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Vol. II. No. 21

FREE ISSUE — EVERY FORTNIGHT

February 16 — 28, 1993

Tourism eyes Heritage 12

Emphasis on domestic traveller

Tamil Nadu plans to follow the British example of Stratford-on-Avon, Bath, Chester and York and establish Heritage Towns. An ambitious 108 are being thought of, but, for the present, 12 are being earmarked for development: Mamallapuram, Kanchipuram, Chidambaram, Kanniakumari, Rameswaram, Tranquebar, Thanjavur, Kumbakonam, Srirangam, Tiruthani, Palani and Sripurumbudur.

With ten of these towns more likely to thrive on domestic tourist, and

(By A Special Correspondent)

particularly pilgrim, traffic, Mamallapuram and Tranquebar, together with Kanchipuram, are being further upgraded as Special Tourism Areas. An INTACH plan for cleaning up and landscaping Mamallapuram is slowly getting underway, with a Rs. 1.3 crore grant already sanctioned. Some work has already begun in Tranquebar on restoring the fort and old buildings, with a volunteer group in Denmark, the Friends of Tranquebar, sending out a

Danish architect to help resurrect the sleepy old town's finest hour, when it was a Danish bastion on the Coromandel Coast. And plans are being drawn up for Kanchipuram.

The Chief Minister's Temple Restoration Fund is likely to play a major role in Kanchipuram and the other Heritage Towns. As Heritage Towns, new buildings only in line with a Master Plan will be permitted in each of them and adequate infrastructure will be created to meet the demands of both domestic as well as foreign tourists. The temples, of course, will be renovated, presumably with less squalls than at Palani.

Other tourism plans call for the development of islands in the Gulf of Mannar for those seeking the sun, sand 'n' sea, National Marine Parks off Rameswaram and Mandapam, a pilgrim circuit that will take in Madurai (forgotten as a Heritage Town)-Rameswaram-Tiruchendur-and-Kanniakumari, a luxury boat trip along the Coromandel Coast, tent hotels for campers in Kodaikanal and Kutralam and a Tea Festival in Coonoor.

It all sounds wonderful, but this correspondent has been hearing about all this for the last twenty years and is still waiting for it to happen. Of course, the age of miracles is still not over!

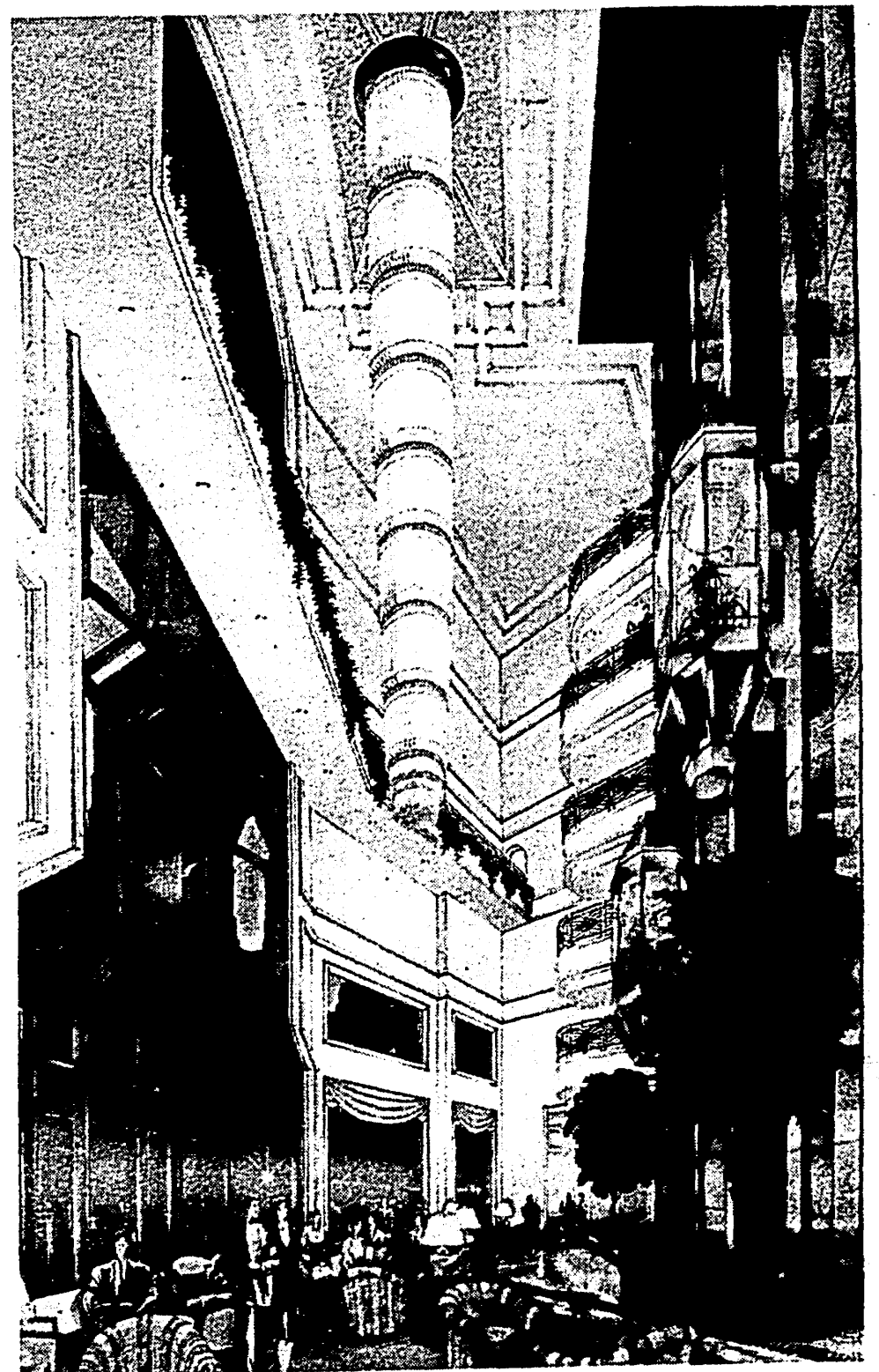
Cultural Season sets records

The Madras Music Season just past, December 14, 1992 — January 5, 1993, had the largest number of cultural performances in the Season's history — 825 in all. If an extended Season is considered, from November 1, 1992 — February 15, 1993, there were, for the first time, over 1000 performances: 1137 in all.

During the extended Season, there were 614 vocal concerts (including a few musical discourses), 226 instrumental concerts, 15 recitals by music ensembles, 225 solo dance performances and 49 dance performances by groups.

Reporting these records, *Srutu*, the magazine devoted to Carnatic music and Classical dance, stated that 37 organisations arranged the programmes, in which 12 musicians each had more than half a dozen recitals and two dancers had more than six dance performances each. Four organisations had two festivals during the Season each and Bharat Kalachar had three!

Attendance, however, was "patchy" at most venues, reported *Srutu*, with several venues almost empty most of the time. Only the Mylapore Fine Arts Club, reported the magazine, had fairly good attendance at every programme this past Season.



Season's Greetings from Park Sheraton Hotel & Towers' General Manager Pawan Verma came this year in the form of a printed transparent overlay attached to his card. The overlay featured the tallest chandelier in Madras, spectacularly occupying 60 feet of the 80-ft high space in the handsome atrium of the Towers which is now open for occupation even as the final touches are put to it. The two bubble lifts (right) are another striking feature of the atrium, which is overlooked by a railed balcony on each floor. This atrium, with its brass fittings, is the handsomest in the city's hotels.

As economy grows, alliance creaks

Gone are those glory days when Governors ceremoniously walked in and strode out smiling, after summoning into life the year's Legislative Assembly sessions. Nowadays, shoots of trouble sprout on the first day itself, followed in later days by walk-outs, hecklings, interruptions and rough houses, so much so the security personnel, for whom their duty days were once virtual holidays, have their hands full 'escorting' erring members out! The public's tolerance level for previously unacceptable behaviour inside these law-making houses has been considerably raised. They had felt outraged at first, followed, after a time, by curiosity, but what they feel now is infinite boredom.

On February 4, Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker Muthiah ordered eviction of MGR ADMK member and

former Minister, S Thirunavukkarasu, following "a direction to me from the Governor to restore order in the House". Reading out statements by members before, during or after the Governor's Address, impinges rules, and this was what had happened before Governor Bishma Narain Singh delivered his customary Address. Pattali Makkal Katchi and CPI(M) members walked out after their leaders, PMK's S Ramachandran and CPI(M)'s V Thambuswamy, had read 'something' before leaving. These statements do not form part of the House proceedings and publication would invite breach of privilege.

The bonhomie between the ruling AIADMK and the Congress (I) is not in evidence as before, judged by the first salvo fired by TNCC(I) President Vazhapadi Ramamurthy who found

the Governor's Address 'disappointing' as, among other things, it would seem the AIADMK is now opposing the constitutional amendments, after being a party, in the Central Government's Select Committee, to implementing the

**The view from
Fort St George
by
R.K.K.**

three-tier system and after voting in favour of the Panchayat Raj and Nagar Palika Bills. In his view, the ruling party is reluctant to face local body elections. There has, however, been a commitment at the meeting between Prime

Minister Narasimha Rao and Chief Minister Jayalalitha that the alliance would continue. It will, therefore, be a pleasure to watch the Chief Minister's dexterity in steering clear of the shoals, as she has to honour the commitment while at the same time keep on a leash her party members who have smelt blood.

The Governor urged the Centre's early consideration of the Chief Minister's proposal of a Southern Regional Industrial Development Bank with headquarters in Madras, which is emerging as an international financial centre. An early decision by the Centre is also needed in reviving the Kodambakkam Nuclear Thermal project. He also called for early action by the Centre on the project to bring natural gas from Bombay High to the southern states. The Chief Minister has even

suggested co-financing by these States to ensure that the project comes through.

The Governor congratulated Tamil Nadu farmers for bringing foodgrains production to a peak 100 lakh tonnes and more, surpassing the previous year's high of 90.70 lakh tonnes.

Pointing out that the Plan expenditure for 1992-93 would exceed the Rs. 1751 outlay, the Governor said that "Tamil Nadu has now moved into a proper growth trajectory" thanks to the Government. The State, he added, had secured new investments totalling over Rs. 20,000 crores in various industrial projects, more than half of it for power.

He had a special word of praise for the Tamil Nadu Police, who, he said, were functioning with a new vision, a new direction and a new purpose.

Advantage India!

It is a distinct signal of the changing times that the heads of two states have paid us a visit. The significance of the arrival of the British Prime Minister, John Major, and the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, go far beyond genial protocol. They have, in fact, sought to establish closer economic ties and international relations. Moreover, India's internal developments in the last two months have not escaped their sympathetic understanding, which should surely reassure an India in doubt.

The obvious impact of Major's visit, accompanied by a high-powered entourage of British businessmen, has been that it has sustained international awareness and interest in India's liberalised economic regime.

Major's affirmation that Indo-British ties have never been better and his "astonishment" at the pace of libe-

undermining as it is sought to be made out.

First, consider Russia's unequivocal stand supporting India's position on Kashmir. Then there is the, not-so-insignificant matter of Russia's status as a permanent member of the U N Security Council and as a formidable source of military and space equipment. Even though the current relationship lacks geopolitical significance and Russia is a bankrupt country today, it will still be to our advantage to cultivate a good relationship with such a country. Also not to be forgotten is the fact that Russia does have a substantial market that is likely to emerge as a force in another decade.

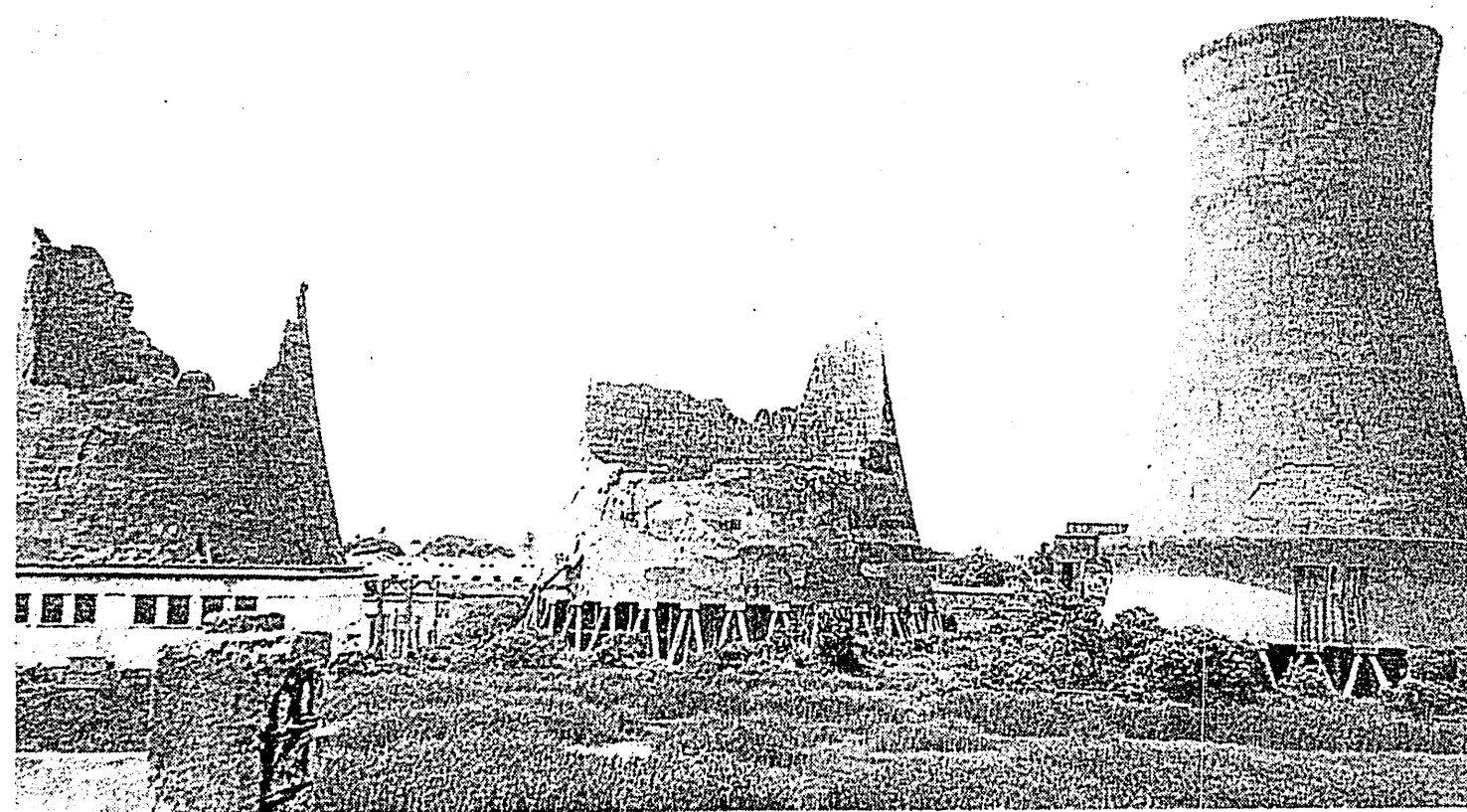
Even so, our strengths make for more interesting evaluation. Simply put, Russia needs India. Russia needs to expand its sales of arms and rockets — the only area where it is competitive — and India promises to be one of its largest potential clients. Moreover, Yeltsin's proposal for an European-style consultative mechanism for collective security in the Asia-Pacific region, with India playing a pivotal role, is indeed a recognition of its emerging geopolitical significance in recent times. And the UK's interest in India is better explained in the light of the deep recession in the UK and other industrialised nations, including Japan. Following which, India's gigantic market, with a promise of 4 per cent growth this year, is indeed, a delicious proposition. The British faith ought to be a green signal for the rest of the world, in that its investments are already 2 billion Pounds, making it one of the top five investors, with nearly 250 of its companies raking profits on Indian soil. This mutuality of interest is bound to lead us all to better times.

Meanwhile here are some recommendations for the fortnight:

UTI Mastershare (CMP Rs. 55.50): The share, after making a low of Rs. 45 in November 1992, has been consistently making higher bottoms, though the tops are not rising. Thus, it is forming a pattern called an 'ascending triangle'. The share will flare up to Rs. 69 once the resistance at Rs. 56 is conclusively crossed. Buy for short/medium-term gains.

The Waterbase Ltd (CMP Rs. 40.25): The Waterbase Ltd, a member of the Thapar Group, entered the capital market in June 1992 to set up a Rs. 42.50 cr project, consisting of hatcheries, a grow-out farm, feed mill and process plant to make processed Shrimp and market animal feeds in the country and abroad. It

(Continued on P7)

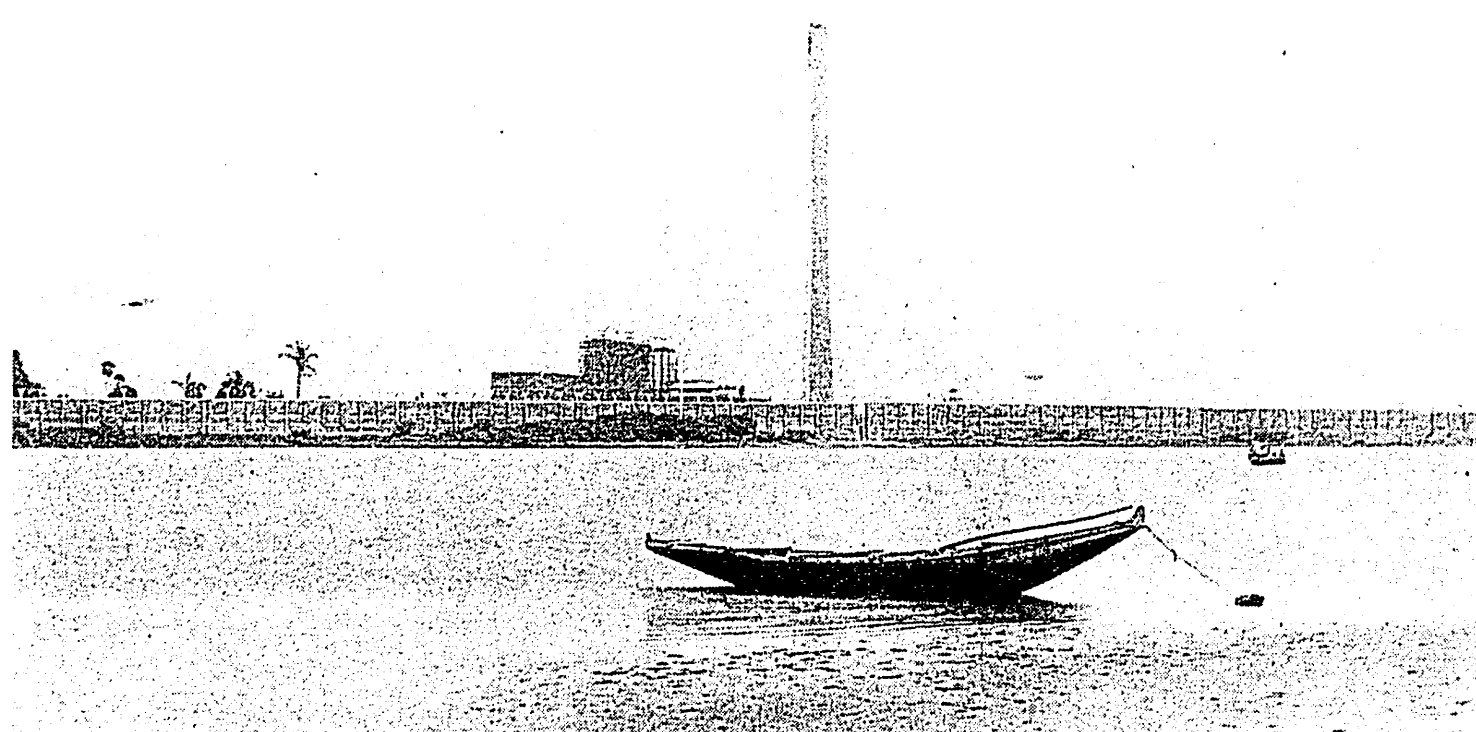
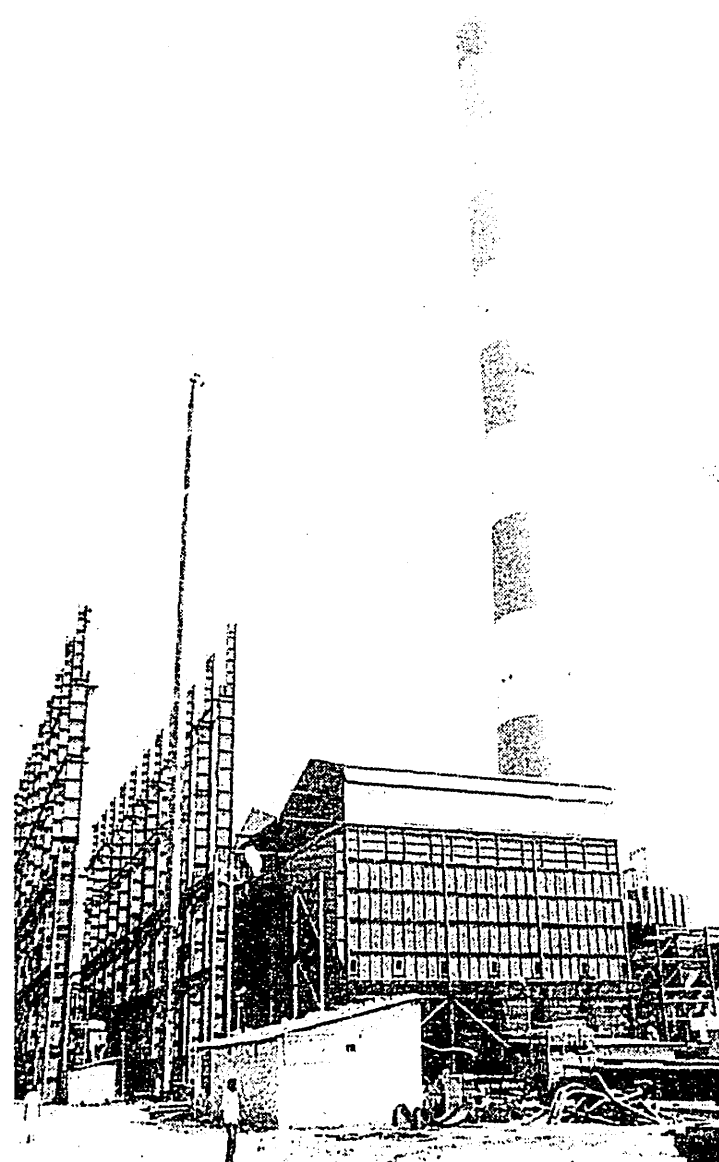


The OLD this fortnight shows all that's left of the old Basin Bridge thermal power station. Even in a state of collapse, as they are left to Nature to take its course, they still dominate the skyline seen by passengers coming into the City from the North.

The NEW needs two... & THE OLD... photographs to do justice to the NEW

City's newest thermal power station in Ennore Creek. Located by what was called Clive Island, the dominant feature of the facility is its towering smokestack. It may not be as elegant as those of an earlier age, but its claim to fame is its height; it's the tallest smokestack in South India and, perhaps, in India.

(Photographs: V S RAGHAVAN)



Services displayed opportunities best

Informex '93, the career counselling exhibition held at Madras University's Senate House recently, was a disappointment.

There were display boards sans detailed information — or with the wrong information, like "the upper age limit for Civil Service exams is 26 years", when actually it is 28! The persons manning the stalls were content with handing out brochures, and queries were met with a stock reply, "Please come to our office".

And instead of having project reports for reference, it would have been better if some brochures were printed about the opportunities in the small-scale industrial sector.

The State Bank of India and Life Insurance Corporation had stalls asking visitors to avail of their free tax counselling and insurance policies rather than focussing on career visas open in the banking and insurance sectors. A notable absentee in the service sector was the General Insurance Industry, which has varied career options (as Surveyors, Investigators, Recovery Agents etc.) for diploma holders and engineering graduates. There was also no information available about scholarships granted by the Central Government for Doctoral and Post Doctoral studies abroad.

However, there was a positive side, too. Especially at the stall highlighting

the career options in the defence forces for persons with education ranging from a mere Xth standard certificate to a professional degree. This was done with the display boards providing information in a crisp manner. The CRPF, to attract women into starched uniforms, offered a verse:

You are a 'Mahila' or a man
There is no ban
To be a policeman
Join the CRPF Bandwagon.

The result of all this was that, on the penultimate day, more than 300 applications were received by the defence authorities for jobs in the armed forces.

Another stall which attracted the attention of the public was that of the Welfare Foundation of the Blind. The Foundation provides secretarial training for 15 visually handicapped persons each year. K Ravindran, Secretary General of the Foundation, said "we are here to create awareness amongst the public about the capability of the visually handicapped. There are about 30 Post-Graduates and 15 M Phil. degree holders who are still unemployed." He appealed to the Government to fill the jobs reserved for the blind and also hoped that the private sector would cooperate. If only these employed the blind, they'd 'see' the difference in the work output!

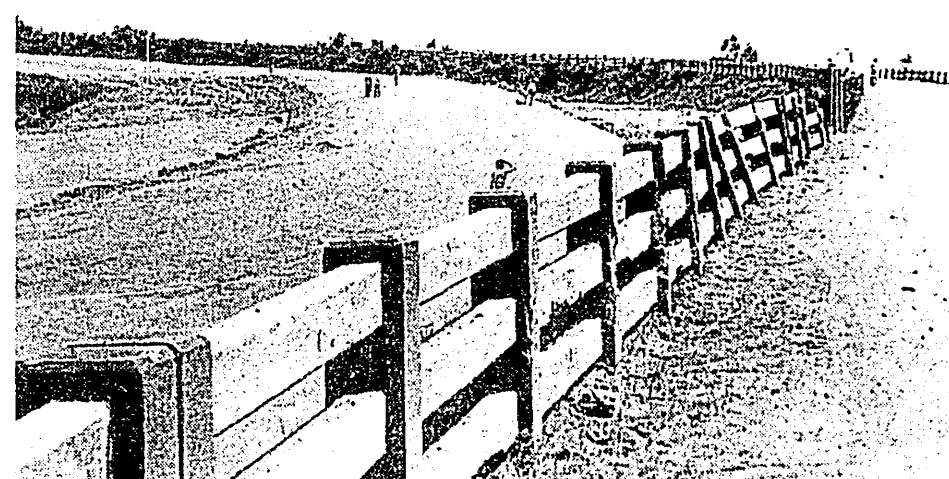
— V.J.

Upgrading a National Highway



1. Left, Road-widening and strengthening just outside city limits, at St. Thomas' Mount.
2. Right, The widened road at Chromepet awaits final clearing up and road-topping operations.

A photo feature
by
V S RAGHAVAN



3. Left, At the overbridge past Tambaram, the old stretch on the right and additional new one on the left.
4. Right, Just by Standard Motors, Perungulathur, all the shade trees have been brought down and the sun beats down mercilessly on a bare road awaiting completion.

National Highway No. 45, the Great Southern Trunk Road, is a handsome road from Madras to Madurai, via Villupuram, Tiruchirappalli and Dindigul. From Madurai, as NH 7, it stretches out to Land's End, Kanniyakumari.

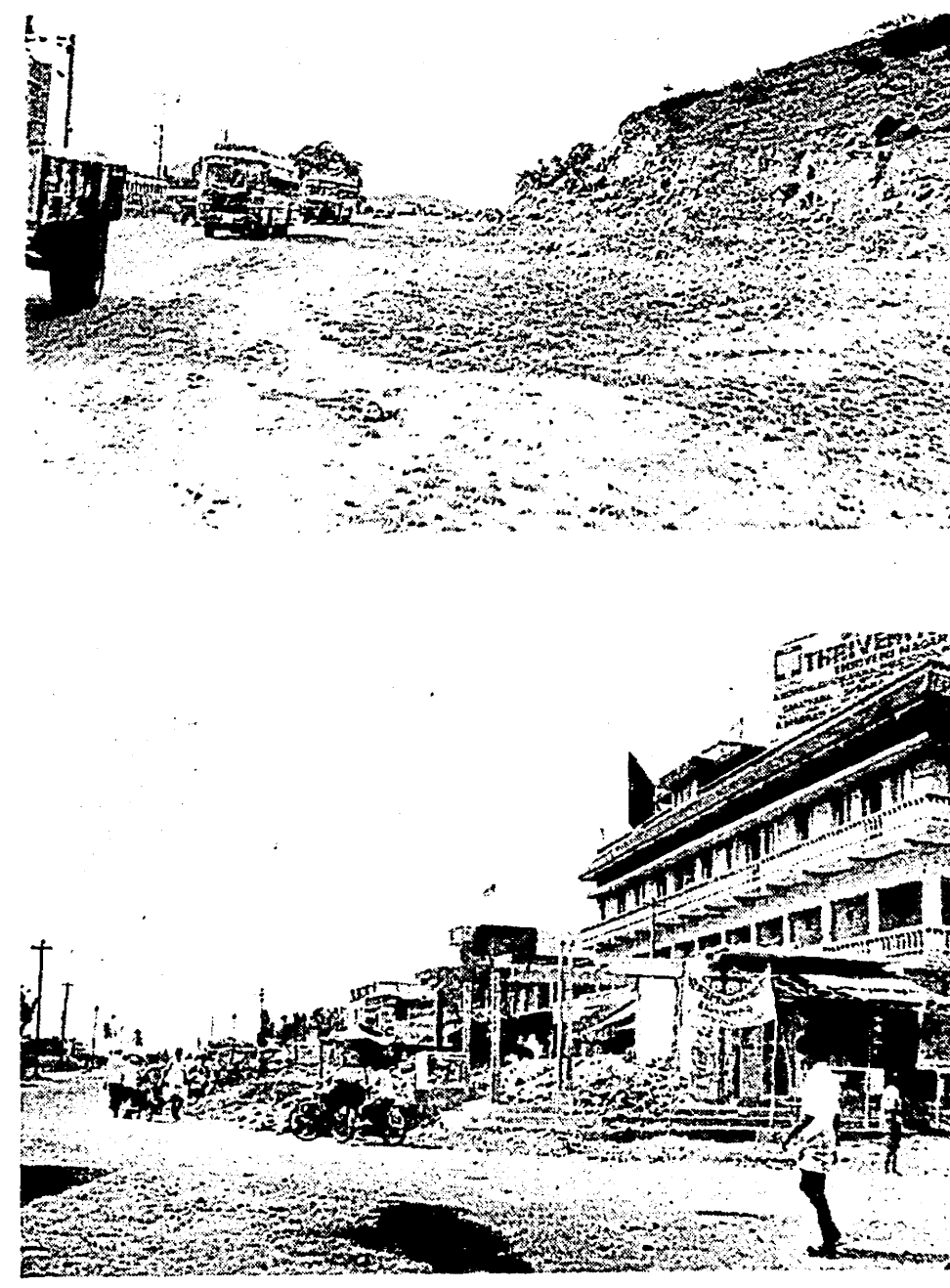
One of the busiest highways in the country, NH-45 is now undergoing major renovation to make it a four-lane highway, almost a motorway, throughout its length. The first stage, to Villupuram, is expected to be completed by year-end and the next two stages over the next couple of years.

Photographer **V S RAGHAVAN** recently followed the highway out of Madras to Chengalpattu and these pictures reveal different aspects of the work in progress.

5. Left, Nearing Vandalur, the divided highway is clearly seen — as well as how work progresses on alternative halves.
6. Right, A hillock before Chengalpattu has been gouged into, to widen the road and align it for a new by-pass road being built.



7. Left, The Chengalpattu by-pass road on the right is nearing completion. At least two other by-pass roads are being built before Tiruchi.
8. Right, Buildings have been pulled down at Singaperumalkoil to enable the road to be widened.



The slip that showed

• by Randor Guy

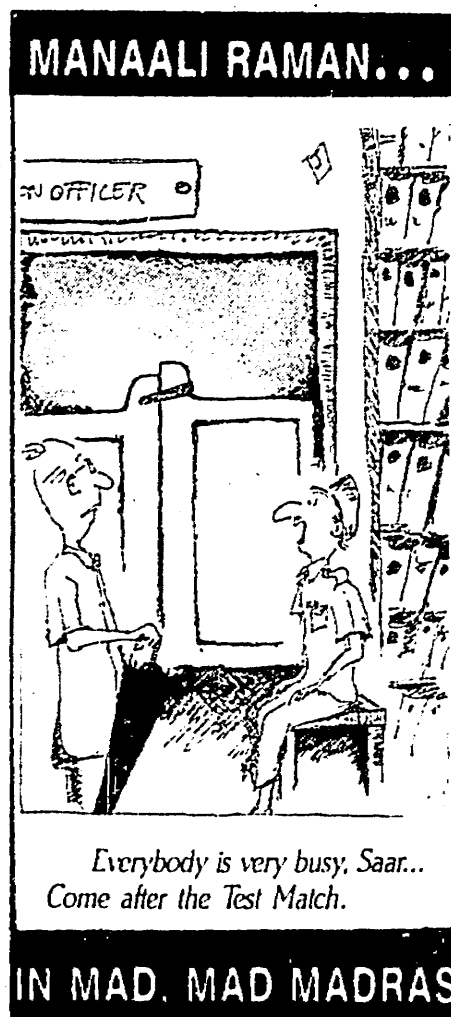
CV Narasimhan, who had a long and distinguished career as a police officer not only in his home state, Tamil Nadu, but also in Delhi, was once asked to investigate a charge of corruption against a senior officer of the State Government. This officer was alleged to have unduly favoured the owners of a Madras-based company for many a favour in return. One of his charges against him was that he had made the company pay large bills for trips made by him in luxury cars to places of tourist interest, picnic spots etc.

During the investigation, the officer emphatically denied that he had ever made use of the hospitality of the company. He told CVN that all the taxi trips were paid for by him, out of his own pocket and personal earnings, and that he was being accused out of sheer professional envy. To prove his case

he produced a sheaf of vouchers showing that all the payments had been made by him to the taximen.

CVN examined the vouchers, which gave him the names and addresses of the taxi-drivers, vehicle owners and numbers of the vehicles. Never one to leave a stone unturned, the former DGP called in one of the taxi-drivers who produced his trip sheets, containing details of the officer's

trips. CVN examined every trip sheet, and on the back of one of them, he found a long line of digits written in pencil. CVN instinctively felt they were a telephone number. On checking, he found it was the telephone number of the Madras-based company! The taximan thereupon made a statement that all his trips had been arranged and paid for by the company and not the official. With this damaging evidence, the charges of corruption were proved and the guilty officer was punished according to law.



IN MAD, MAD MADRAS



To practice in Madras, a High Jump champion has to set up the equipment herself or himself — and cope with an apology for a sand pit!

A few more days for
an answer to the question:

Whither the T.N. turf?

With the validity of the former Tamil Nadu Government's take-over of the Madras Race Club coming up before the Supreme Court on February 24th there is considerable speculation on what is in store for the Tamil Nadu turf.

If the court decides that the take-over was wrong, well and good. The Madras Race Club, the country's oldest turf club, will return to life and will, it is hoped, lift horse-racing in the State out of the dumps into which it has fallen. Any other decision will be an occasion for the DMK to celebrate, for it was the first Karunanidhi government that had abolished racing. What will Chief Minister Jayalalitha then do?

From all accounts, the Jayalalitha government is keen on giving back racing to the M.R.C., which had conducted it for over two centuries. For, the State government has sustained heavy losses since it took over the M.R.C. and organised racing at both Guindy and Ooty.

As all the racing world knows, since the Tamil Nadu Government took over the M.R.C. over a decade ago, the Tamil Nadu turf had more than once been hanged — and resurrected. The sport is now being run under a stay order granted by the Supreme Court. The court constituted a management committee of equal numbers of members of the State government and the M.R.C. to take charge of the conduct of racing. It also ordered the appointment of a Custodian to supervise the running of the sport.

Mainly responsible for the resurrection of the sport, taking the matter to the Supreme Court, was the former

M.R.C. Chairman, M.A.M. Ramaswamy. On the opening day of the season that followed the Supreme Court ruling, Guindy presented an unforgettable scene. Huge cutouts of Ramaswamy, and banners hailing the return of the sport to its ancient headquarters, filled the arena. Sweets were distributed by both the M.R.C. employees and the public.

Unfortunately, the Tamil Nadu Government's Department of Racing has failed to maintain the sport's popularity. There has been a steady fall in both attendance and investment, and hence, in the D.O.R.'s takings as well.

by
AJAX

Even the enhancement of the betting tax to 30 per cent, the highest in the country, has not brought the D.O.R. any worthwhile relief. The fact that the jackpot pool this season hit its lowest-ever total, and its average size has seldom exceeded the Rs. 20,000 mark as compared to the Rs. one lakh-plus quantum of the not too distant past, tells its own tale of the nosedive the Guindy turf has taken. Nothing indeed illustrates the decline of the Madras turf more emphatically than the irrefutable fact that while a Guindy jackpot pool lingers round the Rs. 20,000/- mark, the off-course pool on a Bombay, Bangalore or Hyderabad jackpot invariably touches the Rs. 1 lakh mark.

If any more proof was needed about the Tamil Nadu turf's decline, it was provided by the annual blood-stock sale held at Guindy last month. It was numerically and qualitatively the poorest ever held in Madras. Until recently, nearly all the country's leading stud farms used to be represented. As a result, the number of two-year-olds that not only came under the auctioneer's hammer but also changed hands in private deals used to touch the double century mark. The fact that their number did not cross the half-century mark at the 1993 sale was a sad commentary on the local turf's deteriorating status. It is no wonder that the government is stated to be keen on giving racing back to the M.R.C.

The next few days will decide the future of the Tamil Nadu turf.

The loneliness of a high jumper

A splendid performance was turned in by a 15-year-old girl at the 1987 National Games in Trivandrum. With seven smooth strides and a slight 'kick up', the slip of a girl sailed over the high jump crossbar perched at 1.72 m. And a new National record was set. A few weeks ago, she was six years older and a little better built, but she was still setting national records. This time she cleared 1.77 m. The progress has been slow, but N Angela Lincy Vasanthakumari, from Nazareth in Tirunelveli-Kattabomman District, is surely one of South Asia's best high jumpers.

Ever since 1987, Angela Lincy has been rewriting the record books. Till date, she had set six National records and six National meet records. It is not rare for Indian women to set new marks regularly on the track or in the pool. But it is rare for an Indian girl to excel for so long in a field sport like high jump. And that is why Angela Lincy is exceptional.

The first time she came on the National scene was as a 12-year-old — and she immediately caught the eye. She finished second in the 1984 Inter-State Meet. At 14, she was second in the 1986 Nationals at Chandigarh. The next year, at the Schools' National Games in Assam, she set a meet record, clearing 1.62 m. and, later the same year, set a new national schools record in Trivandrum. That was also the year she won the South Asian Federation Games title with a record jump of 1.68 m. In the 1991 SAF Games, she was stricken with a food problem and had to be content with the silver. At the Asian Track and Field Meet in 1989 she was fifth (1.70 m) and in the '91 Games she was sixth, with a identical jump. A notable feature of

Angela's athletics career is that not once has she participated in a junior event in India! All her achievements have been in the senior category!!

Angela's parents, both teachers, have encouraged her from the time she was a child. Her father, Nelson Durai Pandian, dreamed of making one of his children an outstanding sportsperson. Spotting Angela's talent, he started coaching her. Later, J Shahju took over as her coach. And Angela's mother spurred her on.

Like most Indian high jumpers, Angela started and stayed with the traditional 'straddle' style of jumping. Though her performance graph showed a tremendous increase during the initial years, it began to stagnate at around 1.75 m during the last three years. That was when Angela decided to switch to the 'Fosbury Flop' style. She was a couple of years late in effecting the change: it was also not possible to master the basic techniques overnight. While practising the Flop, she was even injured. But it has at last paid off.

Angela would like to practise this technique more under the watchful eye of her only coach, Shahju. But he is in Tirunelveli. And she is employed as an officer in the Indian Bank in Madras. A transfer would help. But no one's smiled on her wishes favourably.

Unlike track events, where excellence depends on stamina and alertness at the starting blocks, technique plays a vital role in the high jump. The way the athlete strides to the crossbar, then the 'kick up', stretching the legs over the bar and landing are each important in the high jump. No amount of practice will help unless there is a coach to pinpoint the flaws in the techniques. But official indifference to these needs has reflected in Angela's slow progress.

"At times I feel like ending my sports career. I would have improved so much working with Shahju," sadly sighs Angela.

The Tamil Nadu Amateur Athletic Association has also not helped. The official apathy to the high jump is reflected by the fact that there is not even a single bed for the high jumpers to land on safely. With sand landing pits, high jumpers have to think about landing safe even before striding towards the bar. That naturally impedes the athlete's will to soar higher. Further, it is not safe to attempt the Fosbury Flop in a sand pit.

Nevertheless, Angela keeps going. It is a sad sight to see Angela carrying the high jump poles to the sand pit herself whenever she practises at the Rajarathinam Stadium. There's no one to help her, guide her. "Yes, I thought of saying goodbye to the high jump. But then I said I must prove myself in the international arena and started practising again," says the indomitable Angela Lincy, as she begins her daily, lonely practice schedule that includes hurdles, running and weights.

Apart from high jumping, Angela's hobby is... Music? Cinema? Books? A big NO to all these! Softspoken Angela laughs aloud when she says, "My hobby is my doll collection" and hastens to add, "My father frowns on it".

Her determination to win a medal at the next Asian Track and Field Meet is what keeps her going, preventing her from even finding the time to write her B.A. History (Correspondence) exams. "But there's time for that after I get that medal," says the 'angel' who won't give up. — V. Jagannathan

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. m.v. Ahat; 2. It has sub-titles in seven languages; 3. Syed Sabir Pasha; 4. The British PM, John Major; 5. Audrey Hepburn; 6. Maersk Navigator; 7. Ms Zoe Baird; 8. He tried to hijack a New Delhi-Lucknow Indian Airlines flight; 9. The Maleeva sisters — Manuela, Katerina and Magdalena; 10. INFORMEX; 11. Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh; 12. At the junction of Radhakrishnan Salai and Kamraj Salai; 13. S. Venkatraghavan; 14. The area between Boat Club and YMCA in South Madras; 15. Vaclav Havel; 16. K.S. Vyas; 17. New Statesman and Society and Scallywag; 18. 75 paise; 19. Svetoslav Roerich; 20. George Bush.

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... and breakfast and lunch and tea and a night cap.

<p>Venue : Gazebo</p> <p>Time : 24 hours</p> <p>Programme : ● Executive Breakfast and Lunch buffet</p> <p>Starring : ● Dosas, Pizzas, Burgers, Bondas and a whole cast including hot and cold drinks.</p>	<p>Venue : Roofed BARBECUE</p> <p>Time : 7.00 pm to 1.30 am.</p> <p>Programme : ● Delight in the pleasures of professional gastronomy while you dabble in amateur astronomy... everynight</p> <p>Starring : ● Kabab master pieces of the grill.</p>
<p>Venue : Mona's Confectionery</p> <p>Time : Day Time</p> <p>Programme : ● Fresh cakes, soft breads and mm... mithais vie for your attention.</p>	<p>Venue : SARAHAN</p> <p>Time : Morning to night</p> <p>Programme : ● Conferences, Parties, Dinners, Weddings and 'Get togethers'</p>

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