were sent to Madras Harbour from Bunder Srikakulam, Kakinada and other such places. They had their business near the Beach at Odakkalu Street. Slowly this business stopped and prostitutes began to stay there. They would call out to men as they passed by. The English would stop and ask, 'Why do you call me?' This gradually became corrupted to Odakkalu Street. Anyway, no decent person would pass this thoroughfare for obvious reasons.

Dr. Kesari was not entirely correct when it came to the street's etymology. Odakkalu took its name from Vadikal, which in Tamil means 'outlet'. Henry Davison Love, in *Vestiges of Old Madras* is clear as to how the place got such a name. The East India Company decided in 1779 to auction the wasteland it possessed in Black Town. The total area was 664 'Lots' and one among these was along the Vodacaal or Water Channel. Love in a footnote adds, "This channel, now obliterated, ran eastward to the sea. The name is preserved in Odacal Street, which connects Moor Street

with Jehangir Street at the north end in the present General Post Office." Love, the Victorian, does not mention what Odakkalu Street was famous for. Dr Kesari, who lived from 1875 to 1953, was describing the place as he remembered from childhood and that was more or less contemporaneous with Love's time in our city.

That this area was not always a location with such a poor reputation is evident from its past

LOST LANDMARKS OF CHENNAI

— SRIRAM V

records. The street extends after Moor Street to Kachaleeswarar Agraharam. This was where Kalavai Chetty, the builder of the Kachaleeswarar temple, settled dancing girls attached to the shrine sometime early in the 18th Century. While it may be convenient to connect their presence to the later degradation of the area into a set of bordellos, we must also remember that the *Devadasi*-s (dancing girls) could never be equated with the harlot. Anyway, by the mid 19th Century, the traditional courtesans had all migrated to the western side of Black Town, closer to Peddanaickenpet. That Odakkal Street was then a rather respectable quarter of the town is proven by the fact that Thomas Jarrett (see *Jarrett's Gardens* under Lost Landmarks, MM, March 1st), that ultra-devout Christian, had his office on Odakkal Street in the early 1800s.

A street directory dating to 1877 clearly connects Kachaleeswarar Temple and Odacal Street. It then helpfully gives details of various lanes and thoroughfares that link with Odacal Street at different places. These include Muthumari Amman, Angappa Naicken, Sembudoss and Thambu Chetty Streets. There is only one thoroughfare that answers this description today, and also connects with the GPO, and that is Post Office Street. There must have been a strong desire to rename the street and clear it of all its negative connotations and when the GPO came up at the eastern end in the



Post office street once Odakkal Street.

1880s, it must have provided a convenient excuse.

The rise in the flesh trade here appears to have happened simultaneously with the development of the harbour on which work began in 1875. From then on we have continuous records of the Government monitoring the area. The entire locality was divided among seven *gomasta*-s who were all selected on the basis of their incorruptible nature and, more importantly, being well past their prime. They were entrusted with the task of going around warning the women to get registered with the Government and also subject themselves to regular medical examinations. This did work to an extent and

around 700 women were documented but several *gomasta*-s had to be dismissed for they had become 'corrupted'.

A handbill of the 1890s that is quoted in *Global Anti-Vice Activism, 1890-1950, Fighting Drinks, Drugs and "Immorality"* by Jessica R. Pilley, Robert Kramm and Harald Fischer-Tine gives details of the way the place was - you have a picture of dark complexioned women in white sarees standing near the thresholds of their houses calling out to passers by to step within. The more prudish people would therefore walk in the middle of the road, unmindful of the carts and other vehicles. If they did step on to the footpaths they were bound to

enter into conversation with the "lewd creatures". From there to ulcerous sores on the body that could only be soothed by margosa leaves was but a step. The area was most dangerous after eleven at night and the total number of women employed in the trade was in excess of five thousand!

By 1914, however, the business had sharply diminished. The Government acquired much of the place for development and the results of that are probably what we see when we walk down Post Office Street today. That of course does not mean Madras became wholly moral overnight. It is just that the trade shifted elsewhere, to Chengam Bazaar on the western side of Town. The term *Chengam sarakku* came to mean a woman of easy virtue. By the 1940s however, the trade died out from there as well and dispersed across the city. Certainly, Post Office Street has no vestiges of the time when it was the notorious Odakkal Street.

Metallic substances in Indian medical practice recorded in 1813

(Continued from last fortnight)

Section 2 refers to metallic substances used in Indian medical practice. Section 3 explains the medicines of the Tamil *Materia Medica*, based on a Siddha medical text *Agattiya Vythiya Murai 500*, also used by the people of Telugu country and Muslims, which he thinks will be of value to European practitioners. Section 4 includes details of medications and their suggested doses from the Tamil medical practice. Section 5 includes a list of weights and measures used by Indian physicians, with equivalents of apothecaries' weights

and measures supplied: e.g. 2.5 grains of dry paddy (including the husk) = 1 Apothecaries' Grain. These pages also include details on how native medical practitioners write prescriptions pertaining to water extract (infusion), *kashayam* (decoction), *thazham*, *thuvilai* (liniment), *lehiyam* (electuary), *choornam* (powder), *mathirai* (pill), and *kalimbu* (plaster).

Ainslie subsequently explains the principles and practices followed by native Indian physicians, particularly of the Tamil country, in making five types of mercury-based compounds. He also indicates how each of these mercury compounds is being

used in the treatments of different diseases. In brief, he indicates *rassapusam* and *rasacarpooram* for venereal afflictions, scurfy ulcers, and leprosy. *Saadilingam* to be used with specified masses of the bark of *Calotropis gigantea* (then known as *Asclepias Gigantea*, Asclepiadaceae), charcoal, *Piper nigrum* (Piperaceae), and the juice of *Gossypium herbaceum* (Malvaceae), well-ground and the mix on hardening to be smoked for eye disorders. *Saviram* is prepared with alum, nitre (KNO₃), iron sulphate (FeSO₄), and sal ammoniac (NH₄Cl) and given to treat asthma and phlegmatic problems in microquantities. *Rasasen-*

duram is used mixed with copper sulphate and the root of *Amaranthus campestris* (Amaranthaceae) to treat foul ulcers.

Part II of the book includes details on materials (a little more than 500, grouped under seven sections based on their economic

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contexts) used by the people of the Tamil land in the 18th Century. He provides impressive details and, most critically, he supplements details with local names either in original lan-

The beat of happiness

Vikku Vinayakram's home in Triplicane in Chennai has a sparse study-cum-meditation room on the second floor. Huge portraits of the seer of Kanchi - the Paramacharya or Maha Periyava - Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati (1594-1994), in different styles from posters to paintings to stained glass works, adorn the walls.

In the middle of the room, on a colourful jamakaalam sits a *ghatam*. It is a souvenir that a *ghatam*-maker gave Vikku. It has Vikku's face carved out in the clay. He doesn't like talking about that *ghatam* though. "The person who made this was over-enthusiastic. Out of affection for him, I have retained this in my study. I had him make another one with Periyava's image; that one is in my pooja room."

The shelves and cupboard tops, and even some cartons, are full of awards that Vikku has received in his career of over 60 years as a performing artist. He wants to show my wife Vaani and me his Grammy memento - which he won in 1991 for playing for *Planet Drum*, an album by American percussionist Mickey Hart (who once was part of the band *Grateful Dead*); the award was for the Best World Music Album that year. But Vikku can't find his Grammy memento among all his other awards. He manages to locate a plaque that all artists who played for *Planet Drum* signed on the occasion of winning the Grammy. What Vikku says when his search for the Grammy memento yields no result is deeply spiritual and awakening: "Parava illai! It's

okay! It's here somewhere. For sure. What is important is that I enjoyed myself playing for Mickey Hart and with the other artists. The process of playing the *ghatam*, to me, overrides any recognition that I have got."

Now, the man who is saying this is the world's best *ghatam*

• by
Avis Viswanathan

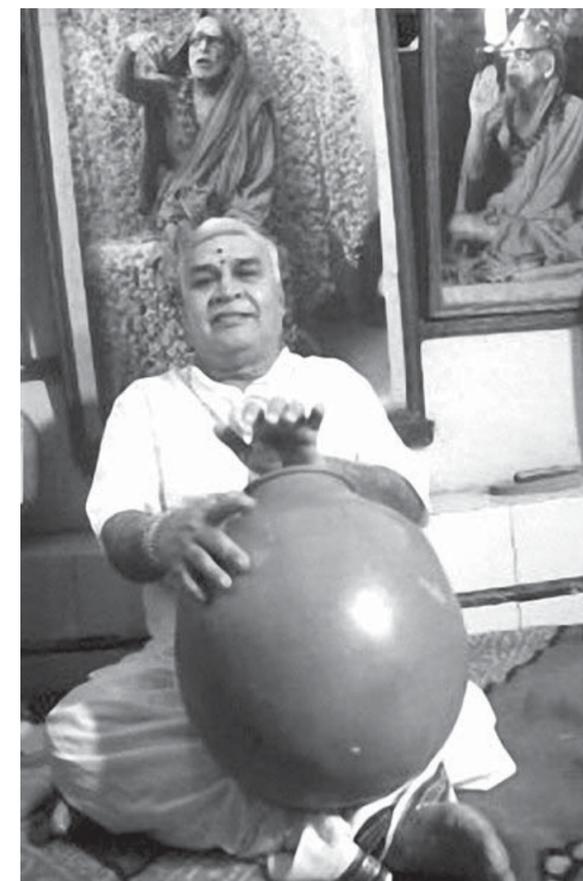
player. In fact, he is credited with putting the humble instrument on the world music scene. He has accompanied the all-time greats of Carnatic music - Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar, M. Balamuralikrishna, GNB, Madurai Mani Iyer, Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar, Maharajapuram Santhanam and M.S. Subbulakshmi - to name but a few. And he has played with many Hindustani music stalwarts too - Hariprasad Chaurasia, Zakir Hussain, Shivkumar Sharma and Amjad Ali Khan, for example. More important, he is among those first artists from India who were bold enough to experiment playing world fusion music despite a very strong, conservative, classical orientation. In the 1970s, Vikku played with English guitarist John McLaughlin's Shakti alongside Zakir Hussain (*tabla*), L. Shankar (*violin*) and Ramnad Raghavan (*mridangam*). And then, of course, came Mickey Hart's *Planet Drum* - and the Grammy.

But Vikku is untouched by all this glory. As he sips filter coffee

from a *davara-tumbler*, he nods his head furiously when I suggest to him that he must be very, very content with himself - what with a "lifetime in music and an era in greatness behind him"? "No, saar. Your question needs review. The *ghatam* has been around from the time of the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*. It is the only instrument that is made from the earth, from all the five elements - the *panchabhoota*-s. Who am I to take credit for making the *ghatam* famous or for all this glory that has come on account of it? I am most content playing good music with good people for good people to enjoy and energise themselves. I consider myself to be a postman, a messenger, a mere instrument for music to reach people. How can any instrument take credit for the music?" he asks.

To understand and celebrate Vikku's humility better, his story must be told in some detail. Born along with his sister Seethamani, as a fraternal twin, Vikku's original name was Ramaseshan. His father Harihara Sarma, a *mridangam* artist and teacher, was advised by the doctors that only one of the two children would survive; if both had to survive, said a soothsayer, one of them had to be given away in adoption. Sarma chose to give Ramaseshan in adoption to his favourite deity - Lord Vinayaka. And so the name Vinayakram came about!

Although Sarma lost one of his fingers in an accident, he taught young Vinayakram to play the *ghatam* by giving him beat-based instructions orally. Of



Vikku Vinayakram.

course, the family's income was meagre; so Sarma reckoned at first that having an artist with skills to play a different instrument (other than the *mridangam*) would bring in some additional cash. But sensing his son's prodigious talent, Sarma laid out a vision that Vinayakram would survive; if both had to survive, said a soothsayer, one of them had to be given away in adoption. Sarma chose to give Ramaseshan in adoption to his favourite deity - Lord Vinayaka. And so the name Vinayakram came about!

The big break came when a 22-year-old Vinayakram was "accepted" by M.S. Subbulakshmi's husband T. Sadasivam to accompany them on a US tour in 1964. This followed a concert of Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, who Vinayakram accompanied, at the Music Academy where both Subbulakshmi and Sadasivam were in the audience. Owing to the Indo-Pak war that intervened, the trip was postponed; but it eventually happened in 1966.

That was the first time any lead artist was willing to allow the *ghatam* as an accompaniment (Continued on page 6)

of general economic importance (e.g. asbestos), although it periodically alludes to materials of medical importance (e.g. mercury, and other metals such as Au, Zn, Ag).

In this section, he provides worthwhile remarks on the cultivation practices of *Oryza sativa* and related water-management practices in the Tamil land, referring particularly to the white-grain variety *Samba* and the red-grain variety *Kaar*.

Ainslie's book contains details of materials of medical use in India generically and in the Tamil country in particular in the first part, which is referred to as Catalogue I and captioned *The Materia Medica of Hindoostan*. Catalogue II, captioned *Agriculturist's Nomenclature*, is a bibliographic enumeration of materials

of general economic importance (e.g. asbestos), although it periodically alludes to materials of medical importance (e.g. mercury, and other metals such as Au, Zn, Ag).

Footnote: The earliest formal effort in this direction, i.e. producing a catalogue of medically relevant materials and their derivatives, was by John Fleming of the Bengal Medical Service. Another *materia medica* of 19th Century India was *The Materia Medica of the Hindus*, compiled from *Sanskrit Medical Works* (1877, Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta) by Uday Chand Dutt, a medical officer of the Bengal Civil Medical Service. Baghvat Sinhjee (Bhagvat Sinhjee Sangram Sinhjee Bahadur, the Maharaja of Gondal, Rajkot, 1865-1944; r: 1869-1944, the only ruler of a princely state in pre-

independent India, who qualified formally in medicine with M.B.C.M. and F.R.C.P. from Scotland) wrote *A Short History of Aryan Medical Service* in 1896 that included a chapter 'The Indian Materia Medica'. A more comprehensive volume, *Materia Medica of India and their Therapeutics* was authored by Khory and Katrak and was published in Bombay in 1903. Krishnarao Mangeshrao Nadkarni published his massive tome *The Indian Materia Medica* in 1954, which has currently undergone several reprints and revisions. Whitelaw Ainslie's *Materia Medica of Hindoostan* (1813), which appeared in Madras three years after Fleming published his volume, is more detailed and comprehensive than Fleming's in terms of quantity and quality of information supplied.

(Concluded)

Quizzin'
with
Ram'nan

(Quizmaster V.V. Ramanan's questions are from February 16 to 28. Questions 11 to 20 relate to Chennai and Tamil Nadu.)

1. Which popular social media communication app, owned by Facebook, has been given permission to have a payment feature for its Indian users?

2. Whose record did Roger Federer beat to become the oldest World No. 1 tennis player?

3. Which paceman has been appointed as Pakistan Cricket Board's brand ambassador?

4. Which company recently became the first e-commerce firm to enter food retail venture in the country by starting operations in Pune?

5. Name the station in Rajasthan that has become the first all-women railway station.

6. Aruna Budda Reddy recently became the first Indian to win a medal in the World championships of which Olympic sport?

7. What is Aadhaar card for children under 5 years, that won't have any biometric data, called and what will be its colour?

8. Chilika Lake in Odisha has become the single largest habitat for which endangered marine animal?

9. What is the purpose of the 'SRIJAN' idea competition announced recently?

10. On February 20, which South American country officially launched its Petro cryptocurrency, which it claims is the world's first sovereign cryptocurrency?

11. Which cities will form part of the country's first defence industrial corridor to be set up in the State?

12. Going per the lineage, Sri Jayendra Saraswathi of Kanchi who passed away recently was the ___ of the Kanchi Mutt.

13. Name the Governor of the Madras Presidency responsible for the establishment of the University of Madras in 1857.

14. Castle Kernan is now called...?

15. Where on Sardar Patel Road can one spot this Sanskrit motto 'Siddhirbhavathi karmaja'?

16. Goday Narayana Gajapathi Rao was responsible for which statue that was unveiled in June 1887 close to the seashore?

17. Which scheme introduced by Rajaji when he was the CM led to uproar and eventually his stepping down?

18. Where in Chennai is the Edouard Michelin Auditorium?

19. The 'Malabar Samachar' founded in 1925 was the first magazine in which language to come out of Madras Presidency?

20. Which institute came up at Krishna Vilas at Vepery in December 1951?

(Answers on page 8)

Bird Count 2018 at Stella

A February weekend was hectic, with the faculty of the Zoology Department at Stella Maris College going all out to interest students in birding, especially on campus. Interested students were taken around the campus and at the end of four days, we had 88 checklists that documented 27 species.

Apart from the usual species, we once again documented the



The black kite.

Asian Brown Flycatcher as well as the Blyth's Reed Warbler this year. There were a couple of bird calls that we were unable to identify. Could be Sykes's Reed Warbler, though we were not too sure. The cute spotted owlet did not show itself except once, much to the disappointment of the students, but the bright male Golden Oriole was



The shikra.

greeted with many "Awesomes" and "Oohs."

The black kite sitting boldly on a coconut tree feeding on a rodent in spite of mobbing by crows, the shikra carrying twigs to build its nest, courting shikras high up in the sky, the occasional spot-billed pelican and painted stork flying strongly and purposefully overhead,

shouts of 'give me the binocs' and 'I think I saw _____' (any bird from the birding book which is not even remotely present on campus) — all this made the campus count a memorable one. Looks like we have more than the usual number of students 'hooked' on to birding this year.

— Kalpana Jayaraman

THE BEAT OF HAPPINESS

(Continued from page 5)

on the world stage. That tour gave Vinayakram a feel of what it means to play music to a global audience. It was only M.S. Subbulakshmi who fondly called him "Vikku," but since the nickname was easy on the tongue for the Western audiences and artists, it soon became his identity globally!

"My father's advice that music is divine, that it does not have boundaries and is not limited by styles and languages, resonated with me so much on that trip. Just the experience of performing with MS Amma was so transformational. The *ghatam* owes its gratitude to MS Amma for giving it a global stature," he says.

Vikku has been very faithful to his father's advice. He has always chosen music over anything else in life. In the mid-1970s, when he received an invitation from John McLaughlin to perform with *Shakti*, he was on the verge of accepting a "permanent" job as an All India Radio (AIR) artist. Choosing the AIR job meant a steady income and job security. Going with *Shakti* meant short-term financial gains but infinite joy! Vikku chose joy. "I learnt the value of inner peace and joy from MS Amma and 'Veena' S. Balachander. Both of them told me, like my father always did, 'Do only what gives you joy'. I simply followed their advice. Today, when I look back, I am glad I did what I did. I would have never been happy with anything but playing my music, my way," he explains.

How has he managed to play in different cultures, with artists belonging to different genres, and to global audiences? Has he ever felt intimidated because of

his very conservative background? Even as I take a while to phrase these questions, Vikku has his answer ready: "Music has no language. Zakir (Hussain) and I have a perfect harmony between us; when we are playing together we communicate with our eyes. When I played with Western artists like Mickey Hart or John McLaughlin, we never had any issues. They always respected my space, my beliefs and my music. And I respected theirs. Music unites; You don't need anything else!"

Isn't life as a musician, despite all the highs it offers, pretty unpredictable in a practical sense? The income is not consistent. And then there is age and the question of staying relevant in an ever-changing world. How does Vikku deal with these factors? His one-word answer is 'faith'. He says you have to have faith that a higher energy will take care of you. To Vikku, that higher energy has always been the Kanchi Maha Periyava. "His grace is immense. It has guided me thus far and I have implicit faith that it will stay with me forever," he says.

He shares an anecdote to amplify this point. Vikku was recently diagnosed with an eye condition that required neurosurgery that would necessitate that he could not play the *ghatam* for at least 18 months. Vikku says, "I just could not accept the medical advice that I must not play the *ghatam*. I went into my *pooja* room and prayed to Maha Periyava. I left it to him. Then I went for my final, presurgery tests. And the tests came good! I would not need a surgery the doctor told me. Now, how do you explain this? Everyone is searching for

God. I have seen God in human form — and that is Maha Periyava."

As we get ready to leave, he adds this simple, yet so profound, perspective: "*Nambikkai* (faith) is the key to live happily. With faith comes *nimmadi* (inner peace). With inner peace comes *anandam* (happiness). I have always had total *nambikkai*. So even when worry arises or sadness comes, I invoke my faith. Desires ruin happiness. You can keep on desiring this and that and achieving this and that. As long as you are on this vicious cycle you will always be unhappy. Take life as it comes, with whatever it brings! Drop your desires and all you will be left with is *anandanam-brahmanandam*. Happiness — total bliss!"

As we stepped on to the street to find transport to take

us home, I was for a long time looking at my Uber App without filling in any details. I was lost in my reverie. I was thinking, what kind of an evolved man he must be who does not really agonise that he cannot find his Grammy Award memento! To me, Vikku lives the philosophy of a desire-less state that he spoke about. And that is why he is so simple, grounded, happy and at peace with himself. Undoubtedly, he is a rock star in his own right, but one who is obsessed only with his music, and never with the trappings that rock-stardom brings along with it — the Grammy included. (Courtesy: *Sruiti*).

This tribute is due to appear in the author's book *The Happiness Road*. His earlier book was *Fall Like a Rose Petal*.

Heritage ground to dust

(Continued from page 1)

400!) have made it to a list, after ten years. As to which ones these are has never been made public.

The State Government, indifferent as it is to most matters requiring attention, can hardly be expected to pay any attention to a subject like heritage, branded as it has been for long as elitist. Given such a scenario, it is no wonder that private developers are making merry. Rumour has it that other buildings on the hit list include Leith Castle and the Government Hobart School. If matters continue this way, there will be very little to showcase of our past.

It is high time that the Gov-

ernment is pressurised to act on preserving heritage. Such lobbying has been at an all time low ever since the adverse judgement delivered in the matter of the P Orr & Sons annexe building demolition. That needs to be firmly put in the past and action has to be taken. For a start, INTACH needs to approach the Courts and bring to their notice that their judgement of 2006 on heritage buildings has rapidly been reduced to nought. The Courts need to question the Government on what it is doing to protect heritage. If a 'Traffic' Ramaswamy can by sheer perseverance make a change in the NSC Bose Road area, cannot a heritage movement that claims to have many foot soldiers achieve more?

The eco-tree par excellence

An eco-tree is one that offers both ecological as well as survival benefits to humans. The Drumstick tree, popularly known today as the *Moringa*, has suddenly shot into global fame, as a 'miracle tree'. *Moringa oleifera* is a tropical and sub-tropical multipurpose tree, because every part of this tree has amazing ecological, nutritional, medicinal, economic and research values for humans.

Ecologically, the leaves of *Moringa* purify air and water, and fertilise soil and crops. *Moringa* leaves, as 'carbon-sinks', incredibly absorb about 20 times more atmospheric carbon dioxide than most other trees, contributing substantially to carbon sequestration, to solve the great global threat of 'climate change'. Powder or decoction of *Moringa* leaves or seeds, fresh or dried, clarify and

purify turbid and polluted water, sedimenting suspended particles, absorbing dissolved obnoxious salts and even killing bacteria. *Moringa* leaves, with an unusually high per cent of proteins and nitrogen among plants, and with rich content of minerals, including NPK, fertilise degraded soils and

● by
Dr. P.J. Sanjeeva Raj
rajsanjeeva@gmail.com

lands, and the leaf decoction sprayed, fertilise withering plants and crops, as a whole. However, considering the volume of *Moringa* leaves used for food and commerce in the tropics, developing vast *Moringa* farms may compensate.

Nutritionally, *Moringa* is called in the developing countries as a 'super food' or even as an 'elixir of life'. *Moringa* leaves, quite unusual from other leaves, contain nearly ten per cent of their wet weight, by proteins, made up unbelievably of 17 out of the 20 amino acids known. In addition, these leaves contain vitamins, several times more than in other vegetables, vitamins like A, B-complex, C, D and E. As in a 'power house of minerals', nearly eight different minerals, in large quantities are loaded into *Moringa* leaves and pods. The calorific value of *Moringa* leaves is more than in its pods, and all these promote the production of breast milk, so that it could solve the great malnutrition problem prevalent among babies in poor developing countries.

The white kernel of the *Moringa* seed contains 40 per cent of its wet weight as an oil, called Ben oil, a natural biodiesel, used also as an ingredient in cosmetics. More interestingly the *Moringa* seeds are a store-house of energy, as in the famous *Arogya Pacha* (*Trichopus zeylanicus*) of the Kani tribals in Kerala, who go without food for two or three days in the forest, surviving by feeding merely on the seeds of *Arogya Pacha*, now patented as "Jeevani".

Medicinally, since ancient times, in the rural tropics, the poor have been using *Moringa* as a cure for a wide variety of health ailments, so *Moringa* has been reckoned as a 'medicine chest' or as a 'doctor at home'. The unique combination of a wide variety of rich nutrients in *Moringa* is the chief reason for its capacity to heal diverse ailments. However, overdosage or ignorant use of some *Moringa* parts cannot be encouraged. Also clinical research and confirmation of *Moringa* therapeutics is a lacuna in our present enthusiasm for *Moringa* cures.

Economically, apart from providing such ambrosia-like food and elixir-like medicines, *Moringa* can fetch a livelihood income for the poor, as well as profitable exports for the rich. Sale and export of green or powdered dried leaves, seeds and pods green or their pulp frozen, seed oil, all in packages have great export potential targeting markets in the temperate and affluent countries.

Research, in cultivating *Moringa* and research on its nutritional and medicinal values, is being pursued actively all over the world. However, clinical research on its medici-



"Moringa in my garden" – Dr. Sanjeeva Raj.

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nal values needs to be pursued more.

Abandoned drylands, open spaces in residential areas and public compounds in the tropical countries could be deployed for *Moringa* farming which would provide not only all these benefits but also livelihoods for the poor, through this 'Tree of the Future', as the world calls it today. In propagating *Moringa* trees, better than through

seeds, cuttings *in situ* (on the tree itself) rather than *ex situ* (on the ground) is preferable. The 70 to 80 insect pests on *Moringa*, including the hairy caterpillars, the most detestable ones, are all controllable, today.

Trees are said to be the angels of God, providing all human needs on Earth. *Moringa* certainly is God's special gift for the poor of the developing countries.

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

Destined for greater things

● **Not often in the past has Tamil Nadu provided three or four Test, ODI or T20 aspirants knocking at the selectors' doors at the same time. With R. Ashwin and M. Vijay an essential part of the Test squad for years now, the recent arrival of Washington S. Sundar and Vijay Shankar under the radar of the national selectors has been a happy and deserving development in the State's cricketing fortunes, though it has occurred amidst poor performances by Tamil Nadu in the 50-over Vijay Hazare competition at the national level, coming on top of a none-too-impressive showing in the Ranji Trophy.**

Sundar and Vijay Shankar (MM, February 16th) are both all-rounders well suited to the abridged versions of cricket, and both have the IPL's talent spotters to thank to some

extent for their national recognition, besides their excellent record in the domestic first class scene as well as playing for India 'A'.

James Velu, Napoleon Einstein, Xavier Thalaivan Sargunam. Unusual names figure in Tamil Nadu cricket through the decades. Add Washington Sundar to the list, and you have the most spec-

ularly successful name of all. For the all rounder answering to that name was recently pitchforked from relative obscurity to international recognition. True, the teenager from Chennai hit the headlines first in the IPL, thanks to the recommendation of Tamil Nadu coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar who

at Lahli, Himachal Pradesh. He saw potential in his Tamil Nadu T20 ward. This was in 2017, but Washington had represented India U-19 in the 2016 World Cup. Primarily a left-handed batsman then, he has since blossomed as an off-spinning all-rounder who impressed skipper Steve Smith at the Rising Supergiants, Pune.

● **by V. Ramnarayan**

at Lahli, Himachal Pradesh. He bowled well, but did not get too many runs in his first season. He was not included in the Tamil Nadu team for the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament, but was later picked for the Vijay Hazare and Deodhar Trophy (for South Zone) matches.

By now we all know Washington's father M. Sundar was a competent cricketer of the TNCA league who named his son after an older friend who had been a mentor and virtual godfather to the boy. Like R. Ashwin, whom he replaced in the Pune XI when he was ruled unfit for the season, young Washington started out as a batsman but has proved to be a more than useful off spinner as well, with his lovely high arm



Washington Sundar.

action, remarkable accuracy and admirable temperament. For Pune, he bowled impressively when the skipper Steve Smith decided to allow him. He showed rare composure bowling in the powerplay overs, in fact opening the bowling, and helping his team enter the final.

Washington owes his progress as a bowler to a few coaches at the State and local levels. Playing for MRF Globe Trotters in the TNCA league, he has been mentored by M. Senthilnathan, the chief coach at the MRF Pace Foundation. Former India off-spinner M Venkataramana, Tamil Nadu's spin bowling coach, has been a major influence on Washington's bowling. His discipline and accuracy have made him a reliable bowler in domestic one-day and T20 action as well as the IPL. In the second edition of

the TNPL, he scored the fastest fifty, to be named the 'Player of the tournament'.

He is as good in red ball cricket as he is in the white ball versions. On his Duleep Trophy debut, he took 11 wickets in the match besides scoring a fifty. His best first class performance has been his 159 against Tripura in last season's Ranji Trophy tournament. He also bowled consistently well for Tamil Nadu.

The only glitch in Washington Sundar's career so far was his failure to clear the so-called yo-yo test before the T20 series against the visiting Australians. He later passed the test and made it to the India T20 squad.

A neat, unfussy cricketer with steely determination, Washington Sundar seems destined for greater things.

Answers to Quiz

1. WhatsApp; 2. Andre Agassi; 3. Shoaib Akhtar; 4. Amazon; 5. Jaipur's Gandhi Nagar; 6. Gymnastics; 7. 'Baal Aadhaar Card' in blue colour; 8. Irrawaddy dolphins; 9. Launched by the Indian railways, it is for revamping 635 major railway stations; 10. Venezuela.

* * *

11. Chennai, Hosur, Salem, Coimbatore and Tiruchirapalli; 12. 69th; 13. Rt Hon. Lord John Elphinstone; 14. Vivekanandar Illam; 15. Logo of IIT Madras; 16. Queen Victoria's statue in the Madras varsity complex; 17. 'Kula Kalvi Thittam'; 18. Alliance Française of Madras; 19. Gujarati; 20. Ramanujan Institute.

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