

MATRIX

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A PUBLICATION OF THE SANMAR GROUP

celebrating 50 years
Family and Jolly Rovers



David Gower delivers KSN Oration



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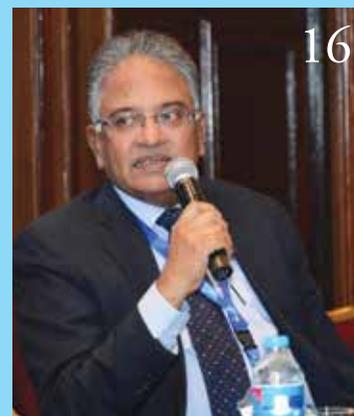
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Jolly Rovers 50

David Gower delivers the

Former England captain David Gower delivered the KS Narayanan Oration on 30 January 2016, KSN's birth anniversary, as part of the ongoing celebrations to mark the 50th year of the Sanmar family's association with Jolly Rovers Cricket Club.

Enthralling a packed audience with his wit and eloquence during an hour long speech, Gower made insightful observations on the challenges of leadership and team management, based on his own experience of the ups



“Continuous sponsorship of a Sporting team by the same family for 50 years, you will agree is pretty unique, and we planned a few events through the year, to mark this anniversary.”

Vijay Sankar

“Look, we have to do something to make Test cricket more appealing. Icons like MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli must stress the importance of Test cricket to cricket fans.”

David Gower



KS Narayanan Oration

and downs of international cricket. The audience included many Test cricketers past and present, including the likes of S Venkataraghavan, Brijesh Patel, TA Sekar, Bharath Reddy, VV Kumar and CD Gopinath.

Gower then participated in an open discussion with former Indian Test opener Aakash Chopra on the topic “Whither Cricket?” This was followed by a question and answer session with the audience.



Sriram V gave an entertaining introduction to KS Narayanan, the multifaceted patriarch of The Sanmar Group who adopted Jolly Rovers in July 1966 and made it into a glamorous and successful team.

“Seeing David play in that wonderfully elegant, languid and supposedly laidback style of his was a childhood pleasure for many of my generation. I see many similarities between him and my grandfather - always relaxed, sporting cheery smiles and seeming to never have a care in the world in spite of many adversities!”

Vijay Sankar

David Gower in conversation with Aakash Chopra and Vijay Sankar on ‘Whither cricket?’

Excerpts:

We must keep Test cricket alive

We have to do something to reinvent Test cricket. To make it more broadly appealing, one of the things we need to do now is ask our superstars such as MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli to talk about the importance of Test cricket. If MS says that it’s important then the country will believe it. The previous generation, for example Sunil Gavaskar, was a strong advocate of Test cricket. And now, it’s the responsibility of the current generation to pass it on.

Those who love it will say a lot of things can happen in Test cricket. You will see swing and seam, you will have periods of play where the batsmen are engaged in good stroke-making. Basically, you get to see all facets of the game.

On the DRS

I think the Decision Review System (DRS) is good. Even if it’s not foolproof, the statistics that ICC gives us suggest that there is an improvement in decision making. An improvement is good, but I would want umpires to be fully involved. I don’t want them to be reduced to spectators within the field. I accept that DRS is not 100 per cent, but people are working on it.

Helmets and cricket

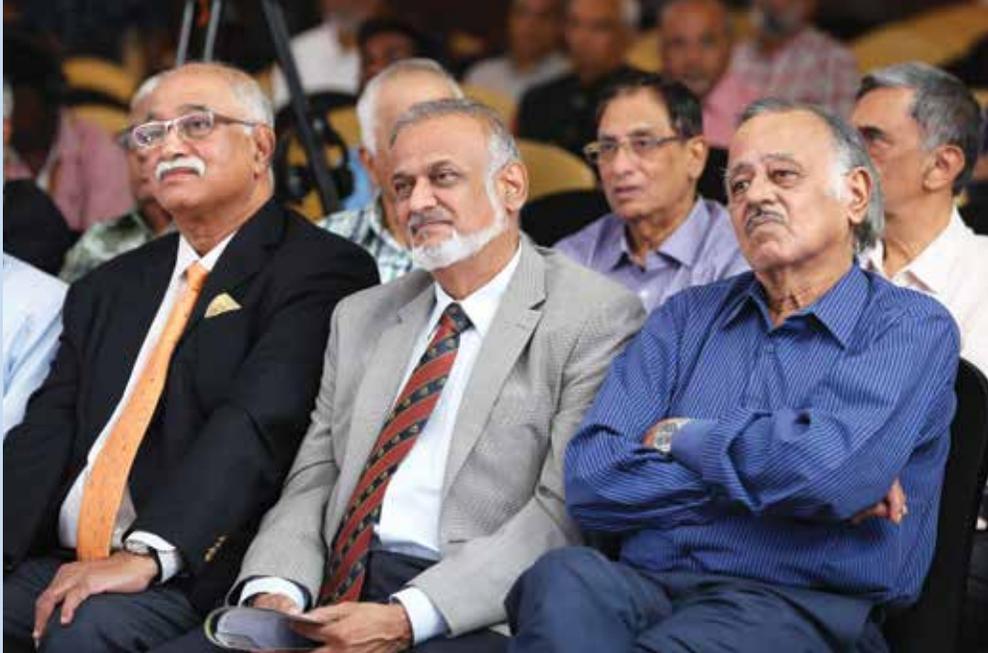
Someone like Ricky Ponting would not have played the way he wanted if he wasn’t using a helmet. People became brave with headgear. From my experience, I can tell you it’s not a good feeling to get hit on the head. Without a helmet, I can’t imagine someone going



on one knee and playing a scoop or a ramp shot. It's like suicide, without a helmet. In my days, I think I played the reverse-sweep just once. Now, if you can't play reverse, you are not a cricketer.

Issues of fixing

Let's be truthful, even with the highest standard of social behaviour, there is crime in every part of the world. We all think we understand right and wrong. There is always temptation and it comes from circumstances that are unique. We have moved from match fixing to spot fixing, it means a tough problem to kill. For those found guilty, penalties have to be severe. Having said that, I have some sympathy for someone like Mohammad Aamir. Yes, he should have been briefed, but you have to remember that he was being influenced



by the captain of the national side (Salman Butt). For an 18 or 19-year-old, the captain is always a superior being. Yes, he admitted to crime and was punished, but those were extraordinary circumstances. Education is a must and players need to be briefed.

(L to R): Vijay Chowgule, Brijesh Patel and S Venkataraghavan and RK Raghavan (seen behind).

Aakash Chopra and David Gower with N Sankar.



“Chennai is a place where I feel welcome. I have been here as a player and as a commentator. Many here love the game and have watched it for years. The enthusiasm people share for the game is overwhelming.”

Kevin Pietersen easily manipulated

It was a failure of leadership. Mike Brearley, Illingworth or Ian Chappell would have taken KP by the neck a little earlier. And tried and suppress his anger. There was a chance to keep him under control. There is no denying the fact that KP is an extraordinary talent. With the T20 World Cup coming up, a lot of English fans are prepared to adopt him as proper English and would want to see him play. Maybe a strong leader could have grounded him five-six years

It was a memorable occasion for the present Jolly Rovers and Alwarpet CC players to spend time with David Gower on 31 January 2016.





ago. I don't want to be rude, but the thing with Kevin is that he is not very bright. He can easily be manipulated. People who are making more money than him say to him that he can easily make more money. Even though he is not playing for England any more, he is not doing badly financially. He is a privileged individual. He has to separate himself from the temptation. Kevin was misled. Sadly for him, whatever he did with those infamous text messages about Andrew Strauss and whatever he did subsequently when they went to Australia... there's never been a proper smoking gun. There was no major incident. At the end of the tour, had Cook as a captain told ECB that 'KP was needed in the team because he was

good,' he would have got his way. And the 800-page resignation letter which is the book he wrote nine months later, there was not much coming from that.

A section of the audience at the function.

Bharath Reddy with David Gower.



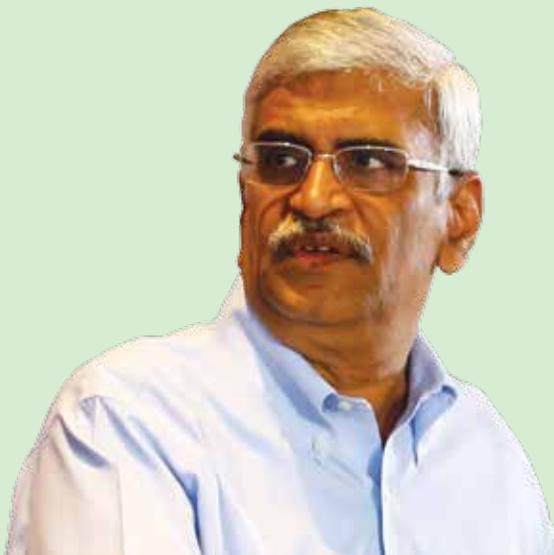
The Sanmar Industry gurus share

The Sanmar Group Annual Day was celebrated on 9 February 2016, after the rains and floods that shook Chennai in November/December 2015 forced its postponement twice.

It was a long day beginning at 8.00 in the morning and ending with the Group Annual Dinner the same evening.

The day's proceedings saw three prominent industry leaders from various fields share their expertise and experience that went with it.

AV Dharmakrishnan, CEO, Ramco Cements Limited, spoke on the topic 'Transparency through information systems.' He presented the ERP system developed and adopted in Ramco Cements. All information is integrated,



AV Dharmakrishnan, CEO, Ramco Cements Limited

“The information is so powerful that I can't tell a lie to my Management, or can be lied to. Even in our meetings, there are no Power Point or Excel presentations; people needn't bring any papers. They just have to come, log into systems and present whatever they want. All our reports are prepared in such a way that they are benchmarked against previous years, targets, amongst all our units.”

digitised and captured at source to provide transparency and accuracy. The online system is so powerful that any report can be extracted at any point of time across several verticals of the company, including finance, HR, logistics, or marketing, on any component such as costing, KRA or an employee and so on. The tie-up with Google Apps provides the platform to track every truck to its destination for instance, and every Ramco asset and plant can be simply plotted on the map.

“The information system can be 100% successful only if the data is 100% accurate. In Ramco Cements, we digitise all documents coming in and out 100%. All our assets are secured 100% by digitisation. We even map each street how much cement we are selling.”

Saurabh Mukherjea, CEO, Institutional Equities, Ambit Capital, shared his thoughts via a presentation he called 'The Modi, Rajan and Technology resets.' He spoke at length on how the Prime Minister, the Reserve Bank Governor and Technology are changing the Indian economy and these changes were more profound than the changes seen in 1991, that will change the economy beyond recognition in the next ten years. “If we don't become economically competitive, our own folks in India will not buy anything Indian. We will buy from China, either through Paytm or Indian person will go there and buy for us, and sell online.”

“This is how I see India in the next two years. The prices of hard assets, whether it is land, whether it is real estate or corporate, will come off, and that will give companies who have the balance sheet and the vision a chance to go and pick up distressed assets and get that much skill

Group Annual Day

their expertise and experience

and efficiencies as we go into our next phase of economic growth.”

Prasad Menon, Chairman, Tata SIA Airlines: ‘Experiences and Reflections.’

Prasad Menon took a walk down memory lane and shared his experiences and learnings at three organisations he served with distinction, ICI, Nagarjuna Chemicals and the Tatas.

Menon considers it his great fortune to have worked with three very different organisations and companies, each with its own strengths and weaknesses. The first, ICI, had great systems, great technology and great engineering; there he learnt his first profound lesson revolving around humanity and mutual respect.

The second, Nagarjuna, under KVK Raju, was a tremendous caring organisation, one that pushed the boundaries and made



Prasad Menon, Chairman, Tata SIA Airlines

“And many companies and organizations actually believe that if they have great businesses, those businesses will live forever, not realising that they also need to renew themselves, not realising that they need to have a sort of inbuilt flexibility.”



Saurabh Mukherjea,
CEO, Institutional Equities, Ambit Capital

“Bigger economy and much greater opportunity waits for all of us. It will only be an opportunity for us if we are able to drag our efficiency levels and fitness up...”

him aspire for higher things. The greatest thing about KVK was that he was a large hearted man, an all encompassing leader with a tremendous connect with nature.

And then there was Tata, a combination of the two, a company which imbibed the best of all systems.

“One of the reasons why many organisations and companies survive for very long periods is that they not only have their inner compass of the purpose, but they are also willing to be flexible. Willing to be flexible in terms of businesses they are in, in terms of the leadership, and in terms of the geographies.”

Vijay Sankar’s presentation ‘Developments and Outlook’ was optimistic with facts grounded on figures as he impressed upon the audience the various commitments before them. Stressing the importance of face-to-face meetings and their greater effectiveness than emails, he said, “We are



“We held our ground amidst a very turbulent global scenario, made possible by our reputation, promoter backing, extremely strong leadership and dedication of the management team.”

-Vijay Sankar

very concerned that you do not put things down without deliberating over it and that is the worst thing one can do. Once you put something in writing, there is no going back. I am a big votary of this. Once I get an email and there is no response from me that is because I would rather call you and get your perspective behind the mail before replying.”

Sarada Jagan said, “The number one strength of the Group is its reputation in Ethics, and the importance we give it is of a very very high order.”

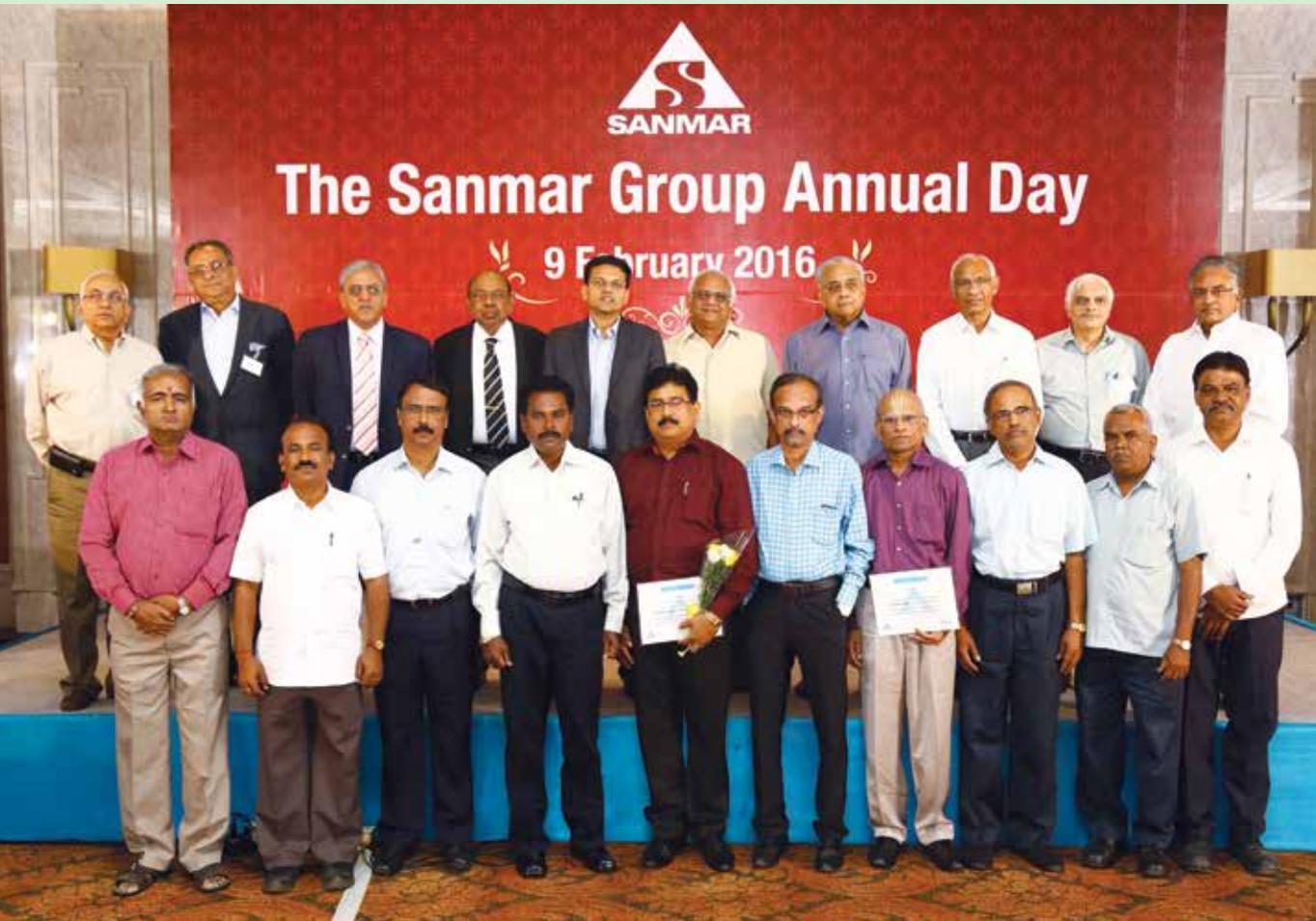
Krishna Kumar Rangachari spoke on the new matrices evolved for the Group Safety Awards reviewing best safety practices of both Indian companies and global leaders and taking into consideration the different types of Sanmar businesses.

Presentations were made by three youngsters on business topics that were discussed during Sanmartini,



Sarada Jagan

Long service awardees with the Group Corporate Board Directors.





Krishna Kumar Rangachari

the Group's inter-business competitions held during November 2015. Sanjay Kumar spoke on 'Business ethics is a luxury not a necessity for an organisation's

success', Stebby Varghese on 'Managing business is an art and not a science' and Ishaan Anand on 'Flexible employee policies increases employee engagement.'

N Sankar in his concluding remarks said, "Our biggest strength is our people. I think we have excellent people all around us. It is not easy to build successors to people who are phasing out and I think we have been able to do this. I am pretty sure that they will do as well as the people they are replacing or even better."



Adit Jain, Director, The Sanmar Group Corporate Board, is seen sharing his thoughts. Seated on his right is B Visweswaran.

Cabot Sanmar receiving their award for 'Best Safety Management Practices' from N Kumar. P Manoharan and Krishna Kumar Rangachari look on.



Team Atlas (Chemplast Sanmar Mettur), champions of Sanmartini 2015, receiving their trophy from Vijay Sankar.



The Sanmar Group Annual Dinner

After day-long business sessions, it was time for games and relaxation in the evening. Bhargav Ramakrishnan and S Aravind of Evam treated the audience to a half-hour of standup comedy, which was sheer fun. The theme of the evening was 'Together - One World'. The decor of the hall was in keeping with the theme and panels showcasing landmarks from around the world were put up. A treasure hunt was played around the panels by enthusiastic and energetic spouses. The dinner menu was truly international with delicacies culled out from across the globe.

N Kumar receives long service award Over 40 years in Sanmar



N Kumar received his long service award for his 40+ years of association with Sanmar, from N Sankar.



S Aravind and Bhargav Ramakrishnan of Evam Standup Tamasha had the audience in splits during their 30-minute show.



Third India-Egypt Business Council at Cairo

50 Indian companies with a combined investment of USD 3 billion in Egypt

The third meeting of the India-Egypt Business Council took place at the office of the Federation of Egyptian Industries in Cairo on 9-10 March 2016. This meeting was held on the sidelines of the Joint Trade Committee meeting comprising Government representatives from both India and Egypt.

On this occasion, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organised a delegation consisting of Indian business representatives to Cairo who had constructive interaction with HE Tarek Kabil, Minister for Trade and Industry, Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Admiral Abd El-kader Darwish, Vice Chairman of the

General Authority for the Suez Canal Economic Zone and other government representatives.

PS Jayaraman, Chairman, TCI Sanmar Chemicals, who co-chaired the meeting (in the absence of Vijay Sankar, Deputy Chairman, The Sanmar Group) recalled in his opening remarks that Egypt had traditionally been one of India's most important trading partners in the African continent. The total trade between India and Egypt had increased by almost 60% from USD 3 billion in 2009-10 to close to USD 5 billion now. The important Indian exports were mineral fuels, meat, vehicles and vehicle parts, cotton yarn and organic chemicals.



India imports a substantial quantity of crude petroleum, rock phosphate, inorganic chemicals, cotton and fruits from Egypt. At present 50 Indian companies are operating in Egypt now with a combined investment of about USD 3 billion and several Egyptian companies are coming forward to invest in India. Already 3 Egyptian companies are present in India.

Jayaraman said that the year 2015 saw more intense political cooperation between the two countries, with regular interactions at the leadership and ministerial levels. He commended Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi for creating an atmosphere congenial for Indian and Egyptian companies to take their relationship to an enlarged environment.

The Egypt side of the Business Council was chaired by Khaled Abou El Makarem, Chairman, Makaremtex Group. About 24 representatives from Egypt side and 13 representatives from the Indian side had very useful interaction during the meetings held on 9th & 10th March 2016.



CEO Summit on Global competitiveness in Cairo – PS Jayaraman shares his thoughts

An open discussion session aimed at identifying Egypt's true competitive advantages in manufacturing and trade and how resources should be better exploited and utilised to position Egypt as a true global player took place in Cairo on 19-20 January 2016.

PS Jayaraman, Chairman, TCI Sanmar Chemicals, was one of the panellists on the session 'Building Egypt's Trade Competitiveness in a Global Market,' which highlighted the true challenges facing Egypt's trade competitiveness, in the light of global trade changes—with developments in technology, sophistication of market demand and consumer expectations, enhancements in shipping and third party logistics.



Sanmar bags two National Awards from Public Relations Society of India



Corporate Communications won two National Awards from the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI): the first prize for 'Scribbles' under the newsletter category and the first prize for Chemplast Sanmar's Sustainability Report 2015 'Responsibility'. The awards were given away at the 37th All India PR Conference at Ahmedabad on 25 December 2015 at Hotel Regenta. This is the second consecutive year that Sanmar is receiving national awards from PRSI.

Ramadevi Ravi, General Manager, Corporate Communications, The Sanmar Group, receiving the award from RS Sodhi, Managing Director, Amul in the presence of PRSI National President Dr Ajit Pathak.

The Sanmar Group's employee newsletter 'Scribbles' won the first prize under Newsletter (English) category.

Chemplast Sanmar's Sustainability Report 'Responsibility' won the first prize under Sustainability Development Report category.



Chemplast Sanmar wins Corporate Governance and Sustainability Vision Award 2016

Chemplast Sanmar won the Corporate Governance and Sustainability Vision Award 2016 from the Indian Chamber of Commerce. Ravi Ahuja received the award on behalf of Chemplast on 19 February at a function held at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi.

Chemplast won this award after several rounds of screening and evaluation by very eminent jury members.

ICC confers the Corporate Governance and Sustainability Vision Awards to various Indian businesses. It is bestowed to those organisations which demonstrate excellent performance in the area of Corporate Governance and Sustainable Development and definitely nurture innovation as well. The Award was conceptualised way back in 2011.

Ravi Ahuja, General Manager, Regional Sales, Chemplast PVC, Delhi (second from right) with other winners at the award function.



The English Press in Madras: a brief overview

V Ramnarayan

Indian newspaper publication began in Calcutta in the 1780s. By the next decade publishing had spread to Madras

An unusual paper was the *Kulasa-i-akhbar-i-lateef*, handwritten in Persian and read daily to Emperor Akbar Shah II. Issues from 1829 are on display in the Red Fort Museum in Delhi.

Eventually all the languages of the subcontinent plus the colonial languages of Dutch, French and Portuguese were represented by their own papers.

Journalism in Madras

In Madras, the *Government Gazette* was established in 1831. The printing of the *St George Gazette*, whose first issue appeared in 1832, the various military orders, the Queen's orders and other such official publications were carried out by The Madras Asylum Press, started for the children of ex-soldiers and officers enabling them to learn printing as a craft.

English journalism

The Hindu (1878) is the most visible, widely read English daily of Chennai, surpassed in circulation only by the Tamil newspapers *Dinakaran* and *Dina Thanthi*. It is one of three English language dailies coming out of the Tamil Nadu capital. *The New Indian Express* and the *Deccan Chronicle* are the other two.

According to KP Viswanatha Iyer, Assistant Editor, *The Hindu*, writing in the Madras Tercentenary Commemoration Volume, 1939, newspapers in the city "had their origin in the needs of the small but growing European Colony of the Presidency." In "the first century of the city's life, it had no newspapers," as newspapers had



and Bombay and by 1800 there were several dozen newspapers, all in English by the English and for the English. The first non-English title was an Armenian monthly, *Azdarar*, published in Madras in 1794, making Madras the birthplace of Armenian journalism.

Language journalism is believed to have begun in 1818, with the Serampore Baptist Mission publishing *Digdarsana*, a bilingual English/ Bengali paper. In 1822, the *Bombay Samachar* began to be published in Gujarati and English. It continues to be published today as *Mumbai Samachar*, making it the oldest continuously published paper in India and one of the oldest in the world.

where Associated Printers now stand, behind Higginbothams. The following year, *the Times* began appointing Indian staff and, two years later, it was fully Indian-owned by *The Madras Times* Printing and Publishing Co. *The Madras Times* was taken over by John Oakshott Robinson, the man behind Spencer's growth, on 1 January 1921.

A few months later, *The Madras Mail* moved into its new home on Mount Road, next to where *The Hindu* is today. Then, almost before it could settle down and start paying for the handsome buildings it had put up, Robinson formed a new company, comprising *The Madras Mail*, *The Spectator* and *The Madras Times*. Higginbothams, and Associated Printers occupied *The Madras Times'* premises and used its machines to become the leading job-printer in the city.

Arthur Hayles, soon to become a legend in Madras journalism, joined *The Madras Times* in 1912, came to *The Madras Mail* with the merger and in 1928 became its Editor. His first act was to drop the 'Madras' from the masthead. In the 1930s, 1940s and till he retired in 1955, he made the voice of *The Mail* heard everywhere.

He modernised its press with linotype, the latest blockmaking machinery and rotary printing.

The Mail was owned by Robinson and a few friends who chipped in. After Robinson died, it changed hands in 1945, when S Anantaramakrishnan of Amalgamations acquired Associated Publishers. Hayles continued with the paper until retirement and *The Mail* then became truly Indianised.

The Hindu was growing fast as a morning paper, while *The Mail* continued as an evening in Madras and a morning paper in the districts. The Indian editors were not quite sure of their role, the management showed diminishing interest and its production staff were becoming more difficult by the day. The paper was closed in 1981. The name survives on the masthead of the Higginbothams monthly newsletter and on the 1921 building on Mount Road.

21st Century additions to the English language print media landscape of Chennai have been the *Times of India* and *Deccan Chronicle*, while *The Hindu BusinessLine*, *Financial Express*, *The Economic Times* and *Mint* (of the *Hindustan Times* stable) are the prominent business dailies of the city.



Jolly Rovers strikes a purple patch in the new millennium

We conclude this series – the story of the Sanmar family’s association with Jolly Rovers – which we began in the July 2015 issue, as part of the golden jubilee. In this final instalment, we recall the deeds of the team in the period 2000-2016.

The last fifteen years or so have been arguably the most productive period of Jolly Rovers’ cricket campaign that started more than five decades ago. It started the year 2000 with a bang, regaining the Palayampatti Shield for the 1999-2000 season after a gap of nine years.

Jolly Rovers was led by dynamic all rounder D Vasu who batted righthanded, guarding his wicket with his life as it were in a stoical, determined style, and bowled left-arm spin most of the time, though he was once a sharp,

combative paceman. He took 54 wickets in the season, and off spinner SR Ganesh Kumar chipped in with 42. Pace bowler H Ramkishen and batsmen Sujith Somasundar, JR Madanagopal and S Ramesh were the other major contributors. That season, Chemplast sponsored two other teams, Alwarpet CC and Prasad CC in the league.

The team had a good mix of experience and youth in the first half of the decade. Abdul Jabbar (coach) and Bharath Reddy (Manager) formed the team management, while an array of talent

Chemplast cricket team - Airtel - BCCI Corporate Tournament winners 2012-13.





was available to them in Vasu, Ramesh, Siddhartha Medappa, Somasundar, Tinu Yohanan, PT Subramaniam, Ganesh Kumar, M Subramaniam, P Muthupandian, TR Arasu, Ajay Kudua, C Hemant Kumar, KS Shahabuddin and Ramkishan. Ramesh represented India in the 1999 World Cup in England, and Kudua was becoming the mainstay of the Kerala team in the Ranji Trophy. C Hemant Kumar was a lefthand batsman of considerable promise and Medappa a fine upstanding batsman.

Soon more future stars were spotted by the talent scouts at Sanmar, led by Bharath Reddy. Top order batsman S Badrinath was to cover himself with distinction with his consistent deeds, a consistency matched in the bowling department by L Balaji, the brilliant medium pacer. Balaji, Dinesh Mongia (captain), Jacob Martin and Y Venugopala Rao toured South Africa with the India 'A' team.

On 19 October 2002, Sanmar released a history of Tamil Nadu cricket it sponsored, a first of its kind in the

country. The release (of *Mosquitos and Other Jolly Rovers: The Story of Tamil Nadu Cricket*, authored by V Ramnarayan) was at the hands of Rahul Dravid who was doing Test match duty at that time at Chepauk. A galaxy of cricketers and cricket celebrities spoke at the event, which was attended by the Who's Who of cricket in this part of the world. N Sankar who wrote the foreword for the book welcomed the guests and spoke of Sanmar's role in not only promoting cricket but also in documenting the local history of the game.

Hemang Badani and Balaji of Jolly Rovers toured Pakistan with the Indian Test team in 2003. Balaji was one of the successes of the tour, with Pakistan President Musharraf reserving a word of praise for him when he met the team.

Jolly Rovers continued to win trophies galore during this period, with its first triumph in the Twenty 20 format coming in 2007 in a national level tournament at Kolkata. Rovers also won the VAP Memorial Trophy at Chennai. Its players

The triumphant Jolly Rovers team which won the Rajah of Palayampatti Shield for the fifth consecutive year in Chennai on 8 October 2004.

List of trophies won by Jolly Rovers from 1966

Tournament	No of titles
TNCA League	18
VAP Trophy	6
BCCI Raj Singh Dungarpur Corporate Trophy	1
KSCA Trophy	3
Moin ud Dowla Trophy	6
Arlem Trophy	2
Canara Bank Trophy	1
CCFC Trophy	1
YSCA Trophy	2
Hindu Trophy	12
Dunlop Trophy	1
MCA Corporate Trophy	1
Pasadena Trophy	1
MCC Dyanora Trophy	1
Buchi Babu Trophy	3
Indian Bank Trophy	1
Simpson Trophy	1
Indian Express Trophy	1
Total	62

continued to do well for themselves at the national level, with Dinesh Karthik making a promising start with a swashbuckling knock in T20 match in South Africa. Opener M Vijay, who continues to be Jolly Rovers' pride was among the runs at every level including first class. He and off spinner R Ashwin made their Ranji Trophy season memorable with some sterling performances. Other Jolly Rovers players

to perform regularly were Vasanth Saravanan, R Ram Kumar, Jesuraj, R Sathish, S Badrinath, Hemang Badani, Ajay Kudua and Tinu Yohanan.

Leg spinner Piyush Chawla joined the team towards the end of the decade, and has been one of its pillars ever since with his consistent bowling and batting. By the time the year 2010 came round, Jolly Rovers had won the league title 15 times, with seven titles in the decade alone, and had contributed more than 25 players to the Indian team.

Medium pacer all rounder R Sathish has been another loyal Jolly Rovers stalwart. He captained the India team in the now defunct ICL, and came back after BCCI banned and later reinstated ICL players,

to play with distinction for Mumbai Indians and other teams in the IPL. Ashwin, Vijay, Badrinath and other Jolly Rovers players went on to do well in the IPL. Sathish had a successful stint as Jolly Rovers captain, scoring 1245 runs one season, including successive scores 266 not out, 232 and 135. Ajay Kudua, by now a veteran, was in great form, too.

In April 2012, Jolly Rovers won the VAP Memorial Trophy a fifth time in the seven years of its existence. Piyush Chawla, who did the star turn in the final, was soon in the India T20 team for the World Cup.

In the 2012-13 season, Chemplast won the BCCI's All-India Corporate Trophy by defeating India Cements in the final. Skipper C Hemant Kumar, Napoleon Einstein, Nilesh Subramaniam, Anand Subramaniam, Piyush Chawla, M Vijay, R Sathish, M Prabha and Prashanth Varma were the main contributors.

Happily for the team, its champion opening batsman M Vijay continues to excel at the Test level, with several standout performances against England and Australia in the recent past.

The Jolly Rovers team has been rewarded for its excellent run with tours of England during the summer on more than one occasion during the last decade. These tours give the players a taste of overseas cricketing conditions as well as excellent grooming for their future as global citizens.

Jolly Rovers continues its winning ways, pursuing excellence with exemplary professionalism, thanks to nurturing of a performance culture by the top management team of N Sankar, N Kumar and Vijay Sankar, the team management represented by Bharath Reddy, K Ram Mohan Rao and Ajay Kudua.

The Sruti Foundation honours two veteran artists

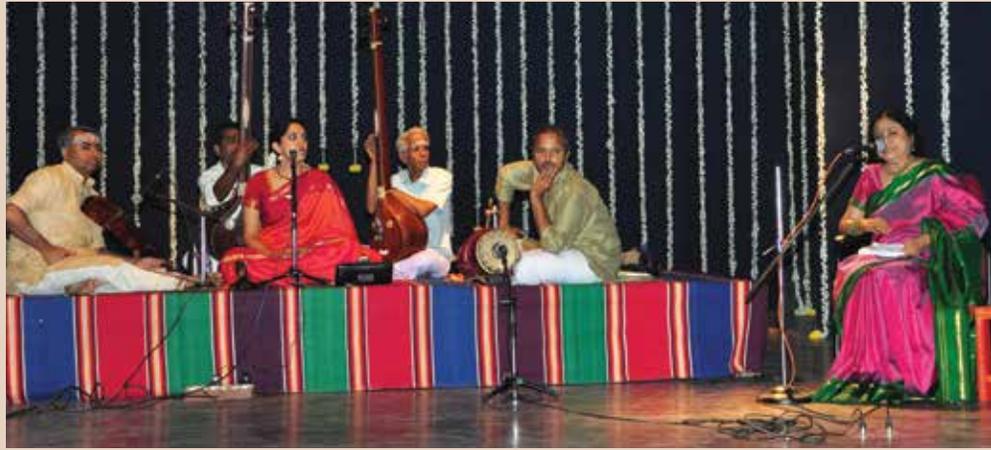
The Sruti Foundation celebrated excellence in the performing arts by honouring two eminent artists – Indira Rajan and Suguna Varadachari – at a function held on 6 February 2016.

The E Krishna Iyer Medal established by the Sruti Foundation in 1989, was presented to Indira Rajan, veteran Bharatanatyam dancer, nattuvangam artist and guru, for carrying on the tradition and for her contribution to the field of Bharatanatyam. The Vellore Gopalachariar Memorial Award (instituted by the late mridanga vidwan Vellore Ramabhadran) was presented to Suguna Varadachari, senior vocalist and guru, for her yeoman service in propagating the cause of Carnatic music in India and abroad.

The awards were presented by N Sankar, Chairman of The Sanmar Group and the Sruti Foundation.

Both veterans in their seventies have spent a lifetime dedicated to Bharatanatyam and Carnatic music.

Gowri Ramnarayan presenting Braving the Ban: MS and Tamil Isai with Amritha Murali (vocal), with RK Shriram Kumar (violin) and K Arun Prakash (mridangam).



PS Narayanan, Indira Rajan, N Sankar, Suguna Varadachari, V Ramnarayan and Sukanya Sankar.



Chemplast medical camps

A special medical camp for the local public was organised on 15 February 2016 at Chemplast's Vaidheeswara Higher Secondary School in coordination with Sri Gokulam Hospitals, Salem.

Meganatha Reddy, IAS, Sub-collector, Mettur, inaugurated the camp conducted

under the supervision of Dr K Arthanari, Gokulam Hospitals.

Over 600 beneficiaries from villages around Mettur attended the camp in which seven medical specialists from Gokulam hospital reviewed the patients, in addition to Chemplast's



at Mettur and Karaikal

doctor. Diagnostic tests, ECG and Echo were carried out. Medicines were also distributed free of cost at the camp.

A camp for general medical screening and eye check was conducted by Chemplast Karaikal in coordination with Vinayaga Mission Medical College and Hospital on 20 February 2016 at Community halls

at Mudali Medu and Vadakku Vanjore villages. The camps were arranged at the behest of the District collector of Karaikal T Karikalan under the supervision of Dr P Chitra, Medical Superintendent, Government General Hospital, Karaikal and the active participation of the village Panchayats. Over 160 villagers benefited from the camps.



Chemplast Karaikal feted for its garden



Chemplast Karaikal won the second prize for its industrial garden at the XVII Flower, Vegetable and Fruit show conducted by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Puducherry. The award was given away at a function on 7 February 2016 by the District Collector of Karaikal, E Vallavan. N Palanisamy received the award on behalf of Chemplast.

N Palanisamy receiving the award on behalf of Chemplast Karaikal from Karaikal Collector E Vallavan.



Sanmar's continuous support to The Ellen Sharma Memorial School

Sanmar has been supporting the The Ellen Sharma Memorial Nursery and Primary School, Karapakkam, a branch of the Children's Garden School Society, Mylapore, for many years now. In addition to a contribution made for the construction of a kitchen for mid-day meals in the school, a yearly donation of Rs 1 lakh is being made for providing food and maintenance of the classrooms.

This year, a donation of Rs 4 lakh was made towards the painting of the school buildings in addition to Rs 1 lakh for

providing food and maintenance of the classrooms in the school.

The donations were handed over to Miss Sakunthala Sharma, the correspondent of the Children's Garden School Society and the school principal Mrs N Jayasree on 29 January 2016 at Karapakkam.



K Mohan and R Venkataramani of Sanmar handing over the donation to Sakunthala Sharma, correspondent of the Children's Garden School Society and the school principal N Jayasree looks on.

Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children

Two awards for Jaya Krishnaswamy



Jaya Krishnaswamy, Director, Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children, received two awards this International Women's Day (8 March 2016).

She received an achiever's award for her "Extraordinary contribution in the specialised field of spreading awareness on the importance of special education and early childhood MR."

The same day the Probus Club of Chennai, in association with the Russian Centre of Science and Culture, conferred on her the "Probus Award of Excellence" for her contribution to the field of Special Education.

Jaya Krishnaswamy receiving the award from Tamil Nadu Governor K Rosaiah.

Skill improvement games at MNC Sports Day

Cricketer R Jesuraj gives away prizes

The Annual Sports Day of the Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children was conducted on 12 February 2016. Tamil Nadu cricketer R Jesuraj was the Chief Guest.

Games and activities that suited these special children with different levels of disability involving motor skills and social skills to improve home living, memory and develop grasp and release skills were played.

This year's sports day saw several skill improvement games which included *Peels potato, Folds lunch towel, Bucket filled with sand, Carries a basket, Packs lunch bag, Transfers wet sponge, Kneel walking and Matches number card with number rod.*



Jolly Rovers and Tamil Nadu cricketer R Jesuraj was the Chief Guest and gave away the prizes.

Annual Day at Sri Sankara Schools

The Annual Day celebrations of the Sankara Schools—Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Adyar and Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Tiruvanmiyur—were held on 22 January 2016 at The Music Academy.

Dr Bala V Balachandran, professor, JI Kellogg, USA and Founder, Dean and Chairman, Great Lakes Institute of Management, was the Chief Guest. He distributed proficiency prizes among students and long service awards among the staff.

The students presented a medley of Indian classical and contemporary dance dedicated to Lord Siva. A musical bonanza by students of both the schools enthralled the audience.



N Sankar presenting a memento to Dr Bala V Balachandran and N Kumar looks on.



Legends from the South

Sri Sankara

Sankara, Madhva and Ramanuja are the three names revered as the leaders of India's Vedantic thought. The three philosophies they propagated are respectively Advaita, Dvaita and Vishishtadvaita.

Sankara or Sankaracharya was the first philosopher to consolidate the doctrine of Advaita. He was born to the couple Sivaguru and Aryamba who had been childless for many years in the village of Kaladi, Kerala. Sankara in Sanskrit means, 'bestower of goodness.' It is one of the many names of Siva, the Hindu god.

There is no exact record of Sankara's year of birth, with many divergent versions ranging from 509 BC to 788 AD. There is however general agreement that he lived to be only 32.

His father died when Sankara was seven years old. His mother was an extraordinary woman who took special care to educate him in all the Sastras. Sankara's thread ceremony of initiation

as a brahmin was performed when he was seven, the year his father died. The boy exhibited extraordinary intelligence.

By the time he was eight, Sankara had shown remarkable mastery over the four Vedas. He studied the Sastras with his guru or teacher in the traditional gurukulam method of schooling, all the while seeking alms from the laity, as customary for young brahmin students.

Once Sankara came across a woman who offered him the last bit of amalaka fruit that she had. Moved by her piety Sankara composed the Kanakadhara Stotram on the spot. He was only 16 when he began to write commentaries on the Gita, the Upanishads and the Brahma Sutras.

Sankara wanted to take up sanyasa even as a teen, but his mother was against the idea. She refused him permission. According to a legend, a crocodile gripped Sankara while he was bathing in the river Periyar and started dragging him away. Sankara asked his mother for permission to renounce the world then and there, so that he could be a sanyasin at the moment of death. As his mother agreed, Sankara took sanyasa at once, but the crocodile let him go unharmed. Sankara then left Kerala for north India in search of a guru and found him in Govinda Bhagavatpada on the banks of the river Narmada.

Govindapada taught Sankara the philosophy of Advaita which he himself had learnt from his guru Gaudapada Acharya. Sankara learnt all the philosophical tenets from Govindapada. At Govinda's bequest Sankara proceeded

Advaita (Sanskrit; not-two, "no second") refers to the idea that the true Self, Atman, is the same as the highest Reality, Brahman. The Advaita Vedanta posits nondualism – that ultimate reality (Brahman) and human soul are identical and all reality is interconnected oneness,

Dvaita (Sanskrit word that means "duality, dualism, doubt"), founded by Madhvacharya believes that God (Vishnu, supreme soul) and the individual souls (jīvātman) exist as independent realities, and these are distinct.

Vishishtadvaita of Ramanuja posits qualified nondualism – that ultimate reality (Brahman) and human soul are different but with the potential to be identical. VishishtAdvaita (literally "Advaita with uniqueness; qualifications") is a non-dualistic school of Vedanta philosophy. It is non-dualism of the qualified whole, in which Brahman alone exists, but is characterised by multiplicity.

to Kasi where he wrote all his famous commentaries on the Brahma Sutras, the Upanishads and the Gita. He defended his theories successfully before all the criticisms levelled against them.

On a triumphant tour of India, Sankara met the leaders of different schools of thought. He argued with them and established truth of the religion he expounded in his commentaries. He defeated Bhatta Bhaskara and condemned his bhashya on the Vedanta Sutras. He then met Dandi and Mayura and taught them his philosophy. He defeated in argument Harsha, author of Khandana Khanda Kadya, Abhinavagupta, Murari Misra, Udayanacharya, Dharmagupta, Kumarila and Prabhakara.

Sankara's famous debate with ritualist Mandana Misra in which the wife of Mishra, Ubhya Bharati was the referee, who was herself very well-learned, is well known.

At stake was a whole way of life. The agreement was that if Mandana Misra won, Sankara would consent to marriage and the life of a householder, whereas if Sankara won, Mishra would renounce all his wealth and possessions and become a sanyasin, disciple of Sankara. The debate is said to have lasted for whole weeks, until Mandana Misra had to concede defeat and become a sanyasin. Bharati was a fair judge, but before declaring Sankara as the winner, she challenged Sankara with questions about Kama Sastra, which he knew nothing about. Sankara asked for some time, during which, using the subtle yogic process of parakasya-pravesa, he entered the body of a dying king and experienced the art of love with his queens. Returning to Bharati's home, he answered all of her questions. Mandana Misra was to become the most celebrated disciple of Sankara.



Sankara travelled throughout India from the south to Kashmir and Nepal. He founded four mathas (monasteries) which played a key role in the historical development and revival of Hinduism and Advaita philosophy after the Buddhist era. He founded the Dasanami monastic order and the Shanmata tradition of worship.

The traditional accounts of Sankara's life are poetic works with a mix of biographical material written in epic style. They are called Sankara Vijayams.

When Sankara received news that his mother was seriously ailing, he left his disciples and proceeded to Kaladi alone. He touched her feet in reverence. When he came to know that she was to die shortly, he offered 'Siva Bhujanga Stotra' and 'Vishnu Stotra' which have the power to save the soul, and prayed that she dies peacefully and reach heaven.

He travelled to Kedarnath-Badrinath in the Himalayas towards the end of his life and attained videha mukti (freedom from embodiment).

