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MADRAS MUSINGS

ADDISON
METAL CUTTING TOOLS

Vol. I. No. 23 FREE ISSUE — EVERY FORTNIGHT March 15 — 31, 1992

Will CNG save the day?

(By A Special Correspondent)

CNG is the buzz word in Tamil Nadu Will Compressed National Gas answer not only Tamil Nadu's prayers for fuel, but also the country's?

For years now, India has been burning up, flaring is said to be the technical term, the natural gas from its oil fields because it felt it couldn't afford to invest in the infrastructure to pipe it to the different parts of the country. But when the oil crunch became really serious during the Gulf War, India was forced the look at alternative sources of energy. One of those who looked hardest was Madras Refineries (MRL) who studied how the natural gas being flared in the Kaveri oil belt could be put to best use. And CNG for vehicle fuel was one of the answers it came up with.

Putting up the country's first compressor station in Nagapattinam at a cost of Rs. 45 lakhs and receiving 500 cubic metres of gas a day from the Oil and Natural Gas Commision's Narimanam field free of cost for the six-month trial period, MRL is now experimenting with ten buses of Cholan Roadways. The first buses on the road are running with a 50 per cent CNG and 50 per cent diesel mixture, but this will gradually be improved to 70 per cent CNG 30 per cent diesel.

If these tests to save 70 per cent diesel and provide pollution-free running are successful, the bus corporations in the Kaveri Basin will go ahead during the next year with the Rs. 80,000-a-bus conversion of 1000 buses in the first stage. And by the end of the Eighth Plan it is estimated that 10,000 buses in the state will run on CNG. About 144 million cubic metres of natural gas a day will be available from the Kaveri oil fields by 1994-95 to meet the demand of these vehicles.

Now it is reported that CNG-powered cars will also be on the roads of Bombay, Delhi and Madras by the year end. The Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL) has been holding discussions with the leading car manufacturers on this and has targeted 5000 cars for conversion. Five garages in each of these cities will be equipped for the Rs. 20,000-a-car conversion and 15 petrol stations in each city will offer CNG in the first stage. The conversions, expected to start by May, will enable the converted vehicles to run either on petrol or CNG.

Petroleum demand in the country is expected to be around 120 million tonnes by 2005. Crude production then would be around 55 million tonnes and natural gas production 65 million tonnes. India would almost be energy sufficient if the conversion infrastructure was in place by then. This would necessitate completion of the northern natural gas pipeline, work on which has begun, as well as a southern pipeline which is still a pipedream.

(Continued on P5)

In delightful, courteous 'officialese' we are instructed to please post our letters at the Teynampet Post Office "as per indications given below". Presumably, if we can read and get the instructions right and don't have a fit of absent-mindedness between the time of reading and the time of posting, our letters should reach their destinations faster. Or are the dozen post boxes, in a different colour for each destination and fixed to the wall in front of this post office in TTK Road, just another way of making life easier for postal staff? Like asking for post delivery boxes on the ground floors of apartment blocks? If both systems will make deliveries faster, Mr and Mrs Madras are unlikely to grudge the extra labour on their part.

The boxes at the Teynampet branch are the second stage of an experiment which began inside the T. Nagar Post Office precincts some months ago and seems to be working reasonably well. The Teynampet boxes will soon also provide access to two-wheelers that will enable their riders to post their mail, while astride their vehicles. As for the delivery boxes in apartment blocks, it would be best to get the building code to insist on them in all new high-rise blocks. In the case of the blocks already built, the Post Office might call all the major builders in the city for a chat and persuade them to do their bit for their erstwhile clients — even if it means a bit out of their pockets. That's a better way of settling this issue than everyone concerned waving the red rag of courts and strikes.

(Photograph by SUSHEELA NAIR)

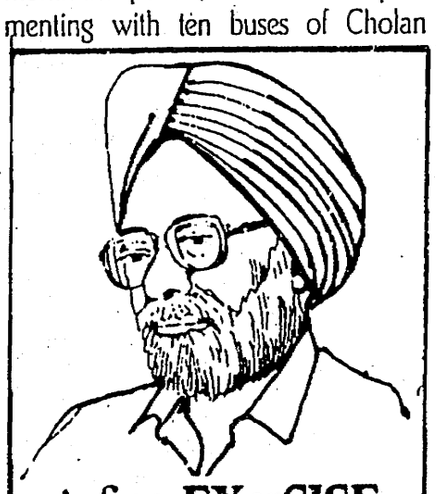
When will foreign airlines get the nod?

(By Our Aviation Correspondent)

Foreign airlines have shown a great deal of interest in operating through Madras and getting away from the congestion of Bombay and Delhi. Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism, M O H Farook, has also said that he's thinking of inviting foreign carriers to operate through Madras. Then what's the delay in tying up all the loose ends?

The talk in local travel circles — and heard loud at a recent seminar on 'Tourism and Tamil Nadu' — was that Lufthansa, KLM, Alitalia and a couple of 'Middle East' airlines were keen on flying into Madras. Lufthansa, in fact, have been thinking about it for quite a while and have even introduced a cargo service. All these airlines are said to feel that a weekly service in and out of Madras would be paying.

Will 1992 then be the year that Meenambakkam International Airport becomes busier than ever? If that happens, the one bottleneck that will have to be removed is the long hold-up at the Immigration counters. Customs has become very streamlined at Meenambakkam, but Immigration, with its too few counters and too many men not familiar with computers, is a sore point with many incoming travellers



A fine EXerCISE
Dr. Manmohan Singh has exempted Steel Windows from excise duty.
Another good reason to buy
Steel Windows & Ventilators

WHY LET THIS MAN TALK ABOUT YOUR AD BEHIND YOUR BACK?
Instead be there, at 'ACTION REPLAY' (Advertising Review of 1991) An Audio-Visual Presentation by Alyque Padamsee.

FACES THAT SELL

Is it legal to use the Finance Minister — who under no circumstances would have given his permission for such use — in an advertisement? Whatever the answer to that poser, it was one smart steel window maker in the city who produced the rather clever advertisement on the left; which appeared in a major Madras daily and did not appear to be the work of any major advertising agency. The advertisement on the right stars Alyque Padamsee, who would undoubtedly have included the other 'ad' among his 'local' ads in his presentation if only he had seen it. Hundreds, however, saw Padamsee in the Madras Management Association-Advertising Club of Madras advertisement and thronged the Ambassador Pallava to see advertising showman Padamsee hog the limelight in person. A report on the Padamsee Show appears on page 5. Wish we could report on whether the steel window people found "a great ad one that generates great sales".

Airports waiting for airlines

(By Our Aviation Correspondent)

While Meenambakkam awaits the foreign airlines, several smaller airports in Tamil Nadu await not only their formal inauguration by VIPs who can find the time, but also an airline willing to make use of their facilities.

The Rs. 3.5 crore Tuticorin Airport is ready for use. Its 4500-ft runway is built to handle Dorniers — of the 12-24 seater variety, presumably — but the terminal building has been built to handle 150 passengers and 130 cars! That's planning for you.

Salem has also been given similar facilities and the airport building is now recieving the finishing touches. Meanwhile, Coimbatore's brand new Peelamedu Terminal and an extended 7500-ft runway to handle Airbuses are ready, Rs. 6 crores having been spent on giving the industrial city a facility fit for its heavy traffic.

An airstrip and terminal facilities for Dorniers are also ready at Pondicherry at a cost of Rs. 1.5 crores. And they're still talking of an airport for Chettinad at Kanadukatham, where the South India aviation pioneer SAA Annamalai Chettiar, betwixt his preoccupation with racing and seeding the cycle industry in the South, established a very active Aero Club. That airstrip was taken over during World War II and a solid runway laid for Flying Fortresses intended to bomb Malaya and Singapore. The war ended before the 'Forts' could arrive — but the runway the RAF left behind has hardly made life easy for the grazing cattle of the government farm that took over the premises about 20 years ago.

With Thanjavur, Neyveli and Trichy also having airport facilities, all that is needed is an airline to connect all these airports in the state. Waiting for Vayudoot promises to be a vain dream. Isn't there a local entrepreneur or a Tamil NRI willing to start TAMIL NADU AIRLINES? Such a venture could well get all these airports bustling.

Dubai in Mayilai

The irrepressible Mani Shankar Aiyar, the voluble MP from Mayiladuturai, cannot be kept quiet or kept down. Remember our story in *Madras Musings* (Aug 1-14) about how he was determined to make a Dubai of Mayilai? Well, towards the end of last year, he felt that there'd be trouble keeping his promises. So he began taking a new tack. But with even that route appearing to be strewn with pitfalls, he's now announced, in his column in *Sunday* magazine, yet another golden way Mayilai may yet take. *The Man from Madras Musings* hopes that this will be the final solution he hears for the woes of Maylai.

Taking first things first, *MMM* harks back to the interview in which the MP for Mayilai regretfully conceded that he had "overestimated" the oil potential of this part of Tamil Nadu. Having discovered that oil-wealth is still a distant dream and the rosy figures he had projected had no relevance to reality, he decided to do a 'socio-economic survey' of the area and plan for a different but still better tomorrow.

The off-shore strike east of Sirkazhi, he now dreamt, could fuel power projects, gas-based sponge iron and salt-based industries, as well as a giant paper project, the details of all of which "were secret". But he sighed, all plans are written in water; "If only the 205TMC of water flows down the Kaveri, my projects will stop being dreams." What he meant was that the NRIs he was banking on would THEN be willing to bank Mayiladuthurai.

All that, however, was in 1991. The new year has seen the ever-optimistic Mani Shankar Aiyar take a new tack. This time he wrote:

'... it just so happens that perhaps the best place in India — okay, if the whole truth has to be told — one of the best places in all India for all kinds of aquaculture to be practised is the coastal belt of my constituency, the tail-end reaches of the Kaveri where, courtesy the kind attention of Karnataka, the drying up of water flows these past 17 years, combined with the relentless erosion of the coast, has given the belt that priceless combination of thousands of cheap and abundant hectares of land that are unfit for agriculture and, therefore available for purchase or leasing or working by aquaculturists, skilled farmers and capable fishermen, estuaries and freshwater streams and canals, that would make, if not a Dubai of Mayiladuturai, at least a Hawaii! I estimate the potential for marine products exports out of the constituency in the next five years (if all goes well, cross your fingers!) at a thousand crore per annum. Mayiladuturai, I suggest, is California 1848. Prawns, anyone?'

In the Top 10

Congratulations, Neyveli Lignite. It's the only Tamil Nadu based central enterprise to

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

be among the ten leading PROFIT-MAKING Central Public Sector business units in the country. Heading the list are ONGC and IOC and Neyveli is in 10th place.

Neyveli is also one of the 14 central public enterprises to have its performance evaluated as "excellent". But in this category there are also Madras Refineries Ltd and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd, which has a strong Tamil Nadu connection in Tiruchchirappalli.

The only Tamil Nadu connection in the 10 heaviest losers is Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd, whose sprawling Madras unit near St Thomas' Mount has been causing concern for some years now.

More bad taste?

It was sheer bad taste that helped a former state government to ruin the ambience of historic Fort St George by levelling a bit of it and putting up a 10-storey block of tasteless architecture that sticks out like a sore thumb.

Now this multi-storey complex is being "expanded in a big way to provide more accommodation". We're in for more mindless tastelessness, it would seem!

But will Madam Chief Minister allow it? She's seen the site and the plans, *MMM* is told. But the Chief Minister has always been considered a person with taste and a sense of history. Will she compound the horror wrought in the Fort by previous governments? Or will she set about saving this historic preserve and its ancient monuments? We'll know the answers to those questions before long.

At long last

Nearly a year after it became the first Tamil film to win the National Gold for the Best Film of the Year and nearly two years after it was made, *MARUPAKKAM* is at last being released in two centres in Madras. *The Man from Madras Musings* only hopes that it's still around by the time you read these lines. Then, perhaps, you'll rush out to see one of the finest Indian films ever made and help keep it afloat awhile.

The chances of that happening are not very bright, to judge by the way local distributors have shunned the film for so long. It had to be first released in Kerala. And even when it was released in Madras during the first week of this month, there was no fanfare in keeping with its stature as THE best film made in the country in 1990-91. There is also no saying whether the rest of Tamil Nadu will get the chance to see this classic. But then the parallel cinema has always had little place in the biggest film production centre in the world. Sadistic mayhem and snide sex is all it has the time and theatres for.

Who's to change all that? Not even the few intelligent film-makers that *MMM* has met, it would seem!

Backing out

It's common courtesy when you accept an invitation to a public function that you keep it. After all, when you accepted, you did check with your diary — and, finding the day free, penned in the new engagement. After that, only matters of the direst personal or official nature should keep you away; meetings with other officials, even superiors or committees, should not be reason for senior officials to break dates given, especially as, being senior enough, they should be able to tell their superiors and fellow-committee persons of their commitments and why they cannot meet them.

These thoughts arise out of the disappointment many in the large audiences felt at two recent talk-shops where senior officials were due to be present to express the Government view but did bother to turn up. No wonder Government continues to get a bad Press; its bureaucrats just don't care a naye paise about the public. That kind of attitude is what makes many from abroad wonder whether it's worth coming to India on business or pleasure. They'd rather go to countries where the bureaucrats are not only friendly and courteous but also helpful and make it abundantly clear that they are genuinely all three.

MMM

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OUR READERS WRITE

Moving Capital

Why not move Capital? Indeed, why not?

I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the multifunctional utility of Madras is no longer taken for granted (*Madras Musings* Feb. 15–29).

On 26-6-'91 I wrote to the C.M. of Tamil Nadu and suggested:

"The late M.G.R. felt that the State capital need not be part of a complex of activities and was of the view that a city for the purpose could be constructed in a more central location. The view is worth serious consideration in the light of the practice in Australia, Canada and Argentina. Dindigul will be a good choice. The shift of the State Government will make room for a bench of the Supreme Court as well as international organisations..."

It is clarified that Argentina is planning a move to a more central location than Buenos Aires.

The C.M. was evidently busy and so was the Chief Secretary, judging by the absence of the formality of even acknowledgements.

However, the Town Planning Department, which is participating in the degrading of Madras, may not be reluctant to undertake an academic exercise on the pros and cons of separation and assessment of alternate locations. The N.R.Is who are competing in the scramble for real estate in Madras may be attracted by a project with a challenge.

M B Sarangapani
708, 47 Cross Road
V Block Jayanagar, Bangalore.

Capital idea

When MGR mooted the idea of shifting Madras to the Trichy area, it was mooked at as a Tuglaquian idea although it was a capital idea. Interestingly no other leader or politician has uttered a word on this proposal. Reason: the "attractions" in Madras. Even if another leader pursues the idea with earnestness the bureaucrats will strongly thwart the move. Indeed, there are many more departments, apart from what you have listed in your good article, which have no business to function from Madras city.

An illusion?

I have seen the Anjaneyars both at Suchindram and at Namakkal. Unless it is an optical illusion (or disillusion), the Anjaneyar at Nanganallur, from toe to top of the crown, does not appear to be more than 20 feet!

S Rajagopalan
14 Anandam Street
Madras-600 017.

Of chimps & capitals

'Film Fan' may know a great deal about films, but is sadly lacking in elementary zoological knowledge. In the note in review of *The Filth Monkey*, he has chimpanzees in South America. There are no chimps in South America or any other kind of ape. Chimps are exclusive to the rain forests of West Africa.

As for moving the capital of Tamil Nadu, I can claim to be the first to suggest this and have repeatedly appealed for the move in the *Indian Express* columns, pointing out that, like Washington and New York, Madras could remain the commercial centre of Tamil Nadu while the political and administrative capital should be somewhere in the Thanjavur basin which was, after all, the original home of Tamil civilisation and culture.

Harry Miller
34 Satyanarayana Avenue,
Boat Club Road, Madras-600 028.

Did we nod?

On page 3 of your Feb. 15–29 issue Lisa Duranle has mis-used/mis-interpreted the word "comeuppance". In a paper where the English used has always been impeccable, this mistake stands out like a sore thumb. This article will be read by youngsters who are inclined to take the printed word as the gospel truth. So please put in a correction.

Mrs A J Lazaro
23 Dhanalaxmi Avenue
K B Nagar, Madras-600 020.

EDITOR's NOTE: Thank you, Mrs Lazaro, for your kind words. And those alone might induce us to say *mea culpa*, we nodded. But did we? "Comeuppance" is 'punishment due' and we agree that the Calcutta team deserved no penalty, but couldn't the dictionary definition be interpreted, as in this case, to mean 'they paid the penalty'? What do other readers have to say about this point of English?

Meanwhile, we mention another point of English. S Krishnan many months ago set your Editor straight on "printer's devil". The phrase certainly does not exist in the sense of a 'typographical or spelling error in print'. What can be said to describe such errors is that "the printers' devil has been at work" — the 'printer's devil' being a boy apprenticed to a senior printer. In other words, the printer's devil was responsible for the error because he did the type composing and did not have the experience to do it correctly.

Meanwhile, we look forward to hearing from other readers whenever we err in using the language.

On the cricket field

Re. Change the rules and not the 'umpires' in *Madras Musings* (Feb. 15–29), there is no use in changing rules. Only the umpires need to be changed. Neutral umpires are the only solution.

LBW decisions are to be considered in the affirmative only when all the conditions are satisfied. A look at the LBW will reveal the fact. Caught behind can be judged fairly easily by seeing the deviation fairly closely. Again, umpires can make out run out decisions by standing in an advantageous position.

* * * *

A bitter experience for me while playing in the Blue Star match on January 1, 1983 at Nandanam Arts College, was to find the host side fielding two women and nine men. As a newcomer from Delhi it was strange. I faced the two women bowlers in the mandatory overs and drew the match.

There is no hard and fast rule. There is no age or sex for the game of cricket.

C K Subramanian
TNCA Umpire

Best things in life

My compliments on your very pleasing fortnightly, written in the intelligent and soothing Old Madras style. It is proof that the best things in life are free.

In comparison, that spiteful old eunuch camped at the top of Mount Road probably couldn't give his editions away except for the silly boys-and-girls-for sale columns that he carries. I hope that you never succumb to this device to slay in print.

Ishwar Sharan
RCC (Avadi) Post
Madras-600 109.

The reason why

Time and again you deplore the powers-that-be for not giving the credit Madras deserves. Recently, in a front column, you echoed these sentiments, while comparing Bombay and Calcutta. But by this time you should know the reasons behind this apathy of the Government of Tamil Nadu. It is nothing but their fear that it would proclaim to the world that the Tamils were the first and foremost slaves of the British. When the British came to rule this part of Tamil Nadu, the great Shivaji was the ruler in the west and Aurangazeb was the ruler in Delhi..

The bitter fact of history is that the main enemy of the British in Tamil Nadu (including Madras) was only the French and not the Tamils, whereas, in other parts of the country, the British had to fight against the local Indians.

C T Vairavan
10 Jagadambal Colony
Madras-600 014.

Knees up, Princess Di!

Dichard Chardil

Has the country that invented Maharajas gone off royalty?

The Times (of London) certainly thinks so. The reception that we gave the Prince and Princess of Wales, Charles and Di, to you and me, was so tepid, it sniffed. It looked as though we were welcoming guests who on an earlier occasion had walked off with the family silver.

Thirty years ago, or thereabouts, when the Queen and the Prince first visited India, what an occasion it was! Tiger shoots, Maharajas on elephants, State banquets with a thousand guests, whole forests of saplings being planted, gun salutes and glorious weekends with princely types who had not yet bartered away their palaces to tourists.

When the Queen, tiny and delicate as an English rose, came to Madras, she rode through Mount Road in an open car, while the populace went wild, hanging from every window and watching from the only two high-rise buildings on the way, the LIC and the Dhun Buildings. Bakeries produced cakes which had "God Save the Queen" in pink and white icing and Spencers, the old Spencers, did themselves proud decorating the entire length of their magnificent central hall. The Press, of course, stayed at the Connemara, where the planters, still British in those days, were also booked. They had come down with their stiffly corseted wives to bend a knee before the Royal Couple, who were staying with the Governor.

There was even a royal joke to commemorate the occasion. It was the last day of the royal couple's visit to Madras and they were due to leave for a neighbouring state, when the exuberant Prince turned to his wife and asked, "Are you ready for Bangalore?". She turned an exquisite shade of pink and replied, "Really, dear, in my-Sore state?"

Those days of fun and frolic have vanished along with the divine right of princes and privy purses. When the Prince of Wales comes on a visit, he's expected to behave like a super salesman discreetly flaunting his British-made Bentley, his Saville Row suits and his environmental *angst*. No tiger

shoots, please, we're anguished. Instead of pleasure pavilions and marble fountains sprinkled with the attar of roses, the Princess is taken round the choisest slums, or hospitals with AIDS victims. The caring Princess must also be seen to cuddle an HIV positive patient or two.

The lowest blow of all is that instead of a retinue of Princesses in French chiffons, the Royal Couple has had to put up with the Indian equivalent of the paparazzi.. Unlike their Pakistani counterparts who were quick to clinch a knees-up Princess Di picture of Her Royal Highness visiting a mosque with a dazzling smile that did not quite amuse the Mullah, the Indian contingent groused: They repeated old stories about the sleeping arrangements of the couple; separate suites at-the *Rashtrapati Bhavan*, they moaned. When the Princess did not turn up to watch the mandatory chukka on the polo fields of Jaipur, they wept into their beers and wrote about the passionless Princely kiss that just grazed past the Princess's boyish hair-cut afterwards.

Worse still, the Indian press grovelled. They were being treated the same way that Dickie Attenborough had dealt with the Indian extras of his famous movie — separate queues and canteens for the natives. The Foreign Press were given better facilities. Their Indian counterparts wanted the same beds, the bangs, the booze. Which is why there was so little coverage of the royal tour.

When on the last lap of the Prince's visit, the organisers asked the press, "Any of you coming to Bangalore?" They rose as one and cried, "What, in our-Sore state?"

On being ill

There is a Tamil wheeze to the effect that you can't really appreciate the shade unless you have been out in the sun. We can extend this to say that good health, which everybody except hypochondriacs takes for granted, can be appreciated only when one has gone through a bout of ill-health. And I don't mean a headache or the common cold, though when these disappear one feels a tremendous sense of relief. I am thinking more about something on a grand scale, like a virus affliction.

Some among my myriad readers may have wondered why I did not appear in these columns in the last issue. I was struck down by a virus, and my resultant illness lasted a good long time. As it was the first time that I had been visited by any illness since I became an adult, I studied it with more than a natural concern and interest. At the risk of boring the pants off my reader, I should like to discourse on the subject just a little; I thought the whole thing rather striking.

Let us see; the first three or four days one really does not know what is happening. One has a high fever. People, who usually either ignore you completely or snap at you when they have something to say to you, now treat you like a precious bit of porcelain. They walk softly past your bed, speak to one another in whispers, drop medicines in your mouth which is open like that of a dying duck or an expiring frog, and pretty generally behave as if they want to make your last moments comfortable. The doctor has a big role in this charade. He hums and haws, does not answer a single straight question (like, will he live or die), and pretty generally behaves like a god, though a lesser one.

The next stage comes when the fever leaves you, but leaves you as weak as a newborn kitten. You are put on a diet and fed soothing draughts and things like that, but there is a growing general indifference towards you among those who used to rustle by your bed. This is followed by aches and pains when each successive ache makes you forget the previous one. As Somerset Maugham once said: "A man who sits on a pin is apt to forget that he has a tooth-ache." Convalescence is probably the one period that a patient can look forward to. Long-forgotten friends show up to whom one can relate, at brutal length and in pitiless detail, the story of the course that one's illness took. P.G. Wodehouse has a story about a health resort where social standing among its denizens is based on the number and duration and exoticism of the illnesses they have gone through. The recovering patient has a similar advantage over the disgustingly healthy people who come to visit him, and can hold forth without fear of interruption.

The one piece of advice I can give someone who is ill or about to fall ill is that if possible you should pick a doctor who is between 50 and 55 years of age. They are likely to belong to the last generation of students who got admission to the medical college on their own merit. Also, they will quote Shakespeare or Kalidasa or discuss the budget as they take your pulse.

Bully for Zimbabwe

All of which brings me in a round-about fashion to the electronic media. Much of the time I was recovering I listened to the radio or watched a bit of TV, as I could not read. I hardly used to watch TV, and a sustained dose of it now came as a revelation.

looking aSKance

Enough people have been knocking Doordarshan and I really don't have to add to it, but let me get my two cents in any way. Apart from the mugshot interviews in which you see most of the time one person only, either the interviewer or the interviewee, and the dreadful Tamil plays which take the art of histronics back to the late 19th Century, I was particularly fascinated by the relay of the cricket matches.

I admit that Doordarshan had nothing to do with what I am going to say since it was merely doing a live relay by satellite, but I was totally turned off by the *bhangra* dances that greasy and fat Pakistanis and Indians indulged in every time their side scored a point. Nothing makes you squirm more than the sight of a fellow-countryman, middle-aged and over-ripe, jumping about like a teen-ager. I would like to complain about the flags and banners but these seem to have infected the so-called sophisticated Westerners also. And what does one say about all that hugging, kissing and crotch-rubbing among the players — irrespective of their nationality — when a wicket falls?

One says there is so much money in cricket that everybody has lost common decencies. The best side were the underdogs, Zimbabwe. Not only did they display sterling sportsmanship, but they did not indulge in any of the antics of the other players, and simply shook hands whenever they had a moment of triumph. Bully for them.

So it goes, but I hear murmurs on the offside and I had better stop now.

S.K.

A WELCOME BUDGET

A time for reckoning, a time of recognition and a time to renew. The 1992-93 budget has made a path-breaking effort in rightly reckoning with the latent power of the Indian economy the middle class. In the identification of this slumbering giant and in the recognition of the capital market as the palpitating heart that can pump verve into the pulses of a cash-hungry Indian Economy, it has done right. But its greater contribution is in the renewal of confidence of us as a nation. Without delusion, the budget has found that road separating politics from economics. Riding high with positive features, it is a good budget.

The new system of Partial Convertibility of the rupee will add profits to all those companies that have an established overseas market. Privatisation of Mutual Funds and their treatment at par with similar public sector firms for tax purposes will set in motion a chain of favourable reactions. Now these mutual funds will also be busy collecting money for the capital market which will enhance the liquidity of traded scrips. The exemption of financial assets like investments in shares from wealth tax will be a shot in the arm for the sentiment of the market. A flourishing capital market will create the climate for capital formation and make leveraging for borrowings easier. The personal taxation policies will also promote capital formation, for they would not divert to this market money from the compulsory tax-linked low-yielding saving schemes. These moves are just the beginning of a better, stronger and confident India that will doubtless emerge in the coming years. The recent runaway boom of the stock market is evidence of the confidence of the investors in the Indian risk. And the improvement in our borrowing rates in recent time is further proof of the renewal of faith of the lenders in the country's tomorrow. This was indeed a watershed budget.

BULL'S EYE

Here are three recommendations for the coming fortnight.

Lakshmi Mills Company Limited (Current Market Price Rs. 1775.00): This Lakshmi Group Company is engaged in the manufacture of all types of superfine varieties of yarn and cloth. The company has modernised its spinning plant to meet international standards. The export turnover is also expected to go up after the expansion plans are completed. Technicals indicate that the share price has broken out upwards from the accumulation pattern at the Rs. 1600/- level. Buy now for a target of Rs. 2500/- in the medium term.

Mysore Petrochemicals Ltd. (Current Market Price Rs. 102.50): Promoted by the Dhanuka group in the assisted sector with Mysore State Industrial Investment & Development Corporation, this company is engaged in the manufacture of phthalic anyhydride and plasticisers. The results for the year ended September 1991 are encouraging. Substantial increase in turnover and profits can be expected for 1993 results as the maleic anyhydride project would make a significant contribution. Buy for long-term.

Seshasayee Paper and Boards Limited (Current Market Price Rs. 75/-): This Tamil Nadu-based paper company has produced improved results for the half year ended September 1991 with a change in the product mix, reduced dependence on imported inputs and an increase in production of lower grammage quality papers. The company's expansion and revamping programmes are being implemented, which would be reflected in the working of 1992-93. The share price is likely to cross the Rs. 100 mark by the time of 1991-92 results and increase substantially for 1992-93 performance.

K. Gopalakrishnan

...And a historic one, too

So the much awaited budget has been presented. it has been described as the most historic budget ever presented by a Finance Minister. For the first time, some of the dearly held beliefs of forty years have been abandoned. The most dramatic thing that has happened is the opening up of the economy to both markets in general and the rest of the world. The Finance Minister has put speculation at rest and made the rupee partially convertible. He has delicensed most of the imports. As an attack against

BUSINESS REVIEW

smuggling, gold imports have been eased. Customs tariffs have been reduced, the foreigners will most probably be allowed to invest in the Indian Capital Market and the bondage of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) will be further loosened.

And, most important, the Finance Minister has tried to restore fiscal discipline. The fiscal deficit figure has been brought down to 6.5 percent, which was promised to the IMF.

There is general agreement that under the present circumstances this is a most commendable and, in many ways, a landmark budget. But of course there are criticisms. It is interesting to look at the minus points raised by a sensible industry organisation like the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The negative features include the hike in non-Plan expenditure, continuation of the 12 per cent surcharge on incomes exceeding Rs. one lakh,

(Continued on P7)

A place in the law books

CRIME NOTEBOOK by Randor Guy

Somewhere, some lawyer in some court of law in India is likely to be citing the Pakala Narayanaswami murder. It is what lawyers call a leading case, with a permanent place in the text books and legal commentaries of the country.

Around noon on a sunny day some years ago, a train chug-chugged to a halt in holy Puri. After all passengers had alighted, the station staff found an unclaimed steel trunk in a third-class compartment. When opened in the presence of the police, everyone present was shocked: Inside was the body of a man in seven pieces, cut obviously to facilitate the packing.

Thirtysix hours later, a woman came forward and identified the mangled male as her husband Kuree Nukaraju, forty and married to her for 22 years. He had been a 'peon' in the household of the Dewan of a Telugu Zamindary of the old Madras Presidency.

The police soon found some leads in the dead man's house, one of them a letter revealing that he had lent Rs. 5000 at 18 per cent interest to the wife of Pakala Narayanaswami. She, it turned out, was one of the daughters of the Dewan. Why did a woman from an affluent family so close to the Maharaja borrow money from an errand boy of the family? Obviously there was something wrong somewhere. A perusal of other letters found by the police revealed that they had been written by the Dewan's daughter and suggested that the 'gofer' had played 'Lady Chatterley's Lover' during her spinsterhood!

The police probed deeper. Narayanaswami, it appeared, had married into the Dewan's family, but found it tough to make both ends meet with a wife brought up to the high life. So the couple came to live with her father. That did not help matters and Mrs Narayanaswami saw no option but to borrow from her former lover. Nukaraju coughed up the cash for old time's sake. But he was no millionaire to throw away money and soon began to demand the return of the loan with interest. He wrote as many as fifty letters. The Narayanaswamis were shocked by what they thought was crass meanness from a lowly servant. And Mrs Narayanaswami was upset that her former lover should choose to ask for mere money.

The police found a letter which clearly stated that the loan would be returned on a specified date, and asked Nukaraju to come along for the full and final settlement. The letter was unsigned! Nukaraju had shown her the letter, his wife stated, before leaving for the appointment. The next time she saw him was in bits.

The police called on the Pakala Narayanaswamis and examined them, as well as son of the Dewan and a clerk who worked for the couple. All of them were arrested and charged with murder and other related crimes.

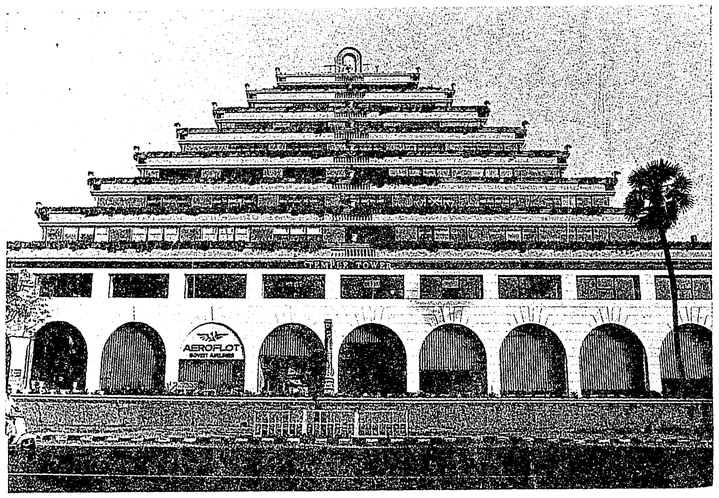
Suspicion, opinions, beliefs and such cannot convict a person in a court of law. Proof, supported by legally admissible evidence, is needed. And the police began to look for it — and found it! The steel trunk-shop owner who had sold the trunk to Narayanaswami, a *jutka*-driver who had taken the trunk to the railway station, a man who had seen Narayanaswami with a box at the station but did not see him entraining!

A search of Narayanaswami's house revealed more evidence. A bundle of rags buried in the compound, with many tell-tale blood stains. Similar rags, equally bloody, were found in a box inside the bathroom.

During the sensational Sessions trial, Narayanaswami denied it all. "The witnesses are mistaken, and the police are suffering from excessive zeal," he told the judge. He was, however, found guilty and sentenced to death. His wife and others were set free.

An appeal was filed before the High Court and Narayanaswami's lawyer raised an interesting question of law on the admissibility of evidence. This is what led to the case finding a place in the law books. The validity of statements made by dead persons is a complex legal issue and the Indian Evidence Act is deliberately vague, leaving the final decision to the circumstances of each case and the judge's assessment.

The death sentence was confirmed. The accused filed an appeal before the Privy Council in London. The internationally famous British barrister, D N Pritt, appeared for Narayanaswami. Pritt raised the same legal issue, but the British Law Lords dismissed the appeal. Narayanaswami paid the price for murder, but, somewhat ironically, achieved immortality of a kind: A permanent place in the literature of Law!



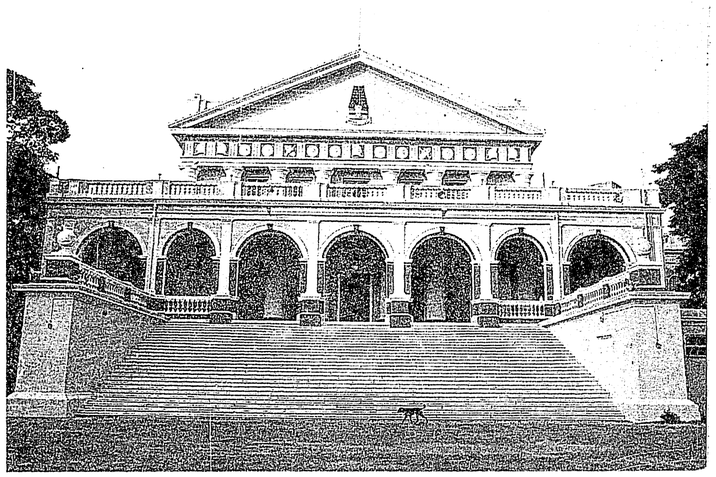
THE NEW...

Temple Towers *is what the Easun Group call their striking tower-block in Nandanam, which with its pyramidal* gopuram*-shape and receding front does indeed create the illusion of a temple. One of the more imaginative pieces of architecture in a city which appeared to be getting bogged down in imitating British suburban in its high-rise,* Temple Towers *nevertheless draws from the CEAT Building (does memory serve us right when we mention that name?) in Bombay on the drive downtown and the clone on Luz Church Road in our city where a residential block has tried the same thing. Imitation is not such a bad thing, especially as* Temple Towers *looks much better than the other two. Its only unattractive feature is the grills provided for the plate glass of the ground floor when it comes to locking up time.*

...& THE OLD

A temple-look of another age is Banqueting Hall, *now called* Rajaji Hall. *Deriving from the Parthenon, the Temple of Athene, in Greece, it was built by East India Company engineer and astronomer John Goldingham, a Dane, in 1802 to provide Governor Lord Edward Clive the memorial he needed for his father's victory at Plassey and the more contemporary victory by the Wellesley team at Seringapatnam. The Hall, linked only by a patio to* Government House, *has a magnificent flight of steps, massive pillars and an imposing pediment that highlight the temple look. The splendid Corinthian and Ionic columns on the colonnaded terrace were later additions that certainly enhanced a building that looked rather stark in early paintings.*

(Photographs by SUSHEELA NAIR).



NOT TOO HEAVY, NOT TOO LIGHT

The View from Fort St George

Tamil Nadu's 1992-93 budget with a Rs. 494 crore closing deficit and Rs. 70 crore income-generating measures by way of taxes and realignment of levies, can be safely described as "a cautious, pragmatic budget to suit the season". Neither too heavy, nor too light.

Political observers give three reasons for this: The popularity of the Government should not be diminished through harsh measures, it should not be out of tune with the Centre's far-seeing, moderate measures; and, lastly, the purpose of strengthening the exchequer should not also be lost sight of.

Hiking the tax on Indian-made foreign liquor from 25 to 30 per cent, reduction of exemption limit for hotels and restaurants from Rs. 18.25 lakhs annual turnover to Rs. 3 lakhs for levy of S.T. at five per cent on sale of food and drinks, rationalisation of slabs for levy of motor vehicle tax on two-wheelers of different categories, increase of annual tax by motor vehicle owners, increase in the rate of stamp duty from three to four per cent on certain leases, mortgages without possession, partition, release deeds, and settlement within members of the family, and a marginal increase in the rate of Profession Tax and land cess are among the measures that are expected to bring in additional revenue. The salaried class drawing less than Rs. 1500 a month gets an exemption from Profession Tax and there's a decrease on S.T. for certain food products.

Finance Minister Nedunchezhian also announced bifurcation of South Arcot district, with the new Villupuram-Vallar District, headquartered at Villupuram. The original name of South Arcot will be retained by the other half which will have Cuddalore as headquarters. He also stated that an exclusive court to handle forest offences, particularly sandalwood smuggling, will be established at Tirupattur.

For the first time, the Government will provide funds for maintenance of roads in excess of the norms prescribed by the Ninth Finance Commission. A Rs. 328.44 crore road development project will strengthen 3,919 km of roads. Seven functional industrial estates are to be established. The plan outlay on agriculture is increased from Rs. 187.53 crores to Rs. 215.75 crores.

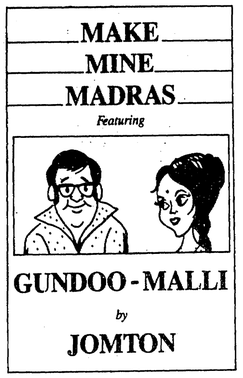
There was little in the budget for the Opposition to pick holes. In the history of independent India, there has been no instance of any budget — Central or State — which has been spared criticism from the Opposition. Considered in this light, the barbs from the Opposition parties in the Tamil Nadu Assembly seemed wild.

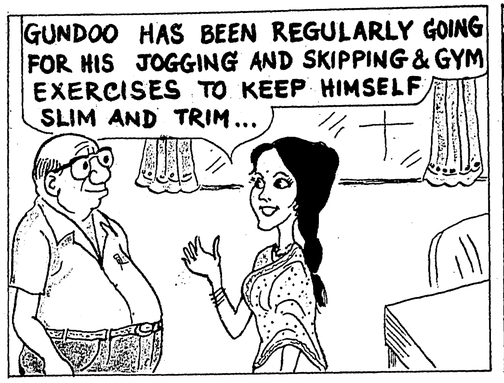
There was a humorous twist in the criticism by the CPI-M's Thambuswamy who said that the total exemption of *kumkum* and *kajal* from sales tax was no relief at all to women who nowadays mostly use stickers instead of *kumkum*. PMK's Panruti Ramachandran regretted the failure of the Government to secure financial assistance from the Centre.

The MGR-ADMK's Thirunavukkarasu said the tax concessions offered were only for publicity purposes. Thirunavukkarasu and the DMK's Ilamvazhuthi also regretted that no mention was made of any judicial inquiry into the Mahamakam tragedy. The move to increase tax on certain categories of restaurants was critised by the Janata Dal's Kumaradas, as this would, he said, hit entrepreneurs in villages. The CPI's Palanichamy said the local cess surcharge hike would affect the rural folk.

A warm welcome for the budget has come from business and industrial circles. But Government employees and teachers in the state feel they have been sidelined, since no demand of theirs has been met.

— R K K





Zapped with plenty

by H.A. SUMITH

Madras has not seen a week of such plenty in a long time. There was Alyque Padamsee, the High Priest of Indian Advertising, zapping you with a dazzling review of Indian Advertising in 1991. The British Council had Stephen Oxley wowing even the nuns with his delightfully bawdy Tristram Shandy. And the Tamil Nadu Chapter celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of the Indian Institute of Architects by suddenly remembering there was an old Madras and parts of it might be worth conserving.

Wild mop of hair and hands aflying, slight body in floppy suit constantly in motion, popping eyeballs rolling behind too-large glasses, and voice thundering, screeching and rising and failing to the pounding music of the modern West, it was a wild and near-manic theatrical performance by the star behind the Bombay stage who demonstrated why he might be better on it: by making you forget the advertising and remember only Alyque the actor with a view or two on advertising. As Geeta Doctor by my side said, the message is indeed the man. And so say all of us, the sell-out crowd that packed the Ambassador Pallava's biggest hall, and spilled out and crowded its lawns to watch the performance on closed circuit, would have agreed.

From the brilliant audio-visual replaying the best ads of 1991, the only agency offering that I can remember in its entirely is the foreign one that sold a Mercedes with a family of four living through a crash that accordioned the car but not the way it cared for its passengers. That ad alone gave the edge to the foreign examples that Padamsee used to contrast Indian ads in a poll that had the audience flourishing the red-for-phoren and green-for-Bharat sides of art-board tennis racquets. For the rest, the memorable ones were **NOT** the Censor Board-cleared, but put-on-hold-by "the-Mandarins-of-Mandi-House" Pooja Bedi ad, that seemed more intent on selling a hard core art of love than so-soft-you-do-not-feel-them Kama Sutra condoms, but the ads of the streetwise. Rememberable are the ads for computer classes on the side of a pavement 'home', the 'Royal' *burkhas* for sale on the kerbside, the institution that offered holiday rooms for Rs. 20 and abortions for Rs. 90, a courier service for dead bodies, the Muslim philanthropist who offered 'free coffins' for 'all castes' and the video matrimonial ad that had a woman banker giggle a statisticless c.v: and hope Cupid was around.

A great ad is an ad that generates great sales. Padamsee pronounced in one of those rare moments you heard the advertising guru and not the theatrical nova. But if you twisted my arm for an opinion, the only Indian ad that is even a faint memory was that

one of Fido the Pepsi man squiggling himself on screen. I don't know whether he drew great sales of those green bottles of *7-UP*, but he certainly impressed with the high technology Madras offers. This, and much of the rest, must have had dispassionate viewers, and they would undoubtedly have been a minority in that yuppie horde present, wondering why so much of our advertising, and especially its music, is right out of the raucous, jazzed up mod-West pop. Is that the price for consumerism? And is it going to get worse when, as Padamsee warns, the competition hots up in 1993 with the Big Brands making their entry into India under their own stateside bosses?

Whatever the answer to those questions, Padamsee **did** point out several uniquely Indian features in Advertising. Though they were not included by him in his request to media planners to take another look at these rather surprising statistics on reach — Newspapers 100 million, TV 190 m, Cinema 113 m and Radio 222 m — he did give honourable mention to some splendid, "it-can-happen-only-in-India" media events like the first Rath Yatra, the street ads, the "creepy crawlies" that drown the video screen and the candid video magazines that not so gently ridiculed the 'Soniaji' brigade. Missing, however, were the hoardings with which Madras leads and others, including M F Hussain, follow.

What remained, at the end of all that, was memories of pop music, sex

appeal, the new world of high technology, that Mercedes ad, the wheedling Lalithaji, the liquid-hurling 'Mera-ben' — and, of course, showman Padamsee, whom no one can accuse of missing the details to which he accuses Indian advertising of not paying enough attention. Is he trying to say there's a lack of quality consciousness in Indian advertising? No one can say that of Padamsee's 'Ad Review of 1991'.

One-man bawd

One-man theatre is rare in Madras, but his holding in thrall a full house for two hours is rarer still. That Stephen Oxley did it with an English that's 250 years old and not likely to be too familiar to too many in the audience was remarkable.

Tristram Shandy, 18th century dandy, might have explained Oxley's achievements so: "'Tis known by the name of perseverance in the name of a good cause — and of obstinacy in a bad one." But there was more to it than mere sweat pouring off the brows of an actor who recreated rare well in Madras a fop from the English country. It was that arch look, that silent eye contact after a *bon mot* had been dropped and not caught, that had an audience laughing at what it knew not half the time. The rest of the time there was no mistaking Tristram, or Laurence Sterne his creator, as when narrating the circumstances of his creation:

"Pray, my dear" quoth my mother (as his father huffed and puffed), "have you not forgot to wind up the clock...?" "Good G--," cried my father... "Did

ever woman, since the creation of the world, interrupt a man with such a silly question?" But it didn't stop him begetting Tristram to charm a world and have it eating out of his hand as he took not the shortest route between two points of a story but the zany ECG one.

Much of that charm Oxley introduced by getting right into the audience and kissing the hands of young ladies, who obviously didn't know that there was more to hands than for merely shaking with, and chatting up old men who'd forgotten what it was all about. That got a little bit of prim and proper Madras to let it's hair down an inch or two and accept even a huffing and puffing father in action and a wide open mother ready to her duty. "We'd never have been allowed to go to this when we were in college," mused the bemused lady Professor of English, and the amused teenager by her side giggled. Madras is obviously changing.

Too late for Bentinck

Madras architects, celebrating 75 years of the contribution of Indian architects, suddenly woke up to the fact that there's more to Madras architecture than what they're creating these days. Two of their three sessions were devoted to what might be described as 'Conserving the Madras Experience'. And during those sessions considerable time was spent on remembering *Bentinck Building*, alas, now stumps and rubble and a foundation that refuses to give up.

Ramalakshmi of the School of Architecture faculty came up with a couple of imaginative designs for how *Bentinck Building* could have been saved and still met the requirements of usage of prime land area. The effort might have got lost in a film that ranged round the world and got to the point only aeons later, but she did provide food for thought, even if Deshpande of the Nagpur faculty insisted on the last word: "Integration is not necessary!" Obviously he hadn't seen the sore thumb in Fort St George or what's been done to the Pantheon Complex. Never did find out how he reacted to Sujatha Shankar's film of the buildings of the city that had not only her exclaiming, "My G--! Is that really Madras!"

Yes, that was really Madras, but there were no loud voices to save its architectural heritage, just as there was even less comment on Debbie Thyagarajan's slides of the architectural heritage of the Chettiars which even the Nagarathar are not willing, or able, to save. In fact, the PWD architect who proudly promised the audience that the new *Bentinck Building* would faithfully echo the old, said it all; he was just echoing what many in the audience were doing every day, merely re-creating old English facades on new high-rise. No wonder INTACH's Debbie Thyagarajan thundered, "That's FALSE!"

And so, like all such conferences and celebrations, this one too ended with a lot of platitudes but no commitment to action! You can be sure old Madras will vanish and no one in that crowd would care. After all, they could rebuild history in stone again!

Will CNG help?

(Continued from P1)

These pipelines would help disperse for practical use Bombay High gas now being wasted.

Andhra Pradesh Roadways has shown an interest in this pilot project and MRL may soon take up a similar test project in the Krishna-Godavari oil belt. Gujarat was the first state in the country to experiment with CNG-powered buses some years ago. It did not press on with the project, but now the MRL project is being watched carefully by transport corporations across the country. The leaders in CNG use is Italy, which has over 250,000 vehicles running on CNG power. The US and Canada have about 30,000 CNG-powered vehicles each after conversion experiments began in 1983.

Melas and Vizhas

FOODS & FADS

Delhi in winter-time is full of good things like multi-coloured blooms and *sarson ka saag* (mustard greens). February is the kindest month, though, since it offers a splendid crafts *mela*, apart from the well-known international book fair. This crafts *mela* is set in a picturesque tank, dating from the Moghul period, in Suraj Kund, which is about 20 miles away from the city, and is therefore an ideal picnic spot. Organised and financed by the Haryana State Government, the Suraj Kund *mela* allows craftsmen from all-over the country to exhibit and sell their wares, without taking recourse to middlemen or agents. Several artisans, incidentally, are national award winners.

Thus — spread over a couple of acres or so — you will find magnificent blue painted pottery from Rajasthan at throwaway prices, carpets, shawls, *bandini* prints, intricately-woven *ikkat* sarees, apart from Tamil Nadu arts and crafts like wood carvings etc. There are also various kinds of food stalls as well as folk dance and drama performances every now and then on the stage (which is in full view from the stalls).

On a much smaller scale, our Crafts Council organised the VASANTHA VIZHA for the second time, in the last week of February. Last year, the *vizha* was held in Mahabalipuram. This time, however, it was more accessible, being held on the Madras Museum grounds. Although it was financed by the Central Government, funds were a constraint — since there was barely enough money to transport the artisans to and fro.

This year, the highlight was toys from all over the country. But there were also *Madhubani* paintings from Bihar, bangles from Rajasthan, mats and masks from Kerala, stone-ware from Pondicherry, and quite a bit of *Kalamkari* and terracotta.

Like the Suraj Kund *mela* in Delhi, the Madras VASANTHA VIZHA aims at promoting the humble artisan. We can only hope that more funds will be available in the future to make the *vizha* really effective.

Ah! Ganesa!

The recent exhibition and sale of reproductions of Chola bronzes at the Shankara Hall on T T K Road was obviously yet another attempt to promote the local artist and artisan. The event was organised by POOMPUHAR and attracted the wealthy as well as the middle classes.

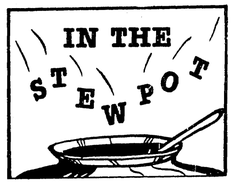
These exquisite reproductions of the Chola period figurines were displayed in an aesthetic manner and grouped together according to specific themes. Thus, the Natarajas (with consorts in tow) were all on one side, the Krishnas were together, apart from the Ardhanariswaras and the mother goddesses. However, the pride of place was given to the Ganesas, of every conceivable kind. There were standing Ganesas, sitting Ganesas, dancing Ganesas, reclining Ganesas, even crawling Ganesas!

For those who were arrested in their tracks by the prices, there were the more moderately valued wood carvings, glass paintings, stone-work, papier-mache and sandalwood figurines on offer.

REAL mayonnaise

Have you despaired of getting *real* mayonnaise in the local market? Have you been forced to settle for the usual yellowish, gooey, runny stuff in most of the stores? Well, hope is at hand with the new FUN FOODS product from New Delhi. Though the price is on the steep side, believe me, *this* mayonnaise is well worth it. Also to be savoured are the Cheese dips and Sandwich spreads from the same company.

V.K.



Mutton, marinated in curd, makes a delicious *pulav*. Serve with the versatile *Egg Bhurji* on the side. For *panneer* lovers, there's nothing like the tart *Panneer Pasanda* to add bite to the meal. Of course, with any *pulav*, *raita* is a must — try *Ladies Fingers Raita*, different yet unbelievably tasty.

MUTTON PULAV

INGREDIENTS

½ kg mutton
½ kg *basmati* rice (appx. 2½ cups)
2 medium tomatoes (cut into quarters)
5 pieces cinnamon } grind coarsely
10 cloves } grind coarsely
10 cardamoms } grind coarsely
1 piece bay leaf
6 medium onions (cut into small pieces)
6-8 green chillies (cut lengthwise)
1 tbs ginger paste
10-12 pods garlic (grind to a paste)
Mint (small bunch) } paste
Coriander leaves (small bunch) } paste
½ cup curd
1 teaspoon turmeric powder
2 teaspoon *dhaniya* powder
Salt to taste

Method

Wash the mutton and keep aside.

Marinate the mutton in curd and ginger garlic paste for half an hour.

Wash the *basmati* rice just once and keep aside.

Heat four tablespoons ghee in a pressure cooker.

Add the coarsely ground *masala*. After a few seconds add the onions. Fry the onions till transparent. Add the green chillies, tomatoes and the marinated mutton, the mint and coriander paste, turmeric and *dhaniya* powder one after the other. Fry for a few minutes till all the *masalas* are well blended. Add salt and 3-4 cups of water and cook the mutton till done. (Nearly after 3 whistles and simmering 10 minutes.)

When it is cool, remove the mutton pieces and measure the gravy.

Take a thick bottomed vessel. Add two tablespoons ghee (if the mutton is full of fat, lessen the ghee). When hot, add the bay leaf, then the rice and fry for a few minutes. Now add the mutton pieces and gravy and water. This should be double the amount of the rice (*i.e.* for 1 cup of rice, 2 cups of this mixture). Mix well. Cover with a tight fitting lid and cook on high fire for a few minutes. Then lower the heat. When nice aroma comes, turn the *pulav* carefully once or twice till done.

Mrs. P Ragupathy

EGG BURJI

4 eggs, beaten well
1 onion, chopped fine
2 green chillies, chopped fine
1 small piece ginger, scraped and chopped fine
2 tomatoes, chopped fine
1 teaspoon *dhaniya* powder
½ teaspoon red chilli powder
Small bunch coriander leaves, chopped fine
3-4 tbs oil
1 teaspoon mustard seeds
½ teaspoon cummin seeds
Salt to taste

Method

Heat Oil. Add mustard seeds and cummin seeds. When they splutter, add the chopped onions, green chillies and ginger. Saute for a minute or two. Add the chopped tomatoes, *dhaniya* powder and chilli powder.

Add the beaten eggs, salt and cook on a low fire, stirring continuously.

Garnish with coriander leaves and serve hot.

PANNEER PASANDA

½ kg panneer chopped into ½ inch pieces

GROUND PASTE

3 onions
1" piece ginger
4 pods of garlic
POWDERED MASALA
4-6 big cardamoms
1 teaspoon cummin seeds
6 pepper corns
4 cloves
1 tbs roasted poppy seeds
6 medium tomatoes, skinned and chopped fine
Lemon size tamarind, soaked in one cup water and juice extracted
1 teaspoon sugar
1 teaspoon chilli powder
½ teaspoon turmeric powder
Salt to taste
Small bunch coriander leaves chopped fine for garnishing
4 tbs oil

Method

Heat oil and fry the ground paste till the oil comes out.

Add the turmeric powder, chilli powder and chopped tomatoes. Cook till it forms a thick gravy. Add the tamarind juice, salt and sugar and cook on a low fire till the raw smell of the tamarind disappears.

Add the *panneer* pieces and the powdered masala.

Simmer till well blended. Garnish with chopped coriander.

LADIES' FINGERS RAITA

¼ kg ladies' fingers
1½ cups well mixed fresh curd
Salt to taste
FOR TEMPERING
2 teaspoons oil
1 teaspoon mustard seeds
1 teaspoon cummin seeds
1 teaspoon black gram dhal
1 teaspoon bengal gram dhal
1 red chilli
¼ teaspoon asafoetida
Few curry leaves

Method

Steam and chop fine the ladies' fingers.

Heat oil in a frying pan. Add all the ingredients for tempering.

When the mustard seeds splutter, add the ladies' fingers. Cook on a low fire till the vegetable is tender.

Add salt and cook for a minute. Allow the vegetable to cool.

Add the well mixed curd and blend well.

Serve cold or at room temperature.

Chandra Padmanabhan

Which wich do you want?...

A Suzannewich or a Chicwich? Flip for our Kukku Flips. Or droot over crumb fried prawns, fish and chips and spring rolls. Come share a Pizzarosa with a friend. Or a Pizzasage, a Pizzaroni, a Cheesie Choose, or Hunter's pizza.

Dig into a choice of Burgers — Rich Harvest, Chikky Choky, Hamber.

Icecreams, fizzy drinks, fun and frolic.

Chef Suzanne

A Fast Food Place for your taste
Ceebros Arcade-Basement (opp Adyar Bus terminus) Adyar, Madras
Time 12.30 p.m. — 10 p.m. (Tuesday Holiday) Phone 416473

QUIZZIN' WITH NAVIN

(Quizmaster NAVIN JAYAKUMAR's questions are all from the fortnight of February 16–29)

1. Where was the mandatory ink mark put on voters at the Punjab elections and why?
2. Fill in the blanks: On Feb. 17, The Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, _____ and _____ met at New Delhi to find a solution to the Cauvery dispute.
3. Amanullah Khan, leader of the JKLF, was extradited from UK in 1986 for what reason?
4. What was the single major front page headline in *The Hindu*, Wednesday, February 19, 1992?
5. With which Western power has India agreed in principle to conduct joint naval manoeuvres in the Indian Ocean?
6. Who were the three German athletes who were suspended from their national association for cheating on dope tests?
7. A Rs. 1.5 crore master plan is to be taken up for modernising and giving a facelift to which 140-year-old Madras landmark?
8. What path-breaking step was taken for the first time in the country by the 111-year-old Marathi daily *Kesari* (started by Lokmanya Tilak)?
9. The Mahamakham festival is celebrated once in 12 years when the following heavenly bodies come in a straight line — the Sun, the full moon, Earth, Jupiter and _____ What?
10. Which four musicians from Tamil Nadu were recipients of Karnataka's Sangeetharatna T Chowdaiah awards?
11. From an article 'Celluloid Art' in the *Indian Express Sunday Magazine* Feb. 23 — Which film moghul invented a mechanical device to retrieve the nails strewn all over the studio floor after dismantling the set, saving time and labour?
12. Which Walt Disney classic became the first animated film in Oscar history to be nominated for Best Picture?
13. World Cup Cricket
    a) How is Net Run Rate (NRR) calculated?
    b) What is the financial penalty for each over less than the required number to be bowled?
14. What were the contents of a 40-feet shipping container, 8 feet wide by 8 feet high, which was placed by unknown persons on a farm in the northern German town of Schneverdingen recently?
15. After running from pillar to post to return 22 sovereigns of gold, a bridal sari and other valuables left behind in his vehicle, what did auto driver Srinivasan of Perambur receive from the Police Commissioner?
16. Who's Who, What's What?
20. Why were they in the news? (a) Jeffrey Dahmer (b) Dagens Nyheter (c) BJP East Delhi MP, B.L. Sharma (d) PTV and (e) Jagdish Tytler, Sajjan Kumar and HKL Bhagat

(Answers on Page 8)

VIDEOSCOPE by FILM FAN

Comedy, alive & kicking

In an earlier column I had written about Hollywood's current obsession with the comedy. I remember expressing a doubt that this boom was short on quality. But last fortnight I saw two films that go a long way in assuring me that comedy is, in fact, alive and kicking.

Barton Fink and **The Adams Family** have one thing in common, for both films don't lend themselves to conventional labelling and, in fact, seem to take pleasure in subverting the Hollywood system.

Barton Fink is set in 1941 and is about a Broadway playwright who goes to Hollywood to script a wrestling picture. He suffers his writer's block in a dingy hotel where the peeling wall-paper becomes an obsession with him. His neighbour, an insurance salesman, teaches him a few lessons in life that are best left seen than described. **Barton Fink** has left critics in a daze, trying to figure out what it was all about. No wonder then that the film ran away with all the major awards at last year's Cannes! Don't bother about its message, but see **Barton Fink** for its brilliant visual gags and for its ribtickling slab at the old Hollywood studio system.

The Addams Family are a bunch of characters who are weird to say the least. Gomez (Raul Julia) and his wife Morticia (Angelica Huston) dream about the day when they would be buried side by side. Their children play at electrocuting one another while the family help consists of a butler who resembles Frankenstein's monster and a cook who looks like a witch! The most interesting character in this group I leave you to discover. There's hardly any plot here, just a series of episodes that expose the macabre bent of the family. You are bound to learn to love this bunch, for in the end they are quite harmless.

1991 was a bad year for Dustin Hoffman, for two of his films came a cropper at the box office. The reasons why are not difficult to see.

Billy Bathgate is an adaptation of E.L. Doctorow's award winning novel. The film tells the story of a young boy who joins the gang of Dutch Schultz (Hoffman), the famous Chicago mobster.

Somehow, minus Doctorow's prose, it's difficult to find anything of note in this standard tale of coming of age in the world of crime and punishment. Surprising, for the script is by Tom Stoppard and direction by Robert Benton.

Hoffman also plays the lead in **HOOK,** Steven Spielberg's update on the Peter Pan legend. Peter Pan (Robin Williams) has grown up into a humourless yuppie who has forgotten his childhood. But the past returns when Hook kidnaps Peter's children in an act of revenge. Peter is forced to return to 'never never land' and regain his lost powers in order to take on Hook. In attempting to combine the elements of E.T. and the 'Raiders' series, Spielberg fails, for the charm is forced and the action soon begins to grate.

There's nothing to beat a classic as an antidote for the after-effects of a bad film. This time George Marshall's **Destry Rides Again** did the trick for me. In this Western, James Stewart plays a deputy sheriff who aims to clean up a town through non-violent means. Marlene Dietrich is the local dance hall girl and the friend of the chief 'baddie'. While Stewart goes about his task in earnest, Dietrich gets an opportunity to belt a few numbers and ooze sex appeal. "They don't make em' as they use to any more"!

A film that might upset the purist

THE VIEW FROM THE WINGS

The Max Mueller Bhavan, Madras, recently presented *Pitru Chaya*, produced for German television and shown first in India at the International Documentary Film festival in Bombay.

Director Soudhamini declares that the film was inspired by the music of M.D. Ramanathan. The enigmatic musician is very much present in the film through his music as well as by his absence. There are some brilliant moments captured with the camera moving in a train to the music of M.D.R. and cutting to an elephant that's as elegant as M.D.R.'s music. The past is integrated through captivating scenes from the *Koodiyattam* of Ammanur Madhava Chakyar and superlative editing. But Madrasis who see the film could well get upset by the repeated depiction of a drama rehearsal by the Nija Nataka Iyakkam group from Madurai.

Soudhamini says she had to show people who had never encountered M.D.R. Melodrama had to be abstracted. M.D.R.'s absence had to be noted.

Here is a film that cannot be ignored. There may be outrage in some quarters, like Kalakshetra and Theosophical Society and among other purists, but no one can deny the spectacular presence of M.D.R. and his music in the film.

There are a few more screenings scheduled. Watch out for the dates and don't miss the film.

Felicitation time

It is felicitation time in Madras. Musicologist, scholar and critic T S Parthasarathy has been given the Sangeeth Natak Akademi fellowship. Chitra Visweswaran and Madurai N Krishnan have been awarded the Padma Shri. Adyar K Lakshmanan and Chandralekha have won Akademi awards.

There have been a series of felicitations for all of them, but Chandralekha is away from Madras, so she is missing the opportunity of being seen midst the purists.

There are talks aplenty by illustrious persons in the Arts World and there is a lot of *ponnadai* draping and garlanding. At the ABHAI and Fine Arts Foundation's felicitation, I decided to speak only two lines and every one scolded me for that. They said speaking for at least ten minutes was to be respectable. All the award winners are well known in Madras and everyone knows the achievements of each of them. Should these be repeated by so many people in so many words?

Chance to Shree

Chandralekha's *Shree* is being presented by the Feminists' Association for Social Action (FASA) at the Music Academy on March 25th. Those who were not invited for the presentation at his Skills Theatre, get the opportunity to buy tickets and see it now.

I, for one, however, will not be there. Past experience has shown me that Chandralekha's productions are brilliant to watch — ONCE. It is very difficult to sit through them a second or third time.

Purandaradasa Day

Purandaradasa Day is being celebrated by the Music Academy. Vedavalli, the spirited musician known for her scholarship, will sing compositions by the 'Father of Carnatic Music at 6 p.m., at the T.T.K. Auditorium on March 21st.

Dates to note

March is a month of preparation for examinations by both students and their parents. Hence very little cultural activity is scheduled. There are, nevertheless, a few noteworthy programmes.

For the pious, a series of lectures on the *Bhagavad Gita* by the inimitable Prema Pandurangan is scheduled from March 15th to the 22nd March. Then, on March 27th, there's a nostalgic presentation of classical film melodies by Ragapravaham from films of the period 1935 — 1965. Both are being presented at the Narada Gana Sabha Hall.

Sakshi Gallery is presenting K.G. Subramanyan's paintings until March 23rd. Subramanyan, at 67, remains a central figure on the Indian art scene. An artist working in different media, he says each medium he explores responds to a particular expressive need of his and to a particular strand of sensibility. His is a vision of the world as a theatre of tantalising unspecificities. His activity spectrum expands to include tapestries, soft sculptures, textiles, murals, playfully inventive toys, illuminated books for children and environmental art.

Sakshi will also be showing works from Calcutta from March 25th to April 8th. The Group show is being presented by the Society of Contemporary Artists, Calcutta. It should be interesting.

— V R Devika

New star director

KINEMAYANA BY MOVIEMAN

The director as the superstar of the movie firmament is a recent (post-World War II) phenomenon in the history of cinema. True, there were great and highly individualistic film directors in the past, like D W Griffith (the founding father of creative cinema) and Alfred Hitchcock in the West and V Shantaram, B N Reddi, Devaki Bose, Bimal Roy, Y V Rao and Acharya (a leading Madras city lawyer-turned-film person, T G Raghavachari) in India, who worked for the Establishment, yet were able to hold their own against movie moghuls, front office johnnies and the rest of the interfering lot. In recent years, the film director has been referred to as film-maker, indicative of the wide range of skills and talents he requires not only to emerge as a star but also as starmaker.

In Tamil Cinema, during the past two decades, film-makers like Sridhar, K S Gopalakrishnan, K Balachandar, Muktha V Srinivasan, Balu Mahendra and a few others have carved out riches of their own. Not surprisingly, they have turned producers too, exercising 110 per cent control over their creative output.

In more recent times, Mani Rathnam has marched to the top with films which bore his distinct stamp. He is from a distinguished and established film family, being the son of S G Ratnam Iyer and the nephew of S Krishnamurthy of Venus Pictures, a leading film production company, and the younger brother of South Indian movie moghul, auditor-turned-film persona, G Venkateswaran. With that background he did not have to struggle to get his foot in the door like others in the world of cinema and has preferred to make films backed by the family.

Lately, a new star has risen on the Tamil film horizon who threatens to take over the top slot. In a chat with this writer's soulmate, M Balasubramaniyam, of AVM Productions and film moghul M Saravanan's younger brother, told him that 1992 could well be "the year of this film-maker". The new star's name is R V Udayakumar, who hit the headlines last year and this year too with super-hits like *Kizhakku Vaasal* and the top 1992 Pongal release *Chinna Gounder*.

Udayakumar was a brilliant student of the state-owned Film Institute at Adyar. After graduation in film direction, he underwent the compulsory period of waiting, then fought his way up to make films of merit like *Urimai Geetham* and *Puthiya Vaanam*. However, his zoom-forward began last year when his *Kizhakku Vaasal* turned out to be one of the biggest grossers of the year.

Not surprisingly, the brothers Saravanan and Balu have engaged this young, energetic and effervescent film-maker to make a picture under the legendary AVM banner. And the hero of the new movie in the making is, of course, the one and only Rajanikanth. Udayakumar is also involved in a film with that compleat actor Kamal Hasan.

Udayakumar is from rural Tamil Nadu and is soaked in what is called *mann vasanai* (the flavour of Mother Earth). He has all his senses glued to the clay and grassroots, which come through in every film of his.

BUSINESS REVIEW

(Continued from P3)

clubbing the income of minors with parents, no relief in corporate tax, deferment of unabsorbed carried forward depreciation and investment allowance, increase in excise duties, and the shift from specific rates to *ad valorem* duties.

These are essentially details which can be sorted out eventually. The stock markets, however, have reacted with unadulterated joy. They have entered the biggest bull phase in their history. The explanation is that everyone wants to hoard the shares before private sector mutual funds and foreign investors invade the markets. There are fears that the stock markets have over-reached themselves and have become over-heated. But considering the inherent strengths of the sensible Indian investing public, it is safe to assume that the buoyancy will be sustained unless there is some unforeseen disaster lurking round the corner.

The Left and the National Front have made predictable noises about the budget being pro-rich and anti-poor. And that the budget was dictated by the IMF and the World Bank. Their criticisms seem to stem more from helplessness to say anything more constructive. As Dr. Manmohan Singh has said, quoting Burke, "to tax and to please is not given to the Finance Minister."

IN TAMIL NADU

The Tamil Nadu government has also presented its budget. It has raised additional revenue worth Rs. 70 crore. But the net budget deficit is Rs. 495 crore. The state government has blamed the Centre for most of its budgetary woes. The Centre so far has refused to make good the loss of Rs. 300 crore of revenue because of the scrapping of cheap liquor. The Centre has not accepted the CM's plan to modernise the state's police force for which she has allocated Rs. 276.31 crore for 1992-93. The Centre has given her only Rs. 10 crore against her request of Rs. 80 crore.

Chief Minister Jayalalitha is also upset that the tax incentives for small savings have been removed. These savings helped to fill the state's offers.

However, the state's populist schemes continue. The outlay for the Noon Meal Scheme has been raised from Rs. 235.94 crore to Rs. 256.34 crore. A safety net for the poor has gone upto Rs. 52.29 crore from Rs. 32.5 crore. And one shudders to think that a minister has promised that MGR's populiet policies will continue!

No surer way for a state to go bust. So much for Doctor Singh's talk of fiscal discipline!

— THE SHROFF

AJAX AT THE COURSE

Madras nominees cut a sorry figure

It was not for a holiday that M.A.M. Ramaswamy went to Bangalore nearly a week before the Invitation Cup week-end there. India's most hard-working owner, who seldom misses his horses' morning trials at Guindy, obviously wanted to share with his senior trainer, Jim Foley, the preparatory work of his runners for the Classic Invitation Cup, the country's most prestigious race, and its supporting events, the Classic Stayers Cup and the Classic Sprinters Cup. All three had this year an unprecedented boost in prize money, thanks to the ITC sponsorship.

MAM's trip was, to a great extent, rewarded. His Star Contender, starting an odds-on favourite, outclassed and outstayed his 12 rivals in the Stayers Cup. His Flirting Vision, who was virtually written off after his tame performances in the 2,000 Guineas and the Derby at Mahaluxmi, was understandably easy to back at 6-1 and over for the Invitation. But the Vision-Flirting Feathers colt nearly stunned the entire Indian racing fraternity by his fighting second to Bugs Bunny, the champion Bangalore filly, who just managed to maintain her winning streak on her home turf by a neck.

The Pune-based Astonish, Flirting Vision's conqueror in both the 2,000 Guineas and the Derby, and Bugs Bunny topped the betting at the Guindy ring. Astonish was favourite at 2-1 and Bugs Bunny second favourite at 9-4. Only Flirting Vision at 6-1 and Dangerous Liaison at 7-1 among the other runners came in for any support. The ring was so packed that reaching a bookie was an ordeal. Tons of money flowed into the satchels on Astonish and Bugs Bunny. But MAM's fans solidly backed Flirting Vision, whose defeat was indeed a great relief to most of the layers of odds.

They had to pay through their nose the previous day when Star Contender won the Stayers Cup at the cramped odds of 10-7 on. None of the rest of the field of 12 came in for any support. Some of them, like Kurukshetra, Black Star and Lightning Glory, were at the fancy odds of 50-1 and yet found no takers. The bookmakers' estimate of Star Contender's potential was fully vindicated. The Riyahi-Scintillating colt's gold and Flirting Vision's silver were a fitting reward for the work their connections put in to bring them into top gear.

Oddly enough, the two colts' performances provided an irony. Well as they won in the colours of Madras's and India's leading owner, they were not among the nominees of the Department of Racing, Government of Tamil Nadu, as both were being raced outside Tamil Nadu. As a result, the DOR drew a humiliating blank at the two meetings. Never before had the ancient Madras turf taken such a beating. Only Vibrate's Vintage Cup third saved it from total eclipse. Some of its nominees, like Black Star and Para Trooper, cut a sorry figure. The near-total eclipse was a sad commentary on the present standard of racing at Guindy, India's oldest centre.

History made by city pair

Madras cricket has hit the headlines. M. Senthilnathan, V.B. Chandrasekhar, N. Gautam and W V Raman all of Madras, mauled the Uttar Pradesh bowling for centuries at Kanpur to help Tamil Nadu enter the Ranji Trophy semi-finals on March 2. More important and noteworthy than the State players' batting performance was the role S. Sharath played in India's resounding 72-run victory over New Zealand in their under-19 Test at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore on March 2nd.

One of the two Madras players in the India squad, the other being his Jolly Rovers Club team-mate, Tanveer Ahmed, left-handed Sharath is indeed the pride of Tamil Nadu cricket today. He hit a dazzling century and an equally scintillating 74. Both knocks were in keeping with his emergence as Jolly Rovers' top scorer in City cricket and stamped him as one of the country's most promising batsmen.

His figures indeed speak volumes of his bold and sound batsmanship. His 135 came off only 132 balls and was

by JAICI

packed with a soaring six and as many as 24 fours, and his 74, off 89 balls, also contained one six and as many as a dozen fours. His century helped India recover from a poor 88 for three and total 341.

Fittingly enough, Sharath and Senthilnathan combined to make history on February 28. They became the first pair of a State Association's batsmen to hit centuries on a single day in representative matches at two outstation centres. While Sharath pulverised the New Zealand bowling, a more celebratory occasion came at Kanpur where Senthilnathan hit his maiden Ranji Trophy century which, like Sharath's ton, helped Tamil Nadu rally after four wickets had crashed for a beggarly 34.

The New Zealanders took on India at Bangalore after giving ample evidence of their all-round skills, especially in fielding, in a drawn three-dayer against the Indian Cricket Board President's XI in Madras. Though the match ended in a tame draw, it was a valuable build-up for the tourists. They all batted with calm and correctness, though not brilliantly, and their bowlers were all game triers. But it was in fielding that they all excelled, straining every sinew to save runs at any cost, even by diving on the boundary line.

The New Zealanders' height and muscular build helped them save runs, and also won the admiration of the Pressmen, scorers and the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association officials, who alone constituted the crowd. The physique of the New Zealand under-19 youth was indeed something to admire, and even made many raise their eyebrows about their age. But they were all under 19, and it was a pity that such a team, bubbling with vitality, played before empty stands. Such indeed was the cold reception they had that they would have departed with the firm belief that the claim of cricket being the most popular game in Madras was all nonsense. They would have drawn at least a sizeable crowd if only the T.N.C.A. had given their engagement an adequate build-up. The empty stands were a sad commentary on the organisers' gesture to a visiting foreign team.

MOVING AND MEMORABLE

A recent report in *The Hindu* of a cricket match between Scindia's team and the A.I.C.B-XI, sponsored by the All-India Confederation of the Blind, reminded me of a moving experience I had in Tiruchchirappalli, thirty years back. Stalwarts like Bishen Singh Bedi, Abbas Ali Baig and Kapil Dev, among others, let by Scindia himself, made the recent occasion unique. In 1971, it was my introduction to the game, as played by the blind, that made the occasion memorable.

The purpose of my visit to the temple town had been to cover a National Defence Fund cricket match in which Ajit Wadekar, a hero then after his 1971 triumphs in the West Indies and England, took part. Responding to the invitation of S Theodore, Vice-President of the Tiruchi District Association, and Honorary Superintendent of the Home for the Blind in the town, I went along with M J Gopalan, and S Sriraman, of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association, to see the blind indulge in cricket, an idea worked out by that famous eye specialist Dr Joseph.

The cricket 'ground' was the open terrace of the Home. The pitch was a 10-yard strip marked with grooves along its edges to help the blind locate it by touch. The creases for bowling and batting too were similarly cut out. The wicket, consisting of stumps fixed to a light frame, was a mobile one. Small bells that tinkled at the slightest touch were attached to the frame. While the tinkle helped the blind to locate the wicket, its light weight and mobility minimised the chances of injury if the players ran into it. The big sized ball was of rubber, with small bells built into it, while the bat was a full-sized one.

The game itself had been modified to suit the blind participants. Each team had seven players. The batsman was assisted by two runners, one at his back, near the wicket, and the other at the bowler's end. Apart from the runs that a hit fetched, a wide declared, when the ball was outside the pitch, went to the batsman's credit.

The field was set in the normal style. The wicket-keeper clapped his hands every time and then got into position, and guided by the sound the bowler rolled the ball towards the wicket. As it tinkled on its way the batsman picked the line of the ball and hit it to the off or swept it to the leg-side. The tinkling sound of the ball as it sped away helped the fieldsmen to follow and locate it with minimum trouble and roll it to the wicket-keeper along the ground. The keeper gathered the ball and broke the wicket — every time the ball was thrown to the keeper he did this. If the batsman missed hitting the ball, the wicket-keeper picked the ball and stumped him. The batsman was guided in taking a run by his runners, who were able to pick the direction of the ball by the sound of the bells, and judge whether it had been fielded. The participants themselves maintained the score-card using the Braille system.

If any cricket match had ever moved Gopalan and party to tears, it was this display by the blind, showing their perceptions of the world around them. While the idea of cricket for the blind was Dr. Joseph's, who had played a pioneering role in their rehabilitation, the details were worked out by S Sivaraman, a gutsy sportsman, who was popular in hockey and cricket circles in Madras before he went back to his native Tiruchi after retirement. Sivaraman, who also was the umpire at the 'match', explained to us his methodology of coaching the blind.

The Delhi match, held in Karnail Singh Stadium, revealed the progress that had been made in the game since then. The blind could now enjoy a game of cricket in the open, only there were no Special Cricket Correspondents covering this "Test"!

P N SUNDARESAN.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. On the wrist so that it could be easily hidden because of the militants' threat. 2. Kerala and the Union Territory of Pondicherry. 3. He was implicated in the Mhatre assasination case there. 4. 48 die in Mahamakham stampede in Tamil Nadu. 5. France 6. Sheikh Abbas Musawi. 7. The Madras Museum. 8. It launched the Braille edition of the newspaper on Feb. 15 to meet the needs of the visually handicapped. 9. Maham star. 10. Semmangudi Srinivasan Iyer, Maharajapuram Santhanam, Kunnakudi Vaidyanathan, Mandolin U Srinivas 11. A V Meiyappan — it was a magnetic device which would be rolled over the floor. 12. Beauty and the Beast. 13. a. Team Run Rate per over less Opponents Run Rate per over. b. 5% of each player's match fee (including finals), per over. 14. Nearly 100 Indian men waiting to be smuggled to Canada! The container was filled with bunks and airpipes. 15. A certificate and a token cash reward of Rs. 200! 16. a. US serial killer who cannibalised 15 victims. Recently sentenced to 15 consecutive lifeterms. b. Swedish newspaper linked Rajiv Gandhi to Bofors kickback. c. Wrote 1.30 lakh letters in last 8 months, writes 300 a day in response to constituents. Recently visited by team from Guinness Book of World Records. d. Faced possible legal action by Star TV and BBC for tampering and rebroadcasting programme on J & K situation on February 17. e. Back in the news with cases for murder, arson and looting in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Delhi.

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