

Life of a legend through pictures

Interested in reading biographies, especially of music legends? Lakshmi Devnath's compact pictorial depiction of the life of Madurai Mani Iyer is being released this evening at the Narada Gana Sabha Hall. This is her third effort, after MS and GNB.

"Both were well-received and I'm happy I embarked on this project," says Lakshmi, author of 'Apoorva,' children's book that was a best seller. The comic-book style was in fact conceived to attract children. "Young music learners should also know about legends and their contribution. What better way than to give capsules in a visually tempting format?"

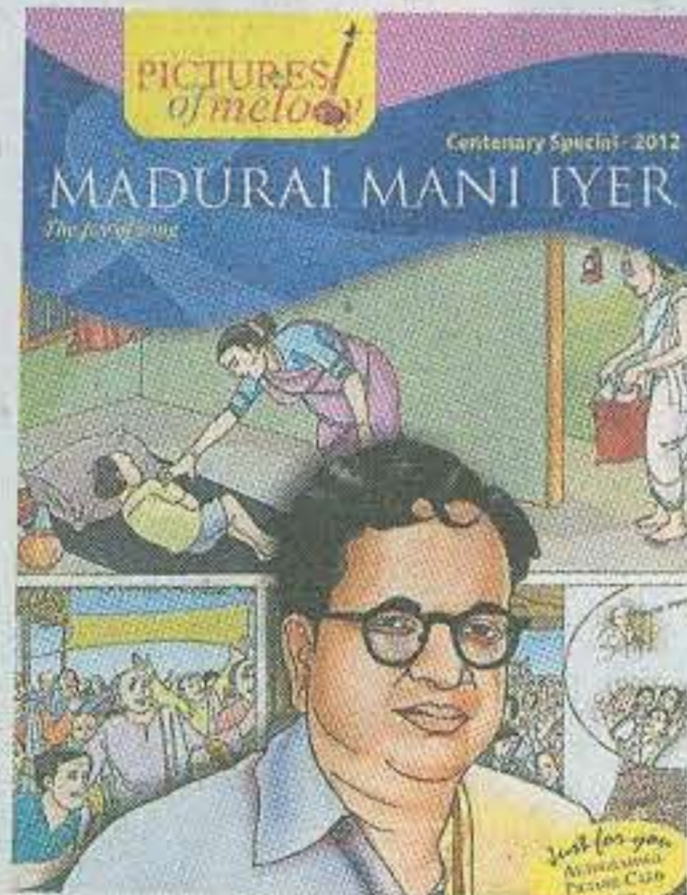
But execution was not easy. Right from finding an artist to publisher the journey has been a challenge. The latest venture was no different. "But it is satisfying," says Lakshmi. "The life and work of a musician who was equally

and universally loved as a human being should reach everyone."

The slim volume that comes with an autographed picture is absorbing for adult readers too. It is informative, the fluent narration making it a pleasure. Intense research and checks several times over make it an authentic account. "T.V. Sankararayanan, Iyer's nephew and renowned vidwan, was a great help," acknowledges Lakshmi. "He spent time to make sure the book had accurate details. It has nuggets, which you might not have

heard earlier," Lakshmi informs. She has a special word of thanks for the artist Ajay Krishnan.

'Madurai Mani Iyer - The Joy of Song' will be released at a function, 5.30 p.m., by M. Balamuralikrishna and the first copy will be received by TVS. It is available at all leading book stores. Copies are available with Swati Soft Solutions (42316060).



A new lease of life

APPEAL Donation will help revive the lost glory of the ancient Srinivasa Temple at Erukkattoor.

The small village of Erukkattoor, on the banks of Pandavayaru at Kamalapuram, on the road to Mannargudi from Tiruvarur, is the birth place of many stalwarts such as A. Rangaswamy Iyengar, founder of *The Hindu*, N. Gopalswamy Iyengar, Central Minister for Railways in Independent India's first cabinet, G. Parthasarathy, diplomat and first vice chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, and K. Bhashyam Iyengar (Arya), freedom fighter and renowned artist. The one thread that connects these luminaries is that they all hail from this small village.

This village, about 10 km from Tiruvarur, in its heyday, had about 20 households belonging to several communities primarily engaged in agriculture. But as their next generation sought out education and other avenues of employment, they moved out to cities in India and even abroad. Slowly the village started shrinking in size and by 1960s, it had been abandoned. Though many families could proudly refer to their lineage, few had visited the village.

Consecration planned

All that was left in the village was a dilapidated temple of Sri



SPRUCED UP: The montage of images showing renovation works in progress at Sri Srinivasa temple, Erukkattoor.

Srinivasa Perumal. A few elders, who had made a pilgrimage to their village, decided to revive the village temple and its environs.

The renovation of the temple is under way and it is hoped that the consecration will take place some time in February, 2013.

The committee of village elders, now handling this task, operates from Erukkattoor Srinivasa Perumal Kainkarya Sabha, 'Sriranga,' New No. 70, Old No. 95, Kamaraj Avenue

School Road, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020.

The members seek information about those whose ancestry can be traced to this village with the hope that at least the village family tree will be formatted and preserved for future generations, if not for the reconstruction of the village. Details may be sent to **erukkattoorsrinivasaperumal@gmail.com**

Donations are sought for conducting nithya pujas and periodical utsavams.