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TOOLS

(By The Editor)

Is there hope for Madras? As we watch that garbage dump we featured on this page two months ago become worse and worse, now occupying almost half the road and smelling up the whole neighbourhood, no one seems to care. NOT the citizens of the neighbourhood, NOT local Exnoras or

the letter-writing office-bearers of their parent body. NOT the Corporation which is not accountable to anyone, least of all to an elected Council, whose shape and size we all seem to have forgotten and whose absence we accept as stoically as that garbage dump's presence! The second of the second

Is it that we simply don't care? Is it that we feel resigned to the belief that

nothing can be done for the city? Or is it that we say to ourselves, it is not our business but Government's? Whatever the answer to these questions, it is heartening to note that there are at least a few who DO care. At least enough to make suggestions.

One reader, Lawrence Surendra, recently sent us a clipping from the International Herald Tribune and suggested that Madras can learn much from the Brazilian city of Curitiba, which pulled itself out of the mire. And, he says, it achieved its present 'first world city' look by keeping its means of turnaround simple". Curitiba has demonstrated that a lack of money need not be a stumbling block for solving municipal problems and effecting a new look. Creativity, ingenuity and dedication are what are needed.

Is there someone out there who will display these characteristics and make a glearning new Madras out of the old? Keep it simple, like Curitiba; that should be the philosophy followed in developing this new Madras," urges Surendra, who, after working with international organisations abroad, is now associated with a local 'think-tank'. (See excerpts from the article on Curitiba alongside).

COLOMBO - At the suspicious time of 7.09 on Thursday morning the Democratic United National Eront (DUNF) launched, what one leaders, former Minister Lalith dai, called the one milbuilding a hotel in Kanc first time; he alleged; th was being built within area of tank) and the of disappearance the military crac against Janat

A clipping that starts off deliciously

### Suspicious auspicious in the second secon

(By The Editor)

Too many Printer's Devils at work and too few proofreaders with a feel for, the language have made English language publishing a nightmare in this part of the world. From time to time, we've had at Madras Musings: our quota of the shivers on this account. Which is perhaps why a finger shouldn't be pointed at contemporaries. But this error was so delicious we felt that we just had to share it with any who might have missed it in the Madras edition of the leading Express of

Poor Lalith Athulathmudali and his millions! With such a time, no wonder they were more in danger of being arrested than being blessed

Be that as it may, it is not quite as bad as every Editor's perennial nightmare - 'A Public Notice' becoming 'A Pubic Notice'. And it did happen a couple of years ago in, if we remember right, The Hindustan Times of New Delhi. And who do you think should spot it? You've got it in one! Khushwant Singh, of course!!

The clipping sent in by Lawrence Surendra was of an article by lames Brooke of The New York Times. Here are excerpts from the piece which was subsequently featured in the International Herald Tribune. All of what is said below CAN be adopted here to make a better Madras. All we need is a Jaime Lerner, male or female version. Is there someone out there?

On paper, Curitiba sounds like another nightmarish Third World city. The population increased 11-fold in the last 50 years. Most households survive on (meagre) family incomes ...

In reality, Curitiba is a leafy, livable showcase for low-cost solutions that many urban planners believe can be applied in other growing cities of the Third World.

Poor families keep slums clean by exchanging bags of garbage for hags of food. Businesses "adopt" street children through apprentice programs. A vigorous tree planting and parks program provides 62 square yards (about 50 square meters) of green space per inhabitant, one of the highest ratios in the world.

"Simplicity is our system," said Jaime Lerner, an energetic architect who completes his third term as mayor of this southern Brazilian city of 1.6 million people this year ...

Ninety tubular bus stops spaced along a 250-kilometer-long system of express bus lanes are part of Mr Lerner's "surface subway", an effort to provide fast mass transportation for one hundredth the cost of digging a subway.

In another alternative to cars, Curitiba is completing 150 kilometers of bicycle lanes. To promote use by rich and poor alike, the mayor has begun a program for factories to help workers finance bicycle purchases...

Today, Curitiba's human heartbeat is the calcadao, or big sidewalk - 49 blocks of pedestrian arteries, clossed on any given day with shoppers and strollers! Last September, he unveiled the 24-hour street. Enclosed in glass, the block-long arcade contains 80 shops and services, open day and night warm to have a see that was the

The planting of 1.5 million trees in 20 years and a large expansion of parks and public gardens gives much of Curitiba a suburban air ...

To maintain architectural diversity, Mr Lerner finds new uses for 19-th century buildings. A municipal gunpowder depot is now a theatre. A glue factory is a children's art centre. A stove factory is a downtown shopping mall. An abandoned quarry is now a space for rock concerts.

To help rural migrants get city jobs, the major converted old buses into mobile vocational classrooms where adults study to become typists, seamstresses, electricians and auto mechanics. To help children who turn to the streets for economic survival, the city places youths in apprentice programs where they work half time for meals, a stipend and schooling.

After shantytowns formed in hilly areas inaccessible to garbage trucks, Mr Lerner started a system to encourage poor people to take garbage to trucks. Sugar of At Ath Learning

Drawing on food bought from the state's agricultural surplus, the city started exchanging eggs, butter, rice, and beans for 9-kilogram sacks of garbage delivered to garbage trucks.

Lerner has shown that a lack of money is not a stumbling block for solving municipal problems," said Janice Perlman, president of Mega-Cities Project, a network devoted to sharing solutions to problems facing the world's largest cities.

Curitiba's biggest lesson is that, with creativity and ingenuity, a lot of problems can be turned around.7 A Transport of the Control of the Co

19390 received wherever is allowed and they is 10 are not 19 common at

# Tiruppur's set to become India's 'hosiery capital'

(By A Staff Reporter)

Madras may yet become the medical capital' of India, but its dream of becoming the 'automotive capital' of the country appears to have vanished with the complacency (or is it a lack of enthusiasm?) that set in, in City industrial circles, in the last twenty years. Many years ago, the Simpson-Addison amalgamation gave up coaches and dreamt of making something of the Morrises and Fords they were putting. together. Ashok Motors had to give up on Austins and got started on Leylands but couldn't keep up with TELCO. Standard's have had more downs than ups. Enfield's never really took off. TVS and SRVS found body-building becoming fashionable round the country. The tyre companies and the ancillary units began looking more to the north for their markets than to the Madras

hinterland.

i dinin

Indeed, there was a great deal of automotive manufacture in the city but not enough for its dreams to come:

Something similar happened to the Coimbatore vision. Industrial diversification created a boom city, but in the process the 'Manchester of South India' lost its vision of becoming the textile? capital' of India. Sivakasi, on the other hand, has managed to develop and retain its ranking as the matches and fireworks capital of the country, though the claim of its printers that the town is also the printing capital of the nation would, today, no longer hold true.

On the other hand, and on the more positive side, Tamil Nadu will soon have, it is predicted, India's new 'hosiery capital'. The small town of Tiruppur, not far from and northeast of Coimbatore, is all set, according to the International Wool Secretariat (TWS), to take over that position from

Ludhiana. This is not because strife in the Puniab has affected Ludhiana's growth - strike or no strike, Luchiana is booming — it is just that Timpour is growing laster

Tiruppur has almost overtaken Ludhiana in cotton knitwear exports and it will do the same in the field of woollen knitwear before 1995, the IWS predicts. Exports of woollen knitwear and readymade garments from Tiruppur alone will be Rs: 400 crores by then, is the IWS forecast. At present, India exports from centres throughout the country Rs. 575 crores worth woollen goods, one-tenth of its cotton garment exports, importing about Rs. 200 crore of wool for this manufacture.

If Truppur could assure world buyers of better quality and more upmarket designing, it can reach top place much faster, those in international wool circles feet.

August 1-15, 1992

notes out of the middle.

but also by no means easy.

for trade.

Stapling models of the stapes, some of them pointed medically.

Stapling models of the stapes, some of them pointed medically.

Stapling models of them pointed medically.

Its motives, obviously, are clear: to prevent unscrupulous people from slipping

Yet are Americans and Europeans any less likely to do this than Indians?

I don't think so. Yet bundles of currency notes in those countries are not stapled

but bound together in the middle by a simple paper band. Perhaps that paper

band is machine-tightened so that to try and remove notes from the middle is

impossible without either destroying the band or irrevocably damaging the bank-

notes within. I have certainly never seen a dollar, a pound sterling or a

the staples go through, very soon damaging the notes to an extent where large

holes and tears make them unacceptable to traders. They then have to be returned

to the RBI from where getting replacements is not only expensively time-consuming

been stapled together no less than four times, twice on either side, making it

impossible to separate the notes without damage making them totally unacceptable

My picture today shows a bundle of notes brought to me recently. They had

Surely our Reserve Bank could follow the customs of Western banks and

use simple paper bands, which must obviously be just as efficient as destructive

staples, otherwise theft from such bundles would be as common there as anywhere

Our method of stapling bundles of notes results in holes appearing where

Deutschemark currency note with a great jagged tear at one end of it.

Most people missed this quote when it first appeared in The Hindu, lost midst a whole half page or so of verbiage. Then, a few days later. SK rescued it, looked aSKance at it and offered it to you and me with the query: "Party workers out there, are you listening?'

What they should be listening to are these pearls of wisdom from the Chief Minister herself: "AS REGARDS THE

HOARDINGS AND CUT-OUTS. HOW CAN I HELP IF MY PARTY WORKERS SEEK TO PUT THEM ON? PER-SONALLY, I AM AGAINST SUCH HOARDINGS AND CUTOUTS. I HAVE TOLD THEM NOT TO BE OVER-ZEALOUS IN THEIR DISPLAYS."

The emphasis is the The Man from Madras Musings', entirely in the interest of the Chief Minister's words receiving the attention they deserve. And that SK's query will get a positive response. But could MMM add a request, Madam Chief Minister? Couldn't you tell them in one syllable words that you DON'T LIKE such displays in ANY degree of zealousness? All you have to say, is "I don't want any hoardings or cutouts put up for anyone at all in future". Like you did about posters. How about it,

### Welcome back

Welcome back to Tamil Nadu, President Venkataraman. But what are you going to do next?

Ensconced in a Ministerial bungalow on Greenways Road. protected by Central Security and receiving Rs. 10,000 a month pension, besides secretarial services, accommodation and transport, it would be a good

MANAALI RAMAN...

time to relax and look back over it all. But for all his easy-going temperament, sitting back and doing nothing is not this exlabour leader, ex-lawyer, ex-Minister, ex-President's way of doing things.

He could well consider the numerous proposals to write his memoirs that are sure to pour in from India's now lively publishing industry. He could think of reassociating himself with the Labour Law Journal which he founded and which former labour leader and colleague Gurumurthy now edits. He could think of reviving the venerable Indian Review, which he once edited from behind the scenes. He could even contribute a column to Madras Musings on 'Whither Madras?'. Would you please, Mr President?

But there's another thought One of the last things he did in Delhi was to ransack, with the help of the Muraris of the Tamil Nadu cadre, the storehouses of Rashtrapati Bhavan and create in some of its empty halls two magnificent exhibitions, one resurrecting the glory of those who had occupied these premises over the decades and the other displaying the magnificent gifts received by the Presidents of India from all over the world. These museums may now have a new caretaker, the scholarly President Sharma, but he is a man completely in tune with President Venkataraman's thinking in art, culture and history and the museums are sure to thrive.

Which is what makes The Man from Madras Musings wonder whether President Venkataraman will now do something like that in Madras too, to keep busy. Raj Bhavan, Fort Museum, the Legislative Assembly and the Museum

treasures fit for display in a resurrected old Government House. Such an exhibit would do much to restore the pride of Madras in itself as the city that begat Calcutta, and showed the way to much that developed in later-born Bombay and New Delhi. President Venkataraman would be the right man to lead

### When the move?

For the last few years, The Man from Madras Musings has been hearing that the city's four RTOs are to be shifted to their



own premises in distant parts of the city where there'll be plenty of parking space. Not only does nothing ever seem to happen to this idea, but those concerned with such moves now have the gall to say that "progress of the implementation of the plan to shift" is being REVIEWED. Ye Gods! now what does that mean?

Meanwhile, one of these

RTOs, situated in a tiny resi-

dential lane in a part of the city

that is almost entirely residential even though it is just off Mount Road, continues to turn a blind eye to the almost anarchic indiscipline that prevails amongst all those who call at it. Not only do these owners of vehicles park there vehicles in all the streets around, making most of the roads fit only for pedestrian traffic, but the lane itself where the office is situated becomes a bazaar to be passed through only

on foot, negotiating those parked, the touts, the petition writers and the sundry refreshment stalls that spring up every

It won't be surprising if, one day, the harassed residents of the lane, with or without Exnora's support, take the law into their own hands. Calcutta does this kind of thing quite successfully; the authorities in Madras are forcing the city's citizens to do likewise. Would you just visit this spot one day unannounced, Mr Police Commissioner, and see for yourself what law and order should be enforced before the situation gets out of control?

### In brief

★ It was an anniversary that passed unnoticed. Did even the High Court judges remember that the premises that they now occupy were declared open on July 12, 1892? At that time, the Rs. 13 lakh buildings designed by J N Brassington, Henry Irwin and J H Stephens were considered some of the most spectacular Indo-Saracenic buildings not only in Madras but in India. The splendid buildings are today in a sad state of repair and cry for restoration. The forgotten anniversary might be just the occasion to remember that the High Court campus could be made an even more spectacular city landmark than it is.

★ There's talk in the air that point-to-point services using mini-luxury buses are likely to be introduced in the city before long. These could not only attract the users of two-wheelers but also many a car-user too, PROVIDED vehicle comfort is maintained well, the driving is smooth and safe and schedules and stops are adhered to. Many a person who doesn't have to get

about, once office is reached, would welcome the service, which is the one thing that seems to work in Calcutta.

\* No one still has a plausible explanation for why P Chidambaram resigned, but there are those who feel that the Cabinet reshuffle was one reason. He did not, they say, get the promotion he expected — and deserved for the impressive performance of the Commerce Ministry. Instead, a section of the media and several in the Party were constantly criticising his efforts - leading to a situation where he was not sure where he stood with the Prime Minister. On the other hand, there are those who ask, isn't resignation only to be expected from a Minister who's been offered shares privately AT PAR at a time when they are being quoted publicly at prices much higher and who's then found them becoming several times that after they came into his possession. That they are worthless today is besides the point, they point out. The debate will undoubtedly go on, but has the Centre lost one of its few able men for good?

\* The Chief Minister, it is reported, has found the time, midst all her multifarious duties, to design new uniforms for the Tamil Nadu women's police. The Man from Madras Musings doesn't like them, neither before nor now. With its pinafore-type apron-coverall, the new uniform echoes Church Park and the Catering College. Neither of which convey/command the uniformed dignity the Law demands. Perhaps the College of Arts and Crafts could be called in even now to hold a designer contest which the Chief Minister could judge and implement.

### Sweeping remark



Your travel line is strong... With the U.S. getting ready for elections, you are sure to find an opening there...

### IN MAD MAD MADRAS

Mehra Gardens

Latest Arrivals

TxD Coconut Saplings

Mehra Gardens SPENCER'S 769 Anna Salai Madras 600 002

The remark in the July 1-15 issue of ■ Madras Musings that 'the number of students with State Board qualifications who've made it into the prestigious Central Services HAS BEEN MINIMAL' is indeed

Given the current pathetic state of affairs of Central Services — what with the increasing political interference in the administration — the career is anything but prestigious, consequent to which the cream leave for greener pastures available in the forms of migration abroad and employment in the private sector, thus leaving the mediocre to compete with the best of upnorth. Instances are aplenty where even the wards of Central Services officers — serving and retired — have been discouraged by their own kith and kin from entering the services.

Although the quality of education in general leaves much to be desired, yet the 'dismal minimal' should not be taken as an index.

Stephen Arulraj Edward CIT Nagar Extn. Madras-600 035.

### Poor taste

I found Randor Guy's article in your issue dated June 15-30 1992 in exceedingly poor taste. I have frequently wanted to write letters to editors of different publications over various issues, but this is one time I was sufficiently provoked to actually get down to it. No explanation is required and I am surprised to think you did not find it offensive. The article clearly exposes both the author and lawyer for what they are and I am willing to bet that every woman working for your publication would feel the

> Gita Abraham R A Puram, 1st Main Road Madras-600 028.

### OUR READERS WRITE

Dead and alive

In Madras Musings of June 1 - 15, 1992, under 'The Variety of Fish' on page 6, you have made a mistake. The Madava fish is also a saltwater fish and usually sold dead. The live fish you refer to is. I think. the Veraal fish, a freshwater fish which is kept in tubs of fresh water and sold alive. P Hariraj

20/1 Barnaby Road Madras-600 010.

### Small not beautiful

In your Staff Reporter's article on 'Could we have less noise?' in your issue of May 16-31, he has addressed four questions to the people of Tamil Nadu about the high decibels prevalent in our society. I am listing below some more questions, answers to which would be found to be of a piece with the answers to the earlier questions in understanding the state of Tamil society

- ★ Why is it that the garlands presented to dignitaries by our politicians tend to be invariably giant-sized, almost spanning the height of the person, while a smaller
- one would serve the purpose better? r Why is it that women in Tamil Nadu wear so much heavy jewellery on their person while light ornaments, as worn by their sisters up North, would impart elegance and enhance their beauty?
- Why is that the width of the zari on the pallus of the silk sarees worn by wornen in Tamil Nadu is so outsized that the sarees lose their aesthetic appeal?
- ★ Why is it that actors and actresses in Tamil plays and films tend to talk to each other so loudly that their conversations end up as declamations and slanging

There will be found a common thread running through the answers to all these and the earlier questions. And it is that in Tamil Nadu today "bigness" is equated with "greatness and excellence", while "gentleness"is equated with "weakness". Small is not considered beautiful any more.

Prof. R C Narayanan T-59B, 32nd Cross Street Madras-600 090.

### The non-responders

ust read your June 1-15 issue. Have you ever wondered at the attitude of the 75% non-responsive readership, while assessing the 25% who responded?

I think you ought to pause and hazard a guess as to how many of that 75% actually read MM. For if they don't then MM is wasted on them when it can more profitably and gratefully be received and read

That 75% could be so callous as to ignore a self-stamped questionnaire sent out by a gutsy free-mailer speaks volumes, doesn't it? Worth mulling over.

Leela Pal Chaudhuri M-33 Anna Nagar East Madras 600 102. Thru others' eyes

 $\Lambda$  s you have rightly remarked in MM 1/7 Paul Theroux is also of the Livingstone tribe. We too could describe a white man thus: "... they are white with yellow teeth ... awful stench of their sweat belying the neat exterior ... half naked women struggling to look young ..." We can so on in this vein. but then what prevents us? The white man laughs loudly at us, but only we know how we enjoy a quiet smile when we think of

One cannot fault the criticism of Ms. Omana Mathew on C.P.'s post-In-

his ways.

dependence stance, but this sorry chapter cannot take away the greatness from this great administrator. Even his detractors would grudgingly acknowledge his achievements in Kerala as its Dewan. In Tamil Nadu, the Mettur Dam was his creation. In fact, Nehru was very eager to use his talents for the reconstruction of India, but this dark chapter in C.P.'s life was a damper to this idea. As for his tussle with C.P. Mathen, it was political.

Catching them young

The positive steps taken by the students of The School to save Mylapore are very encouraging. I think Madras Musings should treat school students as its target group to convey its message. S Rajagopalan 14 Anandam Street Madras-600 017.

### The last of the responses

K.R. Subramanyam, (Chartered Engineer), Mds-59: No comments, when it is free, If priced, comments start, depends on its tag value!

Ashokamitran(Writer), Mds-17: I have begun to look forward to each issue. If this can happen in a man of 61 years, the reading material provided in MM should be special indeed.

S. Veeraraghava Reddy, Mds-41: An innovative work, undertaken by a philanthropist to educate the people of Madras about the city.

P.P. Ramaswamy, (Librarian, Tamil Nadu Archives), Mds-15: Its service must continue. T.S. Subramanian, Tiruvannamalai 606 601: No magazine in as little as 8 pages could be as useful, informative and interesting as Madras Musings! I am 100% satisfied with it. Hence I find no logic to suggest anything new (in this form). Status quo may be maintained. It is more than

A. Dayanandan, Mds-59: The photographs by Susheela Nair are GREAT.

tainted shares ▲ pall of gloom hangs over the capital markets in the country. Gone is the excitement witnessed in every nook and cranny at the time of the boom.

Although the initial panic is not visible, the small investors are sullen. Private investment in the market has come down to a trickle ever since the activities in the stock exchanges came to a standstill over a month ago. Investors are blaming brokers, the brokers the stock exchanges, and the stock exchanges are pointing a finger at the

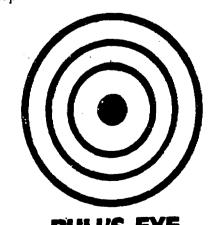
Stockholding Corporation of India –

On the other side, Parliament, concentrating attention on the Presidential elections and the Ayodhya happenings, is comparatively unagitated over this issue. The Opposition, of course, is thirsting for the blood of a scapegoat in an exercise in futility. All this in the face of an intolerable situation brought about by the Rs. 3500 cr stock

market scam. Delayed action is having a negative effect on the market as the freezing of assets of those notified by the Special Court dealing with the scam case has rendered crores of rupees worth of shares 'tainted'. Innocent investors had gone in for shares during the unprecedented boom to make a fast buck. After having diverted their savings into the stock market and entered into genuine transactions, they find the prospects bleak in an unnatural turn of events. What their investment is worth now no one knows. Their confidence is down to zero level. The not-so-bold have already carried out distress sales.

Harry Miller

With plenty of shares frozen by the ordinance in the hands of the common man and the brokers, confusion reigns



### **BULL'S EYE** The debate on delivery of 'tainted'

shares continues to dominate the market sentiment. The conditions are so depressing that the market did not even respond to the political developments in New Delhi when the one-year-old Narasimha Rao government survived the no-confidence motion. It also ignored the announcement of a National Stock Exchange to be set up early next year despite opposition from the major stock exchanges.

The Madras Stock Exchange, though open, did not function. The governing council of the exchange was foxed by the presence of the 'tainted' shares, the value of which is being estimated variously, and is, in any event, not less than a couple of crores of rupees. Now that trading has resumed, it remains to be seen as to whether the shares will create

hindrances to future settlements. However, representatives of the country's major stock exchanges have put forward an interim solution. Under the arrangement, securities standing in the names of persons against whom FIR's have already been filed but whose names have not appeared under Section 3(2) of the Special Court Ordinance shall be good for registration, provided the holder of these securities has made bona fide payment for purchase of these securities. However, further circulation is restricted. Investors and stock brokers who are in possession of the documents have been advised to forward the documents for registration to the companies concerned.

persons under Section 3(2) of the ordinance, such securities, which stand in the names of persons who may be so notified or where the names of any one of the members of stock exchanges who may be so notified appear anywhere in the transfer, would be considered as bad delivery. In such cases, the first introducing member, after July 15th, has to replace the securities or make payment within seven days of delivery of securities by the receiving (Continued on P10) member.

In case of further notification of

# tough as granite policy

The granite industry has been at loggerheads with the State Government, one way or the other, for many years. The latest cause for unhappiness stems from the fact that the State seems keen on getting the industry firmly under its control. When the trend is increasingly towards privatisation and less government controls, the Tamil Nadu Government seems all set to comer the granite industry.

Why is it that the Reserve Bank of India persists in STAPLING the bundles of currency notes it supplies? A recent Government notification canalises the granite trade in the State. The canalising body is the state-owned Tamil Nadu Minerals Limited (Tamin). All the granite exporters will now have to pay a service charge to Tamin. The State Government will fix a minimum export price below which no exports will be allowed. Tamin also has been given the role of a watchdog to make sure that there is no under-invoicing of granite exports.

What is really upsetting the granite exporters is the fact that no fresh leases would be issued to the private sector for quarrying in poramboke land except where they hold letters of commitment. On the other hand, fresh leases will be given only to a State Government company or a corporation owned or controlled by the State Government The Government has also extended its reach to private lands. For certain

varieties of granite — Paradise, Kashmir White, Blue Granite, Raw Silk etc the lease will be granted only to a State Government company or a corporation owned or controlled by the Government. Industry feels that this is a particularly unfair measure. Their point of view is that, after they bear the cost of prospecting, if the granite falls into

> BUSINESS REVIEW by THE SHROFF

one of the above mentioned categories. then the State Government (read 'Tamin') can take it over, yet Tamin would have contributed nothing towards the prospecting.

The industry has raised several points regarding the latest Government

a) Canalisation of export is controlled by the Export and Import Policy of the Government of India. The Government defines 'canalisation' as exporting and importing goods only through the agencies designated by the Centre. The state government has not been thus designated.

b) Tamin itself is a corporate entity with its own quarries and exporting its own granite. How can it be a canalising agency when there will result a conflict of interest with other exports?

c) How can Tamin determine the export price of granite? It does not have the infrastructure to do so. It has to be done by the Centre taking into account the international prices of the various varieties.

The industry strongly feels that Tamin is in no positon to take charge of the granite industry as its track record of exporting value-added finished granite has been quite poor. Tamin's exports have mostly been block or semi-finished raw material. According to the Exim policy, Tamin has to pay 7 per cent export duty on these, which is not applicable to finished granite

The industry feels that the Government's policy is geared towards resource mobilisation. According to industry sources, the way to go about this is by increasing royalty, which is currently Rs. 400 per cubic metre. Neighbouring Andhra Pradesh charges a royalty of Rs. 1000 per cubic metre for granite taken out of AP for finishing.

The industry's fear is that once the existing leases run out, the government will control the entire granite industry in Tamil Nadu. The State Government also makes no provision for captive mines for processing industries without which it is difficult for granite exporters to maintain regular supplies abroad.

The irony is that the Tamil Nadu Government Order has come at a time when all the other states are liberalising their granite policies to attract further investment.



Life Insurance Corporation of India

# Grow old with me

In the best tradition of some of our leading columnists, this time I am soing to fill this space with matter taken from other people's books — to be more specific, one particular book which l read with much pleasure recently. Written by an eighty-year old man, it made an appeal to me, and, in fact, encouraged me quite a bit, as in the last few months I have been haunted by the spectacle of approaching dotage in me and in several of my friends.

Chalmers Roberts, the author of the book, was a star reporter for the Washington Post, until 1971, and he

### CCkine aSKance

continues to weigh in with a variety of writing. Now in his 80s, his new book is simply about aging, and how to take it in your stride. The very title of the book gives a clear indication of its cheerful contents: How Did I Get Here so Fast? Rhetorical questions and available answers from a long and happy life. Consistently upbeat in its outlook, the book is "about growing older, and how to sandwich in some real life between medical appointments. Yes, it's a feel-good, or at least a feelbetter, book." Throughout the book, Chalmers offers his own memories and reminiscences along with stories about famous men in their age. Without further chapter from me, let us take a look at some of the stories.

A memorable person who illuminates its pages is Oliver Wendell Holmes jr, at 91 the oldest justice ever to sit on the Supreme Court of the United States. On one of his regular walks with Justice Louis Brandeis, "a mere 74", they spotted a pretty girl approaching them. "Holmes paused, sighed, and said to Brandeis: 'Oh to be seventy again!"

That is a well-known story, but there are others which were new, to me any way. "At a dinner party when Holmes was 89, he was discussing, with equally elderly friends, a lady of mutual acquaintance. Holmes asked how she was. Lady Pollock said, 'Well, she is not doing so well. You know she's feeling her years.' Holmes said, 'Really? How old is she?' Lady Pollock said. She must be eightyfour or eightyfive. And Holmes, with this beautiful, baritone voice, the light shining on his white hair and mustache, from the head of the table where he was sitting, boomed out, 'Why, what's eighty among adults?" It was Holmes's father who stated a memorable rationale for people in their nineties; "A man over ninety is a great comfort to all his neighbours; he is a picket-guard at the extreme outpost; and the young folks of sixty and seventy feel that the enemy must go by him before he came near their camp."

Holmes's good cheer lasted through his entire life — he lived within two days of his 94th birthday. When a lady visited him at home and found him reading Aristotle's Grainmar, she asked him, "Why are you wasting time on that dry stuff?" Holmes "replied with twinkling eyes: 'I am preparing for my last examination."

If Holmes ir was the very apotheosis of old age, there were others who could accept it with wry humour. "Then there was the predicament of the Bishop of Exeter, as recounted in a biography of actress Nancy Astor. It occurred in England. He couldn't find his ticket at the barrier when going for his train. The ticket-collector said, 'It doesn't matter.' He said. 'It does matter.' The ticket man said. 'It doesn't.' The Bishop said, 'It does because I don't know where I am

"Maybe it was funnier before the collapse of communism, but I still cherish it. It seems that a scholar, at the turn of the last century, was preparing a book on Marx who had died in 1883. The scholar went to the British Museum to catch the atmosphere of the place where Marx had worked all those years researching and writing The Communist Manifesto (1847) and Das Kapital (1867 to his death). The scholar asked the chief librarian if, by any chance, there might be anyone still around the place who actually remembered seeing Marx in the library. There was. The old man tottered in to be asked: 'Do you happen to remember a man with a big beard who worked at this place, at this table, for many years a long time ago?' The old man scratched the rubble on his chin, then replied, 'Why, yes, I do. I used to bring him a pile of books from the stacks every few days, and he would be buried in them until he asked for a new batch. It went on a very long, long time, and then one day he was gone. I often wondered whatever happened to that

> Ogden Nash's definition of old age: Senescence begins And middle age ends The day your descendants Outnumber your friends.

One of Chalmers Roberts's own stories. "Matthew (his grandson), for instance, has been fascinating to watch. Here is a way station when he reached 4 and I was 77. Matthew: 'Grandfather, you look awfully old." Grandfather: 'How old do you think arn? Matthew (after reflection): 'Nineteen.'



The Old and New this fortnight may be linked by commerce and sales promotion, but both also raise some rather intriguing questions. The Old, for instance, is a splendid Regency building, complete with pediments, a magnificent flight of steps, Ionic columns and a spacious interior that could be made much better use of than for peregrinating textile sales. But that's what Memorial Hall is reduced to. Is it perhaps because of a revulsion for what it commemorates?

August 1-15, 1992

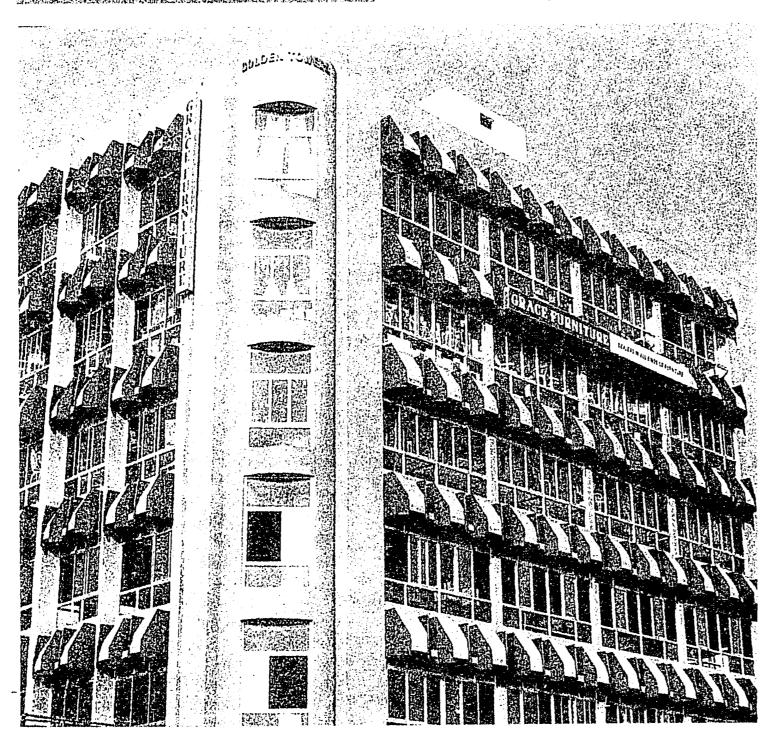
Memorial Hall, declared open in 1867, was built with contributions from the British in the Madras Presidency as thanksgiving for being spared the horrors of 1857.

At the back of the contributors' minds ... & THE THE there could well have old also been the thought NEW

that this was a fitting gesture to celebrate both victory and fortune as well. Indeed, the memorialists were fortunate that the South and the Northwest did not follow the example of Central India and the Gangetic Plain. Are these textile sales a reaction to such conjecture?

The New, on the other hand, is a curiously allwindowed shell in which furniture is displayed for all the world to see. Golden Tower, towering over Chetpet overbridge, is truly golden at night, when all the furniture it holds on several floors glows in a blaze of light. By day, however, it's the windows and a humandevoid spaciousness that attract the attention of passersby, who keep wondering what such a large building is all about with, seemingly, only one occupant.

(Photographs by SUSHEELA NAIR who was also responsible for last fortnight's OLD, which was accompanied by a NEW from GOPI.)



## Who's robbing the temples?

The recent theft and subsequent happenings at the famed Thiruvettaru temple not only generated shock waves among the public, but it is also now being interpreted as an example of poetic justice, of how the seemingly silent gods seek their revenge. Sceptics and rationalists may not buy this story, but I narrate it not for them. Built centuries ago by the erstwhile

rulers of Travancore, this temple, dedicated to Audikesava Perumal, a form of Lord Vishnu, is now located in Tamil Nadu as a consequence of the reorganisation of states on linguistic lines. The idol here is about 22 feet tall and is believed to have been made out of sugar, mustard and thousands of pebbles and stones found in rivers considered holy, then covered with plates of gold and invaluable diamond jewellery. According to tradition, only

two persons are permitted to approach

the idol and perform pujas on behalf of the devotees. Besides the chief priest and his assistant, none is allowed to enter the sanctum sanctorum, nor can the gold plates and jewellery be removed under any circumstance.

A few months ago, the gold plates and the priceless diamonds from the crown of the idol were found missing.

listened to all he had to sav. The plot thickened when he committed suicide the morning after he wrote a confession. Both he and his wife took the killer liquid, but she survived. The police continued their

knew more than what he appeared to,

the police were convinced. They

Crime Notebook by Randor Guy When it was noticed, people wondered

how the valuables could have been removed without the knowledge of the

There were protest meetings by local citizens and some political parties took part in the agitation. The police then swung into action.

The assistant priest Kesavan, who had served the temple for many years,

Enquiries revealed that the theft had not taken place during one particular night, as it had first been supposed. The robbery had taken place over a period of time, may be weeks, even months! The dark interior, the absence of any real lighting excepting two dull, oil-fed ceremonial lamps helped the removal of the gold plates and diamonds in leisurely fashion over a period of time. When the plates covering the idol were

examined, they were found to be made of cardboard and painted tin! Kesavan's confession stated that he was responsible for the robbery of jewels. It also stated that he had handed over the stolen goods to several important people in the area, including a prominent political leader. And so the investigations continue.

The police now feel that such thefts of temple jewellery have been systematically going on in several temples in the state, particulary in this area. These robberies raise several questions of social importance. Temple priests are invariably lowly paid, and live near the poverty line. Is that why they are tempted to join any conspiracy to rob temples of their jewels? Local politicians have also begun to put their fingers in the hundis. All of which is cause to be concerned about the wealth of our

# The golden age of Kalki

On August 1st, Kalki, the Tamil magazine that still maintains the standards of another age, celebrated its Golden Jubilee. It was former President R Venkataraman's first major public appearance after he said goodbye to Delhi — and that an old friend was once against just a private citizen, albeit with all the privileges of a presidential past, did not stop that strong principled journal from honouring him as Chief Guest at its birthday celebrations.

Those celebrations in the minds of many were as much recollection of Kalki's golden age, when it led the

katha, was so taken up with Rajaji's views on the Non-Cooperation Movement that he quit college and sought a way to move closer to his new hero.

A letter of introduction got him a job in Madras with Tiru Vi Ka's nationalist weekly Navashakti. Before long he was writing a weekly review of events under the name 'Agastyan'

### by H.A. SUMITH

pack, as of the solid gold contributions made by its founder-editor, he who gave it the name by which he was best known, 'Kalki' Krishnamurthy would have been 93 if he had been present on the occasion, but even in his early forties, when he midwifed Kalki, he had enjoyed the encomiums that were to be paid to publisher and its first Editor fifty years later. He was a literary legend in his own time.

R Krishnamurthy, later to be better known as 'Kalki', was a talented student of National College, Tiruchi, in 1919 when he heard Rajaji speak for the first time. The youth, whose interests at the

and a weekly causene with a human touch under the name 'Tamil Theni'. The writings of Agasthyan and Tamil Theni brought Krishnamurthy to the attention of Rajaji and when he started Virnochanam in 1929, to propagate Prohibition and Gandhiji's 'Constructive Programme', Krishnamurthy was invited to join him in his Gandhi Ashramam in Tiruchengodu to help with the paper. By this time Krishnamurthy had

already established himself as 'Kalki'. The stories he wrote under this penname in Ananda Vikatan had caught the fancy of the public. So much so that it was one of the factors in the monthly evolving into a weekly.

well-wishers Founded in 1925. Vikatan's success began after S S Vasan took it over in 1927 and persuaded Krishnamurthy to write for it. By 1931 it became a fortnightly, now under the stewardship of Kalki, Rajaji encouraging him to join it, and in 1933 it became a weekly. An advertising and promotional gimmicks man. Vasan may have been

one half of the reason for Ananda

Vikatan's success, and notionally

responsible, as de jure Editor, for the

other half as well. But it was de facto

Editor Kalki who was really responsible

Kalki announces its Golden Jubilee to its

for the other half — and Vasan would have been the first to admit it Kalki's writing, which made the most complex understandable through simplicity, his light editing, which

every joke, his brilliant adaptations of stories by Hardy. Twain and other Western writers, his rather strained humour that benefitted greatly from his way with words, and his chatty column on the dance-and-music scene in Madras, 'Aadal Paadal' by 'Kamatakam', all helped Ananda Vikatan get off to a 45,000-copy start as a weekly quite a circulation for those days. Kalki's own reputation as a historical novelist. who romanticised history in the Alexandre Dumas manner, undoubtedly also helped by lending reflected glory to the magazine everyone knew he

It was, however, not entirely smooth-sailing editing Ananda Vikatan. Kalki, it has been stated, was assertive of the editor's rights and the brilliant Mali (Mahalingam) was equally possessive of the rights of the cartoonist. The relationship between these two key figures remained an uneasy one till the end, not made any easier by Mali being made the editor of the English fortnightly. The Merry Magazine, a stablemate. Then there was the rivalry with the more literary Manikkodi, which frowned on competitions and other gimmicks to gain popularity. The beginnings of the controversy lay in Kalki's view that Subramania Bharathi was not a mahakavi; the Manikkodi

It was while Kalki was making people sit up and take notice of Ananda Vikatan that a dynamic young man joined the new weekly as its advertising manager. Noting its soaring circulation, T Sadasivam, the newcomer, decided to take full page advertisements in The Advertiser's Review and The Advertiser's Weekly in London, from where most of the advertising used to come in those "imports only" days. It was an unheard of step by a vernacular journal, but it brought results. Sadasivam and Kalki were to team

together when Kalki was born, after Kalki decided to part company with Ananda Vikatan and start a more literary magazine. Offering their benedictions at the Golden Jubilee celebration were Sadasivam and his wife, M S Subbulakshmi. In the early Thirties, Kalki's interest in music had the Ananda Vikatan promoting concerts in Madras featuring unknown singers. The man who became renowned as Madurai Mani Iyer was introduced at one of these concerts. At another one, held in the Music Academy's Gana Mandiram in Thambu Chetty Street, a new singer was introduced as 'Madurai M S Subbulakshmi'. Krishnamurthy couldn't make the concert. But he undoubtedly was there in spirit at the Music Academy's new auditorium when 'MS' lit the light and she and Sadasivam greeted guests come to remember what Kalki had started fifty

## Tamil Nadu at the Olympics

(by Ajax and The Corner Flag)

enough. Indian standards being what they are, the country's performance at the Barcelona Olympics, now in its concluding stages, has been in keeping with the dismal Olympics record of the world's second most populous country.

Athletics, not hockey, football or any other discipline, is the piece de resistance of every Olympiad. Unfortunately, apart from Milkha Singh, Gurbachan Singh, Sriram Singh and P T Usha, Indian athletics has had nothing to boast of in any Olympics after the first ones - and even these Asian stars made it only to the finals. This time, the Amateur Athletics Federation of India has seen fit to slash its potential nine-member squad to a measly TWO, a sorry record indeed for a nation of 800-million-plus.

As these lines are written, it is not known whether Bahadur Prasad has made it to the 5000m finals and Shiny Abraham to the 800m semi-finals! But if they have, those will be achievements for satisfaction indeed.

While being pleased about these two making it to the Games, it must be record that the last-minute slashing of the athletics team was indeed sad. It was a particularly bitter blow to Tamil Nadu, in fact to Madras, for it meant that Alphonso Ryan, the plucky Madras Port Trust 400m and 800m runner who was part of the women's 4 × 400m relay team, was not going to Barcelona. If she had gone, she would have been the first Tamil Nadu athlete in many a year to have made it to the Olympics. In fact, she would have been the only representative from the State: the others from Tamil Nadu in the squad have not only not

The writing on the wall was clear represented the State as they reached the country's sports pinnacles, but they also made progress only under coaches from institutions and elsewhere.

Take Ramesh Krishnan, for instance. He can by no stretch of imagination be called a Tamil Nadu product. After he picked up the rudiments of the game from grandfather Ramanathan and father Krishnan, he developed his talent on the European and American circuits, where he now spends about nine months every year. It has been coaches from abroad who have made him what he is, not the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association coaching camps or private tennis academies in Madras. One of the latter, however, had produced Leander Paes. who came from Calcutta to hone his talents in Madras.

Then there are the railwaymen from

Tamil Nadu. Young V Devarajan, a

product of the Sir Ashley Biggs Institute in Madras, is a boxer whom Aspi Adajania — Mr Indian Boxing — feels might be among the top eight in Barcelona. And there's the weightlifter P Rangaswami, who is a Commonwealth champion and is considered, in single entry rating, a potential 14th, but is not as good as fellow Railwayman Chandrasekhar who is on the sick list. (The other weightlifters, Adisekhar of Railways and Sivaraj of the Food Corporation of India ... Does anyone know whether they too are from Tamil Nadu?)These neglected and unnoticed champions from Tamil Nadu have, however, been nurtured by the Railways — and Tamil Nadu can lay no claim to their progress, though it is hoped the State will recognise their achievements if they fulfil the promise (Continued on P 10)



**COMPLETE PLANNED FOOD** 

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August 1-15, 1992

Anxious to disprove the platitude that most beautiful girls are dumb, I went to my interview with 23-yearold Christabelle Howie, Miss India 1991, armed with a ream of lofty questions. These were unobtrusively discarded 15 minutes into the interview, after realising that she didn't intend matching the proposed dialectic plane. Despite this, there were moments throughout the one-hour ramble in which I sensed that Ms Howie, now Mrs Robson, was far more articulate than her reticent persona indicated.

A Commerce graduate from Stella Maris College, Christabelle affirms that she is "the top model in this city, in fact, the only model in Madras who is professional". Her modelling talent was publicly endorsed during the Femina-sponsored national beauty contest held in Bombay in 1991, when she came first among 30 other aspiring beauty queens from all over India. With

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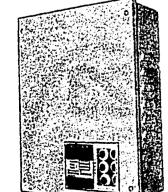
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from abroad. And she's established 'Primrose Academy', a school for models and actresses-to-be, that promises to be the ultimate one.

**MADRAS MUSINGS** 

Since its inception in November 1991, Primrose has turned out 15 wellhoned professional models and actresses from an enrolment of thirty. The rest just "didn't have the mettle and couldn't handle all the hard work involved in learning the tricks of the trade", she explains of her students' success rate at the Kilpauk-based academy, where the courses last up to six months.

But how exactly can a teaching establishment impart practical knowledge about how to "look pretty" and how to be "a winner"? According to Christabelle, there are several important lessons all aspiring models must learn before catching the limelight. "Poise, deportment, notions on diet, beauty, haircare, how to deal with advertising agencies and photographic sessions and, above all, how to be respected. All too often models are treated like trash just because they are in this line of business". Christabelle says angrily.

She, however, has never suffered the humiliation of a besmirched reputation. "I have always taken my parents along with me to all photographic sessions," she explains, "so that nobody gets any funny ideas about me. That way, my family also share in my success". Now that she has a husband. a champion athlete, she has him escort her for shooting, which - since Madras is rapidly expanding as an advertising centre - is on the increase.

With the boundless confidence of vouth, Christabelle Howie Robson says, she wants "to start a family in three years, open a T-shirt export unit next year, make another film before that and get into screenprinting — because that's so cool".

- Lisa Durante

Add the rice and dal and salt. Add three cups of water and cook till rice and dal are cooked and the water

### KASHMIRI DUM ALU

- 1 teaspoon garam masala

Brush the 'apples' with a touch of Salt to taste cochineal on one side, just to give it a pink tinge. Press a clove and a mint

leaf on top of each apple. Arrange neatly on a bed of sliced or grated beetroot and serve.

Since the Las Vegas contest, this

newly-married young woman has been

very busy. Advertising campaigns have

been bringing in approximately

Rs. 50,000 - 75,000 a campaign.

Then there's an English language film

directed by an NRI from the U.S.,

S Manoj Knight — a modern love

story in which she's a virtuous Indian

girl who has caught the eye of a visitor

IN THE

Smear a little butter or ghee in the

palm of your hand. Take a small

portion of the potato mixture and flatten

it on your palm. Put one minced meat

ball on it and cover it on all sides with

the potato. Roll it like a ball. It should

look neat, like an apple.

Mrs P Raghupathy

### VEGETABLE KHICHIDI

1	cup basmati ric	e	
1/2	cup moong dal		
1"	piece ginger		ground
or 4	green chillies		to a
4	garlic pods		paste
2	onions, choppe	d fine	
2	bay leaves		
1	teaspoon red cl	hilli powder	•

1/4 teaspoon turmeric powder

1" stick cinnamon

2 cloves 1 cup mixed vegetables (such as peas chopped beans and carrot) 3 tbs shee

Salt to taste

### Method

A file picture of Christabelle Howie taken a couple of years ago by Photographer

the Miss India title under her belt

Christabelle participated in the 'Miss

Universe 1991' contest held in Las

Vegas, USA. "We were put on diets and

made to strut about in bathing

costumes. It was nerve wracking and

very bitchy," she says. But the

experience was "unforgettable, although

the winner, Miss Mexico, was chosen

for political reasons", Christabelle adds.

**A**n ingenious minced mutton recipe

— Fancy Apples — savoury meat

balls, just perfect to be served with the

nutritious Vegetable Khichidi. Serve also

Kashmiri Dum Alu, a mouthwatering

potato dish cooked in curd slowly. The

Spinach Raita, colourful and

wholesome, completes this sumptuous

**FANCY APPLES** 

1/2 teaspoon chilli powder 7 masala

powder

crushed

powdered

14 kg minced mutton

1 teaspoon coriander

(dhania) powder

1" piece ginger

6 pods garlic

1" piece cinnamon.

2 cardamoms

3 large potatoes

2 tbs mint leaves

1 tbs gram dal powder

few drops green colouring

2 cloves

1 egg

Salt to taste

Method

14 teaspoon turmeric powder

1 beetroot (boiled and sliced)

few drops cochineal (red colouring)

Any cooking medium for deep frying

Wash and clean the minced

mutton. Add chopped onions, green

chilli, masala powder, powdered spices,

crushed ginger and garlic, a few mint

and dry. When cool, grind it soft.

till golden brown and keep aside.

powder and mix it thoroughly.

Add a little water and cook till done

Now add the egg and gram dal

Make it into small balls, deep fry

Boil the potatoes till soft; peel the

skin and mash well, so that there are

no lumps. Add a pinch of salt. Add the

green colouring to give the light shade

leaves and salt to taste.

2 medium onions

2 green chillies

Heat ghee and fry the onions till transparent. Add the bay leaves cinnamon, cloves and the ground paste and fry for another minute.

Add the turmeric powder and red chilli powder. Add the vegetables. Fry for another minute or two.

1/2	g small	potatoes,	peelea	anu	
		over with			
1/2	cup fresh	curd and	b b		
1/2 (	cup water		J	well	
		coriander s		wder,	
roasted dry and powdered					
- 1/4 t	easpoon i	ed chilli p	owder		

1/2 leaspoon asafoetida powder 1 teaspoon dried ginger, powdered

2-3 tbs oil Oil for frying

Coriander leaves, chopped fine for garnishing Method Heat oil for deep frying. Fry the

potatoes till golden. Set aside. Heat the oil. Add the asafoetida powder. Then the potatoes, salt, red chilli powder, coriander seeds powder,

dry ginger powder and curd. Cook uncovered on a low fire till the curd has been completely absorbed. Sprinkle the garam masala and garnish with coriander leaves.

Serve with a Pulao.

### PALAK RAITA

1 bunch spinach, chopped fine 11/2 cups fresh, well-mixed curd 2 green chillies, chopped fine ½ teaspoon chilli powder Salt to taste

### Method

Boil the spinach in very little water,

Mix salt, green chillies and the cooked spinach with curd. Sprinkle the chilli powder. Serve

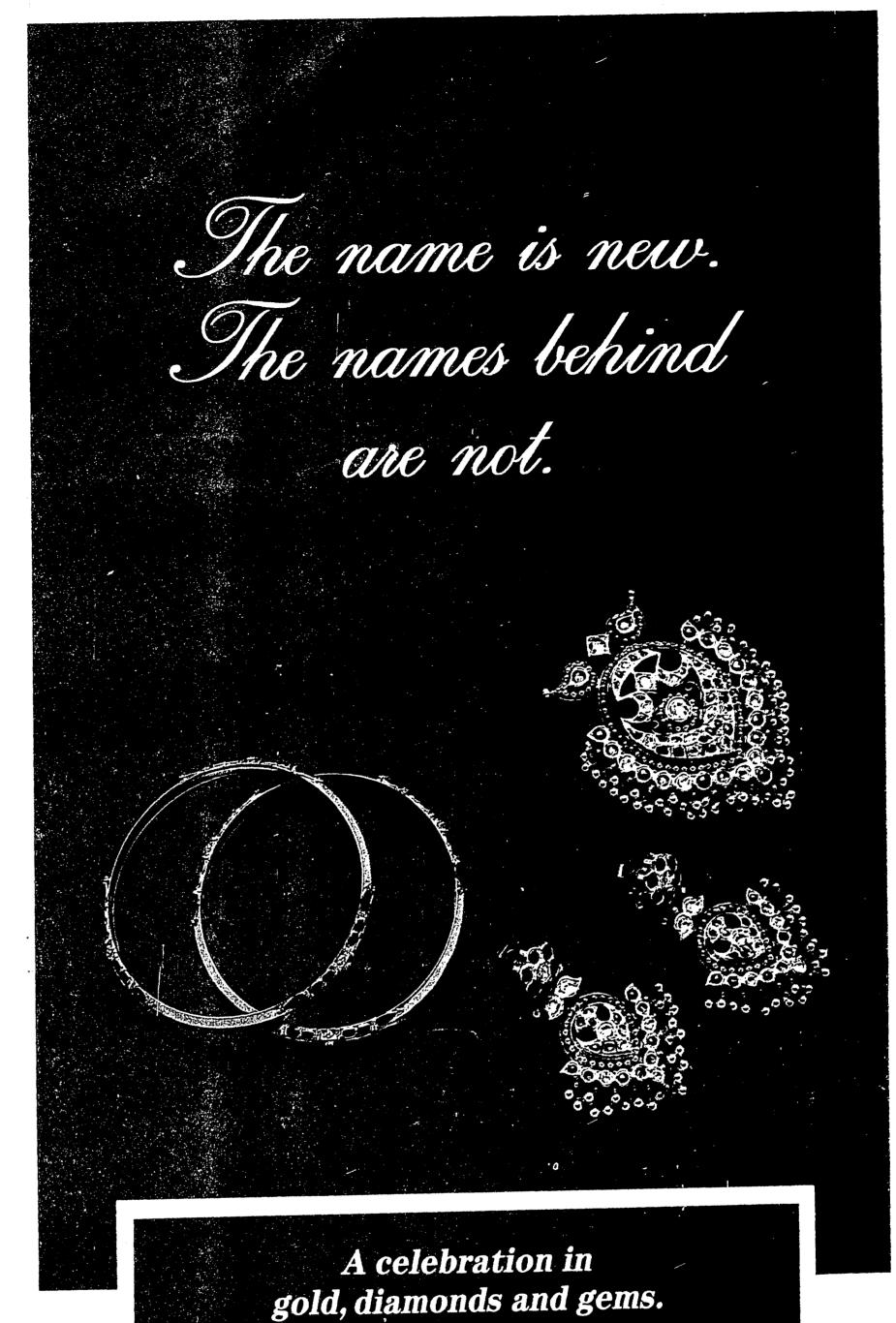
Chandra Padmanabhan

# Quizzin (Quizmaster NAVIN JAYAKUMAR'S of July 1 — 15)

questions are all from the fortnight

- 1. Aayana '92 was an exhilarating dance event based on the Ramayana with about 900 school children participating. What does 'Aayana' mean?
- 2. PTC's successful 'unlimited travel on any route' scheme with a Rs. 200 monthly ticket is called ...?
- 3. How are two Australian visitors to Madras embarrassing the local citizens?
- 4. Bharat Scouts and Guides known as the Rovers are involved in implementing the Government of India's Leprosy Awareness Programme in Tamil Nadu. Which district has been chosen because it has the highest incidence of this disease?
- 5. Which is India's first indigenous multipurpose satellite which was put into orbit by Ariane's Flight 51?
- 6. The TN Government will shortly introduce a chain of Schools of Excellence, an improved version of the Navodaya schools. In which district will the tirst of these schools start?
- 7. In which Olympics did South Africa participate for the last time before the
- 8. Where did Russian First Secretary Alexander Ganitch vanish to before being traced and brought back to New
- 9. To how many years imprisonment has ousted Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega been sentenced on drug and racketeering charges?
- 10. Name the flagship of the US Seventh Fleet which visited Madras recently.
- 11. Which Puccini opera was recently produced in a unique fashion, following the exact locations and times as specified by the composer? It was conducted by Zubin Mehta and telecast to millions of viewers in about 50 countries.
- 12. Which tennis star's autobiography is titled Beyond Centre Court? She was recently inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.
- 13. What equipment acquired by the Cancer Institute, Adyar, is the first such facility in India for intraoperative use?
- 14. Name the Republican and Democrat nominees for President and Vice President in the forthcoming US elections?
- 15. Which Minister of State for Commerce resigned over the purchase of shares in Fairgrowth Financial Services Ltd., now under investigation by the CBI?
- 16. Who is the celebrated mathematician whose centenary is being marked by the Number Theory Conference in the United States? He is also noted for obtaining a crucial improvement in the famous Hardy-Ramanujan formula.
- 17. How many teams will the next World Cup Cricket Finals have?
- 18. Which new express connects Madras and Vijaywada?
- 19. Name the new Deputy Minister for Education and Culture who is also the youngest member of the Lok Sabha?
- 20. Who were the winners of the Men's and Women's singles titles at Wimbledon this year?

(Answers on Page 8)



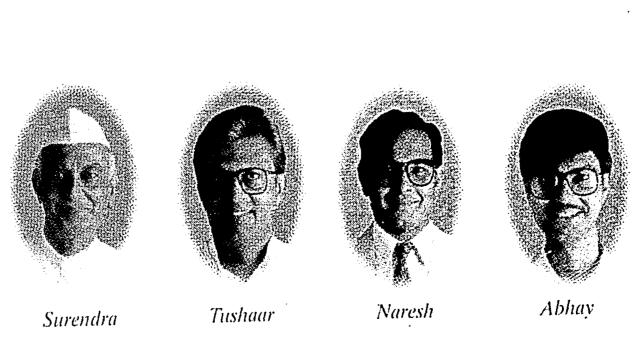
Tushaar, Naresh and Abhay, the names behind Mehta Jewellery need no introduction.

Mehta Jewellery the newest jewellery showroom in Madras is founded on a reputation earned through a combined experience of over 100 years.

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2.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.

# Conflicting views on a happening

Whew! I can't believe it is over! Madras City. And that's proved Aayana '92, the mega-presentation of the Madras Craft Foundation featuring one thousand schoolchildren, seems to have raised plenty of debate in Madras. For the organisers it has been mind-boggling to, on the one hand, subsequently visit the participating schools and find the children almost running out of their classrooms to express their joy, while, on the other, hear comments from intellectuals, theatre persons and high society that Aayana was "lousy and horrible". At the ICCW School for Orthopaedically Handicapped, there is new laughter and a new confidence of having taken part and held their own with children with normal faculties. But in some quarters there is anger that these children were made objects of display! What is the truth? As in Rashomon, it has many faces — and is in the eyes of the beholder.

A disappointing feature of the presentation was that great therukoothu actor Sambandam's inability to get into the spirit of Aayana because his mridangam accompaniment did not arrive. On the other hand, the apparent chaos was deliberate, as joy was the key word and the artists of different disciplines and different approaches to theatre and dance were allowed to work together on their own terms. Many of them volunteered to participate in spite of much opposition from their revolutionary peers who felt it was unethical to work with anyone other than themselves. Working with children can be a greatly humbling experience and every artist needs it! The artists who participated discovered this for themselves.

### Alternate theatre

I was sorry to have missed the theatre festival organised by Subhamangala. There were some extremely interesting presentations offered at the festival I was told.

I could attend only the last day, when the koothu. Narthevan Gudigadu, was presented outside the Krishna Gana Sabha hall. This koothu. which generally depicts Prahlada Charitham, has a unique characteristic. Each role is played by two people simultaneously. There are two Ganeshas, two Prahladas, two Hiranyakashipus etc.

It was, however, curious to hear the narrator mention that the koothu was being staged at the Muppathamman temple, even though the temple was across the street and a wall separated and hid the Sabha premises from it.

Narthevan Gudigadu is now performed only in two villages in Tamil Nadu. The koothu has lilting songs and the artistes have a spring to their dancing steps.

Many groups from different parts of Tamil Nadu presented their plays at the festival. The street theatre groups among them performed in the open air outside. Mornings were devoted to discussions on the presentations among intellectuals.

Komal Swaminathan has been able to set Shriram Chit Funds as the sole promoter of alternate Tamil Theatre in · .

Michael Richardson

### visitor to Madras who held my A attention was Michael Richardson,

THE VIEW FROM THE WINGS

a shadow puppeteer from the U.S. He is here on a Fulbright fellowship to explore shadow puppetry in India.

Shadows that teach

In Madras, he worked with Selvarai and Seethalakshmi, the two Madras shadow puppeteers, and, in spite of language problems, had animated discussions with them.

While puppetry is generally considered a dying folk art in the West, it is increasingly being used by experimental and non-traditional theatre, as well as being an adjunct to education, Richardson told me. Michael had a brief encounter with some local schoolteachers, gave them some exciting ideas of how shadow puppetry could be brought into the classroom in broad daylight and demonstrated Indonesian and American shadow puppetry.

He plans to come back to Madras in September and looks forward to doing a bigger workshop with schoolteachers, puppeteers, crafts and theatre

### The art of Rajasthan

Tolk art seem to be alive and thriving in Madras city. There is a group of Raiasthani singers and dancers holding a month-long workshop of Rajasthani folk music and dance at 'Parampara' on Kasturiranga Iyengar Road. The famous Langa and Manganiyar singers are teaching Rajasthani music and bhajans, and dances are being taught by the well known Kachwaha sisters from Jodhpur. There are classes for boys beat instrument.

Parampara is at present chockful of women and girls wanting to learn more of Rajasthani folk arts. Founder Manjulika Ihavar insists there is no more room and says she does not want publicity. She also insists there is no hierarchy at Parampara, which has classes in art, yoga, pranayama, Ayurveda and other traditional

# STAR CRAZY

Forever seeing stars — as leaders

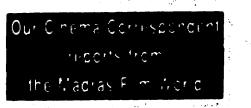
The average Tamizhan is crazy about movies, a fact of life accepted by all in Tamil Nadu. The astonishing fact that movie personalities have been able to capture political power and rule the state is a reflection of this strong link between cinema and politics in this part

of the country During the past several weeks, posters have been appearing in several district towns of the state (posters are banned only in Madras city, as yet) heralding the megastar Rajinikanth as the future Chief Minister of the state. While he has denied time and again that he hasany political ambitions, that interested in the 'Khartal', a wooden has not stopped these posters. Perhaps only a ban will stop them. But will it stop disgruntled politicians from trying to get megastars into politics?

Another event, which took place in a prosperous town known for its banking community, really takes the cake for the movie madness of the Tamizhan. A young man of status and education was asked to distribute prizes and gifts at a function in this town. Contributing V R Devika his mite, he came up with a gift of his

own to one of the winners, a cash gift of Rs. 101/-.

As he gave away his gift, he announced over the loudspeakers, his voice charged with emotion, "Ladies and gentlemen, I make this gift on this special occasion on behalf of THE FUTURE CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU, OUR DEARLY BELOVED DR. KUSHBU!" The



packed audience was stunned. Then, to the surprise of many, a section of the audience broke into loud cheers and cries of "Long Live Our Future Chief Minister, Dr. Kushbu!"

Kushbu is currently the leading Tamil female film star, and after the success of Chinna Thambi she is the most sought after actress. A small fry Bombay starlet, she left Bollywood unwept and unsung and travelled southwards. After some minor roles in Telugu films, she has clawed her way to the top in Tamil cinema. And now.... How movie mad can the Tamizhan get!

## Bharatha Natyam in a Christian ambience

(By A Special Correspondent)

In an age when the cultural moorings of the Tamil Christian are perceived as being decidedly Western, with the movies reinforcing the idea by casting the occasional Anthony guzzling wine and dancing break, it is refreshing to come across a programme that effectively puts across the point that Christianity and Tamil cultural heritage are not necessarily divergent. Indeed, Jeyamani Divya's recent arangetram at Rani Seethai Hall went a step further by using Bharatha Natyam to present, through sequences drawn entirely from biblical narratives, the Christian

The Navarasa Bhavam (Onban Suvaigal/Nine Emotions) and the Bethlehem Kuravanii were outstanding numbers in Divya's recital. A look at the rest of the programme reveals how the Christian theme was woven into her performance.

message of salvation.

The alarippu accompanied by a song in praise of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit that had been composed by Vedanayagam Sastriar, In the shabdam, the dancer described the miracles of Lord Jesus to a song composed by Anjala Richard. The varnam centred on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

high points of the recital. The amazing grace of God who became a man of lowly birth so that the faithful could be born again into the Kingdom of God was depicted by the dancer to accompaniment composed by Dayamani Manasseh. And the bhavam expressed emotion through Biblical incidents that portrayed the Nava Rasas -Love, Humour, Valour, Contempt, Fear, Anger, Compassion, Wonder and Peace.

The tillana used an innovation of Meenakshi Dhinakaran based on a song composed by Vedanayagam Sastriar. And the other highlight was Bethlehem Kuravanji, with ragas composed by S.K. Muniswamy: and featuring Vedayanagam Sastriar's allegory. The entire programme was

choreographed by Meenakshi Dhinakaran but arranged by Dr Anjala Richard, Professor of Tamil at Women's Christian College. Author of several works dealing with the cultural aspects of religion, Dr Richard has been greatly inspired by Vedanayagam Sastriar of Tanjore. She had, in fact, made, as part of her doctoral dissertation, a comparative study of Vedanayasam's work and that of the 18th Century English hymn writer Charles Wesley.

Vedanayagam had the distinction of being a Christian poet Serfoji who honoured him with the title 'Sastriar'. Though accorded recognition by the Church and State for his varied contribution to Christian literature in Tamil, Sastriar (1774-1864) sadly failed to win a place in the pantheon of Tamil men of letters.

A few weeks earlier, Bharatha Natyam and Tamil folk dance, both in the same Christian ambience, were staged at the Women's Christian College Auditorium.

The 'Narcheithikkalai Koodam' of the College and the Institute for Development Education organised this "felicitously termed" Good News Festival of Dance, which, A Researchen writes, contributed to "a transcreation of the Christian aesthetic sensibility into the traditional idiom of Bharatha Netyam." He adde:

This programme was a confluence of three great traditions; the modern Tamil poetic form,the messages and imagery of the Holy Bible, and. finally, the aesthetics of Bharatha Natyam in the concert pattern, which included songs which had been shaped into a recital pattern by the famous brothers Ponnish, Chicaich, Styngandom and Vadivels, known as the Thanjever Quartet, a few centuries ago.



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# A cricketer & a patron

Two well-known Madras sporting personalities celebrated their 80th birthdays in July. Madras Musings wishes them very many more happy birthdays and recalls their achievements with pride in this piece.

G Parthasarathy, senior diplomat, the first Vice-Chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi, key adviser to the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on foreign policy, had another area of achievement, one that may not be remembered by many now.

G.P., who celebrated his 80th birthday on July 7th, was a frontline sports personality of the Madras Presidency of the Forties. A forceful righthand batsman and a penetrative googly bowler, the tall, lanky G.P., always clad in khaddar, represented Madras in the Ranji Trophy championship for nearly a decade, was a member of the Indian team in the annual Presidency matches, and narrowly missed the opportunity of playing for the country.

Graduating from Presidency College, then a haven of sportsmen, he moved on to Oxford University to study law. On his return from Oxford, G.P. joined The Hindu as an assistant editor and worked there till 1949, when he left for work in diplomatic and other fields.

During his sojourn in Oxford, he played regularly for the Authentics, but missed his Cricket Blue narrowly. He also turned out for the Oxford Occasionals in hockey. G.P. was an excellent half-back who drew comparison with the outstanding pivot of the day, M J Gopalan.

In contrast to the attitude of his two distinguished contemporaries, Gopalan and A G Ram Singh, his approach to cricket was light-hearted, like that of the amateurs in English cricket of the day. Which was why he did not achieve the stature of the great pair. However, his enjoyment of the game was fulsome; he got the maximum relaxation and entertainment from a day out in the field and from the companionship the game offered afterwards. This spirit infected the members of the rival teams.

That he could be tough and purposeful if need be and raise his game, G.P. proved on quite a number of occasions. His match-winning bowling in a key match with Triplicane Cricket Club on the Pachaiyappa's High School ground after his side, Mylapore Recreation Club, had collapsed for a poor score was a memorable performance, illustrative of this. In a post-lunch spell

### **ANSWERS TO** QUIZ

1. The Coming — a derivative of Ramayana; 2. Travel As You Please; 3. Paul Henry and Craig Hendry, who earlier swept the roads, are now cleaning public toilets; 4. Chingleput-MGR District; 5. Insat-2A; 6. Dharmapuri: 7. Rome 1960; 8. Kulu Valley; he claimed he was led by his 'inner voice': 9. 40 years; 10. USS Blue Ridge; 11. Tosca; 12. Tracy Austin; 13. 20 MEV Mitsubishi Linear Accelerator: 14. Bush-Quayle; Clinton-Gore: 15. P. Chidambaram: 16. Prof. Rademacher; 17. 12; 18. Pinakini; 19. Ms Selja; 20. Andre Agassi and Stelfi Graf.

G.P. routed T.C.C., bagging eight wickets.

Joe Hardstaff's flowing double century for Tennyson's team against Madras in January 1938 was an outstanding feature of that match, but the Englishman could not master the legspin of G.P., who kept him on the



Cricket as it was then, in Madras. This rare picture shows the Mylapore Recreation Club team and other club members at the end of the 1948-49 season when the team won the First Division League title for the third successive time under G Parthasarathy's captaincy. Bespectacled GP is seen with his son, behind the flowers. Others in the front row include: T M Duraiswami (3rd from left), M V Ramanujalu (Bhatt) (4th from left), C Ramaswami (9th from left) and C R Pattabhiraman (10th from left). The author, P N Sundaresan, is second from left in the last row and on his right is G Kasturi, who went on to head The Hindu, for which GP and the author both worked. The second popular sporting per-

### by P N SUNDARESAN

defensive throughout and, finally, bagged his wicket through a return catch. Not only did he earn high praise from Hardstaff, but the effort won him a place in the Indian team for the Madras 'test' to be played the following week. However, an injury sustained during nets before the match deprived him of the chance to don the national colours. These two instances, and his clinching spell that won the Ranji Trophy match against United Provinces at Chepauk in 1940-41, illustrate the



V R Lakshmi Ralan

manner in which G.P. could tighten his game when the need arose.

G.P. was perhaps happiest when playing for M.R.C., enjoying the company of such seniors as the Buchi Babu brothers, Bhatt, Baliah and Ramaswami, and those with whom hehad grown up in the game, like C.R. Pattabhiraman, T M Duraiswami and P S Ramachandran. Taking over the captaincy of the club from Pattabhiraman, he built it up to peak strength so that M.R.C. did not lose a tie in three years during the late Forties. To youngsters like me, it was a privilege and pleasure to play for the club in those years and develop our game under his benign eye.

In nearly twenty years of his association with the game in Madras Presidency, G.P. influenced it both as a player and selector, his judgement and independence marking him out in the

latter role.

sonality to celebrate 80 in July was V R Lakshmi Ratan, a contemporary of G.P. Lakshmi Ratan was a patron of cricket who spent generously from his purse to run the Minerva Cricket Club as well as the Eccentrics. He was Secretary of the Madras Cricket Association for a year and cherishes the memory that India recorded its first Test victory ever against England when he was at the helm; that was at Chepauk in 1952. Lakshmi Ratan played an important

role in bringing the Indians and Europeans closer in the Forties and Fifties. The Eccentrics, started by A.F.W. Dixon of the Indian Civil Service, was the vehicle that he used to bridge the gap between the Indians and Europeans, inviting some of the leading players from the two communities to play for the club. Lakshmi Ratan's main love, however, was Minerva, which he built up as a rival to M.R.C. and T.C.C. in the city league.

Through arranging tours for Minerva and Eccentrics outside Madras, he provoked interest in the game in the districts. The Sports and Pastime tournament, one of the earliest limited overs competitions in the country, owes its origin in good measure to him. He also led the Philip's team to victory in

As Regional Manager of Philips India, which he joined in 1954, Lakshmi Ratan established the first closed circuit T.V. in front of his office in Mount Road. The inauguration was attended by State Ministers as well as M A Chidambaram, then Mayor of Madras.

It is the practice that friends and well-wishers call to felicitate a person on his birthday. But what Lakshmi Ratan did was different; a week before he was 80, he sent ripe mangoes to his very close friends in a 'basket' that was an omamental flower pot!

### TN at the Olympics

(Continued from P5)

they have shown in Asian and Commonwealth competitions.

A couple of even more distant connections are in the Table Tennis team. Chetan Baboor learned his game in Tamil Nadu but now plays it in Kamataka while Niyati Shah learnt her game in Maharashtra but now practises it in Tamil Nadu. Neither, however, are among the hopefuls.

Over the last half century, athletes Eric Prabhakar and Henry Rebello, hockey stalwarts Ernie Cullen, B Francis, Muneer Sait, the brothers V | Phillip and Bhaskaran, G Krishnamurthi, R Bhaskar and several others have done Tamil Nadu proud (even if some of them represented institutional teams at various Olympics). All of them were not medal winners. But they fielped keep Tamil Nadu sport in the spotlight at the major events in the games. This time, there is no one in any of these headline-hogging disciplines (unless someone says Dhanraj Pillay, who plays for Bombay, has roots in Tamil Nadu). What a fall there has been in Tamil Nadu sport since the time of the stalwarts named above. Will the Tamil Nadu Sports Authority promised by Chief Minister Jayalalitha make a difference by the next Olympic Games?

Whether it will or not, it needs to be recorded that the minimal Tamil Nadu presence — a blank really, if judged by those who've wom the State's colours — in the Olympics squad came in the wake of boastful newspaper advertisements by two governmentaided sports development bodies listing their "achievements". These included the SAI Sports Hostel team's success in the "coveted all-India Basheer Ahmed Khan hockey tournament" and the success of the Tamil Nadu girls in the All-India Rural Sports competitions.

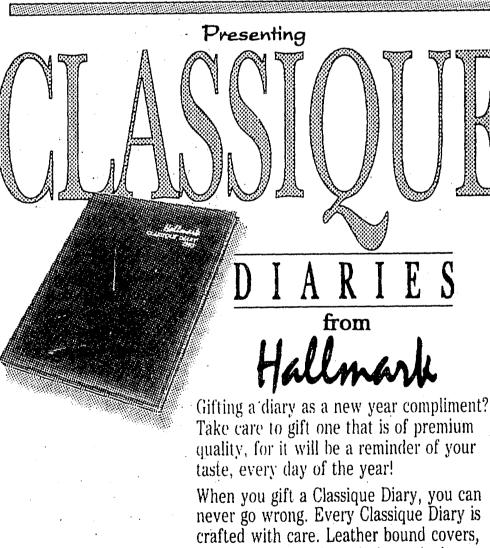
The Sports Hostel team won in a depleted tournament that clashed with the Bombay Gold Cup competition, but flopped in the Scissors-MCC tournament a fortnight later (though it mustbe added that, by then, it was itself depleted, three or four of its best players vying for places in the Indian Junior team at a special selection camp). As for the Rural Games, are we to take it that such competition is all that Tamil Nadu can win in? It is time Tamil Nadu sports controlling bodies, particularly the government-aided ones, woke up to the reality, instead of taking credit for moderate hockey successes and rural victories.

(Continued from P3)

By the time these lines appear, the end of the tunnel (at least we hope so) should be in sight, as the Special Court is expected to give its verdict on July 30th. The responsibility of determining a way of handling the accursed shares, consistent with the goal of protecting the savings of the innocent, need not be stressed. Hopefully a solution is at hand.

Till then the market seems to be on a downward slide again and, therefore, fresh investments should be put 'on K Gopalakrishnan hold'.

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