

MATRIX

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A PUBLICATION OF **THE SANMAR GROUP**



44th FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022 @ Chennai



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Chess Olympiad 2022



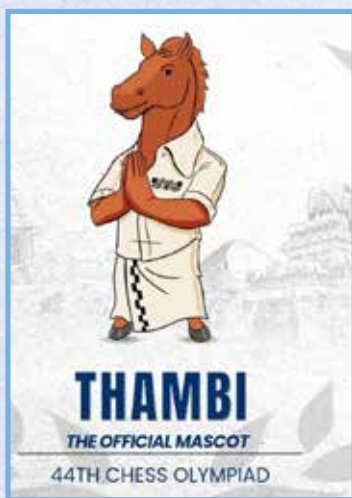
The 44th FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022 took place at the Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai from July 28 to August 9, 2022.

Inaugurating the tournament, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi recalled, “Tamil Nadu has a strong historical connection with chess. This is why it is a chess powerhouse of India.”

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin said that about 36% of

Indian grandmasters are from Tamil Nadu. Hence, Chennai can be rightly called the ‘chess capital of India’.

Tracing back the origins of chess to India, it is said to have originated as Chaturanga in the Gupta Empire before 6th century. “Chatur” mean four and “Anga” means part. Chaturanga thus means the four divisions, namely infantry, cavalry, elephantry and chariotry. These forms are represented by modern day Pawn, Knight, Bishop (earlier



Chennai's iconic Napier Bridge was painted like a chessboard for the 44th Chess Olympiad.

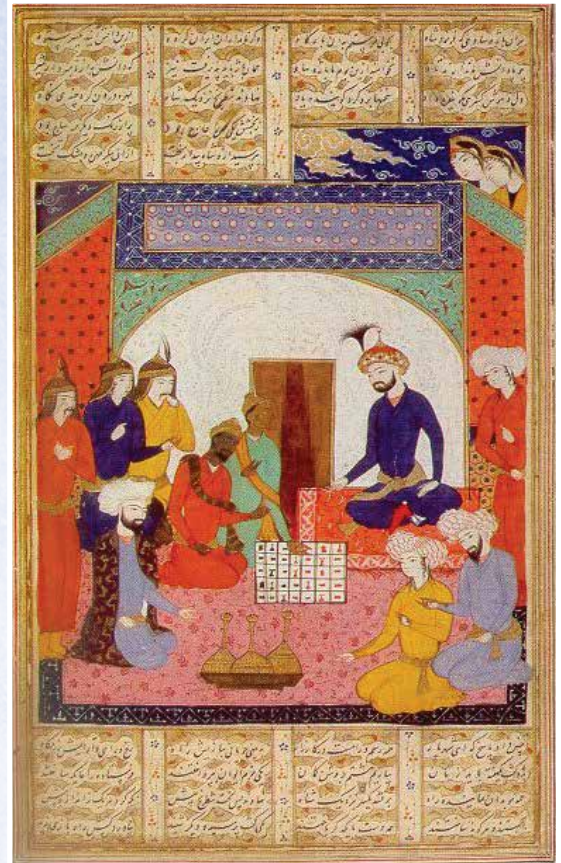
elephant) and rook (earlier Chariot) respectively. The Chaturanga is also said to have come from an earlier game of the Kushan Empire (50 BCE - 200 CE), from the region we now know as Afghanistan.

The game flourished in northwestern India by the 7th century and is regarded as the earliest precursor of modern chess because it had two key features found in all later chess variants—different pieces had different powers. The victory was based on one piece, the king of modern chess. However, the contemporary name chess is derived from the Persian word Shah, which means king, and the Persian term Shah Mat, which means “checkmate” (the king is helpless).

How chaturanga evolved is unclear. However, some historians say chaturanga, perhaps played with dice on a 64-square board, gradually transformed into shatranj (or chatrang), a two-player game popular in northern India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and southern parts of Central Asia after 600 CE. A game of shatranj could be won by eliminating all opponent’s pieces (barring the king) or ensuring the king’s capture.

The game spread to different parts of the world through traders, monks, and Muslim invaders. By the end of the 18th century, the chess set was often associated with wealth, knowledge, and power. It was a favourite of Kings Henry I, Henry II, John, and Richard I of England, Philip II and Alfonso X (the Wise) of Spain, and Ivan IV (the Terrible) of Russia. It was known as the royal game as early as the 15th century. Until the 18th century, the game underwent many changes in rules and became so popular that the French rulers had to ban the game for a few years.

The Chess Olympiad 2022 at Chennai had 1400 players from across the globe representing 187 countries competing on 700 boards at the Four Points by Sheraton Mamallapuram Resort and Convention Centre.



Indian ambassador introducing chess to the Persian court of Khosrow.



Antique North Indian Mughal Shatranj chess set.



Chess Olympiad 2022: IndiaTeens-Praggnanandhaa, Gukesh, Nihal and Raunak.



Uzbekistan, one of the youngest teams, defeated the Netherlands by 2.5-1.5 and secured the gold medal in the open section. While Ukraine claimed their second gold in the women's event, followed by Georgia with the silver medal, British player David Howell had the highest score for an individual player in the open event, scoring 7 ½ out of a possible 8 points with a performance rating of 2898. Oliwia Kiolbasa from Poland scored the highest individual in the women's event, scoring 9 ½ of a possible 11 points with a performance rating of 2565.

The first major international event was a series of six matches held in 1834 between the leading French and British players, Louis-Charles de la Bourdonnais of Paris and Alexander McDonnell of London, which ended with Bourdonnais' victory. A major chess event was reported extensively in newspapers and analysed in books for the first time. From then, there was no look back on this exciting board game.

Today we have the annual chess world championship and many grandmasters, both men and women, with Magnus Carlsen, the Norwegian chess grandmaster, the reigning five-time world chess champion. Currently, India has 75 Grandmasters - the highest title awarded to a player by FIDE, of which many are under 20 years and 125 international masters. Viswanathan Anand is an Indian chess grandmaster and a five-time world chess champion. He became the first grandmaster from India in 1988 and is one of the few players to have surpassed an Elo rating of 2800, a feat he first achieved in 2006.



Tiruvarur temple, proof of Tamil Nadu's ancient connect to chess

Historical Lord Shiva temple located in the Tiruvarur district is said to be associated with the game of chess. Precisely, the Tamil word 'Sathurangam' denotes the game of chess. The presiding deity of this ancient Shiva temple is 'Sathuranga Vallabhanathar'. According to legend, Lord Shiva adopted the name 'Sathuranga Vallabhanathar' after earning the right to wed the local king's daughter by outplaying her in a game of chess. Rajarajeswari, the princess, is thought to be a manifestation of the Goddess Parvathi.

The king promised to marry his daughter to whoever defeats her in a game of chess as she was a genius at the game. As no one could beat her, the worried king prayed to Lord Shiva. Legend has it that Lord Shiva first appeared as an old man or saint, overcame the difficulty of defeating Princess Rajarajeswari, and then shed his disguise to wed the 'Goddess'.

44th FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022 in Tamil Nadu

Founded in 1924 in Paris, the International Chess Federation (FIDE) organises the biennial Chess Olympiad with the host nation and several other sponsors. The first official event was hosted in 1927 by the United Kingdom in London, with Hungary taking the gold medal, followed by Denmark and England.

India hosted the 44th Chess Olympiad bringing the event to Asia after thirty years. Deploying 37 IAS officers, Tamil Nadu sanctioned Rs 92 crores for conducting the olympiad and chose Mamallapuram, the coastal town with historical and archaeological value. The olympiad mascot 'Thambi' was unveiled, and days before the event, music director AR Rahman released the 'Chess Anthem' featuring Chennai's Napier Bridge, decorated to resemble a chess board.

India clinched two bronze medals with 18 match points. Adhiban Baskaran is the only Indian to win two olympiads and the team that won the bronze in the 2022 Olympiad. While the team 'A' women's team also finished third and won bronze in the Chess Olympiad with an average

rating of 2486. It was India's first-ever medal at the olympiad in the women's section.

Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi became the seventh Indian to cross the 2700 Elo rating.

Indian A team won the Nona Gaprindashvili Cup at the 44th Chess Olympiad. The US was runner-up for this trophy. Besides the two medals in the team events, India also won seven individual medals, including two gold, one silver and four bronze.

The gala closing ceremony for the 44th Chennai Chess Olympiad took place at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on August 9, 2022 in the presence of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin along with FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich, Deputy President Viswanathan Anand, among other authorities. Indian siblings R Praggnanandhaa and R Vaishali shared the podium for bronze on board three.

At the end of the four-hour entertainment, FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich passed on the flag to Laszlo Szabo, President of the Hungarian Chess Federation. Budapest will be the 2024 venue.



Sanmar SAP head's son Srihari is an International Master in chess

Srihari Lalgudi Ravikumar, son of LS Ravikumar, Senior General Manager, SAP, IT division of The Sanmar Group, is a class XII student of Sunshine SSM School, Chromepet, aspiring to become the grandmaster by the end of next year. He has been playing chess since the age of seven. Srihari got his first IM norm in the IIFL Mumbai Open in January 2020. In Budapest, Srihari completed his remaining two IM norms in November 2021 (at the age of 15). He was officially conferred the title of IM by FIDE in January 2022.

The Tamil Nadu Online U-16 and U-20 Open Chess Champion, Srihari, carried the olympiad torch at Mahabalipuram at the Chess Olympiad 2022.



Crane and Sanmar - an Enduring Partnership

Visits by Crane Leadership to Sanmar



(L to R): Tarun Shivlani, Vijay Sankar, Max Mitchell, B Visweswaran and Hari Jinaga.

Crane and Sanmar enjoy a multifaceted relationship spanning over nearly two decades. Xomox Sanmar, which manufactures plug valves and other custom made valves for special applications is a successful joint venture between the two groups commanding a domestic market share in excess of 80%. In addition, it exports its products across the globe. Crane is also one of the largest customers of Sanmar's steel casting business and in addition, procures fully assembled valves for power sector applications from Sanmar.

The April to June 2022 quarter had two visits by Crane Leadership to Xomox Sanmar. On May 27, 2022 Alex Alcalá, Senior Vice President, Crane Company visited Sanmar along with Hari Jinaga, President, Crane India and Mark Youssef, President, Crane MEA. Alex Alcalá has over the years been a regular visitor to Xomox Sanmar and very supportive of the various initiatives taken by the Joint Venture for expansion and growth. Crane team also visited Sanmar Matrix Metals Limited and the SR Seshadri Training Institute.



Max Mitchell is all ears as N Angappan, Operations Head briefs on the various performance metrics of Xomox Sanmar.

On June 13-14, 2022 Sanmar was pleased to host Max Mitchell, President & CEO of Crane Company. Max Mitchell has been a strong proponent of the relationship with Sanmar. Vijay Sankar, Deputy Chairman, The Sanmar Group hosted a dinner in honour of Max Mitchell on June 13, 2022 at Chennai as well as a visit to Viralimalai on June 14, 2022. Max Mitchell was accompanied by Hari Jinaga and

Shopfloor visit of Xomox Sanmar.





(L to R): Ravindra Rao, Hari Jinaga, Mark Youssef, Alex Alcalá, Narayan Sethuramon, TV Nagaraju and K Praveen at Sanmar Matrix Metals.



(L to R): Crane team avidly listening as T Subramaniam explains the training given to new joinees at the SR Seshadri Training Institute.

Tarun Shivlani, Senior Vice President, Crane ChemPharma & Energy.

Both Max Mitchell and Alex Alcalá were appreciative of the progress made by the joint venture over the last few years and look forward to the joint venture maintaining the tempo of growth and pursuit of business excellence.



(L to R): Alex Alcalá explaining manufacturing concepts that Xomox Sanmar could implement in its expansion to the team.



(L to R): Tarun Shivlani, Shyam Kumar, Hari Jinaga, Vijay Sankar, Max Mitchell, S Dinesh, V Guruprasath and N Angappan at the new office of Xomox Sanmar.

Fifth meeting of India-Egypt Business Council

On the sidelines of the Government led India-Egypt Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting held in Cairo, the Fifth meeting of the India Egypt Business Council (IEBC) was organised between July 25 and 27, 2022. FICCI coordinated the IEBC meeting. Delegates representing various industries in India and Egypt attended.

PS Jayaraman, Chairman, TCI Sanmar Chemicals, co-chaired the Indian side of IEBC. Besides H.E. Ajit Gupte, Ambassador of India to Egypt, the conference was attended by several important dignitaries from both Governments. H.E. Ahmed Kouchouk, Vice Minister of Finance addressed the IEBC delegates.

On this occasion, TCI Sanmar hosted a dinner for all the visiting delegates and government functionaries. Several dignitaries including Shahat Ghatoury, Head of Customs, Dr Ashraf Abdel Aziz Al-Zayat, Undersecretary of the Ministry of



Finance (and Head of Large Tax Payers Unit), Reda Abdel Kader, Head of Taxes, Nesreen Lashin, Head of Investors Support Unit, Dr Amr El kilany, Deputy Director for the Minister of Trade & Industry and Manar Waly, Senior Investment Promotion Officer from GAFI were present at the dinner.

Besides PS Jayaraman and S Ganeshkumar, Managing Director, TCI Sanmar Chemicals, H.E. Ajit Gupte, Ambassador of India, Dr Srikar K Reddy, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and Shahat Ghatoury addressed the gathering.



Supporting investment and encouraging investors

Port Said Governor welcomes officials from TCI Sanmar and Indian Banks

Coinciding with the visit to TCI Sanmar's plant in Port Said, a delegation consisting of senior officers from nine Indian Banks, who have provided loans to TCI Sanmar Chemicals, met with H.E. Adel Mohamed Ibrahim Yousef Al Ghadhban, Governor of Port Said in his office on June 24, 2022. PS Jayaraman, Chairman and S Ganeshkumar, Managing Director of the company also participated in the meeting.

The governor of Port Said had all praise for the management of TCI Sanmar particularly for the efforts put in to create world class commodity chemical facilities in Port Said with huge investment from India. He made a presentation to the attendees demonstrating the efforts on industrialisation and other fronts in Port Said. He also discussed several

investment opportunities available in Port Said.

The governor showed his willingness to clear any obstacles in establishing projects in Port Said. He was appreciative of the fact that TCI Sanmar's investment has created job opportunities for youth and has paved the way for desired industrial development in Port Said.



Governor of Port Said with TCI Sanmar and Indian Banks' Officials.

Inauguration of new facilities at Custom Manufactured Chemicals, Berigai



Chemplast Sanmar's Custom Manufactured Chemicals Division at Berigai is on a growth mode with several ongoing investments. This includes the upgradation of the effluent treatment plant, a new Quality Control Lab, a new R&D Lab and the construction start of a new multipurpose production block. Vijay Sankar, Chairman, visited the site on July 23, 2022 to review the status and laid the foundation stone for these new initiatives.

Speaking at the event, Vijay Sankar stressed the importance of the Custom Manufactured Chemicals business for driving Chemplast's growth strategy and Sanmar's significant expansion plans on the cards for this business.



Apart from the already committed investments in a new multipurpose production block to be commissioned in the second half of 2023, he indicated The Sanmar Group's willingness to invest further in the coming years. He also highlighted Sanmar's focus on Ethics, Safety, Health and Environment.

Dr Krishna Kumar Rangachari, Deputy Managing Director talked about the investment being made in assets and people over the past few years being linked to our clearly defined strategy of growing in the Custom Manufacturing space



and working with agrochemical, pharmaceutical and fine chemical innovator companies. The importance of having an execution mind set was also reiterated.



Decoration for N Kumar with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star

On July 7, 2022, Taga Masayuki, Consul-General of Japan in Chennai, hosted a conferment ceremony for N Kumar, Vice Chairman of The Sanmar Group, Chairman of the Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IJCCI) and former President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). He received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star in recognition of his contribution to strengthening economic relations between Japan and India.

In his speech, Consul-General Taga expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the continuous and dedicated efforts made by Kumar in promoting friendship, goodwill and mutual understanding between Japan and India by organising economic delegations to Japan as well as several events on the Japanese economy and culture.

In his acceptance speech, Kumar said that he was greatly honoured to receive this extraordinary award and that it belonged to the people and associations he worked with. He expressed his gratitude to the Government of Japan, the Consulate-General of Japan in Chennai, his family, friends and colleagues for their continuous support, and he hoped to continue promoting Japan-India relations in the future.



N Kumar receiving the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star from Taga Masayuki, Consul-General of Japan in Chennai.



Chemplast's Custom Manufactured Chemicals Division bags Syngenta Sustainability Award

Recently the Custom Manufactured Chemicals Division of Chemplast Sanmar was the recipient of a Sustainability Award from one of its key customers – Syngenta, a global agrochemical innovator, in recognition of its efforts to reduce the overall carbon footprint in the manufacturing operations.

Below is the citation from Syngenta:

'With this Sustainability Award, we would like to acknowledge Sanmar for the very good example they have given on how the carbon reduction challenge should be addressed. Through a holistic approach - multiple solutions implemented for the production of an intermediate to reduce electricity and fuel consumption, as well as incremental improvements over the entire process - Sanmar has managed

to substantially reduce the carbon footprint of a product supplied to Syngenta. Well done!'

The award was presented as part of a supplier conference organised by Syngenta in Frankfurt, Germany, alongside Chemspec Europe 2022.

Head of the CMCD business, Dr Krishna Kumar Rangachari, commented that as a responsible chemical manufacturing organization, Chemplast Sanmar is focused on enabling safe operations and enhancing the well-being of our communities, work, and contributing to a more sustainable, safe and healthy society. In line with this commitment, we publish our annual sustainability report based on GRI standards. We are thankful to Syngenta for recognising our efforts in this area.



(L to R): Dr Tom Gray, Dr Krishna Kumar Rangachari, Dr Bruce Reid, John Sundar Chellapa and Dr Bastien Borderieux.

Xomox Sanmar and Anderson Greenwood Crosby Sanmar bag Tamil Nadu State Safety Awards



Jose Prasanna receiving the award from CV Ganesan, Minister for Labour Welfare and Skill Development, Government of Tamil Nadu on behalf of AGCSL.

Two Sanmar Engineering joint venture companies - Xomox Sanmar Ltd and Anderson Greenwood Crosby Sanmar Ltd (AGCSL) bagged the National Safety Council – Tamil Nadu chapter’s Occupational Health, Safety & Environment – “Appreciation Award” 2020.

The award commended their efforts in highlighting the EHS performance and achievements. The awards were presented at a function held on May 11, 2022 in Chennai.

Special Appreciation Award for Sanmar Matrix Metals at the Rail Analysis Summit 2022

At the Rail Analysis Summit 2022, Sanmar Matrix Metals Ltd., won the “Special Appreciation Award for

Achievement in Exporting parts and components from India.”

Part of The Sanmar Group, Sanmar Matrix Metals is one of India’s few IRIS-certified foundries. It manufactures and supplies castings for Locomotives, Metros and Tram parts for Bogie Frames, Car Body Under Frames, Traction Motor Stator Frames and End Flanges, Brake Brackets, Motor Mounts, Suspension Damper Brackets, Life Guard Brackets, High Capacity Centre Buffer Draft Gears, etc.

In addition to projects successfully executed in India for Delhi Metro and Madhepura E Locos, Sanmar’s products are in service in many prestigious metro and other public transit projects across the globe in Australia, South Africa, Austria, Poland and North America.



Ravindra A Rao and P Karthic receiving the award from SS Khurana, Former Chairman, Railway Board of India.

Danish Ambassador to India's Chennai visit

Inauguration of Dansk Industri's Chennai Office

Danish Industri - (DI), Confederation of Danish Industries, inaugurated their Chennai office at the Prestige Centre, Guindy on June 2, 2022.

Tamil Nadu, as such, is a hotspot for Danish industries in India. The DI office can offer 'on-the-ground' support to member companies that want to become active in India.

HE Ambassador of Denmark, Freddy Svane, inaugurated the new facility in the presence of Pooja Kulkarni IAS, MD and CEO, Tamil Nadu Industrial Guidance and Export Promotion Bureau (TNIGEPB) and Vijay Sankar, Honorary Consul General of Denmark in Chennai.



(L to R): HE Ambassador of Denmark, Freddy Svane, Vijay Sankar, Honorary Consul General in Chennai, Pooja Kulkarni IAS, MD and CEO, Tamil Nadu Industrial Guidance and Export Promotion Bureau, Bente Toftkaer, Director, DI in India and SB Prabhakar Rao, Honorary Vice Consul.

IDBA meeting: Strengthening Indian-Danish companies

The Indo-Danish Business Association (IDBA) works to promote Indian companies in Denmark and Danish companies in India. IDBA's objective is to deepen Indo-Danish cooperation bilaterally in Industry, Trade and Commerce. The IDBA meeting for the second quarter was held at the premises of Danish major, Grundfos, Chennai, on June 2, 2022. HE The Ambassador of Denmark to India, Freddy Svane, addressed the members.

A special presentation was made by Raja, Joint Chief Engineer, Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, on sharing the needs of the department in terms of solutions in the areas of water resources management.



SB Prabhakar Rao, Vice Consul and Ramadevi Ravi, Consular Officer, attended the meeting.

IDBA Meet at Grundfos Chennai on June 2, 2022.

Engagement with the Mexican Government

The Sanmar Group, as part of its acquisition of Matrix Metals LLC in 2008, acquired Acerlan Matrix Metals S.A.de C.V., located in San Juan Del Rio, Queretaro, Mexico. Acerlan is one of Mexico's largest steel foundries and has several prestigious customers like Caterpillar, Komatsu, Schlumberger, TMCO, Progress Rail, Western, etc.



Narayan Sethuramon with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mexico, His Excellency Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon, in Mumbai on April 1, 2022.

Sanmar has, over the years, invested significant capital to modernise and expand the facilities. Currently, Sanmar employs around 425 people in Mexico, 99% of whom are Mexican nationals.

Narayan Sethuramon, Managing Director, Sanmar Engineering Technologies Private Limited and Head – Corporate Affairs of The Sanmar Group, met with the Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon, on April 1, 2022 in Mumbai. A CEO lunch was hosted by the Embassy on the occasion of the Secretary's visit.

This was followed up recently by a meeting with Minister Ebrard on August 2, 2022 at the Foreign Ministry headquarters in Mexico City.

Both occasions saw multifaceted discussions. Mexico and India share a growing multifaceted relationship encompassing trade, investment, tourism, etc. Narayan briefed the Hon'ble Minister on The Sanmar Group's current investments in Mexico and on plans, including capital investment and additional employment opportunities for Mexican citizens, training opportunities for young graduates, etc. The Minister was very supportive of Sanmar's initiatives and has assigned people within the government to work with Sanmar on the same.



Narayan Sethuramon with Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, Meenakshi Lekhi and the Ambassador of Mexico to India, His Excellency Federico Salas, on the occasion of the Mexican National Day in New Delhi on the September 15, 2022. Saurabh Tripathi from Sanmar is also seen.



On September 15, 2022 to celebrate Mexican National Day, there was a Reception hosted by the Ambassador of Mexico to India, His Excellency Federico Salas, in New Delhi. The Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs of India, Meenakshi Lekhi, also graced the occasion. The Sanmar Group was one of the supporters of the event.

Sanmar Regent, one more LPG carrier, joins the Sanmar Shipping fleet

Sanmar Shipping Ltd took over an LPG carrier, Sanmar Regent (ex. Clipper Harald), off Gibraltar on May 24, 2022.

The Financial Closing was in London, attended by Capt. K Rajasekaran and GVV Ramesh Babu. S Ramakrishna attended the physical delivery in Gibraltar.

The ship with 13,712 MT DWT, built in Jos. Meyer, Papenburg, Germany, in July 1999 is the second LPG carrier to join the Sanmar fleet.

The ship is of Semi- Ref construction and capable of carrying Ethylene, an essential product used in the



petrochemical industries. She was built to DNV standards and shall fly the Indian Flag.

Ramkumar Shankar appointed Vice President, MCCI

The Sanmar Group's association with the Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) goes back to 1985-86, when N Sankar was its President and B Natraj in 2003-04.

Presently, Managing Director of Chemplast Sanmar and Chemplast Cuddalore Vinyls Ltd, Ramkumar Shankar, has been appointed as the Vice President of the MCCI for the period 2022-24.

The Chamber, through the President and Vice-President, works closely with the Government on all matters of interest to industry and trade.



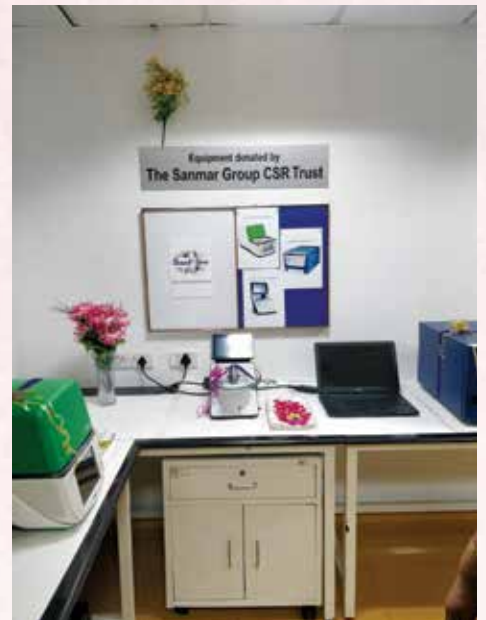
The newly elected office bearers of MCCI - Ramkumar Shankar, Vice President and TR Kesavan, President, with the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, MK Stalin on August 3, 2022.

Research facility at Sankara Nethralaya dedicated to the memory of N Sankar

The Central Research Instrumentation Facility on the Sankara Nethralaya campus in Chennai was dedicated to the memory of N Sankar, Chairman of The Sanmar Group, on June 25, 2022. The facility is a core component of ophthalmic research activities.

N Kumar spoke of Sankar's support to Sankara Nethralaya for over three decades. Sankar contributed to the setting up refractive surgery/laser vision correction centre, Mrs Madhuram Narayanan Surgical Complex and a block dedicated to the memory of KS Narayanan, his father and the SN-Sanmar Centre of Excellence for Stevens-Johnson Syndrome. Recent contributions were towards research equipment and instruments for Vision Research Foundation (VRF).

AC Muthiah, chairman emeritus of SPIC Ltd, recalled how Sankar was a silent donor to charities. Dr TS Surendran, Vice Chairman, Medical Research Foundation (MRF), recollected Sankar's long association with Sankara Nethralaya and his contributions to the foundation.



The dedication of The Central Research Instrumentation Facility in memory of N Sankar on June 25, 2022

(L to R): N Kumar, Dr TS Surendran, Chandra Sankar, Madhurika Sankar, Vijay Sankar, Devaki Muthiah and AC Muthiah.

Road Safety Measure: Installation of hi-mast light at Thangamapuripattinam Junction

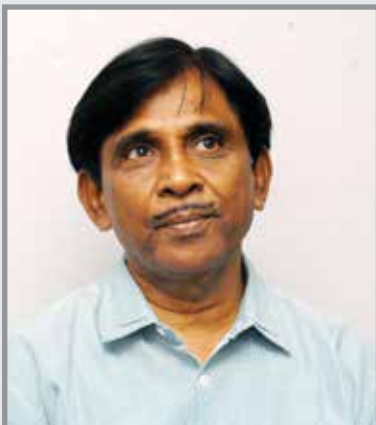


S Sadhasivam, MLA, Mettur, G Chandra, Chairman, Mettur Municipality, SG Kasi Viswanathan, Vice Chairman, Mettur Municipality, S Bhuvaneswaran, Commissioner, Mettur, and Jayaraman, senior leader, Mettur seen with S Gajendiran, Sreedhar Vasudevan, and Sampath Kumar, Chemplast Sanmar Mettur, at the inauguration on September 13, 2022.

Chemplast Sanmar installed hi-mast light facility at the Thangamapuripattinam road Junction, to increase the road safety for drivers. Chemplast also renovated the bus stop to provide safety for the passengers at night.



We Miss You



*Psychologist and special educator
Prof. P Jeyachandran passed away
on May 9, 2022.*

Dr P Jeyachandran was a Director of Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children (MNC) and involved in the Upanayan Early Intervention Programme from the beginning. MNC will miss his presence.

- N Kumar
The Sanmar Group

Upanayan Early Intervention Programme and the Madhuram Narayanan Centre, its Research and Development Unit would not be here today but for his mission to make it happen.

- Jaya Krishnaswamy
MNC

Iconic Institutions of Chennai

Thousand Lights Mosque

The Thousand Lights Mosque holds great importance for Shiite Muslims and is a pilgrimage site for them.

Thousand Lights Mosque has a long history associated with it. The name 'Thousand Lights' derives from the tradition that one thousand and more oil lamps used to be lit to light up this Assembly Hall of Shias.

In 1721 the areas on either side of Mount Road were known as 'Great Choultry Plain.' By 1785 Mayor of Madras (Chennai) George MacKay built his first garden house; hence it was known as 'MacKay' Garden.

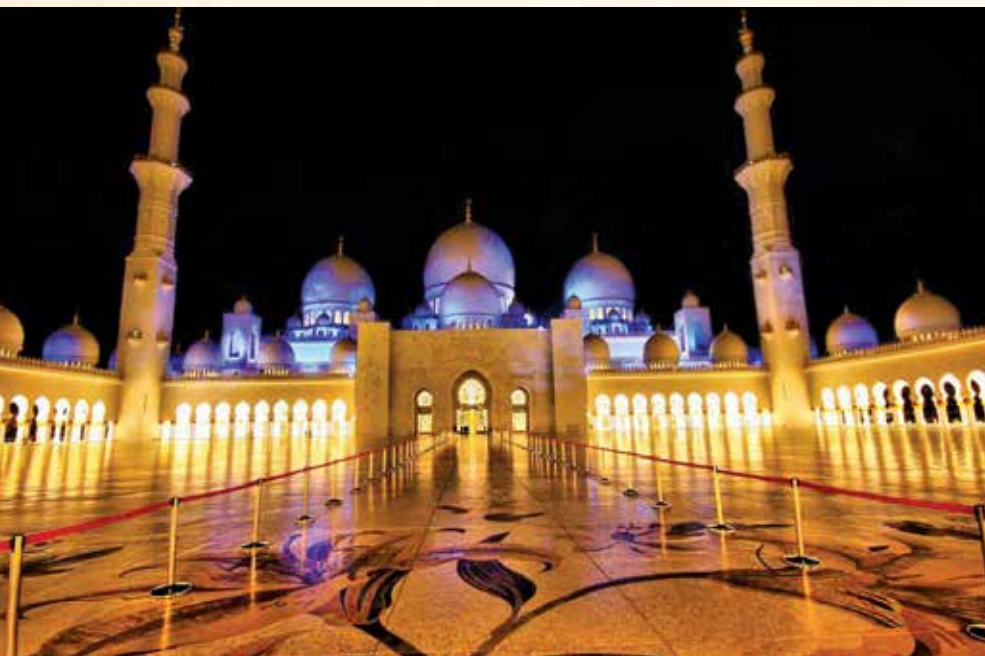
In 1798 this property was purchased by the Nawab of Wallajah for his grandson Azim, and hence they got the name 'Azim Bagh.' Slowly, the area became a Muslim locality, and several by-lanes developed, ultimately becoming the residential cum commercial locality.

On this Azim Bagh was a triangular wedge-shaped land at the junction of Peter's Road and Mount Road by 1810, and Ghulam Asadullah Doula donated this 80 grounds land for the Assembly Hall (Ashoorkhana). It was here Nawab Umdat-ul-Umrah built the Thousand Lights Mosque.

It is a multi-domed mosque located in Anna Salai in Chennai, Tamil Nadu; it is one of the largest mosques in the country and a revered place of worship for Muslims. Thousand Lights Mosque was built in the traditional Islamic design. It follows a medieval architectural style with multiple domes and towering minarets. The interiors are inscribed with verses from the Quran, the Holy Book of Islam. The Dargah (sanctum sanctorum) of the mosque is on the second floor. And the main hall, where men gather for namaz, is on the ground floor. Women have separate rooms to offer their prayers.

In front of this assembly hall, a mosque was built around 1820 at the expenditure of Rupees one lakh. The mosque was rebuilt around 1900. In 1936 the mosque was renovated by the Khaleeli Shirazi family.

It has an exhilarating structure, with two tall minarets and five distinct domes. The average height of the minarets is around 64 feet above the ground. There are four domes at four



corners built at a height of 16 ft. The central dome is about 30 ft. in size and 20 ft. in diameter – the inner and outer walls of the mosque feature green ceramic tile panels. The Arabic and Persian scripted Quranic verses are baked on these tile panels. Another mosque was added in 1981, with two tall minarets and five inward curving domes showing modern West Asian influence.

The main hall on the ground floor is used to offer prayers by men, while there is a separate room for women. There are two rooms on the second floor known as Bargah, representing the harem (sanctuary) of Imam Hussain and Abolfazl – al-Abbas. This mosque has been refurbished many times since its foundation. The Thousand Lights Mosque holds great importance for Shiite Muslims and is a pilgrimage site for them.

The mosque is popular for several reasons, including its name, architecture and historical and religious importance. In the early 19th century, the place where the mosque presently stands used to be the assembly place of the Shiite Muslims during the month of Muharram. Later, the assembly hall was built, following which the mosque was constructed.

It is believed that the Shias who live in the Thousand Lights neighbourhood and Royapettah are the followers of Ahl al-Bayt (“the People of the House”). The descendent of the Wallajah family, who made the hall in 1810, the family owned much of the property in the area for the Shia Muslims to assemble for Muharram. Hence, it holds a special significance for the Shia Muslims. Moreover, the shrine is dedicated to Imam Hussain, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad, who is respected among the Shia sect around the world.

Today, the Thousand Lights Mosque is familiar for all Muslims, a primary holy place for Shias. Muharram is the most important day for them when Shias mourn for Imam Hussain and participate in Matam in mosques. The old mosque is quite impressive from the inside and very different from the grandeur of the new mosque. The chief Shia Qazi of Tamil Nadu functions from the mosque, and the same family has continuously held the post. There is a Shia burial ground, library and a guest house inside the premises.



