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METAL CUTTING TOOLS

Vol. II. No. 13

FREE ISSUE — EVERY FORTNIGHT

October 16 — 31, 1992

The books are now being closed on...

### The libraries

scam

(By A Special Correspondent)

The story can now be told of Madras's own scam. With the books in the process of being closed on it, as books supplied by them are being recalled by Madras textbook publishers (and a few from further afield), most of the publishers are only too glad that their losses have been contained. But they still wonder what it was all about.

It all began over a year ago, when a small but well-known local publisher with a reputation for scholarship, integrity and loyalty to the Dravidian movement placed orders amounting to nearly Rs. 3 crores on a couple of dozen publishers for a wide variety of textbooks and scholastic reference books. They were for distribution to the libraries of less privileged schools, was all he would say. Payments would be within thirty days of delivery, he promised.

Knowing the man, the orders were accepted gladly, for they spelt bonanza in a lean season. And then, with titles being in the two or three thousands in some cases, some publishers reprinted them, others made arrangements to import them and whatever was available in stock was supplied. Some orders were in the region of Rs. 20 and 30 lakhs, but in one case there was a Rs. 10 lakh order that, it was promised, would be enhanced to Rs. 1 crore!

When the money was not paid on the due dates, the first signs of concern began to appear. That however did not stop the reprinting from going on or further supplies being made. But still the money did not come in. As the suppliers began to press the publisher who had placed the orders, he pointed the finger at a swashbuckling manabout-town and political fellow-traveller and said that this gentleman would ensure all payments.

And he did, indeed, begin to make payments. A few of the cheques — for smaller amounts — were honoured, but all the bigger cheques bounced. Now there was deep concern in the market-place — especially among those who had reprinted and supplied titles that had no market anywhere else. So the publishers now moved from their colleague to the mysterious man behind the scenes. Patience, patience, is what he repeatedly counselled. But with more bouncing cheques and no signs of firm payments, their patience began to wear thin.

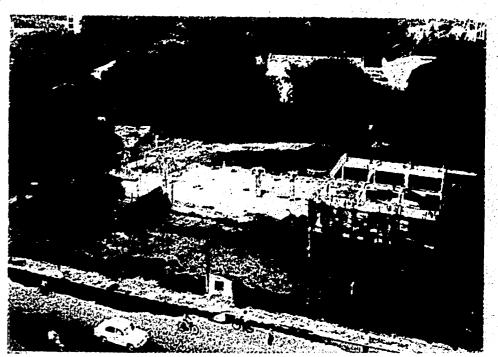


There were meetings, there were delegations, there were threats. But in the end, the publishers were led to a warehouse and invited to take back their books, if they wanted; they, however, had the option of waiting for the 'Great Sale' to materialise: 'There'll be payment any day now for the whole stock," the publishers were promised. But few were taken in and the 'Grand Clearance' began.

I put them"?

When the stock was taken back a few weeks ago, a few publishers found that some of their more popular titles were short. Apparently the man-about-politicians had sold some of these titles in the neighbouring states and it was with these realisations that he had met the smaller cheques he had issued. But he couldn't find buyers prepared to take bulk stocks that would have enabled him to meet the bigger cheques and gain more time.

But what else did he intend to gain? No one is sure what his game was, least of all the publisher he used. Was there a scam in the offing (and, if so, how) or could this scam have spelt bonanza to the publishers if someone's game plan had worked out right? It's as much of a mystery as all those other curious business deals being talked about from the hills to the plains, from Lake Pulicat to Kanniyakumari. One day, the answers might emerge in someone's memoirs.



What next in the forecourt of Abbotsbury? Will an Oberoi-managed hotel come up here on this Mount Road site in Teynampet? (Photograph: V S Raghavan)

## Planning big to build better

(By A Staff Reporter)

There's a whole lot of plans to build bigger and better public buildings in and around the city. Work has started on some of them, others are still dreams and still others appear to be faced with problems.

V S Raghavan's picture above is one of a half-finished building half-pulled down. A part of the Abbotsbury campus, it looked like it would wind up as a row of shops along Mount Road when work on it first started. At that time, Abbotsbury, then the premier kalyana mandapam in the City, had been acquired by the Sai Baba Trust. Construction work stopped when the whole campus was taken over by the Balaji Group of the Subbarama Reddy family.

From then onwards, there's been talk of a hotel being built on this site. But nothing seemed to happen till earlier this year, when work on demolishing the unfinished row began, behind a cadjan curtain. Then, in August, the Balaji Group announced that it planned to build, at a cost of Rs. 100 crores, a deluxe five-star hotel in association with the Oberoi Group. But shortly afterwards the work stopped

again and the picture above is today s picture of a structure waiting to be pulled down and a cadjan curtain in need of repair. What is the secret of this on again, off again operation at Abbotsbury?

Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation Ltd (Public Works Department) in a full-page advertisement dominated, naturally, by Madam Chief Minister, announce its plans under the subtitle "Mapping the future attractions". These include the new MGR Samadhi on the Marina Beach (the architect's sketch of which is shown below).

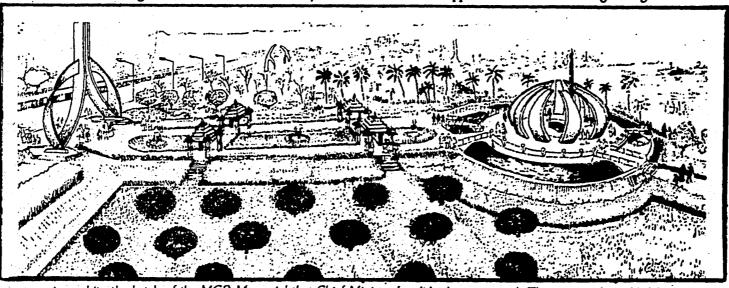
This "engineering feat with aesthetically designed arches and petals... with four Mandapams and an eternal light... will be completed before December 1992 at a cost of nearly Rs. 155 lakhs".

The advertisement also enthusiastically speaks, without the least bashfulness, of all the bounty it is receiving from the Chief Minister: "TNSCC is... protecting the State's heritage... in a giant endeavour to ensure that pages of history in the future will speak of these efforts in glowing terms." These efforts will include "a major tourist attraction... the 133 feet high statue (statue 95 ft, pedestal 38 feet) of Thiruvalluvar on the sea at Kannniyakumari being built at a cost of Rs. 360.15 lakhs... comparable to the Statue of Liberty in America" and "A Film City spread over an area of nearly 90 acres at Taramani ... an exciting tourist destination ... (with) gardens reminiscent of Japan and Italy ... and a country club".

With Thiruvalluvar having the renowned Ganapathi Sthapathi as guiding spirit, why the need for inspiration from the much younger Lady Liberty, Japan and Italy? Surely the Cholas and the Pandyas and Pallavas would have been more appropriate. Perhaps the answers to these posers will be forthcoming in the next ad, but, meanwhile, this ad did not speak of the next major building project in the City. Surely Madam Chief Minister will see to it that that too falls in the lap of the TNSCC-PWD, even if it gives low priority to historic Senate House.

The new project is the Dr MGR Medical University's buildings, which Vice Chancellor Dr B P Rajan announced, together with Chief Minister Jayalalitha's Doctorate. These would include administrative buildings and library on a 7-acre site owned by the King Institute in Guindy, a Rs. 100 crore research facility and university hospital on a 22-acre site in Tambaram and "a full-fledged campus" on a 230 acre site at Erumaivettipalayam (is that 'buffaloes to the slaughter village'?) near Ponneri.

All this and all the other building going on in and around the city! There's going to be no containing Madras!!



An architect's sketch of the MGR Memorial that Chief Minister Jayalitha has approved. The memorial on the Marina is expected to be completed by the end of the year by the Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation, the PWD's construction wing.

#### 2

### A question of perspective

Dr Neville Kanakaratne, distinguished Sri Lankan lawyer and academic and former international civil servant, recently paid a rare visit to Madras in his present role as High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in India. His Excellency took the opportunity to present his views to the Indo-Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce and what a few thought was a more significant gathering at the University of Madras. The latter audience, comprising several persons interested in Indo-Sri Lanka political relations, were brought together by the University's Department of Southeast Asian Studies to listen to Dr Kanakaratne talk of the future of that

relationship. His Excellency, however, spent most of his extemporaneous talk fluently describing the events of the post-1983 period and the chilly atmosphere that has resulted. Much of what he had to say about the errors committed by both sides seemed acceptable to most of his listeners; even N Ram thought he was reasonably reasonable, now that Ram himself has a different perspective on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Not so, however, a former collegemate of His Excellency. A former Member of the Sri Lankan Parliament and one of the surviving leaders of the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front, Sivasithamparam was even more eloquent than His Excellency when he took him on with great heat and passion. Sivasithamparam's perspective was met with equal vehemence by His Excellency. And The Man From Madras Musings was only sorry that he had to miss lunch where both had promised to continue from where they had to break off to allow the High Commissioner to meet the Vice-Chancellor.

Of particular interest to the listeners was Dr Kanakaratne's view that Indian intervention in Sri Lanka was "unnecessary" — a view with which many in the audience seemed to agree — and Sivasithamparam's response which, in effect, was "Fiddlesticks! There can be no Indo-Sri Lanka relations till the Tamil problem is solved, because that problem will always be one of India's primary concerns".

Former DIG Mohandas had an even more parochial perspective. Relations would not improve, he felt, till all the refugees went back - to even worse conditions than they are now in. Mr Mohandas? - and till Sri Lanka reciprocated with as much generosity as India had in the past on the Kachativu issue by allowing Indian fishermen to use the island - surely, Mr Mohandas, not a feasible proposition in these troubled times when the Palk Strait is an arms and supplies conduit to the

It was sad that no one on the occasion, including the Chief Guest, was prepared to look at Indo-Sri Lanka relations in any other way than in Sinhala-Tamil or Sri Lanka-Tamil Nadu terms. If there were better relations on other counts, if there were more exchanges between the two

MMDA or will it start compiling its own list of buildings or will it ask the State Government to make its recommendations? And once such a conservation list is compiled, how will the process of saving the buildings be put into action? Take for instance the case of Senate House or the Royapuram Railway Station, imentioned in Madras Musings.

Sad that these good inten-

Sad that these good intentions are too late for Bentinck Building, Panangal Building and Clive Battery.

### More on the Cow

That Cow story that appeared in this column a few weeks ago apparently appealed to several readers who've all expressed their delight and wanted more of the same, but have added little to the debate on the state of English today. So The

### SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

countries in every other field, perhaps these basic irritants will diminish with time. Or is MMM being too optimistic?

### Heritage project

It's nice to hear that the Centre has launched a heritage project to preserve old buildings with historic connections, rather than see them pulled down for multistoreyed construction. Dr Poornima Sastry, Regional Director. GOI Tourist Office, Madras, announced this on World Tourism Day, but raised a question in the mind of The Man From Madras Musings with her amplification that the heritage buildings being considered would be buildings over 50 years old.

There may be a building or two over 50 years that is historic, but even by the Archaeological Survey of India's definition, historic buildings are those over 100 years old, not those built after the World War II and post-Independence booms.

Be that as it may, The Man From Madras Musings wonders about the mechanics of the project. Will the Government of India accept a heritage list now with INTACH, Madras, and the

Wishes

all its readers

a very happy Deepavali

Man From Madras Musings follows suit by offering six more descriptions of the Cow without any other comment than to state that the earlier story must have been part of this set of answers which Sunanda Sanyal, writing in The Telegraph, Calcutta, states is from among the SIXTY he had submitted, from the Madhyamik (SSLC) English paper answers, to the West Bengal Education Commission headed by Ashok Mitra. The figures in brackets are the marks given, out of 100, for these answers. Sanval told the Commission.

A) It has four leg, two ear, In India there many coloured cow Such as black Saffrine etc... Cow is very usefull... We eat the milk ... The baby or man or woman all persons drink — the milk which is balanced diet. (83)

B) The leather of it's are also used to make essitial leather materials. (87)

C) 'Hambal, hamba,! — this the most common Onomotopyea... A cow with its hole life dedicates the it last drop of blood for our crops, but what they get instead? — This question may hear stupidous, but, let us think, Cannot the Cow be Compared to the greatman of the history. (87)

D) This cow's dang is use as a furtilizer and to make many things. Cows lkin is use to make many musical articale like tabla etc...The Hindus are pray cow as god...the cow is also use a vehicle. (89)

E) Cow was medium to know richer persons. One who had much cows he was known as rich man. (90)

F) The big hornes and big ears

— make a sense of an
inoscent beauty, That as why,
The Hindus, worship this
animal. (91)

With such answers at the school-leaving level, could they be any better when the same students sit for a public service exam, whether Central or state?

### In brief

The Chief Minister, The Man From Madras Musings is glad to note, had told the Assembly that she is "ready to say that my cutouts should not be kept anydon't you go the whole hog, Madam, and SAY SO, despite the chorus of "No, No"s from your followers in the Legislature? A categorial statement from you that there should be no more cutouts, posters and advertisements featuring you would set a splendid example for every politician to follow and would be a major contribution by you to a cleaner Madras, many in the city will agree.

where in Tamil Nadu". Why

politicians might note the self-regulating code drawn up by the Indian Society of Advertisers, the Advertising Association of India and the Associations of Hoarding Contractors in Bombay recently to ensure that outdoor advertising does not deface the environment.

The code, initially to be tried out in Bombay, hopes to promote greater civic sense among advertisers by PROHIBITING the cutting down of trees for new hoarding sites, the trimming of trees at existing sites if such action could permanently damage the trees and the siting of any kind of outdoor advertising close to buildings of historical or architectural interest, parks, major places of worship and important monuments.

Since politicians should have the greatest civic sense, will they follow suit in Madras without the need for such a code?

★ A corporate post office, it is reported, will shortly be set up in Madras. This post office will handle annual reports, house journals, dividend warrants etc which corporate organisations post in bulk. The consequence of this, the Post Master General (Tamil Nadu Circle) states, will be that regular mail will NOT suffer any longer because of these bulk postings.

The Man From Madras Musings only hopes that an old story does not repeat itself. The newspapers a few years ago carried that story, of house journals being dumped behind the General Post Office by a few postal officials and then being sold off as waste paper. Don't remember what happened to the case (or was it inquiry?) that followed. Does anyone remember?

\* India, we all know, is the world's leading mango juice supplier. But an even more popular juice in the West is passion fruit juice. And the world's leading supplier of that sweet-sour nectar is Sri Lanka. There are several parts of Tamil Nadu where this fruit vine will thrive and yield even better fruit than Sri Lanka. Why, The Man From Medras Musings wonders, don't we grow more passion fruit and enter this lecrative market?In fact, there are several fruit that will thrive in our state but which we don't pay as much attention to as Sri Lanka. These include mangosteen, rembutan, jak and woodspple. Sri Lanka processess the three last-named. rembuten and jak as canned fruit and woodapple as a delightful thick cream. Is Tamil Nedu missing out on an important export as well as a big domestic market?

MMM

### OUR READERS WRITE

#### Ex-President's 'isthmus'

am grateful to MMM for his note about the former President's memoirs in Madras Musings (Sept. 16–30). Yes, I have been chosen as Honorary Special Assistant to prepare the memoirs of ex-President of India R Venkataraman.

I can assure you and your readers that the biography of the historic President, who dealt with four Prime Ministers in five years and who had swom in three Prime Ministers in two years, will be a unique one, remarkable in many ways. It will be a biography of a person of great dedication and devotion, entirely authored by the illustrious ex-President himself. My roke would be similar to James Boswell who once stood between the great King George and Dr Samuel Johnson as an interpreter, when they met. The faithful Boswell compared himself then to a small "isthmus" connecting two great continents.

My role will be exactly similar. I am to record the illustrious ex-President's views on men and matters faithfully and be an **isthmus** that connects the outstanding ex-President with the public at large. This will be my assignment, nothing more nor less; like the squirrel in the Ramanaya, if you like an example from the East.

My job will be that of a tape-recorder, but a recorder that will personally enjoy the prestigious recording as it is done by one of the greatest Indians.

Thanks a lot for MMM's views on my

capacity; I never knew I possessed so many talents. **Dr K Venkatasubramanian**Former Vice-Chancellor

2 Judge Jumbulingam Road

Mylapore, Madras-600 004.

### Road-use problems

y office is in a building, far inside, on the opposite of the road from TVS in

To get an auto I have to walk all the way to where Thiru-Vi-Kaa Road joins and wait and wait. What a strain! Have these people any idea or sense?!

Again, to get out at the Spencers' end,

there are seven policemen daily to see that vehicles wait to allow your auto to cross the lane.

It is most ridiculous and slows down

traffic. I say this as a road-user for forty years in Madras — walking, by car, bus, taxi and auto.

If your wonderful motoring correspondent's idea (MM Sept. 1-15) is put to use, one may have to go to Tambaram to pick up an auto. Please spare old men like me.

Tamban
Side Street of Josier Street
Madras-600 034.

#### Spawn-buyers beware

fter your publication of 'How to grow mushrooms' (MM Sept. 1), there have, been encouraging inquiries and several domestic experimental units have been set up. There is, however, a dearth of mushroom spawn production in the city at the moment and the few producers are unable to meet the growing demand of new mushroom growers.

New mushroom growers should be careful about the spawn they buy, especially of the condition and quality of spawn found in the spawn bottles.

Rajind N Christy Anna Nagar West Madras-600 040.

#### Coffee House memories

eading about Coffee House (MM Oct. 1) brings back nostalgic memories.

At TVM we used to have one of the finest Coffee Houses; but not any more...

I find MM is in more drawing rooms

I find MM is in more drawing rooms these days. May it continue successfully.

Hiramalini Seshadri

Anna Nagar

Madras-600 040.

# Doings and undoings

with 'The Shroff' on long vacation overseas and a whole heap of doings and undoings on the local business scene, it behoves 'The Recorder' to keep 'Business Review' going and note in it the local goings on. The chief of which has been the waves being created in the venerable, 80-year-old TVS Group.

October 16-31, 1992

T V Sundaram Iyengar's heirs appear to be not only heading for a split down the middle but two of their companies, Sundaram Abex and Brakes India, are also warring with each other in the courts over the latter making brake linings and, thereby, slowing down the former. Naturally Abex is headed by a member of one half of the family and Brakes is by someone from the other half. There have also been disputes — as well as court intervention - over the management of the holding company of the Rs. 2000 crore group, TVS and Sons, Madurai.

In these disputes, the two teams have lined up as follows. Sundaram Ivengar's sole surviving son, the 83-year-old T S Santhanam, and his sons, Ram and Viji, and kin-bymarriage S Ramanujam and T Ramabhadran have teamed up with the late TS Rajam's sons, Ramachandran and Ratnam, and grandsons, Haresh, Naresh and Srinath (the latter Ratnam's son, the others Ramachandran's). Challenging their traditional management of the affairs of TVS and Sons have been the sons of the late TS Srinivasan and TS Krishna. The former are Venu and Gooal — and with them is T K Balaji, Srinivasan's son-in-law and the latter are Suresh, Ramesh and Mahesh.

Members of the family are not that certain that a split is inevitable. Says Suresh Krishna, "Recent events are only aberrations. There's been talk of a split for 16 years, but nothing has really happened" and Srinath adds, "A partition is not all that easy and cannot come overnight". The marketplace view, however, is expressed by a senior executive in the automobile sector, whose ancillaries industries the Group dominates. Predicting a split, he wonders how long it can be avoided "especially when the companies are managed separately". Moreover, he adds. "a division is inevitable with more family members entering the group and business expanding".

#### SPIC or MAC, it grows

Is the SPIC Group trying to change its image and go back to roots, when it was known as the MAC Group? But by whatever name it's known in the next few years, for the present what it is being known for is the tremendous rate at which it is expanding in the South, especially Tamil Nadu.

investment of Rs. 16 crore.

M A Chidambaram's son ingland A C Muthiah has, it is reported, won the race to build, with foreign partners, a Rs. 100 crore dry dock in Tuticorin. And not content with winning that race, he's bidding to take over the Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation and the Tamil Nadu Magnesium and Marine Chemicals, both State-owned units with a strong Tuticorin base but which have pland outly not strong to the pland outly strong to the pland outly not strong to the pland

On the financial front, SPIC is likely in April next year to make a \$100 million Eurodollar issue with Saloman Brothers, one of the leading private bankers in Europe, as the lead managers. SPIC's aromatics joint venture with Madras Refineries will enter the market about the same time with a Rs. 1000 crore issue to part-finance their project. And the Group's First Leasing Company will shortly launch a mutual fund and is considering establishing an assets management company.

### BUSINESS REVIEW

Meanwhile Muthiah's polo-playing son Ashwin, who heads MAC Industries, is entering aquaculture and the plantations industry in a big way. To shrimp exports are now being added hatcheries, farms and processing units. The oil palm is the main thrust in plantations, with 5000 hectares earmarked for cultivation and the country's first integrated palm oil mill being established in Andhra Pradesh. Coffee, pepper and rubber interests are also being expanded and bio-tech is being looked at. Expansion of its 60 warehousing facilities in South India and its shipping activities — the group has two bulk carriers at present — are also being planned for.

The Rs. 1800 crore turnover group aims by the end of 1993 to be the biggest company in the South and one of the Top Five in India.

### Quiet growth

Growing much more quietly than the MAC Group has been the Murugappa Group. It is now planning to strengthen its position in the sugar and molasses industry by taking over the Pugalur Sugar Factory, near Tiruchi, from the Hyderabad-based Nava Bharat Group.

For Pugalur it will be a return to original management and the days when Parry's managed five major sugar factories in the South. It was in 1979 that Nava Bharat acquired Pugalur and Samalkot, both then part of Parrymanaged Deccan Sugars.

Pugalur will add a crushing capacity of 2500t of cane/day to Nellikuppam's 5000 and help to meet the increased molasses quota Parry's has been given — 45,000 t from 34,000 t.

### Indian fast foods

One of the best known names in traditional South Indian food preparation is the Sree Annapoorna restaurant chain in Coimbatore. It is now setting up a huge Rs. 15 crore, fully automated kitchen near Sriperumbudur to make a wide variety of South Indian snacks and fast foods. Interestingly, it is also entering into nonvegetarian catering.

The plant will, at full capacity, produce 15 t of vegetarian food, 6 t of non-vegetarian food and 5 t of hot and cold beverages a day. Institutional and railway catering will be prime targets, it is announced.

But Kovai Annapooma has other plans too. It plans to open ten franchise outlets in Madras and Bangalore initially and then add twenty more.

These will be look-alike, serve-alike outlets on the Macdonald's line.

#### Looking abroad

The Rs. 2 crore profit, Rs. 9 crore reserves Apollo Hospital, perhaps the most successful corporate medical venture in the country, is planning investments of upto Rs. 30 crore in the year ahead. Its priority is a cancer hospital in Madras capable of bone marrow transplants. An acute care centre for heart patients is also being planned.

Dr Prathap Reddy, trailblazer in India in making medicine a corporate success, however, has even bigger plans. Twenty hospitals in the next five years, including hospitals in Nepal and Bangladesh, is his aim. And then an Apollo in the West. "And why not?" he asks rhetorically.

The Recorder

### The View from Fort St George...

### LANDMARK SESSION

The five-day short session of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly ended September 25th saw a verbal annihilation of the Pattali Makkal Katchi for its anti-national stance and heard an eloquent plea from the Chief Minister that the Party should be banned in the national and State's interest. It was a party which believed in violence and continued to support the LTTE, eulogising the killers of Rajiv Gandhi, she said.

The PMK member and former Minister Panruti Ramachandran's argument that his Party was not antinational, as it was only seeking "self-determination", was scoffed at by the Chief Minister and several members.

The session also heard the Chief

Minister's fervent appeal to the Centre to withdraw the fuel price-hike which, she said, would only push up the cost of living.

The session turned out to be a

'landmark' one with, for the first time in its 55-year-old history, a nonmember being hauled up before the Bar of the House for breach of privilege. S Selvam, Editor of the DMK daily, Murasoli, was brought to the House, led to a specially-constructed box and reprimanded for publishing a distorted version of the proceedings of the house. There had been no satisfactory explanation from him, said the Speaker, turning down a point of order some Opposition members sought to raise. This was not the time for reconsideration of the issue, the Speaker said; the action was only in compliance of the resolution of the House. The Opposition members S Ramachandran (PMK), V Thambusamy (CPI-M) G Palanisamy (CPI) D Kumaradas (JD) and S Thiruvavukkarasu (APTTMK)/ walked out in protest.

Walk-outs and evictions have ceased to stir interest. But as they are, according to the Opposition, the only means of strong protest, they continue. Thirunavukkarasu was the first to be evicted during this session, after he was named, but returned to the House a (Continued on P5)

## It's time for full convertibility

What will happen with the introduction of full convertibility? This has given room to a frenzied debate on the subject. Salient as its prospects are, the risks in this system are no less intimidating. But whatever the misgivings, full convertibility is inevitable. For the same reasons that had prompted the introduction of partial convertibility, which now stands scomed by trade. That, along with steel and fertiliser decontrol in its wake, has strengthened the campaign for further liberalisation, making the retracing of steps impossible.

No doubt the risks of full convertibility loom large before a developing nation that has taken its first faltering steps towards globalisation. Initially, it will be the exporter who will stand to gain. However, petroleum products, crude oil, edible oil, life-saving drugs and fertilisers may have to be imported at growing cost, sparking off the vicious circle of inflation. The difficulties will be further aggravated by costlier debt servicing.

But this is no time for harbouring such pessimism when full convertibility is being sought for longterm benefits. The Indian economy needs to be infused with dynamism. The policy-makers have indeed moved far from their anchor of doctrinaire socialism by setting free a number of industries, removing subsidies and inviting competition. This means that the law of the jungle, of the survival of the fittest, will prevail. This should certainly give our economy strength, a better work culture and better standards of achievement. With the wealth of potential at our disposal, there is no reason why we should not fare well by resorting to it. even if it be a risk to full convertibility here and now. And what is meant by full convertibility applies only to trade account.

For the time being, the market appears promising. Here are three choice recommendations for the fortnight:

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company (CMP Rs. 77.00): Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company (CIFCL) belongs to the TI group. It has been steadily diversifying its operations



with a view to expand its activities and to undertake non-fund-based services on a larger scale. It has decided to raise additional capital through the issue of equity shares at a premium of Rs. 20.00 per share on rights basis.

The equity capital will go up to Rs. 8.49 cr and the premium realised will be Rs. 8.50 cr. For the year ended June 1993, we project a gross income of 34 cr with a PAT of Rs. 4.42 cr. This would yield an EPS of 8.30 which, in our opinion, would support a price of Rs. 90.00 XR price, which is equivalent to cum rights of Rs. 130.00. Price chart indicates that the scrip rallied to the level of Rs. 75.00 from 45.00 and still continues to be on the uptrend. Buy for medium/longterm gains.

Seshasayee Paper and Boards Ltd (CMP Rs. 68.00): This company has opened a new page in 1991 after a period of protracted adversity. This was made possible by the improved conditions in the industry and the company's efforts towards cost reduction. The results of March 1992 depict an improvement. Though sales increased only by 17%, net profit showed a remarkable increase of 194% over 1991, yielding an EPS of Rs. 5.60 as against Rs. 2.13 in 1991. The company has now shifted its emphasis to high value products.

The company's bagasse requirements are met by its associate company, Ponni Sugars. Added to this, increase in output of pulp from captive sources is expected. These are expected to make the performance of 1993 more impressive. The company has also entered the field of consultancy service by providing assistance to set up paper and sugar mills and expects to earn around Rs. 3 cr from this for 1992-93. A Rs. 65 cr revamp plan, to improve operational efficiency, is expected to be commenced this year and will be completed in 18 months. The company is also planning to increase its capacity from 60,000 t/a to 70,000 t/a. A rights issue in the ratio of 1:5 at par or at a premium has been also proposed. The EPS for 1993 is expected to be around Rs. 6.20, which should support a price of around Rs. 95. Buy for medium term gains.

Indbank Housing (CMP Rs. 42.00): Promoted by Indian Bank and HUDCO with a financial participation of 51% and 25% respectively, its objective is to provide long-term finance to construct or purchase houses. The government has accorded high priority status to housing, as the shortage is projected at 41 million numbers by 2001 AD. The company has already received applications for a sanction of over Rs. 39 cr by October 1991. The share which came down from a high of Rs. 90 to a low of Rs. 30 is consolidating at current levels. The share is a good buy now with limited downside risk.

K. Gopalakrishnan

Before that accomplished dancer Kalasagaram Rajagopal became a noted sculptor as well, he had once approached Rajaji to sit for a portrait bust because the head of that great man fascinated him. The request was firmly declined. Rajaji asked: "Am I dead or do you wish me dead? It is only the dead who are to be remembered in stone." If only people who go heavenward in cut-outs would see the wisdom of this!

Our Prime Minister is also reported to have declined a statue of himself. Whatever his reason, with prices of

of drama directors and sculptors is the aesthetic disposition of hands, whether of actors or sculptured models. Rajagopal and I often discussed how limbs are a nuisance (in the male), being protruberances from the main bulk of the torso. Less are more manageable.

They are a visible means of support.

They can be in an aggressively advanc-

ing stance or in a docile come-what-

may attitude of stability, or feet apart

usually with arms akimbo, like

Henry VIII, meaning a malevolent

belligerence or mere mischief. Apart

from the aesthetics of composition, the

sculptor has the problem of armaturising

and casting a flug-out slim element from

the mass of a statue with clothes on. On a visit to Rajagopal's studio l

ment that he had, after all, been

selected to make the Rajaji statue, alas

without the living model any more. I

warned him that I would have nothing

to do with him if he made a traffic constable out of this neat, compact

personality — just for pot-boiling — and

hoped he would respect art and

aesthetics in this important work. I had

gone to see his exciting current work

of miniatures carved out of ancient,

almost calcified wood. As I was leaving,

he called me back and showed me the

letter of commission from the Panel of

revered Rajaji depicted making a speech and emphasising a point with raised

hand and a finger pointing."

It read: "..We would like our

### • by K. VARUGIS

bronze and sculptors going up fast, there is wisdom in postponing the erection of an image of oneself until one need not be concerned that a future generation might take a short-cut by changing the name on the pedestal. For that is exactly what happened in Rome.

Except for Nero, whose dissipation is reflected in his bust, it is doubtful whether there is a single true image of a Caesar. Caesars ate, drank and loved in a recumbent position, leading to an uncontrolled accumulation of adipose was greeted with the proud announcetissue all over.

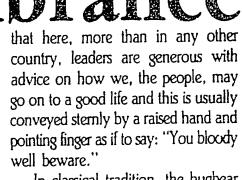
What we see in Rome are probably legendary wiry Trojan Heroes, or the imagined forms of gods atop Olympus with their original titles chipped away and replaced with those of the Caesars. We may well have done likewise in the euphoria of independence when our cities bristled with Queen Victorias, her knights in armour and her bewigged bureaucrats. But the sharp distinction in ethnic features would have rendered any name-changing ridiculous. Fortunately we settled for changing the names of roads dedicated to others a Selectors long time ago.

We had another problem too. We want our late revered personalities pointing the way to St. Thomas' Mount or Colaba or Okhla, stood up on a high pedestal in the middle of the road like policemen directing traffic. And so high that the frequent obligatory garlanding by the faithful forms a true test of the mettle of those who aspire to such eminence in their time.

The provocation for the pose adopted can be reasoned. It so happens

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In classical tradition, the bugbear



have been lying idle, while plans were discussed for its future. Now, after much debate, the magnificent old building with its ornate Gothic and Saracenic arches, louvred windows and wide corridors has, it is learnt, been sold and there's every chance that this prime property will become the site of new development after a large bit of the history of printing in Madras is pulled down. It is only to be hoped that with the Perumal Chetty family severing links with what was once known as the 'Premier Press,' they do not also bring to an end another integral part of Madras life, their Hoe ..&THE

& Co Diary. Despite the press being closed, the Diary has been coming

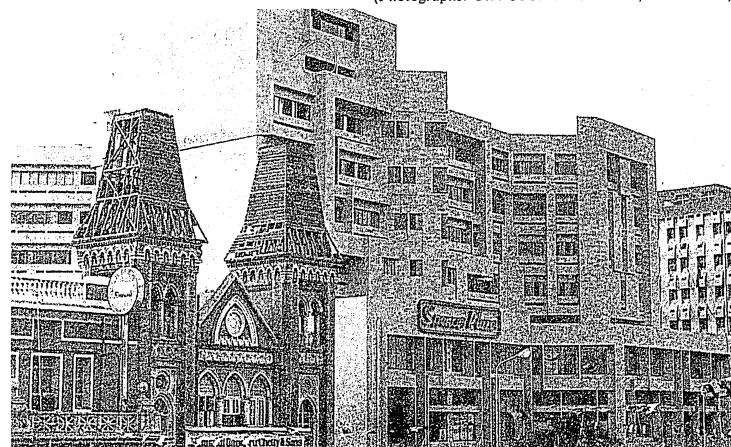
out these past few years and it is to be hoped that it will continue issuing

One of the oldest printing presses in Madras, Hoe & Co, founded in 1886 was closed down in 1986 after

it had lagged behind in keeping up with the times. Since then, the massive premises of this Perumal Chetty company

from Perumal Chetty & Sons, premier stationers. Another bit of old Madras that is threatened is to be found in a corner of our 'New' this fortnight. That is the towers of the old Spencer's building which survive precariously in a totally neglected condition. Between two sets of twin towers, on the site of the legendary department store's main block whose core was gutted, there has come up Spencer's Plaza, a handsome modern shopping mall that tries to echo the past faintly in its use of Jaipur pink in its stone facing. Its intriguing composition of square, rectangular and triangular blocks may give it the rather striking appearance of a bit of modern sculpture, but for all that, the dignity of the surviving bits and pieces of its more splendid past still capture greater attention from passers-by. Will someone now decide

to preserve these towers as monuments to the age of gracious living? (Photographs: Old: SUSHEELA NAIR; New: GOPI).



【 erala-base IAS officer, C T Sukumaran, recently met his death in Madras. He had checked into the MPEDA guesthouse in Royapettah and, next morning, his body was found in a pool of blood on the ground. The doors of his room upstairs were wide open and, according to the city police, nothing in the room was disturbed nor was anything missing.

In the compound of the guesthouse was a motor car with its top dented. Later, scientific deduction suggested that the officer had fallen on the roof of the car and bounced off it, presumably dead before hitting the ground.

Due to official as well as family worries, Sukumaran had been in a state of mental depression, the police learnt. If so, did he commit suicide? However, there was no clinching evidence.

Another theory was that he might have sleep-walked and stepped off the parapet wall. Again there was no concrete evidence. But his wife in Kerala suspected foul play and demanded a second post-mortem, which was done. Did he fall, or was he pushed? A classic question in crime

This writer discussed this interesting issue with several professional experts, like former police chief, C V Narasimhan, retired State Chemical Examiner and handwriting expert N Pitchandi, famed forensic medicine specialist Dr C B Gopalakrishna and leading criminal lawyer S Pichai. Obviously without all the facts before them, these learned friends could not express a decisive opinion. Nevertheless the discussions were revealing.

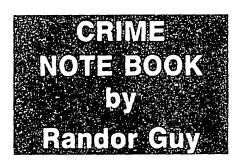
How do you go about finding out whether a person fell or was pushed? C V Narasimhan related a case he had investigated in Delhi when he was with the CBI. During a strike in the CPWD, the Delhi police had to be called in. In the course of a lathi charge, a policeman chased a Class IV employee up the stairs and into a room with french windows. The employee ran hither and thither, evading the stick-wielding policeman before leaping through the windows. His body was found on the ground and there was a hue and cry in Delhi that it was murder. The police

version, on the other hand, insisted that

the man had jumped out on his own

— perhaps due to fear of being brutally

Questions were raised in the Lok Sabha, and Home Minister Y B Chavan asked CVN to investigate the matter personally and submit a report. The brilliant college lecturerturned-policeman conducted several experiments. Models of the dead man.



based on his height, weight, build etc, were made and dropped from the french windows. Some were pushed. The pattern of the fall on the ground, the position of the limbs, the distance of the body from the wall of the building etc were carefully studied and Narasimhan came to the conclusion based on his experiments, talents and skill, that the employee was NOT

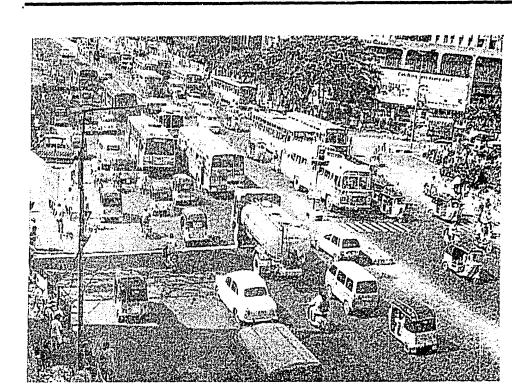
pushed but had fallen on his own by jumping. Narasimhan's report was accepted in toto by the Lok Sabha and the matter was closed.

According to N Pitchandi there is a scientific formula to find the answer. It is based on the height of the fall, distance between the position of the body and the wall, the gravitational force known as 'g' in Science, and other factors. The formula is not 100 per cent failure-proof, but it works in most cases.

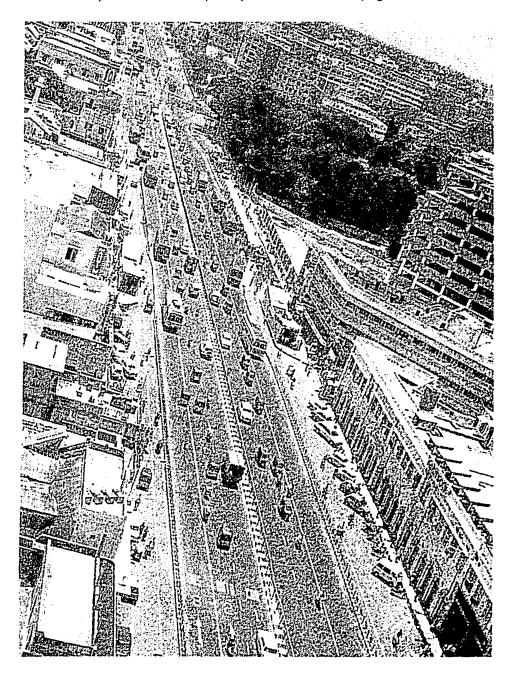
Dr C B Gopalakrishna, who has done more than 20,000 post-mortems in his illustrious career, was emphatic that if a person fell from a height accidentally, head injury would be very rare. Of course, he had not seen the body nor the location in this case, so he would not comment any further.

S Pichai, being a lawyer, would not give a categorical opinion until he had studied the records of the case. But he felt sure that with the advance of forensic science today, the truth could be found.

What was the truth in the case of this ill-fated IAS officer? If only the walls. of the guesthouse could speak!



Prof. N.S. Srinivasan, chief adviser on the four-lane traffic system on Mount Road. sent us these two photographs with his comments published alongside. The picture above shows "haphazard movements of vehicles before improvement". Below is the "orderly movement of vehicles after improvement". Editor's Note: Veteran photographer Harry Miller will not, we are sure, approve of the photograph below. Those tilted buildings will send him up the wall, but the picture does make the point about orderly traffic rather clearly. Only, the traffic seems very light for Mount Road.



### A landmark

(Continued from P3)

few minutes later. The Speaker asked the Marshall to remove him. G Palanisamy and Parithi Ilamvazhuthi (DMK) made abortive bids to speak. The latter then walked out.

Another eviction during the session was that of Parithi Ilamvazhuthi who obstructed proceedings during discussion of a Bill to amend the Contingency Fund. The member questioned the Government's action in giving the reconstruction of the Nehru Stadium to L & T without calling for tenders. Even after the Chief Minister's assurance that there was no irregularity, the member made a specific charge which was expunged by the Speaker. Many members protested against the charge. When the member persisted, he was warned and then named

Opposition leader Balasubramaniam questioned the propriety of issuing the ordinace to raise the Contingency Fund and said it should have come to the House as a Money Bill

The growing uneasiness in the relationship between Congress(I) and the ruling party, who are alliance partners, was reflected in the Assembly for the first time in a wrangle that lasted for more than half an hour. The Chief Minister at one stage intervened and

asked Congress(I) members not to join 'the zero hour heroes' who were out to stall proceedings. She said that, according to information received, some of the members had been seeking opportunities to raise some issue or other to spark a controversy. The issue arose over a letter reportedly written by the Chairman of the Public Service Commission to the members. When Congress(1)'s Peter Alphonse, with letter in hand, sought to raise a point of order, the Speaker refused permission. The matter resolved itself with the Leader of the Opposition denying any plan to stir up controversy and assuring full co-operation in the conduct of the proceedings.

The House was also told by Finance Minister Nedunchezhian of the Government's intention to enforce Prohibition strictly. A Committee will be formed for this purpose, he said. Another assurance given in the House was that election to local bodies would\* be held after the next budget session in March. Before adjourning sine die, the House adopted as many as twelve bills, most of them bills seeking to replace ordinances issued earlier.

RKK

### 4-lane scheme to save Rs 37 l/a!

on this road, he adds.

Not only is the Anna Salai four-lane traffic experiment an unqualified success, with traffic moving faster and greater lane discipline, but it will also result in fuel and accident cost savings of Rs. 22.41 lakhs in the first year. This is the view of Prof N S Srinivasan. formerly Delhi's road traffic expert and now Chairman of the Transport Advisory Forum, Madras.

Considering a time value of Rs. 3.86 per hour, time cost saving has been found to be Rs. 15.25 lakhs a year, at a conservative estimate. Thus, the direct benefit will work out to Rs. 37.66 lakh a year, against an estimated project cost of Rs. 93.50 lakhs. According to a detailed expenditure analysis of the costs and benefits of the scheme, the project will yield an Internal Rate of Return of 49.5 per cent for a study period of eight years, says Dr. Srinivasan.

Extensive 'before and after' studies, conducted to determine the effectiveness of the new scheme, show other

Dr Srinivasan. He states that, on an average, the journey speed, on this stretch, has increased by about 15 per cent, which will be responsible for saving operating costs and time. In the case of buses, journey speed has increased by about **80 per cent,** thereby benefiting a large percentage of passengers travelling

Dr Srinivasan says that with the introduction of the lane system of traffic movement, there is more orderly move-. ment of traffic and traffic violations on this stretch have decreased by **24** per cent. The number of traffic violations made by buses has decreased by 50 per cent. Provision of bus bays has resulted in 71 per cent reduction in the number of violations by buses at bus

Traffic violations at intersections, he says, have come down by 42 per cent, and there is more

heartening statistics, according to orderly movement of traffic across the

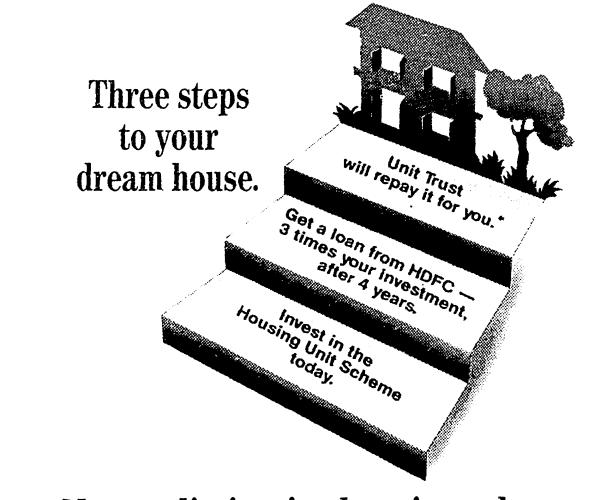
There is, he announces, a reduction by 89 per cent in the accident risk value of the study stretch.

Prof Srinivasan states that all bus drivers have expressed that appreciation of the introduction of bus lanes and provision of bus bays.

All suggestions made by drivers, shopkeepers and others have been carefully considered while formulating recommendations for further improvement, states Dr Srinivasan.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Congratulations, Prof. Srinivasan. But just two

1) How much has traffic fallen off on Mount Road due to users wishing to avoid 'disciplining'? And 2) How much has business fallen off on Mount Road, because clients can neither find parking space nor cope with the



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### The pavement for youth

The pavement culture seems to be getting stronger in Madras every day. If while passing Pantheon Lane, off Pantheon Road, near Cooptex, you see a throng of young people chaperoned by their harassed parents, you've arrived at the newest rendezvous of the City's teen-

Bolts of cloth are sold from Rs. 20/- a metre upwards. There is a dazzling variety of prints in all shades, from amazingly genuine-looking tartan checks to candy stripes, from polka dots to floral prints. You will also find bermudas and T-shirts along the same lane. And there's upholstery material as well.

Try your luck at bargaining, but only if you can handle touch resistance! No, what's on offer is not damaged in any way, nor is it second-hand stuff. They're all good buys.

These pavement stalls, however, open for business only at eleven or so. The safest time is in the evening, but bring your own plastic bags to carry away your finds. And be sure of the exact amount of cloth you need for a particular dress.

Appetising and decorative as well— try Scotch Eggs, an unusual way

to serve the humble egg. Make tart,

spicy Cluster Beans Tamarind Sambar.

Serve also Spicy Cauliflower, a vege-

table which is very much in season.

And to round off the meal, serve the

yummy Apple Cake topped with ice

SCOTCH EGGS

6 eggs, hardboiled and shelled

1 medium sized onion, chopped

1/2 bunch coriander leaves, chopped

1/2 teaspoon turmeric powder

1 teaspoon ginger, chopped

1 teaspoon garlic, chopped

2 ths fried gram dal, powdered

Sliced cucumbers and tomato for decoration

Boil the minced meat with salt and

Add chopped onion, green chillies,

coriander leaves, ginger, garlic,

cinnamon and cloves and cook for 3-5

minutes till the mixture is dry. Remove

from heat and cool. Grind to a paste.

Add the egg white and powdered fried

Mould a portion around each shelled

egg. Coat with beaten egg, roll each

coated egg over the bread crumbs and

serve on a bed of sliced cucumber and

**CLUSTER BEANS** 

TAMARIND SAMBAR

50 grams cluster beans

2 ths oil (gingelly)

1 tbs channa dal

(bengal gram dal)

1/2 the jaggery, powdered

Cut lengthwise into halves and

Neela Prabhakar

Divide into six equal portions

1 raw egg, beaten well

1/4 kg minced meat

1" piece cinnamon

4 or 5 green chillies

3 or 4 doves

White of an egg

Oil for frying

Bread crumbs

Method

turmeric.

gram dal.

tomatoes.

Salt to taste

deep fry till brown.

Salt to taste

Coating

Yoghurt & syrup

The next time you visit an AAVIN parlour, try the yoghurt instead of the usual icecream. It comes only in one flavour, almost plain but with a hint of vanilla. Each mediumsized cup costs Rs. 2.50, and is creamy, thick and delicious. I'm sure even curd-haters will

Shopping with Grace

Amazing Grace's plate glass Golden Tower block by the Chetput Overbridge now has, besides furniture in the sky, a supermarket on the ground and first floors. The expanse of glass offers visitors a view of the array of goods inside without even having to step in. But you SHOULD walk in ....

### FOODS & FADS

love it, but make sure it is really chilled before you buy it.

Try the yoghurt with a teaspoonful of syrup - or even a jam - of your choice. It tastes even better. The nice thing about yoghurt is that it lends itself to endless experimenting.

The MALA range of jams and syrups (available at the main branch of Nilgiris) are recommended. The jams, especially the strawberry and raspberry, not only have the pips, but also the pulp. And the syrups are refreshingly different from the synthetic tasting squashes and syrups that are regularly available.

1 tbs harhar dal

1/3 tbs urad dal

8-10 red chillies

Tempering

(red gram dal)

(black gram dal)

(coriander seeds)

1/2 teaspoon methi seeds

(fenugreek seeds)

1 lemon-sized tamarind

2 teaspoons oil

1 tbs dhaniya seeds

The impeccably neat ground floor of GRACE SHOPS is devoted to snacks and betweenmeal fillers, such as samosas, Indian sweets and pastries (the

choice is, however, quite limited). The leading brands of chocolates and biscuits stand cheek by jowl with chips, cookies and jams. The chocolate cookies are tempting and prove delicious. And the Ruskies bite-sized crisp rolls with chocolate, vanilla or strawberry filling — are a treat; predictably, the chocolate tastes best. All flavours cost Rs. 7.50 per

The first floor has all the staples - rice, dhals, spices, oils

(including mustard oil) and dried fruits. The canned foods, pickles and sauces occupy pride of place. If you're the adventurous kind, try the barbecue sauce.

A pleasant surprise is the variety of noodles, macaroni and spaghetti on sale. The latest in instant foods and mixes are methi paratha atta, which can be used straightaway, and a sweetened porridge mix which is cheaper than cornflakes and a boon in the mornings. The more traditional food shopper is offered a variety of vathals vendaikai, chundakai, bitter guard (sic), manathankali and

The I-love-my-dog club (of which I am a fervent member) will be pleased to see a shelf devoted to dog biscuits, shampoos, powders, soaps and the like.

If you find yourself staggering at the check-out counter under the weight of your purchases, take the lift down - but, personally, I feel that the lightness of your pocket will compensate. The prices, though not prohibitive, are on the high side. Definitely a shop intended for the upper, uppermiddle — Bhavana Kay

Add the turmeric powder, red chilli powder, coriander powder and fry for another minute. Add the cauliflower.

2 cups flour

#### Serve hot with plain rice.

- 1 teaspoon mustard seeds 1 teaspoon black gram dal 1 red chilli, halved
- 1/2 teaspoon asafoetida powder 1/2 inch flowerets
- A few curry leaves
- Method Fry the masala for the paste in oil and grind into a fine paste, adding the
- tamarind. Add 11/2 cups of water to the paste and bring to a boil, adding the

powdered jassery. Boil for a few minutes. Set aside. Stem the cluster beans, and fry in

oil, till tender. Add it to the sambar. Heat oil and add all the ingredients for tempering. When the mustard seeds solutter, add it to the sambar. Boil the

IN THE fried

sambar for a minute or two till everything blends well.

### SPICY CAULIFLOWER

- 1 medium cauliflower, chopped into
- ½ teaspoon turmeric powder
- 1 teaspoon cummin seeds 1/2 teaspoon red chilli powder
- ½ teaspoon asafoetida powder or 3 teaspoons coriander seeds. powdered
- 1 teaspoon garam masala 1 teaspoon mango powder (amchoor) 1 inch piece ginger, grated
- 1 tbs oil Salt to taste

### Method

Heat oil. Add the cummin seeds and asafoetida powder. When the cummin seeds crackle, add the grated ginger and fry for a minute.

add some water, cover and simmer on a low heat till the vegetable is tender.

Sprinkle the amchoor and garam masala. Mix well. Serve hot.

### APPLE CAKE

- 2 cups sugar 1/2 cup margarine
- 2 teaspoons baking powder 1 teaspoon cinnamon, powdered
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg, powdered 2 or 3 eggs (1/2 cup)
- A pinch of salt
- 4 cups peeled, diced apples 1/2 cup walnuts, chopped fine

#### Method

Sift the flour with the baking powder, cinnamon, nutmer powder and salt.

Cream the margarine and sugar. Blend the eggs and the flour mixture. Fold in the apples and nuts in a greased pan. The batter will be stiff. Bake in a moderate oven (325°F) for an hour, or till done.

Cut into wedges. Serve topped with ice cream

### Quizzin' with Ramanan

(Ouizmaster V V Ramanan's questions are all from the fortnight of Sept. 16-30)

- 1. Who recently won the Southern India Wills Open and Hindu-India Cements golf tourneys in Madras?
- 2. What are terminal points of PTC's recently introduced electric bus?
- 3. Can you name the leader of Peru's Marxist guerilla outfit who was recently arrested?
- 4. Which University conferred a honorary doctorate degree on Chief Minister lavalalitha most recently?
- 5. Why was Camatic vocal maestro T Brinda in the news recently?
- 6. Where is the National Research Centre on Banana proposed to be set up?
- 7. What was MTV's Bombay bash
- 8. What was September 28th celebrated as by the Indian Army?
- 9. Which treaty's ratification did the French vote 'ave' to narrowly?
- Which former Chief Justice and Vice-President of India passed away recently?
- 11. Who is to play the lead role in the film to be made on Harshad
- 12. Why was Karaniit Ahulwalia, a British citizen of Indian origin, in the spotlight recently?
- 13. Who are the newly crowned senior state champions in Tennis?
- 14. Who has been elected as the new Prime Minister of Thailand?
- 15. For which club is Argentine superstar Diego Maradona to play this year?
- What new feature has been added in the Mahabalipuram monument area recently?
- 17. Which actress of vesteryears and now an UN Ambassador of Peace visited drought-stricken Somalia?
- Padukas vatra start from Nandigram, Ayodhya? 19. Who has made a film on Good

18. Why did the recently held Ram

- Ol' Madras for telecast on DD?
- 20. Prof Thakurdas Bang, K Viswanathan, Shalini Moghe and Homer A Jack are the recipients of this year's ....?

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### MOMII 111

One of the future tourist attractions in Madras could well be what has been described rather hyperbolically as 'The Tai of South India'. MOMII (Museum of the Moving Image of India) is the dream project of the dynamic new President of the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce (SIFCC). M Bhakthavatsala.

Madras has been the cradle of the South Indian film industry ever since films began to be made back in 1916. Silent, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada films have all grown up in this city.

"Not just in quantity but in sheer variety, the South Indian film industry has nothing to match it in the world of cinema. Nowhere in the world is cinema so closely entwined with life as it is here in South India.... Nowhere in the world, including Hollywood, is there the kind of bewildering range of subjects tackled by films in India," says Bhakthavatsala.

Inspired by the Museum of the Moving Image (MOMI) set up in London in 1988 by the British Film Institute (it is said to be the best tourist attraction in London, next only to the Tower of London and has an entrance fee of £ 10 per head!), MOMII will be distinctly Indian and, more particularly South Indian.

To quote Bhaktha again, "Beginning with the temple arts of South India, through the rural bioscopes, the Silent Era and the magnificent 'talkie' which burst forth with mellifluous music, song and dance, and then took various ways into drama, political Our Cinema Corresponden · reports from · the Madras Film World

novement, social change, family drama, the freedom struggle, war, indeed all aspects of society, influencing and being influenced, will be featured'

The project, it is estimated, will cost Rs. 10 crores and attempts are being made to bring in the Department of Tourism, Delhi, as sponsors. Chief Minister Jayalalitha has been requested to grant the land for MOMII. The old Zoo grounds, near the Central Station, have been suggested as the most approoriate venue.

As a kind of basic plan to be followed, a book on the history of South Indian cinema is being sponsored by the Film Chamber and is being written by fellow MM contributor Randor Guy.



Wedding

They may have been sharing a room and a bed in the mixed co-ed dorm in Boston or Tuscaloosa, where they met, but when they come home to Mama with marriage on their minds. they want to become as trad as they

The girl who came down the

gangway wearing a T-shirt and baggies wants to walk up the aisle (of the marriage hall) trailing jasmines and a nine yard saree. The boy in such cases is usually blond and bespectacled, with a pale spotty skin and a weak stomach doing a PhD on the mating habits of the dung beetle in the Gobi desert. He likes to wear a Fabindia kurta and pyjama with the string tied so it hangs loosely between his less and, of course, he can't sit on the floor for very long since he has non-collapsible knees and

an urge to go to the loo every few minutes. So even though every Vedic ritual has been ordered after consultations with the nearest grandmother, once the couple are on the stage, the priest is ordered to "please hurry it up, the bridegroom is getting tired". This throws the priest into a tizzy. It usually takes one hour just to get the fire started. The sonorous chanting becomes a feverish recitation. The drummers who sit at the back of the hall decide that it's time for the "thali tying" ceremony and start playing the 'here il-comes folks, let's give them a blast" bit and before you know it the

"thali" is tied. At the same time persons

standing on the stage try to semaphore

while the major part of the audience decides to move on to the dining rooms, so as to be at the first sitting.

of the year

At one wedding recently, the foreign bridegroom took the bride full tilt around the fire in the wrong direction, ticking the number of rounds with Germanic efficiency. "I didn't want to stop him once he had started; it would have meant a loss of face in front of so many people," said the bride's mother sympathetically. It's

begins so that she might emerge suitably blushing and bashful when the groom stumbles manfully onto the stage clutching his white transparent dhoti, if he's doing the full ethnic bit, through which you may catch a glimpse of his foreign underwear. If there are foreign in-laws, they too are made to wear Indian clothes, which the poor things seem to love so much. Since jasmines would look pallid in their blonde hair, they decorate their well sprung curls



amazing the way that the rules are allowed to bend and bounce and vault over once sacred customs when there is a foreign bride or bridegroom waiting to be married. In the case of two Indians from other ends of the country. the debates on how to run the show would require the sort of delicate negotiations that mark an Indo-Pak

It's really touching to see two young adults play the old childish games, such as "hunt for the gold coin in a bowl of milk," and feed each other bananas. The bride is kept in seclusion to the drummers that it's not yet time, a whole hour before the ceremony

A startling feature of marriages a la mode is the decor of the marriage hall or pandal. Aside from the nubile goddesses and pink elephants symbolising prosperity there'are now tableaux like at the Republic Day parades. One of them featured a cardboard cut out of Mahabalipuram. The truly rich scour the countryside for mud pots and brass

lotas, carved doorways and wooden

The bride, meanwhile, waxed and

polished in the preceding few days,

appears on the stage looking like a

heroine from the Peking opera. She is

the product of the beautician's art,

perfectly plastered in pink and white,

her hands and feet are henna'ed, -

somewhere, someplace, the henna

industry is registering a marked rise —

her face is flecked with shiny gold dust,

her short hair gel-ed and pinned down

with a long and lustrous (false) plait.

Even the bridegroom wears pancake

make-up, lip salve, and a touch of

mascara. It looks better on the video.

If they are meant to sit upon the two

huge thrones that are brought out at

the reception, they are expected to hold

two small bouquets in hand.

swings to give the ethnic touch

with festoons of bright bougainvillea,

looking for all the world like circus

clowns. Of course, this is appropriate

since the majority of Indian weddings

are conducted like circuses.

Mahindra Malakar from Assam is bent diligently over his craft, deft fingers fashioning pith into magically flying birds, cheeky little jumping hullus, or monkeys, and crocodiles radiant with all the colours of the rainbow. Crocodiles so real with their moving legs and jaws that children crowding Malakar fairly shriek with excited terror!

Nearby sits Sisir Kumar from West Bengal, creating exquisite little clay figures gaily painted and costumed, mirroring the perfection of a family craft going back six generations. Mahinder Kumar from Delhi displays his skills as a "dynamic folk toy" maker, his cascading magic flowers and "wonder boat" much in demand.

Elsewhere in Chettiar Hall, the fantastic handicraft folk art toy tradition of India in all its incredible variety zaps you with its vitality, exuberance and mythology. There are jumping peacocks and rats and parrots, slithering paper snakes, brilliantly-hued paper and pith flowers, clay and terracotta animals, puppets and papier mache toys - You name it ! Madras children of all ages were

definitely in for a very different tov experience at 'Toytime' - the sale of handicrafted Indian folk toys organised by the Crafts Council of India recently. To begin with, there was the excitement of walking into a country mela-like ambience, with its joyous hurly-burly

colourful Rajasthan puppets and exquisite Krishnanagar toys beckoning, shelffuls of terracotta birds and animals, great baskets full of bright paper twowheelers and papier maché animals, palm soldiers and masses of pith flowers, birds and snakes, with the air filled with the squeak, whine and rustle

of brilliantly-hued pith birds and

animals hanging enticingly on the walls,

by **PUSHPA CHARI** 

of the jumping, slithering spinning birds, flowers, toys and such like! For urban children brought up on high-tech, remote-controlled, computerised and push-button toys and video games, here were a plethora of fascinating toys which the child could not only handle, control and manipulate manually but could also actually see being made in front of his eyes.

You could sense — and hear! — the delighted wonder of highly 'sophisticated' urban children as they slithered paper snakes by pulling them, made animals jump and turn somersaults with a flick of their fingers, materialised a cascade of paper roses by shaking a

festoon — they were actually participating in making toys and playtime 'happen'. And had never seen clay toys or spun the wooden toys so beloved of an earlier generation! What a load of fun everyone had, as we all got into the act of shaking and pulling and spinning, the elders coming in touch with the forgotten 'choppus' of their extreme youth, the youngsters experiencing a whole new toy experience. Toys, it is said, are symbolic of

culture's myth, magic and lifestyle

through the memories they encapsulate, the craft they nurture and the tales they tell. In that sense, the exuberant toy heritage of India, as seen at 'Toytime', involved Madras children in a continuum of age-old epics and stories and fables, as well as told them utterly contemporary tales as well. When I was packing little Sujit's terracotta Kumaron-a-bicycle, he excitedly told me the story of how Kumar had lost his kite in the jungle and had finally found it along with his friend Sundari. Where was Sundari? Oh, he'd come tomorrow to buy it with more pocket money. He had apparently exhausted it all on a shopping tally of four paper snakes, two wooden bows, a clutch of pith parrots, a few jumping monkeys, some magic flowers and one Kumar-on-a-bicycle!

I think 'Toytime' made a difference by opening the eyes of Madras children to the wealth and spontaniety of India's create them so lovingly. It involved them in the whole process of a toy's creation and invention, from the pummelling of clay, the snipping of paper and the slicing of pith to the handling of the toy itself. It was involvement all the way. But the bottomline came from plump Sujit who staggered home with his booty of toys, "I want to became a toymaker like that uncle and I'll come for Sundari tomorrow. Bye! The toys here are Wow!".

### **ANSWERS TO QUIZ**

1. B Vijayakumar, 2. Tondiarpet to High Court, 3. Abnuael Guzman of the Shining Path Party, 4. TN-MGR Medical University, 5. She was conferred the first Swaralaya award by the President of India, 6. Tiruchchirappalli, 7. Incredibly Indian Weekend (26th, 27th Sept.) 8. The Gunners Day', 9. Maastricht Treaty (on European Unification), 10. M Hidayatullah, 11. Tinnu Anand, 12. She was acquitted, after 3 years, of the charges of killing her husband, 13. KV Nirupama and Asif Ismail 14. Chuan Leekpai, 15. Seville, 16. Night illumination of the magnificent edifices, 17. Audrey Hepburn, 18. It was the place where Bharatha worshipped his brother's padukas, 19.5 Krishnaswamy, 20. Jamnalal Bajaj awards.

The musical entertainment either on the previous night, or during the reception, also depends on the status of the host. The grander the family, the more renowned the performers. The only essential part of the etiquette is that nobody listens to them. Most of the guests are waiting to run for the food. Like the very best of Indian gestures, the true test is how much you can afford to throw away, including, in this case, culture. As everyone knows, the only thing that really matters is how much money is being spent. As the last guest lurches out, belching with a surfeit of ghee and almonds, the price of every item, from how much money has been spent on the garlands, to the rate per hour of the beautician who came home to garnish the bride, is known to him, or her. Whether rich or poor, it always has to be the wedding of the year!

### Chandra Padmanabhan

Before Oct. 20th: The Association of Bharatanatyam Artistes of India (Bharata Kalanjali, 22 Jeevaratnam Nagar, Madras-600 020 Tel: 411125) proposes to hold a Music Festival of the Sangeeta Vidwans who are regular musicians for Bharatha Natyam performances. All Vidwans (vocalists, instrumentalists and percussionists) who can give a full-fledged concert or accompany a Carnatic music concert may send in their applications to Bharata Kalanjali before October 20. The proposed festival will be held between 6th and 9th

December at Narada Gana

Sabha Mini Hall. In con-

nection with this festival there will be a five-day training (workshop) for qualified musicians wishing to play for Bharatha Natyam recitals.

Till Oct. 20th at the Alliance Française Art Gallery: Tapestries and prints by Amanda M Barrow, an American artist (in collaboration with the U.S.I.S).

Oct. 26th: Eric Bhattacharya, a French pianist living in Germany, will give a recital together with the Madras Philharmonic and Choral Society. At St Andrew's Church, Egmore. 7.00 p.m. Oct. 27th: Function to release

the Tamil edition of Jules

Verne's Round the World in 80 Days. Translated by N Kailasam. Also a theatrical adaptation in Tamil of Maupassant's

masterpiece, Le Horla. Till Oct. 27: Sakshi Gallery. Madras, presents an exhibition of sculpture by D. Rajasekharan Nair. Till Oct. 28th: The Lalit Kala

Akademi, Madras, and the United States Information Service, Madras, present "The Architecture of Joseph Allen Stein: A 40-year Retrospective" at the Lalit Kala Akademi Gallery, Greames Road, Madras. Till Nov.: Christine Spahr at the

Cholamandal Artists Village

### TOYS THAT WOWED!

## It is fast becoming Home to young boys in Tamil Nadu wishing to achieve excellence in sport and is well on its way to achieving its aim to provide "training to meritorious Statelevel players to enable them to take their berths in the national team".

The Sports Hotel (Madras) of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has made tremendous progress within the first year of its inauguration. It won the prestigious All India Basheer Ahmed Khan trophy at the very first time of asking. Two of its hockey players, Padmanabhan and S Kumar, were selected for the Junior National Hockey Camp. T Sivabalan, a gold medallist in the 110 meter hurdles at the State Junior Athletic Championships, was selected for two Indian camps. And in the recently concluded Senior State Boxing Championships, the Hostel's pugilists, D Suresh, Maria Sebastian and S Ponnivalavan bagged gold medals in

### HOSTEL FOR-CHAMPIONS

the fly, paper and pin weights respectively.

The Madras Sports Hostel was started by the SAI teaming with the Tamil Nadu Government. A Rabindranath, Managing Director of the Tamil Nadu State Sports Development Corporation (TNSSDC) and Ms Beulah Moses, General Manager of the Corporation, a champion athlete in her day, not only agreed to the SAI's proposals, but they also allotted the second floor of the TNSSDC building for the Hostel's hostel

Inaugurated on June 20, 1991, the Hostel is headed by Charles Cornelius, former Olympian and the best goal-

keeper of the 1972 hockey World Cup. The trainees at the Hostel, who are all in the age group 16-20, were selected on the basis of physical fitness. Twentyfive of the 35 residents are from

### BY SESHAGIRI RAO

rural areas. The majority of them are from southern Tamil Nadu.

The coaching as well as boarding and lodging facilities here are far superior to what is available in the State Government-sponsored sports hostels.

About Rs. 2000 is allotted each trainee just for kit and clothing. In the case of goalkeepers, the amount is about Rs. 10,000. The amount spent on the diet of each trainee is Rs. 40 a day; some of the sports hostels run by the State Government spend a mere Rs. 12 a day on the diet of each trainee. "Every trainee should consume 40,000 calories of food each day," says Cornelius. The Hostel's menu substantiates the statement; it includes 800 ml of milk, 3 eggs, 2 bananas per student besides breakfast, lunch and dinner. Chapattis are served along with rice at dinner. After every practice

meet his pocket expenses.

Training facilities at the hostel are of a high standard. Top calibre coaches are employed to train the hostelites. From time to time, the trainees are shown video clippings of their practice sessions to correct their mistakes and improve their techniques. SAI has also insured them, so that they can concentrate on training and playing without fear of injury.

seasion, each trainee is provided with

a banana and fruit juice. And each

trainee is given five rupees a day to

Regular training begins at 6.30 in the morning, after light refreshments. They practice till 8.30 and then it's breakfast. The trainees then leave for their respective colleges and schools.

The second practice session is from 4.30 to 6.30 every evening.

This strict training schedule is the secret behind the success of the Sports Hostel teams. The trainees in all four disciplines at the hostel — hockey, football, athletics and boxing — have performed well in every tournament they have participated in. Besides Sivabalan, M Ramesh won a gold medal in Long Jump, in the State Junior Athletics Championships. Then, teaming with K Neethidevan and Subramani, they bagged a silver medal in 4 × 100 metres relay.

However, it is the Hockey team that has brought wide acclaim for the Hostel within six months of its formation. First it won the Basheed Ahmed Khan tournament at which left winger Divakaran was adjudged the best player. Then it turned in an excellent performance at the All India MCC Hockey Tournament, in which Razik Ahmed was declared the best goalkeeper of the tournament. Divakaran, Razik Ahmed and Selvakumar, who has been selected to undergo training at the Hockey Academy (Delhi), are knocking at the doors of the junior national team. The other members of the team also show much promise.

If the present trend is maintained and Charles Cornelius' request for 'astroturf' and an 'indoor stadium' is met, the SAI Sports Hostel in Madras will produce not only players of international standard in various disciplines, but it will also, says Cornelius, help to "bring back the golden days of Indian Hockey", which, incidentally, is the slogan of the Hostel's hockey team.

### Missing finalists

The final scene was like Hamlet without the Prince, when the rain-hit American Express Bank-sponsored Augustine Joseph Gold Cup all-India tennis championships concluded on September 30th at the Egmore Stadium. The men's singles finalists were not there! Asif Ismail and K G Ramesh, who had easily justified their No. 1 and No. 2 seedings, disappointed everybody by skipping their title clash.

Rains having lashed the city over the September 26-27 week-end, the organisers were compelled to make a three-day postponement of the finals. But Ismail and Ramesh could not stay that long. "They will play at a later date," was all that the frustrated organisers could tell the media. What a hope! From all accounts, the top seeds, who apparently had other engagements on the Indian circuit, collected their prize money on a 50-50 basis and departed.

Fortunately for the small crowd that turned up on an exceptionally sultry September afternoon, G Venkatesh and V Hemananth fought out an exciting under-16 boy's singles final, which a gutsy Venkatesh, overcoming attacks of cramps in both his right hand and right leg, won via the tie-breaker. But not to mince words, the thrills provided were mere crumbs of consolation to the fans, who braved a scorching sun. Even so, they stayed on till the shadows lengthened, for the Yesudasses had arrived for the prize distribution function of the tournament which the famed playback singer had launched last year in memory of his father.

Speaking with wit and humour, on the occasion, Yesudass thanked American Express and its top Indian executive, Govind Krishnakumar, for its sponsorship, which boosted the prize money to Rs. 60,000/-. He also reiterated his decision to start a tennis academy, not "to earn a name or fame". Indian sport, tennis included, was at a low ebb, and cried out for financial and technical aid, Yesudass said, urging others to emulate him and help needy boys and girls develop their talents and better the country's standards. He spoke with warmth and understanding but the famed singer's claim that he was not a millionaire ("naan oru kodeeswaran alla") made many raise their eyebrows.

### Back again

WV (Woorkeri Venkat) Raman, as anticipated in these columns, has again made the grade.

The Tamil Nadu Association must, indeed be happy that he helped it avert a blank, especially after it had had the humiliation of having its candidate for the National selection committee (and its Chairmanship), former Indian skipper S Venkatraghavan, surprisingly replaced by Karnataka's G R Viswanath,



through the "general consensus" of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, at its recent annual meeting in Pune.

Raman, though a discard since 1990, must have been an automatic choice. It could not have been otherwise considering the way he mauled all the attacks he faced in recent representative matches, including the Irani Trophy tie in which he hit 184 against Delhi two days before his selection. It underscored the fact that the Triplicane youth was the most dazzling left-hander in the game in India today. With teammate and opener Srikkanth out, Raman will in all probability be called upon to open with either Shastri or Jadeja, though his real place belongs to the middle.

If a discreet veil can be drawn over former India skipper Srikkanth's omission, Viswanath and his colleagues have done a good job. And now the time has come for Indian fans to see visions and dream dreams. Azharuddin and his team begin their historic tour with a dismal catalogue of catastrophes behind them. Now all India will hope that they will have better luck on their maiden visit to South Africa.

#### The 'Madras Double'

Call it the rich man's sport or the high society game, the fact remains that golf has gained tremendous popularity in Madras. The daily Guindy scene underscores the growth of perhaps the costliest of all games, with a set alone costing about Rs. 30,000/-. There is hardly a morning when the ancient golfing centre, once the exclusive rendezvous of the British, is not patronised by a sizeable contingent of men, women, boys and girls, and their caddies, going their rounds on the greens of the Madras Gymkhana Club's well-maintained course inside the racecourse. The scene is no different on the Cosmopolitan Club's lush green course at Nandanam every morning.

Such indeed is the average city golfer's passionate love for the game that a lad following in his father's footsteps is no strange sight, like D Nagaraj taking over from his father, V S Dhanasekhar, the *lungi* king. The main reason for the spurt in the game's popularity has been the sponsorship of the tournaments.

Dilip Thomas, the Gymkhana Club golf captain, is not only a talented amateur but also a hard-working organiser. He and V J Bharath, the Gymkhana Club golf sub-secretary, gave ITC a great helping hand in seeing the four-round Rs. 1,50,000/prize money tournament through to a triumphant end. In keeping with its smooth running was its prize distribution function in the Madras Race Club Bi-centenary Stand's fifth floor hall, which ITC had decorated imaginatively. A packed hall gave B Vijayakumar, the 26-year-old Lucknow professional, a big hand as he received the first prize of Rs. 24,990/from K Dasaratharaman, Branch Manager, ITC, Madras. It was the second successive year that the well-built Lucknow pro had collected the first prize.

What Thomas and Bharath were to the Wills Open, K J Ramaswamy, the Cosmopolitan Club captain, and his deputy, R Abraham, were to the Cosmo Open. They saw to it that the concluding function was as colourful as ITC's. The organisers came in for special praise for the manner in which they entertained the big gathering. But the loudest cheers were for Vijayakumar again — he had pulled off the "Madras Double", a great achievement indeed, with a spectacular last hole victory that earned him another Rs. 24,990/-.

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