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MUSINGS

Vol. 2. No. 2

FREE ISSUE — EVERY FORTNIGHT

May 1 — 15, 1992

Plans, plans and more...

Plans to 'save' Mylapore

(By A Special Correspondent)

Everyone wants to 'save' Mylapore. They want to make it, in the new buzz words, a 'heritage zone'. But why aren't all those drawing up plans talking to each other about it? How many plans are we going to wind up with to 'save' the Mylapore heritage?

INTACH was the first organisation in the city to start looking at heritage zones and on their list there appeared Mylapore and San Thomé. (Thomay, if you please!) Then, came *The Times of India's* research project for the

MMDA and 'Madras 2011' listed both areas again. By now, the MMDA had got INTACH interested in producing a plan for it. So an INTACH team began exploring the byways of Mylapore. Whether it was part of this exercise or not, a team from The School in Adyar also began looking at Mylapore.

A United Nations-sponsored project, then, again with MMDA blessings (referred to in these columns last fortnight), formed a committee to consider, among other things, Tourism

and Heritage. Given the MMDA's bent, there is no doubt that Mr Deva-sahayam's committee too will look at Mylapore with interest.

And to top it all, Madam Chief Minister has also shown her involvement with this area by launching a project that will, hopefully, result in water being seen again in the Mylapore tank. But if that is to become a reality, it cannot be separate from any of the other investigations.

Now, the latest on all this activity is that the MMDA wants to look at both Mylapore AND San Thomé as ONE Heritage Zone. That's expanding the scope of conservation. And providing more opportunity for other vested interests to get involved.

With all this activity, isn't it time that all interested in 'saving' Mylapore-San Thomé and making a heritage zone of it got together and worked on ONE plan, instead of separate thinking emerging from diverse directions? If the MMDA is committed to this project, and NOT committed to it, perhaps it should talk to **everyone** interested, including the Government, at one time, one place, instead of letting each one do his own thing and end up with so many dreams and nothing concrete — not to mention conflicts.



The Elphinstone iron bridge in Adyar is now shorn of its girders, sold several years ago to the highest bidder and not to a Raman-come-to-town. Now overgrown with shrub, the forlorn bridge awaits someone finding new use for it. (Photograph by K N CHARI)

A bridge to use

The Adyar Estuary is now a declared sanctuary. In and around it, about 50 Indian species nest and breed during the summer. In winter, their numbers are added to by over 70 species of migratory birds from the frozen wastes of Siberia. There are few better bird-watchers' paradises in any city anywhere in India.

Bridging that estuary was an iron bridge, what's left of it now in disuse and in the process of being taken over by wild vegetation. But in 1840, the Elphinstone Bridge had years ahead of it if the 'jungle' of Adyar and Guindy hadn't become one of the best and most populated addresses in the city in the last 30 years. The opening up of Adyar-Guindy necessitated a new bridge and the old bridge was left to the elements.

There's a story told about the first days of the new bridge. When Raman came to town one day, he accosted a spiv standing by the old bridge and asked him what they planned to do with the old bridge. The spiv, it is related, persuaded Raman to pay Rs. 10,000 for it in order to dismantle it and cart it back to his village!

Fortunately that did not happen — though the money did change hands a few days later, it is said. Later, however, the iron of Elphinstone Bridge was sold by tender and dismantled. What was left is still around to enjoy a new lease of life. Structurally sound for pedestrians, it could be cleared, freshened up and made a promenade for morning walkers with alcoves for bird-watchers, equipped with telescope or otherwise. And of an evening, why not allow the promenade to be used by quality-monitored food carts *a la* Singapore? If Government is not willing to act, surely there are enough private interests around in Madras to make a landmark of the Elphinstone Bridge again?

Looking back — for action tomorrow

(By A Staff Reporter)

In all this excitement to draw up plans to make a heritage zone of Mylapore-San Thomé, only one thing is certain. And that is that the area, ancient Mylapore, which was pushed far from shore by the Portuguese after 1522 to create San Thomé, and the new Mylapore, that developed where it is today through the efforts of the Vijayanagar 'governors' of this part of Tondaimandalam, has the strongest historical reasons for conservation efforts to be spent on it.

Tamil tradition has Mylapore as over 2500 years old. Thiruvalluvar, it is said, lived and sang here. Christian tradition, as much an article of faith, has Thomas who Doubted, the Apostle of India, living and preaching in this part of the Coromandel from about 65 A.D. till his death in 72 A.D. Today, there is much associated with that legend that survives between the Mylapore beach and the Mount of St Thomas.

Ptolemy the Greek geographer wrote of the great port of Maillarpha about 140 A.D. From the 6th to the 8th Centuries, this was the chief port of the Pallavas of Kanchi and it was from here that the culture of India first went to the lands of the east. It was to this great port that the Arabs and the Nestorians and Marco Polo came at different times, from the Pallava period to the 13th Century. And it is Maila and Meilan and Mirapor they all also called Betumah, 'The Town of Thomas'.

After the Pallavas, the prosperity of Mylapore declined and it was little more than a small town when the Portuguese established their settlement in its place and pushed it back from the shore. But of it Camoens, the author of the national epic of the Portuguese, *The Lusiads* (1572) sang:

*Here rose the potent city,
 Meliapor
 Named, in olden time rich, vast
 and grand;...*

A lineage as ancient as that, a town associated with Thiruvalluvar and Thomas, the Pallavas and the Portuguese, certainly deserves its heritage protected. But to find common consent of what that heritage is and all of what it should encompass will be the first hurdle to be crossed in any plan to 'save' Mylapore.

Broken bottles

Swarming mosquitoes

Smelly dung heaps

Mangy dogs

**And this is your
 child's playground?**

One of 'Concern for Calcutta's' posters

Citizens' concern

(By A Staff Reporter)

Madras has its EXNORA and it is doing a commendable job in several localities — but not without problems. One of which is cleaning garbage from a street of members and dumping it on another memberless street. Of course, the new dump has

been decided on with the Corporation authorities and if they don't clear it, well, then... But the point is that even if they clean it, some of these dumps are horrific and health hazards. There must, in these circumstances, be some other way EXNORA can handle this problem.

Calcuttans, taking a leaf out of the EXNORA book, have now launched a new movement, CONCERN FOR CALCUTTA, whose aim is to rid their city of garbage. Could there be any lessons for us in the Calcutta plans? A report on CONCERN says, among other things:

Concern's soul-stirring campaign exhorts "Calcuttans to act before they are reduced to living like pigs in rubbish heaps". "Garbage," Concern says, "is generated by all of us. The trouble starts when it is not properly disposed. It keeps piling up and then takes the shape of a community problem."

The campaign denies that cleanliness is not possible in the city and says "think of the Metro stations. They

remain clean because each one of us observes the basic rules of cleanliness. This only proves that we can be disciplined if we want to be."

The 'fight garbage' programme is a three-pronged attack on garbage and aims at uniting the government, the people and the local municipalities to ensure a cleaner neighbourhood.

- The first step will be to identify critical areas where garbage accumulates.

- The second step will be to set up *para* committees to tackle the problem at the local level.

- The third step covers a wide range of activities, including talking to local municipal authorities; educating residents about the necessity of garbage clearance and, finally, organising protests against accumulation of garbage.

Calcutta being Calcutta, one locality made "a small beginning" by "FORCING" the conservancy workers to clean up the area, the report concluded. The emphasis is editorial!

A horrific AIDS story

Tamil Nadu, and our city in particular, *The Man From Madras Musings* is told, is the worst AIDS-affected part of the country after Maharashtra, particularly Bombay. Amongst the many reasons given for the spread of the disease in the state is the 800-or-so prostitutes who were rescued and brought back from Bombay some time back, 60 per cent of them with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS.

These women, it is said, mainly served migrant labour from Tamil Nadu and this labour, shuttling between Bombay and Tamil Nadu, has helped to spread the disease in Tamil Nadu. The return of the women and an unplanned future for them has not helped the situation any.

Now several organisations in the state are drawing up plans to help the Government fight the disease, but even as these plans are being drawn up there come horror stories about the disease, at least one of which was a consequence of a lack of knowledge about it. *The Man From Madras Musings* was horrified when he heard this story the other day.

It happened in an industrial township in the mofussil. A voluntary blood donor from a large industrial unit did his good turn for the day only to find himself in a horrific situation. When the local hospital 'blood bank' tested his blood, it found the dread HIV in it. Blood banks are now facing this dilemma in many parts of the country: What do you do when you find a donor with HIV, apart from destroying the blood? In this case, the doctor informed the man's employer!

The employer immediately summoned the union and both were unanimous the man had to go. As word spread, the landlord wanted him to quit his quarters and principals wanted his children to leave school and college. In desperation, the man went back to the hospital for help — and was fortunate enough to meet the senior 'blood bank' doctor who was shocked by the man's story.

Telephoning the man's employer, the doctor arranged for a meeting with all the workers and addressed them. When the doctor sipped some coffee from a cup the ostracised worker was drinking from, the whole factory welcomed back their colleague with apologies.

Somewhere in that story, it seems to *MMM*, there are several morals.

Playland planned

VGP Panneerdas had a dream. He wanted to develop an Indian version of Disneyland near Madras. The site he had chosen for his dream was in north Madras, near Egmore. But Government decided a power station got priority over funland and so the VGP brothers called the site a day and began concentrating on Golden Beach.

Golden Beach and its surroundings may be fun for the thousands from in and around Madras who flock to it, but *desi* 'Disneyland' it isn't. Which is why the VGP family still keep talking of making the eldest brother's dream come true.

Meanwhile, someone else has got into the act — and hopes to have *Kishikinta* (a name taken from the *Ramayana's* animal kingdom) ready before the year

is out. Work on this Rs. 12 crore playland is getting underway on a 105-acre site near Tambaram.

The man behind creating this 'Garden of Eden' packed with fun and learning for children is M C Punnoose, better known as Appachan. It was Appachan who gave India its first 3-D film, *My Dear Kuttichathan*, which appealed to young and old. And he's the producer whose *The Bible Doordarshan* promises to bring to home audiences as a serial come September. Now the

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

70-year-old Appachan and his son Jijo plan to provide even greater mass entertainment with this theme park of theirs.

If anything stands in *Kishikinta's* way, it's the distance from the city. But if Golden Beach can attract the hordes it does and if the Tourist Fair can attract crowds from miles around, why not the latest in fun technology teamed with the wonders of nature?

Waters from the sea

This summer promises to be different; Metrowater says all of us should have enough water to see us through till the North-east Monsoon. But as the city grows, water will remain a perennial problem for it.

No wonder, many enviously look at the vast stretch of ocean that laps Madras's shore! If only we could do something with even a part of that water, all would certainly be well with us. But to desalinate that water you must have the riches of Saudi Arabia, has been the rueful but popular view till now.

There's at least one business house which seems to have different ideas about that. TEAM appears to think a desalination plant to produce 5 million litres a day is a feasible proposition. It has now submitted a proposal to Metrowater on the basis of a joint venture company being promoted by TEAM with several public and private sector companies and institutions participating.

If TEAM's proposal to desalinate sea water for Madras is

accepted, this will be the first such plant in India, another first for Madras.

No beauty in this

Singaravelan — Beautiful Velan — is what *The Man from Madras Musings* got taken to see the other day. And he came out of it wondering, why, oh why, Kamal Hasan?! Of course, the answer is that the moolah will come in very handy to make

better pictures. But must a crowd-pleaser be so object?

Kamal's virtuosity dominates the film and he must have had a ball making it. But must the talent of one of the country's top five actors be wasted on song and dance and burlesque?

The Man From Madras Musings has nothing against all three. He goes back to Harold Lloyd, Laurel and Hardy, the Marx Brothers and Abbott and Costello. To Astaire and Rogers and Carmen Miranda. And to the old Hollywood musicals. But all of them had some things in common. A certain professionalism before and behind the camera by everyone concerned. A certain brevity, based on the premise that too much of a good thing palls. And songs and fights that don't go on and on and on. Fights could be pure fun, they could be vicious but short, they, however, CANNOT afford to take themselves so seriously for so long that they become burlesque that's not laughable at.

Take out Kamal and here's a film that will fall flat. With Kamal it could have been an hour shorter and been acceptable even to *MMM*. As it is, the couple who were with me feel confident it will be a box office success. And they're probably right, as the longer the fantasy and the lower the humour, the more our audiences will lap it up. But a few like *MMM* will always rue the fact that Kamal can't keep it shorter and more tasteful if in such films he must act.

MMM

OUR READERS WRITE

Not by ads alone

Congratulations! They say that time really flies. And how! I know now. One year of excellent reading material. I certainly pray your effort continues. Having said this, here are a few points which you need to consider.

- 1) Your conviction that the journal should not carry a face value (may be it is a priceless editor for a few sentimental folks like me) should change; you must at least accept voluntary contributions from individual readers.
- 2) One good reason for such a recommendation is my own present predicament. Right from the time I started receiving your copies, I have been reading your appeals for advertisements. But I haven't been able to respond? Why? Because when I need to spend my Company's money I have to justify the same in terms of the value of the advertisement vis a vis the media reach etc. Under such circumstances, I cannot justify spending even a thousand rupees on *MM*. On the contrary, nobody can question me (excepting perhaps my wife) spending a hundred rupees on a worthy issue like *MM*. I am sure a lot of others share my views.
- 3) Please therefore drop your conviction of running *MM* only through advertisements. You will not make it. In the process why should we see *MM* die a slow death? Let us pray.

S Maheish
Ground Floor
7-A Murray's Gate Road
Madras-600 018.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If there are readers like you who feel *MM* is excellent reading, be sure it has advertising reach too. More of this anon.

Rightful place

The rightful place for the marble bust of E S Montagu, the English statesman, should be in the Legislature Building in Fort St George, NOT in a corner of the first floor of the nearby Fort Museum, where it is kept now.

Montagu, known to students of history for the famous Montagu-Chelmsford reforms, was also responsible for bringing in the Govt. of India Act, 1919, that introduced the concept of legislative government in India

for the first time. The bust was in fact in the lobby of the Legislature building till the 1960's. Thanks to the efforts of the late C R Reddy, this marble bust of this statesman and man of action was installed. Annie Besant, the Raja of Panagal, R K Shanmugham Chetty, Dr P Subbarayan, S R Annamalai Chetty, C P Ramaswami Iyer, K V Reddi Naidu, A P Palro, Namburam Chetty amongst many others contributed to it. The bust should be restored to its rightful place.



Lord Montagu in the Fort Museum

Lord Willington, then Governor of Madras, in a letter to C R Reddy (a Cambridge contemporary of Montagu), dated November 28, 1922, wrote as under:

"I have been thinking a lot about your idea to put up a bust of Edwin Montagu in the Council Chamber and feel I must write and ask you to go slow in the matter for a bit. In the first place, I think, we are bound to ask the President's view before anything definite is decided. I ought to have thought of this before, for the Council Chamber, and all to do with it, is under his control. Perhaps you have done so already.

"And in the second place, I suppose we must consider whether we should reserve our Council precincts for busts or statues of great Madras Statesmen, rather than filling it with busts and statues of my eminent countrymen!

"I own, I feel, E M deserves my special recognition, but shall I be establishing a precedent, which may be undesirable?"

This letter of Lord Willington to C R Reddy was exhibited during the Tamil Nadu Archives week in February of this year.

C A Reddi,
57 E V K Sampath Road
Vepery-600 007.

How's it done?

Madras Musings is simply superb. In these hard days when even salt costs money, I really wonder how you could manage to give *Musings* free of cost.

C S Baskar
Magnum Electric Company Pvt Ltd
2 Ramavaram Road
Manappakkam-600 089.

Where collecting's 'semi-devotion'

Watching him gingerly removing his prized collection from a large blue suitcase fitted with a lock, you sense you are in for a treat. Seventeen-year-old V.P. Shyam's stamp and coin collections have, in fact, caused a minor furore among collectors and simple admirers alike. From a first high school exhibition at the Gill Adarsh School this year, to special displays at the Madras Coin Society and a forthcoming showing at the city's philatelic organisation, Shyam's collecting passion is being enjoyed by all. Even though fellow aficionados form the majority of the visitors, "for obvious reasons", Shyam claims "lay people are also interested."

With good reason too. Not only is the range of stamps and coins extensive and attractive, it is also quite precious. Shyam's one lakh stamps, for instance, ranging from Hungarian three dimensionals to the much coveted 'trek' stamps that are partially misprinted or imperfect, are altogether worth "well over five lakhs", he says with well-deserved pride.

This small-time hobby started innocuously enough — he was eleven, when a neighbour handed him a US stamp — but has now grown into a full-blown passion. Increasingly shared by his ten-year-old brother, V.P. Karthik,

and steadfastly sustained by his parents. Philately and, to a lesser degree, coin collecting, are a "semi-devotion which helps the family to stay united and stimulated in an enjoyable pursuit — so much healthier than television," says Abirama Sundari, Shyam's mother, an S.B.I. cashier.

It is not only from the systematic process of compilation that a collector



V P Shyam

gets enjoyment from this pursuit. Several other qualities — tidiness, perseverance, discipline and imagination — are developed, "and so you know you are doing something more than just collecting objects for the sake of themselves," Shyam observes. Tidiness is clearly "a must", he says. Each stamp has to be painstakingly mounted, preferably with tweezers, and accurately catalogued. Perseverance to "single-mindedly go after the stamp or coin you want,

despite the potential obstacles of high demand or expense" is also developed, he explains. Discipline to research as much historical and geographical data as you can, "so that you can place the item in an accurate context", he claims, is also essential. And imagination and skill, to write concise summaries of this information for the individual captions, are also needed.

Shyam sends up to thirty letters a month to pen friends all over the world in order to exchange stamps and views. He gets these contacts from various English language magazines, such as *The National Geographic*, and so his collecting is coupled with socialising — "even if it is of a strictly long-distance nature", he laughs. Even though Shyam claims to be a "shy type" who is more at home with his hobby than with teenage buddies, he is popular at school and admired both for his diligent collecting and his consistently high grades in maths.

V.P. Muthu, Shyam's father, who teaches Maths and English at the Alwarpet Corporation High School, is justly proud of his sons and willingly gives them money to buy Indian stamps, which form the cream of their collection. A recent commemorative philatelic series called "A Great Life for India" features Rajiv Gandhi amongst the "greats". It is by no means the most precious stamp Shyam owns in financial terms, yet it is a "firm favourite". Both Shyam and Karthik love India and believe Rajiv to have been the embodiment of "all that is good in this country".

"If I ever get to study abroad," Shyam says of his tentative plans to become an engineer once school is finished, "I could never be away for too long: Just think, I would miss the pleasure of going to the G.P.O. to collect my Indian stamps in person. No matter how many exciting foreign stamps or coins I can get hold of, India is always best," he claims with a glow of unabashed patriotism. **Lisa Durante**



Madras film hoardings have always caught the eye of passers-by. They even fascinated India's Mr Art, M F Hussain. But now Madras cinema promoters have gone one better. The parking lot of the Salfire attracts all passers-by with this bigger-than-lifesize bit of modelling to promote Engal Veettu Velan in which the entire T Rajendar family have some part or another to play. The Lord's blessings on the public, it is no doubt hoped, will bring them into the theatre to bless the film with success. (Photograph by K N CHARI)

A Ray so serene

(These lines by MOVIE MAN were written shortly before Satyajit Ray's death. The sentiments expressed are, today, a tribute to his memory.)

With the award of the Special Oscar to Satyajit Ray, India has at last begun to recognise the genius the world had already acclaimed.

It was in the 1950's that Ray filmed a new trail with *Pather Panchali*, a film with a grammar and lexicon all its own. The trials and tribulations, hurdles and heartburns, stresses and strains he underwent during the making of *Pather Panchali* have since passed into legend

KINEMAYANA

and became part of the history of world cinema.

Pather Panchali was moulded into a highly cinematic screenplay out of the novel by the famed Bengal-writer Bibhuthi Bhushan Bannerjee during a sea voyage. After the film was made, it hibernated in cans for many a month. It is indeed a matter of shame and regret that people in India who today shower praise on Ray, did not bother to even take a look at the film when he was struggling to find a buyer.

Not many will be aware that *Pather Panchali* was offered lock, stock and barrel for a mere song to the Gemini boss and movie mogul, S S Vasan. But on the advice of his executive producer, M A Parthasarathy, he declined the offer, for both felt that the

film would become a classic and needed worldwide exposure. Vasan and MAP proved right! But for the active interest and encouragement of great moviemakers like John Huston and Jean Renoir, *Pather Panchali* would not have been exposed to Western audiences. The rest, as they say, is history.

During the International Film Festival held in Madras in 1978, Ray and this writer's soulmate became very friendly, spending much time together talking about movies, movies and movies. The famed film-maker was anxious to watch some of the South Indian movies screened as part of the Indian Panorama. He asked his new-found friend whether those films were subtitled in English. When the answer was in the negative, Ray refused to watch the films.

According to the Master, even though a film is basically a visual medium, the spoken word too has its own impact. Not providing an inkling of the dialogue to the viewer was most unfair to the film's maker, he felt.

The Special Oscar awarded Ray has been awarded only to six all-time greats so far. The other five are Howard Hawks, Jean Renoir, Orson Welles, Akira Kurosawa and Charlie Chaplin. For an Indian to be in this company is signal achievement indeed, something which every Indian should take pride in.

The View from Fort St George...

... by R.K.K.

Reprimands — and bouquets

Newspersons, particularly, and women MLAs of the Tamil Nadu Assembly would have memories of the tenth session etched deep in their minds — the former for the big stick the Speaker wielded against those who had broken the ground rules while reporting legislature proceedings, and the latter for the generous attention paid to women. The big stick and the brickbats were followed by appreciation and a compliment paid to the newspapers in Tamil Nadu, particularly the journalists covering the Assembly. Said Speaker Muthiah, turning to the Press gallery,

"You are considered as a wing of the Assembly, a part of this House, by me and the Chief Minister, Ms Jayalalitha. The Government has no ill-will against the Press, and good newspapers should continue to discharge their democratic functions."

The Speaker's "members-of-the-Assembly" assurance to the journalists, however, did not quite put an end to the fear of all players in the newspaper world in Tamil Nadu, of some incoming

measures to curb "scurrilous writing" which, it was felt, might be used to throttle press freedom.

Action, he said, had been initiated against three newspapers—*The Illustrated Weekly of India*, *Malai Murasu*, Coimbatore, and *Murasoli* for deliberately distorting the Assembly proceedings. An arrest warrant was issued against K.P. Sunil, former Madras correspondent of the Bombay weekly for his failure to appear before the Assembly to be reprimanded for his article which had lowered the dignity of the House. Summons were issued to the editors of *Murasoli* and *Malai Murasu* directing them to appear before the House for reprimand. While *Murasoli* had published expunged portions of the proceedings, the Kovai paper had published wrong reports of a DMK member being assaulted inside the House, it was stated. Meanwhile some senior editors in the country have appealed to the Speaker to rescind his ruling against Sunil, citing freedom of expression. Madras journalist bodies have also appealed to the Speaker.

Wrong reporting of Assembly proceedings has happened before. But the method often adopted by the reporter concerned to steer out of trouble was to meet the Speaker in his chambers and apologise profusely. He would sometimes meet the Leader of the House too. Even editors had been hauled up, and the last editor to appear before the Privileges Committee belonged to an English evening from Madras (both the editor and the paper are now dead). The issue was an editorial criticising C. Subramaniam who was then a Minister, and the first question from the Committee was: "Where are you from?" Came the embarrassed reply, "I'm from Ayyampet", followed by polite smirks from the Committee members (like 'Kumbakonam' in the olden days, 'Ayyampet' also had a connotation not complimentary).

All said and done, however, there have been changes in reporting styles in recent times. Old-limers see many of the new breed of reporters as being deliberately provocative. Several journals also encourage their correspondents to use the language of the

political platform. But none of this is reason for any measures that could be used to stifle the voice of the press. Indian has one of the freest presses in the world and that freedom must be safeguarded in every way. At the same time, the dignity of the House must also be protected. A meeting of the Speaker with the Press might help in restoring a measure of happiness all round in the present situation.

Meanwhile, women received a big hand from the Chief Minister who said that when "women MLAs are present, it gives an impression that the House is full. When they are not there, it appears as if a quorum is lacking."

The Chief Minister's compliments apart, the Government is to set up shortly, and for the first time, a State Commission for Women to arrive at solutions to the special problems facing them, including atrocities against women. The Government is also planning to give entrepreneurship training to one lakh women to make them independent. These are among the many measures contemplated for the welfare of women.

A FRAME FOR SUCCESS

In keeping with the spirit of liberalisation, the Exim policy for 1992-97 aims at globalisation of India's foreign trade spearheading the advent of better technology, greater investment and more efficient production in the Indian scene. All this is to be done by giving imports their due. The eye-opener was our balance of payments crisis that demonstrated how imperative imports were. Following this crisis, Government had to shackle imports, resulting in the shrinking of industrial growth to the detriment of exports.

Considering this, the new policy has dumped the actual user conditionality and the canalised items are fewer. In fact, all the capital goods, raw materials and components can now be freely imported. Only two short negative lists for exports and imports have been retained and these consist of items which the economy right now can ill-afford to freely trade in. More heartening is the policy statement that, to sustain imports, the country can borrow Rs. 10,400 cr. of forex from bilateral and multilateral sources to finance its trade. The rest must come

from India's exports, which ought to increase by at least 14 per cent in dollar terms over the coming years.

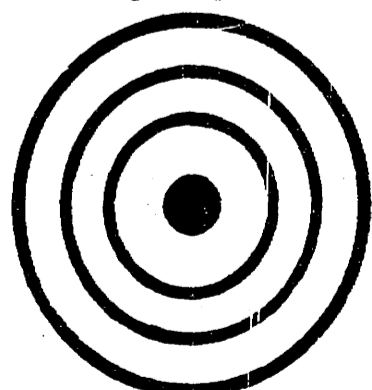
Stripped of the flab — procedures and permissions — the policy is leaner in content now. Simple in conceptualisation and comprehensible in character, it negates the role of fixers and middlemen who made themselves indispensable. With an evenhanded approach, it steers clear of lobbyists and micro-level interventions.

Yet, at the same time, it might be wondered, and rightly so, whether India is ready to face international competition. Clearly it is not. Worse, some of our domestic products face the ominous prospect of becoming extinct. Our industry and trade, too long under State protection, need this jolt to spur them into activity. And surely only efficient performers deserve to survive.

As deeds are better than intentions, it is to be hoped that this policy, unlike its predecessors, will actually help exports mount in volume.

Meanwhile, here are a few suggestions bound to benefit in this context:

Sundaram Finance Ltd (Current Market Price: Rs. 282/-): The conservative pioneers of hire purchase and finance, this Madras-based company of the TVS Group, has announced gratifying results for the half



BULL'S EYE

year ended September 1991. A subsidiary is expected to be launched soon in partnership with the State Bank of Mysore (SBM) and the General Insurance Corporation (GIC). This subsidiary is expected to handle issue management, mergers and acquisitions, apart from portfolio management, investment counselling and tax planning. While Sundaram Finance will have a 51% stake, GIC will have a 35% holding and the rest will be held by SBM. The performance of this company is expected to improve significantly as a result of increasing volumes of business. The scrip is

consolidating at current levels. Buy for medium term gains.

Manali Petrochemical Ltd. (Current Market Price: Rs. 44/-): Promoted by SPIC, this company manufactures import substitutes propylene oxide, propylene glycol and polyol. Its only competitor is UB Petrochemicals Ltd. The company earned cash profits within 3½ months of operation. It is diversifying into the manufacture of products such as diphenyl methane di-isocyanate (MDI) and toluene di-isocyanate, a vital raw material for the polyurethane industry. Reportedly, negotiations are on with buyers in Australia, Singapore and other countries for export of polyol. Buy for a target price of Rs. 85 in the medium term.

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd. (Current Market Price: Rs. 375/-): Promoted by Dr. Anji Reddy, this Hyderabad-based company has produced excellent half-year results for the period ended September '91. It declared a dividend of 30% apart from a 1:2 bonus in 1991. The future outlook is highly promising, as the company introduces two or three new drugs every year which enjoy global demand. We estimate a share price of Rs. 600 for this share for the March '93 results. The share quoting at Rs. 375 is therefore an excellent buy.

K. Gopalakrishnan

Whodunnit in Madurai

The Tamil language press has been screaming 'murder' these past few weeks. Loud headlines, horrifying tales of murder and mayhem, and reams of letters to the editor have been appearing about the crime situation in the second largest city in the State. And the biggest sensation of them all has been the 'Millionaire Murder Case' whose juicy titbits of sex, scandal and murder have even fascinated the Madras audience. Leading Tamil newspapers in Madras have covered the trial and carried pictures of the rich victim, the accused and the woman in the case.

On June 4, 1989, a car bearing a Madurai district registration number was

on the lonely highway when he was on his way to meet his third spouse.

Who had murdered the Madurai millionaire, and why? The Oomachikulam police unit in Madurai, which took up the investigation, examined the victim's three wives, members of the family and staff.

The second wife — or widow — Pushpa Shanmughanathan, who was from Singapore, was an attractive, vivacious woman. Police inquiries revealed that a regular visitor to the Shanmughanathan household was a man named Mahendran, a 'macho' bus driver for the Pandyan Transport Corporation. His regular visits, alleged the police, had paved the way for an intimate relationship between Mahendran and Pushpa.

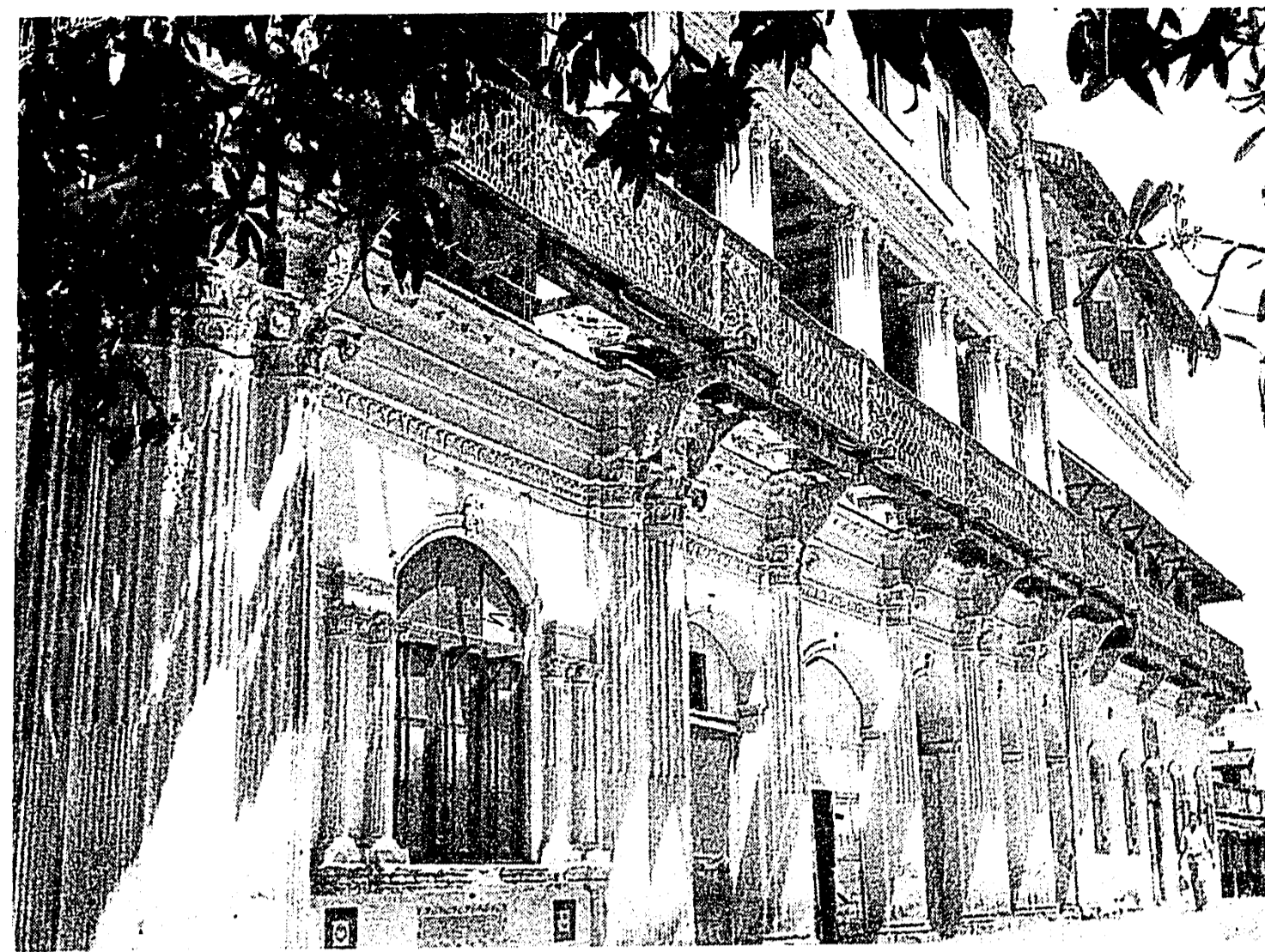
When the husband came to know about his second wife's affair he raised hell, the police stated. And that sowed the seeds of murder in the minds of the lovers, the police claimed.

The police arrested Pushpa, Mahendran and his friends Nagarajan and Sekhar and charged the four with murder, conspiracy and other connected crimes. The arrest of the attractive woman and her alleged lover caused a sensation in and around the temple town.

The trial came up for hearing before the Madurai District and Sessions Judge. Huge, curious and sensation-seeking crowds thronged the court daily and press photographers vied with each other to take pictures of the accused, particularly Pushpa.

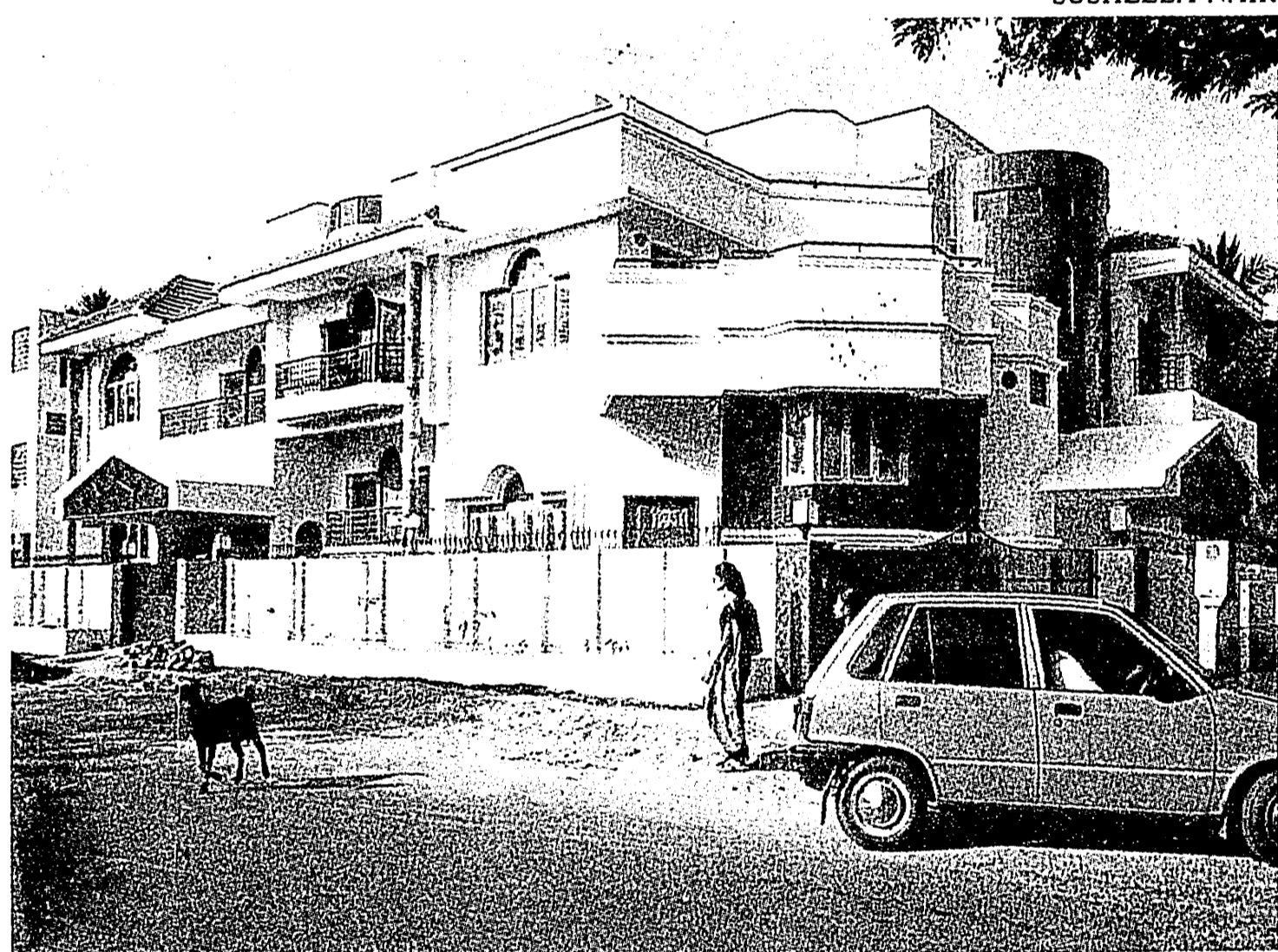
As many as 21 witnesses, including the two other widows and the dead man's driver, testified for the prosecution. After a long trial the learned judge pronounced judgement in the first half of April. Before a packed court, he acquitted the four accused. He held that the prosecution had failed to prove its case as required by law. As Pushpa walked out of the court, the photographers were at it again, vying with each other to get her picture. Few succeeded.

Who-then-dunnit in Madurai? Wait and see, say police and prosecution.



Mansions of the past and the present. The old, Kushaldas Gardens on Poonamallee High Road, reflects the severe orderliness of a more disciplined era, with its rows of arches (many now blocked) and half and full ionic pillars, some of them with Corinthian touches in their capitals. Note the iron railings of the balconies and the elaborate angles supporting them. Kushaldas Gardens has had many avatars: Palace of the Maharajah of Travancore, home of one of Madras's ... & THE NEW leading North Indian families and NCC headquarters. Today, this splendid old mansion leaves passers-by wondering, "Will it be allowed to survive?"

The mansion of the present is in Kasturba Nagar, Adyar, and reflects the architecture-gone-wild of today. Lacking the discipline of the old, it has every geometrical shape possible — and almost as many building materials in its construction. Where do mansions go from here? (Photographs: The old by K N CHARI, the new by SUSHEELA NAIR)



Aspects of the American dream

After a week of Ray on DD seeing Oliver Stone's **JFK** was the equivalent of being socked in the face. For Stone doesn't believe in subtlety as he goes about conveying his message in a way you just can't miss. The film depicts the efforts of a New Orleans District Attorney (Kevin Costner) who fights a relentless battle to prove that, during the probe into the Kennedy assassination, there had been a cover-up of a conspiracy involving the military industrial complex and government agencies.

What makes the film memorable is the first half hour in which Stone brilliantly captures the mood of a shocked nation as events unfold on their television screens. However, the rest of the film doesn't live upto the opening as it follows the convoluted trail that points to the cover-up.

If J.F.K. represented one aspect of the American dream, then the mobster Bugsy Seigel represented the other. Bugsy was the visionary who dreamed of a legalised gambling centre in the middle of the desert. This dream is

today the reality of Las Vegas. **Bugsy** the film was nominated for ten Oscars, but picked up only two on Awards night. Most disappointed must have been Warren Beatty who plays the title role with great zeal and panache.



There's fine support from Annette Bening, Harvey Keitel and Ben Kingsley, while the re-creation of period detail is excellent, amply justifying the Oscars for art direction and costume design.

1991 was the year of Jodie Foster. First the critical acclaim for **Silence of the Lambs** (for which she won her

second Oscar as best actress). Then her debut as a director with **Little Man Tate**. The film is about the problems of a child prodigy whose needs are not fully understood — either by his mother (Foster) or the teacher developing his skills. The sensitive portrayal of the state of childhood and good performances all round make up for the few dull passages in the film. All in all, an above-average debut for Jodie.

In **Mississippi Masala** Mira Nair studies race relations in the story of an Indian family uprooted from Idi Amin's Uganda and who settle in the United States. Matters come to a head when the daughter (Sarita Choudhary) falls in love with a Black American (Denzel Washington). There's a fine cast comprising assorted screen and television personalities (Roshan Seth, Sharmila Tagore, Mohan Gokhale and Anjan Sivastava among others), while

Nair's subtle direction is tinged with a wry sense of humour.

It's at once funny and sad to see Harold Lloyd in **Movie Crazy**, for this film was the last triumph of a great comedian. In his peak, Lloyd was the highest paid comedian in Hollywood. His films regularly outgrossed those of Chaplin's. Lloyd, with his penchant for breathtaking stunts, fused thrills with slapstick in a way that was pure magic on the screen. But with the coming of sound, Lloyd's brand of comedy seemed to lose its sheen and his films began to bomb at the box office. But **Movie Crazy** made in 1932 found Lloyd at his most effective in the new medium. In it he plays the quintessential common man who goes to Hollywood to become a star. Despite his best efforts to the contrary, he succeeds by the end!

Sixty years on, most of the gags seem fresh as mint, thus making **Movie Crazy** a fine introduction to the uninitiated as well as a strong reminder of the genius that was once Harold Lloyd.

MAKE MINE MADRAS
Featuring

GUNDOO - MALLI
by
JOMTON

On occasions of celebration, the thoughts of some of us turn to what others have been thinking all year round — liquor, for instance.

Some hundred-odd years ago, a British bard, who had long associations with Madras, published a collection of his poems. Most of it was scurrilous verse aimed at revealing and riling the foibles of his own countrymen and women in India at the time, no less than the natives of his host country. We natives are easily hurt at any reference to our pet shortcomings. But the fact that the British are blessed with a sense of humour to laugh at themselves did not help when it came to his country-

All this talk of scurrilous writing makes a reader, K. VARUGIS, remember a scurrilous writer of another age.

men hounding him out of the Empire for his writings.

One of his poems, running to nearly a hundred lines, was a warning to a still-surviving victualer of the day. He wrote: *McDowell, McDowell, Beware of the day When the Russians come sailing Through Bengal Bay...*

The gist of it was that the Cossacks, Siberians and Laplanders would then make a beeline for the victualer's godown and lap up all the delights

which is exactly what a latter day native entrepreneur did nearly a century later.

The bard was also prophetic in the sense that indeed the Russians came, though in more recent times, and bought up all or most of our tea, coffee and spices. This writer, attending auctions, has seen our powerful multinational traders blanch at the metro-nomic regularity with which the Russians flicked their fingers upwards to go away with much envied lots at phenomenal prices. The producers

The Tamil tycoons

(Continued from P3)

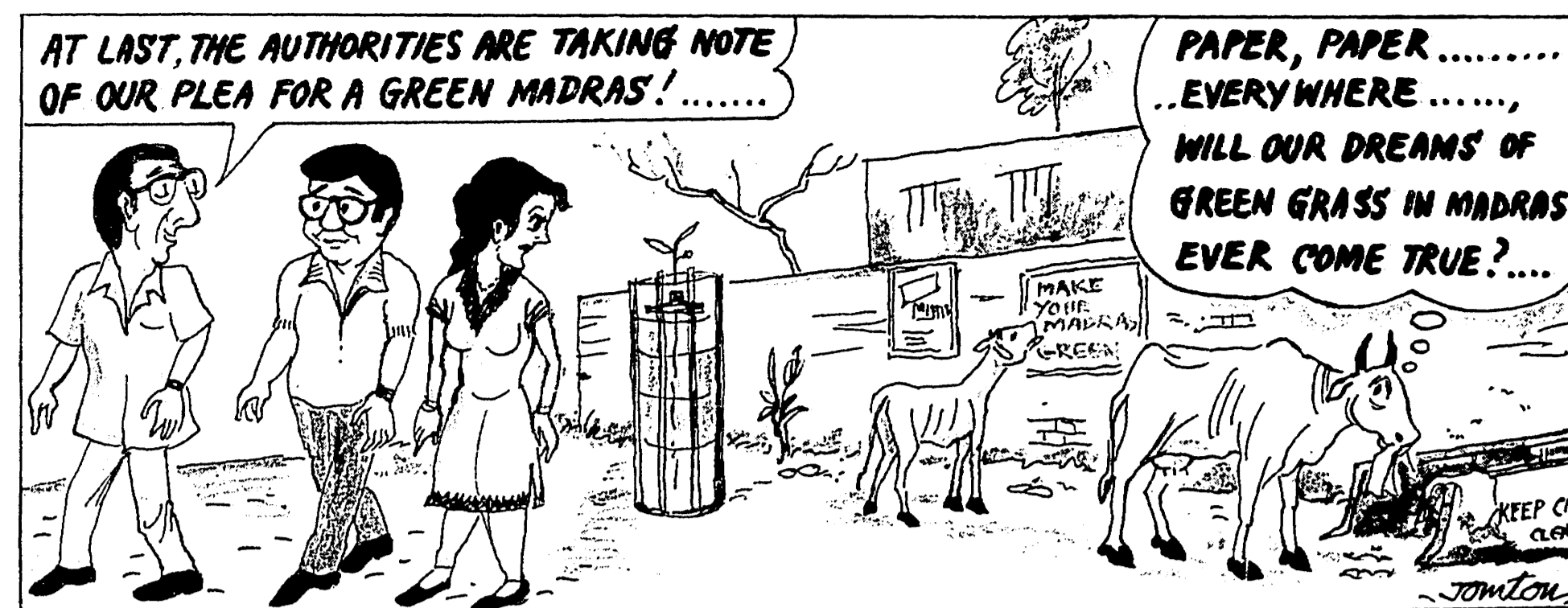
Brooke Bond in Bangalore. See how far you get. Or, for that matter, try and talk to the chief executive of the German giant Mico. See the barriers which are put up.

One of the blessings of business reporting in Madras is the near total absence of the 'PR' culture. In Bangalore, for example, you cannot get through to any public sector bigwigs unless you go through the Public Relations Department. The ubiquitous PR executives can either be helpful, or put up road blocks. They can also play favourites and make your life miserable.

Has anyone in recent times tried to talk to any of the senior IAS officers in Madras? If anyone has got an interview with the Industry Secretary, Finance Secretary or the TIDCO chairman, it is news to me. Are they also media shy?

For those of you who did not get to read *The Economic Times* article, what it essentially said was that the Tamil tycoon is generally inaccessible, is arrogant, has a lavish lifestyle and his management style is feudal. I wonder if the writer has ever covered a Birla company where the chief executive Birla is still called 'Babu'. Did the writer who sneers at industrialist MAM Ramaswamy's 60th birthday celebrations attend young Kumaramangalam Birla's wedding, when orchids were flown in from Singapore?

And what about the style in which Delhi tycoons live in their fabled farm



Caldwell, poet without mercy

glowed with pleasure and treated themselves to champagne. They straightaway also adopted one of Parkinson's Laws and raised their expenses to meet the boranza income. Pity, because some of these carefree bounties are irreversible, like wages, perks of managers, shareholders' dividends and the appetite of the Government exchequer for easy money. Nationally also it was for an artificial Rupee-Rouble arrangement, which has now backfired. The glow has also disappeared from the faces of the producers. They are now saddled with Parkinsonian levels of expenditure at home and a highly competitive market abroad, away from the Siberian snows or wherever the produce finally reached.

Who in the end drank the brew, for what kind of money and how much are matters of conjecture. The Russians themselves could not have got a great deal of it, judging by the way individual visitors stuffed their knapsacks whenever they chanced to come out here. The bard's early advice has become valid. We will have to consume all the produce ourselves and surely there are enough of us if we want production to continue unabated.

Coming back to the bard, he was devastating to his own race. His Alice was probably one of the young ladies who came to this country during winters in England with what was known as 'the fishing fleet' to look for husbands 'with prospects' in the Indian Services rather than mere looks. This Alice jilted Captain Brown of the Police who had fallen in love with her and became engaged to "that goose, Jenkins of the Revenue Survey". Frustrated and with all the venom of his profession he declares that he would mount a reign of terror.

Ho! each bloated Brahmin rascal, who my visage stem may see, Trembling with a vague amazement, shall perspire great drops of ghee ...Till at length the Star of India blazes on my loyal breast. And, thereafter, Terrible shall be my vengeance! I will wed a pariah maid, Future Browns shall yet wax browner, till at length in black they fade.

R.C. Caldwell was equally merciless with the natives. He writes about the good Sir Gammon Row, Dewan of the Protected State of Coconanutcore, who dismissed a complaint of missionary Ichabod Green for assault and battery at the hands of one Rowdy Row. His comment:-

A moral let us, like a foolscap, draw O'er the bald grand head of ancient Law.

There are many other examples. To call the Tamil tycoon names in today's context is just plain stupid.

It is this: All truth, all justice is Justice When a Brahmin is judged by a Brahmin Judge.

In Jollipore, he relates, lived and flourished a Parsee tradesman named Funnnydas Rummybhoj Cusejee, usually, Dressed in turband, and cloths And light-yellow shoes.

The poems contain such deliciously archaic words as "caitiff!" to admonish a native. The ghost "straight vanished" reminiscent of the French "evanouissement d'une splendeur immense..."

S.K. is on holiday and 'Looking Askance' will resume on his return.

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Hubby has the last word!

"How stupid of me not to have joined the...." hubby's words were barely audible.

"What are you muttering to yourself, darling?" I asked quite concerned at his worried look.

"Oh, I did not notice you, darling. I must have been thinking aloud. It isn't anything that would interest you," he said evasively.

"Come on, I know something is bothering you. Why don't you tell me what it is?" I urged.

"No use, my dear," he chuckled, and added, "Ignorance is bliss."

"Why are you talking in such vague terms? Tell me what's your problem!" I insisted.

"O.K., if you insist, my problem has got everything to do with money," he said at last, stressing the last word.

"Earning it or spending it?" I wanted to know.

"Both, my dear," he replied.

"Well, why should both earning and spending bother you? I thought it was very clear, you do the earning and I do the spending. And spending with care, for that matter," I said.

"That is clear, of course, and I'm not worried about either in the sense you mean, but...."

"Then in what other sense do you mean?" I asked.

"By the way haven't you always been complimenting me for not being too demanding on your purse?"

"Well, I don't deny that, but that's the whole trouble, you seem to be one

will it make a difference, darling? Tell me, how can we afford all these!"

"Ah, now I see that you are coming to the point. For every action there should be motivation, right? Yes, we can't afford all these only if we 'have'

N. Meera Raghavendra Rao

of those exceptions to your clan," hubby remarked.

"But I thought that's how an ideal wife should be and every husband would dream of having such a wife," I said not knowing why hubby was suddenly complaining of my frugality.

"That's why I think it is futile to discuss these things with you. If you had asked for a posh bungalow and an airconditioned imported car to go with or at a five star hotel like the Fort Aguada in Goa, it would have been different," hubby said all in one breath.

As I still failed to understand the implication of his words I said, "How

the money to spend and to have the money one should 'make' money and to make money you require 'motivation', explained hubby sounding like a teacher giving moral lessons to a child.

"How can you make money, darling? You make it sound as though it is like making *puris* and *chapattis*. I thought people 'earned' money and not 'made' money," I tried to enlighten him of the difference in the two expressions. But I noticed that hubby was annoyed when I pointed out the difference.

"You turned out to be a greater nitwit than what I took you for and a total 'misfit'. Don't think I lack the sense

not to understand the difference between 'earning' and 'making' money," accused hubby.

Suddenly an idea struck me and I said, "Darling, but how can you ever think of 'making' money in your kind of a job?"

It was hubby's turn to look surprised.

"Ah, I am happy that you have understood the basics. So you do agree that money can also be 'made' and not merely earned. If you stretch your imagination a little further, darling, you will also learn how it can be made and where it can be made," hubby tried to enlighten me.

"But... darling, doesn't this kind of money have a name, 'black money' to be precise?"

"Now you seem to have understood the difference very well," said he, looking pleased that I was able to understand 'complicated' things.

"Yes, darling, it is 'black money' no doubt, but how does it matter whether money is white or black so long as it has the purchasing power?" hubby posed the question to me this time.

"But...but, where is the need for this kind of money, dear, if we live within our means and our wants are limited? Why do we need a Mercedes Benz or a bungalow when our Maruti and the house we live in are adequate?"

"There you go again! We are back to square one. I thought it was stupid of me to have chosen this job and now I know it was greater stupidity to have chosen you as wife," said hubby desperately.

Quizzin' with Navin

(Quizmaster NAVIN JAYAKUMAR'S questions are all from the fortnight April 1-15)

1. What is the name of the new Tamil year?
2. Which nuclear power announced a suspension of its nuclear testing programme in the south Pacific?
3. Where was the Ardh Kumbh Mela held?
4. Which northeastern state came under President's rule?
5. Who are Megrahi and Fahima?
6. Where was the plenary session of the Congress-I held?
7. The editor and correspondent of which major Indian magazine are to be called to the bar of the House in the TN Assembly and reprimanded, for the first time in the history of the State legislature?
8. Name the company set up to market products manufactured by small-scale industries floated by the entrepreneurs themselves in Tamil Nadu?
9. The creation of a special police force of 1000 Grade-II constables and 3000 ex-servicemen was announced recently for what specific purpose?
10. How much income did the 18th All India Tourist and Industrial Fair net?
11. Where will the MRTS reach Chepauk?
12. Where is the country's first all-women's police station?
13. The Tamil Nadu Governor inaugurated the annual flower show of the Corporation of Madras on April 8. Where was it held?
14. Which film won the Swarna Kamal for Best Feature Film at the 39th National Film Festival, 1992?
15. What *yatra* did the Janata Party's Dr. Subramanyam Swamy launch on April 5?
16. Where in the city is a modern indoor stadium coming up?
17. The fourth largest party which contested the polls in the UK was the Natural Law Party with the symbol of a rainbow and the words 'Elections are a national celebration'. Name its founder.
18. What important summit will occur in Brazil in June this year?
19. Which is the only country currently doing restoration work on the ancient temples of Angkor Wat in Cambodia?
20. Which former tennis star announced that he had AIDS following a bypass surgery?

(Answers on Page 8)

V.K. is out of town, so 'Foods & Fads' takes a break.

Chandra Padmanabhan

Is it art or communication?

Koothupattarai, the premier *avant-garde* Tamil theatre group of Madras presented a short play called *Environmental Matters* at the Max Muller Bhavan on April 7th and stunned the audience. The audience was literally too stunned at the end of the 30-minute presentation to even discuss the content; everyone began talking of things totally unconnected with the presentation.

What does this tell us? It is perhaps high time N. Muthuswamy, director of Koothupattarai, thought seriously about the technique of his style. What is theatre? Is it communication? If it is, then the play failed completely. If it is art for art's sake, who is it for?

Muthuswamy says he is trying to evolve a theatre idiom of the *Ganas*, those portly funny bracket figures found in every temple in South India. They have exaggerated clownish expressions and Muthuswamy says he has derived inspiration from them. He has also drawn from his great passion, Therukoothu. But such folk theatre is all communication...!

Govt. enthusiasm

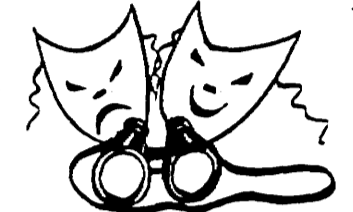
It is summer. And not all kids are at home watching Star TV. All day long or enrolled in crash courses. The new trend is to send your child to an arts and crafts camp.

Many housewives are cashing in on their creativity and have put up small



Learning to work the puppets at a summer workshop

THE VIEW FROM THE WINGS



banners outside their homes announcing arts and crafts camps.

There are, of course, the established institutions offering workshops in the arts. The C.P. Arts Foundation's is the best known one. But a newcomer is the Jawahar Bala Bhavan's. This Government institution, with good facilities for children, has not been heard of all these days. The Government, however, has formed a directorate for arts and culture and has put a dynamic officer in charge. Girija Vaidyanathan is enthusiastically trying to revive Bala Bhavan. She has plans to shift some activities of the Bala Bhavan to the Children's Gallery at the

Museum. It would be great if that can happen soon.

The Museum, meanwhile, has got an I.A.S. officer as director and Mr. Raman is an amicable, enthusiastic man with great plans for it. The splendid South Indian Bronzes show he organised was inaugurated by the Chief Minister. The gallery was decorated by Thota Tharani and some classical Bronzes were on display.

More arts & crafts

Talking of workshops, there is one for young dancers too. They can find



Ritual dancing at a village festival (Photograph by S. ANWER)

out all they want to know about dance texts and theory from May 15th to May 30th at the Fine Arts Foundation. Details from S. Viswanathan, 3/6 Abhiramapuram 1st Street, Madras 600 018.

The Save the Children Fund's Nutrition-on-Wheels project is conducting a workshop in arts, crafts and theatre for girls of fishermen's villages on the east coast road at Sulerukattu Kuppam.

Last year's workshop was very successful. Theatre movement exercises built such confidence in the women that their encounter with a gynaecologist was totally uninhibited. Dr. Kalyani Nithyanandan had spoken to them with such humour about Woman and her anatomy and all the essentials a girl should know that the women (aged between six and sixty) were, they told me, keenly looking forward to the camp this summer.

There are also lecture demonstrations of music and dance planned at this workshop. Dancer Usha Srinivasan, who has a facile way of explaining the

basic elements of Bharatha Natyam to lay persons, is sure to find the village enjoying her demonstrations.

Village festivals

Summer is a time of thanksgiving, of propitiation, of hope in the villages. It is a time for temple festivals and all those rituals involving dance and music. Everywhere in the villages there are night performances.

The famous Bhagavatha Mela festival at Melatur near Thanjavur is on from May 15th for a week. The Bhagavatha Mela *Natakas* were the inspiration for Rukmini Devi Arundale's dance dramas.

Dates to note

In Madras there are a series of Bharatha Natyam *arangetrams* at the Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan in Mylapore in spite of the heat.

The American Centre continues its feature films on Wednesdays at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. — four comedies are scheduled for May — and also its video shows on the heroes of America, the 'American Immortals'.

The Narada Gana Sabha has a drama festival of Tamil social plays presented by Radhu from May 1st to May 9th.

R.S. Manohar presents *Velicham* on May 15th and Geethanjali presents a play called *Kanavanukku Kalyanam* on May 16th at NGS.

Anyone else doing anything else? Why don't you write in and tell Musings well in advance. 'View from the Wings' is interested in telling Madras well ahead what it is getting in the arts.

Off to Delhi

The Galleries are quiet. Sakshi has gone to Delhi with a grand show of southern artists.

V.R. Devika

An architect's art seen in Delhi

In the April 1st issue of Madras Musings, V.R. Devika referred to the sculpture that British sculptor Stephen Cox created in Mamallapuram for the British Council's new building in Delhi. Stephen Cox's work has been the subject of comment in Mark Tully's book *No Full Stops in India*. Now KAJAL BASU has reviewed it in *The Economic Times* in a caustic piece which we are certain would interest Madras readers. We publish bits and pieces from it.



The much-debated work of art

—THE EDITOR

All great art confuses the hell out of everybody but its creator. All bad art does the same. In between lies a whole sea of indifferent aesthetic pea-soup on which diet civilisation has deteriorated from flint to diamond-headed drills.

The black granite humongosity at the new British Council building on Kasturba Gandhi Marg in the Capital seems to be a sigh of relief — as relief, really — at the end of long years of trying doggedly, and against all rules of East-West xenogenesis, to truss together the wayward 'tammantras', the five senses so necessary for the spontaneous combustion of Hindu creativity...

Stephen Cox, the sculptor of the work in question (many there are who would deride him as an architect, who used 20 *shilpis* to hammer out his living for him, but more of that later), has spent the past year overseeing its completion, abandoning his studio in London four times to tap out the finishing touches to the 40-tonne

monolith that was carved out at Mahabalipuram, near Madras.

For reasons of its own, the British Council chose to ignore BBC's Mark Tully's crabby but sincere reservations about Cox, explained in detail in his *No Full Stops in India*. Tully said that Cox was "honest and kind", qualities which had nothing to do with his ability and authenticity, and then went on to say baldly that he was a prize example of the genial "neo-colonialist" who was using the abundance of cheap labour and material in India for his own ends.

The British Council had approached Cox in February 1991, when it had just acquired the land off Connaught Circus... Considering how we Indians are adept at stretching Time to infinity, things didn't go off too badly. It so happened that on the day of the monolith's inauguration mid-week, it was the arguable dexterity of the last of the Cox's five senses — touch — that managed to put the finishing touches on his creation a bare hour before the...

preview. The last of the five trucks that

syndrome shorn of its crude methodology.

"It makes financial sense," says Cox. "I make the blueprints in my studio, send them down to V Arunachalam (dad there from the College of Architecture and Sculpture, Mahabalipuram, foreman to the stone-masons, teetering on the lip of the last block of stone just before it is knocked into place). "He goes about executing the plans and I fly down periodically to see that everything's fit and proper..."

(And that, dear reader, is what modern sculpture is all about. Now you know! — EDITOR)

Oh yes, a *Chick Peas Pulao* (Channa's not the only thing you can make with chick peas, you know!) — delicious, spicy and nutritious. Serve with *Masala Brain Curry* — quite inexpensive if you make it at home, you will see. Make *Masala Tinda*, a vegetable which is just coming into season. And, oh yes (again!), *Cashewnut Vadai*. It's indescribable. Believe me, you'll go nuts over it. It's well... different.

MASALA BRAIN CURRY

Ingredients

- 2 brains (sheep)
- 4 medium-sized onions (chopped fine)
- 1" ginger (Grind to a paste)
- 6 pods garlic
- 3 teaspoons chilli powder
- 2 teaspoons *dhania* powder
- ½ teaspoon turmeric powder
- 1 teaspoon cummin seeds
- 1 teaspoon *garam masala* powder
- ½ cup finely chopped mint and coriander leaves

- 1 sprig curry leaves
- 3-4 tbs oil
- 1 tbs milk (optional)
- Salt to taste
- 1 onion and 1 tomato separately for decoration

Method

Remove the thin membrane covering on the brain carefully and de vein it. Wash it carefully in the milk and water mixture. Keep it aside.

Put the chopped onions, tomatoes, ginger-garlic paste, all the *masala* powders (except *garam masala* powder), the brain pieces and salt to taste in a vessel. Add a little water and let it cook for 10 minutes. Remove from fire.

Heat oil in a *kadai*. Temper with curry leaves and cummin seed. Add the brain curry and cover for a few minutes. Then remove the lid and turn carefully without breaking the pieces. Add the *garam masala* powder. Fry on



a slow fire, turning once or twice, till the oil floats on top. Sprinkle the chopped mint and coriander leaves. Remove from fire. Decorate with onion rings and tomato slices. Serve with a *pulao*.

Mrs P RAGHUPATHY

CHICK PEAS PULAO

- 1 cup *basmati* rice, soaked in water for ½ hour, drained and set aside
- 1 cup *Kabuli channa*, soaked for at least eight hours and pressure cooked

- 2 or 3 onions, chopped fine

- 1 bay leaf
- 2 cloves
- 4-6 tablespoons ghee

Salt to taste

A few mint leaves for garnishing

GROUND MASALA

- 1 onion
- 2 cloves garlic

Small bunch coriander leaves

Small bunch mint leaves

- 1" piece ginger
- 1 teaspoon chilli powder
- ½ teaspoon turmeric powder
- 1 teaspoon *garam masala*
- 6 tbs grated coconut

Salt to taste

Oil for frying

Method

Set aside one tablespoon of the soaked *channa dal*.

Grind to a paste, the remaining *channa dal*, cashew nuts, green chillies, red chillies and salt, adding very little water.

To the ground paste add the one tablespoon *channa dal*, chopped onions, chopped ginger, chopped coriander leaves and asafoetida powder. Mix well.

Heat oil and fry *vadais* till golden. Serve hot.

Heat the remaining ghee. Fry the ground *masala* till the oil separates. Add the cooked *channa*. Mix well. Finally toss in the rice and mix well.

Serve arranged in a shallow bowl. Decorate with mint leaves. Serve hot.

MASALA TINDA

- ½ kg *tinda*, chopped into ½ inch pieces

- 2 onions, chopped fine
- 2 tomatoes, chopped fine
- 1 teaspoon chilli powder
- 2 teaspoon *dhania* powder
- ½ teaspoon turmeric powder
- 2 teaspoon *garam masala*
- 2 tbs oil
- 1 teaspoon cummin seeds

Salt to taste

Method

Heat oil. Add the cummin seeds. When they splutter add the chopped onions and saute for a minute.

Add the chopped tomatoes, chilli powder, *dhania* powder, turmeric and stir for a minute. Add the chopped *tinda*. Sprinkle some water, cover and simmer till tender.

Add the *garam masala* and stir till well mixed. Serve hot.

CASHEWNUIT VADAI

- 1 cup cashewnuts
- ¼ cup *channa dal*, soaked for ½ hour, drained and set aside.
- 2 onions chopped fine
- 3-4 green chillies
- 2-3 red chillies
- ½ inch piece ginger, chopped fine
- 1 small bunch coriander leaves, chopped fine
- ½ teaspoon asafoetida powder

Salt to taste

Oil for frying

Method

Set aside one tablespoon of the soaked *channa dal*.

Grind to a paste, the remaining *channa dal*, cashew nuts, green chillies, red chillies and salt, adding very little water.

To the ground paste add the one tablespoon *channa dal*, chopped onions, chopped ginger, chopped coriander leaves and asafoetida powder. Mix well.

Heat oil and fry *vadais* till golden. Serve hot.

Heat the remaining ghee. Fry the ground *masala* till the oil separates. Add the cooked *channa*. Mix well. Finally toss in the rice and mix well.

Serve arranged in a shallow bowl. Decorate with mint leaves. Serve hot.

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Memories of Nehru Stadium

Do games like cricket, hockey and football have a personality, a character? They seem to have, judging from the manner in which each of them has chosen a separate home in a particular part of Madras city. Nor is this surprising, as a game comprises of players, administrators and a responsive public, besides other factors.

Chepauk, part of Triplicane, mostly peopled by the urban middle class, the

in an abode of its own. A brief tryst with Rajendrasinhji Stadium on the Island Ground was a failure and only when the Corporation provided space in the Egmore Stadium did it find a congenial home.

The area in which Nehru Stadium is located is peopled by football lovers, those who play and those who watch it. Ever since the Stadium was opened in 1952, not a day has passed, so to

as Prithipal Singh, Balkishen Singh, Charanjit Singh and Harbinder Singh in action. But hockey did not settle down in the eastern half of the stadium as has been expected.

My memories of the Stadium are mostly of cricket and of the Test matches played there. Despite a world record opening stand of 413 runs between Vinoo Mankad (231) and Pankaj Roy (173), the test against New Zealand (1956) was a dull affair, the main reason being a weak opposition and a soulless pitch.

The elegant rhythm of Ray Lindwall's strides and his devastating bowling in the second innings of the test against Australia (seven for 43), and a brief view of Neil Harvey's artistry were the high points of the match later in 1956.

In 1959, Wesley Hall and Roy Gilchrist, by the fire power of their fast bowling, created panic in the Indian batting ranks, and only the effrontery of young Chandu Borde in launching a brilliant counter-attack to score 56 runs on the final afternoon provided some consolation.

It was amusing to witness Richie Benaud and his senior mates rush to the pitch as soon as they arrived at the Stadium for their fourth test (1960), probe the grass anxiously and then speak harsh words to curator Subbu, all because the Aussies had been badly mauled on a turning track earlier at Kanpur. But Subbu had the last laugh as the pitch did not misbehave and the

say, when some football was not played there, watched by a few hundreds. Madras football grew by leaps and bounds in the Stadium, and it is appropriate that the modern football stadium promised the city is to be raised in the place where Nehru Stadium, now being demolished, is located. It is hoped this will be ready early next year, in time for the prestigious tenth Nehru Gold Cup football championship.

Nehru Stadium in its four decades' existence has left many memories and many moments to cherish.

The voice of David, the stocky film star from Bombay, who compered the All India Olympic Games, the first big event to be held in the Stadium, was resonant, clear and kept the crowd well-informed and in good humour. Himself a boxer, David was also a judge at the boxing events of the Games. A rousing National Hockey Championship for the Rangasami Cup in the 1960s was the big chance for fans to witness such stars

• by P N SUNDARESAN

real votaries of cricket, has been the home of the game for nearly a century now. From there it has developed and spread to the north, west and south of the city. For a period of about ten years from 1955, after it was uprooted from its habitat, it shifted itself to the Nehru Stadium in Central Madras. It was a restless period, and, perhaps, reacting to this, then Corporation Commissioner Balasubramaniam offered space near Hotel Oceanic in south Madras to the Madras Cricket Association for its stadium. The M.C.A. was not very enthusiastic about this; luckily, the game was able to shift back to Chepauk in a short while and housed itself in a more spacious and happy home and has prospered in a big way.

Hockey and football have been sports more for the folk from the lower middle class strata. Both games are simple to understand and easy to indulge in. Hockey, however, was wayward and took time to settle down

Two foundations that boost the stock of Indian sport

Gaurav Natekar is the Britannia Amritraj Tennis (BAT) Foundation's latest gift to the nation. The Bombay lad's inclusion in the Davis Cup squad to play Indonesia is yet another feather in the cap of BAT, which, in 1990, helped Leander Paes of Calcutta scale the heights and emerge as the world's No. 1 junior. Natekar's distinction came a week after eight-year-old BAT hit the headlines with its decision to throw open its doors for the first time to girls as well, and picked Sahiba Chadha of Chandigarh as its first eve recruit.

Madras can indeed take legitimate pride in the achievements of its two sports foundations. Situated within a stone's-throw of each other in a quiet corner of the city, BAT and the MRF Pace Foundation are so well equipped and staffed that they have, over the years, turned out several international stars to boost the stock of Indian sport.

The Pace Foundation, the brain-child of the late Ravi Mammen, then Managing Director of MRF, has perhaps

stolen a march over BAT by inviting for the benefit of its trainees former world celebrities, picked by its visiting coach and former Australian Test fast bowler, Dennis Lillee. His latest catch was the former Australian Test skipper and batsman, Greg Chappell.

After visiting the Foundation both in the mornings and evenings for nearly a week, and watching the trainees put through their various sessions by both

by
AJAX

Lillee and T.A. Sekhar, the permanent coach, Chappell had nothing but praise for the entire establishment. As fluent a speaker as the stroke-maker he was in his heyday, Chappell told pressmen that the Foundation was a unique institution "the like of which I have not seen anywhere else in the world."

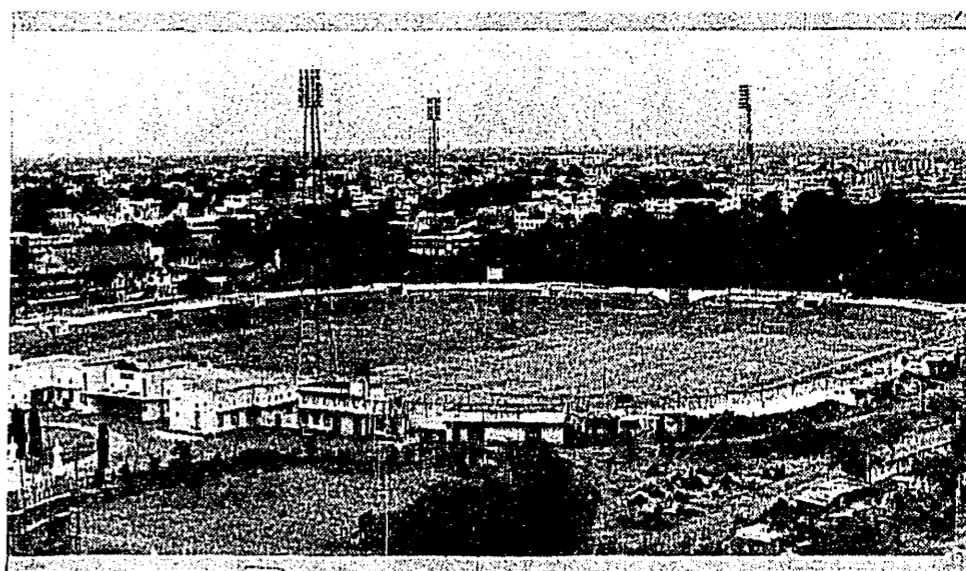
Stating that it had all the modern facilities, he complimented Vinoo Mammen (who succeeded his brother, as MRF Managing Director) on the lively interest he took in its progress and the trainees' welfare. Recalling that the Foundation had already given India two highly promising pace bowlers in Subroto Banerjee and Vivek Razdan, Chappell said he was sure more Test bowlers would emerge from it.

What Lillee has been to the Pace Foundation in the choice of its trainees, Vijay Amritraj has been to BAT, which has his mother, Mrs Margaret Amritraj,

as its Director. Known for her tennis brain, Mrs Amritraj, who groomed her two sons, Vijay and Anand, into world stars, rates Anirban Baruah and Suhel Malhotra as the most promising pair of the present BAT trainees. She forecast a bright future for the two lads at a Press briefing, at which she announced BAT's decision to introduce yoga to help its wards improve their power of concentration and mental discipline.

How yoga can help teenagers already overburdened by numerous training sessions conducted by Peter Burwash International (PAB) coaches from the U.S., it is difficult to say, just as it is difficult to agree with BAT's two PAB coaches' assertion at the Press briefing that "height is absolutely essential to excel at the international level". They disclosed that it was because of want of height that 30-odd boys who had turned up for the BAT trials were not selected. This was a hollow claim and a slap in the face of BAT's maestro, who had selected them for the trials.

The youthful American coaches have obviously not seen such immortals as France's Henri Cochet and Australia's Lew Hoad as well as the Asian champions of the past like India's Dilip Bose and Felicissimo Ampon of the Philippines, all of whom in their heyday dominated the international scene despite their lack of height. Cochet in particular will ever be remembered by Madras oldtimers who were fortunate enough to see him conquer the great "Big" Bill Tilden, a six-foot-plus, in an exhibition match on the South Indian Athletics Association centre court over half a century ago.



Nehru Stadium as it was...and now (below) as work gets underway to demolish and build on the site a football stadium fit for international competition. Fittingly, the new Nehru Stadium will, it is hoped, be inaugurated with the Jawaharlal Nehru International Gold Cup Football Tournament. (Photographs by K N CHARI)



Australians had a happy victory. Alan Davidson, the Australian left-arm bowler, was the cynosure of all eyes as he revealed his bowling art.

Two centuries by young Pataudi demonstrated his multi-faceted batsmanship. The first hundred, against Dexter's England side (1962), was a tumultuous affair, scattering the English bowlers to all parts of the field; India won the Test and wrapped up the series. The second, two years later, against Simpson's Australia was a superbly controlled unbeaten knock of 128. In between, Budhi Kunderan, in Kanhai-like manner, gathered 192 against Mike Smith's England side, with Vijay Manjrekar coming up with a solid 102.

Manjrekar's test career ended on a sad note in 1965, as he returned to the

pavilion after recording a century against New Zealand at the Stadium only to learn that he had been dropped for the next test! As Manjrekar's test career ended, another, that of 18-year-old Venkatraghavan, commenced in the same match at the Stadium. He came into the team in place of Chandrasekhar, who fell ill on the eve of the Test, and in another month became a hero of the Indian side.

In another year, cricket went back to its old Chepauk home. But sports journalists of the city cannot forget the gesture of the Corporation Commissioner in offering a special room in the Nehru Stadium for their work during a test match. Seizing the opportunity, S K Gurunathan started the Sports Journalists Association of Madras at the Stadium and guided its activities as its first president.

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Quiz Answers

1. Angirasa. 2. France. 3. Hardwar. 4. Nagaland. 5. The two Libyan agents wanted for the PanAm explosion at Lockerbie. 6. Tirupati (Rajiv Nagar). 7. *The Illustrated Weekly of India*. 8. SIPPO (Small Industries Product Promotion Organisation). 9. To protect temples and idols. 10. 1 crore. 11. Mid-1993. 12. Adjoining the 1000 Lights Police Station. 13. My Lady's Garden. 14. Satyajit Ray's *Agantuk*. 15. Southern River Grid Yatra. 16. Kilpauk Garden Colony. 17. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. 18. Earth Summit. 19. India. 20. Arthur Ashe.

Published by ANU VARGHESE for Lokavani-Hall Mark Press Pvt. Ltd., 62/63 Greames Road, Madras-600 006 and printed by T J GEORGE at Lokavani-Hall Mark Press Pvt. Ltd., 62/63 Greames Road, Madras-600 006. Edited by S MUTHIAH.