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From President's Desk . . . **Wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2009** *For internal circulation only*
Dear (s)

We are busy preparing for our annual cultural bonanza – the Child Fest. Request you to all attend and help us in successful holding of the function.

The Nation is limping back to normalcy after the Mumbai siege. We salute the fearless jawans who displayed fortitude in defending the Nation. Even a month after the massacre, the Nation seemingly has not made much headway in formulating policy to counter terrorism. To cast doubts on the sacrifice of a relentless officer was indeed ignominious. There is some debate on whether Kasab must be defended legally though his conviction is inevitable going by the evidence available. Though the usual legal position in India is that every person who has been accused of criminal charges is entitled to be defended – this is a case where this criminal waged war on the country and why should the Nation be obliged to defend war criminal is the moot question.

One of the worst maladies after partition has been Kashmir and the reference to the Security Council of UN by Govt of India. The UN resolution 47 (1948) on plebiscite is much talked about almost 5 decades thereafter. Viewed in this background, the huge voter turnout in the Jammu & Kashmir assembly elections was a vote for democracy and national integration. Four years after the black Sunday when Tsunami battered the coastline, the victims are still to be rehabilitated fully. Many social welfare organizations sprung to provide immediate succour but the position of the victims continues to be unhealthy .

They would claim to play the game hard way but when defeated they crib very badly. After bad mouthing reasons for their defeat in India, Ponting blamed the pitch for their conceding mammoth 400 + runs in the fourth innings. It is not great news either at Melbourne.

With regards – TA Sampathkumar.

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Myth to reality: Saraswati is set to flow again.

The legend of the mighty Saraswati river has lived on in India since time immemorial. In the recent past, people associated it to be a mystical invisible river that probably flows under the ground confluencing at Allahabad meeting the other two rivers Ganges and Yamuna. The river is divinely associated with the Goddess of learning and worshipped. Ancient Hindu scriptures & Vedas are full of tantalising hymns about it being the life-stream of the people. Mythology has it that Saraswati, a majestic river, after originating in Himalaya flowed through present day Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat prior to joining the Arabian Sea. The Rig Veda praises the river as: *ambitambe naditambe devitambe saraswati*.

The river was obliterated within a short span, in the Quarternary period of the Cenozoic era, through a combination of destructive catastrophic events. The decline of the river appears to have commenced between 5000 and 3000 B.C., probably precipitated by a major tectonic event in the Siwalik Hills of Sirmur region. Geological studies reveal that the massive landslides and avalanches were caused by destabilising tectonic events which occurred around the beginning of Pleistocene, about 1.7 million years ago in the entire Siwalik domain, extending from Potwar in Pakistan to Assam in India. Those disturbances, linked to uplift of the Himalayas, continued intermittently. Presumably, one of these events must have severed the glacier connection and cut off the supply of melt water from the glacier to this river; as a result, the Saraswati became non-perennial and dependent on monsoon rains.

The flowing of water in the river might soon become a reality. The myth may now be laid to rest forever as plans are afoot to revive a part of the course taken by this ancient river. The Haryana government has acquired almost 20 acres of land and work is under way on a 50 km-long channel in Kurukshetra, through which the river will flow again.

“The revival of the Saraswati will benefit countless people in the region as it will augment ground water resources. The plan is not to line with the river’s course with bricks so that water can permeate the ground. With ground water levels dipping to as low as 150 feet, the river’s revival may be a boon for parched Haryana. A boon that would not have been possible without the discovery of the river bed. A scientific team studied its mineral composition. Scientists from ISRO also carried out studies using space imagery and discovered a number of fossil valleys in upper central Haryana. A recent Conference has explored the validation of a consensus that the ancient civilization that emerged and prospered on the banks of the river Saraswati is the precursor to the civilization and soon this mythical river would flow and make everybody prosper.

Remembering a great Indian Chase...

Lot is happening in the cricket field down under. A series defeat handed by the Proteas & many records tumbled. Of late there have been some excellent fourth innings run chases. The tallest of them was the West Indian chase scoring 418 losing 7 against Aussies at St. Johns during May 2003. Not many would remember the third in the list when India beat the mighty West Indies in their own backyard way back in April 1976. The present era has witnessed some remarkable test wins but in the good olden days – wins were hard to come by and something overseas was great news to cheer about. The inaugural Prudential World Cup had just been won handsomely by the burly Clive Lloyd. In the first test at Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, Barbados – Indians were thrashed by an innings and 97 runs.

The third test was held at Port of Spain, Trinidad in April 1976. Windies scored 359 and dismissed India for 228. Aiming for a kill, WI declared their second innings at 271 for 6. The target set by Lloyd was a massive 403 and only once way back in 1948 had a team scored 400+ in the last innings. Added, the Indians were considered to be having a brittle line up but perhaps lots of courage and gumption. Indians like many others were having a dismal record in fourth innings. But history had its own unique way. India had a solid start with Sunny Gavaskar scoring a century aided by a brilliant 85 by the gutsy Amarnath. Vishy scored a classy 112. Brijesh closed the match with a good 49 and Indians had made history making 406 in 147 overs in fourth innings of a Test match losing only four wickets. This record stood for a long time till WI buried it in 2003 making 418 against the Aussies.

That significantly changed the way WI played their cricket – total reliance on pace and trying to mow down everything before them. In the next one it was a barrage of bouncers battering and bruising the batsmen. It was bloody carnage at Sabina park, Kingston, Jamaica. In the first essay the bespectacled Anshuman Gaekwad was hit all over the body and was bleeding but still managed a patient 81 before retiring due to injuries. Patel was also injured and Bedi was forced to declare at 306/6 not wanting to expose himself and Chandra. Windies scored 391 and the score card would never represent the carnage in the second essay. With crowd egging them on, the bowlers were literally aiming at the body of the batsmen and the visitors were searching for people to escort their injured to the hospital. The records would have it as 97 all out but as many as 5 Indians could not visit the crease nursing their injuries and declared absent hurt. Not many protested this even and this match would go in records as vastly one sided and very bad cricketing sense let loose on players.

Q: The legacy of British East India Co. owes a lot to Robert Clive, who began his career as a clerk at Fort St George when he was 19 and went on to become the Governor of Bengal. Remembered for the siege of Arcot in 1751 and Battle of Plassey, he died in 1774. Do you know the interesting facts on his return to his homeland?

Answer in Page 3

தியாகசீலர் துகாராம் ஒம்ப்ளே

A Nation must remember its martyrs and there are innumerable people who have done supreme sacrifices for the sake of Nation. Amongst them would stand tall Tukaram Omble.

Whilst the Nation was held hostage and Mumbai city was under siege, the focus was at the famous hotels. Much of the fact could be laid bare only because one of those insane on suicide mission was caught alive. The whole nation must thank and remember for ever ASI of Maharashtra Police -Tukaram Gopal Omble.

You can't see such brave acts even on cine screen. Here is the heroics of Tukaram Omble (48) from the versions available. The terrorists were well trained, had sophisticated arms and were shooting at will. Of the brave team of 20 policemen from DB Marg, only four were armed with two pistols and two SLRs or self-loading rifles. Our hero was armed with just a lathi yet held onto the terrorist's gun and let his body get riddled by the bullets. All credit should go to him and the brave team who intercepted the Skoda car driven by Kasab and Khan, who had unleashed mayhem in the heart of Mumbai and also gunned down Mumbai's three top cops on their way to Marine Drive. This beat was informed of the terrorists coming towards Girgaum; they barricaded the Girgaum Junction and waited for the silver-coloured Skoda which had been hijacked. It is stated that Omble jumped on his two wheeler and chased the car. The team from DB Marg had put up barricades which reduced the speed of the car. Omble stopped in front of the car forcings set up a change of direction. The car did stop some 50 feet away, put on the headlights in full beam and sprayed water on the windshield to hide their faces.

As providence would have it, two terrorists armed with kalashnikov assault rifles and hand grenades were challenged by a group of policemen armed only with grit and tenacity – they succeeded in killing one; most importantly in subduing and capturing the other. This was possible as one terrorist was busy controlling the car, Omble sprang himself on Amir Kasab and caught hold of the barrel of AK 47 rifle with both hands. A spray of bullets entered Omble's stomach and intestines but still he gallantly held on to the gun until his last breath, which prevented Kasab from shooting anyone else. The Team that was waiting with no sophisticated arms killed one of the terrorists and pounced and captured Kasab.

Tukaram Omble is no more and Outside building number 7 at the Worli Police Camp in central Mumbai is a floral tribute to Assistant Sub-Inspector Tukaram Gopal Omble. Shradhanjali written with marigold petals on the patch of foreground surrounded by yellow buildings that is home to some of Mumbai's police personnel.

It was here Omble had lived with his family, two college-going daughters and his wife, after the two older daughters were married and had moved elsewhere in the city. Today, a garland hangs over his framed photograph and incense sticks burn gently as a steady count of people come to mourn his death.

He is survived by his wife and four daughters. He is the greatest of Heroes whose act of exemplary courage has provided invaluable clues of the heinous crime perpetrated on the motherland.

All the citizens of the Nation owe a lot to him and should ensure that his family lives peacefully. He should be decorated with the Highest Civilan Award.

வாழ்த்துகிறோம்

நமது சங்க முன்னாள் செயற்குழு உறுப்பினர் திருமதி உத்ரா சாரங் அவர்களின் மகன் சிரஞ். ஸ்ரீராம் அவர்களுக்கும், செள. ஆர். ரேகாவிற்கும், 17.11.2008 அன்று திருமணம் நடைபெற்றது. மணமக்களை BLISS வாழ்த்துகிறது.

நமது சங்க முன்னாள் தலைவர் திரு. என்.கணபதி அவர்களின் புதல்வர் சிரஞ். ஜி.ராஜகோபாலன் அவர்களுக்கும் செள.ரித்துவிற்கும் 20.11.2008 அன்று திருமணம் நடைபெற்றது. மணமக்களை BLISS வாழ்த்துகிறது.

Answer : A person who started his life as a clerk, becoming a soldier, steward, Governor & was a steady upward graph. He is credited to securing India and ensuring a wealthy empire for the British crown. This military genius amassed wealth and had to defend his actions and was tried on corruption charges. Despite his vindication, on 22 November 1774 he committed suicide at his Berkeley Square home in London by stabbing himself with a pen-knife.

CHILD FEST 2008-2009

Venue :

N.K.T. National Girls Higher Secondary School, Dr. Besant Road, Chennai-5.

SYMA cordially invites you all to the function

INAUGURATION

on 10-1-2009, Saturday at 8.30 a.m. by

Thiru. V. KARTHIKEYAN, I.B.E.S.

Station Engineer, Doordarshan Kendra, Ch-5

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

on 11-1-2009, Sunday at 5.00 p.m.

Special Guests :

Thiru. A.R. PALANISAMY

Founder & Secretary, SEED

Thiru. JAMES VASANTHAN

Music Director

Sampathkumar T.A.
President

Seshadri R.
Nageswaran V.
Secretaries

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

10th January 2009, Saturday

11th January 2009, Sunday

S.No.	Event	Timings	S.No.	Event	Timings
1.	Singing Competition (Classical)	8.45 a.m.	1.	Drawing Competition (LKG to 5th Std)	10.00 a.m.
2.	Drawing Competition (6th to 12th Std)	11.00 a.m.	2.	Drama Competition	11.00 a.m.
3.	Singing Competition (Film Songs)	11.30 a.m.	3.	Dancing Competition (LKG to 5th Std)	3.00 p.m.
4.	Quiz Competition (Preliminary/Final)	1.00 p.m.	4.	Prize Distribution	5.00 p.m.
5.	Fancy Dress Competition				
	- Group - A (LKG, UKG & 1st Std)	3.30 p.m.			
	- Group - B (2nd to 5th Std)	5.00 p.m.			

உறுப்பினர்களிடமிருந்து செய்திகள், துணுக்குகள் உபயோகக் குறிப்புகள் வரவேற்கப்படுகின்றன.

அணுக வேண்டிய முகவரி : **சைமா BLISS**

சைமா மெடிக்கல் சென்டர்

29, துளசிங்க பெருமாள் கோயில் தெரு
திருவல்லிக்கேணி, சென்னை -600 005.

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இரத்ததானம்

நமது சங்க உறுப்பினர்கள் எம்.ஏ. சடகோபன் மற்றும் எம்.ஏ. ரங்கராஜன் ஆகியோர் ரத்ததானம் செய்தனர். இருவரையும் BLISS வாழ்த்துகிறது.

To
