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From Editor's Desk . . .

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The Country has been rocked by scams and the PM has announced the Govt's decision to set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee to look into the 2G spectrum allocation scam. If the culprits get away the democracy itself would suffer a crippling blow. Earlier the winter session was washed out with Opposition demand for JPC. There were times when the debates in the robust Houses were heard and read with rapt attention and reverberated all over the country. After six decades of becoming the Republic, the functioning, role and the efficiency of the Parliament needs to be critically analysed and reviewed.

Turbulence brewed in Arab World as people's power was unleashed in Tunisia, Bahrain, Yemen, Egypt and Libya. The weapon seemingly is the will power and unison of people and the spirit is becoming infectious.

The IPL auction was gaudy and exposed many flaws on the way players were proposed and bought. There was mad chase for some whilst some went unsolicited. The leadership skills also bore a good price tag. Whether they are really worth the price will soon be to light. The 14 Nation Cricket WC tournament is on and in the initial stages we have seen some sterling performances from minnows. SYMA has associated itself with Cricket and with WC earlier also and this time, we are planning to run a contest for predicting the winners and star performers of the tournament. With this contest, we are trying to usher in more blood donors to our fold. More details in page 4

The Bombay High Court has confirmed the death sentence on Kasab in an unambiguous verdict clearly displaying that in matters of law emotion has no role. Still, the legal route of appeal to Apex Court is available and the Country will shell out more crores in protecting a criminal who waged a war against the country.

By abducting a Collector, Maoists in Orissa have again struck at the State and are holding the Govt. at ransom demanding release of some in custody. Though there are not much choices at this juncture, the Govt. needs to have a firmer resolve in tackling these menace. The assembly elections are round the corner and a challenging scenario appears to be emerging in the State. The equations have changed a lot. There has been tension in the coastal waters and complaints of harassment of Indian fishermen.

Our Child Fest was conducted well in two different days and two different venues and everything went on very smoothly, thanks to the efforts of the Committee and our volunteers. For those of you who could not attend, we have detailed report on the Child Fest.

Regards – S. Sampathkumar

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CHILD FEST 2011

Day 1 : 30 01 2011 Drawing Competitions

It was a different experience for us. We have seen milling crowds but after some years, we had to move to new venues and had planned a split show. Child Fest started with our feeling the need to create a congenial atmosphere promoting competitive spirit and to enthuse the school children to participate in extra curricular activities.

The majestic saffron coloured walls with Indo-sarsenic architecture has inspired many and created many worthy students. Hindu Higher Secondary School, a great learning centre producing eminent personalities and transforming the lives of tens of thousands of people into responsible citizens for the cause of nature building was the venue for the drawing competitions and on 30th Jan 11 most roads lead to 149 Big Street, Triplicane.

With the experience gained in the past, the competition was in 6 groups for students ranging from Lkg to 12th standard held at four different time – staggered to ensure that there were no two activities at any given time which helped us in crowd management.

A total list of 1500 participants would please any Organisation though this is low by SYMA's tall standards. The shift in venue and the dates being closer to the Public examinations probably caused to the reduced numbers. The numbers did not dampen the enthusiasm nor the quality. In fact the Judges found it extremely difficult to restrict the prize winners and in certain categories, picked up more than the specified numbers for the special prizes. The talent and attitude of today's children is so encouraging and many of the drawings made us realize the innate talent that is present.

The Programme was inaugurated in the morning by Mr Thirumalai, Head Master of Hindu High School. Appreciating the efforts of SYMA, he gave an inspiring speech to the students impressing upon them the need to study well, and do something back to the society when they grow. The programme started with traditional invocation to Lord and by lighting of 'kuthuvilakku' by Shri Thirumalai and TA Sampathkumar, President of SYMA. Volunteers of Soundarya Rathnamala, a group of others who were brought by Mrs Uthra Sarang, SYMA volunteers and others ensured that everything was according to the plans drawn up earlier.

The event was well coordinated by our Secretary R. Sanjeevi, whose team deserves special mention. Nestle India was at the venue providing their brand of snacks to students and parents as well. All the participating children were given prize and a Certificate commending their participation. In the end, the children and parents left with happiness writ large in their faces.

2nd day : Child Fest at MFC on 6th Feb 2011.

Child Fest is well known outside Triplicane but our conducting it outside the precincts of Triplicane was newer. Mylapore Fine Arts Academy provided the right place for the grand conduct.

For smooth conduct at a newer place, the working group of SYMA was at the Venue on the previous day and spent hours in studying the minutest details and planning the action on field. On the day of Competition i.e., 6th Feb 2011 – SYMA volunteers and Soundarya Rathnamala were ferried to the venue in a van arranged.

The venue looked colourful and the day started quite early. At around 0900 am, the day's events were inaugurated. S. Sampathkumar welcomed audience explaining briefly the concept of Child Fest and TA Sampathkumar presided over. Miss S. Saindhavi, playback singer inaugurated the Fete and lighted the kuthu vilakku alongwith the President and Soundarya Rathnamala.

Inaugurating the function, Ms Saindhavi said that she was happy to be in such a function of a Social Organisation of prominence and with her Sociology background was keen to do social service.

The First event was Singing of Carnatic songs. The stage at Mylapore Fine Arts had been the podium for great singers and this time, it was young students of various schools who actively participated. It was pleasant music to ears. The singers were judged by Mylai Sisters Revathi & Priyashree who also rendered a good song. The next event was Singing of Film songs which had enthusiastic participation.

Alongside, the Quiz preliminary which was a written round consisting of 20 Questions was held for Group A (6th to 9th) and Group B [10th to 12th] was held. Some of the questions were topical and tested the knowledge of the events that captured headlines in newspapers.

At 0100 noon – we had the finals of Quiz – first the A group, followed by B. This time, there was good no. of audience present and they answered some of the questions thrown at them, when the winning teams were not able to answer. The PPT show was the brainchild of Brahma Associates [thanks to N Rajaram, Sridhar Joshi and Sundar]. The Quiz was conducted by Sundar and S. Sampathkumar.

Variety of instruments accompanied by performers started pouring in and at 02.30 pm we had the competition 'Instrument Fusion' which was a team event of 4 students per team. It was indeed a great variety. Then came the most colourful performance of Group Dance – group of 6 forming a team @ 03.30 pm. The crowd was filling in large numbers – everywhere one can see painted children and anxious mothers. There were snails, peacocks, tiger,

Lord Ananjaneya, Budha, Gandhi, Barathiyar, science equipments and more – yes all beautiful children dressed and decorated capturing the attention and eyes of all. Unlike competitions elsewhere, at SYMA Fancy dress competition, there would be no dialogues or recitation of verses nor individual parading.

Since children came in huge numbers, after registration, they were given a token and were on stage in batches of 10. The Judges naturally had a tough time in deciding.

Thirumazhisai Kannan & Revathy ensured that photos of the well dressed children were taken and delivered on the spot. There was a huge contingent of SYMA volunteers readily available to do all chores. The group of Soundarya Rathnamala took care of the registration formalities and ensured distribution of certificates and gifts to all participants. Over all, it was a neatly organized colourful show.

At 0630 pm, we had the Prize Distribution Function. It was a great occasion as our Chief Guest for the evening was Hon'ble Thiru. Justice V. Ramasubramanian. Special Guests were Mrs Sudha Ragunathan and R. Ashwin.

The programme started with a prayer by Mrs Prema Krishna Mohan of Soundarya Rathnamala. S. Sampathkumar compered the programme, welcoming everyone and introducing the Chief Guests. T.A. Sampathkumar, President spoke on the various activities of SYMA and on the vision of SYMA, on its growth, and the impact that Child Fest had made in city schools was also touched upon.

It was indeed an honour to have Hon'ble Thiru. Justice V. Ramasubramanian known for great deliverance in judgments and known for his knowledge in literature and philosophy.

Her mellifluous voice has filled the air of many sabhas and it was great to have a great singer Ms Sudha Ragunathan on SYMA stage. The crowd turned rapturous to Ravichandran Ashwin, who is in WC squad. When history was created with India winning the WC on 25th June 1983, this tall intelligent off spinner was not even born. Now he has become a household name. By wishing him SYMA also wished the Indian Team to capture the WC.

Mrs Sudha Ragunathan spoke highly on the culture and recalled her receiving award in the hands of Justice on an earlier occasion and how she grew up thereafter. Silence descended at the venue as Justice Ramasubramanian made measured steps to the mike. There was rapt attention as had message for every one including the numerous children who were waiting to collect their prizes. He

delivered a powerful speech recalling freedom fighter Dalavai, Swami Vivekananda's letter to Alasinga and spoke of the reactions of Indian hoteliers on the day when US suffered a power cut. For children, he narrated a wonderful story 'on giving back' – the story of Dr Howard Kelly. The concluding lines of 'paid in full with one glass of milk' certainly made everyone realize the need for paying back to society.

He ended with a strong message that 'education and medicine' should not be the avenues for making money though unfortunately they are becoming costlier year after year.

Mrs Sudha rendition of 'kurai ondram illai' was a great gift to ears and everyone was spell bound. The tall suave R Ashwin is known for his spinning deliveries and 'carom' ball – here he spoke straight from his heart on the culture still being sustained in parts of the India with Tamilnadu leading its way.

SYMA owes its continuance to many good persons and besides the event sponsors Gold Winner and Media Associates CR Sredhar, we have the bounden duty to thank many of those without whose help conducting an event of this magnitude would not be possible. Formal Vote of thanks was rendered by our young Secretary R. Sanjeevi.

SYMA places on record our thanks to the event sponsor Gold Winner and CR Sredhar of Media Associates, Mangal Tirth Estates and its director Mr Balasubramaniam, Reynolds, Arun Ice Creams, Nestle for the assistance. Special thanks are due to KV Srinivasan for arranging our Special Guest. Special thanks are due to the management of Hindu Higher Secondary School and Mr Thirumalai for providing us the venue for our Drawing competition. Similarly, office bearers of Mylapore Fine Arts and Mr Krishnamurthy of Sri Parthasarathiswami sabha for the MFA venue. We thank Hindu Downtown for the press coverage. The smooth conduct of the event was due to the members of Soundarya Rathnamala and our volunteers. The work of our VP R Seshadri @ Durai stands out in arrangement of the prizes.

The Prize Distribution was a mega event as there were close to 200 prizes and our Chief Guests were kind enough to distribute all the prizes individually to the happiness of the winners and satisfaction of the parents. Besides individual winners, the overall 'School of the Event' award was bagged by DAV Girls Sr Secondary School, Gopalapuram, who retained the award by virtue of strong performance by their wards.

The meeting ended with singing of "National Anthem" by all. SYMA thanks you all.

Q: The 34th National Games is on. Do you know the famous industrial city which was earlier known as Sakchi till 1919 around which a great Industrialist built the present day modern city declared as 7th cleanest city of India in 2010 ? **Ans in Pg.4.**

WORLD CUP FEVER

The Cricket World Cup Fever is on. The present edition is the 10th WC. The inaugural version was in 1975 with 8 teams and India was captained by Srinivasa Venkatraghavan who also captained the team in 1979. The 1983 euphoria is too well known. In 1987 it was in India – 50 overs aside followed by 1992, 1996, 1999, 2003 and 2007. SYMA had felicitated Venkat in those years and in a grand function, the hero of 1983 final Krish Srikkanth was felicitated in Triplicane after the triumph. 14 Nations are vying now for the coveted trophy in the tournament co hosted by India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The preliminary round of 42 matches will decide the Quarter finalists. SYMA thinks it the apt occasion to join the bandwagon in celebrating the World Cup as also to enhance our list of blood donors.

The programme is being launched on 28th Feb 2011 at a function at Bharathiyar illam. Mr S Anantharaman, Divl Rly Manager, Chennai division, Southern Railway, will launch and release the Contest Form. Mr. K. A. Shankar, Executive Member, Tamilnadu Cricket Association (TNCA) and Asst. Director, TNCA Academy – will receive the first copy.

SYMA in service of the Nation will ensure propagation of blood donation and social service, whilst celebrating the ecstasy of the Cricket World Cup. Now it is an opportunity for Cricket fans. Predict the Performers and win Exciting Prizes. To win in Goldwinner- SYMA Cricket WC 2011 contest, all that You have to do is to answer the following, indicate whether you are a regular blood donor and willing to be donate and send in your entries to SYMA. The forms can be downloaded from our website www.syma.in also. The last date for sending the completed form is 15th March 2011. Of course, there would be prizes for the early birds also.

The questions are : The Winning Team ; The Runner – up Team; Team that will score maximum runs in a match; Man of the Match in the Final ; Man of the Tournament ; Teams that will reach the Semi- Finals : 1 , 2, 3, & 4 ; Batsman scoring highest aggregate runs ; Bowler taking the highest aggregate wickets; Indian Batsman scoring highest aggregate runs; Indian Bowler taking the highest aggregate wickets

The Rules are :

An individual can send only one entry

Filled in forms to be handed over to our volunteers or sent by post to SYMA

In the event of a tie, winner will be decided by draw of lots

Completed forms to reach us by : 15th March 2011

Organiser's decision is final and binding on all participants.

The forms are available with SYMA members and can be downloaded form our website also.

Answer : It is the city of Jamshedpur in Jharkhand, located in Chota Nagapuri plateay, bordered by rivers Subarnarekha and Kharkai. Sakchi was the village selected by Jamshedji Nusserwanji Tata to be the location of a planned steel city. It was named so in 1919 by Lord Chelmsford in honour of its founder, Jamshedji Nausserwanji Tata. The steel city is known as Tata after the Steel industry. The present day city encompasses the villages of Sakchi, Nutandih, Susidih and Jugsalai acquired by Steel Co. at the cost of Rs. 46,632.00. It was also declared as 7th richest city of India and 84th fastest growing city in the World.

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To _____

