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MADRAS

MUSINGS

METAL CUTTING TOOLS

Vol. II. No. 16

FREE ISSUE — EVERY FORTNIGHT

December 1 — 15, 1992

Reclaiming sewage water

A pioneering effort for industrial use

(By N. Meera Raghavendra Rao)

Madras Refineries Limited (MRL), which accounts for 12 per cent of the country's requirements of petroleum products, has successfully pioneered the reclamation of water for industrial use. Its Tertiary Sewage Water Treatment Plant is the first of its kind in the country.

Commissioned at a cost of over Rs. 25 crores, it processes 2.5 million gallons of city sewage water every day to obtain 2 MGD of treated water. The treated water is used as make up water for the refinery's cooling towers and as feed for its boiler water treatment plant.

MRL's requirements of water, taking into account its future projects, including the aromatics project, will be 10 MGD by 1995. To meet these requirements, MRL has gone in for

treatment of Secondary Treated Sewage Water at a cost of 18 Rs./cubic meter. (Desalination of sea water was found to be costlier.)

At present, sewage in the City is collected at Kodungaiyur, Nesapakkam and Koyambedu. Grit, suspended solids etc are removed from the raw sewage by primary and secondary treatment processes at these three places and used in grass farms. The contaminants in the Secondary Treated Sewage Water, viz Hardeners, Ammonia, Silica, Phosphates, Chlorides, dissolved solids etc., are removed in MRL's Tertiary Treatment and Reverse Osmosis Plants. After recovering the usable water from the Secondary Sewage, the concentrated residue from the Reverse Osmosis unit, called 'Rejects', is let into the sea without endangering pollution norms

(the usable water I saw at MRL appeared clearer than potable water).

Osmosis is a natural process which takes place when two solutions of different concentrations are separated by a semi-permeable membrane. The osmotic pressure created under this condition forces the pure water to flow from the less concentrated to the more concentrated one. In Reverse Osmosis, this process is reversed by application of external pressure to force the flow from the more concentrated to the less concentrated one.

This pioneering project has made MRL leaders in water conservation in the city, if not in India.



Commemorative tree-planting has shaded well the MRL Administrative Building.

Creating a green belt in Manali

Another leading role Madras Refineries Limited has been playing is in the protection of the environment, both at its plant and in the surrounding areas, by developing a green belt. During the last three years, the company has planted about 2.5 lakhs tree saplings in Manali and ten neighbouring villages. Its target is to plant 50,000 saplings annually.

The total area covered by the green belt inside MRL is about eight acres. There is a VIP area of the green belt near the Administrative Building, where every VIP who visits the refinery plants a sapling. The concent-

ration of the rest of the green belt, in an area of 120 hectares, is near their Effluent Treatment Plant campus where you find traction lines running through the extensive foliage. The plantation consists mainly of eucalyptus and *prosothis juliflora*.

MRL intends to spend Rs. 50 crore to improve the environment in and around it. The outlay is on projects like the Tertiary Treatment Plant, Sulphur Recovery Unit, Flare Gas Recovery Unit, recycling of 'MINAS' water, mobile van etc.

Few industrial houses pay attention to their environment through the development of green belts as MRL does. But it is to be hoped that MRL will spend some of this projected budget on extending the green belt to line both sides of the approach road to MRL (at present it is only confined to land in between guardpoints and boundary walls). It should not be difficult for MRL, if you go by their claims of having 90 per cent success in maintaining their green belt.

N.M.R.



MRL's water treatment plant where sewage water is converted into water suitable for industrial use.

Five of a fleet not visible?

(By A Staff Reporter)

More than a score of Sinhala fishermen were recently arrested and their five high-powered multiday fishing craft and 5-ton catch impounded off the Kanniyakumari coast. These five boats could be the harbingers of a fleet that might threaten India's rich fishing grounds, the Wadge Bank, in the months to come, according to informed fisheries sources.

With the Sri Lankans amongst the first to take to multiday fishing in South Asia, boatyards in the island are working round the clock to keep up with orders for motorized fibreglass

boats suited for offshore fishing expeditions. Boatyard order books, according to sources in Colombo, have been kept full by the policies of a populist Fisheries Minister who has been introducing several credit schemes and incentives for fishermen to switch to these craft and forsake inshore fishing.

With Sri Lanka's northern and eastern fishing fleets virtually beached due to the disturbed conditions, the southern and west coast fishermen have been making the most of the Minister's generosity and their own willingness to

dare the high seas. Having fished out the waters off their home coasts and not willing to invest in the diversified gear necessary to fish even further in the waters south and southwest of Ceylon, these hardy Sinhala fishermen have, in the past couple of years, been fishing on the Wadge Bank, in the Arabian Sea off Kerala and have gone as far as to enter the Maldivian Exclusive Economic Zone.

The Maldives, where fishing is the biggest industry, didn't take this 'invasion' lying down. About two years

ago they rounded up a Sri Lankan fleet and jailed over a hundred fishermen and confiscated a score or so boats. Long drawn-out diplomatic negotiations resulted in release of, first, the fishermen, then the skippers and, finally, only a couple of months ago, of the fishing craft. The Maldivians made it clear in the process that they were being merciful on this occasion. Jail sentences for the offenders and confiscation of their boats also made it clear to both the fishermen and the Sri Lankan Government that the Maldives would brook no exploitation

of its EEZ by anyone, even friendly neighbours.

Will India take as tough a stand with those recently rounded up, is the question local fishing circles are wondering about. A soft stand will encourage the skilled Sinhala fishermen to fish dry India's waters, many connected with India's fisheries fortunes feel. Curiously, the Tamil Nadu Government has been muted in its reaction to the whole episode.

TAILPIECE: The latest on this incident appears to be that the Indian (Continued on P3)

How do we pay for the City?

The bandh called by "traders, businessmen and petty shop-owners" in Madras was virtually total. *The Man from Madras Musings* couldn't even get a Xerox anywhere. And, it is reported, the "bandh call evoked good response in the districts too".

Congratulations to all those who called for the bandh in protest against a Rs. 250 per year professional tax ceiling being hiked to Rs. 2500 and the Tamil Nadu Government gilding the golden egg further with ingenious ways of adding to the tax. But there remain a couple of questions unanswered. Perhaps Mr Ashok Kumbhat, President of the All-India Tax-Payers' Association, who was most vociferous about the "inequity" and "irrationality" of the proposed professional tax scheme, has the answers to them.

Madras, it is well known, is the city whose citizens pay the LEAST tax of all the metros and many other major cities as well. We therefore get the kind of municipal service we deserve. And that service, even Mr Kumbhat will agree, is so deplorable that Madras must be one of the dirtiest and amenity-less cities in the country. How are we going to improve this situation unless there is more money for the Corporation?

In a recent news story, a grocer from Saligramam was quoted as saying, "If the government wants more revenue for local bodies, let it increase the tax". Presumably he meant municipal taxes. Will Mr. Kumbhat now come forward and make another statement that he, his constituents and all those who downed shutters are willing to pay Rs. X per head extra to ensure that the Corporation gets the Rs. 5 crore it is short this year and that this contribution may be increased by a percentage every year hereafter? Or does he have some other solution to saving this city of ours from going to the dogs?

The Man From Madras Musings is sure that the Editor of this journal will welcome an article from the eloquent Mr Kumbhat on how to raise the money to make Madras a beautiful, uncluttered city again, with facilities for all.

MADRAS MUSINGS

SMALLS TRANSLATIONS

For German Translations contact: Madhavi, 83, Ellaiamman Colony, (Behind Stella Maris College), Madras-86.

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Run-up to victory

And so Sivanthi Adityan of Tamil Nadu has been re-elected President of the Indian Olympic Association. Congratulations, Mr Adityan. But it was a close thing, wasn't it?

On the morning of November 14th, the Calcutta headlines were "Adityan now more confident". Quoting him, the papers said he would get a minimum of 65 votes out of 129. In the event, his guestimate was almost perfect; he got 64 to his opponent's 61. But if the four votes not cast had been cast, the contest could have been ever closer. But to talk of the election is to get ahead of events.

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

That same day, rival Suresh Kalmadi paraded his strength at a Calcutta hotel. Commented Adityan, "Political pressure is being brought upon my many well-wishers. Yet I'm sure of victory. Parading one's strength can sometimes boost one's morale. But one's real strength has to be shown in the ballot box."

The next day, the Calcutta press headlined, "Marathon man Kalmadi set to outspit Adityan". Kalmadi, it was reported, paraded 55 voters before the media, which commented, "It was a show of strength without precedent" and added, "Indications ... point to Mr Kalmadi being the favourite". But the reporters hedged their bets very wisely.

Said a typical report, "The Adityan camp is sitting pretty, unperturbed by the high profile campaign of Mr Kalmadi. Said Mr K Murugan, aide and articulate spokesman of Mr Adityan, 'IOA elections are not won through the media. Newspaper readers are not our voters; we have addressed ourselves directly to the officials nominated by the 30 national federations and the 22 state Olympic associations'."

The reporter added that Adityan's "laid-back style of campaigning" and his belief "that the east (like the south) is his pocket borough" could both backfire. In fact, the reporter said, at five-star dinners hosted by both camps "the attendance at Mr Adityan's was significantly thinner (and) one Adityan man was spotted canvassing for guests at Mr Kalmadi's dinner..."

Another reporter wrote, "A motley crowd of sports administrators, essentially a collection of second rung politicians with first rate ambitions, have gathered in Calcutta for the election to the offices of the Indian Olympic Association". The contenders, he went on, were busy influencing the voters "with all kinds of incentives, which include putting them up in plush hotels around the city". The electioneering extravaganza, he added, reflected generosity unlimited. But for all that, the election "remained clean", reported yet another correspondent.

If this be the background to Indian sport, *The Man From Madras Musings* must be pardoned for thinking that it has

no future, so politicised as it evidently is.

What's the truth?

Indeed, what is the truth in the Chandralekha affair? Will it ever out? If it doesn't, it'll at least give a would-be Shoba Dé enough grist for milling a juicy roman a clef. Are there any takers?

While someone works out a script for that best-seller, *The Man From Madras Musings* takes the opportunity to wonder about a whole slew of reports this past fortnight, arising out of the acid attack on Chandralekha when she was a serving IAS officer.

● Is survival in the IAS now only possible by befriending or toadying up to the political leadership?

● As a result, has it become "spineless", as alleged?

● If that is not the case, what should the cadre's reaction be when one of its members is attacked with malice aforethought, whatever its doubts over the administrative principles of the officer concerned?

● And, finally, is the answer to feeling let down by one's colleagues sufficient reason for a decision to join hands with the very breed that has created this sad situation, the politician?

There is undoubtedly much to debate on these questions, starting from first principles. But surely the questions uppermost in every officer's mind must be, "Who instigated this acid attack? And could it happen to me too?"

To what a pass we have come in once-peaceful Tamil Nadu!

In brief

★ Japanese Consul-General in Madras, Tatsuo Ishizaki, was nothing if not blunt at a recent seminar in the city on 'Business opportunities with Japan'. He was not optimistic about Japan investing in India because the Japanese investor was waiting for the "correct" atmosphere and the "right partners" to emerge in India. Not only had the Indian Government not taken the necessary legal steps to implement its new economic policy, but India's credentials in the marketplace, as a cost-effective source of supply or as having a fast-growing local market to tap, had not been fully established.

★ That's the new diplomacy for you: Telling it like it is! The small-scale and tiny industrialists were not quite sure what to make of such straight-from-the-shoulder talk by a diplomat.

★ The Centre wants to encourage the development of Tarangambadi — as a beach resort and as a restored historic town — as part of its plans to promote "special tourism areas".

★ The Tamil Nadu Government wants to restore the ancient Danish settlement and put it on the world tourism map, to which end it's got a master plan locked away.

And the Taj Group wants to develop what was in imperial times known as Tranquebar as an international holiday resort.

All of which couldn't happen to a nicer town, where the old Danish fort, *Dansborg Castle*, the Danish homes on King's and Queen's Streets and the Mission properties where printing received new life in India, all survive in reasonably good condition.

The only question in *The Man From Madras Musings* mind is when is all this going to happen. After all, talk of restoring Tranquebar has been going on for the last five years. When will the auspicious year dawn for progress to be made on the plans much bandied about?

★ Everyone's talking of non-conventional energy sources (NES) these days, as the quest for electrical energy in India becomes more frenzied. But quite the most ingenious suggestion on this subject that *The Man From Madras Musings* has come across is one that Dr L R Chari of the Shipping Corporation of India, and Prof P Sambandan, of the Ocean Engineering Centre at IIT, Madras, made at the recent Marine Symposium '92 held in the city. They suggested that all four major NES sources could be harnessed by a SINGLE offshore platform set up like an oil rig about five miles off the coast.

With a windmill on it, it could tap the greater wind potential over the ocean. Wave energy and ocean current converters could be installed on

the same platform to tap the potential of the waves and of the ocean. And solar panels on the platform could tap the Sun's energy. A one megawatt integrated offshore power station, they felt, could be built for about Rs. 3 crore and it would generate pollution-free power.

Any takers?

★ An upmarket international hotel chain, Parkroyal, is setting up two new hotels, in Delhi and Goa. Madras, however, is slated to get one of the chain's budget-style hotels, what it calls a Travelodge. Work on the Madras Travelodge, the first of several the group plans for India in partnership with local entrepreneurs in the different parts of the country, will begin in January and the 129-room Travelodge is expected to open exactly two years from then. Local partners of Southern Pacific Hotel Corporation, promoters of Parkroyals and Travelodges internationally, are Shri Tripura Sundari Hotels.

★ A joke told with glee in Delhi has an American journalist arriving in the capital to do a feature on the stock scam. He asks a Delhiwallah, "Does the scam really involve millions or billions?" To which he gets the answer, "I don't know, but it certainly involves Tamilians!"

The Man From Madras Musings hopes that, despite the trying times, we in Madras haven't lost the faculty to laugh at ourselves. Sadly, he often finds, some haven.

— MMM

OUR READERS WRITE

Thinking of Madras

By way of enlarging the scope of the discussion in the light of 'In the days of the tram', 'Building a mini city' and 'A planner's dream', all in *Madras Musings* Nov. 1-15, 1992, the following may be worth considering:

The evocation of a sigh over the passing away of electric trams in Madras is a belated requiem; a dependable, economical (environmentally forward-looking) means of transport became the victim of an industrial dispute in which the workers (and the indifferent citizens) were outplayed in a game of poker outside their comprehension. The Calcutta scenario is different and constitutes a conspiracy, though the loser will be the common man (or woman).

However, before making plans for reintroducing trams in Madras (costly and bound to aggravate traffic problems), the alternative of an underground railway using the channel of the Buckingham Canal inside the city for a cut-and-cover tunnel ought to be examined. The Planning Commission had endorsed the scheme, pointing out that an additional civic amenity of a good road from the southern extremity to the northern would be a *tertium quid*. Madras, which could denounce Rajaji as Hitler, gave short shrift to the scheme, the Corporation protesting about the discontinuance of the Canal as a drain!

The surface railway (which may never be completed thanks to the proliferation of slums) will create more problems than it solves: the transhipment at Luz is an example.

But the Madrasi, outraged by the extravagance in Delhi, may choose to tighten

his belt and, having failed to revive the Canal for water transport, will turn to the *jukka* and adduce non-traffic-related justification.

The long-term problems of Madras call for analysis not repressed by parochialism. The growth of population will justify the construction of a city and the separation of functions. Madras when freed of disparate organisation will be in a position to accept inflow in consonance with its facilities and amenities.

M B Sarangapani
708, 47 Cross Road
V Block, Jayanagar
Bangalore 560 004.

Ode to Chennai

I offer *Anthem de Chennai* as an ode to the causes *Madras Musings* — the pride of every self-respecting Chennai — espouses.

ANTHEM DE CHENNAI

Together and forever
We shall rise and grow,
To make of this land
What it was once before.

Keeping home
on a larger scale,
Clean the streets,
Clear the bins,
Lay more roads,
Line more trees,
Drain the sewer
And not precious fuel.

Foster our culture,
Nurture our pride
In this our city,
The gracious Chennai,
Our very own Madras.

Madhavi
83, Ellaiamman Colony
Teynampet
Madras-600 086.

A diet for success



Dr. M. Viswanathan

Royapuram, in North Madras, once a hub of Madras railway traffic and now clogged with container traffic, is hardly the place you would associate with one of India's premier hospitals. But the M V Hospital here has registered patients from all over India and abroad and is one of the largest medical centres for diabetes in the world.

In the words of Kasi, a patient who had come from the Gulf to Apollo Hospital for a coronary by-pass operation and was declared not well enough for surgery because of high blood sugar, "it was a near miracle how the in-house care provided at M V Hospital managed to get my blood sugar back to normal in a short time, thus enabling me to undergo surgery with hardly any complications". Many such patients keep flocking to the M V Hospital; among those from states outside Tamil Nadu, 40 per cent are from Andhra Pradesh, while another 40 per cent are from West Bengal.

It was while a post-graduate student in Stanley Medical College that Dr M Viswanathan noticed that, while a lot of patients came to the hospital with complaints of diabetes, no proper records were being maintained regarding their condition, making follow-up almost impossible. Pointing this out to the professor-in-charge, he got permission to concentrate on the welfare of the diabetic patients, though no separate lab facilities were offered.

This devotion to the field of diabetology proved both rewarding and satisfying.

Having identified his specialty early in his career as a doctor, this diabetologist made up his mind to do something about it that would be different. He started M V Hospital as a small 'general hospital' to serve the

by DHANYA GOPINATH

local community. He chose Royapuram because land was reasonably priced there and hospitals few. And in his general hospital he started, in 1948, the first organised diabetetic clinic in India. In 1971, the M V Hospital became a hospital solely devoted to diabetes, the M V Hospital for Diabetes. In 1972, the Diabetes Research Centre was started. And in 1982 and 1988 were started the Post-Graduate Institute for Diabetes and the M V Institute for Prevention of Diabetes.

His identification of suitable diets for Indians has been Dr Viswanathan's major contribution in the management of diabetes. At a time when the Indian diabetic had to rely on imported books which were based on Western dietary patterns, where the carbohydrate content did not form more than

35 per cent of the total calories, it was Dr Viswanathan who evolved the High Carbohydrate High Fibre Diet which is so ideally suited to Indian diet patterns. Legumes, like Bengal gram and green gram, in the diets of patients have shown interesting results and these have helped in his formulating an ideal dietary pattern for Indian diabetics.

Dr Viswanathan has received many awards for his outstanding contribution to diabetes. This year he's been awarded the First Clifford Wilson Annual Lilly Diabetes Care Lecture Award and the Distinguished Service Award in the Field of Diabetes in India. Industrialisation, affluence and modern life styles have increased the incidence of diabetes in the urban South Indian population, according to Dr Viswanathan. A study conducted by the Diabetes Research Centre found that 8.2 per cent of the urban population and 2.4 per cent of the rural population in South India suffer from diabetes.

Diabetes is essentially a genetic disorder, but it has now been discovered that if intensive education is given to the offspring of diabetic patients, who face the high risk of becoming diabetic, it is possible to prevent, or at least postpone, the onset of diabetes. More than 4000 persons are under the prevention programme of the M V Institute for Prevention of Diabetes. Prevention they've found is indeed better than cure.

The investor awakening

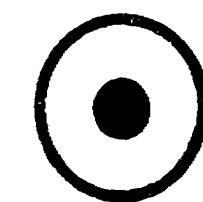
We are now witnessing the dawn of investor awakening, as investors wedge their way through the sea of public rights issues that have deluged the market. In a completely liberalised policy scenario, there have been many reasons for this unprecedented rise in new rights issues. The lifting of restrictions on interest rates charged by development finance institutions and the abolition of the Controller of Capital Issue have all contributed to this phenomenon. In a matter of four months, from October 1992 to January 1993, a minimum of Rs 10,000 cr will be sought by primary market issues.

This figure is sure to burgeon with many more issues popping up on the scene. What's more, in stark contrast to Rs 200 cr a decade ago, the figure is being placed upwards of Rs 20,000 cr for the forthcoming year. A minor record or sorts was created on November 16th when 36 companies opened their public issues for subscription. Of these, some were maiden public issues, while the rest comprised rights issues combined with public issues or were a mixture of equity shares and debentures.

However, even as mind-boggling statistics on the primary market are making news, it is the mesmeric investor metamorphosis — his coming into his own — that is of consequence to everyone concerned. A major case in point has been the collapse of the Giltsack — the first ever capital issue by a public sector unit, IPCL, that is getting deeper into the mire of controversy and legal tussles. While on the one hand an individual investor, Dr Arvind Gupta, has taken it to court on the very legality of its issue, on the

other the manner in which the issue was contrived has raised several questions. Reacting to this furore, the IPCL share has dipped much below its issue price of Rs 160.

Not so long ago, investors in India eagerly lapped up rights issues, which were perceived as mini-bonuses, and every time these were announced the prices of such shares jumped. This is



Bull's Eye

alien in the mature markets of the world and it is heartening to note it emerging in our markets as well. Investors have disdainfully turned their noses up at even big rights issues that have dared to presume a high premia. The fate of Pune-based Patheja Forgings, Rathi Alloys and Nagarjuna Fertilizers is too recent to be forgotten.

Panicked by the tide in events, SEBI is also doing a rethink on the subject of free pricing, as freeing the market has also seen even loss-making and fundamentally weak companies venturing into the market. But free market also means that the public must necessarily exercise caution before subscribing to any issue. This has also posed another problem concerning the ability of stockmarkets to handle the increased volume of activity that will follow the new listing. The changing scenario will dictate the capabilities of the lead manager, who will not be able to bamboozle the public with outrage-

If only words would clean Madras!

'Make Madras a Clean City' was the theme of the 8th Students' Book Fair this year. And to get its message across, the organisers had planned a quiz, a round table discussion and an oratorical contest based on this theme. But if it was hoped that Madras could be redeemed from its chaos by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements' Sustainable Cities Programme, there could be disappointment for many involved with the project, to judge by the way the planners and the audience (the citizens, shall we say?) crossed words on the issue.

It's the thought not the deed!

One positive outcome of the oratorical contest was evident immediately it was over. Participants and listeners who were served snacks and coffee requested the organisers for a garbage bin to drop their paper plates and cups in, instead of having to use the field!

When planners for a 'Clean Madras' don't think of such little things, dreams of a cleaner Madras can only be in the realm of hopes.

V.J.

The panelists made short addresses, with M G Devasagayam, a management executive, starting things off by talking of the need to conserve natural resources for the future generations. Former Town Planner and present Coordinator of the UNCHS' Programme, G Dattatri, then emphasised the need to involve those at the grassroots level in any programme while respecting their right of dissent. He appealed to everyone to identify what was wrong with Madras, why it is so and how to solve the problems identified. This was echoed by A R Doss, Chief Planner, MMDA, who pointed out that Greater Madras by the year 2011 would have a population of 95 lakhs, with 35 lakhs concentrated in the Madras Corporation area, while the proposed Krishna water scheme would be able to quench the thirst only of the present population and not of the growing demands.

Doss deplored the lack of coordination amongst the 36 Governmental agencies looking after the City's civic amenities, warned that if construction work continues on every conceivable square foot of land, aquifers would not be recharged by rain, and drew pointed attention to the fact that only

Shamathi, from Elhiraj College, said, "It is really a shame on our part to be discussing the basic lessons of cleanliness while marching towards the 21st Century". Public and private property should both be treated as private property and protected, she appealed. And citing Bombay as an example, where images of Gods were painted on the walls to deter people from urinating before them, she urged that such novel methods be tried out in Madras. She walked away with the second prize.

To judge by the participation in both events, there are many among the young who care for the city, who will harness their enthusiasm?

V. Jagannathan

Five of a fleet

(Continued from P1)

Government will release both boats and men, being satisfied with the catch alone. Apparently, this action reciprocates Sri Lanka's willingness in the past to release Indian fishermen 'captured' by the Sri Lankan Navy in the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar.

10 per cent of the Madras population pays Corporation taxes, naturally causing a resource crunch at Ripon Building.

When the debate began, it quickly degenerated from the macro to the micro when a college student spoke of dangling cable TV wires and of her complaints about this and the stray dog menace in her area not being paid heed to. To advise citizens to complain to the authorities in Madras is plain "dumb", she said. And the debate from then on fast deteriorated into a slanging match on localised area problems.

But such problems are symptomatic of the macro Madras scene and it was a pity that the discussion leaders did not exhibit greater patience in trying to harness this youthful enthusiasm for the greater cause.

A much wider, and a more welcome, look at the City and its problems was taken by students participating in the oratorical contest.

S A Gayatri, Madras Christian College, warned of the dangers, now and in the future, of garbage being used as 'fill' in low-lying areas. She suggested that garbage should be sorted out according to its nature — plastic and other solid wastes and biodegradable wastes — at the household level itself and the latter composted by digging a pit in each household's garden. Solid wastes could be recycled or made into fuel.

Hema Sundari, of the University of Madras, said that about 2100 industries along the banks of the Cooum, starting from Nungambakkam, Arumbakkam and Koyambedu, discharge their untreated effluents into the river. She suggested the removal of the sand bar at the river mouth and appealed for the implementation of the recommendations of the experts from the U K on cleaning up the Cooum.

However, the students from Madras Law College stole the show. Sai Amudha Devi, who won the first prize, thundered, "Madrasis lack the will-power to enforce their civic rights". And she went on, "Keeping our city clean is not social work, it is everyone's duty!"

Amalraj, also from Law College, pointed out that it was "futile for planners to sit in air-conditioned rooms, formulate plans for slum improvement and thrust them on the people". Such plans, he said, would fail as they lacked active participation of the people who lived in the slums; all plans should be formulated involving the slum dwellers.

Shamathi, from Elhiraj College, said, "It is really a shame on our part to be discussing the basic lessons of cleanliness while marching towards the 21st Century". Public and private property should both be treated as private property and protected, she appealed. And citing Bombay as an example, where images of Gods were painted on the walls to deter people from urinating before them, she urged that such novel methods be tried out in Madras. She walked away with the second prize.

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You can't drink Sales Tax!

*Im tiefen Keller sitzt ich hier,
... und trinken, trinken, trinken...*

A song popular with German students, the strains booming up from the basement tavern where they sit at refectory tables, large tankards of beer in hand and sausages as long as your own guts for a spread before them. The melody is set in a minor key, signifying a sedate (= seated), contemplative mood and ending in a long, deep bass growl, as if to declare: that is the very end — at least until the next tankard is frothing full. This is one way.

Once socially called on the famous sculptor Roy Choudhury, a man I

admired as much for his urbanity as for his art. He sat at one end of a beautiful carpet with cushions about him. In front was a bottle of Tata's eau-de-cologne. It was then the height of Prohibition and he apologised for not being permitted to offer me and my wife any alcoholic refreshment.

As our visit was ending, I remarked on the routine he had followed through the evening. He would sip the cognac, open the tin, light up the cigarette, take but a single puff, stub it out in the ashtray, unscrew the cap of the perfume bottle, spread a drop on the fingers that had fashioned masterpieces, sniff at the fingertips, and pick up the crystal tumbler for the next sip, all the while keeping up a scintillating conversation, mostly about his current work. On my curiosity about the routine, he explained: "I detest the taste of alcohol, so I cover it with nicotine. I hate the smell of cigarette smoke, so I smother it with perfume." Then WHY, Sir, I asked. "Because I like what it does to me," was the answer.

The nostalgic part of it for me was somewhat different. Before I found my way around Prohibition, the drink that flowed among friends was eau-de-cologne with fresh lime, and the smoke a lowly Char at two annas a pack. Looking back, I think it was a bit of all right too. That was another way.

The evening before Prohibition was clapped on a peaceful and historically law-abiding Madras State, a friend of

mine walked into Bosotto's, an incomparable amenity at Round Tana. Never having touched liquor before that fateful eve between liberty and corruption, he did not know what to ask for. He conferred with the barman and settled for sampling everything on the shelf, starting with beer. From that day forward, whether he liked it or needed it or not, he persisted with liquor to register his manner of protest against loss of a personal liberty in exchange for the evil of Sales Tax. Few will remember that the dreaded ST and its corruption were introduced to make up the revenue loss of Prohibition. Sales Tax was the first to force open the sluice gate of a previously unassailable

Madras bureaucracy and flood the whole of it, in time, with practices that degraded morality in administration. Far better a few pauperised drunks nursing their livers.

Those days most of us drank in guarded seclusion, like Jews saying their prayers in Nazi Germany. Not so my friend the conscientious objector, who took every risk. His prolonged protest was finally the cause of his untimely death. That was his way.

To drink anything more palatable than eau-de-cologne, a person had to be publicly branded an addict. This was a function the Chief Minister reserved for himself, while other affairs of State remained pending — for many were the cash-rich in a state of *delirium tremens* who brooked no delay for branding. But first a Doctor must certify, anorexia or anything, even piles, that had to be assuaged by the all-healing a/c. In my case, my doctor, an honest man, had to be persuaded to certify, even though convinced that the stuff was contraindicated. Anyway, they all knew to a man that no one from Hippocrates (5th century B.C.) to the last Nobel Laureate has found conclusively that alcohol holds any exclusive curative or prophylactic properties for Man's constitution. Yet even away from the context of Prohibition they will prescribe "social drinking", to keep their practice(?) as *im tiefen Keller*. That is our way.

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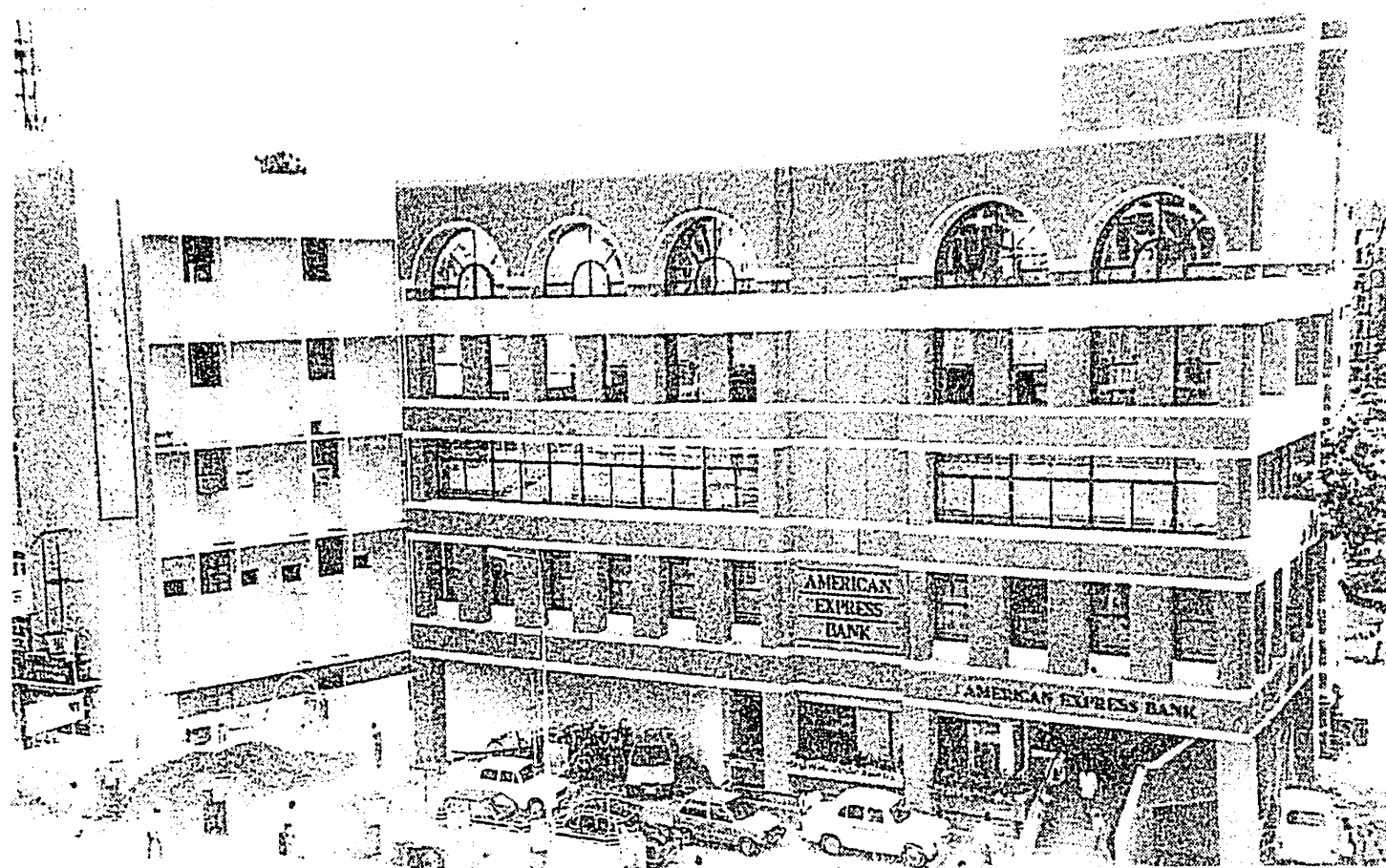
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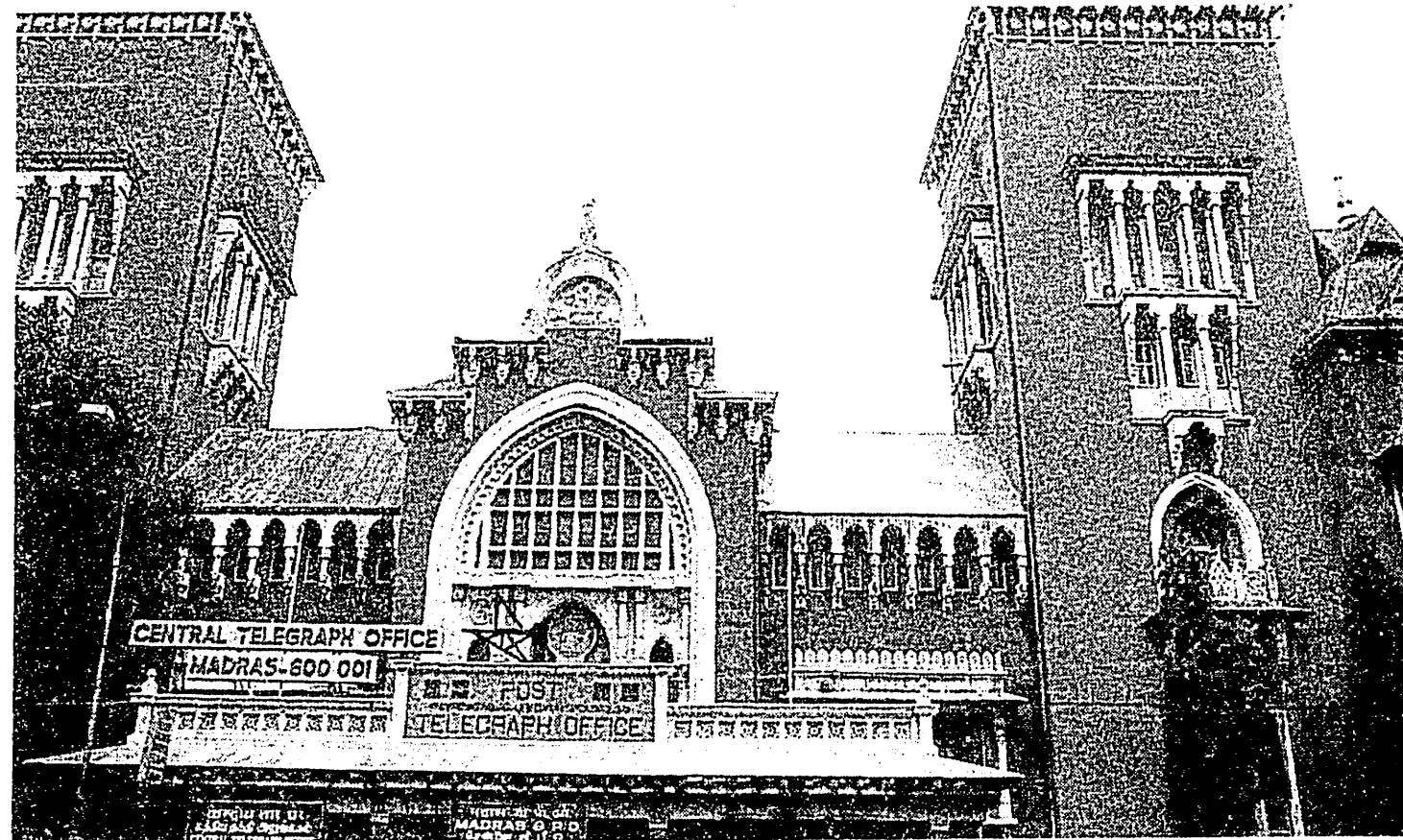
Madras bureaucracy and flood the whole of it, in time, with practices that degraded morality in administration. Far better a few pauperised drunks nursing their livers.



Madras's newest bank brings American Express to town for the first time. And the American Express Bank has ensconced itself comfortably in the newest highrise on Anna Salai. The elegant four-storied new headquarters of the Automobile Association of South India — built on the same site where its old offices had been for fifty years and more — uses the straight line and the curve quite strikingly. And its beige colouring creates a soothing effect on a bustling road. Not a spectacular building, but a pleasing one, whose interiors are more lavish than its exterior.

Quite a contrast is the Madras General Post Office on North Beach Road — or Rajaji Salai, if you will. The Indo-Saracenic of another age is embellished with arches and ornate pillars and even the straight lines don't create the impression of military precision found in the Mount Road ASI building. Designed by Robert Fellowes Chisholm, who spread the gospel of Indo-Saracenic in Madras, then India, work on the building started in 1874 and was completed only in 1884 when GPO staff moved in. It had cost 8 lakhs. Built on the site of an old artillery battery, its 120-ft tall towers were modified in more recent times, to give the building a more Victorian county appearance.

(PHOTOS: The New — V.S. RAGHAVAN and The Old — SUSHEELA NAIR)



HOUNDS AND HOLMES

Arani Kuppuswami Mudaliar had a tremendous output of crime novels in Tamil. As mentioned in my earlier piece, Arthur Conan Doyle and his Sherlock Holmes were Mudaliar's main inspiration, followed by G W M Reynolds. One of Mudaliar's famed novels was *Bhaskara Vilas Padukolai*. No prizes for guessing that this was a 'Tamilisation' of *The Hound of the Baskervilles!* (A Telugu crime writer, who wrote a language version of the same novel, more 'truthfully' called it *Hound* in Telugu. Interestingly, it was hailed as a classic and prescribed as a textbook for 'non-detailed study' in Andhra.)

Another 'Tamilisation' by AKM was *Attai Pettiyin Mammam*. Can you guess the Holmesian original? It was *The Mystery of the Cardboard Box!* Elementary, my dear Watson, isn't it?

To Mudaliar goes the credit of creating the first woman detective in Tamil crime fiction. Her name was Padmasini and she was introduced in the novel *Padmasini, Oru Thuppariyum Kannikai!* Unlike most woman detectives in fiction, Padmasini was not portrayed as a sex symbol. Like other detectives of the day, she was an expert in the art of disguise, but, interestingly, never disguised herself as a male.

After Mudaliar came two more writers acknowledged as masters of Tamil crime fiction. They were

Vaduvur K Duraiswamy Iyengar and J R Rangaraju. Both were inspired by Doyle. Rangaraju's private detective was named Triplicane Govindan and during his day he was extremely popular amongst the Tamil-speaking, which prompted the famed Tamil writer and journalist 'Kalki' (R Krishna-murthy) to write that if Bal Gangadhar

Vaduvur Duraiswamy Iyengar was perhaps the most commercially successful Tamil crime writer, and his *Soundara Kokilam, Menaka and Digambara Samiyar* were extremely popular novels. Digambara Samiyar was a mix of Sherlock Holmes and Chesterton's Father Brown. A film version of 'DS' made by the Salem-based movie mogul T R Sundaram was a big hit. M N Nambiar, the stock villain of Tamil Cinema, played 'DS' and the role made him a star. Many of Vaduvur's novels were filmed with success.

Another crime writer of that era was the famed woman novelist, Vai Mu Kothainayaki Ammal. After her there was a gap in Tamil crime fiction until *Ananda Vikatan* Devan's Sambu and Thamizhvaanan's Shankarlal became famous.

Another hiatus ... And then came the Randor Guys, Sujathas, Srivenugopalans, Rajendrakumars, Rajesh-kumars and a whole lot of others. Their's is another story.

by
Randor Guy

Tilak and Triplicane Govindan were to contest the Delhi Central Assembly elections, his vote would go to Govindan!

Among Rangaraju's novels, *Rajambal* and *Chavukkadi Chandrakantha* were the most popular. Both were filmed in Tamil twice. The second version of *Rajambal*, made in the early 1950s by cameraman director R M Krishnaswamy, was a big hit. It introduced a handsome young newcomer named R S Manohar to movies.

The first version of *Chandrakantha*, made in 1936 by that great Indian film pioneer Raja Sandow, was not only a big success but it also raised a controversy. The novel and film were a scathing attack on the licentious living

...& THE OLD

Silver chimes for Anna Nagar

Myths about Annanagar abound — "all the Marwaris live there"; "all the IAS officers live there"; "all the rich Chettiaris live there"; "all the doctors live there" — (some truth in the last one though; drop a stone on Annanagar and it will fall on a doc!). But myths aside, people in Madras are waking up to the fact that this north-western extension of the metropolis,

called 'exclusive' addresses such as Boat Club Road, Haddows Road and so on, where, in these home-help scarce days, the lady of the house has to drive out a mile even to buy a packet of salt, in Annanagar everything is available literally round the corner. And what is more, the sheer comfort and ambience of being able to shop while taking a leisurely stroll, without having to wade

Bain's, Adarsh, SBOA — the list of schools is impressive. As for recreation, thanks to that Corporate fairy, MRF, the Annanagar Tower Park is a fun place for all. The theme is 'tyres': tyre swings, tyre slides, tyre bouncers and balancers beckon children, while the retired congregate for a chat on tyre seats and the middle-aged jog around in an attempt to shed spare tyres. Besides the Tower Park, there are quite a few smaller parks too; the place has good lungs.

• BY HIRAMALINI SESHADRI

which celebrates its Silver Jubilee this year, is fast becoming the jewel in the crown of the city.

Time was when the mention of Annanagar evoked disdainful reactions such as "so...o...fa...ar away...!" and would-be plot buyers felt they were condemned to Outer Mongolia. But a quarter-century later, today, the city-centre itself seems to be gravitating towards Annanagar! My real-estate friends tell me that after Parry's and Mount Road, Annanagar now commands prime area status.

Just how did Naduvakkara, poor relation of Aminjikkarai, manage this metamorphosis? The first step was some thoughtful planning and the development of infrastructure, such as roads, by the Housing Board authorities who envisioned Annanagar coming up on the 1967 International Trade Fair grounds. Thereafter, a judicious blend of housing, commercial development, transport systems, facilities for education, shopping, recreation and health-care completed the recipe for success.

Housewives simply love Annanagar and not without reason. Unlike the so-

through pedlars, puddles, commuters and Panagal Park-type traffic makes born-again shoppers out of housewives.



Looking from Visweswaraya Tower, Anna Nagar presents a picture of tree-shaded development.

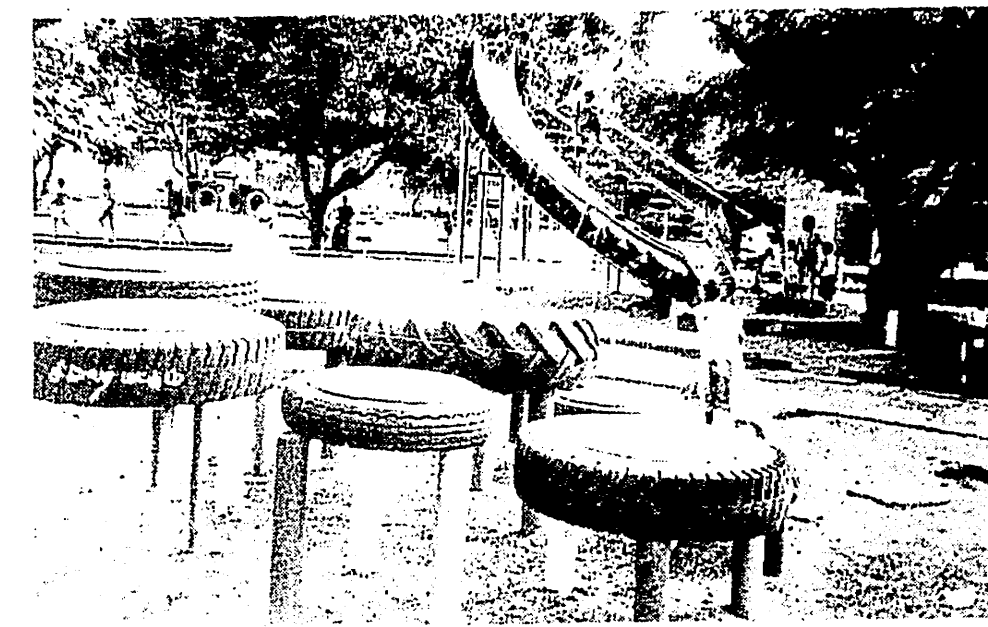
Customer-sensitive shopkeepers have realised this and, today, every retailer, ranging from that hallowed middle-class house of clothing, Naidu Hall, to Vummidiar's has an outlet in Annanagar.

For children, both educational and recreational needs are well met. DAV,

not as bad as in, say, Nungambakkam. Water-supply-wise, though pockets of scarcity exist, by Madras standards you cannot really complain; and come Krishna waters, things can only get better.

Little wonder then that Annanagar is top of the pops in the residential area charts. With such a growing customer base, commercial institutions are also rushing in to rake in the benefits. Every bank has a branch here; insurance companies, tax consultants, estate agents, builders...everyone has an Annanagar branch. The Government service sectors are also well represented; even the Social Forestry Department has an outlet here.

What of health needs? Adequately provided for; although smaller than the medicare giants such as Apollo and Vijaya, Annanagar hospitals are able to get top consultants because of the simple fact that many of them live around there. The picture can only get rosier when the TVS and Madras



Tyres make a park for children — if MRF has got anything to do with it.
PHOTOS: — V.S. RAGHAVAN

A rare phenomenon

(By kind permission of A/S Redenet Odjell, in whose in-house journal this appeared and which is too good to be ignored even if it has nothing to do with Madras)

THE CAPTAIN'S NOTE TO THE CHIEF OFFICER:

Early tomorrow morning there will be a total solar eclipse at 0900 hours. This is something that cannot be seen every day, so let the crew line up in their best clothes on the deck in order that they may see it. To mark this rare phenomenon I will myself explain it to them. If it is raining, we will not be able to see it clearly. In that case the

crew should gather in the messroom.

THE CHIEF OFFICER'S NOTE TO THE FIRST OFFICER:

On Captain's orders there will be total solar eclipse early tomorrow at 0900 hours. If it is raining, we will not be able to see it clearly from deck in our best clothes. In that case the sun's disappearance will be fully observed in the messroom. This is something which does not happen every day.

THE FIRST OFFICER'S NOTE TO THE SECOND OFFICER:

On Captain's orders we shall fully observe in our best clothes

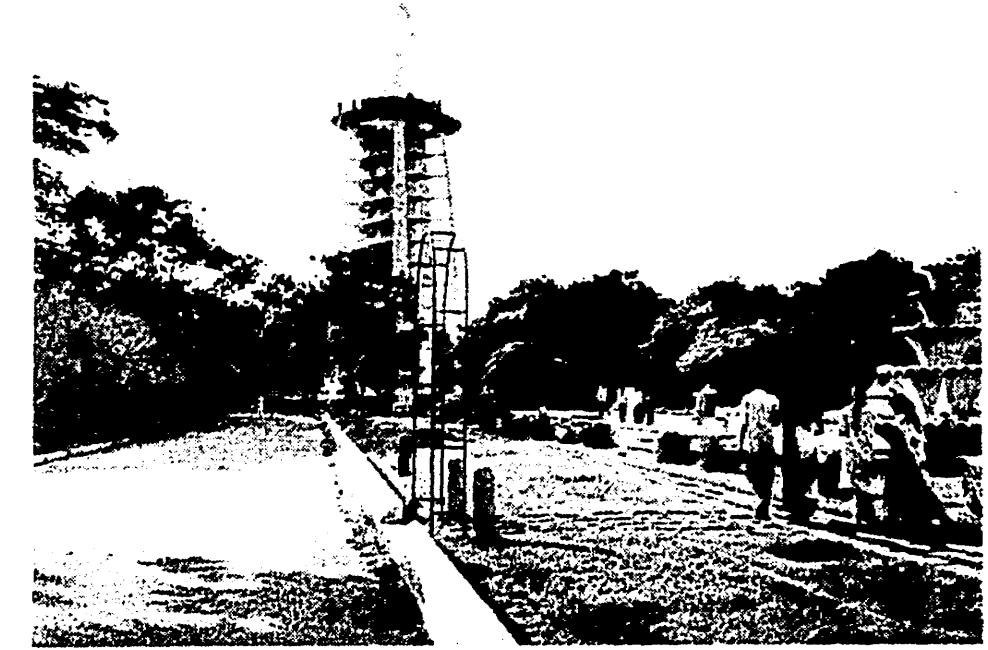
that the sun disappears in the mess room at 0900 hours. The captain will tell us if it is going to rain. This is something which does not happen every day.

THE SECOND OFFICER'S NOTE TO THE BOSUN:

If it is raining in the mess room early tomorrow, which is something that does not happen every day, the captain in his best clothes will disappear at 0900 hours.

THE BOSUN'S NOTE TO THE CREW:

Early tomorrow at 0900 hours the captain will disappear. It is a pity that this does not happen every day.



The Visweswaraya Tower, the Anna Nagar landmark and memorial to the industrial fair which got the town development going.

Madras do occur, but they are certainly Medical Mission hospitals, under construction, come up.

'Westward-Ho!' — seems to be the slogan at Annanagar. What was the original Annanagar is today Annanagar East. At one time, the western outpost was a lone shop called Bluestar. Today

it has multiplied into a huge complex of shops and is the landmark of Central Annanagar. Ever expanding Annanagar West abuts on Mogappair now; and there is even an Annanagar West Extension!

The only snag about Annanagar is locating an address there. Most thoughtfully, the authorities have taken elaborate steps to see that no-one casts an evil eye on Annanagar. The place is the mother of all mazes. Single alphabet blocks, double alphabet blocks, avenues, main roads, streets, plot numbers with numerals, dots, dashes and bars — all conspire to confound the uninitiated unsuspecting visitor. A popular story is that a new resident who went to a dinner party couldn't find his way back home! Don't believe it? Well, try finding plot 2318/AD.36; 10-MR; off AVE/II and I shall meet you at the door. In the meantime, Vive la Annanagar!

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IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

Sweet memories in George Town

The more recent and modern sweet shops may have temporarily banished from public memory Ramakrishna Lunch Home (223 NSC Bose Road, George Town), once a landmark in Madras as much for the beautiful YMCA building in which it is housed as for its famous sweets, but what few people know is that it serves the tastiest, spiciest samosas in town. Accompanied by a tangy chutney, the samosas, at Rs. 2.50/- each, have a full-bodied, zesty flavour. And the sweets are still as good as ever.

While selecting from the array of sweets here, don't make the mistake of choosing those found in the usual box of assorted sweets; it's a truly rewarding experience to try the less common varieties. The creamy *Kulfi* is only Rs. 8.50 a serving, which is very reasonable. The special *Khoa* (Rs. 4.50 for 50 gms) is sprinkled with nuts, and is melt-in-the-mouth. Ask for the speciality of the day — when I was there, it was *Malai sandwich* — Rs. 6.75 for two semi-circular *rassogollas* enclosing a layer of rose-water flavoured *Khoa*. All the sweets taste best chilled, so it would be a good idea to take them home

and refrigerate them before serving.

Biscuit Mixture (a quarter kilo at Rs. 17.50) was something I hadn't come across before and is especially recommended for those with a sweet tooth. The once famous *badam kheer* is a

FOODS & FADS

let-down, however — just a glassful of watered down nutmeg-flavoured milk. This apart, all the sweets are tempting as well as satisfying.

Book-Ends

In the light of the sky-high prices at the recent Students Book Fair, the sale at Chettiar Hall, 74 T.T.K. Road, has come at the right time. All the books have the customary 10 per cent discount, while there are a few sections with as much as 25 per cent discount. The sale, on till the 13th of December, is a 'must' for parents running out of good children's books, ranging from the educative to the merely entertaining. There are huge piles of comics at Rs. 1/- each, and Russian fairy tales and

folk tales, profusely illustrated, at throwaway prices.

There are separate sections on Computers, Maths, Chemistry and college text books too. The usual bestsellers — Nancy Drew, Sidney Sheldon and a host of others — rub shoulders with

dictionaries, encyclopaedias and cookbooks. The section I found most rewarding was the one containing leather-bound editions of Russian books on Pushkin to the Bolshoi Ballet. There is a separate section on Tamil books and books put out by NCERT.

Definitely a 'must' for the bargain-hunter and the booklover.

The Phoenix syndrome

Exit Moore Market. Enter the Phoenix Syndrome. Cashing in on their fame, many of the displaced Moore Market book-sellers are back in full force. Never mind that they display their wares on pavements and in little cubby holes by the Lily

Pond Complex — they have quantities of books, some rare, some even out of print and all at very low prices.

All the shops open at round 11.30 in the forenoon and remain open till 6.30 in the evening. And forget the *raddiwallah* — all your unwanted textbooks are bought by these booksellers at exactly half the price you paid! It's a good place to hunt for textbooks of all disciplines and classics too, strange as the combination may seem.

Follow these rules for real bargains — start at exactly half the price quoted, don't display too much interest in the book you want, or prices will shoot up. I once picked up a rare-to-come-by copy of Dr. Zhivago and Sarojini Naidu's *Complete Poetical Works* — at Rs. 7/- each! If you're lucky, you might find *Georgette Heyers* or *The Reader's Digest Condensed Editions* — massive tomes at that — dirt cheap. And what is most fascinating in conservative, sluggish Madras is that all the bargaining and harranguing is carried out in impeccable English!

Bhavana Kay

Snowy white cauliflowers are in season. Make *Cauliflower Masalam*, a spicy side dish which is not only appetising but attractive to look at as well. Try also the *Egg Curry*. Serve both with golden brown wholesome *Spinach Parathas*. Finish the meal with nutty *Carrot Cake* — yet another vegetable very much in season!

FRESH SPINACH PARATHAS

2 cups wheat flour (makes 8 Parathas)
½ cup milk

2 bunches fresh spinach, chopped fine
2 green chillies, chopped fine
1 teaspoon cummin seeds, toasted and powdered

Salt to taste

Method:

Boil the spinach, drain and wash well. Mix the toasted and powdered cummin seeds, salt and green chillies. Set aside.

Sieve the flour with salt. Add milk and knead to a soft dough. Divide the dough equally. Similarly divide the filling equally. Roll out the dough on a floured surface. Put a tablespoon of filling. Pinch the edges together to form a ball and roll once again. Fry on a griddle till golden.

Serve hot.

EGG CURRY

6 eggs, hardboiled, shelled and halved (Set aside)
½ cup shelled peas, boiled (Set aside)
1 bay leaf
1 teaspoon cummin seeds
½ teaspoon turmeric powder
2 teaspoons *garam masala*
1 small bunch coriander leaves, chopped fine

3 or 4 tomatoes, ground to a puree
Salt to taste

Paste

3 onions chopped
6 tbs coconut, grated
2 teaspoons *dhaniya* (coriander seeds)
1 teaspoon *jeera* (cummin seeds)
1 piece ginger
5 red chillies
1 tbs poppy seeds

Method:

Heat oil, add bay leaf and cummin seeds. When the cummin seeds sizzle,

ground to a fine paste

Heat four tablespoons oil and fry the cauliflowers golden, turning them over carefully to retain the shape. Set aside.

Heat the remaining oil and fry the ground *masala* till the oil separates. Add the well mixed curd and salt and simmer till the gravy blends.

Arrange the cauliflowers in a casserole. Pour the gravy over the cauliflower and bake in a moderate oven for 20 minutes.

Garnish with chopped green chillies and coriander leaves.

Serve hot with *parathas*.

Note: The cauliflower can also be steamed. But make sure you steam it in a pressure cooker without the weight.

Household hints

★ Shave an ordinary bar of soap into flakes. Mix a mug of water and add ten drops of kerosene. The mix makes an effective pesticide to spray on household plants.

★ Always store frequently used kitchen items in an easily accessible spot. And heavy items like the *lawa* etc. in a cupboard, at a lower level. It will be safer and more convenient.

★ Line ice-trays with aluminium foil. The trays will not stick to the freezer and will slide out more easily.

★ To prepare tamarind extract quickly, soak tamarind in warm water for about five minutes and squeeze out.

★ The easiest way to sharpen your scissors is to cut through fine sandpaper several times.

Hand embroidery on table, bed & household linen, baby linen & baby frocks, rug making, painting & mirror work on mud pots & plates, wall hangings — embroidered, silver & gold thread from waste material & painted also, saree fall attaching & peekoe also cross stitch.

For further details contact:

Telephone No. 414582 7 a.m. — 10.30 a.m.
865237 12 noon — 5.00 p.m.

Quizzin' with Ramanan

(Quizzmaster V V Ramanan's questions are all from the fortnight of November 1-15)

- Who have been awarded the Tamil Nadu Government's 'Anna' award for 1991?
- Why was Ms Kalpana, a BSc student of Stella Maris College, in the news?
- Apart from Jakarta, which fourth Asian city will come under UNCHS-sponsored sustainable cities programme (SCP)?
- Which great Tamil film maker's retrospective was shown recently on DD?

5. What are the terminals of the latest Rajdhani Express introduced on November 1st?

6. Which controversial CBI Joint Director laid down office recently?

7. On which day did the NE Monsoon set in over Tamil Nadu?

8. How do we better know William Jefferson Blythe IV?

9. Name the book in which Giani Zail Singh reveals that he once thought of dismissing Rajiv Gandhi on grounds of corruption and negligence?

10. What reward will be awarded to Tamil Nadu 'beat' constables who catch criminals red-handed?

11. Which former Czech leader died recently?

12. What is the name of the controversial Japanese ship which recently carried plutonium from France?

13. What is the plan outlay for Tamil Nadu?

14. What offices did K Ganesan and V Ganesan assume in Madras recently?

15. What does Anita Ratnam's book *Narthaki* deal with?

16. What distinction has been achieved by R Mohan of *The Hindu*?

17. Who has been conferred the title 'Bharat Ki Suputri'?

18. Which Tamil film has been entered for the Oscar award this year?

19. What novel way has the Salem District administration adopted to check female infanticide?

20. Who is the new undisputed world heavyweight boxing champion?

(Answers on page 8)

Is this debate necessary?

Admirable was the way Gayathri Sriram conducted the *Natyashashtra* symposium presented by the teenage students of Padma Subramaniam's Nityodaya at the Lakshya dance festival. No matter if the symposium raised many questions. One of the questions is why there should be so much debate and fuss over *Natyashashtra*. Should we have arguments refuting the "medieval" belief that *Nritta* (pure dance) is *Bhava Viheena* (devoid of expression)? There is nothing to refute in this. The texts only gave a description of an element of dance expression that does not narrate something deliberately. Too many words are being wasted on such arguments and on the importance of the ancient treatises of *Natyashashtra* and on material even older. Why can't we just look at dance as an art form

A rare class

Gayathri Sriram is also the answer to criticisms that Bharatha Nityam is a style Padma Subramaniam created for herself. If there is someone who can bring credit to this style of dancing it is Gayathri, I was convinced after watching her dance at the Karthik Fine Arts and Fine Arts Foundation dance festival at the Music Academy's mini hall.

Willoway Gayathri belongs to that rare class of dancers, like Briga Guruswamy, who have something exceptional to give to their dancing. She has an intuitive understanding of her guru, Padma, and brings a dignified

innocence to her dance. There is grace and a controlled vivacity in her movements as well as humour, which is the hallmark of Padma Subramaniam's dance. She has it in her to become one of India's great dancers, provided she gets the right opportunities.

Gayathri has other exceptional qualities too. She is an excellent concert vocalist, she is also studying for her final Masters in Sanskrit and has plans to go on for a Ph.D., in Sanskrit.

A jubilee performance

A delightful dance performance, marred by a bad setting, was seen at the Museum Theatre recently when Malavika Sarukkai repeated her *Fireflies* programme for the International Women's Association. An intense

expression of desire, as depicted in conventional *padams*, with additional visual effects from Kangra paintings projected behind, did not come across fully, with the dancer's hand or leg always cut by the giant white screen



Gayathri Sriram

behind. Also some of the vertical pictures did not fit into the space on the screen. The small space in the beautiful theatre could have been used better. Malavika's dance is no doubt extraordinary, but can't dance and technology come together more aesthetically?

The audience, however, obviously enjoyed the show. There were forty special guests who had come from all over the world as part of the 25th anniversary celebrations of INDUS, the organisation that inspired Madras's Nirmal Sheshadri and Nancy Stempel (former American Consul-General's wife) to start the International Women's Association in Madras.

IWA is a cultural association for women of all nationalities living in Madras and has the object of promoting greater understanding between people of all nationalities and cultural, religious and racial backgrounds. IWA organises lectures and courses in modern and traditional schools of the various arts, arranges play readings and book discussions, demonstrations of cuisine of all lands, talks on current affairs, philosophy, religion, health and ecology and coordinates history and culture tours.

Incidentally, and quite ironically too, the 1964 masterpiece, *The Gospel According to Matthew*, the only acceptable film based on *The Bible*, was made by a Marxist, Pier Paolo Pasolini.

— T K Abdul Majeed

from the creation of Adam and Eve to the advent of Jesus Christ. In 39 episodes, it will weekly unfold this story, with the story of Christ narrated only in the last eight episodes.

This film is going to be refreshingly different from other biblical films made so far, assert Appachan and Jijo. "In sharp contrast to all those films with the 'made-in-Hollywood' tag, this one will have an Oriental perspective," they claim. Kabir Bedi, Radha Seth, Neelima, Shammi Kapoor and Raja Bundela are some of the key players in this prime time epic.

Incidentally, and quite ironically too, the 1964 masterpiece, *The Gospel According to Matthew*, the only acceptable film based on *The Bible*, was made by a Marxist, Pier Paolo Pasolini.

— T K Abdul Majeed

The Bible on prime time

When Navodaya Appachan's much-awaited epic serial, *Stories From The Bible*, which covers *The Bible* in its entirety, including the Old and New Testaments, finally goes on the air from December 27th, it will be a landmark by South Indian Cinema standards.

After *Ramayan*, *Mahabharat*, *The Sword of Tipu Sultan* and *Chanakya*, which have been the creations of the Bollywood crowd, SFB is a South-made series by movie mogul M C Punnoose, who has time and again proved his prowess and enterprise by making mega-movies which have become milestones in the annals of South Indian cinema. Films like *Thacholi Ambu*, which was Malayalam cinema's first CinemaScope film, *Padayottam*, featuring Sivaji Ganesan and

Prem Nazir, which had the distinction of being the South's first 70 mm stereophonic extravaganza, and *My Dear Kuttichathan*, the first three-dimensional film made in the country and which spawned several 3-D films in other languages, were all successes. But he has had his share of disasters at the box office too. How will *SFB* fare?

Stories From The Bible is a mega-budget production, each episode costing Rs. 15 lakhs, but Appachan has no doubt that he and his whiz-kid son Jijo, who is the serial's director (a dozen other directors worked under him), have a winner in this ambitious project. *Ambitious* because it has no parallel in the history of the audio-visual medium, setting out as it does to capture the history of mankind

from the creation of Adam and Eve to the advent of Jesus Christ. In 39 episodes, it will weekly unfold this story, with the story of Christ narrated only in the last eight episodes.

This film is going to be refreshingly different from other biblical films made so far, assert Appachan and Jijo. "In sharp contrast to all those films with the 'made-in-Hollywood' tag, this one will have an Oriental perspective," they claim. Kabir Bedi, Radha Seth, Neelima, Shammi Kapoor and Raja Bundela are some of the key players in this prime time epic.

Incidentally, and quite ironically too, the 1964 masterpiece, *The Gospel According to Matthew*, the only acceptable film based on *The Bible*, was made by a Marxist, Pier Paolo Pasolini.

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— T K Abdul Majeed

Chinna Chinna's big success

All over Tamil Nadu today there's only one film tune being heard: *Chinna Chinna Asai ... Siragadikkum Asai ...*

The hit tune, likely to get Mini the National Award for the Best Singer for 1992, is from the K Balachander-Mani Ratnam movie *Roja*. The film is also a big hit and one of the reasons is this lilting song. It was penned by the noted lyricist Vairamuthu and, at a function to celebrate its success, the poet presented the composer with a solid gold wristlet (called *kaappu* in 'Centalil'). The composer? A man called Rehman. And *Roja* is his first feature film.

Rehman who? There's no more to it, because that's not his real name! His 'given' name is Dilip. Then, how come Rehman? And, thereby hangs a tale... Dilip is the son of a Malayalam film music composer and when the family ran into heavy weather (a timely metaphor for the season in Madras!) a Muslim Good Samaritan took over the young man's future, named him Rehman, and shaped his life and career.

But, like father, like son, and so Rehman turned to film music. He

becan to play the 'new-fangled, computer-based 'synthesiser', a word film-wallahs find a mouthful and so call a 'keyboard'. (What these film-wallahs do to words! A famed music wizard once wrote in his note book 'folktrai' and it took this writer a while to decipher the 'mutlisation' to be 'Foxtrot!')

The keyboard is a fascinating instrument. It can produce any sound,

any note of any musical instrument — including Indian instruments like the veena and even the *ragaswaram*. It has a Rhythm Box which can play all kinds of rhythms. And it can also reproduce the human voice! This instrument was used in a TV serial to say 'Vasu.... Vasu' as a kind of refrain to the background music; Inspector Vasu, played by the well-known actor V Gopalakrishnan, was the hero of that crime series.

Rehman became an expert on this instrument and started by composing music for ad films, TV spots and such. Some of them became hits, like the famed *Sottu neelam doi ... Sottu neelam doi ...* And Mani Ratnam, who had heard it on TV, called Rehman to score the music for *Roja*. The rest, as they say, is history ...

Some critics say that *Chinna chinna asai ...* is only a rehash of *Sottu neelam doi ...* May be, but nobody can deny that the film song has made Tamil Nadu go gaga over it and buy audio cassettes of it in the thousands. (Today nobody talks of LP — long-playing records — or EP — extended play which was played at 45 revolutions per minute. Today these are museum pieces found only in the disc archives of V A K Ranga Rao, who has the best and biggest collection of gramophone records in this part of the world!)

Rehman is the star of the future and many believe he is the only competitor on the horizon for the maestro Ilayaraja. But to get there he should not get taken in by media over-kill. The road ahead can be rocky.

(Answers on page 8)

of the Art", an exhibition by eight eminent artists of India. M F Hussain, S H Raza, Akbar Padamsee, Prabhakar Barve, Lakshman Shrestha, Manjit Bawa, Navjot Altaf and Atul Dodiya have mixed various media on canvas with the aid of a computer. The works are consistently large in size — 3' x 3' or 7' x 7' — and are described as a landmark in the history of art.

The artists took turns using a Mackintosh computer to visualise and manipulate visuals on the screen, using a range of simulants and innumerable special effects options. The final results are a collection of unique canvases, where the visual effects created with the aid of a computer-controlled ink jet spray are merged with hand-painted visuals. The artists have given detailed accounts of how they did it all and a few copies of these will be available at the gallery for those really interested in finding out 'how'.

The nation's best

Madras is getting ready for the cultural season. The nation's best known stars in dance are going to come for the Krishna Gana Sabha's Natyakala conference being convened this year by that charming dancer Sonal Mansingh. The theme is *Navarasa* (the nine basic sentiments). On each day of the conference (beginning on December 19th), a *Rasa* will be discussed and demonstrated. The likes of Mrinalini Sarabhai, Biju Maharaj, Kanak Rele, Padma Subramaniam, Singhaji Singh and Charu, Astad Deboo and S Kanaka will take part.

The Nriya Choodamani title of KGS for 1992 will be conferred on Kottakkal Krishnan Kutty Nair, a Kathakali exponent from Kerala, by the Prince of Travancore, Marthanda Varma. A particularly interesting vocal concert at this Sabha will be by the violin maestro Lalgudi Jayaraman.

Meanwhile, the Madras Music Academy has chosen the veena exponent Sivanandam as its Sangeetha Kalanidhi this year. Various aspects of the veena, mandolin, violin etc. will be discussed in the morning before the conferment of the title.

Attention to backdrops

As the music season gets underway, remember, you may have to keep running from theatre to theatre to get everything in. Well, that is one of the charms of the season, too. But less charming are the backdrops in the theatres; I hope the *sabhas* will pay greater attention to them.

The Music Academy had a beautiful art decor last year. Let's hope T T Vasu can better it this year. But I hope that banners proclaiming the name of the organisation in bold thermocole letters behind the artist will be done away with. Everyone present, and the artist too, surely know where they are.

Computer art

In mid-December (12th-26th), Sakshi Gallery will present "State

Investor awakening

(Continued from P3)
refined edible oil. For which the implementation has been effected in two phases. The company showed a net profit of Rs 18.46 lakh for the first year, ended March 1992, and paid a maiden dividend of 10 per cent on an equity capital of Rs 1 cr. The company proposes to expand its aquaculture activities for which a rights issue is possible in the beginning of 1993. With the lucrative activities and future plans, we expect a price of Rs 60 at the announcement of March 1993 results.

TN Telecom Ltd (Current Market Price: Rs 28.50) The company has assured demand for its cables, as its promoter TCIL is a bulk consumer of cables. There is good export potential too. For the half year ended September 1992 results, it achieved a sales of Rs 8.81 cr as against Rs 2.96 cr during the six months ended March 1992. However, the heavy expenditure incurred has resulted in loss. Due to good prospects of the cable industry, this company is also likely to do well. A low priced share, which is expected to gain in the long term.

K Gopalakrishnan

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(Continued from last fortnight)

“What exactly does one look for in a dog?”

“If only people knew more about the breed standards they would appreciate dog shows much more!” began Don Mascarenhas and went on: “To begin with, we must always remember that a dog was originally bred for a special purpose. In course of time, due to breeding for certain desirable traits and physical qualities, type and conformation emerged. People became more and more conscious of this, and it was inevitable that rules should be framed. These rules, which we call breed standards, govern the complete appearance and conformation of an animal: size, weight, colour of coat and of eyes, shape of the head, ears, tail and teeth. However, they also insist that a dog, particularly of the Working Dog group, should be physically fit for and capable of doing the job for which it was originally bred. Temperament plays an important part. It is all these characteristics of a breed that a judge looks for in the exhibits. The animal conforming most closely to the breed standard is, of course, Best of Breed in the Show.”

And then? The judge looks at all the Best of Breed winners and selects the best four: Best in Show; 2nd Best

What makes a winner?

in Show; 3rd Best in Show and 4th Best in Show.

Judging is by no means an easy task. The committed judge, besides being impervious to influence and malicious comments from losing owners and remembering that it is the dog that is being judged, not the owner,

• by A Special Correspondent

gets where he is after many years of breeding and showing dogs. After years attending dog shows, learning the breed standards and paying careful attention to judging reports, a member of the KCI may feel he or she is capable of judging dogs. An aspiring judge should:

- have been a member of the KCI for at least five years;
- have bred champions in at least three groups;

— have been a ring steward, i.e. assistant to a judge in the show ring, on seven occasions; and

— have taken written and oral examinations.

To be successful, he or she must possess a good eye for a dog, something which is a natural asset. Incidentally,

people who have imported first class bloodlines, bred extensively, and have made enormous improvements to certain breeds in India, such as the G.S.D., the Doberman Pinscher, the Dachshund, the Pekinese and the Cocker Spaniel. Some owner-breeders have campaigned, overseas, dogs that they have bred in India from imported bloodlines — and won championships in three straight shows. (To become a Champion, a dog must earn Three Challenge Certificates — CC's — from three different judges at three different shows. A judge grants a CC to any dog he or she feels is worthy of the title 'Champion' of its breed.) Such Bred-in-India dogs have made their mark in Canada, the U.S.A. and Singapore.

“Of course, not everybody can do this, as it requires considerable investment on which there is no return, but it does show that there are people in this country who can produce the best if they put their minds to it. Other people who have the means can do the same with other breeds, especially Indian ones. Alas! we still have people who buy champions to show. It is the breeder who counts, not the exhibitor.”

Don may be inflexible when it comes to breed standards, but he is keenly aware of the fondness a young

boy or girl has for a pet. “There is a certain excitement and not a little pleasure in owning and showing a dog, even if it is never going to be placed Best in Show. Provided, of course, it is a recognised breed!”

So what advice does Don have for the prospective first time buyer? “Before buying a puppy, you must decide whether you want a show-quality dog or a pet-quality dog. You should check registration papers to see that the parent dogs are registered with the Kennel Club of India. And watch out for unscrupulous breeders, even if they are in the minority.”

Mascarenhas, in his late sixties, is, it is obvious, as eager today to help with advice on dogs anyone who wants it as he was when a new life began for him at forty — breeding dogs.

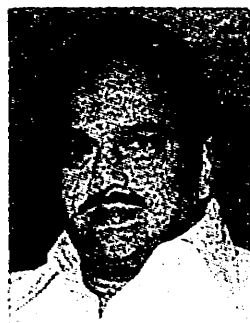
(Concluded)

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. A S Prakasam and 'Vietnam Veedu' Sundaram; 2. She won the All-India Essay Contest for University students; 3. Madras; 4. A V Meiyappan; 5. Bangalore and Hazrat Nizamuddin; 6. K Madhavan; 7. November 2nd; 8. Bill Clinton; 9. *Rajiv Gandhi — Many Facets* by Harish Chander; 10. A month's pay; 11. Alexander Dubcek; 12. *Akatsuki Maru*; 13. Rs. 2101 crores; 14. Collector of Madras and Head of the Madras Stock Exchange; 15. It is a directory of classical Indian dance; 16. Only one of two cricket writers to have covered test matches in all 9 test-playing countries; 17. Mother Teresa; 18. *Thevar Magan*; 19. It has set up cradles to accept unwanted female babies; 20. Riddick 'Big Daddy' Bowe.

An uphill task ahead

B Sivanthi Adityan's November 15th victory in Calcutta was gained against heavy odds. Considering Suresh Kalmadi's hectic election campaign, with the backing of the Union Water Works Minister, Vidya Charan Shukla, and the support of some other Union Ministers, even Adityan's close associates were sceptical about the Madras media magnate making it a second time. But Adityan's pre-election estimate that he had “the solid support of the majority of the IOA members” was vindicated, and, fittingly enough, he got a rousing reception on his return to Madras!



Sivanthi Adityan

Adityan lost no time in assuring the nation that the IOA would go all out to give Indian sport a new look. This is sorely needed, for Indian sport, barring perhaps cricket, is in the dumps. Cricket has stolen a march over other disciplines in India, with the nation, ironically, adopting the English game, confined to the Commonwealth, as its national game. The sponsorship it receives from the country's leading banking, business and commercial establishments, barring Tata's, which has over the years, plumped for soccer, the No. 1 world sport, tells its own tale of how, in our country, cricket and cricketers are pampered at the cost of such world sports as athletics, swimming, football, hockey, boxing, wrestling, volleyball and basketball.

It was no wonder that the Barcelona Olympiad brought India more shame. It now remains to be seen how Adityan and his numerous IOA committees will give Indian sport a new look. India's international disciplines can gain a new look only if they and their participants are given the same encouragement and emoluments cricket and cricketers get. Adityan can honour his word only if he and his committees manage to rope in the country's leading sponsors and make them see the light of world sport. The re-elected IOA president indeed, has an uphill task ahead of him.

by
AJAX

In the most bitterly contested election in Indian sports history, Adityan beat his lone rival, Kalmadi, a Rajya Sabha Member from Maharashtra, by a mere three votes. But it was a verdict against an ambitious, vociferous president of the Amateur Athletics Federation of India, and enhanced Adityan's reputation as an unassuming, soft-spoken official of credibility.

Perhaps Shukla's open support for Adityan's challenger proved Kalmadi's undoing. The majority of the IOA members had obviously not forgotten Shukla's tactics when he contested against Adityan in Madras four years ago. Despite memories of that unforgettable day, the IOA, on Adityan's suggestion, nominated Shukla as its life president in place of the late Raja Bhalindra Singh. But the Union Minister declined the offer because it was made in his absence.

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