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## From Editor's Desk . . .

*For internal circulation only*

Dear (s)

For the cricket fans, it has been great time. At Kolkatta India regained lost glory with a great win by innings and 57 runs with 4 centuries and a good team effort. The first ODI was win by a whisker; the second was more of a confirmation of Sachin's status as world's most adored cricketer. His form of recent times has been the best streak ever though he had remained unstoppable at many points. After 21 years in the game, perhaps eventually only his body rather than any bowler could get him and if he can continue to play his sixth WC, India would reach the pinnacle of glory. At Gwalior, he batted all 50 overs and breached a barrier that none had done in the 39 years of existence of ODI and 2961 of games – reaching 200.

Terrorism continues to haunt and the bomb blast at Pune is a great concern. The efforts to have peace dialogues becomes meaningless and the need for strong action keeps growing. More worrying is the ease with which the Maoists carried out their attack on a security camp in Midnapore district killing jawans of Eastern Frontier Rifles. That exposed the inadequate preparation, improper infrastructure and lack of strong will to deal with terrorism inside. The vulnerability of the force requires firm administrative measures to take upon the challenge and to arrest the deterioration. In the last few months, such attacks and killings have been on the increase and exposes the weak infrastructure of the police in WB as compared to the talented Grey Hound commandoes of AP. The problem could not be one of resources but more of morale and the clear direction from those at governance.

SYMA was very active and the website had thousands of hits especially on the day of Child Fest celebrations and thereafter. SYMA Gold Winner Child Fest 2010 attracted huge crowds on 6th and 7th of Feb 2010 and kudos to the administrators and Organisers for grandly organizing an event which saw participation closer to 4000. The results were on web immediately and many would have read of our activities at [www.syma.in](http://www.syma.in), which is unique this year. Full details of Child fest are inside.

We continue to toil towards reformation of society in our own way and the students of SYMA Growth are about to take on public examinations after full fledged systematic training. BLISS wishes them all the best and prays for all of them to come out with very good marks and continue their studies in progressive areas of their choice.

**With regards - Editor**

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## கோல்டு வின்னர் - சைமா 2010 குழந்தைகள் விழா

SYMA has been in the field of social service for more than 3 decades now and for almost 20 years we have been conducting Child Fest. Besides our focus on medical service (the running of free dispensary), education (our own tuition centre, providing uniforms to children, educational aid), civic concerns (recent desilting and cleaning of the temple tank, public amenity maintenance), we have always felt the need to imbibe in children the qualities of competitive spirit and participation in public events and to inculcate in them the thinking of doing something for the society. To create better environ for the children who lack opportunities, we are conducting competitions aimed at bringing the best in them. The numbers are growing every year so also the no. of schools that are participating. We do find the winners in our event promptly mentioned in the School notice board and in their house magazines – which shows the value of a prize in our competition. We ensure that no child returns empty handed and take special care in taking care of the children. Each participant gets a certificate with their name incorporated, a participation gift and warmth in reception.

We plan our events and have a team of volunteers in place for proper conduct of the show and have discussion after the conclusion to find out the lacunae. On the first day of Childfest(Saturday 6th Feb 2010) milling crowd of students and anxious parents marched to the venue – The NKT National Girls Higher Secondary School, Triplicane.

At 8.30 am the programme was inaugurated with invocation of God, and Presidential address by TA Sampathkumar. Doctors who have been rendering yeomen service at our Medical Centre and HM of Muslim High School who has been helping us in the tuition Centre – SYMA Growth inaugurated the function by lighting the traditional kuthuvilakku.

The first event was the Singing competition (classical). Next was the drawing competition for 6th to 12th further divided into 3 groups. At 11.30am Film songs Singing competition followed. At 1.00 clock, the Quiz Preliminary round for two groups – a written one consisting of 20 Questions with top 4 teams qualifying for the finals was conducted. It has been our endeavour to keep the children interested in the day to day happenings and develop their general knowledge manifold. There were no questions on the tinseldom but garnished with sports (ala cricket).

The much fancied competition where mothers vie with each other followed. This year saw more than 500 children being lined up for this. The volunteers of Soundarya Rathnamala have been of great help in organizing these, as they had done in the past many years.

To have semblance of order and to be of convenience to the children, we have divided the prize distribution into two. The winners of the Fancy dress competition were presented the awards on 6th itself. The Prize Distribution function started at 6.30 pm. It started with a prayer song

rendered by Mrs Prema Krishnamohan of Soundarya Rathnamala. The programme was compered by S Sampathkumar, TA Sampathkumar made the presidential address.

The Guests of Honour were Mr Gopinath of Vijay TV “Neeya Naana” fame and Mr V Jayaprakash, Sr VP of Star Health & Allied Insurance Co Ltd. Gopinath enthused the children with his speech. He advised that Indian parents have to learn appreciating more. He said that the gene factor ensured that Indian children were far intelligent than their counter parts in other countries but here the parents have the habit of thrusting their dreams and aspirations into the child and sometimes impede their natural growth. The child must be given the space to develop in the area of his choice. His speech perhaps would have made the parents rethink on what they had been doing to their children. Mr Jayaprakash, the Insurance Expert spoke briefly but impressively. Mementos were presented to them by Sanjeevi, the coordinator of Childfest and by our Secretary MA Sadagopan. Secretary SR Rangunathan gave the vote of thanks. The prize distribution to tiny tots followed. The function ended with National anthem.

On the second day, 3 events had been scheduled. The Drawing competition for Lkg to 5th Std; Instrumental Fusion and Dancing competition. Drawing competition being the individual entry, always draws largest number of participants and in some ways tough for the Organisers.

In Drawing, there were three groups : A of Lkg & Ukg; B of 1st & 2nd standards and C of 3rd, 4th & 5th standards. Each presented problems in their own unique ways. The First group was that of crawling babies and the parents intervention would be extraordinary, the second – would allow their wards but would be too anxious. The third one was of high volume. Milling crowds gathered at the school slowly filling everywhere. The registration form required for collection of student details was distributed at very many places by our volunteers. All the children were given gift and participation certificate. Keeping in mind, the enthusiasm of participating children, some travelling long distance, we did allow late comers, though it was a strain on those managing the affairs. As the crowds surged, there was shortage of certificates, which was managed by some smart thinking coupled with fast printing.

Then we had the Instrumental Fusion, organized for the first time. This was very interesting. The concluding programme was the Group Dance for children upto 5th standard which had tough competition in 14 teams out dancing each other. This has been a popular event. Special mention for the children from Corporation Middle School, Triplicane who come from low strata of society. Big hand to the teachers of the schools who exhibited total commitment.

The Prize Distribution started at 6.20 pm. The event started with prayer. S Sampathkumar compered the programme. Our President TA Sampathkumar rendered the Welcome Address and dwelt at length about SYMA's vision, mainly about our Hospital and Education programme – the Growth. The Chief Guests of the day were Mr M Murali of Sri Krishna Sweets and Vivek – the famous cine comedian. Our Secretary SR Ragnathan introduced Vivek. Mementoes were presented to Vivek by Durai alias Seshadri & to Murali by our Treasurer Sudarshan.

Vivek had a thundering applause and delivered a very entertaining speech. Extolling the vision of Bharathiyar, he said that with some publicity, he would easily have won the Nobel Prize. He said, Honble APJ is the supreme star of India and suggested that his birthday should be celebrated as students day. He entertained the audience with some short anecdotes. He quoted APJ as saying that waves are always inspirational – not because they fall but because they rise after every fall. TJ Ramani proposed the vote of thanks. We wish to place on record our special thanks to the main sponsor Gold Winner and to CR Sridhar & Media Dreams. We thank our other sponsors: Mangal Tirth Foundations, United India Insurance, Reynolds, Arun Ice Creams. Thanks are due to Principal & Staff of NKT Training college ; HM & staff of NKT National Girls Hr Sec school for providing the venue. We place on record our thanks to media specially Hindu Down town, Cheran, Ramesh Kapali for the stage barrigade and backdrop.

Our thanks are due to all volunteers of SYMA, NCC cadets (Mrs Uthra Sarang for organizing them), K Kesavan for the stylish certificate writing, SRP, D Veeraraghavan and conservancy staff (for cleaning), M Raguram for the masterly organizational skills, Durai, SRP & KS Varadharajan for organizing the prizes. We also thank Swaraj Graphics Mani, S Vivekanandan, Mr Kumaresan of Laxmi Priya & Satyam Layout for the printing support, Raghavendran, for the food and Photographer PS Babu.

Child Fest has been for individual talents and collective representation of schools. This year we instituted an award for the "Best performing school" which was sponsored by Sri Krishna Sweets and bagged by DAV Girls Sr. Secondary School Gopalapuram. All the prize winning children were called to the stage one by one and were handed over trophies and prizes. Mr Vivek & Murali remained with us till the very end and we are very thankful for the cooperation and the gesture. The programme ended with 'National Anthem'.

This year Sanjeevi Ragnathan led from the front by organizing a youth brigade and planning meticulously the event before hand. This energetic team was honoured on stage and we want them to continue their effort for many years to come. We are happy in congratulating the team consisting of K Parthasarathy, P Sathish, P Ranjithkumar, F Shabeer Ahamed, B Vinodh Banu, RP Kishore, Selvin, P Anand, TJ Santosh, Prasad, R Jayasudha, M Ranjini, N Varsha, P Saranya, S Revathi, K Divya, Siddika, T Gayathri, S Pavithra, B Saranya & MJ Aishwarya for their enthusiastic participation and assistance in conduct of the Child Fest. Good planning and cooperative participation are truly the traits of success

## கோடிக்கரை சரணாலயம்

Kodikarai, also known as Point Calimere is a low headland on the coromandel coast in the Cauvery river delta. The Point Calimere Wildlife & Bird sanctuary situate in an area of 24.17 km is known for migratory birds including the spoonbilled snadpier and greater flamingoes. Recently, SR Ragnathan, R Kannan, Sudarshan & Krishna made a trip to Kodikarai. The trip of sighting birds was so much enjoyable writes R Kannan.

The trip was arranged in a jiffy and we left at 4.00 in the afternoon by car. It was a long enjoyable drive ending at nagapattinam at 12.00 midnight, knocking at the door of a government guest house to let us in. The combined snoring level in the room would have subdued a Ferrari f1 car at its full rev !! starting at 4.30 early morning, the next day, we reached kodikarai, some 65-70 kms from nagapattinam. On the some teams with torch light and binocular were surveying the areas for bird population. The time had been carefully chosen as the census of migratory birds by the forest department was on. We reached point calimere bird sanctuary at vedaranyam coast at around 6.30 am and, thanks to the guidance of the locals, reached the area where the birds congregate. Raghu was busy shooting the birds with his camera which was pretty heavy.

Later the Wild Life Warden who has a doctorate in studying migratory birds, reached that place in a Jeep and took us a km or so inwards to the sandy shore. We had to walk in a small swamp, muddy shore negotiating thorns and pebbles to where we could have a closer look at the birds. For me it was something like thousands of large birds, birds with huge wings, brown crows, yellow beaked bird, orange legged ones, whistling ones, birds flying in formation etc. but our learned friends identified them as Greater Flamingos, Grey Pelicans, Painted Storks, Marsh Sand Pipers, Pintail Ducks, Brown headed gulls etc. etc and their nationalities, Mongolia, Russia, Australia, Siberia, Pakistan. The birds from Pakistan and india were not fighting and were coexisting in the marshy area. We were told that the birds flew to srilanka for breakfast, back for lunch!! We had to politely refuse the kind offer to make us walk 55 kms of the shoreline to watch more birds!! Enroute to Chennai enjoyed the rustic scenes, the newly built Karaikal port, pubs, palappazham and cashew nuts on the panruti roadside and the marketplaces. With the excellent roads of NH-45 and with the help of GPS we were back at our place 8.00 pm. That night I was dreaming I was bird and flying to all the exotic locations in the world.

**Ques :** there are symbols which are intrinsic to the identity and heritage of Nation, known as National symbols. Just as we have National Flag, Bird, Tree etc., we now have a National Aquatic animal. Do you know what is the National Aquatic animal of India ?

**Ans : Pg 4**

## கல்விப்பணியில் சைமா

SYMA has been tirelessly pursuing the cause of providing quality education and last year saw the birth of SYMA Growth – our tuition centre aimed at steering students in the right way. As we draw closer to the public examinations, we arranged a farewell meeting for the students of the tuition centre on 13th Feb 2010 at NKT National Boys High School. Mr.K Ramachandran, Educationist and Executive of a reputed Software company was the chief guest who delivered an inspirational and thought provoking lecture to the students. He also gave some useful tips for facing the examinations in a prepared manner. He enumerated the story of a carpenter who on the anvil of retirement was given a chance to build a house, which he did not with the usual zest without realizing that this was to be offered to him for his long association. This was to make the students realize the need for doing everything with involvement and not just for the sake of doing. He quoted some top leaders and said that all were successful because of their hard work and commitment to their cause. He said one need to draw inspiration not only from highly successful people but from everything around. In olden days, only book, then radio, then newspaper, TV were the source of information but the present day children have so many avenues to learn. He advised children to desist from cinema and other entertainment at the time of examination. He impressed upon them the need to aim high and have big goals. He informed the students that at MIT students study history as also at Ford Motors. He gave practical advice not to narrow down and go in for specialties at the initial stage and wanted to have a strong foundation. The simple advice was not to read new things on the day of examination. After this stirring lecture, the students were provided sweet and snacks. We pray for resounding success of the students of our tuition centre.

**Ans :** The Centre recently declared the river dolphin as the 'national aquatic animal' This mammal is also said to represent the purity of the holy Ganga as it can only survive in pure and fresh water. *Platanista gangetica* has a

CHILDFEST 2010 IN NUMBERS		
Singing - Carnatic	38	87
Singing - Film	49	
Quiz (6th to 9th) : 19 schools	38	62
Quiz (10th to 12th) 12 Teams	24	
Drawing (Lkg - Ukg)	210	2810
Drawing (1st & 2nd)	458	
Drawing (3rd - 5th)	760	
Drawing (6th to 8th)	1132	
Drawing (9th & 10th)	101	
Drawing (11th & 12th)	149	
Fancy Dress (Lkg - 1st STD)	228	429
Fancy Dress (2nd - 5th)	201	
Instrumental Fusion (19 teams x 5)	95	95
Group Dance (Lkg - 5th) 14 Teams	96	96
	3579	3579

long pointed snout and also have visible teeth in both the upper and lower jaws. Dolphins tend to swim with one fin trailing along the substrate while rooting around with their beak to catch shrimp and fish.

This mammal has a forehead that rises steeply and has very small eyes. River Dolphins are solitary creatures and females tend to be larger than males. They are locally known as *susu*, because of the noise it makes while breathing. This species inhabits parts of the Ganges, Meghna and Brahmaputra rivers in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh, and the Karnaphuli River in Bangladesh.

River dolphin is a critically endangered species in India and therefore, has been included in the Schedule I for the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

அணுக வேண்டிய முகவரி : சைமா BUSS

சைமா மெடிக்கல் சென்டர்

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உறுப்பினர்களிடமிருந்து செய்திகள், துணுக்குகள் உபயோகக் குறிப்புகள் வரவேற்கப்படுகின்றன.

To

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