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From Editor's Desk . . .

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Kudaunkulam is boiling cauldron - A few months ago, there were reports of some sinister designs keeping the agitations alive – now the agitations have turned violent. There are inherent contradictions of a “peaceful” “Gandhian” movement that the anti-Kudankulam agitation claims itself to be. A 4000-strong group of people moving towards a huge commission-ready nuclear power plant, however peaceful, is a certain law-and-order situation for the police and other security forces. They had to be stopped and when they were stopped, there was mayhem. That a group thinks that they can still stop fuel loading of the plant reactor even after SC refusing stay does not augur well for the Nation.

India stands at a crossroads, facing economic, demographic and global challenges. India does not possess abundance of natural resources and it is the primary duty of the Government to ensure that the natural resources are best utilized. If the recent report by India's Comptroller and Auditor General is accurate, then all the earlier scams would be no match for the present coal-gate. At a time, when concrete steps towards the path of development are desperately required, PM announced another tranche of \$10-million aid to Palestine and vowed to back Palestine's bid for full and equal membership of the U.N

On a totally different plane another concern of worry is the fatalities in road accidents, the deteriorating health care in city hospitals and the news that the suicide rate among men has risen considerably in Chennai. Chennai men are emotionally more brittle ! it could be due to various reasons including changing family dynamics, failure in studies, love affairs and more – but ending one's life can never be a solution to any problem.

For the Cricket obsessed Nation – the ICC T20 – the 4th World tournament to commence on Sept 18 in Sri Lanka would provide great entertainment. We are in the group with England and Afghanistan and a win over Afghan would ensure entry in to next round. In the solitary T20 at Chepauk where India lost by one run, Yuvraj Singh's return was special. It was symbolic of triumph over disease. In a life of extreme randomness, somebody rising from difficulty always gives delight. There was lusty cheering of the fighter all the way. There is also a news that BCCI has turned off the new jersey unveiled amidst much fanfare by Nike, Team India's apparel sponsors, and that Indian players would be in the old colour combination in a move triggered by superstition ! that the existing uniform is lucky.

Back in Triplicane, SYMA joined other organizations in protesting against the new granite floor and ungainly roofing inside Sri Parthasarathi Swami temple. Do read more about our Educational Aid programme and a report on Olympics by Kamesh inside..

- With Regards – S. Sampathkumar.

திருவல்லிக்கேணியில் இசைப்பள்ளி

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கல்விப்பணியில் சைமா

After more than 3 decades of meaningful existence and service to Society, presently SYMA is focussing on running the Medical centre and the tuition centre - SYMA Growth. Even before we launched our tuition centre, we have been providing uniforms to needy students. The demand and the nos. given by us have only been increasing every year. Every year, we have been making sincere efforts to enhance our reach and ensure that more students benefit from our Education Aid. We have been providing uniforms to children ensuring their attending school with dignity.

The 'Right to Education' enactment is of recent origin. At SYMA for decades, we have been placing enormous importance on educating children. Only education will uplift them to higher echelons. On Saturday 28th July 12, We conducted our 'Educational Aid Programme' in a grand manner. It is not mere distribution of uniforms, we felicitate toppers of all schools in Triplicane, recognize those who excelled in our tuition Centre 'SYMA Growth' besides providing financial aid to some students and also present SYMA Sewa Award.

This year the venue was Sudarshan hall of NKT National Girls High School, Triplicane. Our programme started at 06.30 pm with Prayer. Our Secretary, S Sampathkumar compered the programme, welcomed the Guests and introduced those on stage. Our President TA Sampathkumar in his Presidential address spoke about our various activities, tracing the origin, and dwelt at length on our vision and ideals. Every year we invite eminent persons whom the students can have as roll models.

We had met and invited our Hon'ble Mayor of Chennai Mr Saidai Sa Duraisamy and he had consented to be in our midst but unfortunately could not attend due to contingency. It was fitting that the nonagenarian Dr Sarojini Varadappan who is the President of the NKT Educational Society was the Chief Guest.

Dr N Ravichandran, CEO, Lucas TVS and Mr B Srinivasan, Councillor 116th Ward graced the occasion. Mr Balasubramanian of Mangal Tirth Estates who has been patronizing us was honoured.

Dr. Sarojini Varadappan, receipt of Padma Bhushan is the daughter of former Chief Minister of Madras, M. Bhaktavatsalam. Among her many recognitions- Padma Shri in 1973 and India's third highest civilian award, the Padma Bhushan for social service, stand out. Adding to her Masters in Political Science, she did MA Vaishnavism in her 80s, thus proving to be the constant source of encouragement for all to study, irrespective of age.

Kaizen is the Japanese word for "improvement", or "change for the better" - philosophy that focuses upon continuous improvement of processes. Lucas - TVS established in 1961 follows this and is a Deming Award winning Company. Our Guest of honour Dr N Ravichandran is the CEO of Lucas TVS. A man with 44 years of rich experience and a person who has won many accolades, he spoke on the need for staying away from entertainment and concentrating more on studies in an era

which offers plethora of opportunities with many avenues for distraction.

Mr B Srinivasan @ MGR Vasan – Councillor has been doing great service keeping Triplicane clean. He is simple and is easily accessible and has been helping us in all our endeavour in civic field. He was also on the dias and spoke nicely about SYMA.

This year, we had simplified the process and on the day of issuance of application were able to scrutinize and sanction the uniform to applicants, thereby ensuring that they do not have to come more than once. Uniforms were distributed in the function. Prior to that SYMA Sewa Award was conferred on Dr N Seetharaman, who has been rendering great service and has been a regular at our medical centre also. The toppers of 10th & 12th standards from various schools in Triplicane were honoured. Financial assistance to good performers of our tuition centre as also to some college students were distributed.

Secretary R Sanjeevi rendered the vote of thanks and the programme ended with National anthem. SYMA thanks all of you who have contributed in various manner, ensuring the success of this function and of all our other social service activities. Without you we will never be, what we are. SYMA looks forward to your continued patronage. We must place on record our thanks to Dr Sarojini Varadappan, Dr N Ravichandran and Mr BS Vasan for honouring us with their presence. Thanks are due to Mr AV Kasturirangan for fixing up the CEO of Lucas TVS. We heartily thank all our donors and our members who have contributed / collected with special mention to TA Sampathkumar / J Venkatesan & S. Sampathkumar. We thank Mr Balasubramanian of Mangal Tirth Estate for his presence and continued support. The Staff & management of NKT Girls higher secondary school, HM, Principal of NKT training college are thanked for providing us the premises. Special thanks are due to Mr S Venkatadri, HM NKT Boys High School and all Teachers who are helping us at SYMA Growth. The school toppers award is sponsored by TA Raman in memory of his mother Rajalakshmi Padmanabhan, while the Growth Award was instituted by Ms Bharathi Bhaskar. The prize to the topper of Growth in Maths is instituted by R. Kannan. We thank Swaraj Graphics for printing. The neat execution of distribution is wholesomely thanked for the valiant efforts of Mr Durai & R Seshadri, assisted by a host of volunteers including Venkatesh, DV Raghavan, Ms Thara, K Kesavan & Varsha. We thank the Press, especially Mr KV Srinivasan, SR Ragunathan and Mrs Lalitha Sai for the coverage. Special thanks to Mr Dalavaiswamy, Inspector D3 for all the support.

Our strength is always the support of people and together we will strive to make the Society a better place.

Q : The magnificent tiger, Panthera tigris has its pride of place as the national animal of India. Do you know what is the State Animal of Tamil Nadu ?

“THE SPIRIT OF OLYMPICS CAPTURED ALIVE”

2012 Olympics the greatest game show on earth concluded on 12th Aug 2012. India got 6 medals in the World's foremost sporting competition in which more than 10,000 athletes from 204 National Olympic Committees participated.

It was a privilege to cover the Olympics in London. It was so distinctly different to the ones that I had witnessed in Athens and Beijing. To share some of the experiences with the people that I had grown up with in Triplicane adds to that experience. From the time it was all cricket from morning till midnight, when you were either playing or discussing it thread bare with friends, there was a huge change when I moved to Delhi in 1989 to pursue the nuances of sports reporting.

My eyes had opened to the world of sports. It was an ocean and swimming in it was a rewarding experience. As a student I had almost exhausted the books on cricket in both at the British Council and Connemara Libraries. Cricket was a religion and Lord's was a temple. I was completely shocked not to feel anything while watching archery in Lord's during the London Games. Having got the taste of Wimbledon with Boris Becker winning it as a 17-year-old boy, I was again surprised not to feel the nostalgia, watching the Olympics in Wimbledon. Was never a great fan of football, so being close to the gigantic Wembley Stadium and watching Saina Nehwal and P. Kashyap in badminton at the Wembley Arena again did not shake me with its magnitude. Most of us have watched all the action, starting with the Indian performance and the greatness of Usain Bolt or Michael Phelps, or for that matter, the spectacular and unforgettable performances of so many more heroes and heroines in so many disciplines.

From the media point of view, the unique feature of the London Games was that the organisers did away with the idea of a 'Media village', where most of the media resides, in facilities that help you report round the clock for a global audience. We were in the heart of the city, with all its advantages and disadvantages. London with its double-decker buses and a fabulous transport system was quite efficient in helping the media move around, but it was not that easy to hop from one venue to another, soaking the action, and catching the tough deadlines. The lack of a Media village meant going through so many security checks at each venue, where they ask you to even remove your accreditation from your person, and the laptop from your bag for X-ray!

In Beijing, once you got out of the village early in the morning, it was one security check and the media transport carried you right into the media tribunes at every venue, and you just ran in and out with ease. In London, even if the bus had moved a metre away from the stand and was at a traffic signal, the discipline would not let them open the door! You wait for another 30 minutes, possibly writing a quick report in that time. Well, despite all the toughness

and constraints of operating to one's potential, most of us could not afford to miss the athletics action in the evenings. Usain Bolt among so many greats was just too good.

What struck one completely was the fact that the Jamaican giant was totally unselfish. He ran his hardest for his teammates Yohan Blake and company for getting the sprint world record. For the image that he had playfully built up as a 'living legend', Bolt was such a pure human at heart. The world may have doubted him, but Bolt knew it was his time, and told Blake, the World 100m champion, set for greater things, 'you came at a wrong time man'.

More than Bolt and all the superlative action, what completely won one's admiration was the way the Brits loved their sport. They filled the stadiums and were most knowledgeable. They made their presence felt, and they were right there at 8 a.m. to past midnight if required.

The way the superfast javelin trains emptied the thousands from the Olympic Park at night, when people patiently queued up, even amidst rain, was an unforgettable experience. The whole crowd moved into the trains without any check for tickets. For the media, it was again the best service, as our accreditation and an accompanying travel card would allow us the use of any transport, except private taxis!

London was a terrific experience, and it was a lesson on how great sporting action if planned judiciously would not lead to a financial drain. The world knew London, and it was the first city to host the Olympics a third time. London had nothing to prove and everything to gain from the greatest sporting extravaganza. Maybe, they learnt their lessons from Athens, and knew that nobody would be able to match Beijing for another 20 years!

For us Indians, there was a lot to learn and remember apart from the two silver and four bronze medals. If we have the enthusiasm of moving to stadiums early in the morning with family, the way London did, Indian sports would be in a totally different level.

We need the sports culture. I realised that if we can devote 20 per cent of our love for cricket to other games, we would be a sporting giant! Yet, I owe it to Triplicane and my friends for giving me a taste of sports and the healthy habit of discussing the game, rather than films! It was important to let go the love of cricket to imbibe the pleasures of other games.

Twenty years ago, I would have fainted at the gate of Lord's, or while walking into Wimbledon. Of course, it was another matter that one had to beat a hasty retreat from the Mecca of cricket, as the beautiful Deepika Kumari and company hit anything but the bull's eye in archery. Maybe, they were bigger cricket fans and unnerved by the experience of Lord's!

A first hand account of the Games exclusively for BLISS by Mr Kamesh Srinivasan, who lived in Triplicane. As a Senior Sports Journalist for 'The Hindu' he covered the last two Asian Games in Doha and Guangzhou, apart from the Olympics in Athens, Beijing and London, the Commonwealth Games in Manchester and New Delhi, apart from the SAF Games in Islamabad.

Tribute to SYMA Sewa award recipient Dr N SEETHARAMAN

In its continued endeavour in the field of Social service, SYMA has been honouring people who excel in the area of service to mankind and society. As a Service Organisation engaged in Social Service, it is bounden duty of SYMA to recognise those who have been rendering service to the Society without thinking of any recompense. SYMA has been honouring people who have excelled in the area of service to mankind and society by conferring SYMA SEWA AWARD. We have been running a medical Centre for more than a decade providing consultation and medicines free to poor. We are fortunate to have dedicated Doctors coming voluntarily and servicing at our Medical Centre.

The primary expectation of a patient is that one's troubles are listened to and is attended by a smiling veteran. That would cure half of the ailment – the rest take care of by the expert diagnosis and correct medication. This year's awardee is a person who would aptly fit in this definition - His name is synonymous with service and he has been associated with us for many years – the recipient of this year's Sewa Award is the gentle, kind and ever-friendly Dr. N. Seetharaman, whose special interest is in Child Health Care, particularly malnourished children.

Continuing the family tradition of Medical Service, this kind-hearted person has been serving the Society with steadfast devotion and exceptional commitment. Evincing a keen interest in child health care he also did a research study on measles. He combines his rich International experience with his compassion to the poor and needy and has been visiting our Medical Centre with exceptional commitment. Persons with such admirable qualities are rare and there are lot of things, which every youngster should learn from revered persons like Dr. N. Seetharaman.

We at SYMA have been largely motivated by him in our various activities, especially our Medical camps held from time to time. SYMA considers him a good role model and is proud to have bestowed the SYMA SEWA AWARD 2012 in recognition of his outstanding contributions in the field of medical service to the under privileged. We pray to Lord Srinivasa to continue to endow him and his family, long life, good health and vigour, enabling him to continue his service to the society for very many years to come.

மருத்துவப்பணியில் சைமா

It is not often SYMA conducts Medical camps outside the precincts of Triplicane – 22nd July 2012 offered one such opportunity. SYMA in association with 'Rotary Club of Madras South' conducted health camp at Rajakilapakkam, near Tambaram exclusively for the students of Mahaswami Vidya Mandir. The camp commenced at 9.00 am and ended at 1.00 noon.

We are thankful to the team of doctors headed by Dr Nagaiah Chetty and Dr Dhanush who checked up the students for respiratory, allergic and infections. Doctor and medical staff of Sankaya Eye hospital offered 'eye check-up'. Around 250 students were screened and about 18 students were provided free spectacles.

The efforts of Sadagopan MA in organizing this camp is appreciated.

Ans to Q in pg 2: A : That States also have Animals as symbols itself can be news. The state animal of Tamilnadu is an ungulate endemic o Nilgiri Hills called "varudai" in classical Tamil with references in Natrinai, Ainkurunuru & Pattinappalai. It is 'varaiaadu' – the Nilgiri tahr more closely related to the sheep. They are stocky goats with short, coarse fur and a bristly mane. They are known for their special trait of climbing and living on precipitous cliffs and rocky escarpment.



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உறுப்பினர்களிடமிருந்து செய்திகள், துணுக்குகள் உபயோகக் குறிப்புகள் வரவேற்கப்படுகின்றன.

To _____
