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MADRAS MESSAGES

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

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Where are the funds to save heritage?

(by The Editor)

It was only a month ago that we carried the story about how the Government had in its budget decided to sanction money for the restoration of three heritage buildings – Victoria Hostel, Queen Mary's College and the Kumbakonam Government Arts College. We had rejoiced at this sudden change of attitude towards heritage. It is only now that we know that an announcement to this effect does not mean an automatic release of funds. Apparently that can take till eternity.

A news report dated April 7, 2018 carried the full details. The Public Works Department (PWD) is eagerly awaiting funds to the tune of around Rs 100 crore for the restoration of 25 heritage buildings spread across the entire State. The Building Centre and Conservation Division of the PWD (yes there does exist such an entity) has completed detailed project reports for all these structures and has submitted them to the authorities, after which it has heard nothing about them.

On the anvil are such prestigious restorations as the *Humayun Mahal* of the Chepauk Palace, now a mere shell with much of its interiors in a state

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Shrinking Porur Lake (above), thanks to all the buildings encroaching on its banks. Insert: a comparatively new embankment marking the present bounds of the lake. Below, a well-tended tank, the Kapaliswarar Temple's, showing what can be done, and the neighbouring Chitrakulam tank made a garbage dump. (Pictures: R. Raja Pandian.)



Time to restore vanishing water bodies

● by A Special Correspondent

To long term Chennai residents, it is not new to learn that numerous water bodies of the city and suburbs have disappeared over the years. Unloading boatloads of vegetables and fruits on the Buckingham Canal at *Thannithurai*, the flowing *Adyar* which, in the 1940s, could be crossed only by boat at Kottur with a lone bus service from Mylapore tank to Guindy Engineering twice a day, the *Aaraatha Kuttai* that has become today's Nageswara Rao Park in Alwarpet, the Lake area in Nungambakkam where *Valluvar Kottam* stands now, and the *Medavakkam tank* have all become memories of a bygone era.

The shrinkage of water bodies is here in statistical terms. It is estimated that the expanse of water bodies in and around the City contracted from 12.6 sq. km. in 1893 to 3.2 sq. km. in 2017. There were as many as 60 large water bodies at one time which have come down to just 28, most of which are small.

The depleted state of major lakes is disturbing, as what has

been lost, perhaps forever, is immense. According to NGOs like Arappor Iyakkam and Care Earth Trust, our major lakes have suffered serious encroachment and abuse, depleting their holding capacity over the years.

Villivakkam Lake was nearly 214 acres in 1972 and has been reduced to 20 acres. The irony is that government organisations themselves have been putting up constructions on the banks of the lake. Korattur fresh water lake is spread over 600 acres and experts believe it can contribute significantly to Chennai's water requirement if it is recovered. The 8-acre Avadi lake, which is considered to have been at one time in "pristine condition", is practically lost and recovery seems impossible as it has been extensively built upon. So has Porur Lake. These are a few

examples and there are others in a similar state.

Lately, there is some concern over this depleting natural asset. NGOs like Environmentalist Foundation of India (EFI), are involved in rejuvenating

smaller ponds to sustain the ecological balance in Madhavaram, Sholinganallur and Mudichur. Commendable work is also being done in creating awareness and enlisting volunteers from among the public to serve as watchdogs against misuse. Volunteer teams have been desilting and clearing dumped rubbish to restore the water body's natural capacity and to make the water cleaner.

That the Forest Department has recently taken over the Pallikaranai marshland and employed earthmovers to remove accumulated rubbish is another

positive sign. This campaign is carried out in the face of over a thousand encroachers hindering eco-restoration by legal and other means. Chennai Corporation's proposal to build a 26-km wall along the Adyar bank to prevent encroachment is promising. The public is anxiously looking forward to the speedy completion of these plans.

To avert the annual nightmare of man-made floods, action is also needed, on emergency footing, to remove plastic and garbage blockages of stormwater drains. In 2012, the Chennai Corporation began work on construction of 5,000 rainwater harvesting structures in storm water drains. We do not know the status of that project and whether they were completed.

Cities of the world celebrate waterways flowing through them, create parks and architectural splendours around the waterways with attractive civic amenities. Waterbodies, importantly, act as flood control devices to moderate the effects of

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Where are the funds?

(Continued from page 1)

of collapse for several years. This will cost around Rs 38 crore and needs immediate attention. Also of urgency is the restoration of the Government Press in the Mint. The oldest buildings there have already been destroyed by fire. The office of the Deputy Inspector General of Registration, on Rajaji Salai, has long been identified for restoration, but here too there is no action. And in a delicious twist, the PWD finds that its own historic premises on the Marina need urgent attention to the tune of Rs 17 crore, but has no money for it. Last seen, despite a seemingly solid exterior, the building was crying out for maintenance. Much of its priceless stained glass has been replaced by plastic.

If this be the situation in Madras, the condition of buildings upcountry is said to be far worse. Structures as far afield as Pudukkottai and Nagapattinam await funds.

The Government in our view is being short-sighted in the extreme. Surely sanctioning of Rs 100 crore is nothing for it given that that value appears to be the lowest denomination that it sanctions for anything and everything in its annual budgets. It should also realise that most of these proposals for

restoration are time-bound and any delay will only push up the costs. What is the value of a cost estimation if execution is taken up a few years after it was prepared?

There is also another aspect that the Government needs to consider. Delays in restoration projects invariably mean that some other macro-level development nullifies whatever little is done. Take, for instance, the renovation of *VP Hall* and *Ripon Building*, both of which cost a tidy sum of money. The Government dithered for years and then, just as work began, the Metrorail stepped in. As a result, work on *VP Hall* had to be given up and as for *Ripon Building*, it is full of (structural) cracks.

There is another aspect to it all – how serious is the Government about actual restoration? Perhaps it is not and all that it wants is the goodwill that is generated by such announcements. In this era of social media, it is the optics that count and all that seem to matter, be it in Delhi or at State level. Those not wishing to attribute such diabolic thoughts to our Government can take solace in these intentions to restore heritage. Action may be a long while in coming.

Our water bodies

(Continued from page 1)

sudden heavy rainfall. When natural storage capacity is depleted by human neglect or misuse, storm water run off happens, which is rainfall that has nowhere to collect. It falls on roads, driveways, parking lots, rooftops and other paved surfaces that do not allow water to soak into the ground, leaving underground aquifers uncharged. The dry sub-soil is quenched by incursion of salt-water from the sea, in coastal areas. Reversing saline contamination needs consecutive seasons of good rainfall which at times takes years to occur. Thus, water bodies serve the valuable function of water balancing and avoidance of saline incursion in coastal areas.

There are lessons from the “water-body experience”. Restoration of water bodies, re-vamping the stormwater drain system, modernising sewage water treatment and solid waste disposal system are projects that span over more than one Budget, more than one government term and more than one agency

of the government. At the same time, these projects are too critical for the basic needs of the City to be subject to political changes and vagaries. Such projects supplying basic needs should, ideally, have the full capital cost sanctioned and committed right at the start and monies provided subsequently in each year's Budget – even if governments change – according to that year's estimated cash needs within their respective sanctioned sums. Thereby, the Budget would also have the occasion to report the physical progress of the projects while making provision for funds for them for each year.

Another lesson is that prevention is relatively easier and less expensive than cure. Re-possession and restoration by rearguard action is complicated – going through agitation, human rights, litigation, prolonged court proceedings, politicians/NGOs espousing intruders' cause and so on. Strong vigilance and severe punishment for violation are necessary to save further loss of valuable natural resources.

The ways of Governors

The *Man from Madras Musings* has often been accused of being cheeky in this column, but whatever fun he has got out of it has been at the expense of his cheeks alone and not anyone else's. Which is why the recent news item and what followed thereafter concerning the Governor and the Journalist made MMM sit up and take notice. The incumbent of that high office has since explained it all saying he did it in an avuncular, and not amorous, fashion. The lady has been gracious enough to accept the apology and not let the worm i) the bud feed on her damask cheek, as Shakespeare put it so well. But others have been up in arms demanding the Governor's resignation. To MMM, however, it appears that His Excellency is in here for a long haul and is as snug as a bug in a rug. Others can protest till they are blue in the face.

What made the old man do it is what puzzled MMM. After all, you don't go patting any random person's cheek no matter how grandfatherly you felt. And then it all came to MMM – it was the miasma of the office that made him do it. Just look back at the post of Governor of Madras and you will know.

Take Francis Day, the first incumbent (all right, Chief – he was not Governor but something else) was known for his successes with the opposite sex. And when he went, the woman he left behind was handed over to Greenhill, who in the fullness of time became Governor himself. Thereafter we had Elihu Yale, of whom the less said the better. Suffice it to say that many women of Madras went about claiming to be Mrs. Yale, while the real holder of that title retired to England in high dudgeon. Hastings had his Marian and he was not even married to her. What is more, there was even a Mr. Marian with an unpronounceable German name (MMM is fairly certain it had a Von to it) alongside. As for Connemara, what can MMM say other than that he was perhaps more sinned against than sinning but that is not what the jury and the Judges believed. He (Connemara, not MMM) had to resign under a cloud, and all because he (Connemara and not MMM) took a great shine for a niece who was also married to his aide-de-camp. In MMM's view, being a fond uncle, as also doting grandfather with long hands, can be dangerous.

Closer to our times, let MMM remind readers of the widower Governor who came to Madras and fell head over heels in love with a prominent social worker. He followed her about like a lamb, but was disappointed when the lady married someone else, *en secondes nocces* as the expression is. But that did not in any

way sour his friendship with ye olde social worker and he still came to all her events and was a pillar of support. And in very recent times, we have had at least one episode of where the holder of the highest elected office in our State accused the Governor of misbehaving with her.

It is all in the air. With so much having happened in the past in that historic office, there must have been an unseen force, most likely ghosts of Governors past, that made the Governor, who had probably just lifted his hand to scratch his cheek, extend it and pat someone else's. They call it the fourth dimension in supernatural studies.

**SHORT
'N'
SNAPPY**

Not quite cricket

The *Man from Madras Musings* has never been good in any form of sport. In this he knows he is markedly different from the Chief. He also diverges in this from his good lady, whom he otherwise obeys no matter what. But put a ball in his hand, or for that matter a racquet or a bat, and MMM would be at a loss as to what to do with it. Terms such as mid-on, mid-off, mid-wicket and deep-backward-square-leg are Greek to MMM and he would assume silly mid-on was an insult. But be that as it may, he is all for the sporting spirit. To him, the fact that a prime patch of green in the heart of the city has remained vacant for years is a matter of great regret.

Which is why, when that strange mutation of cricket, which rejoices in the name of IPL recently made a comeback to our garden of Eden, MMM rejoiced. His good lady did one better and having made MMM arrange for tickets, went off and witnessed the one match that took place, in person. Not so MMM, who preferred to watch it amidst the comforts of home and also enjoyed it. It was a situation where every prospect was pleasing. But alas! Man proved to be vile.

There arose a protest that we were callously enjoying a colonial game when farmers in the mofussil were dying without water. This said some protestors, was not cricket. Not quite straight bat, they said. They became all Cromwellian and demanded that such amusements as cricket ought to be banned here till we got water for the farmers. There were others who believed that just by shifting cricket out of Madras, water would gush forth in the paddy fields, released in remorse by the neighbouring State that is forever building dams and storing the precious liquid. And so cricket went.

It is now held in a far-away State, where they probably have never heard of Madras or its mofussil districts. The cricketers are happy, the local sponsors there are delighted. Cricket fans are going by train to the city where the tournaments are now being held. MMM guesses that the protestors too are overjoyed. All of a sudden there is no noise being made about the water or the lack of it. Has it begun to pour down? To what purpose are such token gestures?

What is ironic is that other forms of celebrations and gaiety were in no way curtailed. There was a competition for cinema songs in a venue not far removed from the cricket stadium where the matches were supposed to be held. You should have seen the crowds that poured in. And among these were several of the film stars who demanded the banning of the cricket matches, or at least wanted us to wear black badges in support of the demand for water. And did they protest at the cinema event venue or wear black badges? Not one. There everything was unbridled revelry. Farmer suicides and water crises be damned. The same lot has also not said the release of their films can be withheld in view of the ongoing river water issue. Talk about double standards!

Tailpiece

Driving by in our Madras that is Chennai, *The Man from Madras Musings* took note of this pharmacy that, apart from medication, also appears to deal in human parts. And on that happy note, here's to a great summer.

–MMM



A university for Thinking Indians

Krea University to be set up at Sri City, promises to be different. The private university will offer four-year residential undergraduate programmes in liberal arts and sciences.

Thought leaders – Raghuram Rajan, N. Vaghul, R. Seshasayee and Sunder Ramaswamy, have been working on this unique project. Their passion and stature have helped bring together several business leaders, including Anand Mahindra, Sajjan Jindal, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Anu Aga and young Kapil Viswanathan to set up this unique university. The academic council has academicians from the prestigious Princeton, Stanford and Columbia universities. The broad base includes a musician, a journalist, and social workers.



A star-studded Krea team (front row: left to right) R. Seshasayee, Sajjan Jindal, Vishaka Desai, Anand Mahindra and Raghuram Rajan during the announcement of Krea University.

Our losses, Sri City's gains

The latest conquest of Sri City is the Krea University. Even while I admire Chandrababu Naidu and Ravindra Sannareddy for winning such prestigious projects, I should point to the Tamil Nadu government losing several projects. I cite a few:

- Chennai Metro attracted Alstom to set up facilities in India to manufacture rail coaches for the metro rail systems. After all, several years back SIPCOT developed Gummidipoondi on the southern side of the border with Andhra Pradesh as an industrial centre. But Sri City proved more attractive.
- A couple of years ago Indira Nooyi, a daughter of this soil, was keen to set up a mango pulp plant for PepsiCo. The investment indicated was Rs 1200 crore. PepsiCo's fruit drinks needed the pulp. Sri City proved more mango-thirsty.
- International Flavors & Fragrances Inc. have, for years, been having its plant at St. Thomas Mount in the heart of the city. IFF planned its expansion. A couple of months back IFF performed the *Bhoomi puja* for their new facility at Sri City.
- B. Thiagarajan, head of Blue Star, has been talking of setting up a new facility in the South. Thiagarajan was active in the CII in offering invaluable suggestions on cold storages for food preservation. Last month, he announced a Rs 500 crore investment for a production facility in Sri City.
- Another recent addition to Sri City is the two-wheeler market leader Hero Motocorp. The company plans to launch its eighth factory with an investment of Rs 1600 crore with a capacity of 1.8 million units. It is expected to become operational before December 2019.

Tamil Nadu needs to look closely at setting up an aggressive marketing team at the helm.

The reluctance of the top political leadership to interact closely with business leaders and other investors has been a major handicap. The contrast is provided by Narendra Modi as chief minister of Gujarat, Sheila Dixit in Delhi, Chandrababu Naidu in AP and Chandrashekara Rao in Telangana.

Tamil Nadu's top bureaucracy, star-studded with brilliant administrators, has also been constrained by powerful politicians curbing its initiatives. Sadly, the popular stature of the charismatic leaders and their limited interests failed to nurture and develop second and third line political leadership. Just look at the contrast of Kamaraj who groomed R. Venkataraman, C. Subramaniam, M. Bhaktavatsalam and others as leaders of great capabilities!

However, under the current dispensation welcome changes are noticed with ministers and civil servants taking new initiatives. This effort should be expanded.

Tamil Nadu has talent in abundance like Dr. V. Krishnamurthy who built BHEL, Maruti and SAIL, Dr. C. Rangarajan, N. Vaghul, S.V.S. Raghavan, S. Venkitaramanan, T.N. Seshan, Dr. M. Anandkrishnan, K.P. Geethakrishnan, K. Venkatesan and a galaxy of other civil servants, Dr. V. Sumantran, Lakshmi Narayanan, R. Thyagarajan, B. Santhanam, R. Dinesh... It should be possible to draw on their rich expertise to take the State forward.

Of course, this will call for the willingness of the political leadership to free themselves from the routine political meetings and *vizhas* and set apart liberal time on development issues.

For five decades Tamil Nadu's charismatic leaders had won massive following through populist measures. Today the need is to win votes on performance.

– SV

For decades, higher education remained in the domain of the state. Though India has had a tradition of private philanthropy that liberally supported education and health, over time, these also suffered from severe restrictions.

Tamil Nadu, under M.G. Ramachandran, opened up higher education for private participation. Unfortunately, the massive demand for engineering and medical education allowed politicians and influence peddlers to grab the opportunity. High capitation fees, corruption, and black money ruled the roost; the field became fertile ground for politicians and all and sundry businessmen to enter. Many of these became flourishing family businesses with sons, daughters, in-laws, and outlaws becoming chancellors and vice-chancellors.

Eminent educationist Dr. M. Anandkrishnan frequently pointed to the corruption and commercialisation in the selection of vice-chancellors through auctions. The "the short three-year term for vice-chancellors and the huge bribes involved in the selection process, denied high calibre academicians getting selected," he used to lament.

There were a few private initiatives from industry captains. Decades back, industry leaders like A. Sivasailam and A.M.M. Arunachalam, got together to set up a management education institute. But it made little progress.

The Chennai Mathematical Institute that imparts education in mathematical science is among the rare exceptions. When CMI was under financial constraints, Shriram Group's R. Thyagarajan stepped in and under the lead of Dr. C.S. Seshadri, built it to international standards.

After liberalisation of the economy in 1991, Rajat Gupta of McKinsay succeeded in getting the participation of top business schools – Wharton, Columbia, and the London Business School – to set up a global B-school in India. Chandrababu Naidu seized the

opportunity with alacrity and the Indian School of Business was set up. It proved a runaway success.

Krea promises to be another big success. With a renowned economist, banker and char-

blend of liberal arts, science and technology. The association of the prestigious Ivy League institutions should help offer a full option of subjects to choose and excel. The curriculum will have three distinct features that are different from the existing learning patterns: problem-solving capabilities; acquiring skills for design; and ethics with social concerns. Significantly, Krea had opted for a four-year undergraduate course with honours on the US pattern which should facilitate pursuing higher studies elsewhere.

Raghuram Rajan says that Krea would attempt to create a new generation of thinking Indians who will contribute to the development of the globe. Seshasayee adds that the interwoven learning approach would give creativity and action in arts and sciences, theory and practice, Eastern and Western perspectives and learning of the past with readiness for the future.

To be set up at an initial cost of Rs. 750 crore, the university will function from the 300,000 sq.ft IFMR campus in Sri City. Admissions will open in November this year. Over the next couple of years, it will move to a 200-acre campus nearby. The annual fee is around Rs. 7-8 lakh – (Courtesy: *Industrial Economist*).

S. Viswanathan

tered accountant on the lead, understandably, the focus is not on engineering; Seshasayee, a connoisseur of music and literature, has been stressing a nice

Thank you, Donors

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– The Editor

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LOST LANDMARKS OF CHENNAI

— SRIRAM V

The Tawkers of Gujarat remembered

In their time, which was mid-19th to early 20th Century, the Tawkers were among the foremost Gujarati families of Madras. They were also among the earliest migrants from the west coast of India to settle in the south. Their fortunes were made in gems and jewellery, and they were the suppliers of choice to several royal families of India, wealthy business magnates and courtesans. To be able to purchase from the Tawkers you had to be of some status.

The Tawkers suffixed their given names with the initial T and this stood for Tiruchirappalli, which is where they had lived for centuries. Even today, Tawker Chattiram Street near the Rock Fort area commemorates the family. In Madras, Ayanavaram has a Tawker Chattiram (resthouse) and a Kasi Viswanatha Swami temple adjoining it, both of which were built in the 18th Century by two women of the clan – Ramkor Bai and Ratna Bai. The earliest Tawker mentioned in the records is Nilakanta and dates to 1759. He features in a diary entry of Ananda Ranga Pillai. The descendants did business under the name of T.R. Tawker & Sons.

By the mid-1890s, the firm had shifted its headquarters to Madras, where Henry Irwin, Consulting Architect to the Government of Madras, built a beautiful showroom on Mount Road. The family residence was on a huge parcel of land on Peter's Road and was named *Tawkers' Gardens*. In its time it must have been a well-known landmark, in keeping with the exalted status of the family. *Who's Who's* of the time give details of T. Ranganatha Kripashankar Tawker and mention this to be his residential address.

But trouble was already brewing. In 1910 or so, the Tawkers were ordered to make a diamond-studded robe for that jewel-loving and fabulously rich potentate – His Highness Asaf Jah VI Mir Mahub Ali Khan, the Nizam of Hyderabad. Business with royalty was done on trust. No papers were signed and the ruler's word was as good as his bond. The Tawkers delivered the robe sometime in 1911. The Nizam unfortunately died in August that year and nothing was

ever heard from his treasury of either the robe or the payment for it. That at least is the legend. In actual fact it would appear that the Tawkers' troubles began in 1916 when they mortgaged the title deeds of all their properties in Madras, Bangalore and Trichy, and the village of Pallikarney (!!!), to the firm of Nagarseth & Sons, Bombay, for a sum of Rs 18.00 lakh. From this it would appear that the Great War too was in some way responsible for their difficulties.

In 1922, the Nagarseths filed a suit against the Tawkers in the High Court of Bombay for the enforcement of the mortgage. Thereafter, matters went downhill for the Tawkers, leading to their declaring insolvency on January 17, 1925, even while the case in Bombay was in progress.



New College, where Tawkers' Gardens once was.

Tawkers' Gardens, along with the rest of the family's possessions, became the responsibility of the Official Assignee of the Government. With the Tawkers moving out, the house became the residence of the Chief Minister of Madras – P Ramarayanan, aka the Rajah of Panagal. He lived there till his passing in 1928.

There were several cases involving the Tawker family in Madras and Trichy and in the midst of it all, the Thakur Sahib of Limbdi, a small princely state in Gujarat, interested himself in the proceedings on the strength of his having loaned money to the Nagarseths for their loan to the Tawkers. The title deeds of *Tawkers' Gardens* were in fact in his possession. Eventually, the property became his and he changed its name to *Limbdi Gardens*. The travails of the Tawkers however ended only in 1938 when all the suits filed against them were settled by a judgement of Sir C. Madhavan Nair. By then, the case also involved such well-known business

barons as P.M.A. Muthiah Chettiar and S.Rm.M.Rm. Ramanathan Chettiar.

By the early 1930s, we find the University of Madras was renting *Limbdi Gardens*. The Departments of History and Zoology were occupants, and by 1932, when it was founded, the School of Fine and Performing Arts, also known as the Department of Indian Music, began functioning from here. The Oriental Research Institute too was in the same premises. *Limbdi Gardens* in its time must have echoed therefore to the voices of such greats as 'Tiger' Varada chariar, first head of the Music Department, K.A. Nilakanta Sastry of the History Department, Sir. K. Ramunni Menon, who, despite being Vice-chancellor, found time to take classes in



A portion of Tawker's showroom on Mount Road – a landmark now only a memory. (Courtesy: Vintage Vignettes.)

Muslims had a college of their own. In his biography, Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed states that *Limbdi Gardens*, which comprised a huge two-storey building set amidst 12 acres of land, was acquired for a sum of Rs 4,36,000 in 1948. This is also, significantly, the only description of the old Tawker residence that had stood at the southern end of the property.

New College, its name inspired by the historic institu-

tion at Oxford, began functioning at *Limbdi Gardens* from July 2, 1951. Over a period, the College demolished all of the Tawkers' residence for building premises suited to its functioning. It is said that there is a photograph still surviving of the old edifice, but it is not in the public domain. Today's generation can only marvel at the possibility of a family residence set amidst 12 acres of land in a prime part of the city.

New life for Goli Soda

In recent times, the worst of 'Goli Soda' became famous in Tamil Nadu as the title of a successful Tamil feature film released in 2014, warranting a sequel titled *Goli Soda-2* which is under production. It is also the name of an online store in Chennai which showcases products of innovative designers using recycled materials. But to a whole generation of Indians, Goli soda, or Goli soda meant a fruit flavoured soft drink used to quench a thirsty throat in the sizzling summer months. The popping of the 'goli' or the marble, with the index finger paves the way for the fizz coming out of the bottle, which was an experience by itself. When I had this experience at a party in Chennai recently, I decided to explore the story behind the 'Goli Soda'.

The bottle and the idea for the drink were imported into India in the early 20th Century. Hiram Codd of Camberwell, UK, designed, developed and patented the Codd Bottle for carbonated drinks in 1872. Also

termed as the Codd-neck bottle, it encloses a marble and a rubber washer/gasket in the neck. The bottle is filled upside down, and the pressure of the gas in the bottle forces the marble against the washer, sealing in the carbonation.

The 150-year-old eco-friendly bottle has remained unchanged over the years, and the design is quite ingenious. One side of the bottle has two ridges on the neck. It is only from this side that the drink can be poured out into a glass or straight into the mouth. Try pouring it out the other side, and the marble automatically pops up and acts as a stopper.

The Codd Bottle became popular in Europe, Asia and Australasia but not in the USA.

In Japan, it is popular under the brand name 'Ramune' available in 36 flavours. In India, the Codd Bottle is also known as *kancha* bottle, *goli* bottle, and soda bottle in different parts of the country, Goli Soda being the most popular name: available in two varieties viz. Plain Soda Water

When we exported Iron & Steel to the UK

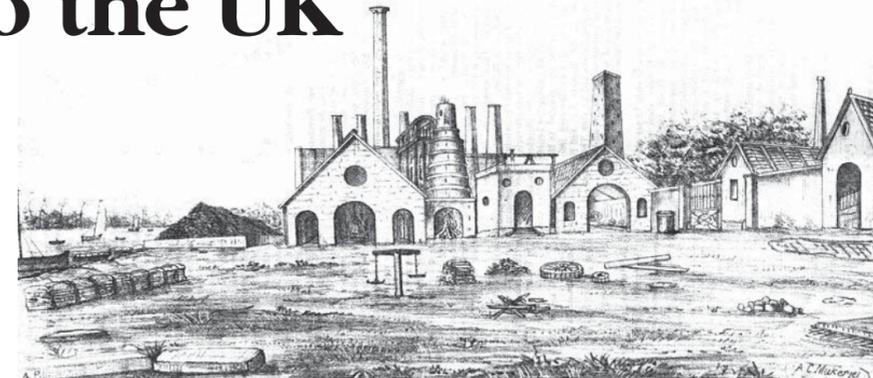
Iron production was self-sufficient in 18th Century India and the excess was exported. In the 1800s, many individual ironsmiths operated in the Madras Presidency, producing wrought iron. An association was formed in Madras with the objective of establishing a charcoal-fired iron works in 1830, because the iron ore that occurred naturally in much of the Madras Presidency had/then been detected. Consequently, an ex-Madras Civil Servant, Josiah Marshall Heath, ventured to establish a large-scale iron-steel works in Parangipettai (Porto Novo), 220 km south of Madras, naming it the Porto Novo Iron Works, which went through turbulent phases during its survival.

The remarkable aspect is that the Porto Novo Iron Works was the only large-scale iron and steel factory in the whole of India in the 1830s. Nothing matched with the Porto Novo Iron Works in size and production capacity, which also included the state-of-the-art methods of production of the time. The Porto Novo Iron Works serviced the needs of India and Britain for iron and steel for close to 30 years, although, after 1849, it changed names to Indian Steel & Iron Company and, then, East India

Iron Company. In 1887, its prominent 150' (c.50 m) tall chimney functioned as a beacon for ships sailing along the Porto Novo coast. The indiscriminate exploitation of wood for charcoal and other energy requirements was one sad practice the British Government encouraged to support Heath's enterprise, which resulted in the loss of precious wood in vast tracts of the Madras Presidency.

Heath, when he was the relieving Commercial Resident of Coimbatore-Nilgiris District, Thomas Munro, the Governor of Madras (1820-1827), instructed him to trial the cultivation of bourbon cotton, then newly introduced from the Americas, in Salem and Coimbatore. Heath resigned his administrative position in 1829 to take up experiments in various scientific efforts towards better technology. He was also an enthusiastic naturalist. He explored southern Indian birds in particular.

Heath's efforts in making steel in India, in the late 1830s, were blazing new trails towards producing cheaper steel, which he claimed would match in quality with the then best Swedish and Russian steel. His trial of adding 1-3% carburet of manganese as a deoxidiser led to steel produc-



A sketch of the Porto Novo steel works.

tion, which cost less by 30-40% in the Sheffield (UK) steel market. This novelty trialled by Heath neither helped him nor his industry, because he failed to patent the procedure.

The following note appeared in the *Mining Journal* (1857); reproduced in the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, (1857) under 'Manufacture of Iron and Steel':

"In 1839 comes the important invention of Josiah Marshall Heath for the manufacture of iron, and which, as regards steel, was as great a stride in the manufacture as compared with any previous

steel manufacture, thus enabling and encouraging him to persevere in this undertaking and to secure a fair and reasonable remuneration for the risk, labour and expenditure.

The following from an article in *Indian Engineering* is relevant in this context:

"Mr. Heath was a man of great scientific knowledge, and failed to see the advantage of manufacturing Swedish iron and steel. He applied to the Directors of the Honorable E.I. Company, who seeing the benefit to the country of such manufacture, granted to Mr Heath the exclusive privilege of manufacturing iron, by the

iron ore in *parisal* (basket boats, small, circular ferries).

A contemporary description of the layout of Heath's iron works and the yard reads:

"In front of the blast furnaces,

along with a platform ran the pigs bed and the foundry hall.... The foundry was 100'x60' (30.48 x 18.29m) in size and had proper cranes, air furnaces, cupolas, and other foundry appliances, and was terminated by drying stoves, with their tracks and railway. ... The forge consisted of several sheds – The first containing the refinery and afterwards the puddling and reheating furnaces. Another adjoining the helve. A third shed contained the rolling mill, driven by an engine of 50 horsepower. The mill was provided with several sets of rollers of round, square, and flat iron bars, bending gear, rolling plates, saws and shears."

This facility included two blast furnaces when the factory started (1830?). Two more were added later (date not available). The boilers occurred close to the engine and the flues were communicated via a 150' (C. 50 m) tall chimney.

Smelting operations during the early days were a disaster. The first hiccup was deciding on the shape of the hearth for a charcoal-fired furnace suiting the chemical nature of the ore and the charcoal used as the energy source. Secondly, the workers brought from Britain were unfamiliar with charcoal-fired furnaces. Conversion of the cast into wrought iron was the next hiccup the British workers and engineers grappled with, although they solved that problem by following the then prevalent methods in France and Germany, using finery fires. Soon, the Porto Novo Iron Works managed to produce good-quality iron and steel and could sell produce to the Government (whether in Madras or in Britain, not clear) for use in their arsenals. The weakness, however, was that they could never achieve and guarantee consistent quality.

(To be concluded)

process as the process of Uchatius is at the present time. The duration of this patent was, after much litigation, prolonged, by an application to the Privy Council, for seven years. Although the principle of Heath's invention had been previously described, and even as early as 1799 William Reynolds patented the employment of oxide of manganese or manganese in the conversion of pig iron into malleable iron or steel, but gave no proportions of details, it appears that until the introduction of Heath's patent no practical results were arrived at."

Heath applied to the Government at Fort St. George, seeking exclusive rights to build a factory, which he argued would operate on European scientific lines. He further argued that he would be able to supply iron and steel at a much cheaper price than what Britain was getting from Sweden and Russia. Administrators in Madras approved his request declaring that he would enjoy the exclusive rights over the ore material from a vast tract of public land (c. 38,000 sq. mile, 98,500 sq. km). They also in 1825 guaranteed Heath substantial loans and purchase of finished products from his works. They considered it appropriate to grant him a temporary monopoly for 21 years of iron and

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gent rules governing food & beverages have resulted in many of the traditional bottlers of Goli Soda exiting the market. According to a veteran Goli soda maker in the city, Madras had close to 500 soda manufacturers in the 1970s. The number today has dwindled to less than 30. Most of them are cheap products produced in unhealthy surroundings without any quality checks and are sold at Rs 10/- or less.

Kali Aerated Water Works, one of the oldest soft drink (Continued on page 6)



(Quizmaster V.V. Ramanan's questions are from April 1st to 15th. Questions 11 to 20 relate to Chennai and Tamil Nadu.)

1. Which Gulf nation recently announced that a recently-discovered offshore oilfield in its territorial waters contains a whopping 80 billion barrels of petroleum?
2. Recently, Eurostar launched a direct rail service between London and which capital on the Continent?
3. Which place, a scene of a major disaster in the mid-1980s, has opened its doors to tourism?
4. Which actor has been chosen, posthumously, for this year's Dadasaheb Phalke Award?
5. Boeing India, HAL and Mahindra Defence Systems have entered into agreement to make which hi-tech fighter jet in India?
6. What is the aim of 'Project Dhooop' launched recently by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)?
7. What feature has the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) introduced in e-Aadhaar?
8. Experts recently discovered Walmiki and Malhar was prevalent in remote regions of Odisha. What are they?
9. In a massive show of strength, the IAF recently conducted the biggest ever war combat game exercise on the Pakistan and China border. What was it called?
10. Which institution has been adjudged as overall best Indian university in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2018 (NIRF-3) released by the Ministry of Human Resource Development?

11. For which play was Bharatidasan awarded the Sahitya Academy Puraskar posthumously in 1970?
 12. Which singer (and for which song) won the first-ever National Award for Best Female Playback singer in 1968?
 13. By what name is Deodi Sardar-ul-mulk Dilawar Jung Bahadur in Myslapore now known?
 14. According to a 1635 map by Pedro Barretto de Rezende, there were four churches in San Thomé Fort apart from the Cathedral. Two were St. Paul's and St. Dominic's. Name the other two.
 15. The MGR film *Kalankarai Vilakkam* is based on which Hitchcock thriller?
 16. Fill in the blanks. The first and only church built in Madras by American missionaries is _____?
 17. Which 55,000 sq ft building now stands on the site of the military fortification 'Abercrombie Battery'?
 18. What came up on a sprawl of 131 acres, bounded by the Theosophical Society, Adyar River and the Buckingham Canal, that was bought from the Archbishop of Madras?
 19. Why was the fort near Cuddalore christened Fort St. David?
 20. In which Thoothukudi District town was Nammalvar born?
- (Answers on page 8)

Now, a Tamil Section at the MLS

The Madras Literary Society re-launched recently its Tamil Section. The long overdue initiative was a dream of MLS's former Secretary Rear Admiral Mohan Raman. The dream took shape last year when heritage enthusiast and author of *Holy Gods of Cooum*, Padmapriya Baskaran, donated Rs.25,000 at the release of her book at the MLS. The donation was specifically for a separate Tamil section.

MLS has a large collection of Tamil books, the oldest one being a hand-written *Ramayana* dating to the 18th Century. However, over the course of time, only English books were lent. Continuous donations from people however kept the dream of a Tamil section alive and, finally, with about 400 books, the new Tamil Section has been started.

After the inaugural function, a passage from *Chozhar Kaalathu Rani* by J. Rajagopal, and a Tamil translation of a bit from S. Muthiah's book *Madras Rediscovered* were read, and then two books were handed over by Padmapriya Baskaran to two senior members of MLS. This, was followed by a talk by historian and author Theodore

Baskaran titled *From Print to Screen*. He spoke at length about how literature evolved into cinema and the interaction between them, though mutual, was not continuous.

He began with a brief of how cinema as a medium evolved from drama, from *Pratapa Mudaliyar Charithiram* the first Tamil novel, and how literature played a part in movies. He mentioned *Ponmudi*, the movie written by Barathidasan that kick-started the Dravidian movement in 1950. *Parasakthi* by Kalaignar in 1952 and *Velaikkari* by Anna in 1954

● by
A Staff Reporter
with inputs from
Nivedita Louis

carried on the torch. Then came Anna's *Rangoon Radha* in 1956 which when made into a movie diluted the radicalism of the novel.

Two films by Jeyakanthan, *Unnai pol oruvan* in 1965, and *Yarukaga azhuthan* in 1965, both very realistic natural cinema, were written and directed by him. Nimai Ghosh shot the



At the opening of the MLS Tamil section.

movie *Yarukaga azhuthan*. He was a contemporary of Satyajit Ray, and stayed in Madras to shoot the film. KiRa's *Kidai*, the poignant novel set in 1930s, was made as *Oruthi* in 2003, directed by Amshan Kumar.

Rajaji wrote the novel *Thikkatra Parvathi*, filmed in 1974, which was about a drunkard. The film bombed, probably because it showed the hero addicted to toddy! Rajaji being a teetotaler had no idea about toddy and other liquor, Theodore mused. Anuradha Ramanan's *Sirai* was filmed in 1984. But, a great work of literature need not make a great film, felt Baskaran.

When he explained *Thillana Mohanambal* by Kothamangalam Subbu was a movie so badly made, in a very primitive 'drama' style, the audience was shocked! Was it not a big blockbuster of those days?

He also mentioned that short stories could be made as great films. He cited Baskar Sakthi's 2011 story *Azhagar samiyin Kuthirai*, which had brilliant surrealistic scenes that speak very subtly against superstition. Another short film, *Thakkaiyin meedhu nangu kangal* filmed in 2005 was also a great adaptation of a short story. Sadly, he felt, except for Jeyakanthan and ThiJa, most writers, including Asokamitran, Imaiyan, JeMo, Perumal Murugan, Rajam Krishnan, were ignored.

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

GOLI SODA

(Continued from page 5)

manufacturers in the country with brands like 'Bovonto', was a popular Goli Soda maker in Tamil Nadu. They exited the business because of difficulties involved in cleaning the bottle. The shortage of glass bottles controlled by a single supplier in the country based in UP also added to the difficulties.

There is, however, hope for the revival of this business thanks to the initiative of some young entrepreneurs, professionals who have given up secure corporate jobs in order to give the Goli Soda its fizz back. In its new avatar Goli Soda is positioned as a premium product. In an attempt to capitalise on the growing apprehensions about the negative effects of plastic bottles on the health of the people, they are promoting the eco-friendly nature of the glass bottles used in Goli Soda. The fact that the new brands are adhering to quality standards prescribed by FSSAI and are produced in hygienic condi-

tions adds credibility to the new efforts.

The brands are also trying to invoke nostalgia in old-timers and offering the younger generation a new experience of drinking an alternative soft drink in recyclable glass bottles, with less preservatives, chemicals and plastic contaminants. The negative publicity against the multinational brands and the decision of the dealers to boycott such brands in Tamil Nadu last year have opened a window of opportunity for the Goli Sodas in the highly competitive soft drink market.

Though priced at Rs.50 plus, (some high-end restaurants sell

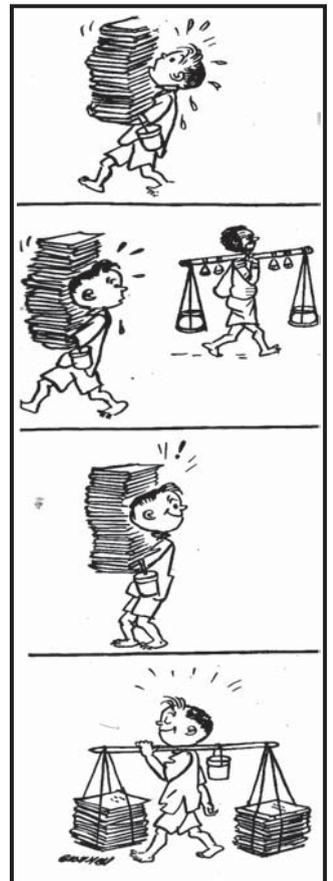
the product at Rs.125) the growing popularity of Goli Soda among the younger generation belonging to the upper class in Chennai, especially at parties, high end restaurants and the popular clubs, where these brands are available, provides hope for the revival of the Goli Soda idea. But how will any new comer face the perennial problem of short supply of the Codd bottles, when they decide to scale up, is an issue for which there seems to be no immediate answer. Yet I am sure that the young men and women will find a solution to the problem as and when they have to cross that bridge!

R.V. Rajan
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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



• Birth of a Colony – 2

Bringing education to Gandhi Nagar

(Continued from last fortnight)

With the construction of bungalows in full swing in Gandhi Nagar, buyers started occupying them from early 1950s. Builders of gated community nowadays also announce a school in the complex. Most buyers look for this so that children need not commute to a school a distance far away. A similar need arose for the residents of Gandhi Nagar.

The colony already had St. Patrick's School in the area established in 1875. Back then, it was mostly providing education to Anglo-Indians in Madras and was a boarding school. Besant Theosophical School was another educational institution; it functioned in Besant Avenue. Other schools were located in the far away Mylapore area. My two elder sisters went to Besant School, they had a hand-pulled rickshaw which took them to school every day.

4th Main Road on the western side of the present Bala Vidya Mandir school. In 1955, the PWD leased that 4 grounds of land in Kottur and a free nursery for children of the colony was started by the school.

In April 1955, the foundation stone for the school building in Gandhi Nagar was laid by C.Rajagopalachari. Building with a thatched roof was constructed to accommodate the children.

In 1965, one more room was added and the entire building was provided with concrete ceiling. It was opened by M. Bakthavatsalam. In 1968, the nursery school was up-graded to a primary school.

As the need for sufficient place for future development was felt, the school negotiated with the Gandhi Nagar Co-operative Housing Society to purchase 23 grounds of vacant land adjacent to the building. It comprised ditches, two ponds

Class rooms were constructed in the filled up area in many phases.

In the 1990s, the school further developed under the wings of Vidya Mandir School, Mylapore. Its curriculum became more structured following the CBSE pattern. Vidya Mandir then gave back the reins of administration to the school and it became Bala Vidya Mandir School. It has been a very sought after school in the city ever since.

The colony should be deeply indebted to the three ladies who sowed the seeds for a great institution.

While Bala Brindavan, took

• by
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almost three decades to grow into a full-fledged higher secondary school, another institution, started almost at the same time, developed very fast.

The by-laws of the Madras Co-operative House Construction Society provided for the running of educational institutions for the benefit of residents. So, it was decided to approach the House Construction Society to run a primary school. The President of the Society, K. Venkataswamy Naidu, readily agreed to the proposal. In 1950, a committee of some of the local residents was constituted with Rao Bahadur P.K. Gnanasambanda Mudaliar as President.

In the original layout of the colony, a small bit of land was reserved for a school on Crescent Avenue Road, behind the present Bala Vidya Mandir School and adjacent to a big pond. The committee decided to start a school on that land. Thus was started the "Gandhi Nagar School", for which the foundation stone was laid in June 1950. It was opened in July 1950. S.R. Kaiwar, I.C.S. was the first Chairman of the Committee. A beautiful building, *Shantha Memorial Hall* was constructed on the land and given to the school by Col. Ramana Rao, a resident of the colony, and father-in-law of S.R. Kaiwar. From 1950 to 1954, it was a primary school with five standards and a Telugu medium section.

When the young children who were then in primary school had reached the secondary stage, the Housing Society



C.Rajagopalachari laying the foundation stone for the school building in 1955.

The need for more schools in the colony itself was much felt. A nursery was started for children in the age group 2-5 by three visionary ladies of the colony, V. Savithri Ammal, R. Balamma and Rukmani Sampath in September 1951. Named Bala Brindavan, the school was founded as a social welfare organisation and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. It was started on Vijayadasami Day in October, 1951. In the early years, the nursery classes were held in the house of Rukmani Sampath in 4th Main Road and I was a student in 1954/1955. We were given a variety of toys to play with and compulsory sleeping was part of the daily time table! Teachers took personal interest in the students. The house is now staff flats for employees of the Indian Overseas Bank, named as Overseas Brindavan.

The Madras House Construction Society in 1954 allotted six grounds of land on a 99-year lease to the school in

and an open air theatre at the eastern end which was known as Kalki Mandapam. It was named after the famous Tamil writer Krishnamurthy (Kalki) who was a resident of 4th Main Road. The land was acquired for a sum of Rs.48,000 through donation and bank loan.

Our house was just opposite the two ponds and during the rainy season the overflowing water from the ponds would submerge the road. We could hear the continuous croaking of frogs. Frogs and water snakes would enter our garden.

The ponds and ditches were filled with the help of the Corporation of Madras and the Health Department in the mid-1970s to enable construction of a building. According to the original layout, the ponds were to be made into a swimming pool. But, in fact, the colony got a school, and lost two large water bodies.

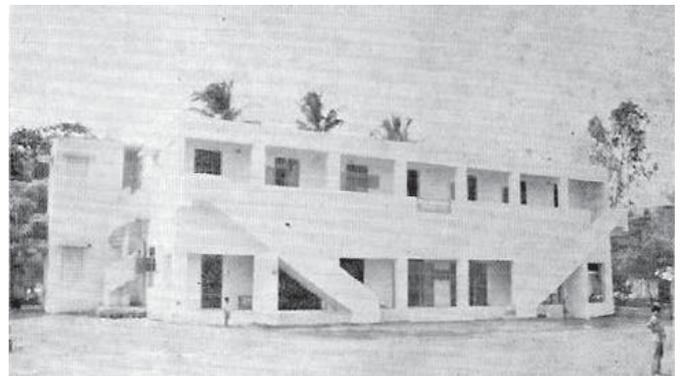
Bala Brindavan became Bala Brindavan Secondary School.



Primary School Classes – 1976.



New Building – 1961.



Building – 1980.

could not continue to undertake the responsibility of running the Secondary School. It was decided in April, 1954 by the local residents that a new society be formed for better management of the school. Thus was formed "The Gandhi Nagar Education Society" registered under Societies Registration Act of 1860 in May, 1954 by a Memorandum of Association signed by seven residents who took lead in the formation. They were: (1) K.S. Ramamurthi, Executive of an insurance company; (2) C. Ranganatha Aiyengar, a retired Headmaster; (3) K. Veeraswami, who later became Chief Justice of Madras; (4) C.S. Hariharaputra Iyer, first occupant of the colony; (5) G.D. Boaz, Professor of Psychology; (6) V. Soundararajan, a practicing Chartered Accountant; and (7) R. Balamma, one of the founder members of Bala Brindavan.

The Society faced financial problems. Funds were required not only for day-to-day maintenance but also for expansion. The Society approached Vaidasubramania Iyer, Secretary to Raja Sir. M.A. Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad, for donation from the Raja of Chettinad and to take over the

Society under his patronage. K.S. Ramamurthi, V. Soundararajan, V. Nataraja Iyer and C.S. Hariharaputra Iyer played a notable role in obtaining his consent to associate formally with the Society from June, 1956.

With the Raja of Chettinad family in control, funds were made available as donations. Soon, thatched-roof classrooms were constructed and secondary classes were started. The school was renamed Rani Meyyammai High School and the primary school was called Rani Meyyammai Primary School. They were co-educational schools.

The first batch of SSLC passed out from the school in March, 1959. They had studied in the Tamil medium. The English medium sections were started in 1960 and the first batch of English medium SSLC passed out in March, 1967.

The campus had three huge banyan trees and students used to swing hanging on to its roots often inviting the wrath of the teachers or the headmaster. Several *Kodukka puli* trees used to abut the pond. Climbing that tree and plucking the pod for its pulp was our pastime in the evenings.

(Continued on page 8)

A much sought after pharmacist

Kannimangalam Parameswaran Anantanarayanan was a highly sought-after person in the pharmaceutical business at Vepery in the mid-20th Century.

Recalling him in his birth centenary year, a son, Dr. A. Raman, a regular contributor to these columns writes that Anantanarayanan joined the 'Chemist & Druggist' course offered as a technical diploma of the Government of Madras, which later became Department of Pharmacology at Madras Medical College.

He studied pharmacy for three years under the tutelage of the British qualified J. C. David, and graduated in 1940 when he was 24. He was denied a job with the Government of Madras because he belonged to Kannimangalam, since Kannimangalam was a part of Cochin State and not of the Madras Presidency. He dropped 'K' from his children's initials as a sequel to this experience! However, Wilfred Pereira, who owned the then leading pharmaceutical retail chain – Wilfred Pereira (Private) Limited – recruited him as the showroom manager at Vepery

head office. Here he became known to the leading health professionals and leading citizens of Madras.

While at Wilfred Pereira (Vepery), he enthusiastically trialled the efficacy of diamino-diphenyl sulphone (Dapsone™) in managing psoriasis. What is surprising is that diamino-diphenyl sulphone is currently used in the management of inverse and pustular psoriasis. Anantanarayanan established himself as one of the few pharmaceutical chemists of Madras, who could correctly read the other otherwise undecipherable handwritten scripts of Madras doctors. The worst being that of the Madras practitioner, Al. Annamalai.

In 1962, Anantanarayanan was transferred as the Manager of the Kotagiri branch of Wilfred Pereira (The Nilgiris). His lonely stay at Kotagiri provoked the artist and poet in him. He would spend his time, reading *Narayaneeyam* and discussing on it with close friends

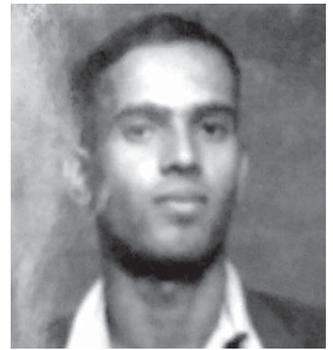
particularly M. Suryanarayana Rao, a Kotagiri medical practitioner.

Other spare time, was spent composing Tamil songs in praise of his favourite deity Murugan. Because he had studied in Malayalam medium at high school, he generally struggled to write Tamil rapidly. To keep up with the speed of his thoughts, he used Malayalam script in composing close to 100 Tamil songs (*Swaminatha Satakam*) in praise of Murugan, all of which consistently ended with the fragment *Ēn appané Swamināthā*. His inspiration to write poems came from Subramania Bharati, whose works he read regularly.

S. Gnanadesikan (later the Director of King Institute, Madras), N. Subbiah (Surgeon, who later migrated to America), M. Natarajan and T. K. Shanmugasundaram (Orthopaedic Surgeons), M. Natarajan (Dermatologist), C. M. Leelavathi (E.N.T. Surgeon), K. Bhasker Rao (Obste-

trician-Gynaecologist), to cite a few, were all Anantanarayanan's friends. Whenever anyone needed help in consulting a senior surgeon in Madras approached Anantanarayanan, he would personally take them to one of these medical giants of the day.

Another friend in Kotagiri was P.K. Krishnan Kutty, a British qualified physician who practised in Madras. He had also studied in the same high school as Anantanarayanan. The link brought them close. Another of Anantanarayanan's Kotagiri friends was Mrs. Sigrid Hydari, a Swedish woman and the widow of Saleh Akbar Hydari (ex-Indian Civil Servant, and Secretary, Railways), who had made Kotagiri, her home. She had a heart problem. Krishnan Kutty, who visited



Kannimangalam Parameswaran Anantanarayanan.

Kotagiri on holidays, would not examine a patient while on vacation. But he obliged, when Anantanarayanan asked him to examine Mrs. Hydari.

At the end of 1965, Anantanarayanan started his own pharmacy, Kelly's at Kelly's Corner, which he ran till his death in 1967. He left behind hundreds of friends he had helped with medical advice or whom he had taken to leading doctors for their advice.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

May 5-7: Marx Matters, commemorating Karl Marx's 200th Birthday. Talks, film and book release (at Goethe-Institut, Max Mueller Bhavan, Chennai. 5th and 6th – 7 p.m.; 7th – 4.30 p.m).

May 9-10: Existing Realities – II – an exhibition of paintings by S.A.V. Elaiyaraja & S.A.V. Elaiyarajabharathy (at DakshinaChitra).

May 18: Celebrating Museum Day – Jasmin Eppert will speak about the Zeigenbalg Museum in Tarambadi, which she curates. She will also highlight the involvement of the local community to this project (at DakshinaChitra).

Answers to Quiz

1. Bahrain, 2. Amsterdam, 3. Chernobyl, 4. Vinod Khanna, 5. F/A18 Super Hornet, 6. To address rising incidence of Vitamin D deficiencies (VDD), particularly amongst young people, 7. A secured digitally-signed QR that will contain the photograph of that Aadhaar holder in addition to demographic details, 8. Two endangered languages, 9. Gagan Shakti 2018, 10. Indian Institute of Science. * * *

11. *Pisiranthaiyar*, 12. P. Susheela for *Paal polave vaan meedhile* from *Uyamtha Manithan*, 13. Devadi Street, 14. St. Augustine's and Our Lady, 15. Vertigo, 16. Zion Church in Chintadripet, 17. General Post Office (GPO) on Rajaji Salai, 18. Gandhi Nagar, 19. Because the Governor of Madras at the time, Elihu Yale, was Welsh and David is the patron saint of Wales, 20. Alwarthirunagiri.

EDUCATION IN GANDHI NAGAR

(Continued from page 7)

The Telugu medium section was closed in 1958 due to reduction in the number of students and on formation of separate Andhra Pradesh state.

In June, 1961 a two-storeyed building was constructed at a cost of Rs.1.5 lakhs to accom-

modate the high school sections. The school got permanent recognition from Director of Public Instruction in June, 1962.

Four Schools were started by the Society in Rajah Annamalipuram from 1956 to 1961. Till 1971 the high school was

co-educational. A separate institution for girls was started on 4th Main Road and was named Rani Meyyammai High School. The boys school was renamed the Kumararajah Muthiah High School. The pond has still given way to a college.

(To be continued)

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