From the Editor’s desk…

During my school and college days, the coming of a New Year - January 1st, was always exciting, as it was the time to make resolutions. This habit petered out once I started working - while in some years resolutions were made, in some years there were none. I am sure many of you have gone through a similar experience.

The question is, how many of the resolutions made were carried through – if so, for how long, and if not, why? Many resolutions never take off; some start off well and then die a natural death. Have we ever analysed why this happens?

Most of the resolutions involve a change of habit. Habits take a long time to develop – whether it is a daily morning walk, reading X number of books a month, spending time on an activity at specified times and so on. These habits have to be cultivated. Let us take the example of morning walks. Do I have the commitment to wear a raincoat or take an umbrella and walk in the mornings, even if it rains heavily? Most of us will say ‘No’. Instead, we would rather rationalise to ourselves why we should not take a walk in the rain.

Therefore, unless we are at it everyday of the year, the changes that we desire cannot happen. I made just one resolution this year, and I am yet to start it! Hopefully, it is only a starting trouble!

Scribbles is growing! In this first issue of the New Year, we decided to change the look of Scribbles and enhance its contents. Scribbles with its new look will hopefully add more colour to your lives. From this issue, we have more pages for you which have been structured differently.

‘Exclusive Sanmar’ will feature news and events in the Group’s businesses.

‘Entrée Employee’ will have contributions from employees.

‘Extended Families’ is for contributions by employee family members.

‘Energetic Young’ is for the young at mind and heart.

‘Exploring India’ will help you get to know our country better.

‘Eureka!’ for sharpening the saw.

It was good to see so many responses for the 'blurred image’ that we had published in the last issue. Most thought it was the Taj Mahal! It is the Victoria Memorial in Calcutta indeed! Keep trying.

Do encourage your children to participate in the contests that we started from the last issue. Interesting prizes to win!

Hope you enjoyed reading the special issue of Scribbles released for the New Year. Wishing you all a great year ahead!

Send us your contributions/responses to scribbles@sanmargroup.com

Please send in your 'Scribbles' for use in this space.
TiECON Chennai, a flagship annual event is Tamil Nadu’s largest conclave for entrepreneurs. This year, TiECON was held on 24 November 2010 at the Chennai Convention Centre with the exciting theme ‘money – money – money’. N Sankar was chosen unanimously by the jury for this year’s ‘TiE Lifetime Achievement Entrepreneur Award’. This award recognizes entrepreneurs who have created enterprises that have not only created value for investors, but have also transformed them into enduring organisations which have had a deep beneficial impact on a wider community and society at large.

N Sankar was the chief guest at the TiECON Chennai 2010 and he gave away the TiE Chennai Entrepreneur Awards to the other awardees.

Excerpts from his speech on the occasion.

“I would define an entrepreneur as one who has a combination of four different roles at different phases of an enterprise’s life.

- Identification
- Organization
- Management
- Sustenance

An Entrepreneur first has to identify by some means, the activities that he will take up in his business with the expectation of profits. He then has to organize the resources that the activity will require – men, money, machinery or whatever else. Having set up the business, he then has to manage it efficiently. And finally, as the risk taker, apart from enjoying the wealth that he creates, he will have to sustain its continuing need for the different resources, as it hopefully expands and grows. A combination of these I guess could be defined as ‘Entrepreneurship’.

As I said, the first step to becoming an entrepreneur is the identification of the business opportunity. On that front, I must say you start off with a huge advantage. India is a great place to be a fledgling entrepreneur. The opportunities here are enormous. Picking the right one is the difficult part.

There are two types of entrepreneurs. Those who pick up an idea that does not occur to anyone else, or invent a new product or process – a ‘Blue Sky’ type of opportunity, and put in lot of efforts which pay off big time. People like Bill Gates of Microsoft, Steve Jobs at Apple, Zuckenberg at Facebook, and so on. Not too many in India - perhaps G D Naidu from Coimbatore. This type of success is extremely rare, and for every one who succeeds, there are thousands who don’t.

Entrepreneurship cannot be inherited or learnt. Management can be taught; businesses can be inherited; but entrepreneurship is something innate to an individual. It is a combination of vision, risk taking ability, and management capability. The only institution that educates you in entrepreneurship is the ‘School of Hard Knocks’ – the real world.

The second type of entrepreneur refers to people like Warren Buffet (Berkshire Hathway), or Mukesh Ambani (Reliance), Premji (Wipro), N R Narayanamurthy (Infosys), to name a few closer to home. These people did not invent anything or think of an unique opportunity for exploitation. The business opportunities that they made their billions in were available to everybody. What they did was bring a special brand of drive, management, and organizational ability to bear. This type constitutes the vast majority of entrepreneurs around the world, and you can certainly hope to emulate them and their success.

What you do next depends on your risk taking ability. When you start out, in most cases you are reasonably young, have a limited amount of resources, but have enormous belief in this idea that you have identified, and are ready to bet the house on it. In most cases you will, and there’s always the chance that you will not succeed. Risk taking thus has to be second nature to an entrepreneur.
And then having identified the business and decided to take the risk and invested in it, comes the question of management - the style of management that you adopt and practice. Here again there is no one right answer. All I can do is give you my take on what I found worked for me.

Attracting and retaining the right people is critical. This is something that has definitely worked for The Sanmar Group. We have been fortunate in being able to attract and retain an enormously capable bunch of people on whose efforts The Sanmar Group has been built.

However apart from all this, it’s even more important to give these people the proper environment to work in. After all, they are taking the difficult decisions, and sticking their necks out for rewards that would ultimately accrue to the entrepreneur. It’s therefore important that the decisions they take and the way they work, does not keep them awake at nights. In Sanmar we adopted way back a strict code of Do’s and Don’ts, a credo by which everybody in Sanmar will operate.

Sanmar’s Corporate Vision talks of ‘Combining Integrity and Excellence’, and we make serious efforts to instill this across the Group. It has worked for us. As corporate policy, we have gone far beyond the requirements of rules and regulations in protecting the environment. At our chemical plants we have put in leading edge technologies, and I am proud to say that all our facilities are operating on a Zero Liquid Discharge basis for some years now. At our coastal locations we meet our own water resources by desalination.

The other issue we emphasize on is logic in all management decisions. Ultimately, management is nothing but common sense. In a close decision, a manager could make a decision either way and chances are he could be right or wrong. We insist that the logic for such decisions be put down clearly and if that is done, and the logic is reasonable, we don’t hold the manager responsible for the decision going wrong.

There is one final piece of advice that I would give the entrepreneurs among you, and that is ‘Enjoy Yourselves’. Entrepreneurship will not work, once the fun goes out of it. This may sound trite, but as I speak to more and more of friends of my generation, I find this to be increasingly true.

Success will depend on your entrepreneurial abilities – your vision, management, staying power, and of course on that indefinable quantity without which no success can be guaranteed – call it good fortune, divine grace or whatever’. 

Chemoplast Sanmar wins CII Water awards

Chemoplast Sanmar Limited has won two awards at the 7th National Award for Excellence in Water Management organised by the CII in Hyderabad on December 10-11, 2010. The flagship company of The Sanmar Group won the “Innovative Case Study” and “Excellent Water Efficient Unit” awards for the successful case study of zero liquid discharge at Mettur. Chemplast has the principle of “not a drop of effluent to be discharged on land or in water” and has not discharged a single drop of treated effluent since September 2009 in Mettur while in Cuddalore and Karaikal there has been no discharge since inception.

“The Sanmar Group is a pioneer in Zero Liquid Discharge. We have always believed in investing in the best available technology at that point of time. Technology is particularly important for environment management. With the unique situation of working with a nearly 75-year-old plant, such as in Mettur we needed to look at new and innovative methods to ensure that we do not discharge a single drop of treated effluent from our plants. These awards are recognition of team work but most of all an appreciation of our social commitment”, said N Sankar.

The Sanmar Group has adopted this guiding principle though it involved additional investment of Rs 27 Crores and a yearly running cost of Rs 6 Crores. This novel and unique approach involves an extensive and balanced pre-treatment of effluent of varying quality from various manufacturing facilities at Mettur. 100% good quality water is recovered from it and recycled; the balance solid waste is recovered in Sodium salt form and reused as a raw material in Caustic Soda production.

The CII Water Awards are presented for effective and positive water management efforts in the industry. Over a hundred companies had entered the award competition and those short-listed presented before a jury of environmental, industrial and economic experts.

Andhra Pradesh Government Industries Commissioner Karikabalaavan distributed the awards. On behalf of Chemplast Sanmar, S Venkatesan, G Sankaranubaramanian, Dr R Palaniappan and B Jayashree received them.
Flowserve Sanmar – ‘Sealing’ solutions for over three decades…

A joint venture with Flowserve Corporation, USA, Flowserve Sanmar is the market leader in engineered, mechanical sealing devices – from pusher seals, dry running seals and split seals to metal bellows seals and non-contracting seals.

Flowserve Corporation, USA, has a long standing tradition of providing seals and sealing services that are trusted by the industry. Flowserve designs, manufactures and distributes mechanical seals, sealing systems and parts to customers worldwide. Mergers and acquisitions have brought major seal players together under the Flowserve umbrella, with a product range that today includes BW®, Durametallic®, Pacific Wiertz™ and Pac-Seal.”

Flowserve Sanmar’s mechanical seals are used on a variety of rotating equipment, including pumps, compressors, mixers, steam turbines, and other speciality equipment primarily in the oil and gas, pharmaceutical, chemical processing, mineral and ore processing and general industries. As KR Varma who heads Flowserve Sanmar’s business and has been with the Group for nearly 35 years comments, “The reliability of Flowserve Sanmar’s products is critical to plant operations and performance, though the products themselves are not very large in terms of value. We are aiming for the number 1 position in the domestic market in the next 2-3 years”.

At Flowserve Sanmar, decades of experience and technological expertise are combined to provide the best sealing solutions that exceed customers’ expectations. “The Flowserve Sanmar JV has stood out in terms of relationships which have remained unparalleled all these years”, says KR Mohan who started his career with Flowserve Sanmar as a graduate engineer trainee in 1982.

Flowserve Sanmar prides itself in improving customer reliability, create a positive environmental impact and reduce operating expenses. In the words of Victor Asir, who joined the Flowserve Sanmar team in 1985, “We have a dynamic team in place to adapt any changes and to implement the best practices.”

Perhaps the key strength of Flowserve Sanmar is the unmatched ability to deliver custom-designed mechanical seals well within the target time of customer’s request. As yet another veteran RB Satish Kumar, who has been with Flowserve Sanmar for almost three decades comments, “Our uncompromised commitment to deliver quality product on time, as well as our ability to swiftly resolve any performance issue, enables us to continually benchmark ourselves against our own performance levels.”

“Our relationship with Flowserve has particular significance for me personally since this was the first business that I started on my own and the first US collaboration I negotiated on my own.”

- N Sankar

“The state-of-the-art Flowserve Sanmar plant at Karapakkam, Chennai.

A view of Flowserve Sanmar’s office facilities at Karapakkam, Chennai.
Conserving Water: Caring for the Environment

G Sankarasubramanian, Operations, Chemplast Sanmar HO and B Jayashree, Corporate Communications, Corporate Division, HO

Protection of water – integral to life and all activity – is the responsibility of every individual. As a Group with a high level of social consciousness, Chemplast has adopted certain principles that indicate commitment to the environment way beyond what is required for conducting the businesses.

A great deal of thought has gone into the Governing Principle evolved by the Group – a principle that not only ensures compliance of every conceivable standard laid down for operation, but goes ahead of this, to voluntarily initiate various activities as a reflection of environmental concern.

The Governing Principle states that

- Every facility of the group to be Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) – that is, not a drop of treated effluent will be let out onto land or sea
- All new plants will implement water conservation at the design stage
- All coastal plants would not draw any ground water but would rely on desalination.

The implementation of any positive intention however, needs to be backed by innovation and technical expertise. Even if the intentions and investments are available, the crucial requirement is technology to make this vision a reality. Chemplast procures state-of-the-art technology for its plants and this is especially so for the cause of environment, where we have pioneered technology for efforts such as zero-liquid discharge.

With our in-house expertise on one-hand and external vendors on the other, extensive research went into identifying and fine-tuning a product to meet our requirements. Especially in the context of locations such as Mettur, where the oldest plant has been in existence for over 70 years and there are 20 different products discharging varied effluents, it has taken the collective expertise of our engineers to deal with the discharges related to each process and resolve them with the relevant technology. At the newer plants in Cuddalore and Karaikal this effort was implemented at the designing stage itself showing high environmental foresight.

The faithful adherence to the Governing Principle is demonstrated in locations such as the Cuddalore plant, where although the aquifer runs only 3 metres below the surface, the plant does not draw any ground water and relies instead on its desalination facility set up at an investment of over Rs. 20 crores.

Sanmar’s efforts not only reveal the Group’s penchant for technology and innovation but also a deeply rooted concern that has propelled it towards creating a better environment.
What you eat, decides your health!

Are you a fan of high calorie, fried, fast foods and quick snacks?
Or do you always find yourself checking food labels for hidden ingredients and order a salad instead?

Either way, here is a check for your healthy diet plan.

1. **Simplify**: Instead of being overly concerned with counting calories or measuring portion sizes, think of your diet in terms of colour, variety and freshness.

2. **Start slow**: Take small steps, like adding a salad (full of different colour vegetables) to your diet once a day or switching from butter to olive oil when cooking.

3. **Include greens in your diet**: Greens are packed with calcium, magnesium, iron, potassium, zinc, vitamins A, C, E and K, and they help strengthen the blood and respiratory systems.

4. **Pack a fruity punch**: Fruit provides fibre, vitamins and antioxidants. Berries help fight cancer, apples provide fibre, oranges and mangoes offer vitamin C, and so on.

5. **‘G’ stands for whole grains!** Include whole wheat, brown rice, millet, oats and barley. Experiment with different grains to find your favourites.

Choose wisely, eat well. Stay fit!

E Arunkumar, HR, Chemplast Sanmar, Merttur.

What are Problems?

**P**redictors: They help us to mould our future

**R**eminders: We are not self-sufficient. We need God and others to help

**O**pportunities: They pull us out of the rut and cause us to think creatively

**B**lessings: They open up doors that we usually do not go through

**L**essons: Each new challenge will be a teacher

**E**verywhere: No place or person is excluded from them

**M**essages: They warn us about potential disaster

**S**olvable: No problem is without a solution.

S Sankaran, Quality Control, Xomox Sanmar, Viralimalai.
Where sparrows have gone....

Of late all of us have seen various articles appearing in dailies and magazines with the above title and showing larger than life pictures of this tiny bird. Yes, their population seems to have dwindled, or they have shifted from our vicinity because our present compact houses and food habits are no more conducive to their comfortable living. Another theory states that the electronic waves from the mobile phone towers spoil their eggs and they do not hatch.

Where crows have gone? I am yet to see such an article of concern. I am talking about the bigger variety of jet-black crow, which had found a place in our epics and heart. We consider them as our ancestors and expect them to accept the offerings we make in the name of our ancestors. They were our morning alarm, they are nature’s scavengers, they used to alert us about the arrival of a guest (it is believed their peculiar cry is an indication of this), they are the first bird introduced to all of us as a child and we have imitated their call. We have heard lot of stories and songs about crows while growing up. They have become very rare now and the smaller and shrewder ones with a coat of grey around the neck are dominating the scene. Just look around to see if my observation is right. Why has no one observed this and written about it, except me?

In my mother tongue (Malayalam) there is an adage – one tends to see and worry about few mustard seeds rolling off while one overlooks the loss of many elephants. Can we apply it here?

In our society, we can see the communal equilibrium/ratio tilting as a result of different customs and practices followed by various communities and proper measures not being introduced at appropriate time. This can happen in an organization too, unless there is proper attention. We realise it all only once the damage is already done.

What I want to reiterate is the fact that often the smaller issues catch our attention and not the major ones. Often we try to resolve the smaller issues first and as a fall out, the major one still persists.

K R Induchudhan, Corporate Affairs, Corporate Division, Head Office.

Accident Prevention System

I worked on a project called ‘Accident Prevention System’ along with a couple of my batch-mates. The project aims at minimising the number of road accidents and developing a solution that is effective and at the same time affordable by all. The final product is essentially an electronic box that runs on battery and is not only portable but also vehicle independent.

The system is aimed at doing multifarious tasks that include warning the driver in case of a likely collision with an obstacle and also providing him with the immediate direction in which he needs to move the vehicle in order to avoid the collision. The system also alerts the driver using a buzzer and gives him the direction of motion using the help of LED lights. This definitely comes in handy in cases where people tend to lose their concentration on the road due to cell phones or on fog covered roads.

Another important feature of the product is that it is integrated with a GPS (Global Positioning System), which keeps track of the position of the driver and warns him in cases of over speeding for the particular area.

The system also includes a pulse monitor that keeps note of the pulse of the driver and alerts him if he feels drowsy while driving. The system can also be upgraded to alert the closest police station in case of drunken driving and the closest hospital in case of an accident or injury to the driver.

The system also helps out the process of overtaking as it warns the driver if the overtaking is not feasible.

The fact that the system takes care of the most important causes of accidents makes it more unique and effective in the practical scenario and more importantly affordable to a common man.

R Ravi Kiran, II Yr B Tech, IIT Madras, S/o M Raman, Legal & Secretarial, Corporate Division, Head Office.
I’m a mother

Every heart blooms out when it thinks of “Mother”. She is an incredible person who does so much for her kids and never thinks of her own wishes and desires. She always strives and struggles to make her kids the best amongst all in every way.

Being the most responsible torch bearer, how would you make yourself a ‘perfect mother’, what can you give and do for the betterment of your children. Here are some thoughts I wish to share with you:

• Start each day fresh as it gives a new opportunity to have a better relationship with your kids.
• Express your love and affection towards them by hugging and kissing them on all occasions and do not miss to say ‘I love you’ as it gives a lot of moral support to your kids.
• Reward and praise them for all the good efforts and not just the results.
• Teach your kids to think positive and use positivity to explain what is good for them. Like telling them the benefits of eating with clean hands rather than scolding them for eating with dirty ones.
• Allow your kids to choose their own clothes or toys as it builds up their decision-making ability.
• When they make a mistake, scolding them would not be the solution. See that they understand the moral and have learnt the lesson of not repeating the same in future.
• Create occasions at home to celebrate and make it exciting for your kids. Simple things like arranging a candle light dinner, festival get together with their friends.

All these simple and small actions mean a lot to children. As every child is precious, it is the responsibility of parents to groom them into successful individuals. The day when a mother is addressed as his or her mother would be the most memorable day in your life.

Sasirekha Navaneetha Krishnan, W/o R Navaneetha Krishnan, Personnel, Chemplast Sanmar, Mettur.

Cook & See - Potato Paneer Delight

Ingredients: Small potatoes boiled peeled 1/2kg, paneer 200gms, cut into small cubes, onions 2 large cut into 4, green chilli 2 finely chopped, red chilli powder 1 tsp, cashews nuts 1/4 cup, dhania powder (coriander powder) 1 paste 2 tsp, salt as desired, fresh curd or yoghurt 1 cup, sugar optional 1/2 tsp, chopped coriander leaves for garnish.

Method: Grind the chopped onions and cashew nuts to a smooth paste. In a kadai, heat ghee and add the paste and fry for a minute or so. Add ginger garlic paste and garam masala and stir fry for a minute. Add dhania powder (coriander powder), red chilli powder and the green chillies and fry for a minute. Beat the curd well and add to the mixture along with salt. Cook till the ghee separates. Add potatoes, paneer and sugar and cook for 2-3 minutes. Mix well. Garnish with chopped coriander leaves.

Courtesy: Cook & See (Samaithu Par), Part 4 by Priya Ramkumar, W/o Ramkumar Shankar, Chemplast Sanmar, HO.

Mother, a quintessence of love

It was an unforgettable evening when I sat alone in the corner of my room and pondered about my strenuous mundane work. That was when I started thinking about my mom, my best role model, as my mind was obsessed with stress and strain of day-to-day jobs. I just switched on my mobile and called up my mom… I was surprised that I became chirpy and cheerful in a jiffy. Yes, this makes my mom, my best critic as well as best pal and a discerning connoisseur too. She used to be my chauffeur when I attended music classes in my childhood days. We used to gossip and chitchat about the nitty gritty of all current affairs. She is a perfect down to earth person and is expeditious in making decisions.

Mother’s affection and care is always immeasurable. Though distance can separate both of us, we are indissoluble. I feel her presence every minute and second of my life.

Mom, you are ubiquitous in every perspective of my life and I am grateful to you. I am confident of doing justice to all your sacrifices. Mom, you are simply surpassing. Finesse in conduct and largesse in helping others. I feel a scent of adjectives to describe you and thank the almighty for bestowing me with a priceless gift in life.

Proud to be your daughter, mom… Here are my lines for you.

Wherever I go, whatever I do
Your presence is felt forever!!
Love you mom!!

S Padmavathy, D/o S Sankaran, Quality Control, Xomox Sanmar, Viralimalai.

Let’s know about LPG gas cylinder’s expiry date...

Does everyone know that there is an expiry date for LPG cylinders we use in our kitchens? Cylinders past expiry date are not safe for use and may cause accidents. Hence please be cautious at the time of accepting the cylinder from the vendor.

The simple tip to check the expiry date of the LPG cylinder, which is available on one of three side stems of the cylinder. The expiry date is coded in alphanumerical format. Like A or B or C or D and followed by a two digit number. Ex - D06

The alphabets stand for quarters:
1. A for March (First Qtr)
2. B for June (Second Qtr)
3. C for Sept (Third Qtr)
4. D for December (Fourth Qtr)

The digits stand for the year till it is valid. Hence D06 would mean December quarter of 2006. Another example, D13 allows the cylinder to be in use until December or the last quarter of 2013.

Please return the cylinder back if the expiry date is due shortly or has already expired, as it is prone to leak and can cause hazardous accidents...

I. B Manjunatha Reddy, Sales, Trubore Piping Systems, Mysore.
Exploring India

An art historian’s dream, Pattadakal is a tiny village situated on the banks of the Malaprabha River in the Bijapur district of Karnataka.

The first documented evidence of the existence of Bagalkot district dates back to the 2nd century CE, as mentioned in the works of the Greek astronomer Ptolemy, before the rule of the Chalukyas in the 6th century CE. Pattadakal was referred to as Petrigal. It was previously known as Raktapura – red town and later as Pattadakal Kisuvoval. Interestingly, stone inscriptions identify Bagadige as the ancient name of Bagalkot. According to legend, this area was gifted by the mythological Ravana, Lord of Lanka and his musicians.

This World Heritage Site was the capital of the Chalukya dynasty of Southern India, which ruled in the seventh and eighth centuries. Under the Chalukyas, the place reached its pinnacle of glory as a royal commemorative site.

Packed with a set of nine temples built almost in single file but of varying sizes and antiquity, Pattadakal is a unique and rare place where south Indian and north Indian styles of temples merge and share the same landscape. While four are in typical ‘Dravidian’ South Indian temple style, four are set in ‘Nagara’ North Indian style with a lone Papanatha temple in hybrid style.

The Virupaksha temple, which is probably the most beautiful and set in the Dravidian style of architecture, is a replica of the Kailasanatha temple of Kanchi. Virupaksha served as a model for the Ellora Kailasanatha temple built by the Rashtrakuta ruler Krishna, to carve out the great Kailasa at Ellora. The temple has carvings depicting scenes from the Puranas in each of the 18 pillars in the mukhamandapam. Carvings of Ravanagrahuruthy, Narasimha, Gajendramoksham and the dance of Shiva adorn these pillars.

The Mallikarjuna temple is similar to Virupaksha but on a smaller scale. The Galaganatha temple is built in north Indian idiom and so is Kasi Visveswara. The Sangamesvara temple is simple, but its massive structure brings out a unique kind of elegance. Other temples include Chandrasekhar, Jambulinga and Kadasiddheswara. The Papanatha temple has a nagara style vimana and it is decorated with scenes from the Ramayana. There is also a Jain temple from the period of Rashtrakootas here.

The temples stand witness to the sculptural art of the early Chalukyas which is characterised by grace and delicate details. The ceiling panels of the Navagrahas, Dikpalas, the dancing Nataraja, the wall niches containing Lingodbhava, Ardhanarisvra, Varahavishnu, Trivikrama bear testimony to the sculptor’s skill. The narrative relief illustrates episodes from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata and Panchatantra.

An annual dance festival called the Chalukya Utsava is celebrated in January-February at Pattadakal. This three-day extravaganza of dance and music attracts hordes of art lovers. Magic of a bygone era is brought alive by renowned artists amidst the majestic temple backdrops.

Pattadakal, Karnataka - Poetry in stone

Sangamesvara Temple, Pattadakal

Galaganatha Temple, Pattadakal

Virupaksha Temple, Pattadakal

Guess Who? ! Clue No. 8: Received ultra light pad as gift at the age of 14 from an Indian cricketing legend.
Tenali Rama Series - I

Tenali Rama was a very famous Telugu poet and is one of the eight poets (astadigajas) of the Bhuvana Vijayam, the court of Sri Krishnadevaraya, the famous Vijayanagara emperor. Tenali Rama is known for his wit and sense of humour. The humorous stories about him are very popular and are liked by kids and adults alike.

We plan to run a series of Tenali Rama stories for you. If you know of any do write to us at scribbles@sanmargroup.com

The King’s ire

Tenali Rama was the favourite courtier of emperor Krishnadevaraya. With his sense of humour and ready wit, Rama could diffuse even a tense situation. One day, the emperor got annoyed with Rama. He shouted, ‘Get out of my sight! I don’t want to see your face again!’ The sudden outburst of the emperor shocked the other courtiers; some of them, jealous of Rama and his closeness with the emperor were secretly pleased. Rama left the court quietly. The next day, Rama promptly entered the court covering his face with a pot. He went and took his usual seat very casually, as if nothing had happened.

The emperor, on arrival in the court, was enraged on seeing Rama back in his seat. ‘Rama, how dare you come to the court? Didn’t I tell you yesterday not to show your face to me?’ the emperor thundered. ‘My lord, I’m sorry!’ said Rama, through the pot, which had two holes for eyes and a third one for the mouth. ‘I’m only obeying your command, sire! You said you didn’t want to see my face. Haven’t I covered my face with this pot?’

The emperor burst into a laughter. ‘You may now remove it. It doesn’t matter if your face is seen,’ said Krishnadevaraya.

Maths is fun!

Bags of Marbles

You have three bags, each containing two marbles. Bag A contains two white marbles, Bag B contains two black marbles, and Bag C contains one white marble and one black marble. You pick a random bag and take out one marble. It is a white marble.

What is the probability that the remaining marble from the same bag is also white?
(Solution in the next issue)

Write your answers to scribbles@sanmargroup.com Names of those early correct answers will be published.

Facts about the heart

• The heart is one of the most important organs in the human body, continuously pumping blood around our body through blood vessels.
• Your heart is located in your chest and is well protected by your rib cage.
• The study of the human heart and its various disorders is known as cardiology.
• The heart is made up of four chambers, the left atrium, right atrium, left ventricle and right ventricle.
• There are four valves in the human heart, they ensure that blood only goes one way, either in or out.
• Blood that leaves the heart is carried through arteries. The main artery leaving the left ventricle is the aorta while the main artery leaving the right ventricle is the pulmonary artery.
• Blood going towards the heart is carried through veins. Blood coming from the lungs to the left atrium is carried through the pulmonary veins while blood coming from the body to the right atrium is carried through the superior vena cava and inferior vena cava.
• You might have felt your own heart beating, this is known as the cardiac cycle. When your heart contracts it makes the chambers smaller and pushes blood into the blood vessels. After your heart relaxes again the chambers get bigger and are filled with blood coming back into the heart.
• Electricity going through your heart makes the muscle cells contract.
• You might have watched television shows or movies where a patient in a hospital is attached to an electrocardiogram (ECG). You might recognize it as the machine with a line moving across a screen that occasionally spikes (or remains flat when a patient is dying). This machine can measure the electricity going through a patient’s heart. A doctor can use the information to know when a patient is having heart rhythm problems or even a heart attack.
Guess What? Where?
Where is this well-known monument in North India? Write in to scribbles@sanmargroup.com

Answers to the last issue

Do you Know?

1. Prevention and investigation of counterfeiting of currency and investigation of major frauds. The US secret service used to be part of the US department of treasury and their original role was only to investigate crimes related to treasury. The protection role came later

2. Passenger name record

3. A candidate contesting in a parliamentary election will have to deposit `10,000 (`5000 if candidate belongs to SC/ST). In an assembly election, the corresponding amounts are `5000 and `2500 respectively

4. Charminar

5. Alcohol (the Arabic word is al-kul)

6. Mitsubishi

7. Obstructing the field, timed out, hitting the ball twice, handled the ball

8. Mother India and Salaam Bombay

9. Sandalwood

10. Kathakali

Empire state

Indian national flag.
Riddles

I go up but at the same time go down,
Up towards the blue sky, and down towards the ground.
I'm present tense and past tense too,
So why don't you come for a ride, just you & me!!
What am I?

We are little airy creatures,
All of different voice and features;
One of us in glass is set,
And the next is found in jet,
Another you will see in tin,
And the next is found in jet,
All of different voice and features;
We are little airy creatures,
What are we?

Pronounced as one letter,
But written with three,
I'm double, I'm single
I'm read from both ends,
I'm black, blue and grey
But written with three,
Pronounced as one letter,
What am I?

What are we?
It will never fly from you.
If the fifth you should pursue,
And the fourth a box within,
Another you will see in tin,
And the next is found in jet,
All of different voice and features;
We are little airy creatures,
What am I?

Purple, yellow, red and green,
The king cannot reach it,
Nor yet the queen,
The king cannot reach it,
Purple, yellow, red and green,
Nor yet the queen,
The king cannot reach it,
What am I?

Too much for one,
Enough for two,
T oo much for one,
And nothing at all for three…
I'm present tense and past tense too,
Up towards the blue sky, and down towards the ground.
I go up but at the same time go down,
What am I?

Across
1 Home, about 100 square metres — that’s as close as one can get (7)
5 Little Thomas, back in action, is reduced in rank (7)
9 Coveted award, not for warmongers? (5,5,5)
13 Paper chief, hiding million, was treated indulgently (8)
15 Peacekeepers with fine appearance can be inequitable (6)

Down
18 The end for a swimmer going around Indiana (6)
19 A number of breadwinners, they are still in training (8)
22 Knowing the latest trends is dependant on one’s partner for the evening (2-2-4)
24 What one may do when feeling cold or frightened (6)
27 How to relent, with change, and accept defeat (5,2,3,5)
29 Supreme Court lists on long pieces of paper (7)

1 Home, about 100 square metres — that’s as close as one can get (7)

(Answers in the next issue)