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Trees of Chennai



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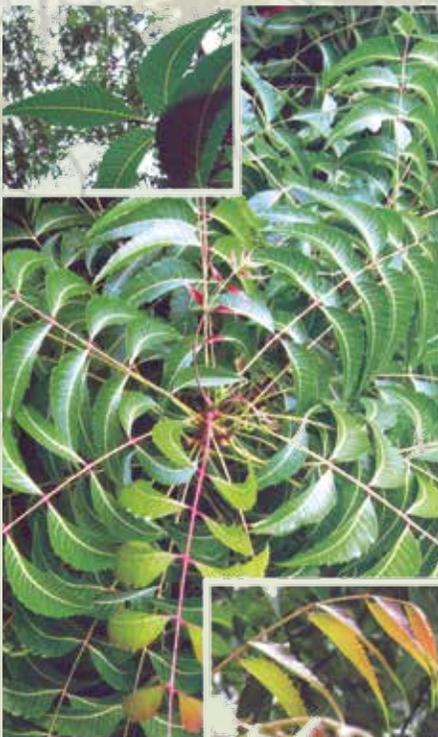
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Trees of Chennai

Trees and tree tales

This feature on the trees of Chennai is based on the book *Trees and Tree Tales* by Prof KN Rao, a renowned botanist, published by Oxygen Books, Chennai. It speaks of the biodiversity of the city in the form of trees that have survived continuous human efforts to decimate them. Though the city has more of the showy, colourfully flowered exotic trees than the less ornamental native trees, the latter yield a variety of utilitarian products. Examples abound of the multipurpose coconut, neem, tamarind and palmyrah, all valuable in medicine, food, construction and other areas of human use. Follows a sample of some of the trees common to Chennai, with brief descriptions.



Neem tree

Neem: In the service of mankind

The neem tree *Azadirachta indica* is found in most compounds of Chennai homes. According to Brihat Samhita, neem is an 'indicator plant' for the presence of underground water. Obviously, artificial watering is unnecessary. The rains meet its water requirements.

The neem has a special place in the hearts of Chennaivasis because it flowers just before the Tamil New Year. The flowers form part of the New Year pachadi lending it a bitter taste and a philosophical message. The neem flower, though bitter to taste, is salutary in effect because it is vermifugal and kills worms in the intestines.

The coconut and other palms

Stand anywhere in Chennai, and look around, you are sure to see coconut trees. Such is the visibility of coconut in Chennai and, indeed, all along the coastal belt of the country.

Other palm trees commonly seen in Chennai are:

Fish tail palm (*Caryota urens*)

Royal palm (*Oreodoxa regia*)

Palmyrah palm (*Borassus flabellifer*)

The last of these is commonly seen on the outskirts of the city but is not very common in the city itself.

The leguminous trees of Chennai

The leguminosae is a family of flowering plants that exhibits a great diversity of habit and floral organisation. The *Gliricidia* is a



Coconut tree

medium-sized tree and its leaves make excellent rich green manure. 'Gliricidia' means 'rat-destroying' and the seeds seem to possess this power.

This is a tree commonly seen in all parts of Chennai, but you are



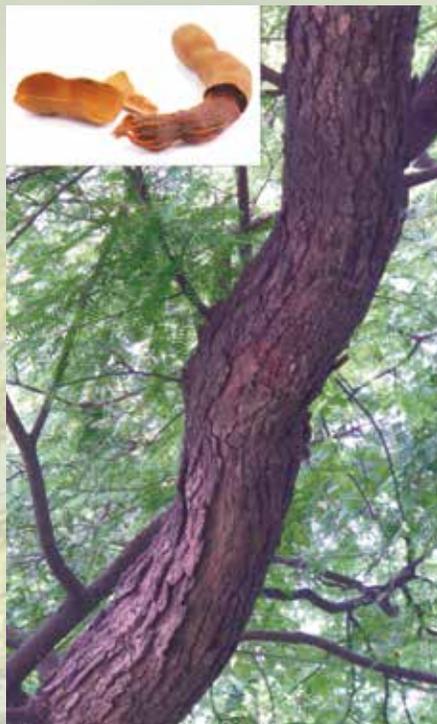
likely to notice it only when it is in flower. By far the most gorgeous of the papilionaceous trees seen in Chennai is the coral tree, botanically christened *Erythrina indica*.

Agati Maram, botanically known as *Sesbania grandiflora*, was till a few years ago, a very commonly grown tree in the backyards of many a Chennai home.

Delonix regia is a native of Madagascar. It reached India via Mauritius. The tree is found everywhere in Chennai. Gulmohur, a close relative of *Delonix* (which, incidentally, is called by this generic name by some authors), is the small-sized *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* often seen in the compounds of many houses in Chennai.

Ringworm cassia is seen in many home gardens in Chennai. The tamarind tree – *Tamarindus indica* – is an evergreen tree of great economic importance. It yields puli, an ingredient of the most famous culinary item of South India – sambar. It lives for well over a hundred years and is therefore a favourite of

Gulmohur



Tamarind tree

the Roads & Buildings wing of the Public Works Department.

The rain tree, which is easily the most common avenue tree in Chennai, is botanically called *Samanea saman*. *Albizia lebbek*, the Siris tree mentioned earlier, is a tall tree, reaching up to 15m in height.

Sacred trees

Callophyllum inophyllum, called Punnai in Tamil, Punnaga in Sanskrit and the Alexandrian laurel in English, is a much-venerated tree as it is considered the favourite of Lord Krishna.

It is a small-sized tree often grown in many a home garden in Chennai.

A fast-growing tree, called Kattumalli in Tamil, the cork tree with the botanical name of *Millingtonia hortensis*, gets its name from its fissured bark, which is used as an inferior substitute for cork.

Unfortunately, the peepul is a calciphile (a plant that grows in

lime-rich conditions) and often seen growing on old walls, inviting the punishment of being uprooted. The Senate House of Madras University has been a victim of this tree and past negligence is now costing a tidy sum to restore that beautiful heritage building.

Ala maram in Tamil, the scientific name of the banyan is *Ficus benghalensis*. For a Chennaite, the banyan tree in the gardens of the Theosophical Society at Adyar is a landmark. Sometime in the 1980s, it fell victim to a cloudburst and all efforts at revitalising its main trunk proved futile.

Peepul tree





Banyan tree

Called Pavazhamalligai in Tamil, Parijatam in Sanskrit and Telugu and Coral jasmine in English, it has a tell-tale botanical name—*Nyctanthes arbortristis*: ‘*Nyctanthes*’ means ‘that which blossoms at nightfall’.

The flower is very attractive with a red corolla tube bearing unequally lobed petals at its top. The petals are snowy white and are usually dotted with dewdrops, for flowering occurs in December when the early hours of the morning are heavy with dew.



Coral Jasmine

Trees with showy flowers

Quite a few of the city’s trees bear large and showy flowers, which, for some inexplicable reason, do not feature in local customs and traditions. Indeed many of them are excellent shade-giving trees.

First among them is the Trumpet flower, botanically named *Stenolobium stans*. It is a common tree growing in many home gardens. *Tabebuia rosea*, another tree of Mexican origin, bears pale mauve flowers also somewhat trumpet-shaped. The flowers are so lightly coloured that they are more noticeable on the ground rather than on the tree.

The most common species is *Plumeria alba*, the white frangipani that often grows in the backyards of many homes in Chennai. *Thespesia Populnea* is a common roadside tree in Chennai. Called Poovarasu in Tamil and Portia tree in English, this salt tolerant tree is more commonly seen in the coastal belt.

Trees with attractive leaves

Quite a few trees growing in Chennai are conspicuous by their foliage. It is

the leaves and not the flowers that hold our attention.

Called Asoka Maram or Nettlingam in Tamil, the Mast tree is botanically known as *Polyalthia longifolia*. This tree is distinguished by its lofty central column, which grows dead straight with branches that grow in acropetal succession (the youngest branch is near the top and the oldest near the base).

The Indian almond is known as Natvadam in Tamil and botanically as *Terminalia catappa*. It is a favourite backyard tree in Chennai homes. It is a large deciduous tree with dark



Trumpet flower

green leaves, narrow near the base and broad in the middle.

More commonly known as Karuveppilai tree or Curry leaf tree, *Murraya Koenigi* belongs to the citrus family and as such has leaves studded with oil glands, which are the source of the leaves’ pleasant aroma.



Curry leaf tree

The not-so-common trees

A tree around which a good deal of folklore abounds is Terminalia Arjuna, more commonly known as the Arjun or Marutu in Tamil. The Arjun is a large, evergreen tree with buttressed trunk and a spreading



Arjun tree

crown from which branches droop downward. Its bark is smooth, grey on the outside, flesh-coloured inside and flakes off in large, flat pieces. The leaves are simple—somewhat sub opposite, oblong, dull green above and pale brown beneath. You have quite a few of these trees on the Harrington Road-Spur Tank Road stretch in Chetput.

The White silk cotton tree, or Ilavampanju as it is known in Tamil, is far more common in Chennai than the red silk cotton tree. Many a garden sports this tree and the Jeeva Park on GN Chetty Road, T Nagar, has quite a few.

The Mahogany tree is a member of the neem family, Meliaceae. Naturally, it shares several features



White silk cotton tree

with the neem. For instance, its leaves are feather-like, with the leaflets borne on either side of a central rachis with an unpaired



Mahogany tree

terminal leaflet. However, the leaflets of mahogany are much smaller and have a smooth margin though, of course, a large vein into two unequal portions, as in neem, divides them.

This is the rich biodiversity of the city—similarities and dissimilarities growing together within the same family. Teak trees are seen in many parts of Chennai. A few trees grown in the compound of the AG's Office on Anna Salai have been there for over a half-century, now. There is a full-grown wild almond tree in Chennai on the campus of St George's Convent (orphanage) on Poonamallee High Road (now called EVR Salai) opposite Pachaiyappa's College.

Uncommon trees

The baobab, a tree introduced by Arabs from Africa, also called the African calabash, is Adansonia Digitata. Its Tamil name is Annaipulli. A couple of baobab

trees can be found in the Chepauk cricket ground, at the eastern end of Wallajah Road where it meets the Buckingham Canal.

Fruit-bearing trees

Called 'goyya' in Tamil, this undertree, botanically known as *Psidium guajava*, is widely grown throughout India. It is found in many backyards Chennai homes, receiving no particular care.

Second in popularity to the mango, the jack is another favourite of Chennaivasis. It is tasty and has medicinal and



Mango tree

SOURCE: Trees and Tree Tales – Some common trees of Chennai, Prof KN Rao.



Jack tree

ritualistic value. The jack tree, botanically called *Artocarpus heterophyllus*, *Artocarpus integrifolia* and *palapazham* in Tamil is native tree of India.

The jack is a large evergreen tree growing up to about 12-14m. Often seen growing in the backyards of Chennai homes, the jack exhibits a variety of peculiar features.

A tree story with a happy ending

The Kotturpuram Tree Park or Marappoonga is an encouraging development in the city aimed at bringing back local trees in danger of extinction or fast reducing in numbers in Chennai. An initiative of the NGO Nizhal led by nature activist Shobha Menon, the Park project was the result of an approach made in 2008 by the Superintending Engineer of the Public Works Department to Shobha with a request to green a dumpyard on the banks of the river Adyar opposite the Madras Club. "Nizhal activists and willing volunteers, aged from three to seventy plus, developed the park sapling by sapling," according to Shobha Menon quoted in *Madras Musings*, the city fortnightly. The late Mr G Dattatri, the first chief urban planner of the Madras Metropolitan Development Authority, lent the project great support. As the PWD did not have the necessary funds, the project became a volunteer-driven effort and Shobha's persistent efforts won her all round support that included help from the government. (The complete story (by K Venkatesh) of the initial apathy of the community and the persistence of the voluntary group can be read in the September 16-30, 2013 issue of *Madras Musings*). Today, the park is home to more than 400 trees belonging to over 100 species.

'Bold policy can restore lost glory'

N Sankar at the Andhra Chamber of Commerce

The 86th anniversary of the Andhra Chamber of Commerce was celebrated on 17 August 2013. N Sankar was the chief guest. Former members of the Chamber were honoured on the occasion. Those present included president VL Indira Dutt and other office bearers C Nagendra Prasad and G Sudhakar.

In his address 'India at the Crossroads - Again', N Sankar appealed to both leading political formations in India to come together to ensure the country's economic wellbeing, their differences notwithstanding.

"The Andhra Chamber is one of the leading Chambers of the city with a great history. It has contributed

significantly to the development of Trade and Industry right from inception, and particularly after the emergence of the separate State of Andhra in 1952.

In the 1980s India took the first struggling steps towards some sort of relaxation of controls over the economy. But these reforms were at best partial, removing a few industries from licensing, allowing some automatic expansion in licensed capacity and removing some imports from controls. There was less suspicion of Private Sector activity, and permissions needed were more freely given.

So that was a crossroads in 1980 where we changed directions slightly.

In 1990-91 India was practically a bankrupt nation and literally had to hawk the national stock of gold to secure essential loans. The outstanding transformation of the Indian economy wrought by the team of Sri PV Narasimha Rao, incidentally a true son of the Andhra soil, and Dr Manmohan Singh is now a textbook study. They took a clear decision to swing the ship of State along the path of liberalisation and an open economy. The leading national Chambers were fully consulted, and more important their views taken seriously and acted upon quickly. Post liberalisation, the country's GDP grew at an annual average growth rate of 6 to 8% in the 90s.



N Sankar, Chief Guest at the 86th Anniversary Celebrations of the Andhra Chamber of Commerce answering the questions after his keynote address. (l to r): C Nagendra Prasad, Vice President, G Sudhakar, Past President, Mrs Indira Dutt, President of the Chamber, N Sankar, CH Venkateswara Rao, Vice President.



A section of the audience.

However, by the end of the 1990s India was again at the crossroads. The Asian financial crisis was threatening to engulf India also. The software industry in the Western world had also collapsed, and it was widely expected that the Indian economy would be affected. India generally came out of this crisis mostly unscathed, primarily because it was a relatively closed economy, and had continued to maintain capital controls on its currency.

While the 2008 global financial meltdown slowed GDP growth to a little over 6% in 2008-09, it bounced back from the next year to over 9% in 2010-11. However since then it has been a continuous downhill trend with 2012-13 closing at just over 5%, and 2013-14 predicted to be around the same.

And India is today again at the crossroads. With the global financial meltdown in 2008 the shine began to come off the India growth story, with a number of elements contributing – acute infrastructure constraints and strong global headwinds being

The tighter monetary measures put in place to combat inflation further contributed to deceleration of industrial growth. Continued external headwinds only compounded the woes. Industry grew by just over 3% in 2011-12 and 2012-13, and if we look at the manufacturing sector alone, it was even lower in these two years. The services sector, after posting double-digit growth for almost six years till 2010-11, slumped to 6.6% in 2012-13. Agricultural growth has also been weak in 2012-13 in the wake of lower than normal rainfall.

at the top of the heap. While the strong stimulus measures adopted to combat the global meltdown in 2008 pushed the GDP up in the next couple of years, the deceleration since 2011-12 is significant. Also with the stimulus measures for stepping up consumption, and supply constraints both continuing,

inflation has assumed menacing proportions.

With the RBI depending on pure monetary measures to fight inflation, there is further pressure on growth.

The dynamics of the global economic environment has undergone a major metamorphosis. The comments of the American Federal Reserve Chief on phased easing of stimulus measures has triggered a turmoil in the Foreign Exchange market, pushing the Rupee to a historic low of 62 against the Dollar.

But perhaps the worst problem is the complete change in the perception of India. From the golden days of 'India shining', external investor confidence in India has today slumped to a new low, driven by highly publicised scandals in different sectors, misguided taxation measures affecting foreign investors, etc.

On the other path, launching – and more important implementing – bold policy initiatives can again bring India back to the heights it enjoyed in the early part of the century.

The biggest asset that India has is its huge domestic consumption economy. As we speak, large manufacturing capacity investments are being made in different parts of the world, targeting domestic Indian consumption. India is increasingly becoming an import led economy. Equally important, our huge and ever increasing number of young, educated manpower can, apart from driving consumption help launch the service sector on a high trajectory.

However, to actualise all this, we need to implement policy reforms. Some of the reforms required are:

Improving infrastructure; clearing roadblocks to investment flow; stabilising external economic interactions; beefing up coordination between RBI and Government; closing the perception gap and bringing the eyes of the world back on India positively; reviving domestic markets and more importantly domestic manufacturing;

streamlining project clearances, particularly related to environment; and bringing in a stable policy environment.

I make an appeal. There are only two Pan-India political parties that matter, and if we step back and take a macro view, their economic policies are almost similar. However, the realities of the democratic election process, ensure that when they are in the opposition, each party shoots down measures, which it had itself proposed or supported while in Government. Could not the senior members of these parties, in the interest of the nation, agree on a common economic agenda, which they would both tacitly support whether they are in power or in opposition? On all other issues they can continue to fight tooth and nail, but on matters of economic advancement, which will ultimately benefit the common man can they not come to a tacit understanding of cooperation?

With the national elections scheduled next year, this is a good time to push this concept of a common economic agenda among the political parties. I would urge all Chambers of Commerce, National and Regional, and other Trade bodies, to try and promulgate this idea in the appropriate circles.

We are again at a crossroads, and again the way ahead is not clear. But over the last few decades there have been several such occasions, and today we look back on those times and see that we moved on to the right path – perhaps by positive decision making, or perhaps by inaction and letting events overtake us.

Let us hope that once again in the future, we will look back at this period and say that one way or the other we had come on to the right path and taken steps to unleash the undoubted economic potential that India possesses, and launch her towards her undeniable place in the forefront of the world's nations".



N Sankar presented with a memento by Mrs Indira Dutt.

Seven fishermen stranded in mid-sea rescued by Chemplast employees

A timely act of valour by the Chemplast Sanmar employees, rescued seven fishermen and their capsized boat to the shore safely.

On 19 June 2013, seven fishermen belonging to the villages Vambakirapalayam and Panithitu, located around Puducherry, went fishing in their fishing boat named 'Vallathaman'. While they were returning with their daily catch, the sea waves all of a sudden turned violent and their boat capsized near the harbour. All the seven men fell into the sea and were struggling for life.

At the time of the incident, some Chemplast Sanmar, Cuddalore

plant employees were travelling in two separate boats carrying raw materials to be delivered. On seeing the drowning fishermen, they immediately rushed to the spot and

rescued all the fishermen and the capsized boat and brought them back to the shore safely.



Chemplast engineers assist TNPCB in preventing explosion

Swift action by a team of engineers from Chemplast Mettur at the request of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) prevented an explosion in a chemical truck carrying 15 MT of Sodium hydrosulphite – a water reactive chemical – from Karaikudi to be delivered to a factory near Delhi.

On 5 August 2013, the truck had to stop near Nethimedu, Salem, when

rainwater seeped into the covered tarpaulin, causing to react with the chemical, resulting in smoke emanating from the vehicle. The fire brigade was called and when they used water to mitigate the fire heavy smoke bellowed out and the danger of an explosion was imminent.

TNPCB then contacted Chemplast Mettur, whose engineers rushed to the spot around 1 am on 6 August.

They extinguished the fire with dry chemical powder (DCP) and fire extinguishers pooled from the Chemplast plant and from SAIL, Salem. Chemplast monitored the operations of the residual chemical as well, to neutralise its activity and ensure its final disposal.

Chemplast – Indian Plastics Institute Endowment Lecture

Chemplast is an Endowment Donor to the Indian Plastics Institute (IPI), Mumbai. Every year, endowment lectures are conducted in various parts of the country and this year, Indian Plastic Institute (IPI), Chennai Chapter conducted the Chemplast Endowment Lecture at Cochin on 23 August 2013.

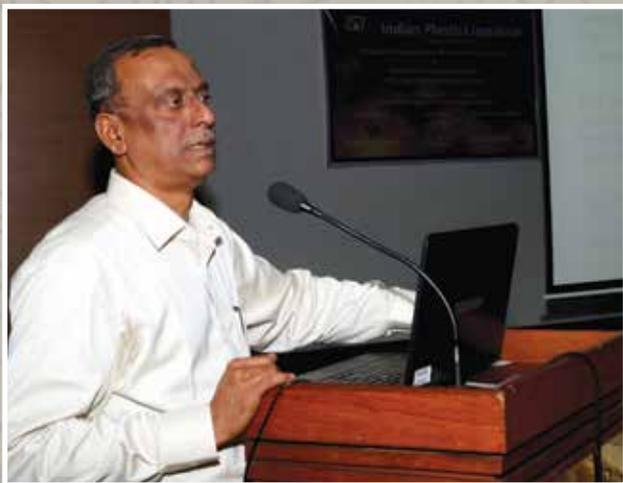
The lecture by N Suresh, Chief Executive, Chloroplast and Principal Member of Plastic Piping System

Sectional Committee, Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi was titled “Pipe Quality, Standards and Future Trends”.

PVC pipe machine manufacturer Windsor and Baerlocher, manufacturer of PVC stabilisers and lubricants used in PVC formulations, made presentations.

It was a well-attended gathering. Pipe processors, students from

Cochin University and from Centre for Biopolymer Science & Technology (A unit of CIPET), Cochin, attended.



N Suresh delivering the lecture.



LR Madava Krishnan, Chemplast, presenting a memento to N Suresh.



A section of the audience.



Saurabh Jha of Chemplast addressing the audience.

'Managements and TUs need to work together for industrial growth'

Vijay Sankar at the EFSI Annual General Meeting

Vijay Sankar delivered the keynote address at the 93rd Annual General Meeting of The Employers' Federation of South India (EFSI) held at Hotel Savera on 26 July 2013.

The Governor of Tamil Nadu, Dr K Rosaiah, was the chief guest. Thyagu Valliappa, President, KS Venkiteswaran, Chairman, Tamil Nadu committee, and TM Jawaharlal, Secretary of EFSI, were present.

"Countries like Indonesia & Malaysia have a much greater percentage of their work force in industry and services - China has only 35% employed in agriculture and Brazil is less than 20%.

To lift a large percentage of our population out of poverty for good, the need of the hour is for additional

good non-farm formal private sector manufacturing jobs.

The corporates in our country don't want to increase their permanent work force.

The GDP growth fell to a decade low of 5.0% in 2013.

IIP recovery remains fragile. The latest data released for the month of May 2013 indicates a negative 1.6% growth.

The rupee has depreciated by 13% since April.

The current account deficit to GDP ratio touched an all time high of 4.8%.

While the services sector will continue to grow, there is an urgent need to focus on accelerating the growth in the manufacturing sector.

A. The first stakeholder: The Government must bring in enabling labour laws. There has to be a level of trust between the Government and Industry and the Government must consider that Industry will be ethical and treat employees by fair means. Here I think EFSI will have a large role to play.

I emphasise that the labour law change is an extremely important element in the revival of hiring in the manufacturing sector.

B. Workers will have to accept that times have changed and if



Vijay Sankar lighting the 'kuthuvilakku' in the presence of Governor of Tamil Nadu, Dr K Rosaiah.



Vijay Sankar addressing the gathering. Seated on the dais (from l to r): KS Venkiteswaran, Chairman, Tamil Nadu Committee EFSI, Thyagu Valliappa, President, EFSI, Governor of Tamil Nadu, Dr K Rosaiah, TM Jawaharlal, Secretary, EFSI.

they cling on to their old values and rules, the growth of the industry will be affected. They need to unlearn old habits and learn new skills required to meet the changes in technology, improving productivity and also being more flexible.

- C. Management has to think of being a lot more ethical and transparent, treating the employees fairly and spending on skills development. Since the so called new Millennials are joining the workforce, the approach to work and work force relations has to undergo a sea change. The new young faces are looking for a different culture where collaboration and sharing is predominant - management has to recognise this and work closely with them.
- D. If Trade Union leaders do not recognise the competitive market in which industry operates, then the employment will shift out of Tamil Nadu or South India or

India itself to other places where labour is more flexible.

The Sanmar Group is a large employer with over 5000 largely skilled employees, globally in manufacturing locations between India, Mexico, Egypt and the USA and a billion dollars in revenue.

We are strongly focused on our reputation and the value systems embedded in our organisation. We have always tried to live up to and go beyond the scope of legislation as far as labour laws go. A lot of emphasis is also placed in skilling and

re-skilling of workers and managerial personnel.

The prosperity of the employees is linked to the prosperity of the organisation - therefore we have introduced measures of performance related pay for many years now.

Employees are also empowered to take decisions on matters concerning their work through work and cell councils.

We have in our organisation a very strong industrial relations department, which has got direct access to the Group Corporate Board".



Flowserve Sanmar workshop on Mechanical Seal Maintenance for Indian Oil pipeline

A one-day workshop on Mechanical Seal Maintenance was conducted at the Gauridad Learning Centre, Rajkot, for Indian Oil's WRPL pipeline by Flowserve Sanmar on 18 June 2013.

The workshop covered the basics of mechanical seals and their importance, and details of seals installed in different pump stations of Indian Oil's WRPL. Several executives and others engaged in mechanical maintenance at various locations of WRPL attended the workshop.

Nayan Shah and Jigar Rathod of Flowserve Sanmar, Vadodara, provided the faculty assistance

throughout the daylong workshop. A live demonstration of mechanical seals was also given to the participants during the workshop.



The story behind the Kaj Schmidt Memorial

Brave Dane drowned in rescue effort

The Kaj Schmidt Memorial on the Elliotts Beach at Tiruvanmiyur, Chennai, commemorates the gallantry of a Dane, Kaj Erik Gjolstad Schmidt.

Some light has now been shed on the story of Schmidt, which has remained a mystery in Chennai, though stories of the young man's heroism have been doing the rounds for decades. Per Kristian Madsen, Director General of the Danish Maritime Museum has come up with significant information sourced from The Maritime Museum of Denmark. This was after some intensive research.

'Kaj Schmidt was certainly a brave man who unfortunately lost his life trying to rescue other persons, so there is every good reason to maintain his memory and his memorial'.

According to Benjamin Asmussen, curator, The Maritime Museum of Denmark, Kaj Erik Gjolstad Schmidt was born in Denmark in 1901. In 1921 he became employed by the Danish company EAC- the East Asiatic Company. The EAC was founded in Copenhagen in 1897 with the purpose

of trading and transporting especially teak wood from South East Asia. Later the company expanded to include trade and shipping all over the world.

Schmidt was sent by the EAC to its new office in Madras in 1929. The office had been established in November 1928 to export peanuts as well as open the market for Danish products such as cement and milk. The office was the first representation of the EAC in India.

According to the newspaper The Aberdeen Journal from 1931, Kaj Schmidt went bathing at Elliot's Beach on the second-last day of 1930, along with four co-workers from the EAC. Towards the end of their visit to the beach, Kaj Schmidt and his colleague Werner Nielsen noticed three swimmers in peril in the water and immediately came to their rescue, and were later joined by two other colleagues. The strong current endangered all seven people in the water, but the last remaining EAC employee, A Kragh found a rope and local fishermen to help. Together they managed to bring everyone back onto

the beach except Kaj Schmidt, who was too exhausted to grab the rope and sank beneath the waves. His body was later recovered by the fishermen.

Werner Nielsen later became the CEO of the Danish East Asiatic Company.

Moved by Schmidt's act of sacrifice, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George Frederick Stanley, Governor of Madras, ordered the construction of a memorial in his honour.

The memorial unveiled on 29 November 1931 has stood for over 80 years braving the elements and the tsunami of 2004. Due to the ravages of cyclones, the memorial is in a dilapidated condition. With the active involvement of the residents of Besant Nagar, the Corporation of Chennai has initiated action to restore the memorial. The Royal Danish Consulate in Chennai is in talks with interested groups including the Corporation of Chennai to create a landscape around the memorial and for its proper upkeep to attract visitors.

Inscription in the tablet

"To commemorate the gallantry of Kaj Schmidt who was drowned near this spot on Dec 30 - 1930 in helping to save the lives of others".



Successful tour of England by Sanmar cricket team

A tour of England is regarded as an excellent education in a young cricketer's life. The cricketers representing The Sanmar Group in the Chennai league and other tournaments across India are expected to perform professionally and are given every facility to achieve that goal. To recognise their efforts, the Group has, over the years, instituted a system of rewards for excellence and a tour of England has been one such incentive that the cricket team enjoys.

This year, The Sanmar cricket team toured England from 28 May to 14 June 2013, playing eight limited overs matches in all after the opening fixture was rained out. The tour, a reward for the consistent

performances of Jolly Rovers and Chemplast, the two teams that Sanmar fields in domestic cricket, was a successful venture, with the tourists winning six matches and losing one and one match unfinished.

The tour was marked by consistent displays by the Sanmar batsmen, with Nilesh and Bharath Shankar scoring hundreds. Leg spinner Piyush Chawla not only took vital wickets but also scored runs when the team needed them. Skipper Hemanth Kumar, Ashwin and Anand were also regularly among the runs.

Of the bowlers, off-spinner Prabhu was the most successful, while left-arm spinner Syed, Kaushik, Jesuraj, and Sakthi were also consistent.

This is the team's third tour of England, after equally successful visits in 2004 and 2007. As Bharath Reddy, Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs of the Group, puts it, "These tours boost the morale of players and support staff."



Chemplast Sanmar's UK Cricket Tour

Match 1 – vs Longton CC 50 overs a side.

Chemplast Sanmar won by 89 runs.

Chemplast 267 for 8 in 50 overs (Nilesh 112, Syed 59, Piyush Chawla 36). Longton 178 all out (Bharath Shankar 4 wkts, Kaushik 2 wkts, Syed 2 wkts).

Match 2 – vs Whitmore CC 50 overs a side.

Chemplast Sanmar won by 67 runs.

Chemplast Sanmar 227 for 8 in 50 overs (Ashwin 60, Hemanth 45, Anand 35, Nilesh 48).

Whitmore 160 (Prabhu 4 wkts, Piyush Chawla 3 wkts).

Match 3 – vs Weston CC 20 overs a side.

Weston CC won by 4 wkts.

Chemplast Sanmar 83 (Bharath Shankar 46) Weston CC (84 for 6, Sakthi 3 wkts).

Match 4 – vs Weston CC 20 overs a side.

Chemplast Sanmar won by 46 runs.

Chemplast Sanmar 153 for 4 (Bharath Shankar 41, Nilesh 25, Anand 36, Ashwin 25).

Weston CC 107 (Prabhu 4 wkts, Sakthi 3 wkts).

Match 5 – vs Cleethorpes CC 50 overs a side.

Match Unfinished.

Chemplast Sanmar 228 for 9 (Anand 59, Hemanth 67, Piyush Chawla 57).

Cleethorpes CC 158 for 4 in 40 over (Prabhu 1 wkt, Piyush Chawla 1 wkt) (Play had to be stopped at 6.30 p.m.).

Match 6 – vs Ealing CC 40 overs a side.

Chemplast Sanmar won by 61 runs.

Chemplast Sanmar 165 (Piyush Chawla 75, Anand 21).

Ealing CC 104 (Prabhu 6 wkts, Sakthi 3 wkts).

Match 7 – vs Brentwood CC 50 overs a side.

Chemplast Sanmar won by 30 runs.

Chemplast Sanmar 251 for 5 in 50 overs (Bharath Shankar 104, Anand 54, Ashwin 32, Ajay 26 not out).

Match 8 – vs Club Cricket Conference 50 overs a side.

Chemplast Sanmar won by 46 runs.

Chemplast Sanmar 184 in 50 overs (Ajay 48, Ashwin 32, Hemanth 23).

CCC 138 (Jesuraj 4 wkts, Prasanth 2 wkts, Prabhu 2 wkts).



Adidas-TTT Sub Junior Nationals 2013

Vijay Sankar, Deputy Chairman of The Sanmar Group and Vice President of the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA), was the chief guest and gave away prizes to the winners of Adidas-TTT (Triangle Tennis Trust) National Sub-Junior Clay Court Tennis Championships 2013 held on 17 August 2013 at YMCA Nandanam.



Winners of the Adidas-TTT Sub-Junior Nationals (from l to r): GS Vasavi - Winner Girls U-14 Singles, Vijay Sankar, Sumit Pal Singh - Winner Boys U-14 Singles, Sai Avanthika/Snehal Mane - Winners Girls U-14 Doubles.

MNC recognised for its exceptional services

Honoured with national and regional NGO awards

The Madhuras Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children bagged both national and regional awards at the India NGO Awards 2012-13 organised by The Resource Alliance and supported by Rockefeller Foundation and Edelgive Foundation.

Jaya Krishnaswamy, Director, MNC, received the national award from Preneet Kaur, Minister of State, External Affairs, Government of India, at a function held on 13 August 2013 at the India Habitat Center, New Delhi.



CSR activities at Chemplast, Karaikal

Air conditioners for Government General Hospital, Karaikal

At the request of Dr A Muthamma, Collector, Karaikal, split air conditioner units were donated to the maternity post operative ward at the Government General Hospital, Karaikal, by Chemplast Sanmar. Medical Superintendent Dr M Kandasamy received the units.



Science exhibition at Cuddalore

“Bio Diversity Express”, a science exhibition was conducted at Port Junction, Cuddalore, by the Department of Science, Technology and Environment,

Puducherry. Chemplast Sanmar, Karaikal, facilitated 90 students to visit the exhibition by providing transportation as well as lunch and snacks, in coordination with

Pollution Control officials at Karaikal.



Ida Scudder

1870 - 1960

The Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, is one of the finest institutions built by Christian missionaries in India. It owes its small beginnings in 1918 to the indefatigable spirit of a young daughter of American missionary parents, who dedicated her life to the plight of Indian women and the fight against the bubonic plague, cholera and leprosy.

Ida Sophia Scudder was born in Ranipet, near Vellore. Her paternal grandparents had moved to India as the country's first medical missionary family. Her father John completed medical training and then set up a mission in Vellore with his wife Sophia Weld. Of the couple's six children, Ida was the youngest and the only daughter.

In 1878, following a cholera epidemic and a severe famine, the parents decided to go to the United States for a short time. When they returned to India a few years later, they left 13-year old Ida behind under the guardianship of an aunt and uncle to complete her education.

At Northfield Seminary, in Massachusetts, Ida spent a few years

in school, but had to withdraw in 1890 and return to India to care for her sick mother. Still set against a missionary life, Scudder planned to leave India as soon as possible.

That is when the death of three women in childbirth made her change her mind.

Before Ida Scudder had even decided to study medicine, she had to attend one evening to women in childbirth whose husbands refused to allow the presence of a male physician. Watching helplessly as three of the women died, Scudder committed herself to providing Indian women with medical education and care. She went on to do just that in a career spanning five decades. She realised that she wanted to carry on the work of a medical missionary, as her parents and grandparents had done.

She returned to the United States, and in 1895, enrolled in the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, completed her final year in 1899 at Cornell University Weill Medical College, and received exceptional clinical training.

Immediately after graduating, Ida set out to raise money to establish a

hospital in Vellore. She left for India with Annie Hancock, a classmate from Northfield Seminary. Within a few months of her arrival, her father died. His former patients were wary of the new young woman physician, and Scudder started operating in a tiny mission bungalow with her mother as her assistant. With the money she had collected in America, she began the construction of a small hospital, which opened in 1902. For the next 22 years, she remained the hospital's only surgeon.

Scudder started training nurses for the first time in Asia. Her nursing school grew to become the first graduate school of nursing in India, affiliated to Madras University. In 1909 she started roadside dispensaries ministering to patients from the surrounding villages. For this, she travelled by train, carriage, or pony cart. She also opened a tuberculosis sanatorium.

In 1918, with the help of women of many denominations, she founded a college to train women doctors. Beginning with seventeen girls, all taught by herself, it grew into a great complex of buildings in a beautiful valley, graduating thousands of

skilled, dedicated doctors. In 1923, again with the support of many denominations, she built a larger hospital in the heart of Vellore.

The work expanded to treat thousands each week, developing finally into Vellore's Rural Unit for Health and Social Affairs.

With the help of her close friend Gertrude Dodd, who provided funds from her inheritance, Dr Scudder managed to achieve her goal, and the Union Mission Medical School for Women opened in 1918. Making regular trips abroad to raise funds and support for the school, she continued as its surgeon, instructor and administrator.

In 1941 she travelled all over the United States raising money, enlisting new leadership with advanced degrees, securing the necessary upgrading of both college and hospital, now both to men as well as women.

The college and hospital grew to be among the largest in Asia. The departments kept growing to include radiation-oncology—headed by niece and namesake Dr Ida B Scudder—thoracic surgery, nephrology, leprosy surgery and rehabilitation under the world famous Dr Paul Brand, microbiology, rural work, mental

health, ophthalmology, and many others recognised as firsts in India.

By 1950, the school had become affiliated with the University of Madras. Dr Scudder retired soon afterwards, having seen her school grow from a small institution to one of the best teaching hospitals in India and trained hundreds of women nurses and physicians.

Throughout her career, Dr Scudder's work brought her wide renown, in addition to numerous awards.

She died in 1960 at her bungalow near Vellore, where she had spent her life helping to improve medical education.



