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Chemplast turns fifty



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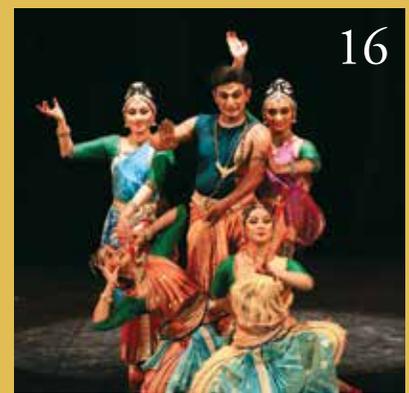
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Chemplast Sanmar

A Story of Growth

Chemplast, the flagship company of The Sanmar Group, celebrated its golden jubilee on 4 May 2017 at a function attended by doyens of the industry, suppliers and customers, well wishers and friends of the Group.

The day also marked a personal milestone for its chairman, N Sankar, who joined Chemplast 50 years ago as an unpaid apprentice on the magic date, 4/ 5/ 67.

The story of Chemplast has been one of sustained growth, from 6000 tonnes of PVC in 1967 to 3.66 lakh in 2017, while being true to its culture of a fair deal for all, innovation, excellence and execution.

Welcoming the august gathering, N Sankar said,

“Today we are one of the largest producers of PVC in the country, and have diversified into a number of other chemical products. There are plans to further expand and diversify the product range, driven by a stable financial base.

“While all this gives an active participant like me, a strong sense of satisfaction, what gives me an even greater sense of happiness is that in doing this we have established a culture that we can truly be proud of and which we have adopted right through The Sanmar Group. The aspects of our culture that we are particularly

“While I am indeed proud of Chemplast’s achievements and records, I must unhesitatingly lay the credit for this at the feet of all our people over the years.”

- N Sankar



Golden Jubilee with Responsibility



N Sankar

proud of are those of Innovation and Excellence in Execution; a strong, fully implemented Ethical Business Code; a commitment to serve all our constituents fairly; and a strong sense of Corporate Social

Responsibility.. While I am indeed proud of Chemplast's achievements and records, I must unhesitatingly lay the credit for this at the feet of all our people over the years."

(L to R): PS Jayaraman, MP Taparia, N Kumar, Prem Watsa, N Sankar, Venu Srinivasan, Vijay Sankar, Sean Keohane, and Dr Bhaskar Ramamurthi.





Prem Watsa, CEO, Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd.

Prem Watsa, CEO, Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd, Toronto, Canada, was vociferous in his praise for Sankar and Sanmar.

“What a wonderful story of success – fifty long years in business. “Reputation is more important than profit”: Sanmar has said that for a long time now.

“When we decided to invest in Chemplast Sanmar, what impressed us was their integrity. Despite ups

and downs, this company has always lived up to its commitments to its employees, customers, shareholders and all the people it deals with. That is highly unusual and that is the reason for the 50 years (of success).”

“Business can be a calling, if you look after the needs of customers, employees, communities in which you operate. Business provides jobs and opportunities for everyone,” he said.

A view of the audience at the function.



Chairman of TVS Motors Venu Srinivasan

Recalling his relations with Chemplast that spans four generations, Venu Srinivasan said, "At the foundation of all great endeavours and enterprises is value and people. It is this integrity, this commitment to excellence and process that has really made Chemplast and Sanmar stand out of all businesses in our country and the world."

"It is this pioneering spirit that made Sankar go and set up his Egyptian plant against all odds and against many naysayers; he never gave up and never said die. It may be a roller coaster sometimes, but he has always ended back on top.

"Sankar is a born leader but a meticulous person as well. He is simple but carries himself very gracefully and he has provided his people the leadership, and grooming to help them carry themselves with confidence, dignity and professional confidence. It is this that has built the

company. It is Sankar's ability to build a pipeline of leaders that singles him out. In Chennai at least and across the engineering industry, Sanmar has one of the best leadership development processes and not just competency. He gave space for his people to grow. He has always separated ownership and management in a way that the professional managers, who reach CEO and COO positions in business always run it as their business with commitment because they know they are trusted."



Venu Srinivasan, Chairman of TVS Motors.





Sean Keohane, CEO of Cabot Corporation.

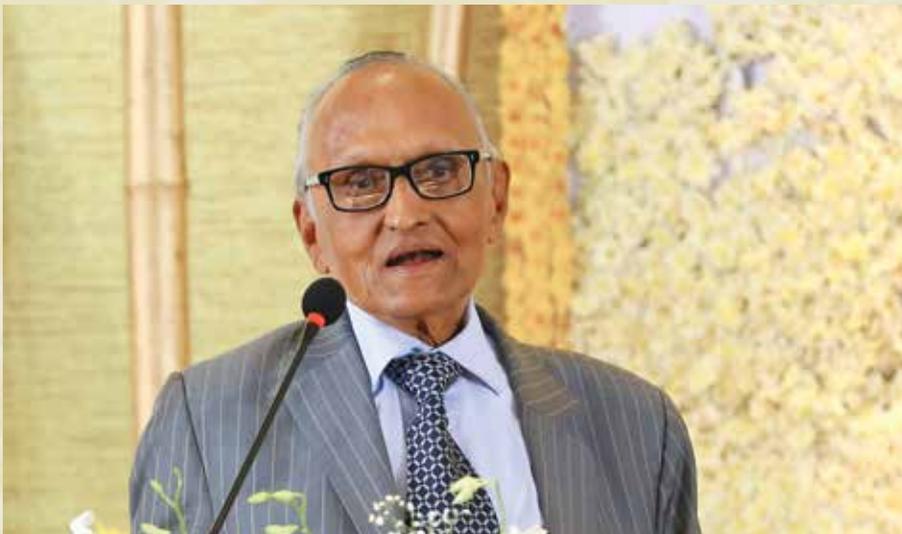
Sean Keohane, CEO of Cabot Corporation

Sean Keohane recounted how similar Cabot and Sanmar were in their vision and values.

“The decision to partner with Sanmar was a very easy one because we share so much in common.

“Our vision and the values of the company are rooted in the family heritage. The Sanmar Group shares a similar tradition. While we both run our companies to the best practices of modern management and corporate governance, the family tradition serves as our foundation.

MP Taparia, Chairman of Supreme Industries.



“Our Joint Venture partnership was founded on a common set of corporate values. Cabot’s values of integrity, respect, excellence and responsibility align perfectly with Sanmar’s values, vision and culture. Themes like integrity, excellence, performance and sustainability are central to the Sanmar ethos.”

MP Taparia, Chairman of Supreme Industries

Voicing the customer view point MP Taparia said, “It is no mean achievement for a player of commodity chemicals not only to just survive the serious cyclicity of the business but go on growing by leaps and bounds.

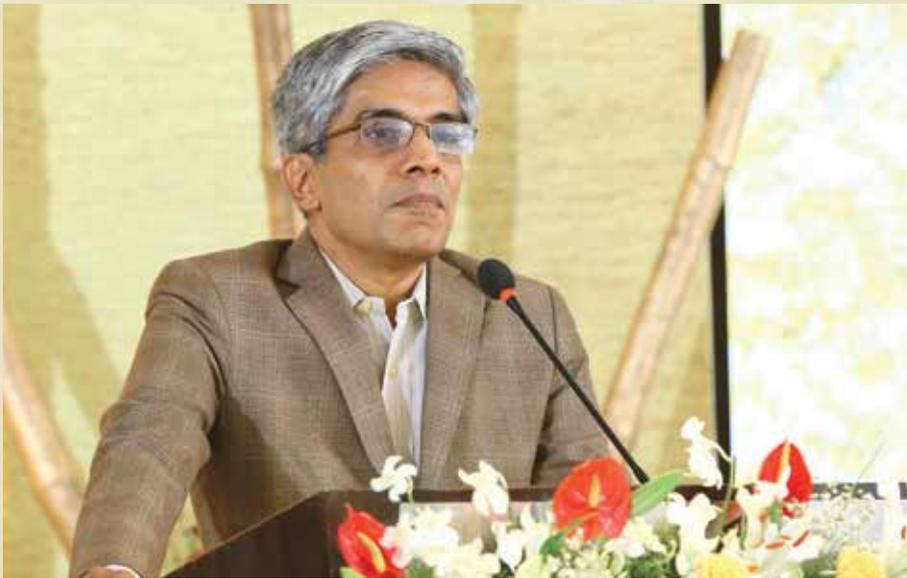
“We became a Chemplast customer in 2009 when the Cuddalore plant was commissioned. We are delighted by their philosophy, the professional conduct of their employees, their ethical approach and fairness making it a pleasure to work with them.”

“I can say here on behalf of all the PVC converting fraternity that we are with a trustworthy and reliable supplier.”

IIT-M Director, Dr Bhaskar Ramamurthi said,

“One of the things that the IIT system as a whole and IIT Madras being a part of it, have become known for and which we zealously guard is our reputation, our integrity. This is very important for us in the IIT system and we are very careful about this.

“Very many faculty in this Institution, particularly from environmental engineering and the water resources group have been involved with Sanmar in various stages because of their long standing



Dr Bhaskar Ramamurthi, IIT-M Director.

commitment towards sustainability and rigorous environmental practices.

“About twenty years ago when partnership with industry was unknown, The Sanmar Group came forward and partnered IIT-Madras to create the IIT-M Chemplast

Cricket Ground. The ground at IIT-Madras is considered by cricketers to be one of the best in the country. And with their help the cricket ground has been maintained in our campus from the mid-nineties till now. It has been a very fruitful partnership,” he added.

Sanmar veterans honoured

R Kalidas and SB Prabhakar Rao, each of whom has worked for Sanmar for over fifty years, were recognised as representing the whole family of employees. Together, these gentlemen represent over a century of dedication and loyalty to Chemplast and Sanmar.



R Kalidas



SB Prabhakar Rao

Personal milestone for N Sankar

50 years with Chemplast

It was an emotional moment when PS Jayaraman and Ramkumar Shankar on behalf of the employees handed over a golden memento commemorating Sankar's fifty years, amidst standing ovation. N Sankar joined Chemplast 50 years ago as an unpaid apprentice on the magic date, 4/ 5/ 67.



Prem Watsa, CEO, Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd., felicitating N Sankar on his milestone of 50 years with Chemplast, with a memento.



Pictorial history of Sanmar

An album of The Sanmar Group's history in pictures authored by V Sriram, historian, was released by N Sankar and the first copy given to Prem Watsa.



Chemplast donates for Research Lab at IIT-M

An endowment of Rs 1 crore was presented by PS Jayaraman to Dr Bhaskar Ramamurthi, towards initial funding for the Chemplast Sanmar Zero Liquid Discharge Laboratory set up within the IIT-M campus for industrial research purposes.



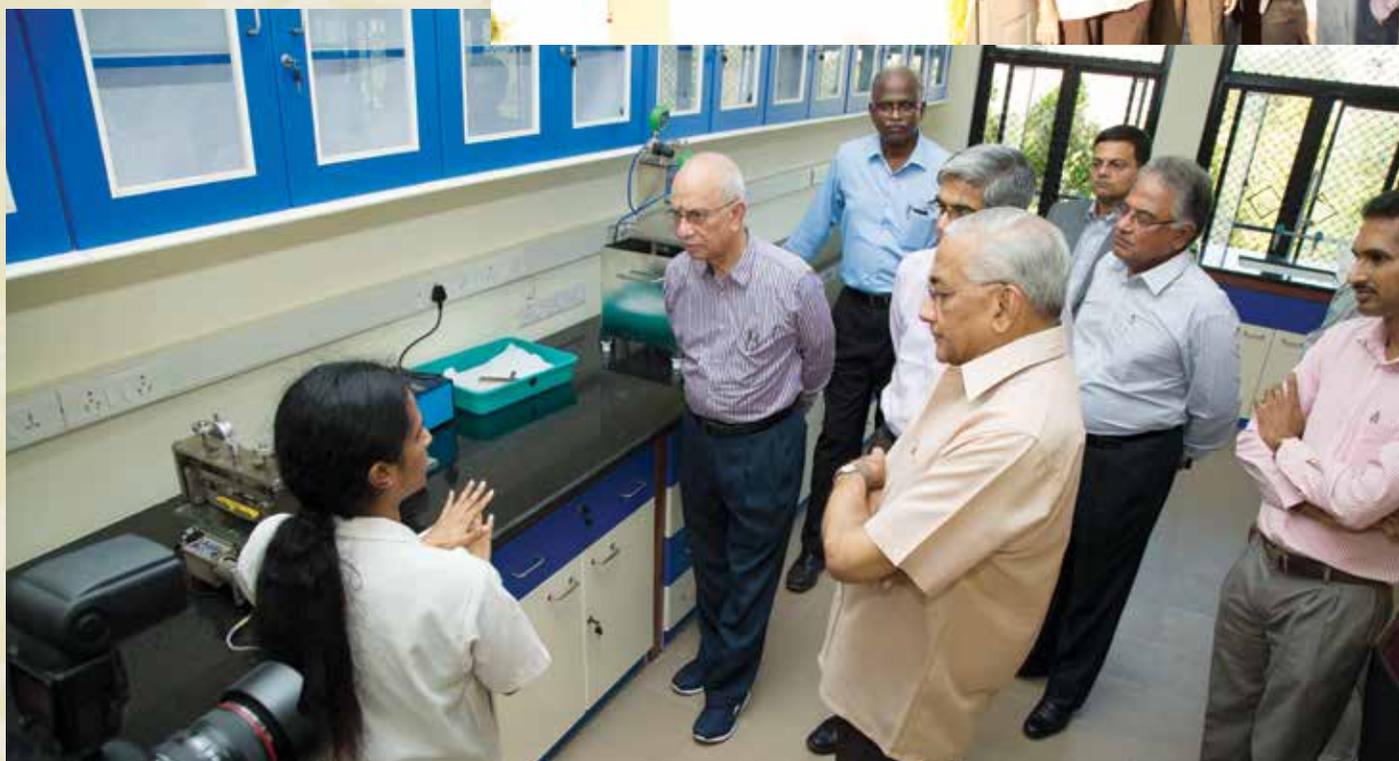
Chemplast Sanmar ZLD Research Lab inaugurated at IIT-M

Coinciding with the golden jubilee of Chemplast Sanmar, a state-of-the-art Research Laboratory at an outlay of Rs 1 crore has been set up by Chemplast in the Department of Environment Engineering at IIT Madras. The laboratory aims to carry out research on Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) in close collaboration with user industries by providing the necessary test facilities for evaluating new/modified technologies related to ZLD.

N Sankar, who declared open the Research Laboratory on 2 May 2017 said, “Chemplast Sanmar is a pioneer in adopting ZLD and which has now become an industry standard.”

Vijay Sankar, who was present at the inauguration said that the group was committed to the concept of water recycling, preventing discharge of effluents into the environment and avoiding ground water exploitation.

(L to R): N Sankar, Dr Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Vijay Sankar and R Kalidas at the Chemplast Sanmar ZLD Research Laboratory inauguration.



KS Narayanan Centre for Cricketing Excellence comes up at IIT-M



As part of the ongoing activities to commemorate the golden jubilee of Chemplast Sanmar, the facility at the IIT-Chemplast Sanmar ground has been renamed “KS Narayanan Centre for Cricketing Excellence.”

N Sankar and Dr Bhaskar Ramamurthi unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion. India test opener M Vijay was present along with other players representing two clubs - Jolly Rovers and Alwarpet Cricket

Club belonging to Chemplast Sanmar.

As Bharath Reddy, who is in charge of cricket at Sanmar puts it quite succinctly, “KS Narayanan, former chairman of The Sanmar Group was a patron of sports. So it is befitting that the ground is named after him.”

The ground and its facilities, including its lovely pavilion have been extensively used for the last

eighteen years. The ground has hosted several first class matches over the years and the Indian team with Sachin Tendulkar too has trained there.

Current Sanmar cricketers seen at the ground include R Ashwin, M Vijay, Piyush Chawla, Jayant Yadav, K Vignesh and T Natarajan.

The ground is being upgraded.



(L to R): Dr Bhaskar Ramamurthi, N Sankar and Vijay Sankar.



Jolly Rovers regains TNCA League title

Jolly Rovers regained the Raja of Palayampatti Shield at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on 21 June 2017, defeating archrival Vijay CC, who had defeated them in the last two seasons.

This is Jolly Rovers' nineteenth title in the TNCA first division league and its second triumph of the season, following its annexure of the VA Parthasarathy Trophy limited-overs tournament.

Local boy DT Chandrasekar stole the show grabbing a timely four-wicket haul in the final—

snatching victory from the jaws of defeat as it were—in the absence of star players like M Vijay, Jayant Yadav, Robin Bist, Ankeet Bawane, R Ashwin, T Natarajan, and K Vignesh. Piyush Chawla, who batted well with a fighting 59, was down with fever on Day 2 of the final and played no part with the ball.

Skipper Kaushik Gandhi, who has been on song with the bat this season, says, “The club is known for winning trophies, and bagging both titles is the icing on the cake.”



for Jolly Rovers

VAP Memorial Trophy Winners

Jolly Rovers defeated Globe Trotters by three wickets in a thriller of a final and emerged champions of the VA Parthasarathy Memorial Trophy one-day cricket tournament organised by TNCA on 25 May 2017.

Ankit Bawne's 56 off 82 balls and 41 runs by S Suresh Kumar helped Jolly Rovers beat Globe Trotters-MRF in a match played under lights at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. Ankit and Suresh added 71 in 89 balls for the fifth wicket which helped Rovers clinch the game.



The winning team with former Test cricketer AG Milkha Singh.



Standing: R Suthesh, Vasanth Raj, S Suresh Kumar, R Sunil, B Anirudh Sitaram, K Vignesh, T Natarajan, J Kaushik, M Shahrukh Khan, U Dhanasekar, Prasanth Parameswaran, S Aravind, DT Chandrasekar, Siddharth S Ahuja, Hari, S Arun.

Sitting: K Rammohan Rao, J Syed Mohammed, R Sathish, Piyush Chawla, Bharath Reddy, M Kaushik Gandhi, N Ajay Kudua, C Hemant Kumar, G Jayakumar, Shyam Sundar.

Kneeling: Karthik, S Lokeshwar, Prasanth K Varma.

India's Rich Cultural Heritage Brought Alive

India by the Nile Season 5

For the fifth consecutive year that TCI Sanmar Chemicals, Port Said, Egypt was the lead sponsor for India by the Nile, a festival of performing arts in

The festival was a powerful catalyst for collaborations, dialogue and exchange between Indian and Egyptian performers and artists and a free-flowing exposition of Indian culture.

The festival travelled to Alexandria, Cairo, Port Said and Ismailia with some of the best in Indian arts and culture performing at the most premier venues.

It opened with a Crafts Mela, where Indian artisans showcased their diverse handicrafts and arts.

Aditi Mangaldas and her Drishtikon Dance Foundation performed a seventy-minute Kathak, dance programme at Cairo and Alexandria.

Leading violinist L Subramaniam and his team collaborated with Egyptian harpist and Cairo Conservatory's assistant harp professor Dr Amira Hamed to produce a fusion concert.

Dramatic tales from mythology were told by Vanashree Rao's Kuchipudi Dance Academy, combining Bharatanatyam, Chau and Kuchipudi at Cairo, Port Said and Alexandria.

The Ishara Puppet Theatre enraptured audience through the use of contemporary puppetry. The show highlighted Gandhi's spiritual journey and discovery of the universal message of non-violence and satyagraha.

The high energy performances of Rajasthani folk musicians titled The Kutle Khan Project were a perfect

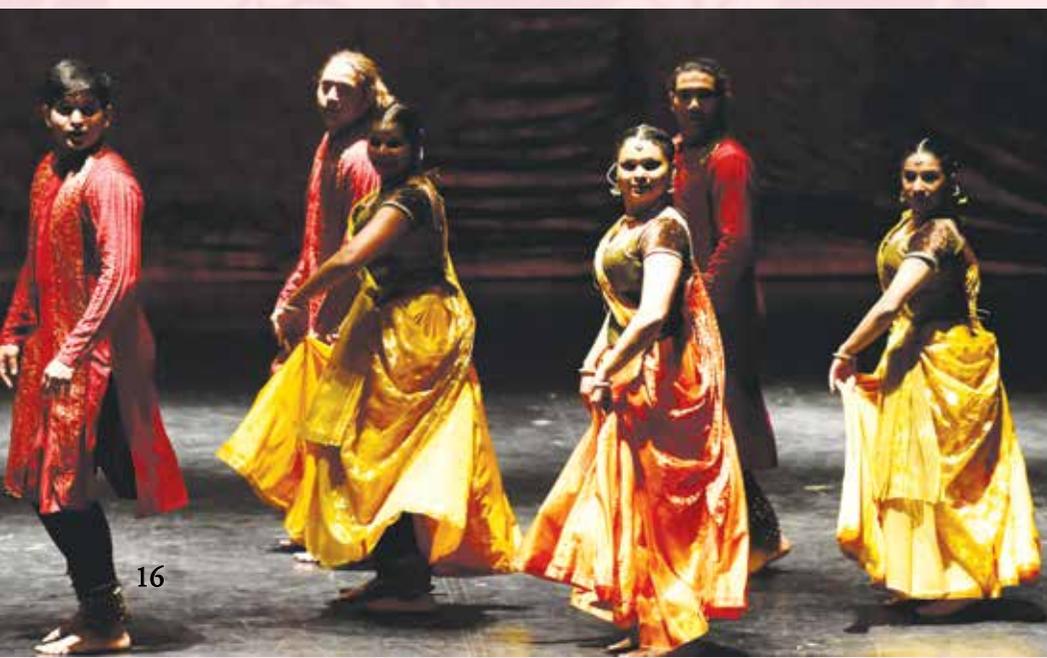


PS Jayaraman, TCI Sanmar Chemicals, speaking at the Women of Substance event. Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Ambassador of India to Egypt, is seen on his extreme right.

Egypt presented by the Embassy of India in Egypt and Teamwork Arts.

India by the Nile 2017 was alive, vibrant and different in its projection of the arts of India, featuring classical and folk traditional dance and music, highlighting India's rich cultural heritage.

Aditi Mangaldas and Drishtikon Dance Foundation performing Kathak.



match to Egypt's vibrant culture. Their foot-tapping interpretations of popular Sufi and Indian folk melodies were greeted by full houses in both Cairo and Ismailia.

At the food fiesta, acclaimed Indian chef Vikram Udaygiri provided a delightful gastronomical experience in Indian fine dining. Randa El Beheiry, Egyptian actress, attended the Indian food festival.

Gilles Chuyen's high energy dance workshops gave Egypt the perfect Bollywood experience. In two-hour sessions, participants learnt dance routines created by Gilles on popular Hindi songs.

In a unique collaboration, well-known Egyptian artist Mohamed Abla and founder Street Art Delhi, Yogesh Saini came together to celebrate India and Egyptian culture through a wall-painting project in Cairo.

Renowned Egyptian photographer Ashraf Talaat exhibited photographs taken during his visits to India at the Egyptian Centre for International Cultural Cooperation, Cairo.

The India-Egypt Economic Seminar held at Alexandria and Cairo, focussed on potential areas for the enhancement of bilateral trade and investment in the context of various flagship programmes of the Government of India include Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, Startup India and Smart City Mission.

The various yoga and well being sessions aimed to demystify traditional Indian medicine and spread awareness about the holistic and spiritual discipline of yoga.

Women of Substance hosted by Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Ambassador



of India in Egypt and Mrs Ranu Bhattacharyya at the India House feted Egyptian women from different walks of life for their exceptional work.

For the first time since its inception, this year's edition of India by the Nile brought a new flavour to the festival with a India-Egypt football match with the Indian National under-16 boys football team travelling to Egypt.

Dr L Subramaniam and Dr Amira Hamed.

“India by the Nile engages with the community and brings over many state-of-the-art performances, renowned dancers and actors, the best representatives of India's art.”

-Ati Metwaly, Al-Ahram Weekly

Vanashree Rao's Kuchipudi.



A Key Player in the History of US Industry: Sean Keohane on the Cabot Family

Sean Keohane, CEO, Cabot Corporation, USA, spoke to V Ramnarayan during his visit to Chennai to participate in Chemplast Sanmar's golden jubilee on 4 May 2017.

Excerpts from the interview

You speak of the 130 year old heritage of Cabot. Can you throw some light on that?

The company was founded in the Boston area 1882 and so the Cabot family has a pretty long history by US standards. The founder was Godfrey Lowell of the Cabot family, one of the influential industrial families of the North East. The entire industrial technology in the US began in the North East and the Cabot family was an important player in the development of industry. Ultimately, the Cabot family went on to found a number of different companies that still exist today.

Cabot has thrived over these 130 years. We have the Cabot Corporation, the chemical company, we have separate public companies like the Cabot Oil and Gas Exploration Company, and Cabot Microelectronics which was founded inside the Cabot Corporation and spun out to a

separate public company involved in semi-conductor materials.

Cabot Stains has the leading market share in the inks and stains field. The chemical company I lead today built its foundation on carbon black, the largest material product family we have in the company.

The business was built around carbon black and since that time we have expanded into Fumed Silica where, of course, we have a Joint Venture with Sanmar. We are the number one in carbon black and the number two global player in fumed silica. This material too finds its way into many things the average person uses. So this has a very important part in the portfolio. We have another platform in Activated Carbon, the material used in purifying air or water, fluid and beverages and pharma.

The company is in around US\$ 3 billion in sales and the family does not have any direct involvement. The company has probably been

*Krishnakumar Rangachari,
V Ramnarayan and Sean Keohane in
conversation.*



traded in the New York Stock Exchange since 1968.

How do you view the impact on business of the rather insular developments in the US and Europe?

The situation is still playing out and it is difficult to judge with any clarity how it will go. But there is a certain tone of protectionism in the US as well. If you look across the US and across Europe, globalisation has been around for 20-30 years and it is the first time that there is significant shift in the policies there. Protectionism and more extreme forms of nationalism are becoming more pronounced. In the US, there is significant part of population which feels it is being left behind in the march towards globalisation. A lot of these manufacturing jobs created the middle class in the US in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. Many of these jobs have been lost, some of them to countries outside the US, but a certain amount is also lost to automation. It's completely different today. In traditional manufacturing, there is forging and then machining to make a precision part. Today we can produce some of those supplies with 3D printing. The role of manufacturing and the role of automation and the role of additive manufacturing have really changed the landscape and that has caused reduction in these types of jobs. So it is not just that jobs have moved over. But the bottomline is that there is a population which feels it has been left behind which thinks in two ways.

You take pride in being first and being an innovator as Cabot. So, is that a very important part of your expansion plans, being a innovator and pioneer in technology?

It is. I think leadership matters in our industry as in any industry, and

so being the number one player is an important thing for us. I think, over our long history we have been first to enter new geographies and have been very pioneering in that respect. We are enjoying the legacy today.

In technology as well, if I look at it over the years, the range of different applications that were enabled by our materials, the role of innovations is central to what we do. If you think about any of the mega trends today in the world, and then look at what is enabling the innovation, pretty much all of them come back to innovations around material, chemistry in material side.

What does Cabot look for in its Joint Venture partners?

I think it starts with having an alignment around values and expectations. This is probably the most important thing in ventures of this sort especially where you make an investment and it goes for 40 or more years. So you can never project exactly how the road can twist and turn over that period of time. You can't possibly anticipate everything. Therefore, you have to fall back on some fundamentals. Do we share the same values? Do we have the same expectation? Are we grounded on a common set of values and aligned on expectations? Together we can solve problems as they come up. It is important that all our joint ventures globally continue to thrive today. A big part of that is the point around common values and expectations.

You rank very high in safety in the US as a company and a corporation. Is focus on safety in Cabot Sanmar also strong?

Yes. Safety health and environment is a core value for us. We have been on a march of improving our performance



*Sean Keohane, CEO,
Cabot Corporation, USA.*



Sean Keohane with the Cabot Sanmar team at Mettur.

in safety health and environment for the last 20-30 years in a very considerable way. Today, if you look at most prominent measure of safety performance in the US, what is called total recordable incidence rate. Our total recordable safety incidence rate is probably around 0.35. If you look at all of the chemical and industrial companies, Cabot will be at the top of safety performance.

With both of us being prominent players in the chemical industry, we also have to address questions around environmental performance and sustainability. So personal safety is important, but there are other important dimensions as well.

In the last ten or 15 years, we have had even more of an emphasis on the environment, not losing sight of the safety performance, and doing a number of things in terms of our sustainability goals. We have goals to reduce our CO₂ intensity. We try and recycle our heat value in our processes back to produce green energy. We are really pushing hard on that dimension.

How do you serve the community?

The Cabot Foundation we fund every year and the board of the

foundation directs charitable giving to the different sites across the world.

The Foundation has a board of six or seven members and each of our sites can make proposals to the foundation to support a particular initiative - it could be education or health. For example, not long ago in China, a new library called Hope Library was commissioned in an economically challenged community. So Cabot, through the Foundation, built a new library for the community.

What is your vision for Cabot today?

We recently communicated a new vision, a new strategy and a new set of goals for the company. The vision we defined is “to be the most innovative, respected and responsible leader in our markets delivering formats that makes a difference.”

Each of those words was chosen for a specific reason.

If you are not leading the space in innovation, you eventually lose your position. The role of materials in enabling innovation in the world is enormous. And so, innovation has to be number one.

The question of how the communities we operate in, the customers we serve and the various stakeholders we have today, view us. How they view us as someone they can trust. The way we behave, the governance practices of the company, these are the things that take years to build but can be lost in a minute. It is very important that we don't lose that.

The role of being a responsible citizen and sustainability: in this global push we have to have that in our vision.

Finally, we must deliver performance that makes a difference. We do not aspire to be in commodity chemicals. We aspire to be in materials that are enabling applications. If you look at most of our businesses that is what you see.

Materials are fundamental to how an application performs. And, as a result, we generate pretty good speciality chemicals profit margins in the business because they are really enabling materials.

Finally, a word about your family

My family has a strong Irish dance tradition. My mother founded the 'Hansen Keohane School of Irish Dance' which recently celebrated its 70th anniversary in Boston.

My wife's name is Irene. She is Irish and both of us do Irish dance. That's actually how we met and married. I have three children. The oldest is a boy who is 12, a keen sportsperson, plays ice hockey, baseball. My daughter does Irish dance and my little guy Jack is five years old, in the process of trying a little bit of everything. The house is a fun house, but a busy house.

Cabot Sanmar Fumed Silica Plant Expansion

Sean Keohane, CEO of Cabot Corporation, visited the Cabot Sanmar manufacturing facility in Mettur on 5 May 2017. During this visit Sean formally dedicated the new expanded fumed silica facility. The expansion project increases the capacity of the Joint Venture in both the hydrophillic and hydrophobic grades of fumed silica, thus enabling the JV to participate in a growing market. Keohane was accompanied by Sriram Srinivasan, Vice President

and General Manager, Cabot Asia Pacific South. Vijay Sankar, Deputy Chairman, was also present on the occasion.

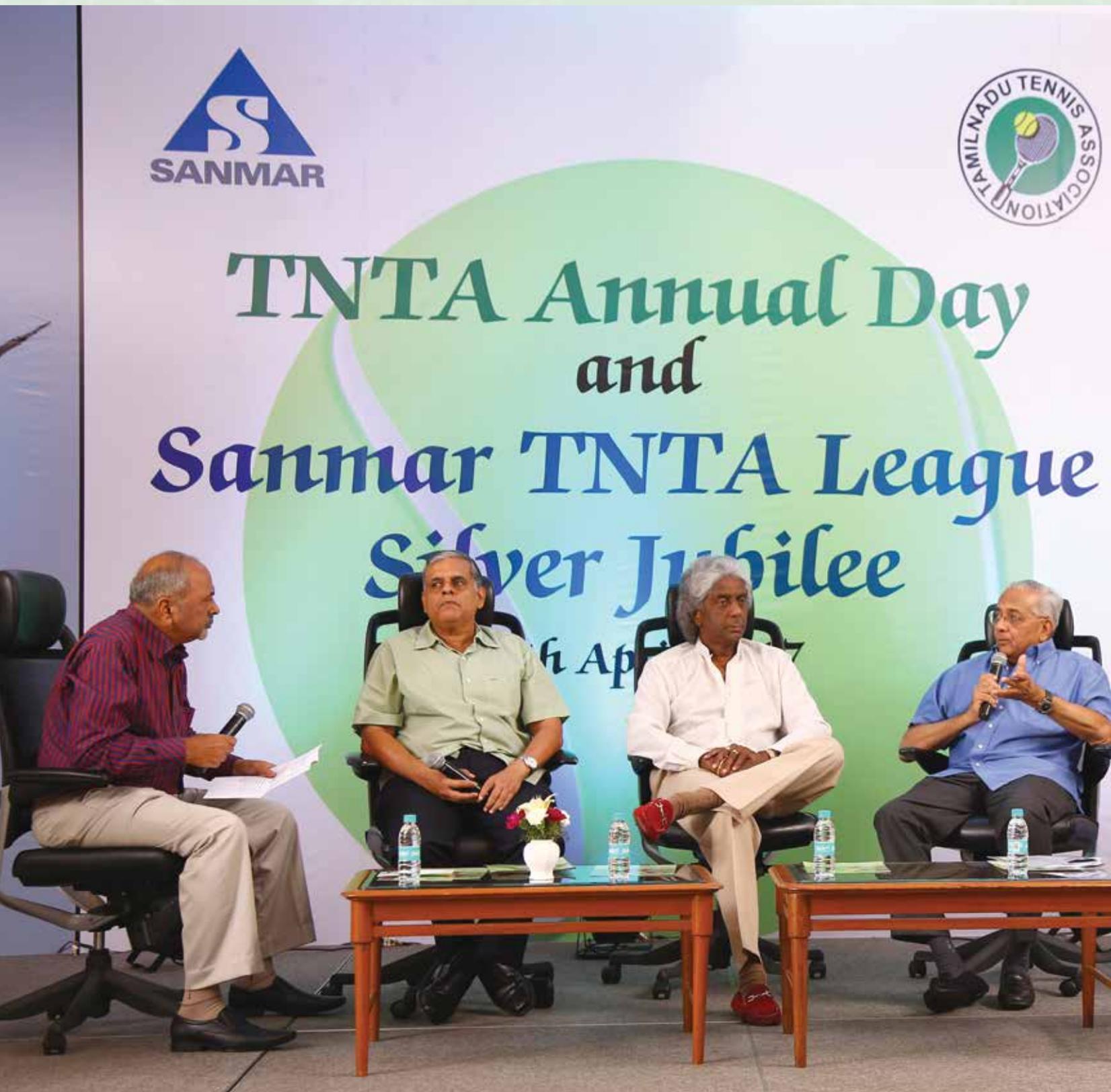
Sean Keohane was impressed by the scope of the expansion project and the collaboration between the Cabot Corporation and Cabot Sanmar teams in the execution and commissioning of the expansion. Recent activities by the JV in developing new applications for Fumed Silica in India were also reviewed with Keohane.



Sean Keohane at the Cabot Sanmar facility, Mettur.



Sanmar and TNTA - Together



(L to R): Partab Ramchand, Ramesh Krishnan, Anand Amritraj, N Sankar, Lakshmi Mahadevan and PS Seshadri.

for 25 Years and Counting



On 16 April, The Sanmar Group celebrated its completion of 25 years as the sponsor of the inter-club city tennis league, the Sanmar-TNTA league, at a well attended function at Crowne Plaza, Chennai. Sanmar, which has always been in the forefront of tennis promotion, came forward in 1992 to fund and comprehensively support the league.

The TNTA league has grown from 50 to 500 players now, spread over six zones. The league has two veterans event (45+ and 60+) and a women's league, and women can be part of the regular league also.

Over the years, the prize money for the league that Sanmar offers has grown from Rs 40,000 to the present Rs 3.5 lakh. The KS Narayanan Memorial Rolling Trophy named after the late founder of the Group is awarded to the A zone winner.

N Sankar in his welcome address during the silver jubilee function said, "Chennai is without doubt one of the nerve centres of tennis in India. A disproportionately large number of India's leading tennis players over the years have been from this city or had links to it. Chennaiites like the Krishnans, Ramanathan and Ramesh, and the Amritrajs, Anand, Vijay and Ashok, and

“Sanmar’s association with the league began 25 years ago... This sponsorship was never intended to be commercial – the prizes are not large and Sanmar gets no specific commercial benefit from it. But the idea seems to have worked, as can be seen from the intense competition that exists in the different zones for the trophies.”

- N Sankar

A view of the audience at the function.

adopted Chennaiites and others who have links to it like Leander Paes, Rohan Bopanna, and even Mahesh Bhupathi whose father and I played a lot of collegiate tennis in Chennai, have brought laurels to India on courts around the world. Obviously, tennis being an individual game, this success has substantially been due to their individual talents. But talent is not available only in this city. Then why this undue concentration of tennis success in the southern metropolis?”

Citing prominent reasons for talent blooming so prodigiously in Chennai compared to other locations, Sankar pointed out, “The first I would submit is the excellent culture that exists for the game in the city. The other reason for the predominance of Chennai in the Indian tennis scene would be the excellent development programmes

conducted by the TNTA. The presence of our tennis icons Ramesh Krishnan and Anand Amritraj on this occasion is yet another indication of the bonds that link the tennis players in the city.”

Ramesh Krishnan, Anand Amritraj, N Sankar, PS Seshadri and Lakshmi Mahadevan participated in a freewheeling discussion moderated by Partab Ramchand. All the participants felt that the city’s sporting culture and good infrastructure were key reasons for Chennai to emerge as the tennis capital of India. While Anand lauded Chennai city and said “We had tennis courts at home, which helped us grow as players. Not to forget great coaches like K Rama Rao and Dr Rajan, also TNTA office bearers. Many players from all over the country come here to practise and play.” Ramesh Krishnan felt





N Kumar, presenting the Sanmar-TNTA A- Zone trophy to winners MCC- A.

that the backing of TNTA had led to Chennai being acknowledged as one of the best places to learn the ropes of the game.

A number of players were felicitated at the function and awards were

given away. N Sankar presented league awards to teams from six zones and MA Alagappan, President TNTA, thanked The Sanmar Group for supporting tennis for the last 25 years.



Sanmar stall at Fairfax AGM at Toronto

Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited (Fairfax) held its Annual General Body meeting (AGM) on the 20 April 2017 in Toronto, Canada. This was followed by the AGM of Fairfax India Holdings Corporation (Fairfax India). The objective of the meetings was to help investors understand the strategy and growth plans of Fairfax and Fairfax India. Vijay Sankar, Deputy Chairman, The Sanmar Group, who was invited to these meetings spoke at the Fairfax India AGM.

has invested were showcased by Fairfax. SHL Chemicals consisting of Chemplast Sanmar, TCI Sanmar and Sanmar Speciality Chemicals, was one of those selected to create a stall that represented the global presence, long history, environmental friendliness and extremely strong reputation of The Sanmar Group.

This stall was manned by Dr Amarnath Ananthanarayanan, Managing Director – Corporate, The Sanmar Corporate Division.

Dr Amarnath Ananthanarayanan at the Sanmar stall at Fairfax, Toronto.

As part of the AGM, a few promising companies in which Fairfax India



State Safety Awards for Sanmar

The Sanmar Group received ten awards for excellence in safety for the performance year 2013 from the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health, Government of Tamil Nadu.

The awards were given away at Chennai on 6 May 2017 by the State Finance Minister, D Jayakumar, in the presence of Minister of Labour, Government of Tamil Nadu, Dr Nilofer Kafeel, Minister of Rural Industries, P Benjamin and P Bose, Director of Industrial Safety and Health, and Principal Secretary to Government, P Amudha, IAS.

List of Sanmar companies which won the State Safety Awards:

Chemplast Sanmar (Category : Chemicals)

Second prize to Mettur Plant III for achieving lowest weighted injury accident frequency rate.

Second prize to Mettur Plant III for achieving the Longest injury free working.

Third prize to Cuddalore plant for the Highest reduction in weighted injury accident frequency rate.

Sanmar Foundries (Category: Metals)

Third prize for the Highest reduction in weighted injury accident frequency rate.

Xomox Sanmar (Category: Engineering)

Second prize for the Highest reduction in weighted injury accident frequency rate.

Second prize for achieving lowest weighted injury accident frequency rate.

Second prize for achieving the Longest injury free working.

SFL Machine shop (Category: Engineering)

Third prize for the Highest reduction in weighted injury accident frequency rate.

Third prize for achieving lowest weighted injury accident frequency rate.

Third prize for achieving the Longest injury free working.



VSV Rajan and P Manoharan from Sanmar receiving the award from D Jayakumar, Minister of Finance Government of Tamil Nadu.

Chemplast CSR Activities at Mettur

Environmental Awareness among School Students



While puppetry is an ancient form of popular folk art and a traditional source of entertainment, this has been ingeniously used by Chemplast Mettur in creating environmental awareness among school students.

1350 students of Vaidheeswara Higher Secondary School and Government High School, Gonur and other nearby primary and high schools attended a puppet show organised on 20 January 2017. A team from Chennai, *Kalai Araperavai Kalaivanan Kuzhu*, led by TKS Kalaivanan, performed the show.

Environment related topics such as the importance of rain water harvesting, environmental cleanliness, growing trees, waste management, use of organic manure and myths and misconceptions of environment related issues were discussed.

School students at the puppet show.



Specialised Ari, Zardosi and Hand Embroidery Training for Rural Women

In addition to conducting training classes for women in tailoring over the last couple of years, Chemplast Mettur has been offering specialised 30-day training programmes in Ari, Zardosi and Hand Embroidery at Thangamapuripattinam and Kozhipannai centres. The training is conducted by a professional trainer from Salem.



Women at work during the specialised hand embroidery and Ari training workshop organised by Chemplast Mettur.



Iconic Institutions of Chennai

Presidency College

Chennai's Presidency College was one of the first two institutions of higher education and research established by the British Government in India.

A splendid specimen of Indo-Saracen architecture facing the Marina beach, Chennai, the college has a campus area of 30 acres, which includes the cricket ground popularly known as the Marina Ground, and the Victoria Hostel, behind the main college premises.

The college has been known for long for its high standard of education, though it has suffered somewhat in the last fifty years or so. Many eminent men and women passed through the portals of the college, two of them, Sir CV Raman (physics), and Dr S Chandrasekhar (physics) becoming Nobel laureates for their outstanding work in their chosen

fields of science. Other distinguished alumni and alumna include Dr Srinivasa Varadhan (mathematics) and Dr TR Govindachari (chemistry).

Presidency College is an arts, law and science college. Established as the Madras Preparatory School on October 15, 1840 and later upgraded to a high school and even later a graduate college, it is one of the oldest government arts colleges in India, the second Presidency College established by the British in India, after Presidency College, Kolkata.

The preparatory school shifted from its first home in Egmore to Popham's Broadway in 1841. The schools grew into Presidency College. Lord Elphinstone, Governor of Madras, appointed Eyre Burton Powell, a Cambridge don in mathematics, as the first principal of the college.

Close-up of the main entrance to the Madras Presidency College.



When the University of Madras was founded in 1857, Presidency College was affiliated to it. In 1870, the college moved to its present location in Kamaraj Salai, opposite Marina Beach.

Last year, S Muthiah, the famous chronicler of Chennai, wrote in his weekly column, Madras Miscellany in The Hindu, "Marking its 175th year in muted fashion this year is Presidency College, the oldest college in South India and the seed from which Madras University grew..."

It was in March 1835 that the Government of India stated that "the object of Government ought to be the promotion of European literature and sciences among the natives of India." It was an affirmation of Macaulay's Minute on Education. But none of the Presidency governments knew quite what to do with this statement of policy. Of suggestions there was no shortage, but while Calcutta and Bombay did get around to action on some of these suggestions, Madras kept a debate going till there arrived a new Governor, Lord John Elphinstone, in 1838. To him George Norton, then the Advocate-General, and a few other eminent personalities presented a petition in November 1939 signed by 70,000 'native inhabitants' seeking institutions of higher education.

Their petition read in part, "We see in the intellectual advancement of the people the true foundation of the nation's prosperity... We descend from the oldest native subjects of the British Power in India, but we are the last who have been considered in the political endowments devoted to this liberal object...Where amongst us are the collegiate institutions which, founded for these generous objects, adorn the two sister presidencies?"

The petition also promised that the citizenry would also gladly play a role in establishing such institutions if Government gave the lead.

A month later, Elphinstone... proposed establishing a "collegiate institution, or a University" with two departments: A high school offering English Literature, a Regional language, Philosophy, and Science, to prepare students for the second department, the College, which would provide instruction in the higher branches of these subjects. A University Board, headed by Norton, was appointed in January 1840 to implement this proposal.

The High School opened its doors on April 14, 1841, in D'Monte House, Egmore, where the Chief Magistrate's Court now is. Elphinstone, inaugurating the School, told the gathering, which included the School's first 67 students that they were "witnessing the dawn of a new era, rather than the opening of a new school."

Many outstanding teachers have taught at Presidency College. If Prof S Ramaswamy (English), Prof TR Govindachari (Chemistry), and Prof CKK Pillai (Geology) were pillars of their respective departments, the college paid a handsome tribute to *Tamizh Thatha* UV Swaminatha Iyer by installing his statue in the southeastern foreground of its campus.

Starting with the anti-Hindi agitation of 1964, the college has faced many depredations provoked by the politics of the state, and the active student participation in many demonstrations over the decades. Though it is still ranked among the top colleges of the country, some of its sheen has been dulled by many such "extracurricular" activities. The high standard in sports maintained

by the college too has suffered a dent in recent decades.

Presidency College continues nonetheless to remain one of the notable landmarks of Chennai.

The list of courses offered by the college includes graduate, postgraduate and doctoral courses in the arts, science and philosophy.

Some Eminent Alumni

- **Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar**, *Nobel laureate in Physics*
- **CV Raman**, *Nobel laureate in Physics*
- **C Rajagopalachari**, *the last Governor-General of India*
- **C Subramaniam**, *Minister, Finance Government of India*
- **KM Cariappa**, *first Commander-in-Chief of Defence Forces of Independent India*
- **N Ram**, *Managing Director and Editor in Chief, The Hindu*
- **CP Ramaswamy Iyer**, *Dewan of Travancore*
- **VK Krishna Menon** (1896-1974), *Defence Minister of India (1957-1962)*
- **RS Subbalakshmi**, *educator and social reformer. (She was also the first Hindu woman graduate in the Madras Presidency)*
- **P Subbaroyan**, *Chief Minister of Madras Presidency*
- **Srinivasa Varadhan**, *Abel Prize Laureate in Mathematics*
- **Pothan Joseph**, *Journalist*
- **TR Govindachari**, *Natural product chemist, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Laureate.*

