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# MADRAS MUSINGS

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Vol. I. No. 6

FREE ISSUE — EVERY FORTNIGHT

July 1-14, 1991

*Starting with Haribabu's photographs...*

## Lady Luck, legwork change minds

(By a Special Correspondent)

### Careening convoys, the State's new image

(By a Staff Reporter)

In the last stages of the campaign, Jayalalitha Jayaraman withdrew to her Poes Garden 'fortress', accepting that discretion was the better part of valour no matter how loud the opposition's taunts of 'coward'. Her rival, Muthuvel Karunanidhi, on the other hand, campaigned publicly to the last — but in those final days he put his total trust in the much-maligned Tamil Nadu police's efficiency.

A visitor from Delhi, who was travelling with this reporter a couple of days before campaigning ended, commented, on seeing an armed convoy whiz past, that he had never seen so much security even for Rajiv Gandhi in his heyday! There were about a score and more vehicles of all descriptions with gun-toting, screaming policemen and a couple with the DMK's Red Guard. And racing in the midst of this rather frightening show of power was the white Karunanidhi ratham with its battle-scars proudly emblazoned on its side — a great big patch of burnt paint testifying to the night it was 'burnt down' in DMK headquarters by vandals unknown.

This type of protection, unseen in Tamil Nadu before for any local politician, only reflects the pass this once-peaceful state has come to. Violence, every vehicle in that careening convoy appeared to shout, was becoming a part of everyday life in Tamil Nadu. With the election now over, is the gun-and-bomb culture going to get worse — or will a concerted effort be made by all Tamil Nadu politicians to prevent this state and our city becoming a Punjab and an Amritsar?

At last reports, it seemed likely that we would have to live with such convoys a while longer as Chief Minister Jayalalitha Jayaraman and a few others unnamed appear to be on a 'hit list' that included Rajiv Gandhi's name.

Lady Luck and dogged legwork have begun to restore a police image that few papers had not tarnished. *Madras Musings'* piece on 'An Assassin's Strength' (June 1) was one of the handful of articles that appeared in the Press in India that look not only an off-beat look at the tragic happenings at Sriperumbudur but which also went against the almost universal outcry and had a kind word for a stricken police force. It was a report that did not win too many friends at that time but now appears to have beaten a track that others seem to be following.

Suddenly the Tamil Nadu police are not the villains of the piece. Not only did they not all flee the scene, but 200 of 250 police on duty stayed to protect it and ensured that any evidence remained in place, reports one paper. Another reveals that a sub-inspector, a woman who gave her legs in the cause of duty, almost prevented an assassin whom Rajiv Gandhi virtually helped on her way. A third talks of how hard-pressed the police were at the venue, yet provided the kind of protection to Rajiv Gandhi that resulted in so many of their numbers dying. And so it goes... everyone suddenly seems to have a kinder word and greater appreciation for the police who were on duty at Sriperumbudur.

All this very likely has something to do with the fact that the police have suddenly begun to make headway in their investigation. Arrests are being made, names are being named, and wider local ramifications are being more openly speculated about. In the end, if the present digging unearths the deep roots of the crime, the national CBI may get much of the credit for it. But perhaps there will be a few who will also recognise that it was an inter-service investigation in which the Tamil Nadu police did the greatest amount of leg work.

But whoever gets the credit, the late Haribabu, photographer without a camera, perhaps had the greatest role to play in the Police success. And the co-star in the investigation would have to be recognised as Dame Fortune! If Haribabu had not kept himself looking busy shooting random photographs, if he had survived the blast or if his borrowed camera had gone up in the blast, it could well be that the investigation might not have got as far as it had done. Never in the history of assassinations have photographs of the action played a greater role yet been available purely by chance.

Haribabu, the photographer who never made it big in his job and had to give it up, may now be more famous in death than he was in life, but how much he unwittingly — and totally unexpected by the perpetrators — contributed to the investigation becomes apparent only when the painstaking work of the police is appreciated.

Haribabu's first 'shot', a casual photograph of the crowd scene, provided the police the opportunity for

some classic legwork. They not only spotted two 'city slickers' come to the village but they got around to identifying EVERY person in the frame and, thus, zeroed in on the odd women out. The results of that combination of Lady Luck and typical investigative legwork has begun to create a totally different perspective of police capabilities. May be it will yet lead to a greater respect for Law and Order; if it does, that will be the unexpected silver lining in this tragedy.

MANAALI RAMAN...



Our schemes provide green cover to the self-contained homes we build as well as to the city. Just look!

IN MAD. MAD MADRAS

**தேசிக்**  **தேசிக்** **takes**

## a step **Aside**

THE MAGAZINE OF TAMIL NADU

(by S Muthiah)

A rather interesting recent acquisition could mean the end of two eras of pioneering journalism in Madras. The takeover of *Aside* magazine by the *Dhina Thanthi* group could mean the end of the former's financial problems, but it could also mean a change of style for a magazine that pioneered a new journalism in India.

When Abraham and Sita Eraly decided to start *Aside* in 1977, Abe Eraly had been getting tired of teaching History at Madras Christian College and was beginning to handle a couple of house journals. Which was when we met — and out of a casual conversation was born "A Magazine of Madras", the first of India's city magazines. In their inaugural November 1977 issue, publisher Sita Eraly wrote, "Madras needs to develop a new ethos out of its contemporary reality. *Aside*, hopefully, is a contribution towards that — to give the city an awareness of itself".

For several years, *Aside* remained true to that hope, backed by a small but loyal readership and a supportive group of advertisers interested more in Madras than in mille rates. But in search of a wider audience and a circulation that it hoped would ensure it more advertising and some profit, *Aside*

changed tracks. It even dropped its Madras association in the sub-title for a while, but then restored it to "The Magazine of Madras".

Its canvas was now a more conventional one. Politics and Films dominated — and neither gave "the city an awareness of itself". It may have picked up a little more circulation by this change of pace, but it did not gain anything by way of advertising. The Eralys, however, struggled on, the house journals paying the way. But the writing was on the wall, especially when they disposed of the house journal side of the business and their printing press to the Sanmar Group and Eraly got himself thoroughly absorbed in writing a history of India he promises will be in the *Aside* style, literate but racy and readable.

This is when the Aditiyans stepped in. And that was a surprise, for not only had their *Dhina Thanthi* group of publications never had an English journal but it also had never shown an interest in an up-market readership. What the *Dhina Thanthi* had pioneered in Tamil Nadu was journalism in the language of the masses. There were many who looked down on its use of the Tamil language, but there is no gainsaying the fact that its role has been immense in making the Tamil-in-the-

street more knowledgeable and politically conscious. If millions in this state are familiar with what Jayalalitha and Karunanidhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Chandrashekar, Bush and Gorbachev have been saying, if they know a little more about China and Argentina, of Cosmonauts and AIDS, it is because of the *Dhina Thanthi*. It has always been a sight for information-conscious eyes to see one person on a kerbside read out loud to a group surrounding him the latest from the *Dhina Thanthi*. And then what a discussion would follow on the world and his wife!

This invaluable contribution to the Tamil-in-the-street is one thing. To move into *Aside* is another. What route will *Aside* now follow? It already calls itself "The Magazine of Tamil Nadu". Some say, it might yet become a 'pop' magazine aimed at a wider South Indian audience. Others have other theories. But no one says it will serve the purpose of making Madras more aware of itself, for which it was founded.

On the other hand, where will the *Dhina Thanthi* group go from here? Could it be that it is testing the waters to discover whether there's scope in the South for more English journalism? Like a lively tabloid, for instance?



## A paean to Madras Reflections on chance-built 'rurban' glory

What Rudyard Kipling says of Calcutta, "chance directed, chance erected", is perhaps more appropriate to Madras. It began with no natural advantages in its favour; Calcutta had a fertile hinterland, and Bombay a fine natural harbour, whereas Madras had neither. In fact, the site on which Madras was built was selected by chance, on sand thrown up by the sea, a part of an exposed coast. But the silhouette of the domes and towers that rose on this coast make an unforgettable picture, when viewed against a typical Madras sunset.

Beyond a harbour that is a marvel of engineering stretches the Marina. The placing of public buildings on the western side of the promenade reinforces the exquisite setting of the blue sea. It is a sight which can make the Gods jealous! It was this setting that inspired C V Raman to interpret the physics of the blue colour of the sea as well as understand the nuances of Shakespeare's master-creation *The Tempest* while studying at Presidency College, one of the ornaments of this stretch.

Switching to one of history's high tides, it is well to reflect on the splendid Chola bronzes which are housed in the National Art Gallery in Madras. Explanations for the artistic Renaissance that produced these bronzes are many.

Art historians like Dr Susanné Langer have argued that these bronzes constitute "the intuition of highest import" — an expressive phrase to describe the creation of such works as Euripides' *Medea*, Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* and the Nataraja bronzes. Furthermore, religious historians have maintained that the Nataraja Bronze is not only the product of an age of faith but is also a unique synthesis of science, religion and art.

More importantly, it is realised that the aesthetic response of the 19th century French sculptor to the 11th century Trivalangadu Bronze at the Madras Government Museum in Egmore is reminiscent of Goethe's lyric on Kaldasa's *Sakuntalam* but at a different level of perception. Just as the beauty of Reims in France made a profound influence on the Rodin aesthetic imagination, so did the Tiruvalangadu Bronze of the Madras Museum exercise a profound influence on the Rodin aesthetic sensibility. And viewed in historical perspective, both these memorable responses in the history of international cultural relations — Goethe's lyrical response which inspired Tagore and Rodin's aesthetic response which influenced Ananda Coomaraswamy — had ushered in an era of cultural understanding between India and the West. Particularly in Madras.

This historic city looks like a collection of scattered villages with overtones of modernity. Even now, its elegant houses in some of its old residential areas, as well as in some of the newer 'colonies', have contributed to an ethos which is at once traditional rural and modern urban, or 'rurban'.

The two major strands of the Madras way of life derived from this blend of tradition and modernity — the tranquillity of a village and the sophistication of a city — have contributed to the even tenor of life in the city. Indeed, it is this that constitutes the city's authentic signature — a sign which has not been erased despite occasional political and linguistic upheavals over the decades. Small wonder Pandit Nehru remarked, "You would not have seen India if you have not been to Madras".

Airavatham Ranganathan



This was one of the handsomest mansions on that splendid tree-shaded avenue that led to Moubray's Cupola. But it survives as a dilapidated kerosene depot on TTK Road. Whatever its fate today, its ornamentation, balustrades, trellis-work and rather different monkey-tops make it a rather striking building among all the high-rise that dwarfs it and crowds it in. That handsomeness is what makes it still stand out on this crowded road. Standing out for rather similar architectural reasons, this time all curves and angles, is the much smaller house seen below. Owned by a couple who form a team of professionals, this house in Adyar is also hemmed in on all sides by bigger buildings, yet attracts greater attention because of its rather different looks.

(Photographs by SUSHEELA NAIR)



## Devotion beyond the call of a Resident's duty

I do not think any medical resident created quite the impression Gopal Rao did when he joined the hospital last year.

I remember quite clearly the day he started working with us, since it coincided with the admission of Mrs. Swamy in the Emergency Ward. None of us even had the time to greet him or to initiate him into the highly strung practice of the unit. But unlike the other members of his breed, who generally manage to lounge about and look bored even in the midst of a crisis, Gopal entered the hub of things with a quiet efficiency which was as impressive as it was unobtrusive. What is more, unlike Residents we had known in the past, who were constantly away on coffee-breaks any time of the day or night, Gopal was

always present in the ward. Soon, everyone started calling him the "wonder-boy", as he required so little sustenance, yet managed to look cool and capable at all times.

In the weeks and months that followed, Gopal became the darling of the ward by exhibiting single-minded devotion to all the patients — but especially to ill-tempered Mrs Swamy, whom he attended 24 hours a day. At one stage, when Mrs Swamy was in a particularly bad way and urgently needed blood transfusion, Gopal promptly stepped forward and donated his blood, thereby moving us all to tears.

Curiously, nothing that Gopal did could please Mrs Swamy, who continued to play the role of wicked witch in his presence. Not that it discouraged

Gopal — far from it! The more unpleasant Mrs Swamy became, the more patient and loving Gopal proved himself to be. Finally, as the months went by, Mrs. Swamy's attitude visibly changed and she even managed a weak smile whenever Gopal appeared.

A month after Mrs Swamy returned home, Gopal handed me an invitation for his wedding. "Who's the lucky girl?" I asked. "Meena Swamy, of course!" he announced triumphantly. "It took me over six months to get that dragon of her mother to agree to the match. But I managed, didn't I?" he added, with an unseemly wink.

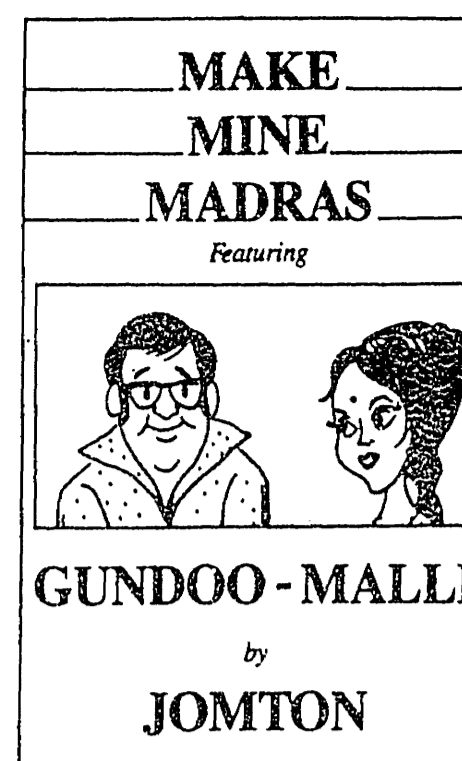
I must confess that, since then, I have been rather suspicious of young Residents who are uncommonly attached to their work!

—A DOCTOR

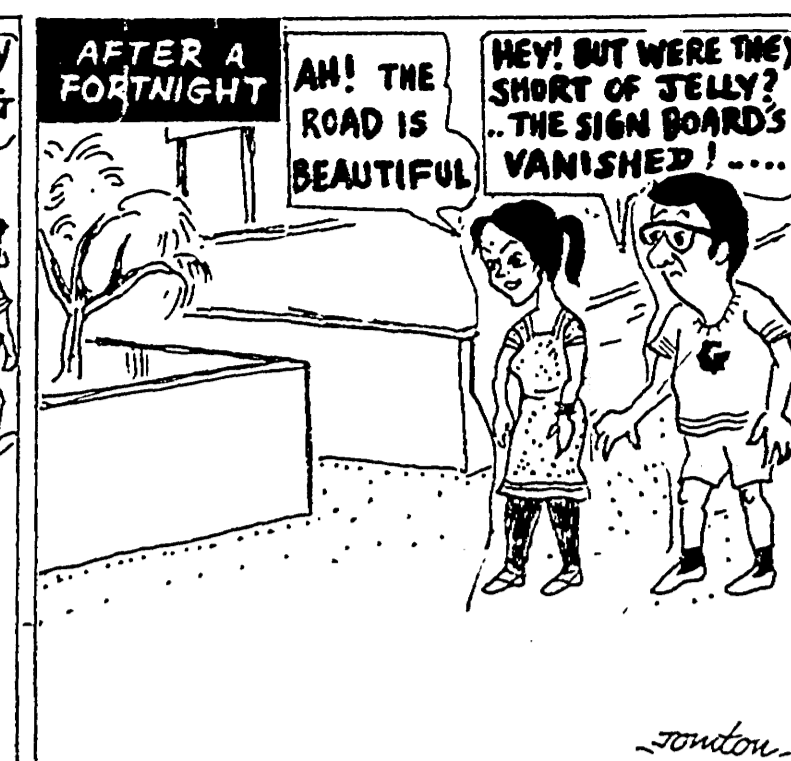
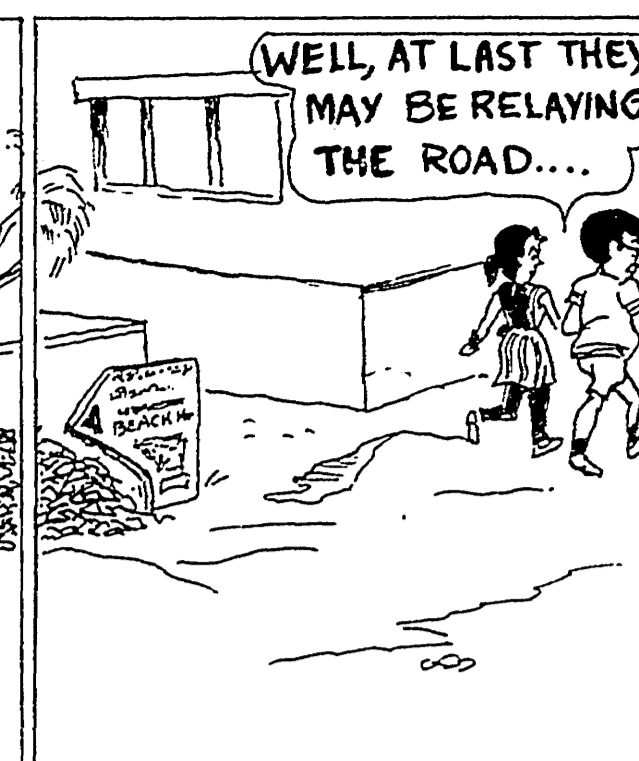
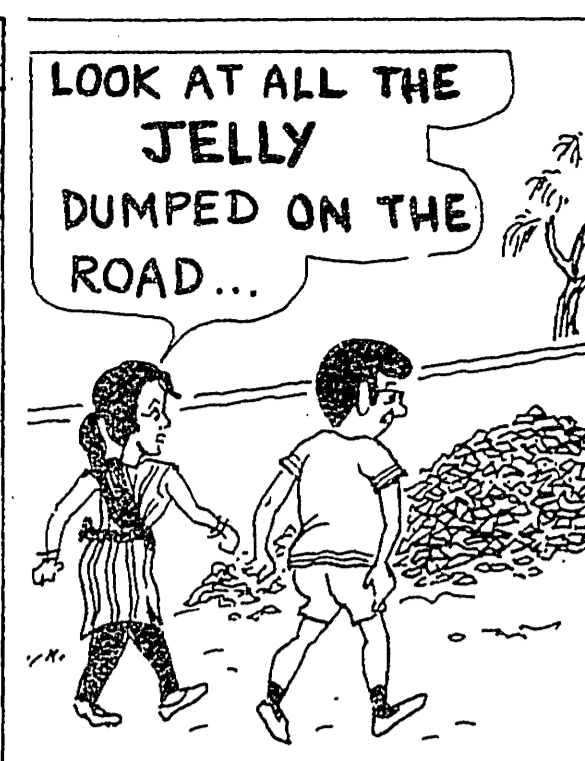
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GUNDOO-MALLI  
by  
JOMTON



## Turning the people off — and getting decimated

It has been a time of trauma, but it is amazing how much the human psyche can accept and absorb. People picked themselves up and went about their daily business after Rajiv's gruesome assassination. The electioneering perhaps lost its earlier verve, except on the part of the unspeakable BJP, which may yet turn out to be the nemesis of the country, and at least one national newspaper, which produced daily reports from the far corners of the country to the effect that there was and there would be no sympathy wave. In the event, sympathy wave or not, the final results were on expected lines.

While it had been obvious long before Rajiv's assassination that the DMK was an obvious loser in this state, I must say that the measure of its decimation came as a total surprise even to several of us who wanted it to be defeated. (May I remind my readers that this column represents only my personal views, and while nasty letters about me will be entertained by *Madras Musings*,

it certainly is not responsible for what I say?) A reasonable balance between government and opposition is a prerequisite of democratic functioning. However, Ms Jayalalitha was at her statesmanly best when she said that her government would take seriously not only the views of the miniscular minority, but also pointed out that there is a wider forum of the public and media which can always haul up government when it seemed to be acting arbitrarily.

Despite my objective sympathy for — and, frankly, my shock at — the DMK's debacle, I was very disappointed when its top leaders missed out on an opportunity to gain the respect of the public at large by accepting gracefully the fact of their rout without trying to produce extremely unacceptable alibis. Look, when you fall on your face, you bite dirt. As the delightful Tamil saying has it, you can't fall on your face and claim that no dirt stuck to your moustache.

When a political party fields 175 or whatever the number was in a crucial election, and manages to win one single seat, and that too by a hair's breadth, obviously the electorate is giving it a very clear message. For the leaders to claim that they had been wronged, that the public had been deceived (by whom?), that their day

leader begging the public to remember his many sacrifices for the party, including his continuing to work for it during his mother's death, and his repeated emphasis on the duration of his public life which was longer than the age of his opponent. All these had exactly the opposite effect on people — it turned them off.

Uncharismatic leadership  
I imagine that most readers of this journal were glued to their TV sets as I was during the election coverage, especially during the Pranjoy Roy-Vinod Dua talk-show. I was struck by a few things personally. The programme in its totality brought a large number of politicians into ruthless view on the small screen, and, by heaven, what a wide variety they represented! If anyone was not seriously aware of it before, the three-day programme proved that this is not just a country, but a collection of countries. The faces were so different from one another, the body-language

(by which I mean expressions and gestures) bewilderingly distinctive, and, except for the regional uniformities and the national complexion, one would have thought that one was viewing a programme on a foreign continent.

The one thing that was lacking, alas, was charisma on the part of any of our leaders. In fact, some of them looked, to coin a phrase, so uncharismatic that one wondered how they could even muster up a following, but undoubtedly they have hearts of gold and gifts of consequence to offer to their constituents.

The other aspect of the Roy-Dua show (let us give both gentlemen a big hand: they were simply sensational in their relentless questioning of the leaders from the various political parties, extremely helpful and accurate in their summing up of what was happening hour by hour, and if Roy was cool and unflappable during the entire proceedings, Dua gained our gratitude by giving us a summary of what the gentlemen who spoke in Hindi said, at least most of the time), was the way in which none of the leaders was willing to give a straight answer to their questions. The leaders were quite happy to pat themselves on their backs all the time, but when asked a direct question, they always said that their party would meet and would make the decisions. The smug Murli Manohar Joshi, the ever shifty V.P. Singh, just to mention two, while beaming as widely as the screen, had no answer to relevant questions, though they were full of alibis. Of all people, it was E.M.S. Nambudripad, stammer and all, who made the clearest statement — that the day of a single party government in India was over.

## QUIZZIN' WITH NAVIN-6

The response to the quiz, with just one question to answer, is getting better and better. But we look forward to a still better response this fortnight. Question 21 is still easier, this issue.

Meanwhile, try and answer the first twenty questions on your own, before turning to the answers on Page 8. Remember, Quizmaster NAVIN JAYAKUMAR takes all his questions from the local newspapers of the fortnight mentioned in the coupon.

To win a prize all you have to do is answer Question 21 correctly. Fill in the coupon given below — which leaves space for your answer — and mail it to MADRAS MUSINGS QUIZ-6, C/o. Lokavani Hall Mark Press, 62-63 Greaves Road, Madras 600 006 before 5 p.m. on July 9th. The first three correct answers drawn will be entitled to a prize of Rs. 100 each. We can't make it any simpler than that, can we? So get to it; here are the questions and your coupon.

- Poll to the Egmore Assembly seat was countermanded following the death of Mr. M. Seeralan on June 2. To which party did he belong?
- Which district in West Bengal is to be the next fully literate district in India (after the 14 districts of Kerala)?
- How many languages does P V Narasimha Rao speak?
- Which Supreme Court judge is heading the inquiry into the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi?
- "For the first time this year, residents of the city and suburbs brought out their umbrellas and raincoats from the closets today". — *The Hindu*. Which day was it?
- Once the treaty agreeing to drop the word 'Socialist' from the country's name is signed, what will USSR stand for?
- Mt. Unzom erupted after 200 years killing 13 persons. Where is this volcano?
- From July 31, 1991, who will be the Chief of Air Staff of India?
- Selected films of which Hollywood star were screened recently at the USIS in Madras?
- What has India been reduced to pawning in the international market to raise a loan of \$200 million?
- What unusual passengers were aboard the Columbia space shuttle when it blasted into space on June 5, on a nine-day mission?
- The two-day spell of 'heavy rains' provided the city's residents with how many months of water supply?
- For what condition was Devi Lal hospitalised on June 8?
- What is the slogan of the 1992 Barcelona Olympics?
- What was the theme of the summer school organised by the CP Art Centre from April 22 to June 5?
- Who is 'Postman' Jim?

17. Work on a Rs. 1 crore memorial for Thyagaraja began on June 9 amidst chanting of *vedas* and recitation of holy scriptures by musicians headed by Maharajapuram Santhanam. Where is this memorial being constructed?

18. For what offence has former Bangladesh President Ershad been sentenced to ten years' rigorous imprisonment?

19. Inhabitants of Leningrad recently voted to rename their city. What will be its 'new' name?

20. Name these prominent personalities who passed away this fortnight:

- A former Union Law Minister of India;
- The Oscar Award-winning British actress who acted in *A Passage to India*;
- The small time actress who rose to become cultural commissar of her country;
- The director of such hits as *CID* and *Main Tulsi Tere Aangan Ki*.

### PRIZE QUESTION

21. Where was Sri Ramana Pruja, the founder of the 'Vishistadvaita' school of philosophy, born?

### QUIZ COUPON-6

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

Ans. to  
Q. 21 .....

(The Fortnight of June 2 to June 15)

We now look forward to a real big response. Meanwhile, here are the lucky winners of Quiz 5 and the correct answers:

### PRIZE WINNERS

- K. RAVI, "Elite House", D-128, First Main Road, Anna Nagar, Madras-600 102.
- K.R. RAJA, B-2, Adyar Apartments, 4th Main Road, Kotturpuram, Madras-600 085.
- P.N. VARADHAN, 37, Perumal Pillai Street, Purasawalkam, Madras-600 084.

### ANSWER TO QUIZZIN'-5, Q. 21:

The Sri Lankan sailor who attacked Rajiv Gandhi while the then Indian Prime Minister was inspecting a parade in Colombo after the signing of the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord in 1987

### Police barricades

Well, that about wraps it up, except for one final item. Supporter of Ms Jayalalitha as I am, and aware as I am on the basis of intelligence from the highest quarters that her life is in deadly peril, I would still say that the police ran berserk on the day of her being sworn in. Virtually the whole city was barricaded, and the police were not very helpful.

You were allowed to proceed down one road only to find it barricaded at the other end. We want the highest protection for our Chief Minister, but the least the traffic department can do is to advise the public through the media about the traffic blockades for the day.

**S.K**  
Editor's Note: Since these lines were written, Chief Minister Jayalalitha herself has called for the removal of the barricades. Thank you, Ma'am.



## THE CRICKETER OF THE YEAR

# Waiting for Raman

Wooreri Venkat Raman, the state's best cricketer for 1990-91, is probably not very surprised at the award. After all, it must take a lot to surprise a promising left-arm spinner, often compared to Salim Durrani, who made his debut for India as a batsman at number three, nearly scored a century then, having earlier made 95 on his debut in one-day internationals, both against the West Indies; a lot to surprise one whose first delivery in Test cricket was hit for a six, but who picked up a wicket in his first over; a lot to surprise one who has made 1018 runs, the highest in a Ranji season, but has had to sit out twelve of the 18 Tests India has played since he made his debut; a lot to surprise one who has been on all of India's last four tours, but didn't play a single Test on two of them; a lot to surprise one who has in his six Tests batted at numbers 3, 4, 5, 6 and opened in the rest.

Raman, 26 in May, was once touted as the natural successor to that

genius Durrani. There was the same apparent laziness, the same confidence. And when he claimed five in an innings against the visiting Englishmen, many predicted the day was not far off when he would bowl India to a Test victory. That hasn't happened yet, although Raman is one of the few bowlers in

by  
THE OUTSIDER

India who bowls a perfectly natural chinaman (shades of Gary Sobers here). When he made his debut as a batsman, he hadn't yet made a first class century, one he seemed destined to make when he was on an unbeaten 82 overnight on his home ground. He fell for 83 the next day, and it wasn't until he miscued a hook at Christchurch to fall four short of the figure that he got so close again.

Raman didn't play a Test in England, although he averaged over fifty for the tour — in keeping with his first class average overall, which hovers around that figure. If Raman is being discussed in terms of figures alone, that is because these have a fascinating story to tell. As a left handed batsman, few have struck with his authority since the retirement of Ajit Wadekar. At Eden Gardens, he made old-timers recall Rohan Kanhai's 256 on the same ground in the course of his double century there against Bengal. That was the last in a sequence which began with a triple against Goa and a double against Maharashtra.

Raman is poised to break every batting record in Tamil Nadu. In the rain-affected game against Goa last year, Tamil Nadu was able to garner an extra point after Raman suggested that they declare behind Goa's total. Clearly he will lead the state soon.

There is a refreshing freedom about Raman's strokeplay which conjures up visions of green fields and picnic baskets under the trees behind third man. The reluctance to move his feet across will occasionally get him into trouble — Hadlee, for one, exploited this — but for the most it will simply add to the charm of his unfettered driving and cutting. Ah! But what a pity about his bowling, though!

# Where's that tearaway fast bowler?

Hats off to MRF! The sport-minded tyre manufacturers have emerged as trendsetters in Indian cricket's hour of need. The usefulness of their Pace Foundation in Madras, with former Australian Test speed merchant Dennis Lillee as its Director and chief coach and T.A. Sekhar as his assistant, has not been lost on the powers-that-be. The Bombay Cricket Association, with Mafatlal Group's patronage was the first to fall in line, and has former England fast bowler Frank Tyson as its guiding spirit. It has now opened the eyes of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which is starting two pace academies, one at Gwalior and the other at Chandigarh, in association with the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

by  
JAICI

Ten youngsters are to be trained and coached at each academy. Like the MRF boys, they will be given free boarding, lodging and schooling for two years. The 20 lads in the 13-15 age group will have been selected by the time this appears in print. Kapil Dev, Desh Prem Azad and Karsan Gavri had been appointed to pick the best of the squads from the North, Central and East Zones. For reasons not generally known, Kapil Dev left for London before the trials for the three contingents were held in Delhi, and did so without informing the BCCI. He was promptly replaced by Rajinder Pal.

Gurcharan Singh, Ramakant Desai and Roger Binny were in charge of the trials held at Bangalore for the selection

of the boys from the South and West Zones. The six selectors then met at Bangalore to pick the final 20. Each State Association was allowed to nominate five boys. The Tamil Nadu C.A. was quick to seize the chance. But, of the five it picked, one was found to be over 15. The four who attended the Bangalore trials were Hemant Badani (Santhome High School), K. Badrinath (Don Bosco H.S.) and Nalin Jain and Abhinand Mukundan, both of Rajaji Vidyashram.

"If you are between 13-15 years of age and feel you have the potential to become India's tearaway fast bowler in the years to come, come (and) prove your pace to us," so ran a recent BCCI newspaper advertisement. Of the chosen coaches, only Gurcharan Singh, under whose watchful eyes Delhi has turned out several speedsters, and Desh Prem Azad, who helped Kapil Dev scale the heights, have had any previous experience of spotting talent and nurturing them. It is therefore something to guess if either of the academies will turn out a "tearaway fast bowler", for there is no blinking the fact that India has produced only a single tearaway fast bowler, the one and only Mahomed Nissar of the '30s. Even the great Kapil Dev does not belong to the tearaway breed.

But it is good for Indian cricket that as many as four academies have sprung up in a bid to unearth a genuine speedster or two. The entire Indian cricketing fraternity will wish the academies all success, and will also salute MRF for having shown the way, even if it has not yet thrown up a budding Nissar or a Kapil Dev in the making. One can only hope one is mistaken.

# Racing on working days seems to have become the rule

The Tamil Nadu Government's Department of Racing (DOR) did not acquit itself very well in going through the latest Madras and Udhamandalam seasons. Irrespective of the standards of racing the two seasons provided, and the overall supervision of the money sport, the framing of the dates was not in keeping with the reputation of the turf as a holiday hunt for speculators. It gave the impression that the government-run club had

become subservient to the private clubs like the Bangalore Turf Club, the Hyderabad Race Club and the Royal Western India Turf Club.

Revenue from off-course betting is, of course, what matters most to the DOR. But by averting a clash of dates with outstation clubs' fixtures during both the Madras and Ooty seasons, the DOR has earned the dubious distinction of having conducted more working-day meetings than any other Indian, or foreign, club.

As many as 26 of the 40 fixtures of the 1990-91 Madras season were held on working days. The pattern was the same during the Ooty season just ended. It began with Saturday and Sunday fixtures all right. But the festival atmosphere the holiday fixtures provided at the Queen of Hill Stations vanished when the Bangalore summer season got under way. It was then working-day fixtures all the way. They totalled a record 15 in a 26-meeting season.

Even the chronic turfite got so weary of working-day racing that there was an unprecedented fall in attendance, not only at Ooty but also in Madras for the off-course betting. As a result, Ooty gained another dubious distinction of paying out the smallest-ever jackpot dividend in India. This was on June 6, 1991, when only one ticket clicked to collect a beggarly Rs. 1,572/-, much less than the money that changes hands at the rummy table of a city club.

The smallest jackpot dividend and the number of working-day meetings were not the only dubious records the Ooty season established. The form-book was so often torn to shreds that the jackpot pool was carried over more

often than before. Out-of-form runners all of a sudden winding up 10-2 on favourites, after having opened at 10-1 against, and landing the goods all right were a common sight. It was a sad commentary on the way the DOR went about its business. Perhaps it is too much to expect a better performance from a Government Department that conducted two working-day fixtures during the State mourning for the assassinated former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi.

AJAX

# Taj Mahal to be rebuilt on Marina

An official communique issued a couple of days ago says that in the drive to make Madras beautiful, the Taj Mahal is being reconstructed on the Marina.

After a frantic search for a firm who could handle a job of this magnitude, one company with offices on Montieth Lane was selected.

Surprisingly enough, this company is not a construction firm. This company does pre-press processing. Sources here reveal that pre-press processing is the stage before printing. Various printing experts asserted that **Print Systems & Products** is the best people to handle the pre-press processing, no matter which printer you choose.

This company has a computer which can do a lot of funny things to photographs. In an interview with the computer expert at Print Systems, it was revealed that if a photograph of the Taj and another of the Marina were fed into this computer, it could give a composite photograph of the Taj shifted on to the Marina.

One other point which will be of interest to readers is that this computer can do this kind of magic only on photographs which will be printed, and not in real life.

In case readers are interested in printing something, they are advised to contact **Print Systems & Products** on Montieth Lane, Egmore, Ph.: 866520, to know more about improving the print quality. - *Take Wing*

## ANSWERS TO QUIZZIN' -6

1. Mahabharat Peoples Party.
2. Burdwan.
3. 10 — English, Hindi, Telugu, Urdu, Marathi, Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Spanish and French!
4. Justice J S Verma.
5. June-4.
6. Union of Soviet Sovereign Republics.
7. Near Nagasaki, Japan.
8. Air Marshal N C Suri.
9. Jason Robards.
10. Seized gold.
11. 29 white rats and 2478 jellyfish.
12. Just one month.
13. Exhaustion!
14. 'Friends for Life'.
15. Environment (April 22 — World Earth Day; June-5 World Environment Day).
16. French Open Winner Jim Courier.
17. On the banks of the Kaveri at Thiruvaiyaru.
18. Possession of illegal firearms.
19. St Petersburg, which was Leningrad's original name.
20. a) Dinesh Goswami (June 2), b) Dame Peggy Ashcroft (June 14), c) Chiang Qing, wife of Chairman Mao (June 6), and d) Raj Khosla (June 9).