

MATRIX

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Jolly Rovers: League Champs Yet Again

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Jolly Rovers win league

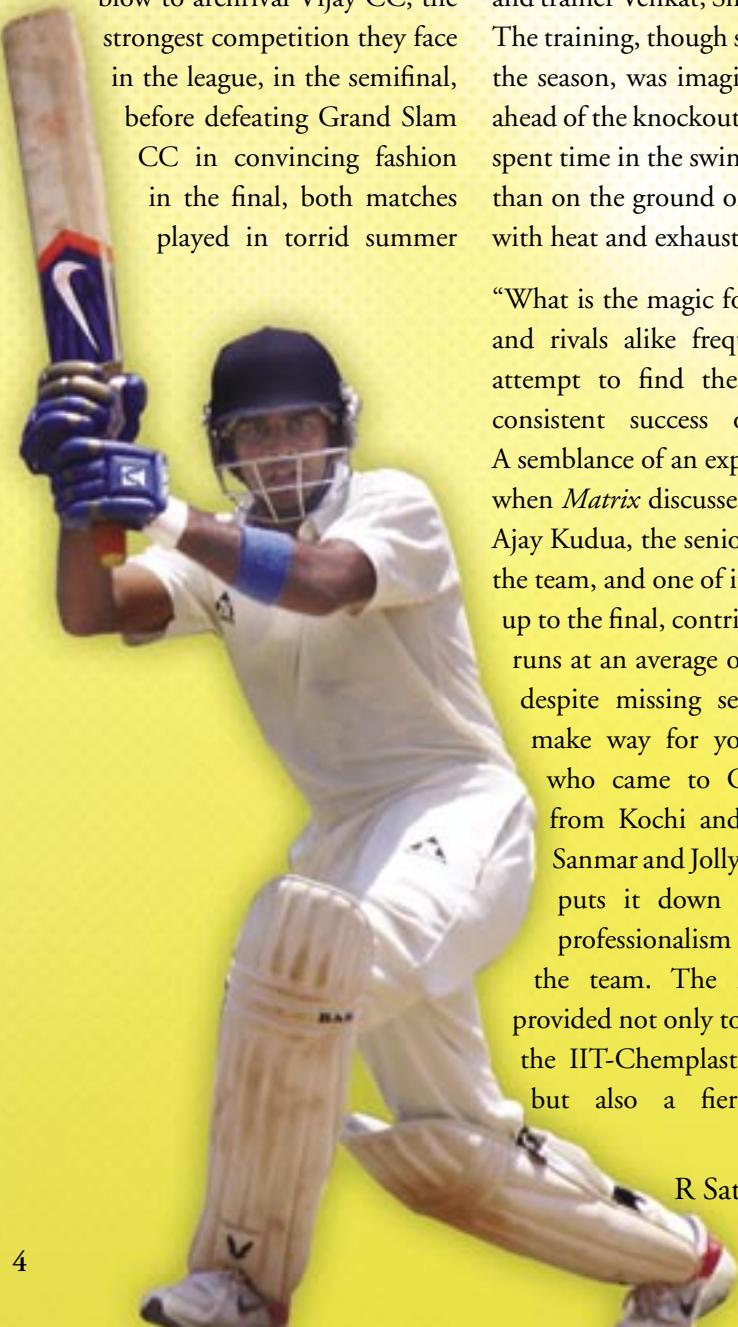
In a remarkable sequence of standout performances, Jolly Rovers, Sanmar's avatar in the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association's First Division league, won the prestigious Palayampatti Shield, for the seventh time since 2000. The league has a unique structure in that the top four teams—out of 12—compete in a knockout round for the title. This year, Jolly Rovers dealt a resounding blow to archrival Vijay CC, the strongest competition they face in the league, in the semifinal, before defeating Grand Slam CC in convincing fashion in the final, both matches played in torrid summer

weather under a blazing sun. The victory was the result of focused effort, strategic preparation and absolute cohesion among the players. The team's captain R Sathish came up with stellar performances the likes of which have probably not been seen in the league before. The management team of Bharath Reddy and Rammohan Rao were superbly backed by coach Jaikumar and trainer Venkat, Shyam and Vasanth. The training, though strenuous through the season, was imaginatively modified ahead of the knockout, when the players spent time in the swimming pool rather than on the ground or the gym, to deal with heat and exhaustion.

"What is the magic formula?" admirers and rivals alike frequently ask in an attempt to find the reasons for the consistent success of Jolly Rovers. A semblance of an explanation emerged when *Matrix* discussed the matter with Ajay Kudua, the seniormost member of the team, and one of its stars in the run-up to the final, contributing nearly 500 runs at an average of 140 this season, despite missing several matches to make way for youngsters. Kudua, who came to Chennai in 1996 from Kochi and has stayed with Sanmar and Jolly Rovers ever since, puts it down to the thorough professionalism prevailing in the team. The management has provided not only top class facilities at the IIT-Chemplast Sanmar ground, but also a fiercely competitive

atmosphere, where only performance counts. Kudua—and Sathish—make direct references to Bharath Reddy's role to explain the team's and their individual success. "He insists on our playing good cricket, with professional pride, assuring us that success will automatically follow," says Kudua.

"The years between 1996 and 2000 were dry years for us," Kudua continues. "We had a few international cricketers, but not the same team spirit we have



R Sathish



Ajay Kudua

7th time in 10 years

now, though we have relatively low-profile personnel. The senior players help the youngsters and they in turn look up to us, and are prepared to listen to advice. Our coach Jaikumar is expert at spotting technical faults and finding solutions that work. He is willing to spend hours at the nets with a batsman or bowler with a specific problem until it is ironed out."

Kudua, who is being groomed to assist Bharath Reddy in the management of the team, has really peaked as a batsman in the last three seasons, after

his retirement from first class cricket. "These have been my best years as a cricketer, and I am completely focused on winning matches for my team, my company," says this youthful veteran. He has often entered the crease at vital times with the match poised evenly or in favour of the opposition, but has invariably helped Jolly Rovers emerge victorious. This ability in adversity is probably what has made Jolly Rovers a winning combination. *Matrix* salutes the players as well as the behind-the-scenes people who have made it all possible.

Besides contributing to Jolly Rovers' good performances in the league, Murali Vijay (Chennai Super Kings) performed brilliantly in the Indian Premier League (IPL), while Dinesh Karthik (Delhi Daredevils) too had a good run in the IPL.



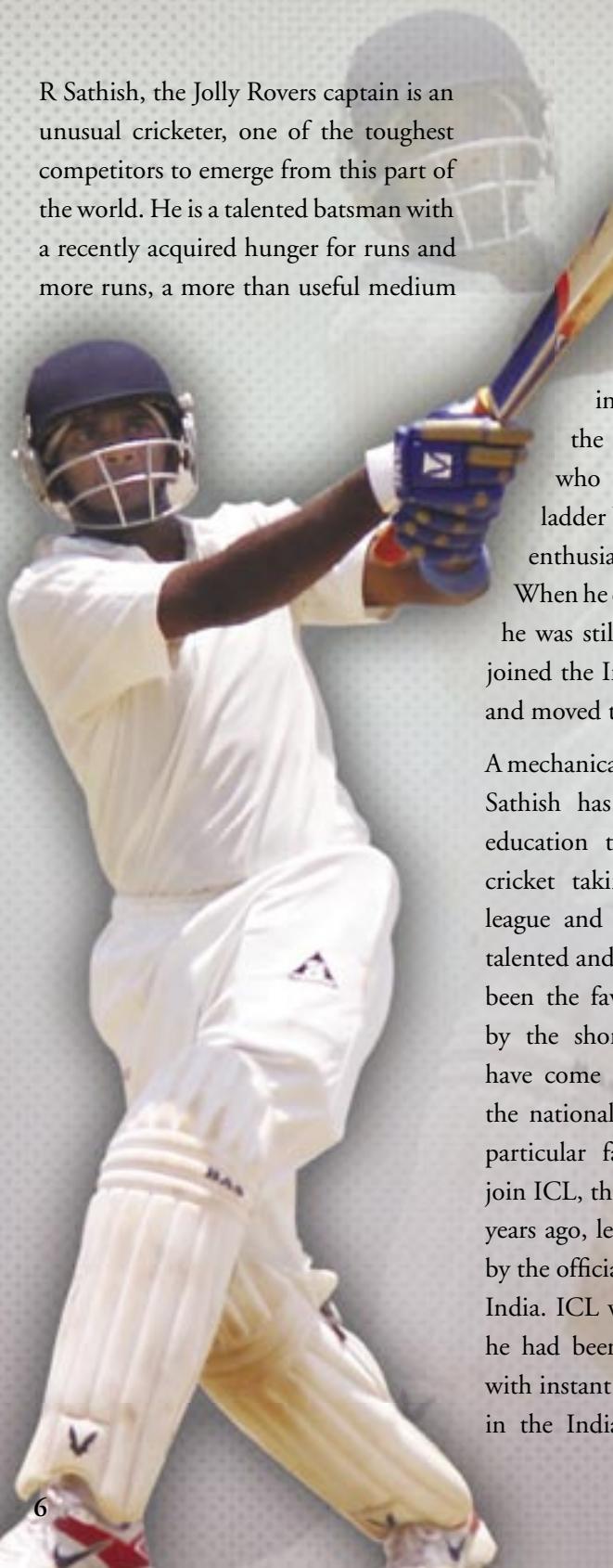
Dinesh Karthik

Murali Vijay

Captain Courageous

R Sathish

R Sathish, the Jolly Rovers captain is an unusual cricketer, one of the toughest competitors to emerge from this part of the world. He is a talented batsman with a recently acquired hunger for runs and more runs, a more than useful medium



p a c e
bowler
a n d
a r g u a b l y
India's best
fielder. Tall, lean
and athletic, Sathish
is a product of cricket
in the districts, in his case

the temple town of Tiruchi,
who worked his way up the
ladder by sheer dint of hard work,
enthusiasm and determination.
When he came to the city of Chennai
he was still not out of his teens. He
joined the India Pistons team in 1999
and moved to Chemplast in 2005.

A mechanical engineer by qualification,
Sathish has never put his technical
education to use in his career, his
cricket taking him to the Chennai
league and beyond. For someone so
talented and reliable, he has not always
been the favourite of selectors, going
by the shortage of opportunities to
have come his way over the years at
the national level. In fact, it was this
particular factor that drove him to
join ICL, the rebel cricket league a few
years ago, leading to his being banned
by the official cricket administration in
India. ICL was however the big break
he had been waiting for and he met
with instant success there, culminating
in the India captaincy in the India-

Pakistan encounters in the league. All's well that ends well, and when the ban
was lifted, eight teams in the official
Indian cricket league IPL approached
him with offers. Sathish joined Mumbai
Indians (MI), where his proximity to his
boyhood hero and MI captain Sachin
Tendulkar transformed his cricket and
his life.

Captaining Jolly Rovers for the first
time this season, he led from the front,
scoring a record 1,245 runs in the
season at an average of over 110. In the
last three innings he played, he scored
266 not out, 232 and 135, battling
fatigue, bouts of vomiting, dehydration
and cramps throughout his marathon
sessions at the crease. He was superbly
supported by veteran batsman Ajay
Kudua who encouraged him at the
crease. His powers of concentration
and his fierce determination to conquer
physical challenges and the Palayampatti
shield for his team were a revelation. It
was a new Sathish, performing feats
of endurance rarely seen in domestic
cricket.

Here Sathish shares with *Matrix* some
of his thoughts on cricket, Jolly Rovers,
Tendulkar and his future in the game.

***Matrix: Congratulations, Sathish, on
your magnificent performances and
winning the league for your team.***

Sathish: Thank you very much.

Why did you choose to move to Sanmar and Jolly Rovers?

I was attracted by the fantastic professionalism here. It was an opportunity to play alongside international cricketers. The standard was very high, with the team reaching the finals of most tournaments in India. It was a high profile team, with intense competition for places in the side.

How long have you been captain of the team?

I started captaining the side at the beginning of this season. I missed quite a few games through injury and at least after suffering a heat stroke. I am enjoying captaincy.

Where did you start your cricket career?

At Tiruchi. I played all my cricket there, before I moved to Chennai in 1999—for the school and for the district, among other things. My mother and my brother have been a great support. Dad, a major in the army, passed away when I was hardly five.

How were the facilities?

Non-existent, but who cared? To play the game was a privilege.

What are your assets as a cricketer?

That would be my strength of mind, self-belief, hard work. I'm known to be a team man.

How was the ICL experience? You must have been anxious after the ban and the eventual collapse of ICL.

It was a great experience. I got to rub shoulders with great cricketers like Michael Bevan of Australia. I captained the Indian team against Pakistan and we won. It made me believe in my own ability. It was good to know that I belonged at that level. I learnt how to play T20 cricket. My role was to go in and blast runs in the last six overs or so.

The ICL experience stood me in good stead, when the ban was lifted and I became eligible to play in the Indian Premier League. Eight teams wanted me and I opted for Mumbai Indians.

How was that experience?

Fantastic. It was a dream come true to play alongside my boyhood hero Sachin Tendulkar. I used to play relatively by short innings, more intent on blasting sixes and fours than building innings. Sachin was a revelation. He never lofted the ball, did not hit sixers, yet he scored the quickest and most runs.

How much did you get to interact with him and how much did you benefit from it?

During the IPL, I would have spent some ten hours one-to-one with Sachin. I learnt so much about focus from him.

How come he paid special attention to you?

I know he likes my cricket, but any member of the team could have gained what I gained from him. I used to take advantage of his accessibility, go to his room and ask questions about my batting, and he would patiently answer my questions.

What advice did he give you?

He basically gave me confidence by saying I batted well. He approved my technique. That was a great morale booster. Imagine Tendulkar saying your technique is good! He said I had a good head, good mind. He spoke of the need to tackle the short ball, the yorker, the variety bowlers would target you with in the final overs in T20.

Are you a better batsman as a result?

Yes, I am. I have become hungry for runs. I don't want to gift my wicket. Our coach Robin Singh was another good influence. He helped me play straighter, play along the ground, another thing I learnt from watching Tendulkar as well. Robin asked me about my league performance, and I said I'd scored 600 runs in 8 matches. After my stint with MI, I scored 600 runs in three!

You went away to Assam because you were not a regular in the Tamil Nadu team. You even scored a double century against Tamil Nadu. Now back in Tamil Nadu, you are still in and out of the team. Which state will you be turning out for next season?

I don't know. I will concentrate on getting more and more runs. You know I have a fever now, but I'm dying to go out there and score runs. My focus will be my batting, fielding and bowling—which I hope to improve. I will put pressure on the selectors with extraordinary performances.

Jolly Rovers then and now

League champions 1966-67

Standing (l to r): KR Rajagopal, Balaji Rao, AK Vijayaraghavan, K Bharadwaj, P Sampath, G Thomas and PS Narayanan.
Seated (l to r): S Venkataraghavan, PK Belliappa, Ananthanarayan, KVR Murthy and K Ramamurthi.



League champions 2009-10

Standing (l to r): Venkat, Shyam, Vasanth, Suthesh, Jai Balaji, G Vignesh, Deepak Murali, Gowjith Subhash, Gary Dumenil, Maruthi Raghav, Srikanth, Petson Mathews, Jaikumar, Rammohan Rao.

Sitting (l to r): Tinu Yohanan, S Vidyut, Syed, Bharath Reddy, Vijay Sankar, R Sathish (captain), Ajay Kudua, Jesuraj. Kneeling: Giripal, Sunil Moses, Sreejan.

Sanmar Speciality Chemicals at Chemspect 2010

Chemspect is an international show held annually in India, Europe and North America. The show offers an opportunity to interact with leading manufacturers of organic chemicals, fine chemicals and pharma intermediates. Several multinational corporations showcase their products and services in this exhibition.

Sanmar Speciality Chemicals participated in Chemspect show held in Mumbai on 15-16 April this year. The show provided a great opportunity for SSCL to interact with existing and potential customers and suppliers.



N Sankar visits TCI



Sanmar, Egypt

N Sankar visited TCI Sanmar Chemicals LLC, Egypt on 30 March. He was apprised of the progress made in all aspects of the project since his visit last year.



Enjoying a panoramic view of TCI Sanmar and the city from a height of 60m in a makeshift lift. With Sankar is Kalidas.

Sanmar briefs TCI Project Lenders at Mumbai meet

A Lenders' meet was held on 29 May 2010 at Mumbai to update the lenders on the progress of the project, the completion schedule and financing requirements. The Lenders' meet was well-attended by all the lenders at senior levels as well as by representatives

from the Lenders' engineer (Jacobs Consultancy) and the international market consultant (CMAI). There were over 30 participants at the Lenders' meet. The update, which was well received, included a short video clip on the operations of The Sanmar Group

including all the plants under operation and construction. The Sanmar team was led by Vijay Sankar and included PS Jayaraman, R Kalidas, R Rangarajan, N Muralidharan and Shiva Rajaraman.



The banks which attended the Lenders' meet included the project leaders State Bank of India, Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of Baroda, Axis Bank,

Exim Bank, Indian Bank, Syndicate Bank, Union Bank of India and the working capital bank Arab African International Bank (AAIB).

Bank of India officials visit TCI

Bank of India Executive Director BA Prabhakar and General Manager (International Division) SK Datta visited TCI Sanmar Chemicals in Egypt in the first week of June 2010. They were updated on the progress of the project by PS Jayaraman and R Kalidas.





New Railway

Chemplast contributes

Chemplast Sanmar has contributed Rs.6 crore for construction of a new railway station at Mettur Dam with all modern facilities and conveniences for the public.

Salem Railway Divisional Manager PN Ram opened the newly constructed facility on 8 June 2010 for the use of the general public. Speaking to the press,

Ram said that within three months time the Mettur Railway Station will be totally computerised and tickets can be booked for any train journey inside the country from this station.

As of now, 78 trains are being operated from the Salem Railway division. It is now planned to introduce six new trains to Salem division including Bangalore,

Sengottah, Tirupati and Rameswaram. It is also recommended to change the name of the train operated from Mettur to Mettur Dam Express.

Once the 600 MW project is completed at the Mettur Thermal Power Station, goods traffic will increase and if needed, additional train routes will be laid.



Station for Mettur Dam

Rs. 6 crore



Mettur Dam Railway Station
being declared open.
(From l to r): Councillor
Jayaraman, S Venkatesan,
PN Ram, Divisional Railway
Manager, Manoharan, Senior
DEE-traction, K Parthasarathy.



Trubore's marketing campaign on wheels

A unique mobile marketing initiative has been launched by Trubore Piping Systems in Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Trubore 'Jalayathre' is a rural connect programme with meetings organised for influencers and end consumers.

The highlight of this programme is a specially designed van carrying Trubore's product samples, along with the sales cum technical team to explain the product features and quality to the end users such as farmers, pipeline designers, pump mechanics, plumbers and engineers. Besides the road show, a video film in the local language on the Trubore brand of PVC pipes is presented in each taluk aimed at creating awareness and building brand preference for product.



A section of the audience watching a video film in the local language on Trubore products.

Trubore's outreach campaign hit Satara, Maharashtra. The response has been overwhelming so far. Karnataka and on 14 June 2010 in

Trubore's marketing team.





Multiple marketing collaterals such as streamers, posters, sign boards, product sample displays and wall paintings for dealer shop merchandising being used in the campaign.



A specially designed and decorated van pressed into service to enhance brand visibility and sensitise the customers.

Trubore's production team.



Supply Chain Leader Award for Xomox Sanmar

Xomox Sanmar has been chosen by Logistics 2.0 for the Supply Chain Leader Award 2010 in the Non Electrical Machinery segment. The award was given away at a function at Taj Lands End in Mumbai on 3 March 2010.

Xomox had been nominated to receive this inaugural award for excellence in supply chain management based on its No.1 ranking by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

CMIE is an independent economic think-tank headquartered in Mumbai, India.

Feroz Husain, Joint Manager, received the award on behalf of Xomox Sanmar.



Factory Day at Chemplast, Mettur Dam



The annual Factory Day was celebrated on 4 June 2010 at Chemplast Sanmar, Mettur. Long service awards were presented to the employees of Plants I and III and Cabot Sanmar by Ramkumar Shankar.



KS Venkiteswaran, the Chief Guest on the occasion of the annual Factory Day celebrations on 4 May 2010 at Chemplast Sanmar Plant II, Mettur, addressing the gathering.

World Environment Day celebrations

The World Environment Day was celebrated on 5 June 2010 at Chemplast Sanmar, Cuddalore and Flowserve Sanmar, Karapakkam.

District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), D Sekar, presided over the function and administered the Environmental Day pledge at Cuddalore. Ronald Terri Pinto

FDO, Asst. Environmental Engineer and Damodaran, Scientist, TNPCB were also present. Employees planted 500 saplings at various locations in the factory to mark Chemplast's commitment to conservation.

At Flowserve Sanmar, Karapakkam, the theme of this year's World Environment Day was "Many Species, One Planet, One Future".

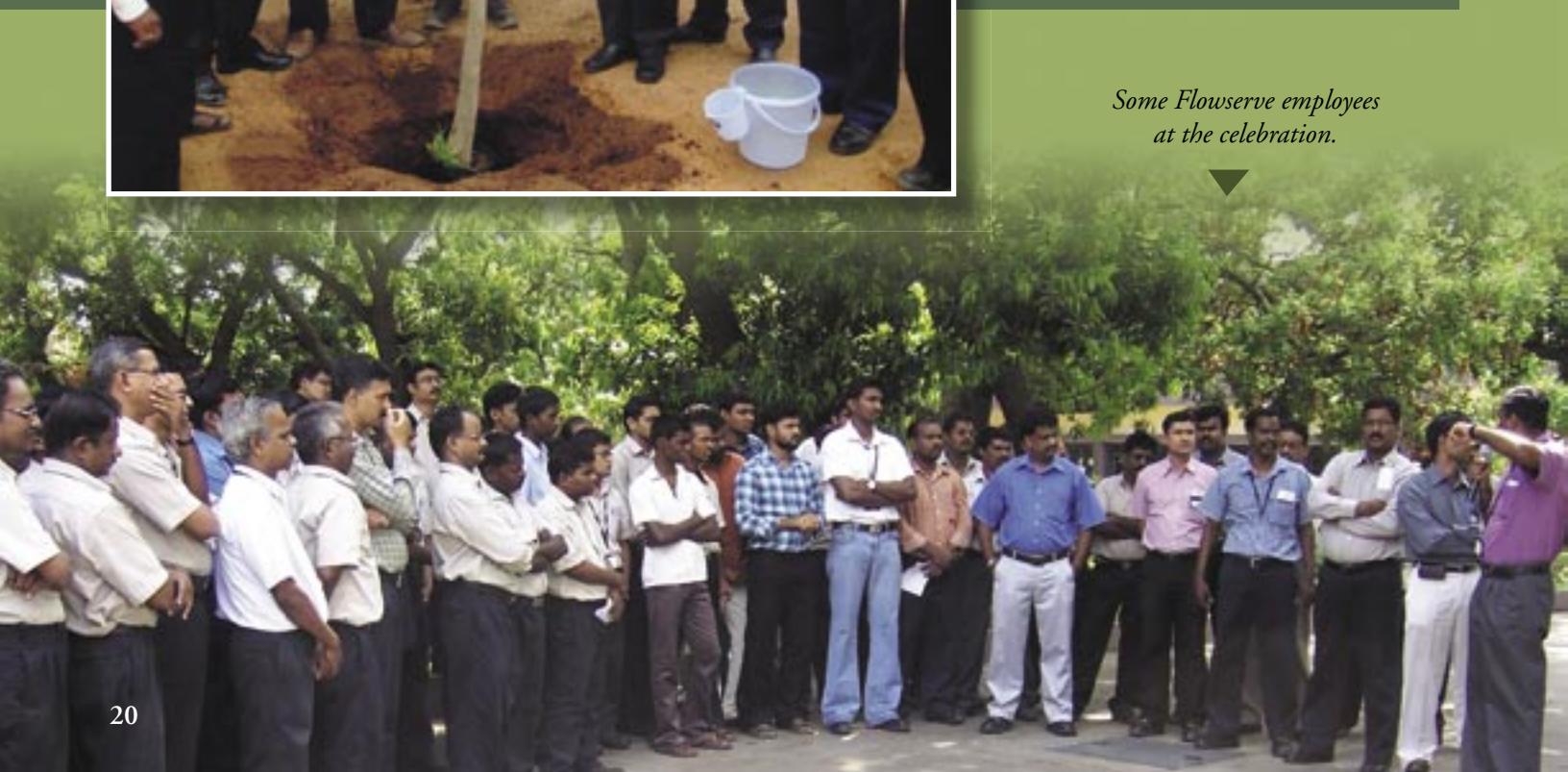
Employees took the Environmental Day pledge rendered by R Venkataramani. V Alagappan addressed the employees on the importance of environment protection. Every Flowserve employee planted a sapling around the factory premises.

At Chemplast, Cuddalore



(From l to r): Damodaran, Scientist TNPCB, Pinto, Asst. Environmental Engineer, Rengarajan, Sankar, Viswanathan, D Sekar, District Environmental Engineer Cuddalore, NS Mohan and G Senthamizhchelvan.

Some Flowserve employees at the celebration.



At Flowserve, Karapakkam



V Alagappan addressing the employees on environmental protection.

Flowserve employees...



Chander Shekhar Saraf...

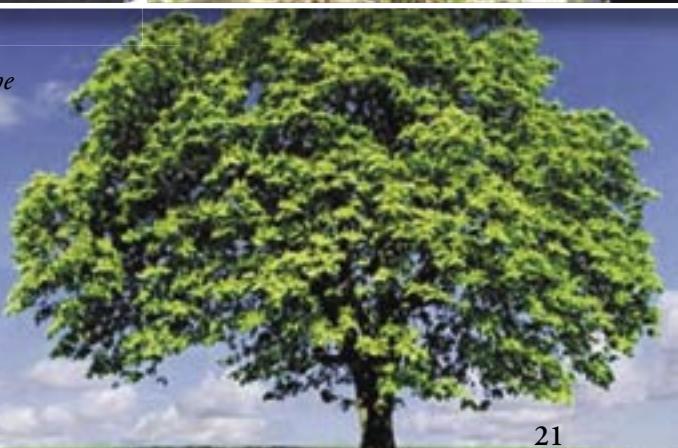


KR Varma...

and R Venkatramani planting the saplings.

You Must Be the Change You Wish to See in the World

– Mahatma Gandhi



Chemplast's

Cuddalore

Chemplast donated three AC machines to the Cuddalore Headquarters General Hospital in response to the District Collector's request to the industries to support the initiatives of the District Administration to upgrade the Government Hospital in general and the Accident and Trauma Care Section in particular.

NS Mohan handed over the AC units to P Seetharaman, District Collector at the collectorate on 27 April 2010. Natarajan, District Revenue Officer, Dr Jeyaveerakumar, Joint Director, Govindarajan, RMO, Paranjyothi, Hospital Superintendent, Karthik, Krishnakumar, Mariadoss, Sankar and Rajasekar of Chemplast Sanmar took part in this programme.



The contribution cheque of Chemplast Sanmar for the proposed "Kannarapettai – Kudikadu drinking water scheme" which has been extended up to Semmankuppam under "Namakku Naame Thittam" being handed over to the District Collector P Seetharaman.

CSR Initiatives

Vedaranyam

Chemplast Sanmar at Vedaranyam donated Rs. 3 lakh to the Govt. High School, Kodiyakkarai, to purchase land for expansion.

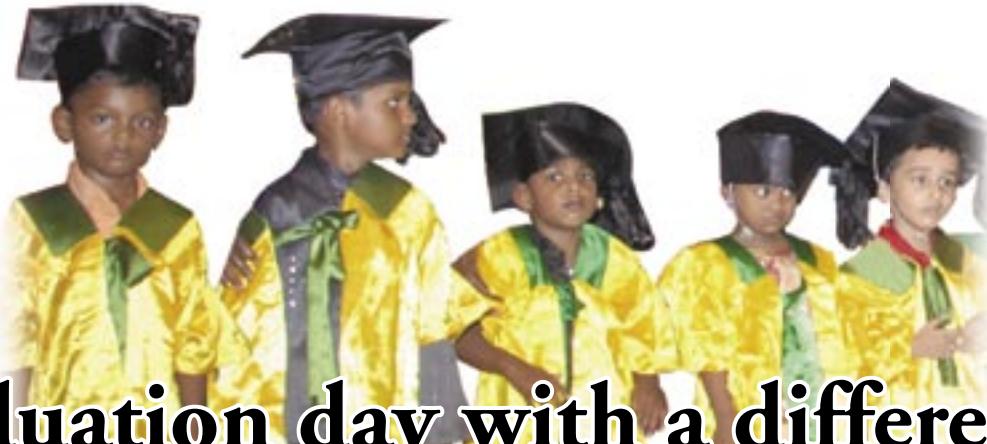
(From l to r): Manoharan, Headmaster, Govt. High School, Kodiyakkarai, M Pughazhendhi, President, PTS, A Ganapathi, President, Parents Teachers Association, K Soundararajan, K Parthasarathi, T Kasilingaperumal, K Karunakaran, Tashildar, Vedaranyam and D Kumar, President, Kodiyakkarai Panchayat.



NS Mohan handing over the contribution of Chemplast Sanmar to village leaders of Chitrapettai for educational development, temple renovation and village development activities and to village leaders of Semmankuppam for the Vinayakar temple renovation.



Madhuram Narayanan Centre



Graduation day with a difference

The Madhuram Narayanan Centre (MNC) for Exceptional Children's 'moving ahead' programme enables children with developmental delays to continue school education in

special and mainstream schools after completing the early intervention programme.

On completion of the intervention programme, the children are able to

follow instructions in English and Tamil, eat independently, play with friends, give direction to teachers and fellow students about their needs and spell three-letter words. Over the last



for Exceptional Children



four years, 19 students have been successfully enrolled in mainstream schools. It was a graduation day of a different kind indeed at MNC on 31 March 2010 when 10 students

moved into mainstream schools and four into special schools.



Conserve, Observe, Preserve

Sanmar daughter champions green cause

There was no looking back for journalism student KN Shruti since her selection by the British Council as International Climate Champion in February 2008. Later a trip to the Arctic Ocean became a turning point in her life. "I saw glaciers melting before my eyes and global warming taking a toll on the Earth", she says.

As a director of IT Exnora Eco Kids Camp, Shruti aims at spreading awareness about saving the Earth among kids between 6 and 12 years. Last summer, she independently conducted 15 awareness camps across schools and

apartments in Chennai. Shruti does not stop with kids. She also gives lectures and speaks in Tamil in the rural areas. As UNINOR's young achiever awardee, Shruti also assists companies around Chennai in their CSR activities.

Shruti's five mantras are:

- Use cloth bags
- Travel in public transport whenever possible
- Switch off lights and fans when not in use
- Plant a sapling on your birthday
- Convince five people to follow these steps

"My dream project is creating an eco-friendly village implementing all these initiatives".



KN Shruti, daughter of KV Neelakantan, Corporate Division, The Sanmar Group.



Chemplast reaches out

Scientific drawing classes for village schoolkids



Students attending the evening study centres from the rural areas of Veeranur, Kozhippanai and Mottur around Chemplast Sanmar are taught the skills of scientific drawing. They learn to draw basic shapes like the square, rectangle, rhombus, circle and trapezium. Students studying in classes nine and ten are trained to draw the diagrams found in their science text books.

Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Adyar

School toppers CBSE AISSCE (XII) results 2009-10



PV Mandakini
Science stream
topper



**Architha
Sridharan**
Commerce
stream topper



S Athreya
Science stream
topper

Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Adyar, has been the recipient of a Global School Partnerships reciprocal visit grant from the British Council. This was awarded in recognition of collaborative projects based on global issues that support exchange visits between the partner schools.

Duncan Brett and Thomas Stead who teach French and Spanish in Hardenhuish School in the UK, visited the school during February this year, observed the classes and interacted with students and teachers. The school organised various programmes on climate change, disaster management, human rights and citizenship during their visit.

Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Matriculation Higher

School toppers

(Class XII)



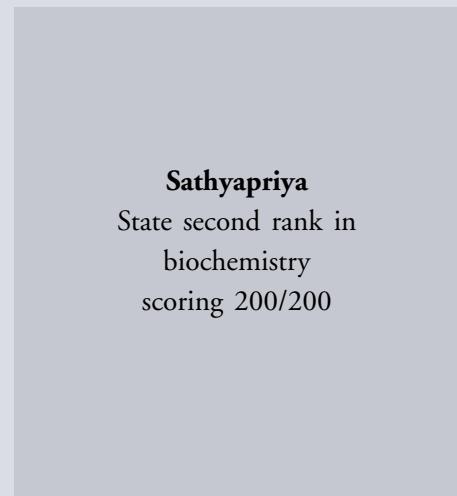
Divya Nagarajan
Science stream topper



V Harish
Commerce stream
topper



A Vinodhini
100% in Maths,
Physics and Biology



Schools

Visitors from Hardenhuish School, UK



Secondary School, Tiruvanmiyur

Matriculation (Class X)



T Annapoorni

School topper securing 484 / 500. She secured 100 /100 in Maths, 99 / 100 in Science 95/ 100 in Tamil and 93/100 in English.

Result Highlights

(XII)

Students appeared	260
Distinctions	198
100/100	22

(X)

Students appeared	130
Distinctions	96
100/100	5

GN Balasubramaniam (1910-1965)

He was among the most imitated vocalists in Carnatic, or south Indian classical music. His impact on both listeners and musicians was so great that many young musicians to this day try to mimic his inimitable style.

Most of today's music lovers are unfortunately too young to have heard him live extensively, though some retain a few vivid images from childhood, and remember being exhilarated by his wonderful voice.

Born to GV Narayanaswami Iyer and Visalakshi on 6 January 1910, GN Balasubramaniam studied at the Hindu High School, Triplicane, Madras, Madras Christian College (where he completed his B.A. Honours in English), and briefly at Annamalai University. GNB—as he was to be known as a charismatic vocalist—was eager to pursue a career in music, while his schoolmaster and music enthusiast father wanted him to take up a proper job. He had a natural flair for music and did not undergo much formal tutelage. Both his parents were musically talented and had many opportunities of listening to giants of the period. When GVN, as Narayanaswami Iyer was often called, became a maths teacher at the Hindu High School, Madras, and became involved in the Sri Parthasarathi Swami Sabha, a music organisation, he came into close contact with great musicians.

GNB recalled in a 1967 article, "Violinist Karur Chinnaswami Iyer lived next door to us in Triplicane. I lived in an atmosphere drenched in music and this helped me to nurture, develop and sustain my ardour for music." His ability to learn by ear was sharp and inspired, enabling him to learn the more advanced aspects of music without the help of a guru. In his own words, "Without so

complained to his houseguest, the doyen of Carnatic music, Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar about this tendency of his son. The maestro then asked Mani to sing for him and was more than impressed by his voice and talent.

Ariyakudi instantly became GNB's hero and virtual guru. When his first concert opportunity came about in 1928, with a desperate SOS from the organisers for him to fill in at the last moment for famous Musiri Subramania Iyer—who had taken ill—at a concert at the Mylapore Kapaliswara temple, it was Ariyakudi's example that dispelled the doubts assailed the young GNB's mind. Years earlier, Ariyakudi had replaced Madurai Pushpavanam at a concert under identical circumstances, and the retelling of that story was enough inspiration for GNB to accept the challenge and captivate the listeners with a virtuoso performance.

For all his greatness, GNB was a genuinely humble man. After listening to a haunting raga Bhairavi from the eccentric genius, flautist TR Mahalingam, he once said, "After listening to this, I feel like giving up singing."

much as any basic training, I acquired swara gnana which I humbly feel was due to the benediction of elders and savants. Whenever I listened to good music, I had an inner feeling that I could visualise it in the imagery of swara-s. What my ears would be hearing would be picturised in my mind's eye in swara forms."

GVN was often dismayed at his son's proclivity for what he considered excessive speed in his singing. He even

All his life, GNB continued to admire Ariyakudi. A great fan also of vocalist Maharajapuram Viswanatha Iyer and TN Rajaratnam Pillai, the nagaswaram (the south Indian pipe) wizard, GNB imbibed the best of their music, but also blazed a trail of his own. His structured approach to improvisation and expansive treatment of the great raga-s helped him evolve a style involving step-by-step building of a magnificent edifice that

summed up the grandeur and range of each raga. He gave concert music the idea of modal shift of the tonic, an intriguing exercise fraught with vocal risk, but never indulged in excess of any kind. While his portrait of the original raga was a vast landscape, his modal shift of tonic was subtle, no more than a suggestive brushstroke or two. His raga elaboration was a detailed, systematically developed, soulful recapture of the raga's every contour. His singing was famous for briga or lightning-fast modulations of the voice.

GNB was not only a great and charismatic musician, he was also an intellectual and a scholar, who studied other systems of music — both Indian and Western — as well as literature and philosophy — again both Indian and Western — assimilated the best and applied it in his theories and utterances. A Sanskrit scholar, albeit self taught, he was also a master of the English language who could write and speak it fluently, as his many articles proved time and again.

GNB acted in a few films at a time when Indian films were excuses for showcasing the best music of which composers of the era were capable. GNB the actor was a pale shadow of GNB the brilliant musician and his foray into the medium was predictably short-lived.

He was a highly creative composer of music in the best tradition of the great vaggeyakaras (composers who wrote both the music and lyrics of Carnatic music). Though he himself seldom sang his compositions in his own concerts,

they have outlived him splendidly, with many musicians of today including them proudly in their repertoire.

Easily the most successful musician of his time, with concert engagements almost everyday of the year, GNB was a much travelled man. He was a stylist who dressed well and had an expensive taste in perfumes, pens and cars. A handsome man with a debonair presence, he was the heartthrob of thousands, perhaps the first male matinee idol in Carnatic music. His constant travels and excessive use of the voice in all kinds of conditions at faraway locations took their toll on his health. In May 1965, he succumbed

to heart disease when barely 55 years of age. He left behind a grieving wife and ten children.

His music lives on in recordings and the memories of thousands of die-hard fans. Many young musicians of today have been greatly influenced by GNB's music. His centenary celebrations during 2009-2010 featured several concerts in his memory all over the world.





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