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MADRAS MUSINGS

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

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Is Fort up for adoption?



Fort St. George – Will it fare better in private hands?

● by The Editor

A recent report to the effect had those concerned with this historic precinct rubbing their eyes in disbelief. For those not in the know it said that a conglomerate that had “interests in cement, power and sugar” had offered to take over the maintenance of the place under the “Adopt a Heritage” (sic) programme of the Central Government. Given the business areas in which the group is said to be, it appears that this is the same entity that has been awarded the maintenance of the Red Fort in Delhi, at a throwaway price. That decision raised quite a ruckus, but Chennai being far away from the national capital and with but tepid local interest in the welfare of the fort here, it would appear that the business group is more or less assured of getting the contract. That is if the local Government does not object. This however seems unlikely at present. There is of course much to be said both in favour of, and against, the idea.

Let us look at the positives first. The fort as it stands today is pretty much in a shambles. Large sections of it are in a state of collapse including the King's Barracks, Wellesley House, Last House on Snob's Alley and Clive's Library. Those that are standing are in an appalling state of maintenance and that includes the Assembly and Secretariat Building. The sole exceptions are Clive's House (now the office of the ASI), the Exchange Museum and the Church of St. Mary's. A contract to a private business house may ensure much needed funds and a drive to restore the structures. Also, even in terms of general cleanliness, in which aspect the Government has repeatedly come a cropper, such a private agency may prove a better performer.

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Problems ahead of Smart City

Two years after it was launched, the Chennai Smart City Project has come alive. According to the AMCHAM-PwC Smart Cities Report, of the 44 projects in Chennai, as of December 2017, five were under implementation, 32 had not started and the rest were in pre-tender stages. There is no clear indication of the target completion dates for different projects either in the Report or in the illustrated project details extensively publicised in the newspapers. It is known, however, that the Smart City Project has a five-year time frame ending 2022.

The Smart City Project (SCP) has many interesting features – parks and waste water management systems, pedestrian plaza, cycle sharing system, footpath development, restoration of 56 water bodies, bicycle lanes, multi-level car parking, smart classrooms, conversion of SVL (sodium lamps) to LED (light emitting diodes) lights, parking management, pedestrianised streets and solid

waste management. The investment is estimated at about Rs. 1,366 crore through Centre-State partnership and raising funds from other sources including international multi-lateral funding agencies. If Rs. 500 crore each have been given by the Centre and the State, the inference is that only the Rs. 366 crore will have to be raised from external agencies or Rs. 866 crore, if the State's own contribution is from borrowings. The latter is likely, considering the flimsy state of the government's finances. Still Rs. 866 crore is too small a sum, considering Chennai's needs. The city needs major revamping of the sewerage and storm water drain systems besides infrastructure for the collection, treatment, recycling and disposal of solid wastes and de-congestion and pedestrianisation of the hundreds of km of city roads. All this cannot be accomplished

with Rs. 1,366 crore. Therefore, the Smart City by itself is not and cannot be about making Singapore out of Chennai in five years.

The Smart City Project would *smarten* the City and not by itself *make a new smart city* of Chennai. This clarification of its scope is not to diminish the Project's importance. Many component projects confine the *smartening* to one sub-project segment or geographical area but serve as models for easy replication at other locations without having to re-invent the wheel. Examples of such models are the roof-top solar panels in specific buildings, footpath development of 23 roads in Kodambakkam and T' Nagar, cycle sharing system in Teynampet and Kodambakkam zones, pedestrian plaza in T' Nagar and Kodambakkam area, multi-level parking in Kodambakkam and Teynampet, and

parks and waste water management again in Kodambakkam and T' Nagar.

The term “Smart” is meant to convey that “smart cities” are made capable of collecting and analysing vast quantities of data to automate monitoring resource usages, improving service quality, and making real time decisions on many aspects of city management. This purpose of the Project is served by the inclusion of an integrated command and control centre that can monitor traffic signals, city surveillance and manage the smart transport system. This is indeed an important facility of immense value.

The expectation from a Smart project is different for each city according to its prevailing level of civic development. As an example, it is different for, say, Singapore and Chennai. The installation of information technology constitutes one part, but for most Indian cities *smartness* implies “basic modernisation and

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● by A Special Correspondent

Problems ahead of Smart City

(Continued from page 1)

quality of life improvements, such as ensuring cities have reliable electricity, water supply, and waste management, and promoting walkability. As such, India's Smart Cities Mission is not truly about smart cities in the commonly understood sense of the term."

The concentration of several innovative components in the T' Nagar and Kodambakkam zones has, expectedly, evoked criticism from residents in other areas. Even spread of component projects would thin the demonstration impact as opposed to a comprehensive facility in a single location. The select location should be taken as a model to be replicated in other zones. The successful and timely completion of the Smart City Project would enrich the government's expertise to replicate the modules in other parts of the City towards making a Singapore.

The web-site of Chennai Smart City Limited (CSCL) does not give, on line, periodic information on stages of execution of the components. Citizen involvement is recognised in the Project strategy but should be reflected in practice – conveying continuously up-dated information on progress.

Solid waste collection and disposal, enlarging and modernising the ancient stormwater drains, traffic

decongestion and a comprehensive plan for safe and pleasant pedestrian paths and cross-overs for the whole City and retrieving and protecting public spaces from unauthorised and intrusive use are of utmost urgency as the City is already bursting at the seams. Bare necessities before smartness.

The sums allocated to these essentials in the Smart City project are not large and comprehensive enough to resolve the City's basic problems. It must be said to the credit of the Tamil Nadu Government that they did request the Centre in May 2017 "to tweak the Smart City project guidelines to allow for pan-city implementation of all proposals initially considered only for T' Nagar". Not to be put off, the Government can still take advantage of the present opportunity to raise funds through bonds and/or from multilateral funding agencies and utilise the expertise of Chennai Smart City Limited (CSCL) for major reconstruction of infrastructure, systems and processes that once for all fulfil basic needs.

The Smart City *movement* is meant to be continued by the State Government emulating its models and enlarging its scope to cover the entire Metropolitan area. Smart governance and smart citizens make a Smart City, after all.

FORT FOR ADOPTION?

(Continued from page 1)

The negatives are however formidable. Firstly, how will a private contractor negotiate the minefield of multiple ownership of the Fort? Unlike the Red Fort, FSG has claims on it by the Legislative Assembly, the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Army, the Navy and the Archaeological Survey of India. This is one of the chief reasons for its being in such a poor shape. None of these agencies can agree on what needs to be done. How can a private party surmount this problem? And will its voice be heard?

Secondly, in what way is such a contractor qualified to carry out specialised maintenance, conservation and restoration? In case such a need arises, and there is certainly plenty of it at FSG, how will such a party go about it? Does this Adopt a Heritage scheme even envisage situations like that or does it expect the

contract awardee to simply carry out routine cleaning and beautification (by way of gardens and a potted plant or two)? In the event of such restoration, will the contractor fund restoration by the ASI or will it resort to agencies that it has? And will the latter be qualified to take on such tasks? These are some of the questions that remain unanswered.

There is an even larger question – has the Government given up on its ever gearing up for maintaining historic precincts in its possession? And rather than simply farming out such maintenance, why can it not make the ASI the channel for private funds and use the money so received to strengthen that body? In the long term, the latter may be the best option, for a strong and revitalised ASI can become a specialist body to take on restoration across the entire country and not just as FSG or the Red Fort.

To Marina or not to Marina

Last fortnight's happenings, especially the pronouncements of celebrities after they called on an ailing leader of the State, the comings and goings and sloganeering would have all ideally given much grist to this column's mill. But *The Man from Madras Musings* does not wish to dwell on that. What he on the other hand does wish to comment about is the extraordinary behaviour of our State Government, such as it is.

Tweedledum, he of the duo that now rules, the other half being Tweedledee, has in MMM's view come away from the controversy with sufficient egg on his face to qualify as a one man hatchery. The purpose and logic behind denying the Old Man a resting place on the Marina simply evade MMM. Mind you, MMM is

decision, claiming that Tweedledum had taken it by himself, without consulting any of them, thereby leaving him to face all the flak. MMM supposes that this is what politics is all about. Even more interesting was the behaviour of the lawyers who had filed petitions in the court against the laying to rest of the leader of the Tweedledum/Tweedledee party at the Marina. The moment they realised that the arguments they had proffered against the burial (coastal regulation zone, environment, etc), could be used against the proposed interment of their leader, they withdrew all their cases. Environment, CRZ, etc be damned. What mattered was that the recently deceased leader had to get space there. To MMM it just went to show that many of these cases were

your order. MMM still remembers an anecdote wherein a senior corporate executive from our city had his vehicle delivered to him from the manufacturer in the eastern side of our country, after the obligatory wait of 48 months. He was shocked to find a dead lizard stuck on the bonnet and what's more, the vehicle had been spray painted with the animal on it. Scraping it off would mean getting the paint scratched. So he wrote to the manufacturer who very kindly offered to take the car back but cautioned that a new vehicle would take another 48 months. So our man retained the car and drove it around, lizard and all. He eventually became quite attached to the animal and it gave him no trouble.

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

against memorials of all kinds, and even more against the usage of the Marina for this purpose. But in this case, given that the Tweedledum/Tweedledee Government had just a couple of years ago laid their leader to rest in the same place, why deny the leader of the rival party the same privilege? It would have been far more gracious to allow the burial to happen there without the matter being eventually decided by a court of law.

There is one positive aspect to the matter – neither party has taken over additional land from the Marina for the burial spots of the two late lamented leaders. Each has been forked out space from the memorials of their respective mentors. That has at least put to rest the fear that in centuries to come the beach may just become a Golgotha of sorts. The corresponding negative is that we will have to suffer four memorials where there were initially two, all constructed in styles completely alien to local forms. The two existing memorials are grotesque to say the least, one like something from Paris and the other defying all description, complete with a rearing winged horse that looks as though it flew down from Athens. The plans released a couple of months ago for the memorial of the leader of Tweedledum/Tweedledee party too had all kinds of strange features. The new one, as and when it is planned, will not be much different.

But to get back to the original act of refusal, MMM notices that Tweedledee and other lesser tweedles in the Cabinet distanced themselves very cleverly from the

politically motivated and not guided by any sense of altruism.

Be that as it may, MMM is happy for the recently departed – he would have wanted space on the Marina and he has got it. As for the larger principles that get affected, we gave those the go-by a long time ago, did we not? What does one more memorial matter?

One last word – the State Government, or Tweedledum, put forward an argument that the Marina was meant for Chief Ministers who pass away while in harness. If that were to be mandated for the future, MMM will hereafter pray fervently that all CMs of our State live long and lead a happy life in retirement.

Service unlimited

The Man from Madras Musings has a car, produced by the American company that has manufacturing facilities near our city. To him, a vehicle is just something that takes you from place to place and he does not waste time in debating suspensions, transmissions, and whatever else that automobile enthusiasts agonise over. He also, it must be admitted, does not look too much into mileage, not because he is well stashed with money, but because in his view, driving around in our city is not conducive to fuel efficiency of any kind.

But let us pigeonhole all that for the nonce. What MMM writes about is the levels of service that our vehicle manufacturers have attained. There was a time when our country had three carmakers and each took at least four years to deliver after you placed

Contrast that with the present. MMM had his vehicle sent over for its annual service and received a call shortly thereafter asking in very obsequious terms as to whether he had any specific complaint. On his replying in the negative the voice at the other end sighed in relief and profusely thanked MMM. The car was sent back after treatment which no doubt included a massage and a shampoo, together with an invoice whose value would have got MMM a new car in the lizard era. MMM paid up without a murmur. A couple of days later came a call from the dealer who had sold the car to MMM, asking if he was happy with the service done. MMM assured the caller that all was well. Three days later came a call from the sales office of the manufacturer asking MMM if all was well. This time MMM was a little brusque and said that he had already received a call enquiring to this effect and so could he please be left alone? The voice apologised and said that must have been the dealer while this was a call from the manufacturer. Four days later came a call asking if all was well. When MMM replied that he had already gone through this exercise, the caller apologised and said he was from the call-centre in Delhi and had no connection with the earlier ones. MMM banged down the receiver. He is now bracing himself for a call from the United States of America. MMM is also now worried if there is something wrong with his car that these callers know of but are not wanting to share with him. He better check it for lizards.

—MMM

From Madras to Tamil Nadu: a forgotten re-naming

Madras State did not become Tamil Nadu State in a day. 'Thiyagi' Sankaralingam, a Congress Party worker who was behind the first demand to change the name, in the 1950s, made repeated representations. But to no avail.

The DMK emphasised its demand for such a change on entering the Assembly on May 7, 1957. There were just 42 votes in favour of the resolution and it was defeated. However, the DMK continued to represent on this demand. On January 30 1961, the Socialist Party legislator Chinna Durai brought a resolution to change the name from 'Madras State'. In order to win that resolution, he requested that the

ruling party members vote in its favour. This led to Chief Minister Kamaraj postponing the discussion on the demand for a month. The DMK boycotted the Assembly for three days protesting against the delaying tactics of the Government.

Meanwhile, senior Communist leader Bhupesh Gupta, initiated a Bill in Parliament to change the name of the State. At that time, C.N. Annadurai (Anna) was a Rajya Sabha member and he supported the move. A Congressman who spoke then said, "About five hundred years ago there was no United Tamil Nadu and only Chera, Chola and Pandya kingdoms. Such a demand cannot be historically justified." Replying to this, Anna pointed out usage of the term 'Tamil Nadu' in ancient literature including *Paripadal*, *Pathitrupattu*, *Mani-*

mekalai, *Silapathigaram* and the works of Kamban and Sekhizar. An MP then asked Anna as to how the State could profit from such a name change. To counter this, Anna asked as to how the country had benefited by change of the President's post to Rashtrapati or the Lower House to the Lok Sabha. He stressed that the name of the state and its capital ought to be different. However, due to the enormous strength of Congress party in Parliament, the Bill was defeated.

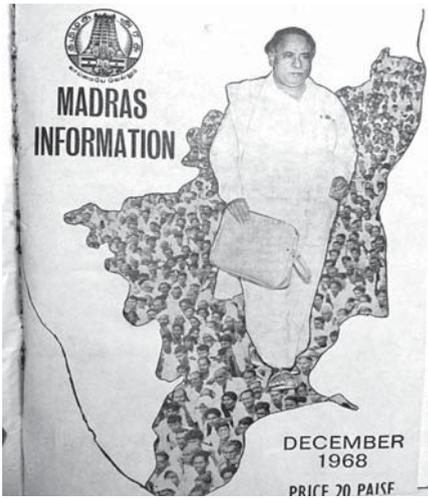
On July 23, 1963, the DMK brought in the resolution once again in the State Assembly, this time moved by Rama Arangannal. M. Bakthavathalam was the CM. State Minister R. Venkatraman raised a point – "Tamil Nadu as a name will not be known internationally, on the other hand Madras is recognised in the international market. Moreover, changing the name of the State will jeopardise the signing of agreements between States and other countries." The resolution failed. However, with the DMK sweeping the Assembly elections in 1967, the matter became a reality.

On July 18, 1967, Chief Minister Anna prepared a resolution to change the name of Madras State to Tamil Nadu in

English and Tamil languages. Speaking on the debate, Opposition Leader P.G. Karuthiraman said, "Madras is a name in world history; Tamil Nadu will take time to reach the same heights". So, he suggested that the name ought to be 'Tamil Nadu-Madras State'. However, at one point in the debate, Tamil Nadu was accepted and the resolution passed unanimously. Anna uttered "Tamil Nadu" three times and this was loudly cheered by legislators. Anna recognised the contributions of Thiyagi Shankaralingam who died after going on a hunger strike and Ma. Po. Sivagnanam in the formation of Tamil Nadu. Anna said, "We are not an independent country because of the name change, our State will be a part of India." He also made it clear that the Tamil Nadu Secretariat would be the "Tamil Nadu Government Secretariat" and the nameplate was set up at Fort St. George accordingly.

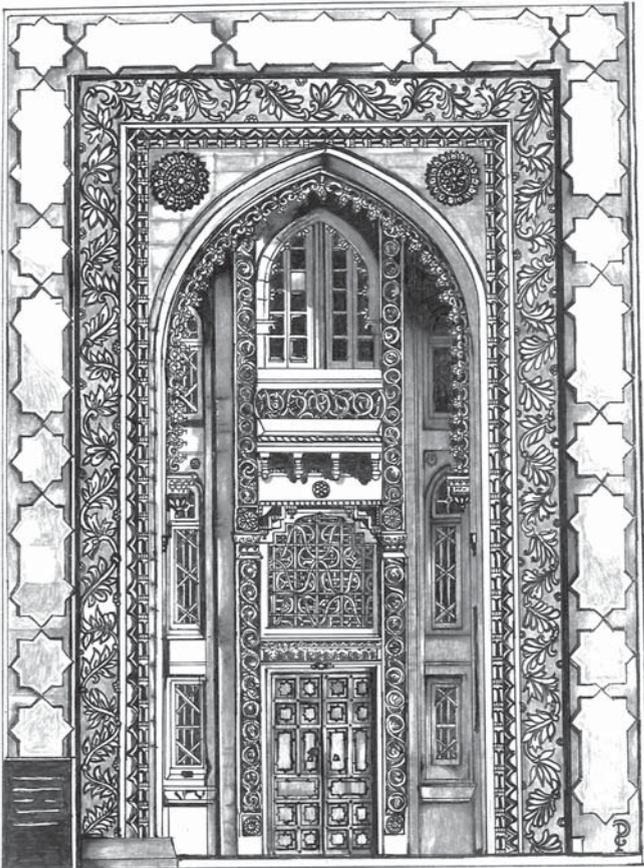
On January 14, 1969, Madras State was officially renamed Tamil Nadu State. The Golden Jubilee year of this historic occasion has not been remembered. I wonder why – (Courtesy: TCC Digest).

– R. Muthukumar



Cover of the magazine Madras Information released in 1968 December to commemorate renaming of Madras State as Tamil Nadu.

● Pavithra's Perspective



National Art Gallery, Chennai

The first time I saw the National Art Gallery was as an oblivious nine-year-old, out on my first-ever school excursion; I remember gazing at the imposing structure with unseeing eyes (my friends' chatter was all-consuming, those days) and rushing past. The second time was on the movie screen, watching Mani Ratnam's *Thiruda Thiruda*, which featured the National Art Gallery in the song *Chandralekha*, and being stunned: what was this beautiful, beautiful palace, and how long had they taken to build the set? More time would pass before I realized that it wasn't a set, but actually a monument right here, in Chennai.

Somewhere during my late teens, as a firm History enthusiast, I began to haunt the Government Museum and its environs, when the magnificent façade caught my attention again. Over the years, I went back, discovering newer nuances, and its background: that it came into existence in 1907 under the auspices of Diwan Bahadur Namperumal Chetty following upon the architectural style of Henry Irwin and that, originally meant to be used by the Victoria Technical Institute to display local crafts, it transformed into the National Art Gallery in 1951 ... but it would take a few more years and the conception of my book series, for me to stop being content to just gaze upon it and take a pen to record its beautiful features. It took me at least 4 days to complete – but I enjoyed every moment of recording the delicate Mughal touches in this architectural feat.

Details about the miniature: Black and White; Pen and Ink. Dimensions: Approximately: 5.6" X 7.7"

● Pavithra Srinivasan is a writer, journalist, artist, translator, columnist and an editor and is fascinated with History.

OUR READERS WRITE

More on Norton

This refers to the article of Suresh Balakrishnan Eardley Norton – *Lawyer outstanding* (MM, August 1st).

It was stated in the article that Eardley Norton was enrolled at the Madras Bar and being the latest entrant was appointed Secretary of what in later times came to be known as "Madras Bar Association".

In the book titled *A Century completed – The Madras High Court (1862-1962)* edited by late V.C. Gopalratnam, late N. Krishnaswamy Ayengar, retired District Judge and earlier a practising lawyer at Madras High court during the period when Eardley Norton had his practice and had the privilege of instructing him on behalf of his Senior, another renowned Advocate of Madras High Court R. Sadagopachariar observed that Norton practised at the Madras Bar for more than three decades and as his practice widened, he shifted himself to Calcutta and yet Norton would come to Madras to appear in important cases, civil or criminal. While referring to R. Sadagopachariar as one of the leading lawyers, it was remarked that his early appearances were marked by a type of forensic eloquence almost unknown to the profession at that time. Both Norton and Sadagopachariar

were very good friends. The approach to a case by Eardley Norton and Sadagopachariar was different. Norton's way of cross examination was always aggressive. Sadagopachariar's method was exactly the contrary, he was conciliatory.

Norton has observed in his self typed letter written on 31-12-1960, "where is the patient, courteous hearing, the desire to learn all that had to be learnt, meticulous scrutiny, lest inadvertently injustice perpetrated, the fearless of consequences – where all these have gone? Do our judges possess them now? What is the answer?" Norton has added, "We need strong men with determination to do right irrespective of all consequences. Where are they? You will not find them among the puny clique in Simla or Delhi. I am sometimes very sick at heart." Norton has concluded addressing Sadagopachariar as "Your affect(sic) friend Eardley Norton."

Late N. Krishnaswamy Ayengar has observed, "Eardley Norton's name will ever remain immortal in the history of the Madras Bar as a brilliant and fearless advocate, as a quick and resourceful cross-examiner, and as an accomplished and mellifluous speaker." He has further remarked, "Norton was a true friend of India and strove in his public to promote only her interest. He was associated with Indian National Congress as Chairman of the Reception Committee."

P.S. Subrahmanian

No 87, Dr.Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore
Chennai 600 004

Kalaighar's boating jetties

You just could not deny it – Kalaighar Karunanidhi was a go-getter and an achiever. The various accusations of corruption apart, the man was known for his speedy implementation of any scheme that took his fancy. That he came a cropper in some, the Veeranam Water Supply project being the foremost, did not really deter him. There were several others that came to happier conclusions. One that sadly did not, was the Cooum Improvement Scheme.

C.N. Annadurai, who had once declared the Cooum to be a blot on the face of Chennai, was all for this pet project of Kalaighar. Largely at the latter's prodding, the first phase of the project was launched by Anna, in his capacity as Chief Minister, on September 19, 1967. "On completion of the improvement scheme, the Cooum will bring Madras city a place of pride like the Thames of London," declared Anna. He then went on to add, that his "younger brother Karunanidhi has been pressuring me for financial provision when our first budget was under preparation. He could not rest assured on my statement till he himself saw the finance allocation." The Kalaighar was then Minister for Public Works.

A. Srivathsan, writing in *The Hindu* in 2009, has recorded that it was only by the proverbial whisker that the Cooum escaped being blocked and covered up in 1960. A scheme was proposed to divert the river at Chetpet and link it with the Adyar. The rest of it was to be closed. Fortunately, this scheme was rejected

by a high-powered committee. A fallout of this was the need to improve the river and hence Kalaighar's scheme. Budgeted at Rs 118 lakhs, it was launched with much fanfare by Anna.

Karunanidhi as PWD Minister was most enthusiastic about the project. The river, he

LOST LANDMARKS OF CHENNAI

— SRIRAM V

declared, would be maintained consistently at a minimum depth of eight feet and soon big cargo boats and motor boats would sail on it. The project became a talking point for him and in most press conferences and Assembly sessions of the time, you find him repeatedly bringing up the subject and speaking on it most enthusiastically. The scheme involved narrowing the width of the river and casing its sides with concrete, this being a necessity for increasing the depth of the water. Incidentally, this is now being done in Ahmadabad for the Sabarmati River Project.

Certain proposals made by earlier Governments were also made part of the project. Noteworthy among these was the construction of several facilities just off the Marina – a gymnasium, a swimming pool, canteen facilities and, most importantly, a boat club. The entire project received



The Marina Boat House, with a happy family enjoying a cruise in the foreground, 1973.

a further fillip when, following the demise of Annadurai in 1969, Karunanidhi became the Chief Minister. The Corporation of Madras began issuing enthusiastic reports of the progress in the river improvement scheme.

Dredging of the river was taken up as Phase I of the project and this was flagged off by Karunanidhi in 1967. In 1970, steps were taken to evict all slum dwellers on the banks of the Cooum, this being necessary to carry out strengthening work on the banks. Next came the installation of a regulator and a sand pump at the mouth of the river.

This was an absolute necessity given that the Cooum lay south of the harbour and so was a victim of littoral drift, the phenomenon that causes accretion of sand. Eight boating jetties were built all along the river. These were in the best PWD style – modernist with concrete pillars holding up a roof comprising several small arches. The Boat House on the Marina was far more grandiose. It had more than one floor, large verandahs that afforded a grand view of the mouth of the river and a boating jetty. The boathouse on the Marina was completed by 1973. In many ways, these were the most visible elements of the river improvement scheme. Most significantly, the plan did not envisage cleaning the water in the river or plugging the various outlets of untreated sewage that emptied into the waterbody.

The regulator and pump were in place by 1970. A vast team of workers descended on the Cooum to clean the river of all

rubbish. Rowing boats, power boats and paddle boats were procured. A gala inauguration of the Cooum Pleasure Boat service took place in February 1973 with the Chief Minister and cabinet getting into boats and sailing on the river. But alas, nobody had contended with the volume of sand accumulating at the mouth. Technical difficulties soon arose with the pump. The boat rides that took place between Napier Bridge and Chetpet, had to soon be given up.

The project may have received due attention had not the DMK Government been dismissed during the Emergency. The rival ADMK did not want to pay attention to a project so closely associated with its *bête noire*. Thereafter, with no functioning Corporation Council owing to the muster roll scandal, and the newly formed Madras Water Supply and Sewerage Board working on other pressing issues, the Cooum was given up. There were several schemes to improve the river thereafter but none caught the public imagination like the boat service.

Today, all that remains are a couple of abandoned boat jetties that are visible from the bridges over the river. For a brief while, they were the cynosure of all eyes with the public queuing up for rides. Now, as the *Times of India* wrote, they appear to be waiting for the boats that will never come.

Rather ironically, Kalaighar was interred very close to the Marina boathouse.

The Anglo-Indian Colonel in the INA

September 6, 1945, Singapore – A small crowd is gathered in front of an Azad Hind monument on Connaught Drive. As Indian engineers position gun-cotton charges, Major Donald Brunt (Royal Engineers) is seen checking the fuses. The fuse is lit and the charges explode. Troops of the 17th Dogra Regiment push over the monument (marked 'Itmad' on its larger face) with poles; a civilian crowd claps and cheers enthusiastically; and a Malay policeman observes that the clock on the nearby tower, shows 6 p.m.

A guard of honour of the 17th Dogra Regiment is back a few paces, salutes a brigadier in a kilt. The brigadier spoke later, explaining why this important symbol in the memory of INA soldiers, built by one Col C.J. Stracey, had to be demolished.

Sometimes you just stumble on a story while researching another and that is how I came across the tale of a fascinating character, an Anglo Indian named Cyril John Stracey, who served as a senior officer in the INA. That itself should evoke some curiosity, an Anglo Indian in a nationalist Indian outfit. It was not easy to unearth details of his life, but as it emerged gradually, bit by bit, it turned out to be a heartwarming tale.

The Stracey progeny were in all 11 (four died as infants), four boys and three girls who lived their lives mostly in India, each of them are examples of how to serve on the public. The eldest Patrick started the wildlife preservation society of India, Ralph became an ICS officer, Eric joined the police, Cyril, Doreen became a doctor, Margaret a nurse and Winnifred, a teacher.

The Straceys' affair with India started from the early days of the EIC when John and Edward from Cork came to India. John worked in the offices of Hyder Ali as the British commercial agent representing the Bombay factory while Edward worked for the EIC in Madras, who were fighting Hyder. Both married Portuguese Indian girls, perhaps from Cochin, and later worked for the Nizam of Hyderabad while their children continued working for the British who had by then started to govern India. A descendant of one of them was Daniel Stracey, a district forest officer (his wife, Ethel was a protestant).

The Stracey children grew up in Richmond Town, Bangalore, then a quiet and cool part of the city, with a cantonment and an Anglo Indian minority. Cyril, who was born in 1915 in Kurnool, turned out to be quite



Col C.J. Stracey.

different. He who chased adventure and traversed the world. He did his schooling in St Joseph's, Bangalore, but did not complete his Intermediate and went on to join the Indian Military Academy in 1935 as a gentleman cadet. Eric records the difficulties the family had to endure in meeting Cyril's 2 1/2 year course expenses at Dehra dun (Pat deferred his marriage to help pay for his younger brother and their mother had to give up their home in Bangalore and move to Rangoon as a house guest with her brother-in-law) after their father passed away in 1932. Other family friends also chipped in with support as Cyril was not granted a scholarship which he deserved, for that was awarded instead to the son of a well-placed ICS officer. Eric recalls that Cyril as a youngster was actually more artistically inclined than soldierly, could draw and paint well as well as play the piano with some proficiency.

The IMA's newly graduated officers were not considered on par with the Sandhurst graduates ones for they were Indian Commissioned Officers, not the King's Commissioned Officers. ICO's had a lower pay and were only meant to replace the VCO's such as Risaldars, Jamedars and Subedars. The first two terms made them physically fit, adept in English, accounting and in the next three terms, they were provided strategic and tactical training. Camps in the plains and mountains provided them exposure to difficult terrains and tactics. After graduation (Gen Bewoor, Army Chief was his batch mate), Cyril was attached to the West Kent's at Lucknow (this posting, according to Eric Stracey, with a British battalion was a compulsory part of initiation to regimental life before an IC joined his regular Indian battalion). Cyril's formal posting

was with the 1st Battalion of the 14th Punjab regiment at Bannu on the North West frontier.

In February 1941, the battalion was sent to Burma. Later, it became part of the 11th Indian Division's 15th Brigade and was in September 1941 tasked with preparing the defenses at Jitra on the Malay-Thai border, anticipating a potential Japanese invasion.

On December 7th, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour, sanctioning a plan to conquer the SE Asian countries, such as Malaya, Thailand, Burma, and the Dutch of East Indies (Indonesia) for oil and food resources. On Dec 8th, the Japanese invasion forces landed at Kota Baru in northern Malaya and soon, Burma was overrun.

Units of the 1st division of the 14th Punjab regiment were at Jitra. Mohan Singh and Cyril Stracey were part of separate but incomplete defensive positions laid around Jitra. When the Japanese arrived on the 8th, they had solid air support and tanks. They decimated the under-equipped British Indians who had little answer for the Japanese tank supported from the air. The remaining British forces fled into the rubber plantations and hid. Both Mohan Singh's and Stracey's teams were hiding and while the former was contemplating his future, the latter was forced to assume leadership of a motley group of officers, soldiers, Gurkhas and so on, in the jungle.

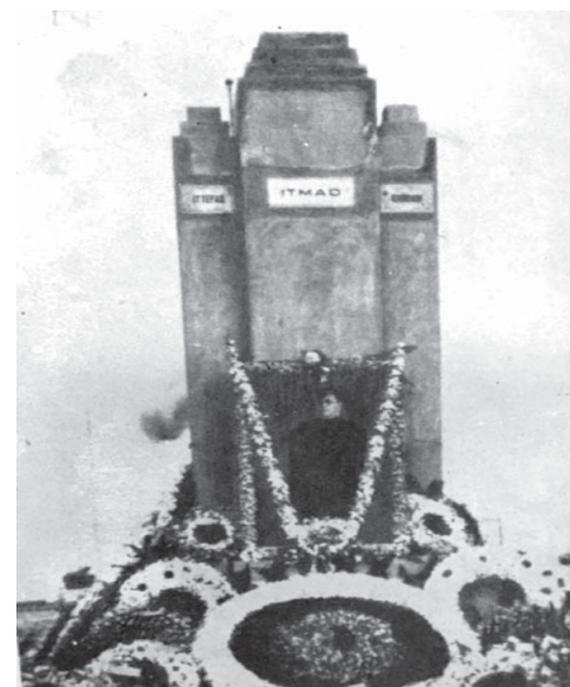
The locals gave no shelter or support and eventually when the Japanese reached the location on 16th where these men were hiding, the hungry and battered men had no choice but to surrender. They were taken to the police HQ at Alor Setar where the Japanese started to separate the Indians from the English. Stracey was initially left with the British, but when his orderly piped in that Stracey was Indian, he was moved with the Indians. It was here that Stracey met his old pal Mohan Singh and Mohan Singh updated him of the INA activities and his newfound involvement together with Pritam Singh and Fujiwara. He explained that Rash Behari Bose had arrived there from Japan and agreed on a potential tie-up with the captured Indian soldiers to fight the British.

Stracey was confused and torn, wondering what to do, for his heart was not set on cooperating with the Japanese. He also noticed that some junior officers were now being awarded senior

positions in the INA organisation, and was a bit miffed about it. Anyway as matters took their course, Stracey did not join Mohan Singh and so was confined with other British officers in the Alor Setar jail. As the number of prisoners increased, they were moved to Taiping, then to Kuala Lumpur and finally to Singapore, which had fallen to the Japanese, in November 1942.

During this year of confinement, Stracey began getting disillusioned. He caught up with Mohan Singh who had by then become a general, who had after the Farrer park meeting created the first INA and recruited a great many soldiers, totaling to 16,000 or so. Stracey decided to volunteer to the INA, sick of the discriminatory attitude shown by his fellow British officers and noting that they had anyway washed their hands off the Indian soldiers and thrown them to the mercy of the Japanese. Another reason was that he saw a number of his old colleagues already serving in the INA. Stracey was tasked with leading the 10,000 odd new volunteers which included Jawans, JCO's, Subedar Majors, Subedars and Jamadars. He had to start a new army career as a 2nd lieutenant once again!

Stracey in his own words "was the only officer who saw the INA as a germ, a mere idea and who eventually participated in its



INA monument, Singapore.

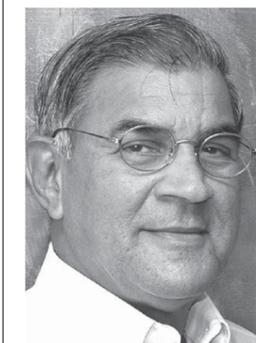
obsequies". Not only was he with Mohan Singh at the start of the INA conceptual discussions, but was also a witness to its disbanding and the first officer to be formally picked up and arrested after the retaking of Singapore by the Allies.

Meanwhile, things were not going well for Mohan Singh. The Fujiwara Kikan which was behind him had given way to the Iwakuro and Hikari Kikans which did not think much of Indians (or rate Indians as equals). Mohan Singh faced

many other festering issues (INA recognition, use of Indians for manual labor, managing of Japanese misappropriation of Indian assets in Burma) with the Japanese over the INA recognition and issues about the tasks of the Indian Independence League (IIL). Mohan Singh's relationship with the I Kikan as well as Rash Behari Bose turned sour resulting in him getting sidelined, dismissed, and arrested and transported to Pulau Ubin, an island off Changi point.

(Continued on page 9)

The bolts & nuts of enterprise



Suresh Krishna.



Arati Krishna.



Anandathi Krishna.

He built Sundram Fasteners the leader in the business of bolts and nuts, metal forming and powdered metallurgy. Recently, Suresh Krishna handed the baton to his daughters, Arathi as Managing Director and Anandathi as Joint Managing Director. He had groomed them

what unique and synergetic evolution.

It was Krishna's uncle, T.S. Srinivasan, who spearheaded the entry of TVS into auto component manufacture by acquiring a sprawling 300 plus acres of land at Padi, entrusting Krishna with a small-scale industrial unit in the Ambattur Industrial Estate.

Krishna who did his Master's in literature was new to manufacturing. He learned the nuances of cold forging from the suppliers of equipment, their leaflets, as also from engineers and workers around. Soon he shifted from the modest shed to the TVS property at Padi and built it to its current stature.

Krishna's close involvement with the CII exposed him to national and international practices. I remember his hectic

(Continued on page 6)



Kalaighar Karunanidhi and members of his cabinet enjoy a boat ride on the Cooum.

Eardley Norton, Congressman

(Continued from
last fortnight)

The scope of this article for bids a closer look at his services as a Congressman, but it is relevant here to mention that at the Bombay Congress of 1889 he introduced the Madras scheme for the reform of the Indian Legislative Councils, which metamorphosed into the Indian Councils Act, 1892. The Madras scheme was prepared under his leadership, and this was one of his deeds as a Congressman which is hardly mentioned in hitherto published books on the history of the Indian National Congress or the Indian national struggle.

The next Congress at Madras was in 1894, in which he held the audience spell-bound with a stirring speech demanding the abolition of the India Council. But this Congress became notorious for another, unhappy reason. He had got involved in an adulterous affair with the wife of Sullivan, a coffee planter in Coorg, and his wide popularity had the unfortunate effect of giving the affair a great amount of publicity. Eventually Sullivan and Marie Gerrard, his wife and who Norton later married, were

divorced. But the scandal had a devastating impact on Norton's political career. He was compelled to resign his newly won seat in the Imperial Council in Calcutta, to which he was elected by the non-official members of the Madras Legislative Council. Later the same year, 1894, there was strong opposition from various quarters to his attendance at the Madras Congress to be held

● by Suresh
Balakrishnan

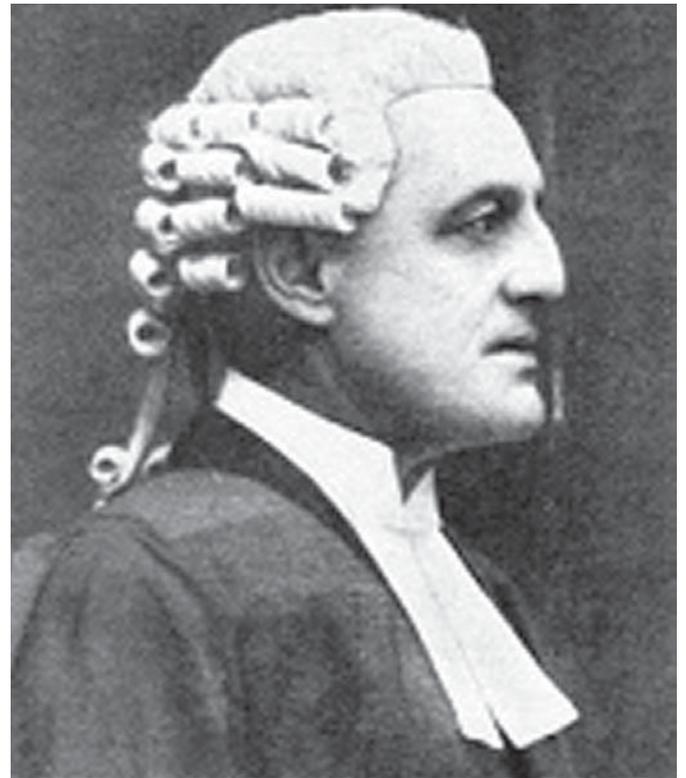
in December. Despite the opposition, he was elected as a delegate. The objections to his speaking when the Congress was in progress created such a furore that the Madras Congress of 1894 is remembered as much for the 'Norton incident' as for any other reason.

He became so distraught by the lamentable series of events, and fearing that his political enemies were trying to use him as an excuse to injure the movement, that he resigned from the Congress a few months after the conclusion of the Madras Congress of 1894. Thus ended sadly and prematurely his career as a

Congressman. In later times, he lent freelance support to the movement from outside.

After a brief period in political wilderness, he re-entered politics, though only local politics, through his election to the Madras Municipality – he was a member for more than one term of the Madras Municipality. It was one of the bodies from which non-official members were elected to the Madras Legislative Council. He was re-elected thereto two years later and retired in 1903. The period when he was a member of the Council did not record any significant contribution of his as a Councillor. But during that period he was actively engaged in certain public causes, noteworthy among which were the efforts taken by many Madras citizens to save the Victoria Public Hall from a financial crisis. He also took part in a few commercial ventures.

In 1906, he wound up his Madras practice and residence and moved to Calcutta. Twenty-eight years ago, he had loathed the prospect of having to leave England for Madras, but now Madras occupied a special place in his heart. He had always wanted to practise in Calcutta where he felt the Bar was stron-



Eardley Norton.

ger than Madras and he preferred to compete with equal or better talent. Calcutta witnessed his appearance in many sensational cases, including a historic trial against revolutionaries known as the Alipore Bomb Case (1908-9), in which he led the prosecution, and the trial of Nirmal Kanta Roy (1914) in which he successfully defended Roy. His emigration to Calcutta in 1906 limited his subsequent appearances in courts in the Madras Presidency to rare occasions. The last of all the sensational cases he fought in the Madras Presidency was the Pho-

tographer Murder Case (1920) in Coimbatore. He also appeared for the convicts in the appeal before the Madras High Court and succeeded in getting their acquittal. It testifies to the respect and adoration that the residents of Madras had for him that in 1920, he was elected by the non-official Europeans of Madras as their representative to the newly created Central Legislative Assembly, even though he had been living in Calcutta since fourteen years earlier.

Having worked for nearly fifty years at the Indian Bar, he retired in the early 1920s. His last professional engagement was in 1923 for Nabha in the Nabha-Patiala dispute in the Punjab. He then spent a couple of years in retirement in Kodaikanal, where he had a garden house named *Merton Lodge*. He left India for good in May 1926 and returned to England. In 1927, owing mainly to the efforts of V. V. Srinivasa Aiyangar, at that time a Judge of the Madras High Court, an oil portrait of Norton was placed in the precincts of the High Court. The Chief Justice Victor Murray Coutts-Trotter presided.

Eardley Norton, who had left India in 1926, spent the last five years of his life peacefully in Kent and breathed his last on July 13, 1931. For his services as a Congressman he is remembered as one of India's truest friends, and, at the Bar, as an undisputed leader in his time in jury trial advocacy. As V.V. Srinivasa Aiyangar said in his speech at the time of the unveiling of his portrait in the Madras High Court in 1927, the residents of Madras were – I hope still are – proud to own him as a Madrasee.

Copies of the book *Eardley Norton: A Biography* are available at: C. Sitaraman & Co., Royapettah.

The bolts & nuts of enterprise

(Continued from page 5)

schedule during his tenure as CII president. He participated in 305 meetings and had been out of Chennai over 150 days, travelling 4-lakh km. On completion of the term, with characteristic humour, he said: "each day I used to wake up at a different town to address the local chapter of CII. First I used to reassure myself in which town I was. I found my company doing even better during my absence and was worried about my job!"

Suresh is the eldest son of T.S. Krishna. Despite being born with a silver spoon in his mouth, Krishna had been a workaholic and used to work from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. When he returned home, his father used to enquire, 'how come you are back so soon?' Krishna, just married, would shower, eat and then get back to work with his wife Usha at 8:30 p.m. and return by 11 p.m! Usha also evolved a business leader and headed with distinction Upasana Finance.

When Krishna came to

know that many companies in the UK were asking if SFL was ISO 9000 certified, he didn't know what it was. He read about it and brought a specialist from England to audit their processes and prepared SFL to conform to the punishing ISO 9000 standards: "our operations were already in good trim and so we got the certificate in 18 months," said Krishna. SFL is the first Indian company to get this!

Manufacture of radiator caps for General Motors (GM), USA, was a chance addition for SFL. In 1992, GM was looking for a buyer of their radiator caps manufacturing units in England. Since they already knew SFL, they offered to sell these to SFL. Even though the company did not have any knowledge of the engineering intricacies of radiator caps, Krishna felt that this was an excellent opportunity to gain entry into GM and readily agreed. Since then SFL has been the principal supplier of radiator caps to General Motors and is a regular winner of their "Supplier of the Year"

award. In addition to GM, SFL supplies a full range of radiator caps to other leading manufacturers worldwide. The dedication to customer satisfaction evident in 100 per cent defect-free and on time shipments.

SFL is the first Indian engineering company to set up a greenfield venture in China to manufacture high tensile fasteners for the Chinese and international markets. Set up in 2002 it has grown into a Rs. 250 crore business. SFL has recently announced a new 10,000-tonne capacity foundry in China at an investment of a billion rupees. The Chinese operation currently contributes more than Rs. 2.5 billion of revenue annually.

After getting ISO 9000 certification Krishna's quest for quality got accelerated. He found the Japanese concept of Total Productivity Maintenance (TPM) an ideal tool to focus on systems and quality and invited the TPM guru Yamaguchi from Japan. He successfully took productivity of machines from around 35 per

cent to over 80 per cent resulting in savings on capital investment and surging profits, attaining one of the best productivity levels in the world. Krishna refers to TPM as cleaning up of the minds, rather than of the machines or plants.

Krishna's forte is his faith in communication. It is a regular practice for him to address his workmen at the different factories every year. There he explains to them in lucid terms the state of the economy and the work practices across the globe. The talk motivates them to excel. His constant concern for the advancement of the employees assured their loyalty and drove them to work better. This practice explains the cordial relations maintained by the TVS group he heads today with the employers and the trade union leaders for decades. Krishna used to refer with understandable pride, that his Sundram Fasteners Limited had not lost a day's work due to industrial strife. (Courtesy: *Industrial Economist*).

– S. Viswanathan



Madras Week '18

Till August 15th, 2018

August 14

- **Talk:** The rich, varied heritage of the city and the need to preserve it by Sriram V

12:20 p.m.
Women's Christian College
For details contact: 9444712469

August 15

- **Tour:** Heritage Visit to St. Thomas English Church led by Fabiola Jacob.
- **Talk:** Krupa Ge speaks on *The Day Madras Drowned* (bi-lingual).
- **Talk:** Jayaraman Raghunathan speaks on *Chennaiyin Enthiran Sujatha* (bi-lingual).

4.30 - 6:00 p.m.
Register by email: stthomasenglishchurch@gmail.com or call 44 4203 5179 (Moses)

5 - 6:15 p.m.
Arkay Convention Center

6:45 - 8 pm
Arkay Convention Center

August 16-17

- Lecture on *Urban Ecology & Resilience: a case of Soaking City Chennai*, an initiative of the United Nation's Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) & AARDE Foundation.

Raman Auditorium, AC Tech Campus,
Anna University, Chennai

August 16

10:30 a.m. Introduction to Soaking City
11 a.m. Building Ecological knowledge for the regeneration cultural landscapes of South Asia
12 p.m. Chennai City Master Plan
2 p.m. Trees are the Earth's endless effort to speak to the Listening Heaven
2:15 p.m. Chennai City – An Area
2:30 p.m. Hydrology of Chennai City
3:30 p.m. For Earth's Sake
4:30 p.m. சூழ்வியல் / தமிழ் இலக்கியத்தின் வழியே ஒரு பார்வை

Xavier Benedict
Nalini Thakur
CMDA Chief Planner
Prime College, Nagapattinam
Dr. MGR University students
Dr. L. Elango
Dr. Sultan A Ismail
J. Rajagopalan

August 17

9 a.m. Participating College Presentation
9:30 a.m. சுற்றுச்சூழல் விழிப்பில் தமிழ் பயன்பாடு
10:30 a.m. Chennai Weather
11:30 a.m. International Case Studies
12:15 p.m. International Case Studies
01:30 p.m. Participating college students
02 p.m. Adapting to Climate Change using Technology
3 to 5 p.m. Special Talks

MIDAS Architecture College
S. Theodore Baskaran
Pradeep John
Kees de Vries (Netherlands)
Dr. Martina Girvan, London
Presentation for 15 minutes
Dr. Jinu Louishidha Kitchley J

August 17

- Workshop: Knowing your library, storytelling and narrative workshop for children aged between 3-12 years. Organised by MLS

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
For registration contact : 9444253532 / annanagarshg@gmail.com

August 18

- **Walk:** Naduvakkara to Anna Nagar walk. Organised by Nam Veedu, Nam Oor, Nam Kadhai.

7 a.m. to 8 a.m.
Starting point: Tower Park: Ayyapan temple side entrance.
For details, registrations: 94442 53532; annanagarshg@gmail.com

- **Walk:** Marshalls Road (Rukmini Lakshmi pathi Road) walk led by Sudha Umashanker. Starting point – just outside Rajah Muthiah Hall In gate. Organised by Storycorner at Bookmine.

7 a.m. - 8:45 a.m
To register: 9840247624

- * **Talk:** Industry & Employment by Mr. N. Madhavan, Associate Editor, *The Hindu*, *Business Line*. Organised by ORF, Chennai Chapter.

11 a.m.-1 p.m.
ORF-C Conference Hall, Reliance Building, Dr. Radhakrishnan Road, Chennai 600 004.

- **Book Readings:** From S. Muthiah's *Madras Rediscovered*. Readers: Nandan Sankriti, Kaushik, Purabee Nair, Selvi Palani, Shama Rajappa, Ashok and M.K. Venkat Prasad. Coordinated and Directed by N.S.Yamuna. Organised by Madras Literary Society (MLS) and Association of British Scholars (ABS). For non-members of MLS: Rs. 100.

11 a.m.-12.30 p.m.
Madras Literary Society
For details: madrasliterarysociety@gmail.com; 044 2827 9666; 94442 53532

- **Tour:** Tiruvottiyur - Temple, music and more led by Prof. Madhusudan Kalaichelvam

3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Arulmigu Thiyagarajaswamy Temple, Sannathi St, Gopal Nagar, Tiruvottiyur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600019
For registrations: ratham854@gmail.com (or) call: 78451 15486

- Two lectures – Prof. V. Arasu and Prof. Azhagarasan *Exhibition on Early Tamil Alternate Magazine Movement* will be open to all after the lectures. Organised by Roja Muthiah Research Library (RMRL).
- **Tree Walk:** Starting outside Words and Worths. Organised by Nizhal.
- **Heritage Tour:** Arcot Nawabs Trail in Triplicane led by Kombai S. Anwar (van)

5 p.m.
RMRL

5-6 p.m.
2nd Avenue, Besant Nagar
Registration: 98406 04912

6 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Cost: Rs. 500 (Breakfast included)
Assemble at: Madras University Entrance on Wallajah Road
For registrations: kaniyanheritage@gmail.com (or) call: 94440 77171

From August 18-19

- **Walk:** Marina Scrolls. Organised by Urban Design Collective. Charges: Rs.750/- (includes entry to the lighthouse, souvenirs, light refreshments and audio equipment rental charges) Link to registration form: <https://tinyurl.com/Urbanaudiotour> Payment can be made via bank transfer or Paytm. Details will be sent after registration is confirmed at this link.

3 p.m.-5 p.m.
Start point: Napier Bridge
End point: Lighthouse

- **Exhibition:** On *Social history of Anna Nagar and household heritage of Madras*. The exhibition includes photos, maps, exhibits and more. It's an inclusive event – people with all abilities are welcome. Touch and feel exhibits. Organised by Nam Veedu, Nam Oor, Nam Kadhai and Venkatraman Prabhakaran.

10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
Joy of books, (Previously just books, Anna Nagar) T88, 5th Main Road, Anna Nagar
For details, registrations: 94442 53532; annanagarshg@gmail.com

From August 18-24

- *Exhibition on Early Tamil Alternate Magazine Movement*. Organised by Roja Muthiah Research Library.

RMRL
CPT Campus, Taramani

August 19

- **Ride:** Madras Day Heritage Ride. OMR - Thirukazhukundram. Ride Distance: 100 km. For more information about the ride, contact Cycling Yogis / Ramanujar Moulana. Ph: 98840 23123
- **Nature Walk:** Exploring Nanmangalam Conducted by Care Earth Trust.
- **Tour:** Tour of the Stone Sculpture Gallery, Madras Museum conducted by Dr. Chithra Madhavan. Organised by Namma Mylapore.
- **Tour:** Justice Party Heritage Tour – North Madras led by Govi Lenin, Editor-in-Charge, *Nakheeran* (van).

5 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Registration is mandatory

6.30 a.m. - 8.30 a.m.
To register: careearthtrails@gmail.com.

11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m
Registration: nammamylapore10@gmail.com

6 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Cost: Rs. 400 (Breakfast included)
Assemble at: Side entrance to Ripon Building (opp Periamet mosque).
For registrations: kaniyanheritage@gmail.com (or) call 94440 77171

- **Walk:** Bird Walk at Perumbakkam Tank. Group Size: 25. Please bring binoculars and cameras. Organised by Madras Naturalists' Society (MNS).

Reporting time: 6.30 a.m.
Reporting Place: Bus stand opp IT Park near Toll Plaza in Perumbakkam.
Email Vijay: gopivkumar58@gmail.com for participation. Confirmation strictly on first-come basis.

- **Quiz:** *The Murugappa Madras Quotient (MMQ) Quiz*. Your favourite quiz about your favorite city is back with its 8th edition and here is your chance to win name, fame and fortune for you and your school! Organised by Murugappa Group.

1 p.m. onwards
St. Bede's Auditorium, No. 37, San Thomé High Road, Santhome, Chennai 600 004

- **Tree Walk:** Jeth Nagar, Mandaveli. Organised by Nizhal.

5-6 p.m.
Starting outside Navasuja Sankara Nethralaya, Mandaveli.
Registration: 95000 34187

6-7.30 p.m
Hotel Maris, Cathedral Road

- **Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture:** Pavithra Srinivasan on *Madras in Miniature* and presents her work of sketching several of the city's architectural masterpieces. Organised by *Madras Musings*.

7-9 a.m.
Assemble before Madras High Court Museum by 7 a.m.
Entrance to High Court from Prakasam Salai only (Opposite to Raja Annamalai Mandram and adjacent to police station).

August 20

- **Presentation:** *Rediscovering the graceful arch bridges of Madras* – presentation by D. Hemachandra Rao. Organised by the Press Institute of India (PII).
- **Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture:** Rosella Stephen moderates a panel discussion on *North Rising: How North Chennai is finding its groove, with gaana, rock and hip hop*. Organised by *Madras Musings*.

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

6 -7.30 p.m
The Park
Nungambakkam High Road

August 21

- **Presentation:** *In Kancheepuram – A photographer's journey* – presentation by D. Krishnan. Organised by PII.
- **Presentation by Chennai Heritage:** *Golden jubilee of a city landmark* – a dramatised rendition of 50 years of Hotel Savera. Organised by *Madras Musings*.

5 p.m.
PII

6 -7.30 p.m
Hotel Savera

August 21 - September 15

- **Painting Exhibition:** *Chennai – a dual emotion in Abstraction and Figuration* by A.Viswam and N.S. Manoharan Opening on: August 21, at 5.30 pm

10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Forum Art Gallery, Adyar

August 22

- Screening of the documentary *An American in Madras*. The documentary traces Ellis R. Dungan's life in India as a celebrated director in the Tamil film industry from 1935-50.

2:30 p.m - 4:15 p.m.
Auditorium, U.S. Consulate
General Chennai

* All ORF talks are open to the public provided you register and confirm participation with your mobile number by previous Thursday. For cancellation SMS: 98410 10718.

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

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

- **Presentation:** *The Parthasarathy Temple, Triplicane – History, sculpture, architecture and inscriptions.* A presentation by Chithra Madhavan. Organised by PII. 5 p.m. PII
 - **Talk:** *Ways the Dravidian Movement uses stories. Facilitated by the World Storytelling Institute.* Call: 98403 94282; Email: info@storytellinginstitute.org; Webpage: www.storytellinginstitute.org 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Sagar Vihar Restaurant, on Marina Beach near RK Salai
 - **Talk:** *Covering Sports in Madras – A Senior Journalist recalls his experiences of over fifty years by Partab Ramchand.* Organised by PII. 6 p.m. PII
 - **Talk and Q&A: Chennai Heritage Presentation:** *Hindi films made in Madras – presentation by Mohan V. Raman.* Organised by *Madras Musings.* 7-8.30 p.m. The Hyatt, Anna Salai
- Till August 22**
- Celebrate Chennai, Celebrate its Games. (*Chennai Kondattam, Vilayadalam, Kondadalam.*) To celebrate the rich history of games, *Kreedaa* has been conducting from July 16th, a month-long road show culminating with Madras Week. A specially decorated vehicle will travel through Chennai for over a month, visiting schools, orphanages, old age homes, offices, apartments and even metro stations. If you would like the *Kreedaa* team to visit you, email it at info@kreedagames.com or call 98417 48309.
- August 23**
- Panel discussion on We the People - Madras' Historic Ties with the United States. Eminent historians will trace the historic ties between Chennai and United States spanning more than a century. Organised by U.S. Consulate, Chennai. 3:00 p.m. - 5 p.m. Auditorium, Women's Christian College
- August 23**
- **Presentation:** *Agni Vasantham – An audience with Aravaan in the streets of Chennai* by Meenakshi Madan. Organised by PII. 5 p.m. (PII)
 - சென்னையின் சித்தர்கள்: பட்டினத்தார். குணங்குடி மஸ்தான் சாஹிபு & வள்ளலார் உரையாற்றுவதன் முனைவர். கரு ஆறுமுத்தமிழன் 5 p.m. RMRL, CPT Campus, Taramani Contact: 044 2254 2551
 - **Talk:** *Talk on Historic Temples Around Chennai* by Dr. Chithra Madhavan. Organised by Tattvaloka. 6 p.m. Tattvaloka, Eldams Road
 - **Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture:** *Pacchayappa's Will* by Sriram V. Organised by *Madras Musings.* 6 -7.30 p.m. The Folly, Amethyst, Whites Road
- August 24**
- **Lecture-demo:** *A peep into the 2000-year-old Sangam Age through Bharatanatyam* by Lakshmi Ramawamy. Organised by PII. 5 p.m. PII
 - **Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture:** The story of how a bunch of slum children from Chennai went to sing in the US by Sriram Ayer of Nalanda Way Foundation. Organised by *Madras Musings.* 6-7.30 p.m. Chamiers, Chamiers Road
- August 25**
- **Exhibition:** Anglo Indian Crafts & Cuisine Fair. Celebrating the Anglo Indian spirit of Chennai. The Fair will offer sales of craftworks and products of current Anglo Indian entrepreneurs, mouth-watering food as cooked in homes in Royapuram, Vepery and Perambur, and, music. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. St George's School campus, Poonamallee High Road. Hosted by the Forum of Anglo Indian Women, Chennai
 - Rare book display by Madras Literary Society. Organised by Madras Literary Society (MLS). For non-members of MLS: Rs. 100. 10.30 a.m.-4.30 p.m. Madras Literary Society For details: madrasliterarysociety@gmail.com; 044 2827 9666; 94442 53532
 - **Talk:** *Sports and Past Time* by Dr. Sumanth Raman. Organised by ORF, Chennai Chapter. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. ORF-C Conference Hall, Reliance Building, Dr. Radhakrishnan Road, Chennai 600 004.
- **Talk:** *Caste Conflicts In Colonial Madras* by K.R.A. Narasiah. Organised by Madras Literary Society (MLS). For non-members of MLS: Rs. 100. 10 a.m.-11 a.m. Madras Literary Society For details: madrasliterarysociety@gmail.com; 044 2827 9666; 9444253532
 - **Story Telling** on Madras Literary Society by Story tellers from Kadhai Kamamishu (Lavanya Srinivas). Organised by Madras Literary Society (MLS). For non-members of MLS: Rs. 100. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Madras Literary Society For details: madrasliterarysociety@gmail.com; 044 2827 9666; 9444253532
 - **Walk:** *Butterfly Walk* at Adyar Poonga. Organised by MNS. Group size: 25. Please bring binoculars and cameras. Car parking, entrance and camera fees payable as per rules. Reporting time: 2.15 p.m. Email Vijay: gopivkumar58@gmail.com for participation. Confirmation strictly on first-come basis.
 - **Tree Walk:** Explore the natural heritage of the Institute of Mental Health, Kilpauk. Organised by Nizhal. 4.30-5.30 p.m. Starting at IMH main gate. Registration: 98415 26431
 - **Lecture-demo:** *Gujili Ilakkiam – Voice of the Madras layman* by Nivedita Louis. Organised by PII. 5 p.m. PII
 - **Tree Walk:** Chintadripet. Organised by Nizhal. 5-6 p.m. Starting at May Day Park gate Registration: 94450 28067
 - **Talk: Chennai Heritage Lecture:** *Masterpieces of the Madras Museum* by Dr. Chithra Madhavan. Organised by *Madras Musings.* 6-7.30 p.m. Hanu Reddy Residences Poes Gardens
 - **Walk:** *Trace Origin of Madras – 6th Annual Heritage & Eco-Walk* at Pulicat. Conducted by: Xavier Benedict. 7 a.m -3:30 p.m. To register: info@aarde.in / 9884453409.
- August 26**
- **Tour:** *Tamil Jains and Madras – from Puzhal, Vilankadu, Thiruvallur, etc.* Led by Kanaka Ajithadoss (van). 6 a.m -11:30 a.m. Cost: Rs. 500 (Breakfast included) Assemble at Nageswara Rao Park entrance, Mylapore For registrations: kaniyanheritage@gmail.com (or) call 94440 77171
 - **Walk:** Chennai Port Walk and Sail led by KRA Narasiah. Organised by Royal Madras Yacht Club 6.30 a.m.-12.00 p.m. Cost: Rs. 1000 per head which includes breakfast, port entry passes. Sail is optional at Rs. 500 extra. To register please send us your name and age by mail rmycheritagewalkandsail@gmail.com or v_sara@yahoo.com or call Saravanan 99626-12255 , Ramesh 92821-07449. Prior registration is a must for this walk.
- **Quiz:** Military History quiz for college students. The quiz, covering the history of all three branches of the Indian Armed Forces from their colonial origins to the present-day engagement, will offer attractive cash prizes to the winning team and at least five other teams that top the contest. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. CPR Convention Centre Alwarpet Organised by the Colours of Glory Foundation.
 - **Heritage Tour:** Tour of Bronze Gallery, Madras Museum, conducted by Dr. Chithra Madhavan. Organised by Namma Mylapore. 11 a.m. -12.30 p.m. Register: nammamylapore10@gmail.com
 - **Walk** Explore the St. Thomas English Church, San Thomé. 100 m south of San Thomé Cathedral. 4.30 p.m.-5.30 p.m. Register: stthomasenglishchurch@gmail.com
 - **Tree Walk:** Chitlapakkam Neer Vanam. Organised by Nizhal. 5 p.m.-6 p.m. Chitlapakkam Neer Vanam. Registrations @ 9840627376
 - **Tree Walk:** Kotturpuram Tree Park. Organised by Nizhal. 5 to 6 pm. River View Road, Kotturpuram Registration: 97910 29568
 - **Talk and Q&A: Chennai Heritage Lecture:** *From a Farm to a Forest* by Janaki Lenin. Organised by *Madras Musings.* 6 -7.30 p.m. Residency Towers, T. Nagar
- August 27**
- **Quiz:** The DakshinaChitra Heritage Quiz for school children. Open to students of 6th, 7th and 8th standards from Matriculation, CBSE and ICSE schools. No participation fee for the Quiz. DakshinaChitra Organised by DakshinaChitra.
- August 28**
- **Talk:** Nivedita Louis on "Wonder women of Madras". Organised by Rotary Club of Madras South. Rotary Club of Madras South Hotel Savera
- August 28-29**
- **MADRASTICALLY – Yours. Skit:** The Story of Madras; **Photo booth and blog; Exhibition stalls** on: (1). Madras to Chennai Food Stall (Madras street food); (2.) Black and White Tentkota (games, old movies, old cameras, studios and production houses); (3.) Double Damakas (history of hospitals, and statues); (4.) Streetory (photos, videos and games on old streets and places of Madras); (5.) Namma Military (Military history); (6.) Display of literary works relating to Madras and old paper cuttings; (7.) Heritage walk in College Campus; (8.) Handmade greeting cards, badges, bookmarks, on Madras culture and heritage.
 - **Exhibition:** A 2-day pictorial exhibition will feature images and write-ups on the history of the Indian Armed forces, besides video shows and power point presentations on the topic. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Stella Maris College auditorium Organised by the Colours of Glory Foundation.
- August 29**
- **Exhibition:** Indian Cuisine – to create awareness of the diversified traditional and authentic food culture across India. Stella Maris College Organised by the Department of History and Tourism, Stella Maris College.
 - **Quiz:** Quiz for School and College students. Organised by the Department of History and Tourism, Stella Maris College. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stella Maris College
- Till August 30**
- *'Chennai' N Vannangal.* An exhibition of art works by Madras-based artists A. Rajmohan, N. Jagadeesan, V. Ravichandran, N. Bhagavathi Sundaram and M.Ashok. The exhibition will display temple architecture, landscapes and realistic works. Organised by DakshinaChitra. DakshinaChitra
- Till August 31**
- *'Madras Miniatures* by Pavithra Srinivasan. A series of intricate, nuanced portraits that capture Chennai that is Madras - in a new, exciting way: through miniatures. Organised by DakshinaChitra. DakshinaChitra
- September 1**
- *The Madras Quiz (Madras Open Quiz).* Organised by Murugappa Group. 1 p.m. onwards St. Bede's Auditorium, No: 37, Santhome High Road, Santhome, Chennai – 600004
- Competitions**
- *Quiz on Anna Nagar.* 19th August 2018. **Registration before August 15th, 2018.** Organised by Nam Veedu, Nam Oor, Nam Kadhai. For details: 91-94442 53532/annanagarshg@gmail.com
 - *Drawing Competition – Junior / Senior Level.* (Age 2-5, 6-11, 11 and above) Topic on the spot. **Registration: Before August 15th 2018.** Organised by Nam Veedu, Nam Oor, Nam Kadhai. For details: 91-94442 53532/ annanagarshg@gmail.com
 - *Essay Competition for Senior Citizens.* The Senior Citizens Group of Besant Nagar and Mylapore (SCGOBNM) are organising an annual essay competition for senior citizens during the Madras Week. The topic is 'What does Madras Day mean to me in my twilight years?'The essay competition is open to all. There is no entry fee.The essay is to be submitted in Word format (without any attachments) in English (about 600 words) to scgobn@gmail.com latest **by August 10.** Prizes will be awarded for the ten best entries. For details: Prof V.Chandrasekhar, President SCGOBNM: 9884224480
 - **Presentation:** Heritage of Chennai – Multimedia Presentation Contest for city schools. Contest date: August 21. E-mail to: themadrasday@gmail.com – and get the approval for your theme from us before you start working on the project. Organised by *Mylapore Times.* The contest encourages city school students to explore Chennai's heritage and present the topic given to you in multi-media form. The contest is open to school children studying in classes 8 to 12. The theme for this year is: **City's Natural Heritage.**
- Addresses for Venues**
- Alliance Francaise:** No.24, College Road, Nungambakkam; **Amethyst:** Next to Corporation Bank, White's Road, Royapettah; **Chamiers Anokhe:** 106 Chamier's Road, R.A. Puram, (diagonally opposite Sheraton Park); **C.P. Arts Centre:** 1, Eldam's Road, Alwarpet; **DakshinaChitra:** East Coast Road, Muttukadu. **Forum Art Gallery:** 57, 5th Street, Padmanabha Nagar, Adyar. **Gallery Sri Parvati:** 28/160, Eldam's Road, Alwarpet. **Hannu Reddy Residences:** 41/19, Poes Garden; **Luz House:** 176, Luz Church Road, Luz, Mylapore; **Madras Literary Society:** 45/16, College Rd, DPI Campus, Thousand Lights West, Thousand Lights; **Observer Research Foundation (ORF):** 5th Floor, A-1 Tower (Rear Wing), 89, Dr. Radhakrishnan Road; **Odyssey:** 45 & 47, 1st Main Road, Gandhi Nagar, Adyar; **Nahar Hall:** Deshbandhu Plaza, 47, Whites Road, Royapettah; **Press Institute of India:** Second Main Road, Taramani, CPT Campus, (behind M.S. Swaminathan Foundation); **Raman Auditorium:** AC Tech Campus, Anna University; **Roja Muthiah Research Library:** 3rd Cross Road, Rajiv Gandhi IT Expressway, CPT Campus, Taramani, (opposite Indira Nagar MRTS Station); **Seafarer's Club:** Opp. Reserve Bank of India, Rajaji Salai; **St. Bede's Auditorium:** No. 37, San Thomé High Road, San Thomé; **Tattvaloka:** 78, Eldam's Road, Teynampet; **The Folly:** No 28, Whites Road, Amethyst, next to Corporation Bank, Royapettah; **The Marina:** 39, College Road, Nungambakkam. **Westin, Velachery:** No. 154, Velachery Main Rd, Velachery.

Our Museum's wealth

Pala Art – such intricacy, such detail

In front of a small bay on the first floor of the main section of the Madras Museum hangs a board with 'Medieval Sculpture-Pala Sena' written on it. It is unfortunate that very few visitors to the museum notice it. Those who do, and those who pay close attention to the few sculptures of the Pala-Sena dynasties that are here, are richly rewarded. These artifacts belong to an era which was known for an efflorescence of artistic activity. The mighty Pala Emperors ruled over most of the present-day states of Bihar and West Bengal, and also Bangladesh for nearly four hundred years from the 8th to the 12th Centuries C.E.. and, for the most part, were contemporaries of the Cholas of South India. They were succeeded by the Senas.

An image of Ganesha of black stone, from Rajshahi in Bangladesh, is in this section of the Museum. Its damaged condition does not take anything away from the skill of the anonymous sculptor who carved it. The beautiful sculpture of this deity (*Nritta Ganapati*) is in a dance pose with the left leg slightly bent and resting on a lotus. Ganesha has three bends in the body (*tribhanga*), and has eight hands

which is a rarity. In the uppermost right hand Ganapati holds a garland of beads (*japa mala*), with just one finger. Another hand holds the axe (*parasu*), the third, unfortunately damaged, is in the gesture of assuring devotees not to fear (*abhaya hasta*) and the fourth right hand is seen hanging reaching down to the waist and holding an object which is not clearly seen.

The topmost left hand is stretched upward; the second holds the elephant-goad (*ankusha*), the third holds an object which is not clearly seen but could be the *pasha* (elephant-goad) and the fourth holds a bowl of *modaka*. Two tiny sculptures of Siva's attendants, one playing the cymbals and another the drums, are seen on either side. On one side of the base of the pedestal is Ganesha's mouse (*mushika*) and on the other side is a supplicant devotee.

There are two sculptures of Vishnu from Kanaipara in Mushirabad District, West Bengal, and another from Bihar. It is known that Hinduism, Vaishnavism in particular, was very popular in the Pala region, especially in the areas of present day West Bengal and Bangladesh.



On left: Dancing Ganesha and above: Vishnu (Pala Era).

One sculpture from Kanaipara is slightly damaged, but is a beautiful piece of art. Though carved with a back slab, the image seems almost removed from it. A keen observer will note that the weapons Vishnu carries in this sculpture are not in their usual places. The mace (*gada*) is held in the upper right hand where there is usually the discus (*chakra*); the *chakra* is held in the upper left

● by
Chithra Madhavan

hand where there usually is the conch (*sankha*) and the lower right hand is in *varada-hasta* (boon-conferring pose) with perhaps the lotus embedded in the palm. Unfortunately, the lower left hand which would once have held the *sankha*, is broken near the elbow. Flying celestials are seen at the top of the back slab while two attendant deities, one with a fly-whisk and another with a musical instrument flank this deity. The other sculpture of Vishnu from the same place is similar but less damaged. The carving of Vishnu from Bihar is almost like the ones from West Bengal, but since the hands are not damaged, the lower right hand with the lotus in it and also the conch in the lower left hand can be clearly seen.

In the Pala-Sena collection are also to be seen sculptures of Brahma, Surya and Uma-Maheshwara. The one of Uma-Maheshwara is eye-catching as such a carving is seldom seen in the temples of Tamil Nadu. Parvati is seated on Siva's right

lap and the pedestal on which they sit has Nandi carved beneath Siva and a lion sculpture beneath Parvati. A Siva *gana* merrily dances near Nandi with his outstretched left hand touching the foot of Siva.

The sculpture of Surya, standing straight and holding lotuses in both hands, conforms to all the iconographical details for this deity given in the scriptures. Seven horses are carved on the pedestal beneath, symbolically representing the chariot on which the Sun God travels upon. One can imagine how beautiful this carving would have looked before it was damaged. Brahma with an intricately carved halo and with the vehicle (*vahana*) Hamsa on the pedestal is another Pala masterpiece in this museum.

Buddhism was a thriving religion in the Pala times, especially in Bihar and numerous sculptures of various deities of this religion have survived till today. The Madras Museum's collection in the Pala-Sena section includes a sculpture of Tara, one of the most important deities in Buddhism. Standing absolutely straight, again with a back slab, and with two attendant deities, this image exudes serenity.

Incidentally, one of the most important connections between the medieval Tamil country and the Bengal area was the expedition sent by Rajendra Chola I in the 11th Century C.E.. His army defeated the Pala king and the waters of River Ganga were triumphantly brought to the Chola capital. Along with the sacred Ganga water also came many a Pala sculpture – in bronze and in

stone – many of which can be seen in Tamil Nadu today, some even in worship.

Such intricacy, such detail! It is such a pity most visitors to the museum don't stop and pay attention to these exhibits and a greater pity that our school textbooks say so little about this dynasty and its contribution to the art of India.

The Anglo-Indian Col. in the INA

(Continued from page 5)

A terminally ill Rash Behari Bose had by now decided on appointing fresh blood to lead the large INA organisation, which was somewhat rudderless. It was into this vacuum that Subhas Chandra Bose stepped in, coming in from Germany. S C Bose took over as the new Supreme Commander and recreated the so-called 'Second INA'. Stracey remained in Singapore as INA's Adjutant General (Singapore was the rear HQ while Rangoon, where Bose lived, was the front HQ) and was the person responsible for the 'A' branch.

(To be concluded)

Thank you, Donors

We today, publish donations received with thanks for the period upto August 15th.

– The Editor

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Celebrate Chennai, celebrate games

Chennai is home to a wide range of traditional games that have been played for years. The temples and monuments are home to numerous boards inscribed on the floors – boards native to Chennai and those that have travelled here through cultural exchange with neighbouring states and some that even seem to indicate an exchange with other countries. The beaches of Chennai with its wide range of beautiful shells and the tree-laden with seeds and fruit have inspired numerous games that have kept generations entertained.

To celebrate this rich history of games, Kreedaa – an organisation dedicated to promoting traditional sports – has been conducting a month-long road show culminating with Madras Day. A specially decorated vehicle will travel

throughout Chennai for over a month, visiting schools, orphanages, old age homes, offices, apartments and even metro stations. Special permission was given to conduct the games at all the metro stations. This unique event was conducted and sponsored by Kreedaa between July 16th and August 22, 2018.

The team was seen carrying a set of tables to set up the games and give people some insight into the magical world of traditional games of Chennai. It planned to cover as much of Chennai as possible, thus spreading awareness of the games across the city.

The event was flagged off from GR Complex Annexe on July 16th at 10.30 a.m. in the morning after a morning play session beginning at 9.30 am with office goers in the building,



The Kreedaa team with their gaming car.

Kreedaa is an organisation that has been working for over 15 years in researching, reviving, developing and retailing traditional games of India. The focus and objective of Kreedaa is

not just to revive the old games but also the spirit in which the games were played.

Kreedaa has a whole range of games from short solitaire ones played with locally available

materials to sophisticated board games focusing on strategy as well as complex games of dice. For more information email us at info@kreedagames.com or call 98417 48309.

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			
29	30	31				

Dates for Your Diary

Till August 19: DakshinaChitra is celebrating Onam Festival. The festival commemorates the Vamana avatar of Vishnu and the subsequent homecoming of the legendary Emperor Mahabali.

As part of the celebration,

Pallassana Social Development Society Kanyarkali Sangam led by Mr. Janardhan from Palakkad district will perform Kanyarkali, Parunthattam and Karunkaliattam, the ancient and traditional folk art forms of Kerala (at DakshinaChitra).



August 18-19: Workshop on Kerala Mural painting. DakshinaChitra is organising a Kerala mural painting workshop either on canvas or terracotta tile using acrylic colours. The workshop will be conducted by Mrs. Vasuki Lakshmi Narayanan, an expert in traditional Mural form. The partici-

pants will use the synthetic colours during the workshop.

Traditional Kerala Mural painting is done only in five colors (Panchavarna) such as yellow, red, and green, black and white. The human figures are stylised and that of animals and birds are more naturalistic in postures and most of the human

forms have facial expression and gestures tracing the theatrical elements in Koodiyattom and Kathakali (at DakshinaChitra).

For more information and to register, contact: 98417 77779, 2446 2435 / 2491 8943.



Till September 30: *Godhuli*, an exhibition inspired by the ancient pichwai tradition of nathdwara by Kamayani and Saloni (at Apparao Galleries).

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

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