

WE CARE FOR MADRAS

U-RENT
REAL ESTATE DIVISION
helps you buy and sell your
property in a profitable manner.
Call: 414222/411836
36, 11 Main Road,
Gandhi Nagar, Adyar,
Madras - 600 026.
We also manage the properties
of absentee landlords.

MADRAS

METAL
CUTTING
TOOLS

MUSINGS

Vol. III. No. 18

FREE ISSUE — EVERY FORTNIGHT

January 1 — 15, 1994

WANTED: A Heritage Act

(By A. Special Correspondent)

Elder statesman C Subramaniam's recent call for a 'Heritage Act' to conserve, restore and put to appropriate use historical or architecturally important buildings is not the first appeal to various governments in Tamil Nadu to save the historic heritage of Madras. *Aside* magazine from its inception in 1977, your editor during the several years he wrote for *Aside* from that time and elsewhere ever since, short-lived EPOCH that was born of those words in *Aside* before it forgot its city roots, INTACH in more recent times and even the MMDA in the last few years,

*But will
we get it
too late?*

have all sought listing of historical buildings and their conservation. But all of it has come to naught. Will C Subramaniam's words be better heeded? Perhaps, if he personally campaigns for it. And will you, Mr. Subramaniam, spearhead such a campaign?

It was during C Subramaniam's tenure as Governor of Maharashtra that much was done for Bombay's historic buildings. They were listed, many were renovated or polished up and several were floodlit. All this and more is needed in Madras, where many a building has deliberately been left an untended shell. Will you, Mr. Subramaniam, not only campaign for a Heritage Building Act but also lead a campaign to put the shells into use?

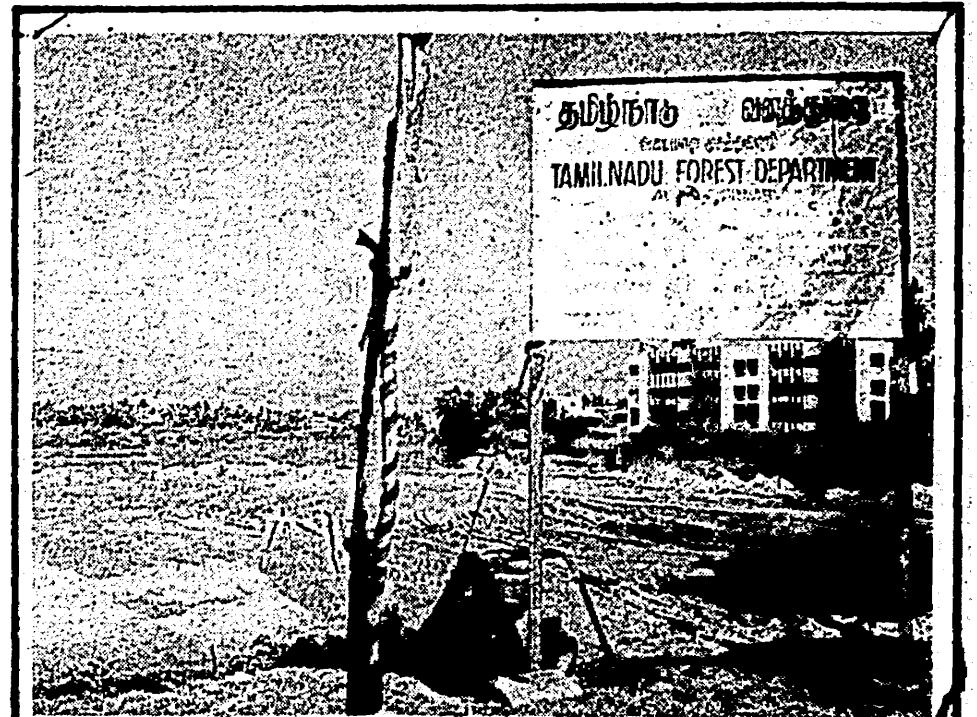
Perhaps C Subramaniam, who called for the Act at the 're-dedication' of Victoria Public Hall, should begin his campaign by teaming with Suresh Krishna, who, as Sheriff of Madras, began cleaning up bits of VPH and its surrounds, to make VPH come alive again as the Town Hall of Madras for which purpose it was originally con-

ceived. But for any such move to succeed, the Sheriff's Office will have to be behind it, for the Chairman of the VPH trustees is always the Sheriff of Madras. And so, will our new Sheriff, Dr. Chockalingam, invite the elder statesman and the former Sheriff to join him in restoring VPH and making it a worthy Town Hall for our City?

Perhaps at the same time the three of them could turn their attention to saving Police Headquarters, which is threatened not only by the Police hierarchy, but also by architects who see in it no history or heritage but a prize and a contract for themselves. If those threats materialise and the old headquarters is demolished and a new built, the interim period to be tided over has been planned for, according to reports. Curiously, the Police will move into an even older building after spending a crore on renovating it! And, says the report, 'Viceroy Mansion' "could be used for other purposes once the DGP office is shifted to the new complex".

'Viceroy Mansion' is Government House, where the Governors of Madras lived after they moved out of the Fort and before they moved into Raj Bhavan, which was, in those heady years, their 'country retreat'. Government House is now a shell, neglected for years and badly in need of restoration and brought to life again with use. But just as much as Government House needs to be 'protected', so does the DGP building, in whose surrounding acres there is space aplenty for many a multistorey building. Can we, with C Subramaniam's call, hope for some re-thinking on both? Can we hope for the Sheriff of Madras to organise a posse of past Sheriffs and get them to breathe life into these historic buildings of Madras?

Of Senate House we've said much in these columns. Another such building of which there has been some talk recently is Wellesley House in the Fort, a protected building that the military and the Archaeological Survey of India and all those other authorities who have a say in the Fort allowed to collapse a few years ago. This building, where Arthur Wellesley lived while he learnt the soldiering that was to one day make him the Duke of Wellington, hero of Waterloo, is being considered for restoration by the military and the ASI, the word has it. Or, at least, they have been talking about it. For such small mercies as, at least, constructive talk, instead of destructive talk, we should be thankful!



Yet another site for the cosmetic approach

It was right under the nose, so to speak, of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department's signboard, proclaiming this bit of the Adyar backwaters as protected area, that filling-in work started a few weeks ago for the building of an Ambedkar memorial. The five-acre area earmarked for the memorial is on the western side of Greenway's Road, across from the Ayappa Temple. Other parts of the 100-acre backwaters are earmarked for a massive construction site; the MMDA's competition for plans for this site, notwithstanding its own ruling that this is open space and recreational ground, were featured in *Madras Musings* as far back as November 16, 1992. As then, it would appear now, the Forest Department has no say in what is its land. Neither, it would seem, do the birds which annually flock to these sites. This year, especially, the birds descended in their numbers, particularly to the water on which the fill-in recently commenced. Will they return next year?

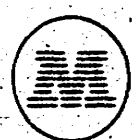
The future of birdlife and groundwater recharge in the Adyar area will now depend on how successful the Consumer Action Group is in the hearing on its public interest writ petition. Meanwhile, the High Court will decide on January 3rd whether to issue an interim injunction to stop the filling-in operations.

V S RAGHAVAN's picture was taken on December 22nd and shows the extent of fill, in just one part of the backwaters.

MANALI RAMAN...



IN MAD. MAD MADRAS



MELTRACK
Audio Cassettes

The Japanese cassette born in India



Meltrack. Brand leaders in the Indian Audio Cassette Industry. Made with genuine Japanese technology. High quality audio tapes that give you a whole new experience in sound.

ARTIC/1239

IIT centre For monument preservation

(By A. Special Correspondent)

The absence of documentation and a need to establish a research and information centre were stressed by several speakers at a recent workshop on 'Preservation and Restoration of Monumental Structures' organised by the Building Technology and Construction Management Division of IIT, Madras.

Nearly all the speakers also stressed the importance of restoring selective monumental and historical structures, "as they are the only source that maintains linkage to our past, history and heritage". But there was less agreement on the extent (how many structures should be saved or repaired?), techniques to be used (new materials to substitute old materials?), and the eventual aim of preservation (to serve as a monument or as a living building?).

It was also felt that when it comes to renovation and repair of a historical structure, very few really know how to do it or are aware of material properties. The need to identify traditional artisans and to bring out a

handbook on repair methods was pointed out.

There was general agreement on the establishment of a research and information centre at IIT, Madras, to provide support to renovation measures. The Centre, it was felt, should take up, immediately, work on documenting all relevant information, and produce a resource handbook on personnel, materials and procedures.

The Centre, it was also felt, should carry out research on past indigenous technology (materials, processes and properties), consider methods to inspect, repair, and preserve monumental and historic structures using traditional and modern technology, and document all relevant information and performance assessment of past remedial measures.

Funding for such a Centre is, of course, one major question. But even if funding is found, the question still remains whether the powers-that-be really want to save our historical structures. See what educated policemen are planning for the DGP's office!

Reinforcing the personal anecdote

The liveliest session of the very successful 16th All-India Public Relations Conference, held recently in Madras, chose to discuss issues ranging from orgasm to corruption. This session on 'Ethics in the Media' had panellist Cho Ramaswamy wondering what either had to do with the subject under discussion, but with so many panellists being anecdotal and enjoying talking at length, there was neither an answer for Cho nor opportunity for the 250 delegates from all parts of India to get involved in the discussion. The panellists, however, being whom they were, an absorbing session was assured — and it was indeed one.

Kamala Das indulged in true confessions, was emotional about the problems she had had to face in life and talked about her family being squeezed out of Mathroobhoomi and son Nalapatt having to become Resident Editor of *The Times of India*, Bangalore, instead of leading Mathroobhoomi to glory. No mention, however, was made of *The Times of India's* bid to take over the Malayalam daily or the roles of everyone concerned in that bid.

Moving on from the family's woes, sorrow turned to anger when Das remembered a women's conference in Adelaide where all those attending from

the Western world were more concerned with a woman's right to orgasm than with the problems of food, clothing and shelter which dominated the lives of the women of much of the rest of the world. Neither appeared to have been problems for Das, judging from much she repetitively stated, but that did not prevent

PR practitioners were no more "reinforced" in their knowledge of media ethics than before, but they all agreed it had been fun while it lasted.

Business briefs

★ The Goenkas of Spencer's decided to launch their first

ings are now to hand: the state is the third largest fruit producer in the country, the sixth largest vegetable producer, the fifth largest mango producer, the third largest orange producer and the sixth largest grape producer. Tamil Nadu is also an important exporter of flowers, responsible for almost a quarter of India's Rs. 33 crores worth of floriculture exports. And there's Rs. 19 crores of onion exports and Rs. 3 crores of jaggery exports. Which all point to new areas farmers should look at instead of sticking to the traditional rice fields and awaiting the bounty of the Kaveri.

In brief

★ The Governor's rejection of the three candidates for the Vice-Chancellorship of Madras University, who had been suggested by an advisory committee of sorts, certainly has political overtones to it, but rather more ugly is the fact that the members of the committee do not appear to have been able to agree on a common panel of three nominees, instead, each naming his choice. The Syndicate's nominee to the panel, backed by the Government's nominees to the Syndicate, named a former Vice-Chancellor most of the staff had got on well with. And the Governor's nominee named a retired professor while the 49 other candidates considered by the panel included several far more eminent persons. No wonder the panel named by the committee was thrown out by the Governor and a new one ordered. Imagine this happening in the affairs of one of the three oldest universities in the country! Naming its Vice-Chancellor has become a game!

★ Sivaji Ganesan, perhaps the best thespian this state has produced but an actor who has been unlucky when it comes to national film awards, is expected to be the Chief Guest at the International Film Festival of India to be inaugurated in Calcutta on January 10th. But, sadly, this honour has not sat well with the Bengalis who had been backing their own veteran, director Mrinal Sen. In fact, West Bengal Information Minister is reported to have written a 'strongly worded' letter to the Union Information Minister about the Centre's choice. Will the West Bengal Minister's ungenerous remarks about having "no comments on Mr Ganesan's credentials" weigh with the Centre or will that brilliant actor, who once before was edged out of a national honour, again be pipped at the last moment?

★ Watching Ratan Tata flying Bangalore-Bombay with East-West, *The Man from Madras Musings* was impressed with the VVIP treatment handed out to him by the entire East-West staff from Manager down to baggage handlers in Bangalore. It was bouquets all the way for his entire team and offers to carry every bit of his hand baggage, which he refused with charming smiles from on high. *MMM* wonders whether this Tata would have got the same treatment of Indian Airlines.

★ Taneja Airspace and Aviation Limited have announced that they were planning a craft repair and maintenance base in Tamil Nadu's fast-growing Hosur. But while this venture is still in the project study stage, work on the first such base in India is likely to start very shortly in Kolhapur, Maharashtra, promoted by Finolex and a Canadian firm. Will there be room for two such ventures south of the Vindhya? ★ Further to *MMM's* business brief last week on Tamil Nadu's banana production, other rank-

— MMM

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

her heart bleeding for the poor amongst the women in Kerala. Presumably she also wanted the media and the audience to demonstrate bleeding hearts.

Cho had his moments of ebullience, but struck more serious notes than the audience expected. There was, by and large, little wrong with the ethics of the bigger journals in the country, but there was a great need for many of the smaller publications to improve, he felt. A Consumer Court-like forum to handle allegations of libel and defamation would do wonders, he thought. Echoing this, K R Singh, former journalist, P R man and, now, Birla Group senior executive, suggested that there should be a Press Council-like body to help improve the practice of public relations. What it was supposed to do, no one was quite sure.

Film-maker Balu Mahendra confessed that, in his 40s, he was finding himself at a crossroads in life, uncertain what he wanted to do. He even had no ideas about what his next film should be. So, he was thinking of starting a restaurant! Bombay ad-man Roger Pereira, whose presentation of Roma Pereira's case study, 'Hamrahi — A Social Communication Programme', won the first prize in the case study competition, was sure he had a couple of ideas that would answer Mahendra's search for a new film idea. Unfortunately, Mahendra is unlikely to have J R D Tata's backing to back research for a 'soap' on family planning and women's family rights, as the Pereiras had. Nor are many of the ideas in *Hamrahi*, which in a new avatar is getting ready to be aired for another 52 weeks, likely to be new to Mahendra — many of his films having explored women's rights in a man's world a little better than the 'soap' did.

To wind up the proceedings there was a psychiatrist, Dr Vijay Nagaswami, who on this occasion represented Alacrity Foundation, of which he is a director together with a Chartered Accountant and a geologist. Hard-selling Alacrity as 'a novel builder' who neither pays 'speed' money nor accepts 'black' money, he explained that the company had been founded 15 years ago on the premise that it is 'easier to be honest than dishonest' and this continued to be an article of faith with the company that simply followed every regulation in the book. As he wound up, chairman of the session V R Lakshmanarayan, former DGP of Tamil Nadu, got ready to do a bit more policing by calling the session to a close, but not before offering one more anecdote from his extensive reading. At the end of it all, the

Recollecting 'The Twins'

I am a happy reader of *Madras Musings*. And the article on the 'Twin Brothers' in December 1 issue, revived happy memories of The Twins.

Around 1933, as a 10-year-old I used to accompany Dad to the Cosmopolitan Club, Madras. One evening, I saw a distinguished-looking gentleman in a dark blue suit. Minutes later, I saw him in a dark brown suit. I asked Dad why the person had changed his suit within minutes and was told that it was not the same person but his brother. They were, of course, the famous Arcot twins — Dr. Ramaswami and Dr. Lakshmanaswami.

On a Sunday morning about a year or so later, Dr. Ramaswami, followed by 15-20 persons, walked into our bungalow on Langs Garden Road. He came to seek Dad's vote — I think it

was for the Corporation. Dad then mentioned that the twins, along with Sir Mohammed Usman, were his students in a special coaching class — those days, Madras Christian College offered tutorships on Rs. 75/- p.m. to those who passed out high in the merit list and Dad was one such Tutor after his B.A. Degree and while preparing for the B.L. All three students reached great heights — Madras certainly produced giants.

Around 1958, I.G. of Police S. Balakrishna Shetty sent Ram Mahadevan, DIG, CID and me (SP, CID) to submit a Memorandum to Dr. Lakshmanaswami, then Vice Chancellor, Madras University, requesting addition of Criminology in the University syllabus. Dr. Lakshmanaswami assured favourable consideration and we were struck with the depth of his knowledge of day-to-day matters affecting the Police Department. Even in 1958, i.e.

35 years ago, Dr. Lakshmanaswami mentioned that the practice of allowing medical officers in small town hospitals, like Gudiyatham and Tiruvannamalai, to conduct post-mortem examinations was not at all satisfactory. In all violent deaths, the body should be rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital, like the one at Vellore, in an air conditioned van as post-mortem requires highly specialised knowledge and experience which a Medical Officer can gain only by conducting post-mortem examinations regularly and not once in a blue moon as in rural hospitals. Such was this great medical savant's anxiety for thoroughness.

K.R. Shenai, IPS.

Dir. Gen. of Police,

Tamil Nadu (Retd.)

'Sri Ram Kripa'

M 70, Anna Nagar,

Madras 600 102.

Looking into the future

(By The Editor)

As we got ready to ring out the old and ring in the new, the publishers and your editor have been taking a close, hard look at *Madras Musings* and wondering where we go from here in 1994. As we looked back on 1993, we saw how much we had increased in circulation, we noted how many in different parts of India and even abroad wanted copies of your journal and we appreciated how much more the advertising support, so necessary to make it a viable proposition, had grown. But we also came to realise the harsh facts, that the support we'd been receiving was just not enough and that if it was not forthcoming in more corporate and local advertising and 'small's' from readers and the smaller city establishments, we were not going to make it, at least not in the way we had conceived *Madras Musings*.

As we have already said, the advertising position has increased substantially — and we thank every one of those who has advertised for the generous support wholeheartedly given to a journal that cares for Madras. A few corporate advertisers have given us year-long support and a few others bursts of substantial encouragement. But there are many other corporate organisations that could do as much or more if they cared as much for

Madras as the few. Some local advertisers have given us occasional advertising, but there have been far too many unwilling to support the journal even though it offered far more about Madras than any other publication in the city. And as for the growing number of readers, many of whom had in the past indicated their willingness to subscribe, they've been reluctant to make that contribution to the 'Small's' and make their numbers increase.

Yet, it is local advertising and 'Small's' that have made the Free Mailers a success abroad. We publish today bits from a Free Mailer from Australia. Note the 'small's' that fill pages, note the 110 pages, note that the advertising rate ranges from \$2-10 for two insertions. We have no such dreams.

But what we do dream is that we can make *Madras Musings* viable and stop it being a drain on the publishers' resources. And to do that, we will have to DOUBLE the advertising and that would mean increasing our pages to 12 to maintain at least the same amount of reading material as at present. Any fewer pages with more advertising would be to sacrifice the reader, as Free Mailers abroad do. We wish to remain a Free Mailer that cares for its readers as much as it does for the city. And for

that, only 12 pages and double the present advertising would do — as well as make *Madras Musings* viable. Which is what we aim at achieving in the next couple of months.

But if we don't achieve those targets by the end of February, we will have no option but to PRICE *Madras Musings* from Volume-IV — April 16, 1994.

A nominal annual subscription rate and some bookstore buying MIGHT, together with some growth in advertising, see *Madras Musings* become viable. But that would mean that the concept of the Free Mailer had proved a failure in Madras. And that is a sad thought, for Madras, which has pioneered so many things in the modern India, would appear to be turning its back on pioneering yet another activity: Providing information freely to those in the city, about their city, supported by those who care for the city.

Will the corporate sector, smaller city organisations and our readers respond in the next few weeks and enable the original concept of *Madras Musings* being kept alive? All of us associated with the founding and growth of *Madras Musings* look forward to that kind of support in the New Year. And may that NEW YEAR BE A WONDERFUL ONE for every one of you.

Our capital

Harry Millers 'Shifting to a New Capital' made interesting reading. The writer is very practical in his views and has cited relevant examples. I wholeheartedly accept all his points. The advantages of shifting our state capital down South are many, but the question is whether it will be possible in the present set-up and whether Madras will allow their capital city to be removed from the first of state capitals. The growing glory of Madras as State Capital may never end.

S Prabhu

First Floor

24, Yogambal Street

Madras 600 017.

Promise of playgrounds

How can we make 'Madras a modern city'? Each one of us has his or her own answers. There is nothing wrong in Mr Prabhakar and the Corporation planning to undertake the improvement of playgrounds: it is a good idea. But don't you think the government should spend some money on maintaining the slum areas? How will a beautiful house look surrounded by slums? How can you say an area is modern when the environment is not clean?

What is this virus?

Then there was your special correspondent asking 'What is this virus?' Should doctors wait for health authorities to talk to them? And when will that be? Will anything move fast in government departments unless people make it an issue? I wholly agree with the correspondent's statement 'that beautification of stretches like the Marina are not the answer to the city's health problem.'

Meena Reddy

'Su-Darsan'

41, 7th Avenue

Ashok Nagar

Madras 600 083.

Move to arid area

I totally agree with the article 'The Changing Madras'. But most people want to live in Madras because there is no employment in rural areas and they feel "Chennai patta-nathukku pol than pizhaikanam". Once the late Chief Minister M G R thought to shift the capital of Tamil Nadu to Trichy, the people of Madras and those from the Opposition opposed it. So he dropped it.

The article suggests shifting the capital to the Thanjavur area. But is it wise? Won't the vast rice fields be lost to real estate as the capital city grows? So I would like to suggest that the capital be shifted to an arid area, say Pannamur Murthamalingam District. Moving the capital to the Ramana-nathapuram or Pudukkottai area would not only reduce the density of population but

also make into an industrial area one which is not.

C Raveendran

23 East Cheery Street

St. Thomas' Mount.

Madras 600 016.

What's in a name?

Jaffna Tamil is no doubt purer. But even the Indian Tamil labourers in Ceylon estates use *kusini* for kitchen. *Kusini* is the Sinhala word for kitchen. 'Cuisine' appears to be a French word.

M S Ganapathy

Plot No. 3 First Main Road

Sabarnagar

Madras 600 016.

Language of the times

I must take umbrage to the title of V.R. 'Devika's' 'View From The Wings' in a recent issue of *MM*. For once one thought that *MM* was going to serve up something spicier than pepper water and musty old buildings. Instead, under the title 'Gay Abandon' one found not the details of a homosexual orgy in Madras but the rather staid goings-on at Kalakshetra and in Madras's raw amateur theatre. Surely both *MM* and the well travelled Devika should know that the word has become universally recognised as pertaining to the sexual orientation of a minority. In fact, the Hindi equivalent has become widely accepted to refer to 'Gays' in India.

While we look to *MM* to guard us from the invasion of Hinglish a la Baba Seghal and Apache Indian, surely it is your duty to stay on the ball and keep up with current English usage.

Mithran Devanesan

Madras.

'Lending' blood

Years back, I vividly remember a day when I visited The Child Hospital — popularly called American Hospital — at Trichy to give blood in their Blood Bank. There was hanging a small board wherein a message was written. I'm not able to present it verbatim. But the crux is that one generous enough to give his blood to the group in desperately in need doesn't actually make a donation of it. For, he doesn't lose his blood once and for all. What he gives is automatically replenished after a few days. Hence, it appears more appropriate to call it lending than donation.

Of course, what is in a name? May more and more volunteer to give BLOOD!

Rm. Subramanian

10, Vidyodaya I Cross

Madras 600 017.

MADRAS MUSINGS

SMALLS CONSULTANCY

World waits for Indian Textiles/made-ups/ready-made garments etc. We could assist you in bringing up any viable project/trade in these. Please contact: S Seshadri-Ra. Srinivasan. Phone No. 447284.

EDUCATION

Maths, Physics, Chemistry tuition up to XII. Only one student at a time. Preparing for Public Exams and Entrance Tests. Come to NEW FLOWER EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE SERVICE, 61, 28th Cross Street, Besant Nagar, Madras-600 090.

Quest for the best. U.S.A., Europe, Canada. Seeking education abroad? Financial aid, career counselling, or visa documentation — we are here to help you! Contact New Horizons, 14 Wallace Garden, 1st Street, Madras-600 006 Tel: 8272089.

Schoolboy interested in arts, crafts, education, music, sports etc. Needs lady tutor for bi-weekly home coaching to help achieve all-around excellence. Only those desirous four-figure salary contact Dr. Shah. Tel: 588508 (02); 563734 (R).

OUR SMALLS RATES

For Small's: Readers on our Mailing List: Rs. 100/- for THREE ads or ONE ad repeated THREE TIMES (three successive weeks, if ad calls for immediate response, alternate weeks for continuing services). Readers NOT on our mailing list: Rs. 150/- as above, and advertiser will be put on our mailing list.

For Small's Display: Four (4) centimetres by one column, type only, in the same manner as above: Rs. 500/- (Mailing List) and Rs. 750/- (Non-mailing list) NOTE: All cheques to Lokavani-Hall Mark Press Pvt. Ltd., 62/63 Greames Road, Madras-600 006

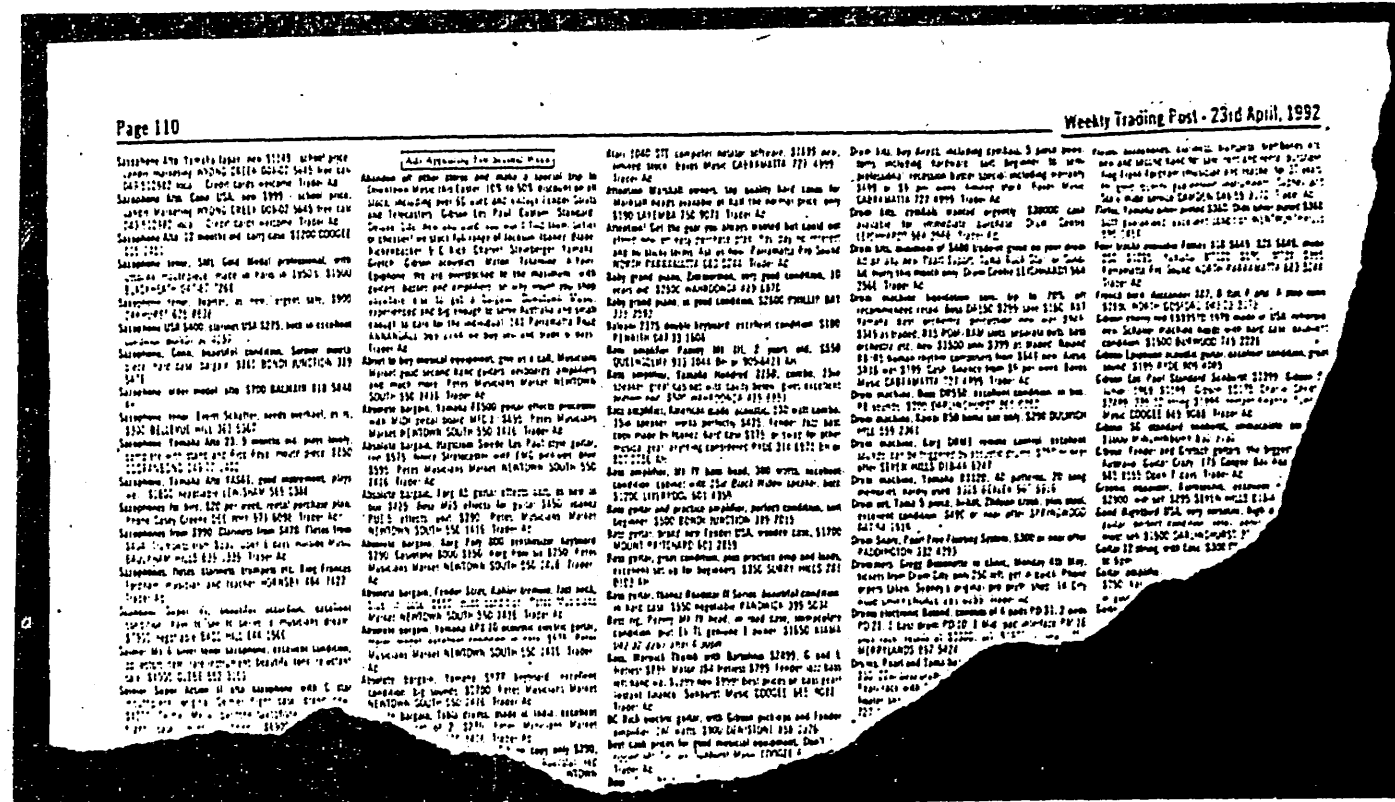
FOR SALE

Contact Balaram, 24 MRC Nagar, Madras-600 028. (Ph: 4938257, 4938613) for valuable stamp collection, first day covers. All countries.

British Council Library

Recent Additions

Author	Title
ASH, M.	The fabric of the world
BANKS, I.	The crowd
BELL, E. C.	Basic electrical and electronic engineering
BOWEN, D.	4 gardens in one
BRAILSFORD, D.	British sport: a social history
COOKSON, C.	The year of the Virgins
DUNN, J. (ed)	Democracy: the unfinished journey
DURRELL, G.	Marrying off mother and other stories
GATES, R.	Production management for film and video
GRANT, R.	Which Medicine?
HOLME, D. J.	Analytical biochemistry
KENNE, R.	The complete book of Gambits
LEVINE, M. I.	Essentials of neonatal medicine
MCMAHON, C.	CAD/CAM: from principles to practice
NATIONAL ARTS...	HIV and AIDS: management by the primary care team
NEILSON, J. P. (ed.)	National Arts and Media Strategy — A creative future
NETLEY, K.	Obstetric ultrasound 1
O'NEILL, P. A.	Advanced service technique
PHILLIPS, K. J. H.	Industrial compressors
PRITCHETT, V. S.	Guide to the sun
SCREEN INTERNATIONAL	The complete short stories
	The Screen International Film & Television Directory 1993
STROEBEL, L. (ed.)	The Focal Encyclopedia of Photography
TWIST, H.	Effective interviewing
YOUNG, M. E.	Theories and principles of occupational therapy



The rates page (on top) and a bit of page 110 of Australia's free mailer, the Weekly Trading Post.

A Christmas Carol

Harry Miller, not in the best of health but still pecking on his laptop, is a little late with his Christmas story. But we still publish it, for the Season is still with us, for one thing and, for another, even though this is, strictly speaking, not a Madras story, many a reader no doubt will recollect Harry's subject today, a character out of our schooldays. In delightful caricature, he features on the envelopes many of us received our greetings in from England this year. And Harry's envelopes sparked this recollection.

THE EDITOR

The British Post Office people have just brought out a delightful Christmas postage stamp celebrating

One Man's Madras — HARRY MILLER'S

Scrooge, the dreadful old miser of Dickens' celebrated Christmas story *A Christmas Carol*. Scrooge is first portrayed as the wicked old miser and curmudgeon who exploits the labour of his desperately poor clerk Bob Cratchit (how did 19th Century writers always acquire such perfectly appropriate names for their characters?) who, in the usual Victorian way, had sired an abundant family he could not possibly support.

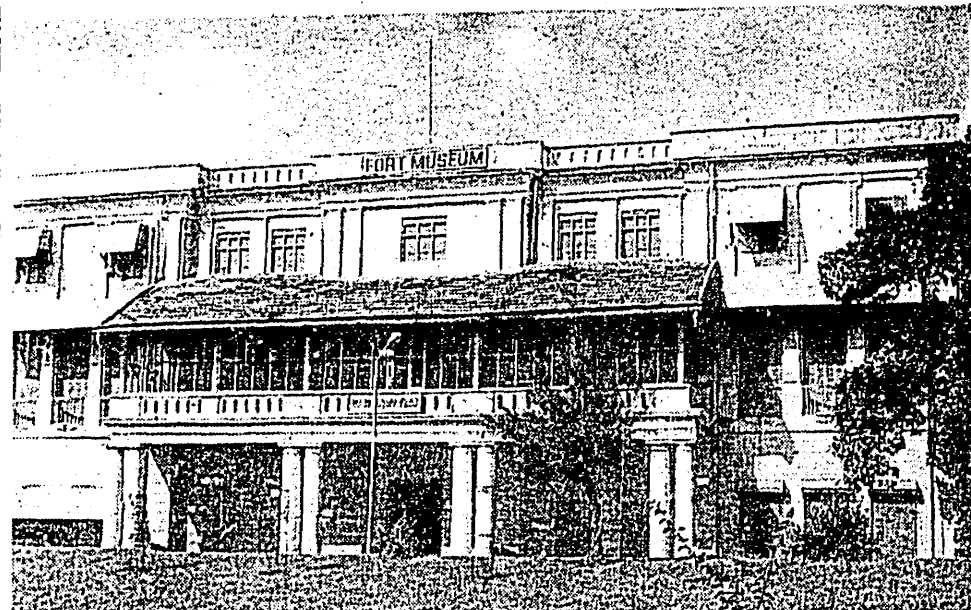
The youngest of these wretched children is, in the stage version of the

story, a crippled child called Tiny Tim, and, in childhood, I was twice called upon at Christmas time to act the part on the stage of the local Church drama group. I well remember the discomfort and pain my mother inflicted on me by tying the lower half of one of my legs behind the upper half to simulate a one-legged child, and how I had to learn to hobble about on the stage on crutches, like a Somali or Afghan child deprived of a limb by a landmine.

I had only two lines to declaim, one at the beginning of this memorable drama and one at the end, after Scrooge, terrified of his future life by his dream of 'Christmas Yet To Come', turns up at Bob Cratchit's house laden with a Christmas goose (turkeys became known and popular only in the early part of this century) and other Christmas goodies. The lines were not hard to recall, because both were identical and consisted of identical words: 'God bless us, every one!'

Nevertheless, it appeared that my dramatic debut at this early age was not unsuccessful, since I was called upon to play other roles soon after. In one I played the part of Billy Bunter, or it may have been the Humpty Dumpty. Why they should have chosen so slight a child as me for such roles I can't imagine, but mother strapped stout cushions to my bony frame, fore and aft as a sailor might say, and when the lights went out on the stage and I tried to cross in total darkness, I must have lost my bearings, since I fell off the stage through the curtains to land flat on my back in front of the first row of the audience. Whether it was mild shock or the impediment of the cushions I don't recall, but I was quite unable to get up, until an hysterical mother burst through a side-door to carry me off.

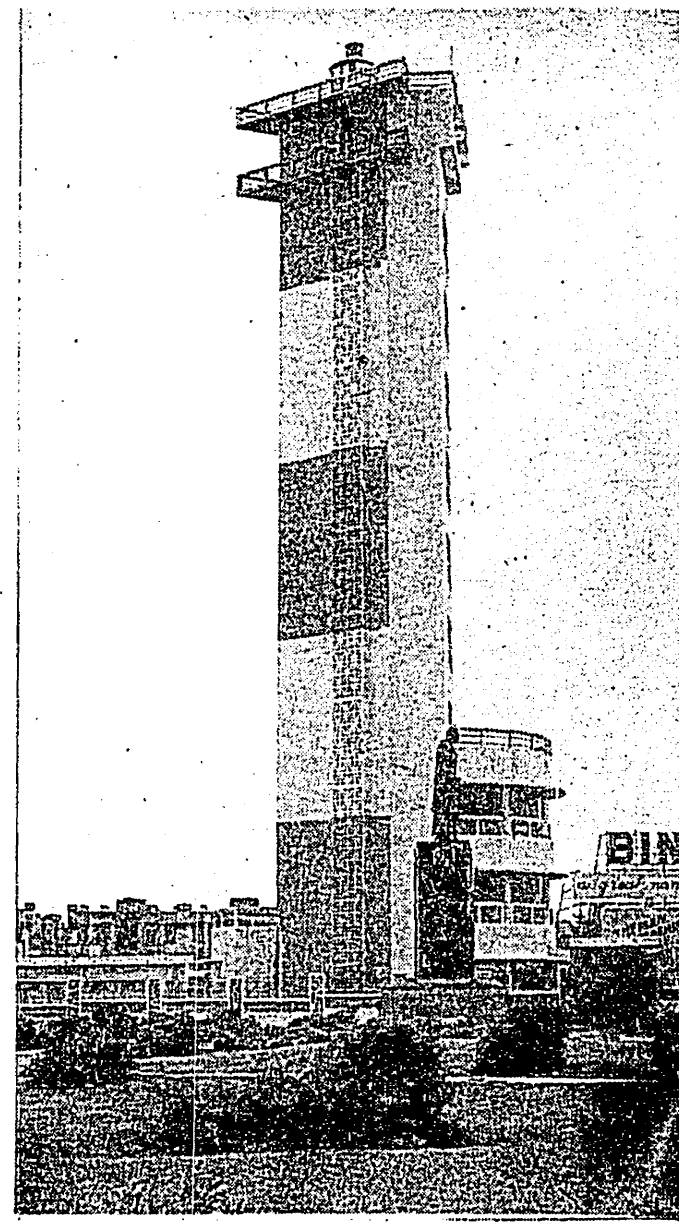
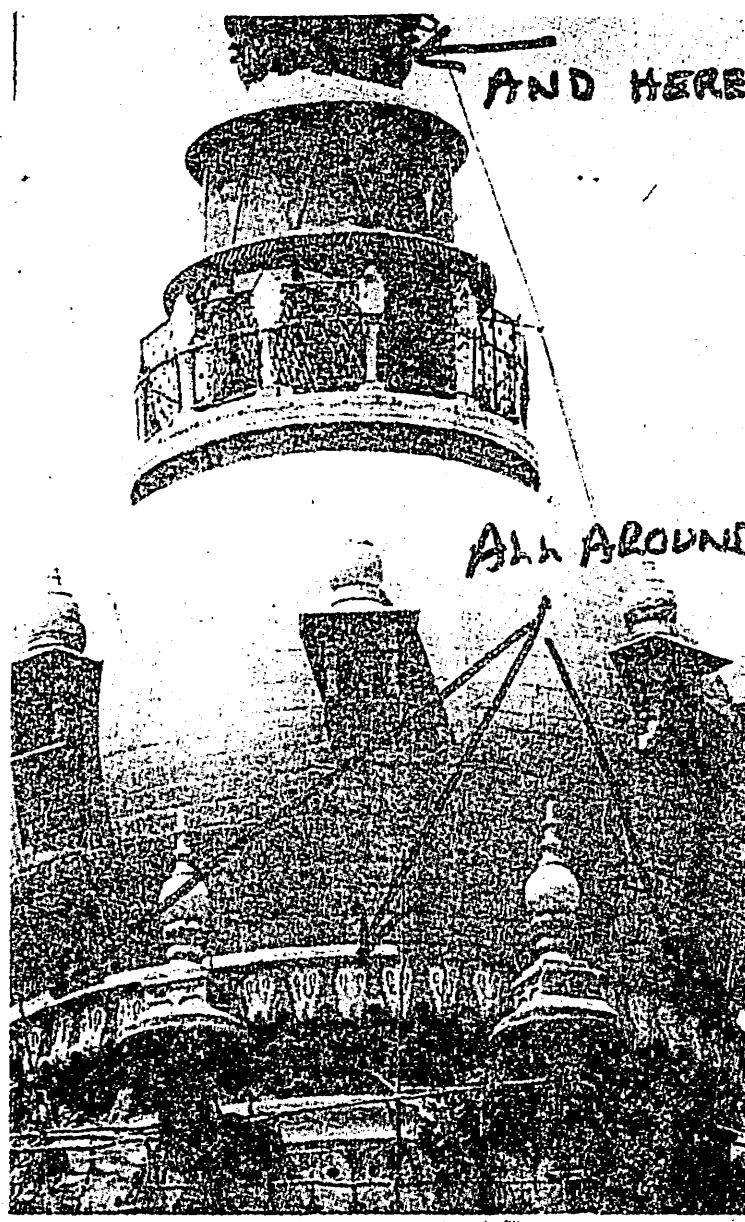
(Continued on P5)



HARRY MILLER's picture below comes with this note: "What do you make of this picture of the biggest High Court dome? Who painted all those cobras, when and why? I didn't even see them when I took the picture (in 1985, 300 mm lens) until I had the neg printed. Odd, very."

Miller then goes on to refer to this feature's statement same tune ago that this was the THIRD Madras lighthouse and wonders about the others. The FIRST was on the roof of what is now the Fort Museum. This...&THE NEW building was built between 1788 and 1795 as the Fort Exchange. It was a tavern, coffee-house, bank, warehouse and business exchange, all in one. On its roof was built, in 1796, 99 feet about sea level, Madras's first lighthouse, with 12 lamps burning coconut oil and its beam visible 25 miles out at sea. The SECOND lighthouse, designed by Capt. J.E. Smith, was built on the Esplanade in 1841 and all that remains of it is the 120 ft tall Doric column in the High Court campus. The THIRD lighthouse was, of course, the one established in the High Court dome in 1894, 175 feet about sea level. And the FOURTH is the strictly functional monstrosity that was built at the southern end of the Marina a couple of decades ago.

(Photographs: 1, HARRY MILLER; 3, V S RAGHAVAN)



SBI, IFCI & IDBI — Making waves in the market

At the nascent stage of the country's political independence, the capital market in India was underdeveloped. There was a dearth of capital issue houses and underwriting firms, while commercial banks were in no position to provide long-term industrial finance. And so, from a strong-felt need to fill in these bad patches, the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) was born on July 1, 1948. Ever since, it has been moving with the times and with national priorities, maintaining a record of stable growth and strategic diversifications. As of today, it has a net worth of over Rs. 600 cr and an asset base of over Rs. 8500 cr.

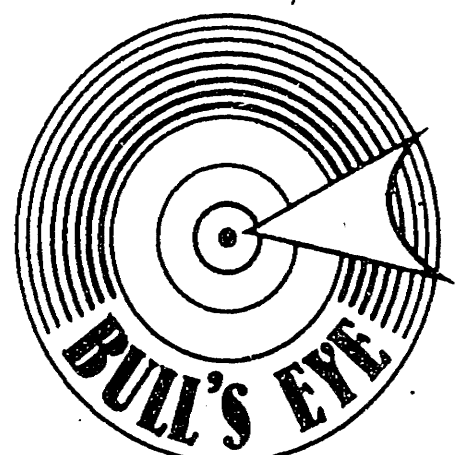
The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) was established in 1964 to provide term finance to enable industry to set up, expand, modernise or upgrade projects. It has, over the years, built up an enviable reputation for competence, thoroughness and innovation. With a large professional cadre and a committed staff, this premium term-lending institution in India has a consistent record of profits and an asset-base of Rs. 31,000 cr.

The State Bank of India, constituted in 1955 but with its roots in the first modern commercial bank established in India, has emerged as the country's largest commercial bank. It handles a significant part of the banking operations of the Central and the State governments besides financing the industrial and agricultural sectors. It has a market share of over 39 per cent in the international banking business in India and, with 8691 branches, the largest branch network in the world.

Our banks and financial institutions have enjoyed three decades of subsidies, funds and high spreads. While a majority of them have been pampered rotten, some have flattered few and accumulated more assets, reserves and goodwill. But how do IDBI, IFCI and SBI fare in this picture? The reference to them is made because they have, of late, been making waves of the second category, in the capital market. Yes, all three of them are lenders now resorting to public borrowing.

SBI's recent public issue of equity shares carried with it a premium of just Rs. 90. IFCI came even cheaper in

December, with a premium of Rs. 25. Most probably, even IDBI will carry a low premium on its issue. These low premiums are in the nature of testing the waters, and the IPCL episode (when it came out bombastically with a GILT-



STOCK issue of Rs. 150 premium in November 1992, only to skid below the issue price on listing) must have slaved off their desire for higher premiums.

Though all three have bloated equities, the investor should realise that their business is huge enough to generate higher turnovers and EPS. All three have a sound track record, a broad capital base, a good chunk of

hidden resources and undeclared profits. They are sterling investment opportunities. What is more, they plan to concentrate on non-fund activities like investing banking, financial services etc. in the future, which would undoubtedly work magic on their income.

If an investor has missed IFCI and SBI, no fret. There is still IDBI in the offing. The first band of investors are truly lucky, because, for all you know, SBI's next issue might carry a premium of Rs. 200!

Meanwhile, here are some recommendations for the fortnight:

Alsa Marine & Harvester (CMP Rs. 57.00): AMHL from the Alsa fold, a leading processor and exporter of marine-based and aquaculture products, has reported encouraging results for the six-month period ended September 1993. The sales and PAT have increased by 34% and 43% to Rs. 25.33 cr and Rs. 1.33 cr, resulting in an annualised EPS of Rs. 3.64 on the enhanced equity of Rs. 7.31 cr. The company is setting up a modern processing unit in Calcutta, a re-processing facility in Dubai to sell its products in EEC and a marketing unit in Belgium. For the year ending March 1994, we anticipate a turnover of Rs. 72 cr and PAT of Rs. 3.60 cr.

An EPS of around Rs. 5 justifies a price of Rs. 70 at the time of results. The strength of its infrastructure, organisation and global experience would appear to make the target achievable. Prices, after reaching a high of Rs. 65, have reacted and resumed their uptrend. Buying recommended for long-term gains.

Roshanlal Oil Mills (CMP Rs. 36.00): Roshanlal Oil Mills, which entered the capital market in November 1990, is engaged in the production and marketing of various kinds of edible oils. Its plant has the flexibility to handle extraction of different kinds of oil seeds, oil cakes and other oil-bearing material, as well as for refining edible oils, thus ensuring operations throughout the year. The company's products, viz. 'Jumbo' mustard oil, 'Roshan' refined groundnut oil and 'Policeman' refined mustard oil are well received in the market, particularly in the northern and eastern parts of India. Its performance in the first half of 1993-94 is impressive, with a 61% rise in turnover, 93% rise in exports and 48% rise in PAT. The second half performance is expected to be even more encouraging, as the full benefits of the modernisation and expansion of the Jaipur unit will be available at that time. For 1993-94, the turnover is likely to touch

(Continued on P6)

Doctors in a dilemma

Can complicated issues of medical negligence be decided by the same methods that apply to trade malpractice?

There has been considerable debate of late about the advisability of settling cases of medical negligence in the consumer courts. Doctors all over India have expressed dissatisfaction over this development as, they point out, proving a doctor's negligence in treating a patient cannot be as swift or as uncomplicated as proving that a trader has overpriced his goods or sold adulterated products. This seems a reasonable point of view. On the other hand, those who favour doctors being brought under the purview of the Consumer Protection Act (CPA) argue that, as the existing avenues for

obtaining justice in cases of alleged medical malpractice (the civil or criminal courts or the Medical Council)

for aggrieved patients, is to bring doctors to the Consumer Forums which, willy nilly, have to settle cases quickly.

practice of medicine and the state of the public health service are what they are in India, and what actually constitutes negligence on the part of a doctor. To an extent, all these issues have a bearing on whether medical litigation can be taken to the Consumer Forums.

To get back to the issue at hand, until recently, proceedings could be brought against a doctor for professional negligence in the following ways:

1. A civil suit could be filed for damages, according to the law of torts, in a civil court.
2. In case of death or bodily injury due to medical negligence, a criminal

• By A Special Correspondent, based on a paper by Dr. MARTHANDA PILLAI (Professor of Neurosurgery, Trivandrum Medical College, and Past President, Indian Medical Association, Trivandrum Chapter)

are either unacceptably tardy in rendering justice or are biased in favour of medical practitioners, the best recourse,

The issue, however, is not as simple as that. Involved in it are other interrelated questions, like why the

The GP's progress

The turn of this century marked the beginning of an era of salaried doctors who were to become beacons in the medical firmament of Madras. Senior citizens today still recall the yeoman service rendered by Dr. Rangachary and Dr. Guruswamy Mudaliyar in the earlier part of this century. These paragons of the profession put service before self, their sole aim being to alleviate the suffering of the sick. Fired by their zeal, many young doctors emulated them, setting up clinics in various parts of the city.

A typical general practitioner (GP for short) lived in an upstairs house. The ground floor formed the clinic, while the doctor lived upstairs. A GP could be summoned at any time to the bedside of an ailing patient. Even at dead of night, the doctor moved through filthy bylanes, toting his kitbag to retrieve a patient from the jaws of death. In those days, a GP had to do various jobs which are now in the realms of the specialists. He did clinical tests, compounded medicines, performed minor operations and set dislocated bones. To assist in these multifarious jobs he employed a number of assistants. A compounder was next in command to him. There was a ward boy, who cleaned up the mess after an operation. He also kept the premises spick and span. A nurse helped the GP examine shy female patients. For a patient, the doctor was a friend who took an interest in the well-being of the entire family. He was consulted even for problems unconnected with health! The usual doctor-patient conversation ran something like this:

The patient peeps uncertainly into the doctor's room and whispers a feeble, "Good morning, Doctor!"

"Ah, good morning, Raghavachary! Come in! Come in! Your face indicates that your stomach ulcer is showing up! Unless you stop eating puliodarai and avakkai, there is no salvation for you! All right! All right! Lie down on the couch and loosen your clothing. I will examine you."

The doctor finishes his examination. "Now, get up! I will prescribe a powder for you. Take it for three days. If the pain still persists, come and see me. You better control your tongue. No hot stuff! Plenty of buttermilk. Ok?"

"I know there will be. Be careful not to take castor oil anywhere near that boy. And don't listen to any old hag's advice for short cut treatments! Observe strictly what the Jammi man says. You won't have any reason to worry. By the way, how is your son?"

"I am not happy with him!"

"Why? Has he gone down in his studies?"

"He is all right in his studies. But, he has become impertinent! He doesn't listen to whatever I or his mother say!"

• by M. SETHURAM

The patient grunts a "Yes, doctor!" "How is your wife's back pain?" "Somewhat better. She smears a paste made of dry ginger on her back. It seems to act!"

"Bound to! However, let her not do heavy backbending work like drawing water from the well."

"Then who will do it? I cannot afford a servant maid!" "Why a servant maid? You can do that chore! You need a lot of exercise! I am sure you are just polishing the seat of a chair in your office! If you draw your requirement of water in the morning and evening, it will do you a lot of good!"

The patient squirms. "Now, how is your grandson's liver enlargement?"

"We, are giving Jammi medicine as you suggested. There seems to be some improvement."

The doctor pats the back of the patient. "Don't worry, man! He will be all right as he grows up. This strange behaviour is due to the generation gap. Ask him to see me. I will advise him suitably!"

In course of time, this generation ended, giving way to the next. The new tribe of doctors was also hard-working, but in a different way. Their attitude and outlook had changed in tune with modern times. Graciousness had given place to expediency. The modern GP established clinics at three or four places in the city and commuted to these from morning to night, spending two or three hours in each, depending on the number of clinics he had to handle. The clinic itself is not much to speak of. It is a shop in a shopping mall, facing a busy thoroughfare. His neighbours may be anybody from a hairdresser to a cement stockist! Since

the clinic (shop) faces a busy road, all dust stirred up by the traffic waits into the room.

The clinic is divided into two portions by a thin board or a cloth partition. At the front of the partition, the patients wait. The rear is occupied by the doctor. When the doctor is at work, the waiting patients can hear the conversation between the doctor and the examinee patient. The curious can even peep through the chinks of the partition to view the happenings inside. The doctor employs only an urchin who regulates the patients and runs errands for the doctor.

Since a large crowd waits, the doctor can spend only a few minutes with each patient, enabling him to clear them within the stipulated time at that location. With this tight schedule, a visit to the sick bed is unthinkable. The aim of the doctor seems to be to make as much money as possible in as short a time as possible. He feels justified too! Why? Has he not roughed up a hefty amount as capitation fee at the time of his admission? The course itself is not for paupers. When he finished his housemanship he found that he was neck-deep in debts. To wipe the debts out, he had to work hard. After running about in this fashion for a few years, he finds that he has not only cleared this debt, but there is a tidy nest egg waiting to be utilised!

Now is the time to slow down and think of honing his skills. He selects a foreign university and disappears from the Indian scene. After the studies there, he finds a job waiting in foreign climes itself. Why return to the grime and heat of India? He manages to take his wife and children to that cosy Elysium. Another drop has flown down the brain drain. And another NRI has emerged!

case could be filed under the Indian Penal Code.

3. Disciplinary proceedings could be initiated against the doctor in the appropriate Medical Council.
4. In rare cases, proceedings could be initiated under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practice Commission.

To this list has now been added proceedings under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986. This is curious, as the CPA does not specifically mention medical services in the list of activities under its jurisdiction (Section 2(2)). Surely, it would have done so if it was intended that the CPA should also deal with medical litigation?

Nevertheless, medical practitioners are now, indeed, being hauled up before consumer forums on allegations of malpractice or negligence. (Incidentally, government doctors are exempt from the CPA's purview, as they are said to render free service.) In this process, it is important to note, these cases are expected to be disposed of within three months; consequently, the question arises whether the methods adopted by the Consumer Forums are appropriate for determining alleged medical negligence. Anyone who has observed the process of medical litigation in India, would agree that it is of too sophisticated a nature to be dealt with summarily. Even though the Consumer Commission is presided over by a District Judge at the district level, and a High Court judge at the State level, it must still be remembered that such cases involve complicated questions which have to be resolved by medical experts and many medical treatises have to be absorbed, all of which takes time.

Although the basic premise adopted by the Consumer Forums, that professionals should exhibit reasonable care and skill in their professional performance, is sound, experience shows that, in actual life, its application to the facts of a case can become complex. The fact is, a doctor does not guarantee a cure or relief.

There is always an inherent risk in any medical treatment, no matter how careful the doctor is. Action for negligence cannot be taken simply because the risks inherent in an

(Continued on P8)

A Christmas Carol

(Continued from P4)

screeching for an ambulance and other superfluous medical assistance.

But much worse was to follow. For reasons known only to themselves, the organisers of the children's plays and dramas at the establishment were fond of what they called 'Action Plays', which consisted of a dozen little girls, dressed in white, ankle-length nighties, each carrying a candle, walking round and round in a circle on the stage singing a simple song. There was no action as I remember it, but to an early post-Edwardian audience perhaps that was enough.

On the first night of this display one of the little girls fell ill and since, for some arcane reason, the number just had to be a dozen, and no other little girl candidate could be found, the choice fell of course on Muggs Miller. You can imagine the reaction of the other boys next day, the torrent of ribald, bawdy jokes I endured.

Envy. That's all it was. Pure envy. Just because I happened to be a very beautiful little boy, I'm perfectly certain I was a very beautiful little boy because the nice old ladies were always saying so. Some of the nice old gentlemen were, too.

AMERICAN CENTER LIBRARY Gemini Circle, Mount Road, Madras - 600 006. Tel: 8273040. NOTABLE BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Belman, Geoffrey M.
Getting Things Done When You Are Not in Charge
Berrett-Koehler Publishers, c1992. (658.402 BEL)

The Best American Poetry 1993.
Edited by Louis Glück.
Maxwell Macmillan International, c1993. (811.54 BES)

The Energy-Environment Connection
Edited by Jack M. Hollander
Island Press, c1992. (333.7914 ENE)

Gourlay, K.A.
World of Waste: Dilemmas of Industrial Development.
Zed Books Ltd, 1992. (363.7288 GOU)

Low, Patrick
Trading Free: The GATT and U.S. Trade Policy
The Twentieth Century Fund Press, 1993. (382.92 LOW)

Odum, William E.
America's Military Revolution: Strategy and Structure After the Cold War.
American University Press, 1993. (355.0335 ODO)

The Political Economy of International Organizations:
A Public Choice Approach.
Edited by Roland Vaubel and Thomas D. Willett.
Westview Press, 1991. (341.2 POL)

Structural Adjustment and the Environment.
Edited by David Reed.
Westview Press, 1992. (338.9 STR)

A dynamic beginning

To a quest for roots

'Parampara' is an action-and value-based voluntary society in the city involved in "awakening the jaded value-neutral society of today" to action based on traditional Indian values. According to Parampara's founder, Ms. Madhulika Jhaver, our ancient civilisation not only gave us knowledge embracing every branch of the arts and the sciences from medicine, astronomy, mathematics and astrology to physics, law, economics, technology, architecture, dance, drama etc.; it also exhorted us to serve society single-mindedly with this knowledge, to nurture and protect every form of life and the environment, as well as worship the earth's resources. To quote Ms. Jhaver: "We aim to get us back to our roots, look at life in its totality and see the essential inter-dependence of all forms of life, build our character based on *Tapas* and *Yagna* — and serve humanity and our country".

But how purposefully and meaningfully can philosophical sentiments, however lofty, be translated into contemporary planks of activity?

Classes in *Gita*, Hindu thought, classical Indian music, painting and yoga, talks by eminent scholars and specialists in disciplines as varied as philosophy, religion, astrology etc., as well as workshops on assimilating

Ayurveda into a holistic medical approach, form the day-to-day back-drop of Parampara. But it is the activities of the one-year-old and 100-strong Parampara Youth Wing which truly take commitment to the realm of *Yanga*. The main thrust lies

educate underprivileged children. Already three schools have been identified by Parampara and each Parampara Youth Wing member will not only financially sponsor one child, but also interact closely with his ward to monitor his progress.

• by
PUSHPA CHARI

in two important projects, namely, the Integrated Education Programme for underprivileged children of the city and the truly impressive Water Conservation Project. The IEP encourages the economically affluent Parampara youth to reduce unnecessary spending and to use the funds thus generated to help

The second major project undertaken by Parampara Youth is the propagation and execution of Water Conservation Projects in the city. Based on a project study which establishes the fact that groundwater is slowly getting depleted in Madras, Parampara's concept of Percolation Pits recharges

groundwater by allowing as much rain-water as possible to percolate into the ground, reducing the run-off during the rainy season. Since top soil is impermeable and does not allow rainwater to percolate into the underlying permeable stratum, the technology involved in percolation pits is to puncture the impermeable top soil in the form of pits, refill the pits with a permeable layer like blue metal, coarse sand, brickbats, etc. so that water can percolate into the underlying layer.

I saw one completed percolation pit in the grounds of the Parampara centre in Kasturi Ranga Road. Ingeniously devised and costing Rs. 3,500/- or so, it is a 'pukka' feat of engineering and pragmatic imagination which not only collects rainwater from rooftops and slopes but automatically filters it, before storing it for future use. Parampara is already in touch with Metrowater and its target is 3,000 such percolation pits in 1994 — an answer to every Madras citizen's prayers in the water-starved city. The Parampara Youth Wing plans one such percolation pit in every school.



Work on a Parampara-style percolation pit... to help save water for later this year.



MAKING WAVES

(Continued from P4)

Rs. 225 or with a PAT of Rs. 3.95 or, justifying a price of around Rs. 65. Prices after reacting are showing signs of resuming the uptrend. Buy with a stop loss at Rs. 30.

Kothari Soya (CMP Rs. 40.00): This Mahachand Motilal Kothari group company was recommended by us in October 1993 at Rs. 32. The scrip has now begun to move up after gaining good support between Rs. 30 and Rs. 35. Meanwhile, Kothari Soya has announced excellent results for the first half of 1994. The turnover and PAT amounted to Rs. 26.62 cr and Rs. 1.57 cr respectively, against the 1993 net sales of Rs. 14.62 cr and a PAT of Rs. 0.68 cr. The annualised EPS works out to Rs. 6.65. The second half results are expected to be impressive, as the outlook for the industry has brightened with a record output in the 1992-93 oil season and good anticipated output for the next season. Our projections for March 1994 indicate a sales of Rs. 58 cr and a PAT of Rs. 3.40 cr giving an EPS of Rs. 7.20. This would justify a price of around Rs. 70. Buying recommended with a stop loss at Rs. 30.

And a HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of you!

K. Gopalakrishnan

SUPPORT THE RESTORATION OF SENATE HOUSE

Over Rs. 1 crore is needed to restore and thereafter maintain *Senate House* (the first building of the University of Madras), according to the study and conservation plan prepared for it by INTACH.

All donations are fully exempted under Sec. 80(B) of the Income Tax Act. Bank drafts/Cheques to be drawn in favour of *The Registrar* (Senate House Conservation Fund Account), University of Madras-600 005.

INTACH calls all graduates of the University of Madras and other members of the public to support the worthy cause of conservation.

(Space donated by: TAMARAI MILLS LIMITED)



A complete meal — *Meat Pie, Cream of Beetroot Soup and Toasted Sandwiches*. Fresh fruit is in season, so finish with *cheesy Fruit Salad*.

CREAM OF BEETROOT SOUP

½ kg beetroot, peeled and cubed
1 onion, chopped fine
1 large potato, chopped fine
1 tbs butter
Pepper and salt to taste
4 cups stock
½ cup fresh cream

Method

Heat butter and sauté the onion. Add the chopped potato and beetroot. Add stock and simmer till tender. Liquidise and sieve the soup. Bring to a boil, adding pepper and salt. Serve in individual bowls swirling a spoonful of cream over top.

TOASTED SANDWICHES

8 slices of bread
2 tbs butter
2 or 3 firm ripe tomatoes, sliced thin
½ cup grated cheese
Pepper and salt to taste

Method

Butter the bread slices. Place a slice of tomato. Sprinkle grated cheese, pepper and salt. Place another slice of buttered bread over the tomato-cheese. Toast in a sandwich toaster till golden. Serve hot.

CHEESE AND FRUIT SALAD

1 cup grated cheese
1 orange
2 apples

1 ripe banana
1 *chikoo* (sapota)
¼ kg seedless grapes
2 tsp lemon juice
1 lettuce head

Method

Remove rind and pith from orange. Cube apples, bananas and *chikoo*. Mix all the fruit in a bowl, adding lemon juice. Sprinkle the grated cheese. Arrange the lettuce leaves in another bowl. Transfer the fruit on the lettuce leaves, and serve.

Chandra Padmanabhan

MEAT PIE

2 cups of sliced meat cooked with 2 tsp of Worcester sauce and salt and pepper to taste.
2 onions, chopped fine
2 tomatoes sliced
2 tbs flour
1 tbs butter
1½ cups breadcrumbs
1 small bunch coriander leaves, chopped fine

Method

Grease a baking dish. Put alternate layers of chopped onions and meat. Sprinkle each layer with flour. Finally arrange the tomato on top. Sprinkle with chopped coriander leaves and breadcrumbs. Dot with butter and bake in a moderate oven for ½ hour, till brown.

Neela Prabhakar

Quizzin' with Ramanan

(Quizmaster V V RAMANAN's questions are from the fortnight of December 1-15, 1993)

1. What portfolio was Rangarajan Kumaramangalam holding when he was dropped from the Cabinet for being critical?
2. December 1st was observed worldwide.....?
3. The 85th and last *Mahamastabhisheka* of the century of which deity was observed at Shravanabelagola from December 2nd onwards?
4. C-DOT has recently developed a two-way satellite earth station 'VSAT' to provide connectivity without telephone wires. Expand 'VSAT'.
5. IM Igor Miladinovic (Yug.) and IWM Nino Kmrtsidze (Geo.) are the new.....?
6. Name the legendary Colombian drug lord who was killed in a gun battle with the authorities on December 3rd?
7. Which public figure has been forced to retire from public life because of the media invading her privacy?
8. Who won beating whom to win the 1992-93 Davis Cup?
9. Which filmstar tops the I.T. defaulters' list among filmstars in the country?
10. According to a poll by Associated Press across six continents, which was the top news story of 1993?
11. Which animal believed to be extinct for nearly a century has been spotted in the Chalakudy River, Kerala?
12. Where was 'Avia India '93', the international airshow, recently held in India?
13. Where did 117 countries, by consensus, approve a world trade treaty?
14. Name the Indian gold medalists at the 10th AITF meet in Manila?
15. "The vaccine is not ready today. The only vaccine we have is the condom. The other protection is to do nothing — watch TV." Who made this statement about AIDS recently?
16. What remedy has the Parsi Panchayat found to stem the steady decline in the Parsi population?
17. Vadodara, Gujarat, recently recorded a rare mammoth Hindu ritual. What ritual?
18. In what social activity did Tamil Nadu top the list in the country for the seventh consecutive year?
19. Who are the recipients of the 1993 National Tansen Samman?
20. What new light does Memphis lawyer Lewis Garrison claim to throw on the Martin Luther King Jr. assassination?

(Answers on P. 8)

Sponsorship, not crowds

The season is on... the silks are out and music is in the air... Two, organisations have even printed the entire festival programme. 'Aynthu Karangal', a group of five friends, has offered, free of charge, a little booklet on the music concerts during the season. There is also the large planner printed by Raaga, the herbal shampoo people. But both are not complete... one does not have dance, the other does not have all the *Sabbas*.

But the public do not appear to be keen about the fare; only a handful of artists are drawing a crowd. Most halls are going not even quarter-full, yet more and more programmes are being offered. Organisations, however, do not seem to be worrying too much about the attendance, having as they do sponsorships for every programme.

There is, however, one man who is attracting huge crowds and that is Swami Haridas Giri at the Narada Gana Sabha, where he has been giving musical discourses. The conservative crowds there have been enraptured. Whoever said religious mythology is not relevant to our times?

Ordinary feelings

The Natya Kala Conference at the Krishna Gana Sabha has been lacklustre this season. Most of the demonstrations have been arranged in the last minute and many of them have not been prepared well.

Shovana Narayan, a Kathak dancer, was a newcomer at the conference. Her speech was so affected that it was off-putting. The *Abhinaya* pieces



Shantala Shivalingappa

captured on stage by C P SATYAJIT she did were not very intense, but I agree with her that the emotions described in the poetry that is in vogue in the traditional dance repertoire are certainly contemporary.

The poems describe feelings of jealousy, anger, hurt, sorrow etc., which we feel every day. But, conventionally, the poems only depict the emotions of women. To make their impact lasting, the symbols used may have been the Gods, but the feelings are very human. Dancers always have the freedom to choose whatever poetry they wish to dance to. The smart dancers discard the poems that talk about the sublimating aspects of the eternal woman waiting for her lord. (Many of these songs having been

written by men; could it have been mere wishful thinking?).

Disturbing scenes

Shovana Narayan also depicted Draupadi's disrobing in contemporary terms: as the destroying of natural resources. I do not know what men who watch this particular episode feel about it, but Draupadi Vastraharan always gives me the creeps. As a woman, I cannot sit there and watch a scene the focus of which is the giving of aesthetic pleasure to the audience through the agony of a woman. Krishna may have saved her honour by sending forth yards of sarees, but whose honour was it anyway? Was it Draupadi's or the honour of the men who attempted to show their might against an unnamed person? Would she have lost her honour even if they had succeeded in disrobing her? Was it not the honour of Dushashana and the Kauravas and Pandavas that was saved that day? These are questions that keep coming to my mind when I see the episode depicted again and again.

The other story that disturbs me is that of Valli, the daughter of the mountain chief who is forced to agree to marry a lecherous old man, even if he is Murugan himself in disguise. The story of the victimisation of the young girl who is teased makes me shudder each time I see it. And I shuddered again when I saw it performed at the Music Academy. Radha had some interesting ideas in choreography and the music was excellent. The dancers belonging to different *gurus*' schools performed very well. But the story disturbed me.



One of Raghavendra Rao's striking photographs of dancers and musicians in the exhibition *LAYA*, now on at the Sakshi Gallery. This photograph is of Malavikka Sarukkai.

The view from the wings
• by V.R. Devika

Dancer of high calibre

An arangatram of high calibre was that of Shantala held in Kalakshetra. Shantala Shivalingappa is the daughter of Savitri Nair, an alumna of Kalakshetra, and has been brought up in Paris (her father works with UNESCO). Shantala has had experience of theatre since childhood. She has acted in French TV serials, danced with Bejarat and done a play with Peter Brook.

Shantala may appear to be full of energy, but she is also very disciplined. If she keeps on as at present, she will certainly go far.

The photograph accompanying my column was taken by C P Satyajit at her performance. Though it shows a rear view of the dancer, it nevertheless gripped my attention. Don't you think there is dance in her body and in the picture? Two art forms captured in one shot!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Till January 8th: A photographic tribute to the greats of Carnatic Music and Bharatha Natyam by Raghavendra Rao, eminent photo-journalist. The exhibition titled 'Laya' features exquisite black and white photographs of great Carnatic musicians and Bharatha Natyam exponents, capturing different moods of the maestros. The exhibition is being held in Madras as part of the ongoing Music Festival season (At Sakshi Gallery).

January 7 and 8: The 10th National Convention of the Indian Institute of Architects will have as its theme "Architect and the urban future in the context of the Indian city". The Conference is being hosted by the Tamil Nadu Chapter of the Indian Institute of Architects. Sub-Themes will be A. *Anatomy of Cities*: Study of Cities: Large cities, medium and small towns. B. *Cityscape*: Urban Form — Continuity and change; Cityscape as a hybrid of architecture. C. *Historic Issues*: Preservation; Conservation. D. *Environmental Issues*. And E. *Future of Indian Cities*. At Kalaignar Thirumana Mandapam, Anna Arivalayam, Anna Salai, Madras 600 018.

Hands, Knees and Booms-a-Daisy

The setting could not have been better for a fun-filled evening. More children than adults, more women than men, and men enthusiastic enough to be children. They'd all come to enjoy Issy Sanderson's "new interpretation" of *Alladin* and the *Magic Lamp* at the quaint Museum Theatre in Egmore.

After the customary sounding of the bell three times, Sanderson herself came on stage, dressed in flamboyant grass-green, and exhorted the audience to participate in the show. But even she would not have bargained for the response that was to follow — "NO!" cried the audience when bosomy Widow Twankey (played with much gusto by Deesh Mariwala) thought aloud, "I've kept up my figure". And the kids loved it when Wishee Washee, employed at Twankey's laundry (a role essayed effectively by Prakash Kadaksham) put on goggles and set off to do "a bit of detective work".

The story line never really had anyone on seat's edge, but the relaxed ambience and innocently charming presentation by the cast captivated all. The

"new interpretation" had Laxmi (Mano and Parthi) the cow gambling around, as someone tried to get at her udder in an effort to get milk in time for tea; Dino and Dina (Tara and Shanta) were two dinosaurs in green who kept flitting in and out; Renee, a nubile genie in sensuous red, was too busy catching up with her computer work to do anything else; and, of course, there was Cherry Blossom (Kaveri Bharath) who brought the shine in *Alladin*'s life. There were also four genies to add to the rush, and they left their mark by banging their legs on stage as if there would be no tomorrow. Ariel Hahn as the toy doll stole everyone's heart. And Phil Brown, as the wicked Abenazer, literally lived the role and left a lasting impression.

Right from the start, when the Fairy Queen (Sanjanthi Velu), in bright yellow, whirled around with a song on her lips, the stage was a riot of colour and a fantasy of costumes designed with flair. It was perhaps much easier this way, to transport those present to a world of make-believe. In fact, participation became almost automatic — and

you could sense it in the peals of laughter that bounced off the theatre walls when Wishee Washee was told to "pump sense into the head", and when NGO was referred to as the No-Go Organisation.

Then, of course, there was the music of Handel Manuel and Aaron Rebeiro and some infectious songs, like

"When the clock strikes four,

Everything stops for tea".... and, perhaps, the most lingering one of all, 'Hands, Knees and Booms-a-Daisy', which the elders in the audience greeted with more excitement than the kids.

It was, indeed, a joyous world of fantasy that Sanderson created and it was a reluctant audience that came out of the pantomime presented by the Association of British Council Scholars of South India and the Madras Philharmonic and Choral Society. What a delightfully different world this was from Santa Barbara and MTV! Pity we don't have more pantomime in Madras.

— Sasi Nair

— V. Jagannathan

Dominating the Turf in Madras

M.A.M. Ramaswamy — popularly called MAM — may soon come to be hailed MMT — Monarch of the Madras Turf. He has, indeed, been a virtual monarch ever since he entered the owners' list along with his late elder brother, M.A.M. Muthiah, way back in 1966, when they led in the South India Oaks winner, Select. But never before had his famed colours — gold, brown belt and cap — been carried to so many victories in so short a period as in the first quarter of the current Madras season. The fact that Robert Foley, solely in charge of MAM's establishment, is miles ahead of the rest in the trainers list, with 35 wins against a beggarly five by second-placed Mandanna, underscores his colours' domination.

MAM's Chettinad stud, with several foreign stallions on duty, has thrown out such promising juveniles that they have won all but one of the two-year-olds' races run so far. MAM has also bagged most of the big prizes, barring the Guindy Gold Cup, and made a most promising start to his Classics campaign by leading in the winners of the two Classics run so far, the S.I. 1000 Guineas and 2000 Guineas.

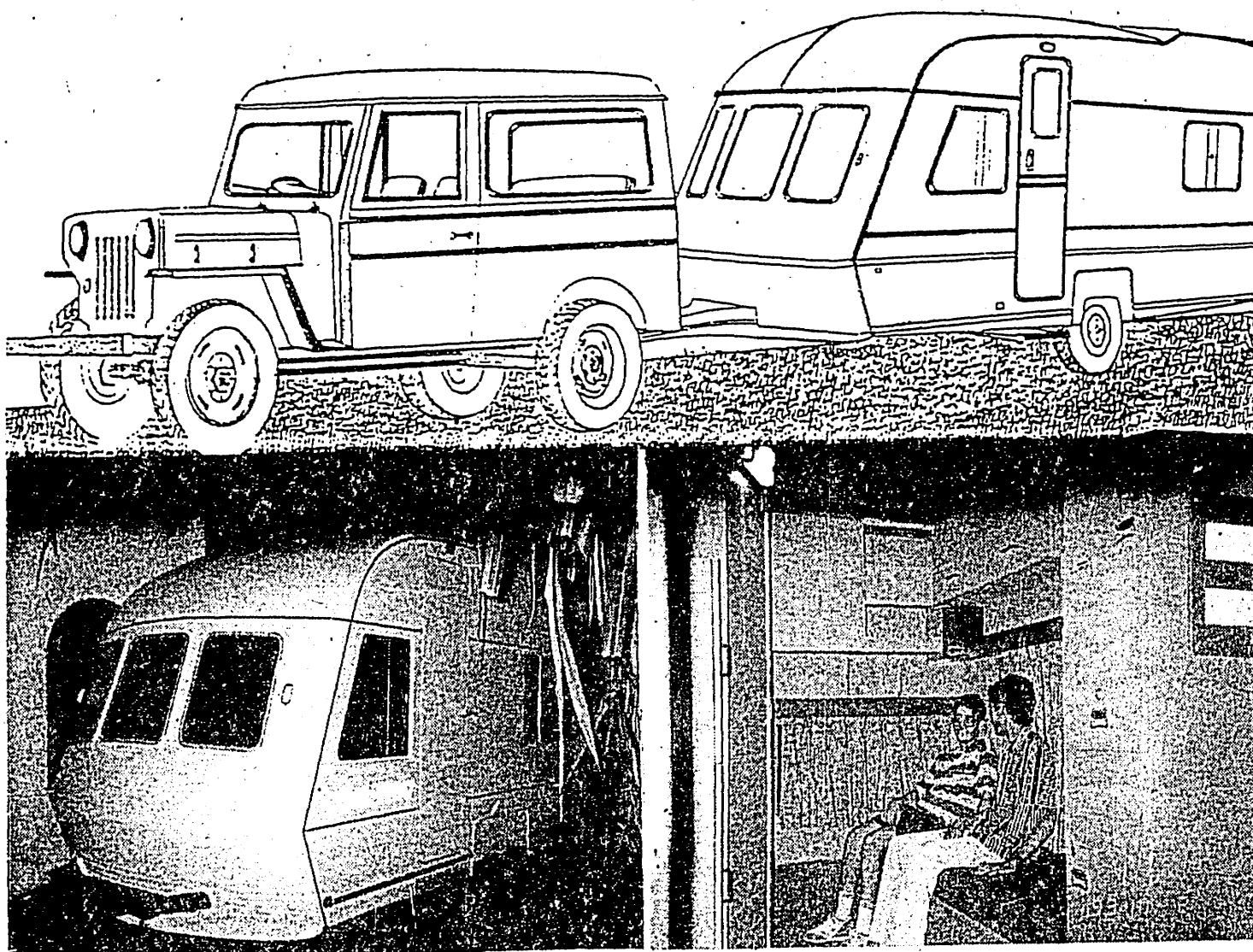
Oddly enough, he got his double with his Bangalore-based runners, Splendid Role (1000) and Generous Pattern. But what is in store for him in the remaining Classics only the next

couple of months can tell, for Bangalore champion Rashid Byramji, in charge of liquor baron Vijay Malliya's horses, is expected to race his best in both the Derby and the St. Leger, and will, of course, have the assistance of the ace horseman, Pesi Shroff, who steered Imposing to a runaway victory in the Guindy Gold Cup.

Incidentally, thanks to the drive and imagination of the Department of Racing, the Madras Classics were, for

by
AJAX

the first time, sponsored this year. Fittingly enough, *The Hindu* which gives racing a bigger coverage than any other Indian daily or journal, set the pattern by sponsoring the 1000 Guineas. Sans Craintes followed suit by sponsoring the 2000. This was the most welcome feature of the 1993-94 season, for never before has the Madras turf been in greater need of a strong, sustained effort to make it more popular than now, rather, help it regain its former popularity. The six-figure jackpot pool, for instance, seems to have become a thing of the past. The Rs. 10,000/- odd pool has become the order, which underscores the nosedive the Madras turf has taken.



Exterior and interior views of the Madras-made caravan.

The caravan comes to Madras

(by A Staff Reporter)

Some weeks back, *The Man from Madras Musings* wrote of a tour-operator in Bangalore who had developed a caravan and was offering caravan tours in the South. Now, a Madras company is offering potential buyers the opportunity to "experience the freedom of caravan living".

The 1.5-ton caravan-trailer developed in Madras has sleeping accommodation for four, a kitchenette with electric stove and sink, a spacious toilet cubicle with shower arrangements, facilities to store 100 litres of water and storage compartments for food and clothing.

The pictures show the exterior of the TRAIL-INN, which claims to be the first of its kind in India, and one of its sleeping areas with the double-bed converted into a couch for day use.

Hitting the road on holiday may soon be part of Indian life, if the manufacturers of the TRAIL-INN successfully market their product.

DILEMMA

(Continued from P5)

operation actually took place. In spite of the best care, a normally skilled doctor may take, mishaps can occur. What the uncodified law demands of him is that he should not lack the competence required of a reasonable practitioner of his profession. Circumstances in actual practice may be so varied and complex that it would take considerable deliberation by an expert panel to decide on the negligence involved in individual allegations — certainly not a matter to be dealt with by a trade disputes tribunal following a summary procedure.

(To be concluded next fortnight)

An eight-year-old dream comes true

The Madras City Corporation has to wake up. Otherwise, its little-used, almost forgotten indoor stadium, within a stone's-throw of the fabulous Rs. 42-crore Nehru football-cum-athletics stadium in Peoples Park, will be a disgrace to the municipal body and die a natural death. Its antediluvian status has been exposed by the emer-

no less than eight years for its dream to come true tells its own tale of the vicissitudes it passed through before it achieved its goal.

Awards and income

In tune with the colourful opening ceremony was the TNBA's gesture to present each member of the Tamil Nadu team that won the National Championship last year a cash award of Rs. 10,000/-.

Perhaps the only discordant note in all this is the TNBA's decision to charge any Association or private body conducting a tournament at the stadium a daily rent of Rs. 5,000. Isn't that a bit steep?

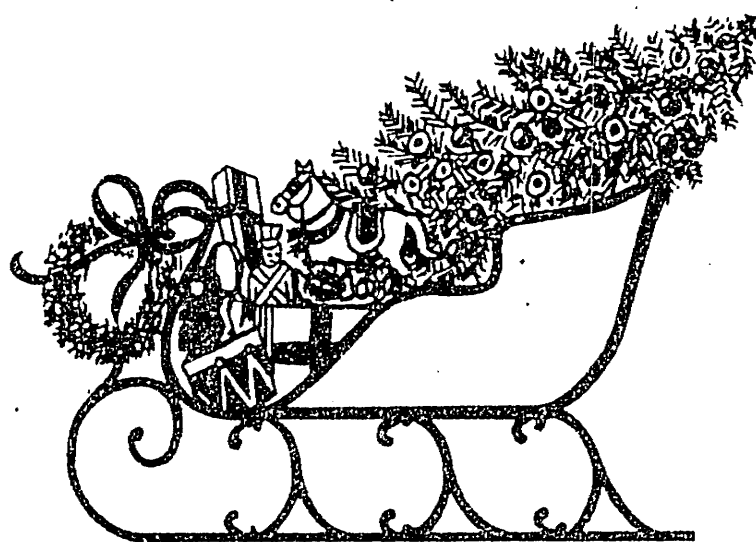
by
JAICI

gence of the Tamil Nadu Basketball Association's modern Rs. 1.5 crore indoor stadium at Kilpauk Garden, which the Tamil Nadu Education Minister, Prof. K. Ponnuswamy, inaugurated the other day, and which has the equipment to revolutionise indoor sport in the city.

The TNBA and its office-bearers, particularly its patron, V.N. Dyneswaran, a former Tamil Nadu and India basketball player, have indeed done the city proud by building a stadium with all facilities to conduct national as well as international championships, not only in basketball but in badminton, billiards, boxing, carrom, chess, gymnastics, table tennis, wrestling and weightlifting as well. It is a fitting testimonial to the TNBA's drive, enthusiasm and salesmanship, which helped it obtain not only grants from both the Central and State Governments but also handsome donations from the sports-loving fraternity. The fact that it took the TNBA

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Union Minister of State for Science and Technology and Parliamentary Affairs;
2. World AIDS Day;
3. Lord Bahubali or Gomateswara;
4. Very Small Aperture Terminals;
5. World Junior Chess Champions in the Boys and Girls groups respectively;
6. Pablo Escobar;
7. Princess Diana;
8. Germany beat Australia at Dusseldorf;
9. Amitabh Bachchan, with Rs. 3.27 crores;
10. Israel-PLO peace accord;
11. *Asterocypis Papyracea*;
12. Air Force station, Yelahanka, Bangalore;
13. Geneva;
14. Bahadur Prasad (5000 M) and Ajit Bhaduria (Discus);
15. Dr Jean Claude Chermann, co-discoverer of the AIDS virus;
16. They have agreed to bear the cost of a Parsi couple's third child upto age 18;
17. The Aswamedha Yagna;
18. In flag day collections (December 7th);
19. Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar and Pandit S. Bhatt;
20. He claims King was killed by a hired gunman and James Earl Ray is innocent.



Seasons Greetings
and
Every good wish
for the
Coming Year

From all of us at

The Sindoori Hotel

24, Greams Lane, Greams Road, Madras-600 006.
Phone: 8271164