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From President's Desk . . .

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Dear (s)

Aussies are not good losers and after losing they have been raving and ranting in finding excuses for their performance. The series saw the exits of giants Sourav Chandidas, an astute captain and the suave Jumbo Kumble. Great news for the cricket enthusiasts as India keeps beating England in the one dayers. For the Nation, it was a technological triumph as the indigenously built Moon impact probe with the tricolour painted on it, detached itself from Chandrayaan 1, stabilized its descent and hard landed in a place called the Shackleton crater in the south polar region. With the landing, India became only the fifth country to have successfully sent an artefact to the Moon's surface. Much would follow as this is touted to be forerunner of a lunar rover vehicle by 2012.

At SYMA we are planning conduct of Child Fest during January. An article on the attempt and aim of Child Fest is on page 2.

The State is confronted by problems such as unbearable powercuts; the World is going through an unprecedented financial crisis. The financial crisis has its impact in the South Asia as well and the economic clout has been dented significantly. Many commoners have lost money in the share market and many companies have reverted to severe austerity measures. In the crisis ridden US, Barack Obama's storming into the White House on the promise of change was celebrated on par with the founding of the Nation and Lincoln's proclamation of abolition of slavery in 1863. Obama is a great orator. Sadly many a times, Orators are mistaken for the learned. He needs to consummate the change to growth of the economy and betterment of the society.

We appreciate the services of our member Viswanathan who scored a century of sorts. There is also an article by Kamesh Srinivasan, our member who has scaled great heights with his writings in the national daily.

With regards – TA Sampathkumar.

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CHILD FEST

SYMA is profoundly wedded to the cause of social service. We also hold dear to heart, betterment of living conditions and improvement of children. We strive to imbibe in today's children the spirit of competitiveness enhancing their confidence and leadership skills. Thoughtfully, we have embarked on conducting competitions in which students can fearlessly showcase their talents. Child Fest was born out of this dream. We have been conducting Child Fest for very many years now.

Come November, all roads lead to SYMA Childfest. The preparations start much earlier. We plan the minutest activity. The programme is scheduled in advance, the competitions that are to be held are fore thought. We have to finalise not only the Chief Guest, but also arrange for the Judges and volunteers. At the primary level, we reach out to all schools and educational institutions to enable sending their students to compete.

SYMA's value can be easily understood by the impressive turnout which is increasing every year. A glance at the School magazines reveal that winning in SYMA Childfest surely is mentioned as achievement by their wards. As is evident, the cultural extravaganza draws out huge crowds. We provide food also to those competing children. Acknowledgement of their efforts makes the children happy and we ensure that successful and motivated persons who are held high in the Society address them and the children could draw inspiration from them.

Last year we had the event organized on 3rd and 4th of November. The Prize Distribution function on the second day was embellished by the suave Ms Supriya Sahu, IAS, Ms Mahathi, famous singer and the affable entertainer Bosski. Statistically, the turnout was : Singing : Carnatic 37 ; Film 36. Quiz – 31 teams; (2 Groups) Drawing : LKG & UKG 128; 1 & 2 236; 3-5 636; 6 - 8 779; 9&10 297; 11&12 46; Fancy Dress :Lkg-1st : 210; 2-5 : 116. Group dance : 72.

Every November there are heavy rains and we have experienced trouble in organizing. More importantly, we have also observed that children experience various difficulty in reaching and presenting themselves – all these arising out of heavy rains. Though it is virtually hot throughout, the Chennai monsoon is between October to mid December, during which time Northeast monsoon is prevalent over the peninsula. Besides there have been threats from cyclone and depression in the bay impeding easy conduct of the programme. We are very keen that this should in no way affect the educational activities of children and this year, it has been resolved to conduct Child Fest during January.

10th and 11th of January 2009 are the dates for the Cultural Festival. So, do get ready for the celebrations. Come and strengthen us in organizing this Festival in a grandiose manner.

Some Cricket News...

The Test Series against Aussies is over but after defeat, they have exhibited to be sore losers. They have been whiffing out fanciful reasons. The burly Hayden who had no qualms in playing in IPL labelled the defeat to be some of those little frustrations happening with third world countries. A berated Punter in his 'Captain's Diary 2008' took upon Sunil Gavaskar blaming him that he was no angel in his playing days. Punter states of having a vivid image of the infamous incident occurred at Melbourne on 10th Feb 1981, when he was just 7 at that time.

Indians have not won many matches touring abroad. The earlier tour of 1976 was well fought though Aussies had a depleted side under the command of Simpson. The 1908-81 tour was marred by many dodgy decisions against the visitors. Ofcourse Players including Lillee did their bit to flare up the flames.

In the First test at Sydney, Australia won by an innings and 4 runs. The second test at Adelaide was drawn thanks to scintillating 174 by Sandip Patil. The Aussies who would immediately blame everything around including the Umpires had the inexperienced Rex Whitehead for all the 3 matches and he made many blunders.

In the final at Melbourne Gavaskar who had not had a distinguished tour was dismissed at 10 by in the first innings; India went on to make 237 powered by a glorious 114 by Gundappa Vishwanath. Aussies made 419. In the second, Indians put up a much better performance and Sunny was scoring runs freely alongwith lion-hearted Chetan Chauhan and had put up 165 when Lillee bent one back and appealed for leg before. Gavaskar on 70 kept pointing to the umpire that he had edged it on to the pads. When Sunny stood his ground scathing in apparent anger, Lillee advanced down the pitch and pointed out the pad letting out few expletives. The reluctantly moving Gavaskar was fuming at the comments of Lillee and instructed the non striker Chauhan to walk off the pitch. Chetan was bemused but had to accompany. Fortunately for the cricketing world, Manager Durrani and Babu Nadkarni intervened at the edge of the boundary preventing a forfeiture of the Test. As usual the aggressor was not commented upon but the little master's action was roundly criticized. It was poetic justice that Indians had the last laugh. Indians finished at 324 setting up a modest chase of 143. At stumps on 4th day, Aussies were 24/3 with Dyson, Wood and Greg back. Greg was bowled for a first ball by Karsan Ghavri. The next morning Kapil who was administered pain killers bowled on the trot to end up 5 for 28 dismissing them for a paltry 83. An Indian win by 59 runs.

Whilst we happily remember the result, Aussies still have amnesia of the event.

தானத்தில் சதம் கண்ட திரு.விஸ்வநாதன்

For long SYMA has been propagating the cause of blood donation. When the electronic media was not so overwhelming, SYMA volunteers would go from door to door propagating the need and in finding donors for patients in need. We have a shining example in **Sri S VISWANATHAN** who has donated blood more than 100 times and was honoured by the Governor SS Barnala on 30th Sept 2008 in a programme organized by the Tamilnadu State Aids Control Society.

The earliest documentation of blood transfusion is found in religious text of many civilizations. Still there is shortage of donors and many more can be saved by transfusion of blood in time. Blood is the magic potion which gives life to another person. Though there have been wondrous discoveries in Science, there is no replacement for human blood. Human blood has no substitute. Requirement of safe blood is increasing and regular voluntary blood donations are vital for blood transfusion services. The eligibility criteria is simple and anybody in 18-60 with a weight of above 50 kg with normal temperature, pulse rate and blood pressure can donate. Our body has 5.5 ltr of blood of which only 350 ml - 450 ml of blood is taken depending upon weight of donor. The withdrawn blood volume is restored within 24 hours and the hemoglobin and cell components are restored in 2 months. Therefore it is safe to donate blood every three months.

Modern blood transfusion basically deals with the optimal use of one unit of blood. One unit of whole blood is separated into components making it available to different patients according to their requirement. Thus one unit of blood is converted into packed cell volume, fresh frozen plasma, platelet concentrate, cryoprecipitate and granulocytes concentrate.

Still the % of voluntary donors is not exactly high. We are very proud that our member Viswanathan has been a towering example wedded to the cause of blood donation having donated blood for 101 times.

Viswanathan, 48 years of age is a man with purpose.

Besides his officialdom at Canara Bank, he has found enough time for social service. He distinguished as our Vice President twice earlier and has been our active member for very many years. He has actively guided and participated in many of our activities and blood donation is close to his heart. He was a Committee member of Madras Blood bank for two years. Many awards have been conferred which have been just incidental acknowledgement of his yeoman service.

Way back in 1989 Rotary club of Madras South West felicitated him. In 1999, he was honoured for having donated 75 times by the then Health Minister.

Canara Bank instituted an award honouring top 10 blood donors and he was the recipient of this award for two consecutive years in 1999 & 2000. In 2000 he was also honoured by the Indian Red Cross Society with a silver medal. His humane attitude helped saving the life of a road accident victim injured in the Beach Road in the mid night. Not many would dare to help a bleeding victim especially at that time of year. The good Samaritan in him braved the odds. He was conferred "Best Social worker" award by TN Cinema Kalai Manram and received the award from Kunnakudi Vaidyanathan & LR Easwari. He also received award from Lion Club International Dist 324 A5 Lioness club of Vishwamaitri on 23 1 07.

Age has not dithered him and he continues to be active in social life. Present day youngsters surely could draw inspiration from this Senior and carry on the good services.

BLISS is proud of the selfless sacrifice of our member. We wish him continued health and many more accolades.

Q : Chandrayaan has been a technological triumph for India. More than 2 decades ago, the first Indian went into space. Do you know where was this space craft launched, who travelled along and some facts of this mission ?

Answer in Pg 4

Mastery over the English language is considered one of the toughest propositions and it is of immense pride that one from our midst has risen to a great level of sports writer for the National daily known for very high standards in English. Our dear friend Kamesh Srinivasan, was born on Sept. 13, 1965 studied in Kellet High School and then graduated from Presidency (B Sc Stats). An active volunteer of SYMA who played with us in the Marina beach and conversed in the streets of Triplicane, subsequently moved to Delhi. Presently, he is a famous sports writer for The Hindu reporting on SAF, Commonwealth, Asian Games and the Olympics apart from World Cup Cricket. Perhaps Triplicane's first venture at Olympics. Here he writes on what he saw at Beijing.

KAMESH WRITES For SYMA – Beijing Olympics

I have been keen to share the experience of covering the Olympics with my friends from Triplicane. It is tough to do that in a few hundred words, for the Chinese had done such a wonderful job of packaging the Ultimate Olympics.

It is so tempting to talk about Usain Bolt, who was so audacious in winning the 100 metres that he was already celebrating in the last 10 metres while achieving a world record 9.69 seconds. Everyone including Carl Lewis is wondering whether the Jamaican is genuine, or dope driven. The progress has been phenomenal for the towering Bolt. In his defence, it can be pointed out that Bolt takes only 41.5 strides to cover the distance as against the general 45. That should partially explain his super human run. He looked every inch human when he ran that 200 metres to dismantle Michael Johnson's world record. The track at the Bird's Nest was too quick and Bolt was superb in winning three gold medals with three world records. The best quote that I would remember is, Bolt saying, "Am happy (Asafa) Powell got his gold", after the Jamaicans had pocketed the 4 x 100 metres gold. That was camaraderie. Anyway, it is equally tempting to talk about Michael Phelps, who had set his sight on eight gold medals in the Olympics even four years ago in Athens and has already won 14 gold medals in two editions. He could easily be rated the greatest Olympian ever.

India has won nine gold medals in more than 100 years !Yet, the real joy is in talking about our own Abhinav Bindra winning the gold medal, the first individual Olympic gold for India. He was absolutely out of the world in the final, which he finished with such authority with a 10.8 last shot that blew away the challenge in the climax of a nerve-wracking competition. The Chinese defending champion had to settle for silver on home ground, and wept inconsolably in full public glare through the rest of the day..

Few in Indian sports have pursued the Olympic gold with such hunger as Abhinav Bindra has. He had mastered the sport long ago, but the thing was to put it all together on the big stage. He showed his class in winning the World Championship gold in 2006, after having had to grapple with the disappointment of missing a medal in the Athens Games in 2004, owing to a faulty wooden floor. In Beijing, he made every Indian proud with that gold medal which he won in such a magnificent fashion. After the rifle was shooting all over the place during the trial period before the final, it was only a lion-hearted champion who could have set it right in two minutes and held his nerves to shoot the best. Having seen the boy grow so brilliantly in the last 10 years, it is easy to say that Abhinav Bindra is the best Olympic torch-bearer for Indian sports.

There is plenty to talk about the Beijing Games and Indian sports. May be we can do it till the next Games comes around in London in 2012.

வருந்துகிறோம்

நமது சங்க செயற்குழு உறுப்பினர் திரு. D.V.ராகவன் அவர்களின் தந்தையார் திரு ஜெ. துரைக்கண்ணு (76) 30.10.2008 அன்று இயற்கை எய்தினார். அன்னாரின் மறைவுக்கு BLISS தனது ஆழ்ந்த இரங்கலைத் தெரிவிக்கிறது.

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அணுக வேண்டிய முகவரி : **சைமா BLISS**

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Ans : Sqn. Leader Rakesh Sharma, born in Patiala in 1949 was the first Indian to go into space. The manned space program of the Indian Space Research Organisation has depended entirely upon Russia, and the first Indian cosmonaut became the 138th man into space, he spent eight days in space aboard Salyut 7. On 2nd April 1984, he went aboard Soyuz T 11 along with two other Soviet cosmonauts. During the flight, he conducted multi-spectral photography of northern India in anticipation of the construction of hydroelectric power stations in the Himalayas. This spacecraft took off from Baikonur in Moscow.

To
