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Vol. III. No. 24

FREE ISSUE — EVERY FORTNIGHT

April 1 — 15, 1994

Safest city
in India?

The figures for 1993 are not in, so whether it is still true is not known. But going by the 1992 figures, Madras is the safest city in India, if you're prepared to accept that a few extra murders shouldn't be allowed to come between friends and spoil such a record.

Amongst the eight biggest cities in India (populations in millions within brackets): Bombay (12.6), Calcutta (10.9), Delhi (8.4), Madras (5.4), Hyderabad (4.3), Bangalore (4.1), Ahmadabad (3.3)

(By A Staff Reporter)

and Kanpur (2.1) — Madras had the least rapes (17), molestations (just 1), riots (174), robberies (116) and dacoities (4). In major crime, it was in murder alone that Madras had a worse record than any other city. Calcutta had 19 less murders than Madras's 102.

Even analysing these figures on the basis of crimes per million population, Madras is way ahead in having the least amount of crime — except murder. Startlingly, in murders per million

population, it is Kanpur (third in absolute numbers) that is by far the worst city, recording about 131 per million! What a contrast to Calcutta's 8, Madras's 19, Hyderabad's 33, Bombay and Bangalore's 39, Ahmadabad's 46 and Delhi's 62.

Delhi, however, is the crime capital of the country, looked at any which way. It led with 524 murders, 276 rapes and 226 molestations!

With its crime graph showing a declining trend, Madras recorded the least number of offences (about 10,000) and the least crimes against women. But while on a per million analysis Calcutta (total: about 14,000) offences has a better crime-free record, its once-proud record of women's safety has taken some smearing.

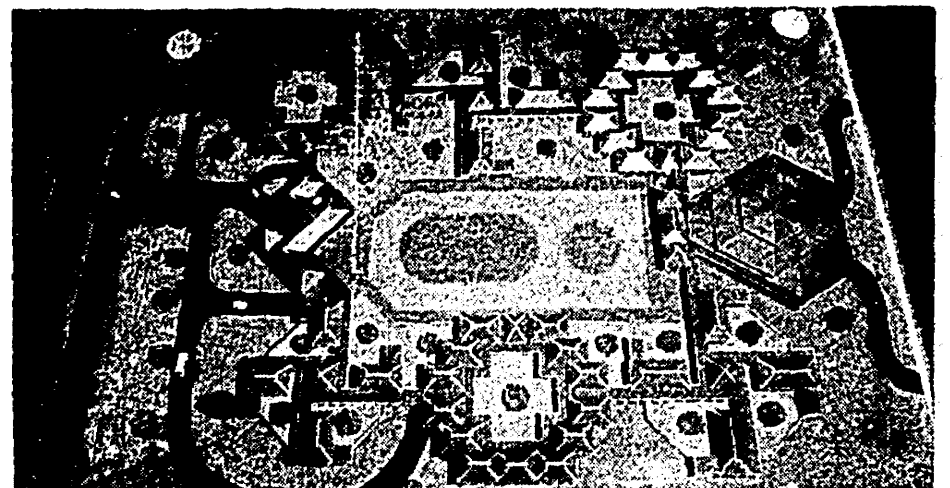
Madras too busy,
so fly in Pondy

The Madras-based Hindustan Institute of Engineering Technology will soon operate a flying school in Pondicherry. The Orient Flight School, as it is named, was scheduled to acquire four Cessnas and one helicopter by the end of March.

The school authorities foresee a tremendous demand in the coming years and plan to admit 20-30 students for training every year for Private Pilot Licences (PPL) and Commercial Pilot Licences (CPL). A student will have to spend about Rs. 1.8 lakhs and Rs. 5.6 lakhs respectively for training for his/her PPL and CPL.

But why Pondicherry, when the Madras International Airport, soon to become India's model airport, is available? "Precisely because of that! The increase in air traffic in Madras will seriously hinder our training programme," says a school official.

With the Madras Flying Club more or less grounded, the prospects for the Orient Flight School seem very bright. Incidentally, its bankers, the Madras-based Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd, are the first bank in the country, apart from the State Bank of India, to finance the purchase of aircraft. — V.J.



The splendid Laurie Baker design for the SRF Vidyalaya, construction work on which has just started at Manali after the inauguration by Dr Bharat Ram.

A contribution
to society

(By A Staff Reporter)

Industrial Manali, the bustling North Madras township in search of a good school, has had its prayers answered. SRF Vidyalaya, the outcome of a study done a few years ago by SRF Limited, was started in July 1991 and, today, has classes upto Std. IV. One class will be added every year. Dr Vatsala Narayanaswamy, the Consultant, says the school has a curriculum stressing innovation and activity orientation. But besides its quality of education, the school will soon have another distinguishing feature, the aesthetic design and construction of its new buildings. The campus and buildings will be based on a Laurie Baker architectural design and sited in an eight acre plot.

Work on the complex was recently inaugurated at a function attended by the Chief Executives of neighbouring industries, parents and children. Dr Bharat Ram, Chairman of SRF, said on the occasion, "We have always felt that if the private sector existed only to make profits without contributing

anything to society, then it has no right to exist". He stated that this tradition of social responsibility started with his father Lala Shriram and that they have all followed in his footsteps. He observed that "one of the most important needs for the development of a nation is education. Our own Gurus used to teach under the trees. So it is the quality of teaching that is more important than a building." He also emphasised that while schools prepare children for examinations, a necessary part of one's life, it is character-building that's more important.

Arun Bharat Ram, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, added that industry has a social responsibility and said, "It is part of our family's and organisation's value system to give back to society whatever we can and in whatever way we can. The best way that we have found is to be able to provide a good education for young people who may or may not get this opportunity".

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979

A Sheriff who plans to keep busy

'The People's Sheriff' is the description Dr K Chockalingam (49) wants to earn during his tenure as Sheriff of Madras. Despite being a professional and Managing Director of a corporate hospital, the 269th Sheriff of Madras wants his sherifdom to be better known than his other activities.

He plans to devote sufficient time to his functions as Sheriff and to do justice to the office he holds. "I am not merely decorative; that's not the real idea behind the Sheriff's post," he says and explains that "a Sheriff's duty is to interact with the citizens and voice their concern to the authorities".

Citing his counterparts in Bombay and Calcutta, Dr Chockalingam remarks, "They have substantial powers and a voice in the administ-



Dr. K. Chockalingam, Sheriff of Madras

ration. That is not so in Madras". So he wants to restore at least a part of the past glory to the Sheriff's office.

Stressing the importance of his office, Dr Chockalingam cited the dinner hosted by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister in his honour soon after he was sworn in. "The Chief Minister introduced me — the Sheriff — to all the Ministers in her Cabinet. And that shows the importance

which she assigns to the Sheriff's office," he proudly said. He also emphasised that the Sheriff should be consulted while nominating persons for various civic panels.

Sheriff Chockalingam intends to meet the people at least once a week to hear their grievances. Meanwhile, he sends the petitions addressed to him to the concerned departments with his views. "I also ask the officials on what follow-up action they've taken on such petitions," he disclosed. He urges officials to take his letters seriously, for "I won't hesitate to take up any matter with higher authority", he adds.

The conviction which Dr Chockalingam has that a Sheriff has a greater role to play in Madras was evident when his

(Continued on P3)

A Government or a Public Servant?

'Twas out of the mouth of very babes and sucklings! Even if that be quoted out of context — a proviso *The Man From Madras Musings* makes lest his friend Krishnan sends him a chit! — it was verily from out of the mouths of babes that there emerged the question that, dealing as it does with certain basic issues, gives rise to this para.

MMM gets himself into the oddest pickles and this time it was to deliver a guest lecture on civics to a group of pre-teens. After referring to Government Servants often enough during the pretty informal talk, MMM was stopped by the question: "Do you mean Government Servant or Public Servant?"

Now there's a poser for all you readers. As for MMM, I would imagine, he had ponderously answered, that all Govern-

ment Servants are Public Servants but not all Public Servants are Government Servants. All Government Servants are Public Servants because they are paid by the Public, though employed by the Government. The Public hope that Public Servants will serve them, but most Government Servants seem to feel that they should serve the Government, seldom if ever considering public interest. As for those Public Servants who are not Government Servants, they invariably belong to organisations associated with the Government — Municipalities, Railways, Government-owned business organisations etc — but, even in such posts, few of them feel it is their duty to serve the Public; most feel they owe their loyalty to the Government in power, not the Public.

Now, MMM is not sure whether that was the best way to answer the young ones, but the invitation to talk to them had come soon after he had met a Government Servant who had, throughout an hour-long conversation, kept insisting he was a Government Servant and saw his duty as only carrying out the orders of the Government, no matter how the Public felt about any issue in question.

Tamil studies

There are few better Centres for South Asian Studies than the University of California's in Berkeley. Established in 1973, it offers degrees in Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil and South Asian Civilisations.

Three years ago, the Centre got down to raising funds to endow a Chair in Indian Studies and so overwhelming was the response of the Indo-American community that the Chair is now called The Indo-American Community Chair in Indian Studies. Now it has launched a campaign to collect funds for a Chair of Tamil Studies.

\$400,000 is the target, and almost half of that was been collected in the past year from people who, *The Man From Madras Musings* was amused to find, are called 'Tamil-Americans'. These include Indian Tamils, Sri Lankan Tamils, Malaysian Tamils and South African and Mauritian Tamils, who are all quicker to contribute to Chairs in America than to anything in India which doesn't have something for them.

Yes or No?

Will space scientist Abdul Kalam accept an offer to be the Vice-Chancellor of his own university?

The word is that he is rather keen to do so, if asked after his retirement. But apparently Prime Minister Narasimha Rao is equally keen to retain him as his Space Science Adviser.

The Man From Madras Musings understands that Cho Ramaswamy was at his persuasive best — after getting Kalam's consent to put forward his name — and succeeded in getting what was tantamount to a unanimous 'Yes' to the name from the committee named by Governor Channa Reddy to identify a Vice-Chancellor for Madras University. But *The Man From Madras Musings* also understands that there are those in university circles who have not exactly welcomed the nomination.

A fear of greater discipline, an upgrading of standards, getting the staff to put in a greater educational effort have all been mentioned as possible reasons for the fears of those not exactly enthused over space scientist Kalam. But the reason being spelt out loudest is that he does not have an academic doctorate. Curiously, those making the most enthusiastic noises about honorary doctorates have suddenly discovered a new importance for academic doctorates. Even more curious is the fact that few of these Doubting Thomases seem to realise that there is no academic in Tamil Nadu, with or without doctorates, who has achieved more in science or contributed more to Indian scientific achievement

than Mr Kalam. Genius does not require academic honours.

The Man From Madras Musings hopes that Kalam will indeed arrive in Madras later this year as Vice-Chancellor of a hallowed institution whose tarnished name needs much brightening and that he will also make himself available to the Prime Minister as one of his Scientific Advisers.

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

In Brief

★ *The Hindu Business Line* not only comes from a house renowned for its printing, but also has several family members of the Board who are amongst the leading printing experts in the country. Which is why *The Man From Madras Musings* was shocked to read, in what was an apology for cluttering up the city's walls with posters, this paragraph: "The legislation instantly threw nearly 2000 people out of jobs with the poster printing presses going out of business. Many of the units had specialised machinery for printing posters that could not be put to any other use." While sympathising with those thrown out of jobs — or is it business? — MMM is most curious to know what these specialised machines are? He's usually seen posters printed on those same machines textbooks and handbills are printed on. With its background of hitech printing, any journal in *The Hindu* family should hang its head in shame allowing itself to be taken for a ride in such fashion!

★ There have, apparently, been some threats to demolish some churches in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. Apparently a

famed church in Pondicherry had been vandalized. And the Velankanni Church, to which believers from all faiths flock, has been threatened. What *The Man From Madras Musings* finds curious is that he had to find out all about this from Delhi. It was only after reports of questions in Parliament had appeared in the Madras press, together with Central assurance that an "Ayodhya-type situation will not be allowed in Tamil Nadu", that people in the state — and MMM — caught up with the news. Perhaps that's adequate commentary on much that was NOT discussed at recent journalists' workshop.

The church in question is the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, which the Hindu Munnani claims was built on the site of the Vedapuri Iswarar Temple destroyed by the French in 1748.

MMM

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OUR READERS WRITE

Fishy business

The Corporation of Madras, on the advice of the FAO's Bay of Bengal Programme, built a modern fish market in 1990 in Besant Nagar to satisfy the requirements of the fish vendors of the Elliot's Beach area. Built at a cost of Rs. 4.5 lakhs near the Bus Terminus, this well-planned market has 80 stalls. But only 40 stalls are occupied — by the Urru Olcott Kuppam fisherwomen.

The efforts of the Corporation to let out the other 40 stalls have proved in vain. The Odai Kuppam fish vendors, who were meant to rent these stalls, prefer the high road even after the Corporation bifurcated the fish market with a partition wall and a separate gate to avoid local friction.

The Odai Kuppam fisherwomen had earlier given a written assurance that they would shift to the fish market once it was established, but now they are refusing to move to this market place, despite a court order instructing the Corporation to work out a viable scheme.

Till such a settlement is worked out, the 40 fisherwomen of the Odai Kuppam hamlet will continue to sell fish on the roadside at VII Avenue, in Besant Nagar. The fish is sold in an unhygienic manner and the encroachment is a traffic hazard and hindrance to the free flow of traffic on a busy and crowded bus route. People are forced to walk on the road and, not long ago, a fatal road accident had taken place here.

The High Court's instructions were: "The Madras Corporation is directed to solve the problem in a fair and equitable manner. It is not enough to direct the petitioners (vendors) to move into the newly built fish market. The Corporation authorities are directed to look into the realities of the issue and to formulate a scheme taking into account the relationship between the various Kuppam people, to satisfy all quarters without causing any traffic hindrance or health hazard to the residents of the locality".

M.S. Balakrishna

Secretary
Besant Nagar Residents Forum
M 65/2 Seventh Avenue,
Madras 600 010.

Editor's Note: Perhaps there is need for a Solomon to deliver judgement again on how the first order should be implemented.

Problems earlier too

It appears that the problems of Madras, highlighted in MM, go back quite a way. The *Golden Oriole* by Raleigh Trevelyan describes the arrival in Madras of Sir Charles Trevelyan — Governor 1859-60: "Charles at once applied himself to the two things on which he was a past if not notorious expert: the eradication of inefficiency and patronage. Within four days of his arrival he had produced a Minute on the former. There were also instant sackings... (he) had come down on them (the inefficient) like a hawk on a flock of pigeons... The other three most pressing matters at Madras, he decided, were water supplies, sanitation and sewage".

There are differences now, of course. There are no sackings now, either instant



The clean, airy Besant Nagar fish market that still has 40 stalls vacant. This Corporation market was built on the advice of the FAO-Bay of Bengal Programme. The fish 'market' on Seventh Avenue, Besant Nagar, still popular with the public despite the unsanitary conditions. Its roadside convenience, being near a bus-stop, is a major attraction. (Photographs by V S RAGHAVAN).

Will it continue to be the mixture as before?

The broad conclusion arrived at after watching the proceedings of the Tamil Nadu Assembly, which began its sittings on March 15th, is that it was the mixture as before. Shoutings, assault, walk-outs, eviction and just a little calm in-between were all there. Disinterested observers are now beginning to wonder whether there will be anything different in the fevered weeks ahead.

Belying all expectations, there was calm on the first day, when the Governor, Dr. Channa Reddy, addressed the session. Both the Governor and Chief Minister Jayalalitha, who have been avoiding each other these past few weeks, avoided eye-contact this time. But there was no disregard of convention or political propriety. This politeness, however, was only the calm before the storm.

A 30-minute show-stopping performance came during Zero Hour when former Minister and expelled AIADMK member G. Viswanathan was allegedly pushed by independent member R. Tamaraikanni, as the former joined several Congress (I) members to raise an issue. Protests from the Congress (I) were swift and two of them who rushed towards the gestulating duo were pulled up by Speaker R. Muthiah and subsequently evicted. The first Congress (I) walk-out of the day, and the session itself, followed on.

As for the construction of a memorial for Dr Ambedkar in Adyar, the Sheriff favours abiding by the High Court judgement.

The new Sheriff hopes that "the days of the friendly neighbourhood policeman, who knew the people living in his locality, would return". He also feels residents' associations could form security squads for their localities.

When this correspondent recalled the Madras Corporation's drive to dismantle nameboards, lights etc in shops jutting into the pavements ten years ago, the Sheriff remarked, "Even now, the Corporation authorities are empowered to take such action". The Sheriff is in favour of levying a fee on people who use the pavements/roads to dump construction material.

Will not his active public life to redress the people's grievances interfere with the duties of an MLA/MP? The new Sheriff smiled, "If my work reminds an MLA/MP of his/her duties, then I am happy". He agrees that the Sheriff's office is now being taken note of by everyone. "Everybody should say the Sheriff is busy and does a lot of work. Only then will people listen to him," he remarked.

— V JAGANNATHAN

The View from Fort St. George by R.K.K.

happen to be former Ministers too — K Rajaram, G Viswanathan and Alagu Tirunavukkarasu. Opposition leader Balasubramanian wanted them to be seated in the front row. When he quoted Kaul and Shaker to point out that individual seniority of members should be the criterion for seating arrangements, Chief Minister Jayalalitha intervened to say it was only recommendatory and not mandatory.

Speaker Muthiah said the three had written to him seeking recognition as the 'MGR Manrams Legislature Group'. But the rules did not allow this. Co-operation Minister C P Paltabharman said that the three had attracted the provisions of the anti-defection law and, hence, they should be disqualified as members. The Speaker said if there were representations in this regard, he would look into it.

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All are welcome

About the lecture

Within the general context of the representation of Indian literature in the West, the question of the translation of the "voice" has a primary importance. Despite their historical connection as fellow-members of the Indo-European family tree, (North) Indian languages and English have developed under such different cultural circumstances that the literary norms of one are often quite alien in spirit to the other. Since translation necessarily involves interpretation, there is infinite scope for the manipulation of the original in retelling (or re-telling) it to a Western audience.

Dr Snell will, in the lecture, look at some of the choices that have been made in this process, and ask to what extent it is necessary, possible or desirable for the translator to adjust his idiom in order to make a text accessible to a new readership.

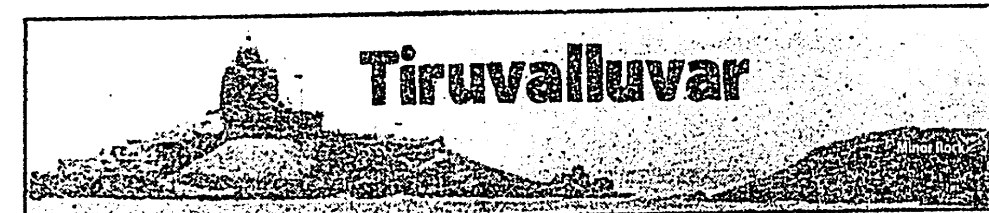
THE OLD...

...& THE NEW

This fortnight's OLD and NEW adopts yet another format. THE OLD features one of the most striking modern landmarks in the city, which, despite the blessings of Mother Teresa and MGR, is kept in such a sorry state that it is fast becoming a disgrace to Madras. V S RAGHAVAN's photographs of its sad neglect are accompanied by an appeal by HIRAMALINI SESHADRI and your Editor's request that Dr Chockalingam, who is

determined to be a "people's Sheriff", ensures the upkeep of Valluvar Kottam and reminds all concerned that the city is not only SOME of the people but ALL the people. THE NEW, on the other hand, written about here, is yet another memorial to Saint Thiruvalluvar — like Valluvar Kottam. Only, it is coming up at Land's End — or, as Geoffrey Moorhouse would have it, India's beginning. As it rises from what from afar might seem the very sea, it should serve as a reminder that both the sea and memorials remain over the years, only Man forgets. It is to be hoped, especially as neither Man nor Governments last forever, that the NEW does not suffer the same fate of the OLD.

Remembering a saint — & the stonecarver's art



The Vivekananda Rock and the nearer-to-shore Minor Rock on which the giant Thiruvalluvar statue will come up

(By A Special Correspondent)

The sea off Kanniyakumari, the southernmost tip of India, has, for some reason, always inspired grand creative gestures. Work on the latest is underway and when it comes up on Minor Rock just a short distance from the Vivekananda Memorial, it will be a mind-boggling 133-foot tall stone memorial to the Tamil poet-sage Thiruvalluvar. At that height, the giant statue will be much taller than the Taj Mahal and will rival the Statue of Liberty in the USA.



A model of the Thiruvalluvar statue to be erected at Kanniyakumari

Commissioned by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Rs. 350 crore project is to be completed in 1995. A team of 200 of South India's best stone workers, headed by famed Tamil sculptor V Ganapathi Sthapathi (who got the project in a four-way design competition set by the State Government in 1990) is at work at three sites — Kanniyakumari, Ambasamudram

and Sholanganallur — to complete the statue and its pedestal.

Ganapathi Sthapathi is used to working on a massive scale — in 1976, he designed and erected Valluvar Kottam in Madras, a memorial to Thiruvalluvar, with a massive stone chariot. A few years ago he erected a

giant statue of Buddha in Bihar. Now comes his biggest challenge.

The Thiruvalluvar statue project is not a new one. It was proposed in the 1970s by Eknath Ranade who was instrumental in erecting the Vivekananda Memorial. A plan for the statue project was given the then DMK government. The plan, scrutinised by successive AIADMK governments, was finally approved when the DMK government came to power again. Construction then began, and is now being pushed forward by Chief Minister Jayalalitha.

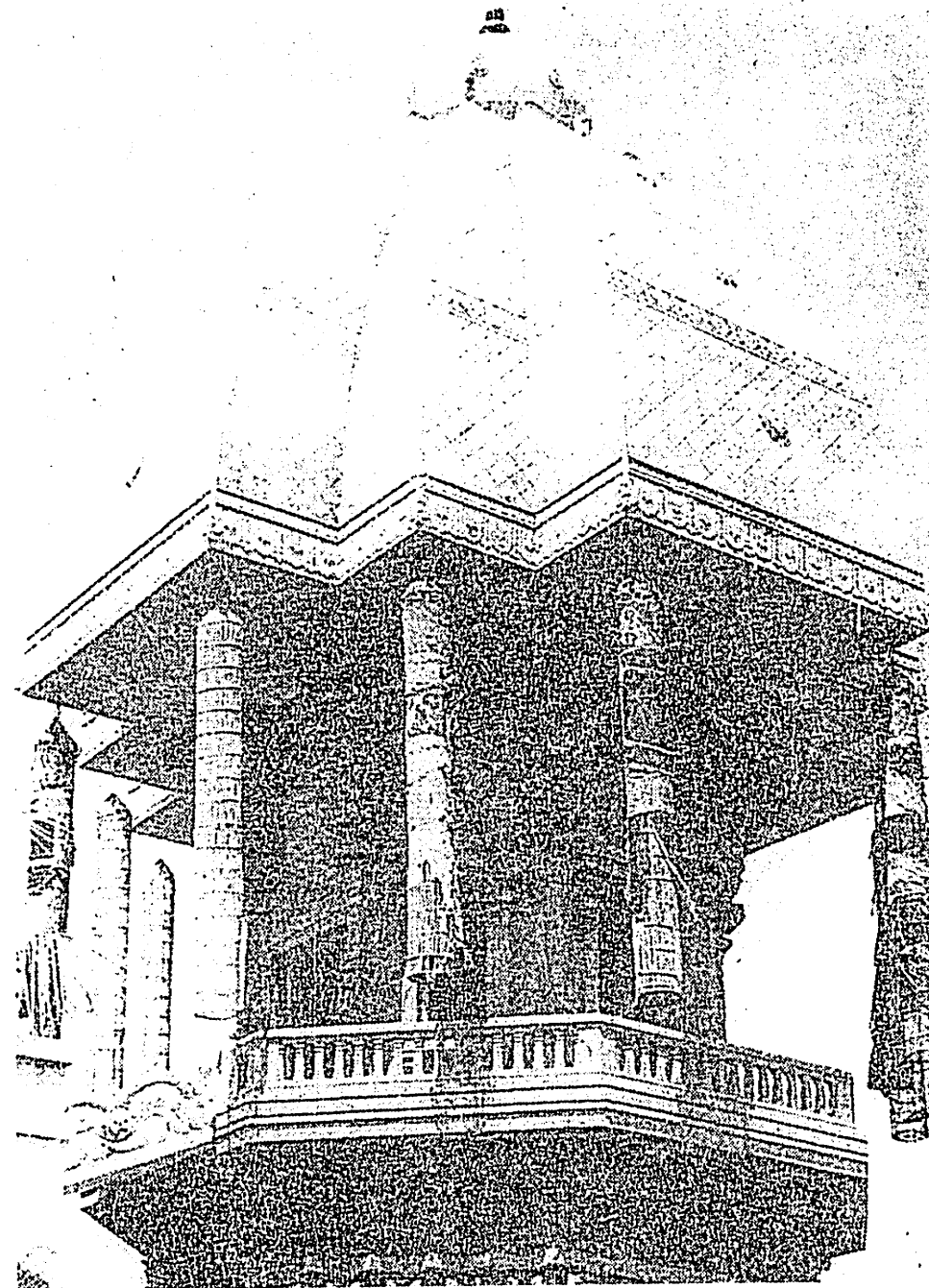
The statue of Thiruvalluvar will have the poet-sage in a standing posture, with his right hand held up, palm outwards and three fingers extended to indicate the three subjects dealt with in the *Thirukkural*, Righteousness, Wealth and Pleasure. The left hand holds a ten-foot long palm leaf manuscript of the *Thirukkural*. The statue is proportioned in the scale considered ideal in Indian sculpture — the body is nine times the length of the face, hair piled on the head is five feet high, half the length of the face. The right leg is flexed lightly to provide a graceful posture.

The Thiruvalluvar monument will comprise a 95-foot statue and a 38-foot pedestal. According to Ganapathi Sthapathi, the pedestal's 38 feet represent the 38 chapters on *dharma* (righteousness) in the *Thirukkural*, while the statue represents the 95 chapters on *artha* (wealth) and *kama* (pleasure). Wealth and pleasure will be sought on the solid foundation of righteousness. The pedestal is being carved in Ambasamudram and Kanniyakumari. Work on the statue is being done in Sholanganallur where Ganapathi Sthapathi's brick and mortar replications in Madras, of every stone, are duplicated in granite.

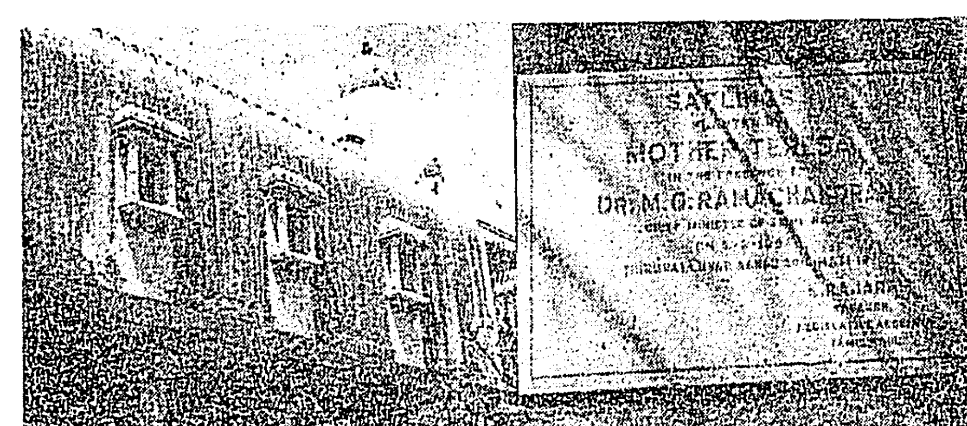
The entire structure is being made of hundreds of individual stones, none of which weighs more than five tons. The statue is hollow inside and an inner staircase will allow access to the eye level of the statue. However, ordinary visitors will not be allowed up to this height. They will have to be content to climb to the top of the pedestal and circumbulate the statue.

Ganapathi Sthapathi intends to have samples of every possible expression of the stonecarver's craft in the structure. Thus, there will be lattices, bells, chains, doors and hinges, all in stone. There will be unique statuary, like stone lions with balls inside their mouths, musical pillars tapping which will produce musical

— (Continued on P5)



The faded ratham and the tattered thoranams (above) of Valluvar Kottam which, in some cases, are down to their skeletons. Below left, the weatherbeaten walls of the memorial and, below right, the plaque that commemorates Mother Teresa's and MGR's blessings.



And a memorial forgotten

I have a question to ask. If the Government cannot properly maintain the structures it builds, why erect them in the first place? Take the Valluvar Kottam, for instance, which was ostensibly built to perpetuate the memory of the great Thiruvalluvar. But so very shabbily do we honour him! The paint and plaster are peeling off in many places; the compound is littered with rubbish; the walls are covered with graffiti and, as if to highlight the state of affairs, the gigantic *thoranams* hanging from the concrete *ratham* are faded, jaded and down to their bamboo skeletons. Thiruvalluvar, watching this from the other world, must be shaking his head in disgust.

How much nicer it would have been if they had developed a beautiful well-maintained garden in his memory instead of wasting lakhs on creating such a concrete monstrosity. The money would have kept the garden going for decades and given employment to so many gardeners; the over-built-up T Nagar-Nungambakkam interface would have got a badly required lung; and the fragrance of a thousand flowers would

have kept alive the bard's memory in a manner that cement and mortar can never match...

Another example of abject neglect is the stretch of buildings on prime land between WCC and the DPI's office on College Road. This includes the Literary Society Library as well. While the buildings themselves are examples of beautiful colonial red sandstone architecture, their state of decay is a reflection of our times. The priceless rosewood doors and windows are grimy; the floors are filthy; layers of dust and cobwebs grace the interiors. Stray dogs, waste paper and unwept dry leaves complete the picture of neglect outside. The Coom side of the compounds is an unofficial urinal-cum-lav. In the afternoons, youngsters gamble at cards under the trees; some office-goers eat their lunches on the verandahs, leaving the floor grubby with left-over rice, *kariveppala*s and so on. What a contrast the well-maintained Shankar Netralaya just across the road and adjacent WCC provide!

(Continued on P5)

"Our life is frittered away by detail... Simplify, simplify."

The Madras Stock Exchange seems to have taken Henry David Thoreau's philosophy to heart and the truth, that the present system of deliveries results in physical cross-deliveries, seems to have dawned on it. Effective March 22nd, it has introduced a concept called 'netting' of deliveries in five scrips.

A simple illustration of a hypothetical case is all we need to get across the concept. Normally, if 'A' broker had sold 10,000 ICICI to 'B' broker, and had purchased 10,000 ICICI from 'C' broker, then 'C' would deliver the documents to 'A', who would, in turn, deliver the same to 'B'. The price differential, or the difference between A's purchase and sale, would be his gain or loss. In 'netting', however, 'A' would not receive any shares for delivery. Unless he specifically asks for delivery, the transaction would be 'netted' out between his purchases and sales.

The five lucky scrips on which MSE is stipulating 'netting of deliveries' every Monday are ICICI, Nagarjuna Fertilisers, L & T, Reliance Industries and UTI Mastergain. In the case of these scrips, brokers will have to indicate to the Exchange, two days prior

Letting in 'Netting'

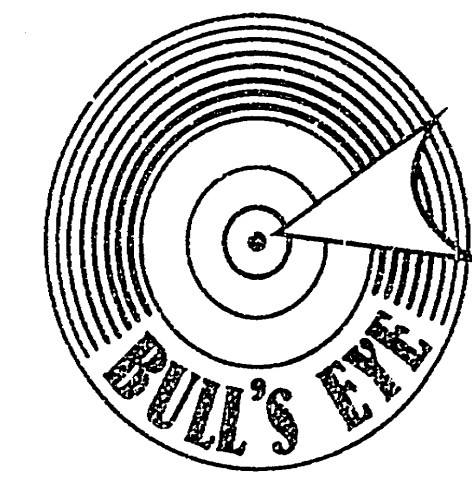
to 'netting', that is, on Saturday, their delivery commitment to clients so that such delivery can be specifically acquired by them and 'netting' can be done on the balance.

Good things, it is said, when short, are twice as good. And delivery, when 'netted', is no exception. It will simplify the delivery procedure for the brokers. During the whole course of a week, clients can buy and sell and take advantage of the difference in prices. If the purchase and sale of a particular scrip is completed in the same week, the chances are that delivery will not be effected, thus enabling clients to merely collect or foot the gains or losses at the end of a transaction.

There is always a perfect way of doing things, be it to even boil an egg. Therefore, for scrips other than the five mentioned above, the delivery will be every Thursday as against twice a week so far. This connotes less burden on the brokers and jobbers, who now have a whole week to effect deliveries. This, too, should add impetus to the volumes in the market. This overhaul

will work hand in hand with a special computer software designed for the purpose.

'Netting', in the five scrips on the MSE, is in the nature of testing the



waters and the facility will obviously be extended to other scrips too, once the experimentation process proves worthwhile. It should prove worthwhile, considering that 'netting' of deliveries at the Coimbatore Stock Exchange, has been going on for quite some time now and is, reportedly, functioning smoothly.

Following are three good buys for the fortnight:

Agro Dutch Foods (CMP: Rs. 20.00): It has set up a 100 per cent EOU to export canned white button mushrooms. The plant has a capacity of 3500 tpa and Agro Dutch has technical and marketing support from Dalem Vociap, Netherlands. Agro Dutch saves a considerable amount on transport, as the raw materials are abundantly available in the Punjab. It achieved a yield of 28 kg/m² in trial runs and hopes to net 30 kg when production stabilises. For 1994-95, it envisages an EPS of Rs. 5.29, based on an yield of 24 kg/m². If able to do better than estimates, an EPS of Rs. 6.50 is likely, which will support Rs. 65 at the time of results. Prices show signs of arresting the downtrend. Buy.

Flower and Tissue India (CMP: Rs. 16.25): Flower and Tissue India Ltd. (FTIL) is a 100 per cent EOU set up at a cost of Rs. 6.10 cr for mass production of plants by tissue culture process. It has a capacity to propagate 7.20 million plants p.a. Though the promoters lack experience in this line, FTIL enjoys the advantage of good

technology as well as an assured market. The collaborator, Cutliss Holland BV, Holland, is Europe's largest producer of plants and produces 104 varieties. It has agreed to lift the entire production for the first three years (renewable later) and will supply the stock material free of cost. IFCI's projections indicate a turnover and PAT of Rs. 0.95 cr and Rs. 0.23 cr respectively for March 1994. These are expected to be Rs. 3.42 cr and Rs. 1.17 cr for March 1995. The EPS for 1994-95, based on this, will be Rs. 2.12. Considering its low import and high export-intensive nature, the scrip holds potential for gains. Prices are moving sideways in a narrow band of Rs. 17 and Rs. 19 after testing the low at Rs. 15. Buy.

Premier Instruments & Controls (CMP: Rs. 134.00): The Company manufactures dashboard instruments and defence instruments. It has performed well in spite of recession in the automobile industry in the recent past. It obtained ISO 9001 in 1992-93, which should help in improving exports, which currently constitute 14% of its sales. The results for the half year ended September 1993 indicates 611% increase in PAT for a 32% increase in sales over the corresponding period the previous year. We estimate a price of Rs. 160 and Rs. 210 for 1993-94 and 1994-95 respectively. The price may go up further if a bonus gets declared, as the reserves are already substantial. Prices are in uptrend and moving indecisively. Buy with a stop loss at Rs. 110.

K. Gopalakrishnan.

The forgotten monument...

(Continued from P4)

The cause of the problem is obvious. The concerned authorities are simply not capable of maintaining these buildings and their compounds. The solution is equally obvious. Hand over their maintenance to people who can do it. These are days of privatisation. The authorities could open the maintenance of these buildings and surrounding gardens to corporate companies, even perhaps throwing in an incentive like tax-exemption on money thus spent. Even without that, I am sure that, in return for the high profile advertising opportunity they get on prime city-centre land, companies would be more than willing to sponsor such activity; it is only fitting that Madras companies do such a service to the city and help make it that much greener, cleaner and healthier. A fine example of such Corporate-Corporation co-operation is the Anna Nagar Tower park. Maintained by the M R F, it is a haven for children. Surely the same policy could be extended to other areas.

Then there is the Museum Theatre, the Museum itself and Public Library. All are fine examples of Indo-Saracenic architecture set in spacious but totally neglected surroundings. Now that landscaping has become an accepted part of modern Indian architecture and, since Madras is home to some of India's finest landscaping

experts, should we not cash in on the situation? Why not allow these professional landscapers to advertise their work by showing their talents on these spacious grounds? It will be welcome visual publicity for them and it will take us one step further in the greening of Madras. The powers that be must allow the private and corporate sectors to step in and fill these voids; waiting for such time as when the P.W.D. will learn landscaping would be utterly foolish. Just as Doordarshan allows companies to sponsor pro-

grammes, let us allow Madras companies to sponsor gardens and parks in public places. So far, strangely, only traffic roundabouts have been given to various sponsors. If we set about it seriously enough, by 2000 AD we will surely be able to do a Bangalore on Madras.

To ensure proper maintenance of our public buildings, parks and gardens, we need to have an Aesthetics Maintenance Committee. We are lucky to have a Chief Minister with impeccable aesthetic sense. The CM should lead the committee;

the PWD Minister, Sheriff of Madras, professional landscape architects, heavy weights of the Madras Corporate world and the MMM, I suggest, be members. The MMM could contribute by identifying and highlighting areas crying for attention.

As we enter the 21st Century, let us learn not only to create things of beauty, but to maintain them as well. May "Keep Madras Beautiful" be our slogan! Madame Chief Minister, I hope you are reading this.

— Hiramalini Seshadri

...and the masterpiece ahead

(Continued from P4)

notes, a fine sunshade whittled down from ten tons of stone to one ton will project seven feet from alipillar, and a fabulous yali with serpent head, elephant trunk and tiger legs and tail. Obviously the statue will have many wonders for the tourist. As Ganapathi Sthapathi puts it, "What is normally possible only in wood, is being rendered here in stone".

The 200 feet long Minor Rock is being levelled to 30 feet above sea level, to receive the statue. The levelling is being done innovatively by the Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation. Dynamite is not being used as it might weaken the rock. Instead, apart from the traditional chisel and hammer, a

chemical powder is applied to cracks in the rock — when wetted, the chemical expands forcefully and breaks the rock.

Both traditional methods and modern engineering techniques will be used to assemble and install the statue. The real test will be the actual installation, by hauling and assembling the parts on Minor Rock. As each tier of the edifice is assembled, sand will be poured inside and outside that section. When the whole statue is assembled, the sand will be removed, along with a stone retaining wall built around the pedestal. This is said to be the traditional method of building tall, stone structures.

The Thiruvalluvar statue is expected to be able to withstand any onslaught by natural elements, including cyclones. While salt in the air normally causes some deterioration of rock surfaces, it is felt that the particular kind of granite used for this statue will withstand salinity better. The insides of the statue will, however, have to be washed periodically to remove coatings of salt (the outside is likely to be washed by rain).

Asked by Chief Minister Jayalalitha how long the statue would last, Ganapathi Sthapathi is reported to have replied that it would stand for at least 1330 years, the number of verses in the *Thirukkural*!

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Gemini Circle, Mount Road, Madras 600 006. Tel: 8273040.

NOTABLE BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Bassett, Glenn A.
Operations Management for Service Industries:
Competing in the Service Era.
Quorum Books. c1992. (658 BAS)

Cimbala, Stephen J.
U.S. Nuclear Strategy in the New World Order:
Backward Glances, Forward Looks.
Paragon House. c1993. (355.825119 CIM)

Competitiveness and American Society.
Edited by Steven L. Goldman
Lehigh University Press. c1993. (366.6048 COM)

Ethics and Public Administration:
Bureaucracies, Public Administration and Public Policy.
Edited by H. George Frederickson
M.E. Sharpe, Inc. c1993. (172.2 ETH)

The Novel in the Americas.
Edited by Raymond Leslie Williams
The University Press of Colorado. c1992. (809.3 NOV)

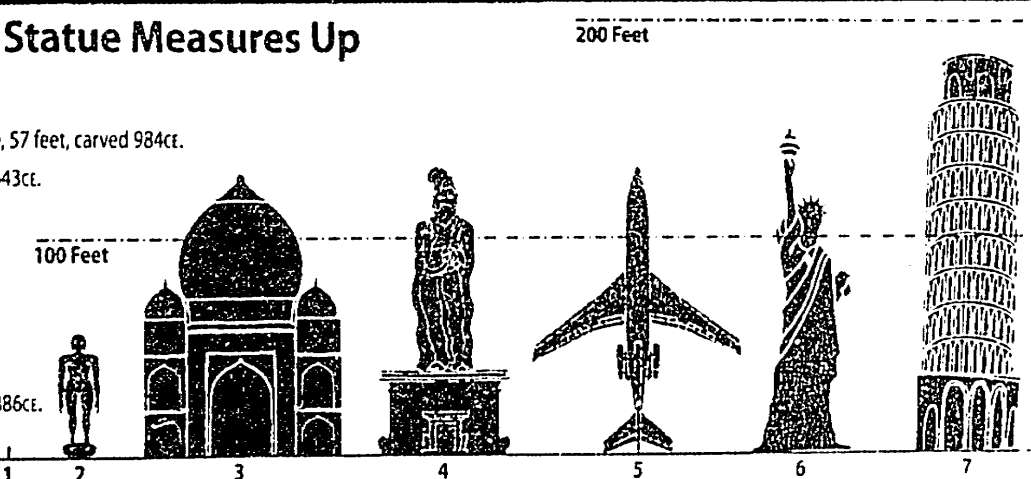
Technology for the Common Good.
Edited by Michael Shuman & Julia Sweig.
Institute for Policy Studies. c1993. (338.064 TEC)

Top Secrets: Screenwriting
Compiled by Jurgen Wolff and Kerry Cox
Lone Eagle Publishing Company. c1993. (808.23 TOP)

Wolfe, John R.
The Coming Health Crisis: Who will Pay for Care for the Aged in the 21st Century?
The University of Chicago Press. c1993. (368.382 WOL)

How the Thiruvalluvar Statue Measures Up

- Human being, 6 feet.
- Jain Saint Gomatesvara, Mysore, India. Stone, 57 feet, carved 984c.
- The Taj Mahal, India. Stone, 130 feet, built 1643c.
- Saint Thiruvalluvar, Kanya Kumari, India. Stone, 133 feet, built 1995.
- Boeing 727 jet airliner. Metal, length 133 feet, wing span 108 feet.
- Statue of Liberty, New York, USA. Metal, statue only (shown), 151 feet, (pedestal 154 feet high, total 305 feet), built 1886c.
- Leaning Tower of Pisa, Italy. Stone, 185 feet, built 1174c.



MANALI RAMAN...



"How can I tell you NOW... it's all in the computer! Come next week!!"

IN MAD. MAD MADRAS

Dates for Your Diary

Till April 8: "The Product-Testing of Hearth and Home". Recent German Films for the New Generation. A selection by young German film-makers will be screened at the Film Chamber of Commerce at 6.45 pm, each day. Entry passes for members and friends of MMB and members of FTSL.

April 4: Laurin. Dir.: Robert Sigl
April 5: Uherall ist es besser, wo wir nicht sind (Everywhere it's better, where we aren't). Dir.: Michael Klier,
April 6: Frania. Dir.: Mathias Allary
April 7: Wedding. Dir.: Heiko Schier
April 8: Motivische (Motifs and Motives). Dir.: Dietmar Hochmuth

Till April 16: Paintings by Nataraj of Bangalore at the Salshi Gallery, 11 Khader Nawaz Khan Road. Nataraj's pre-occupation is with people at work, their muscles flexed and in good shape, straining but not crushed or beaten. There is light and hope and a touch of welcome whimsy in his 'hugely' peopled canvases.

A cap marked 'best' fits this 'Head'

Once again a Madras City high achiever bags a proud All-India first. The 'Varkey Award' for 'The Best Head of Institution' has been awarded to J D Johnson, Principal of the State Bank Officers Association High School and Junior College in Anna Nagar.

Instituted as a salute and mark of recognition to the best heads of educational institutions who are steering and shaping school education in India, the Varkey Award is the brainchild of an NRI group which runs schools in UAE, UK and India. The awardee is chosen from amongst the cream of school heads, by a panel of eminent judges, and, if it might be said, the cap fits the 'Head' of none more deservedly than that of Johnson — educationist, teacher *par excellence* and pragmatic philosopher whose serene demeanour belies a fierce passion to improve the students' all-round concerns. To Johnson, "everything is possible" in a vocation which is not so much a cold profession as a 'lifetime's commitment'.

As I enter his room a bright poster catches my eye. It says:

"A winner always has a plan, A winner says it's different but it's possible".

What makes him a winner — of the Varkey Award as well? "I believe



Principal J D Johnson

in positive thinking, that everything is 'possible', given the tremendous human resources I work with — teachers, parents, students, the management". Apparently his philosophy, attitude and approaches have worked wonders. Under his helmship as Principal of SBOA School and College since its inception in 1981, the institution had shown a tremendous growth graph, with 4,000 children on the rolls today (plus 3,000 in the branch SBOA Matriculation school), a 100 per cent success rate in the CBSE exams in the past 11 years with many All-India

rankers and prospective IIT students, National and State level sportsmen with one Junior Gold Medalist in High Jump, State-level cricketers, etc., etc. This, coupled with not one disciplinary case amongst the students in the school's life, must surely make Johnson a wonder 'Head'. A suggestion he brushes off with "how much more remains to be done", and the intrinsically "great human resource material" he works with.

"There is no doubt about the calibre of the students — it is great. We have to deviate from 'Mass Education' to 'Individual Education' which should be need- and aptitude-based. I feel that we should veer towards student-

• by
PUSHPA CHARI

centred rather than teacher-centred education. We should also accent the difference in achievement and attitude of each child and work out a diversified programme rather than the rigidity of approach which characterises school education in India today. I also believe in talking to and 'telling' students. In fact, an ILO study shows that 'telling'

achieves 5 per cent results — I am happy with that 5 per cent!"

As a teacher, what has been his greatest strength? "I heard a remark at a recent workshop that a teacher is a learner throughout his life. I think I too have remained a learner throughout my life and that has been my greatest joy..."

The Varkey Award is but another milestone in the rewarding journey of teaching which Johnson began 29 years ago as a primary teacher in Bargur. Coming to Madras to do his post-graduation in history, he joined St Mary's School as a teacher and soon rose to become Vice-Principal there. He joined SBOA School as Principal in 1981, and under his efficient, humane and erudite stewardship the school has won many laurels, now capped by the honour of having as its Principal the 'Best Head of Institution' in India. How did he feel when he got the award? "I felt a sense of inadequacy, but also one of gratitude. I feel there is so much more to be done to motivate and inspire the teachers to, in turn, inspire their students, as well as to win awards for themselves. We have excellent teachers, infrastructure, parents and a body of disciplined and eager students. I want to help improve all their overall concerns in this ongoing journey of lifelong commitment..."

Delicious Mushroom Pulao. Serve with the unusual *Mince Meat Methi Curry*. Have you ever made *channa* with used tea bags? Try the unbelievable *Sour Kabuli Channa*. Serve also the lightly fried *Dry Cabbage with Peas*.

MINCE MEAT METHI CURRY

- 250 g minced meat, cleaned and washed
- 2 small bunches methi leaves, chopped fine
- 3 tomatoes, chopped fine
- 2 medium-sized onions, chopped fine
- 1" piece ginger ground to a paste
- 4 or 5 pods garlic
- 1-2 tsp chilli powder
- 1-2 tsp dhaniya powder
- ½ tsp turmeric powder

Garam Masala

- Bay leaf, cloves and saunf 1 tsp coarsely powdered
- 1 sprig curry leaves
- 2-3 lbs coriander and mint leaves
- 2 lbs singelly oil
- Salt to taste

Method

Put the minced meat, methi leaves, chopped onions, tomatoes, ginger-garlic paste, chilli powder, dhaniya powder, turmeric powder, mint and coriander leaves in a heavy pan. Add salt and a little water. Boil till the minced meat is cooked. Turn off the heat.

Heat the oil and add the *garam masala* and curry leaves. Add the minced meat, cook on a low fire till the desired consistency is reached — either dry or with a little gravy. Serve with mushroom pulao.

Mrs P Raghupathy MUSHROOM PULAO

- 1 cup basmati rice, soaked in water for ½ hour and drained
- 2 cups mushrooms, chopped
- 2 lbs ghee
- 1 bay leaf
- 1" piece cinnamon stick
- 4 cardamoms
- 2 cloves
- 2 large onions, chopped fine

Salt to taste

Method

Heat ghee. Add the bay leaf, cinnamon stick, cardamoms and



cloves. Add the chopped onions and fry for a minute or two.

Add the chopped mushrooms. Fry for about 5 minutes. Add the drained rice and fry for another couple of minutes. Add salt and 2 cups of water and bring the pulao to a boil.

When the water is almost absorbed, place a *tawa* below the pan and cook on a low fire till the rice is completely done and the water is completely absorbed. Fluff the pulao with a fork and serve hot.

SOUR KABULI CHANNA

- 1 cup chick peas, soaked overnight
- 1 lbs used tea bag tied in a muslin bag
- A lemon sized tamarind soaked in ½ cup water and the juice extracted

- 1 tsp chilli powder
- 2 or 3 green chillies, slit sideways
- ½ tsp ground pepper
- ½ tsp turmeric powder
- 1 tsp roasted cumin seeds and powdered
- 1" piece cinnamon stick
- 2 or 3 cardamoms
- 2 tsp anchur
- 1 tsp *garam masala*
- 3-4 lbs oil

A small bunch coriander leaves chopped fine for garnishing
Salt to taste

Ground Paste

- 3 medium-sized onions
- 1" piece ginger

Pressure cook the soaked *channa* with the used tea bag, salt, turmeric powder, cardamoms and cinnamon stick.

When done, remove the tea bag, cardamom and cinnamon stick. Set aside.
Heat oil and sauté the ground *masala*. Add chilli powder, green chillies and the liquid in which the chick peas were boiled. Simmer for a couple of minutes. Add the boiled chick peas, salt and the *anchur*. Pour the thick tamarind juice. Add the *garam masala*, pepper and cumin seeds powder, simmer for 5 minutes.
Garnish with chopped coriander leaves and serve hot.

DRY CABBAGE WITH PEAS

- ½ kg cabbage, chopped fine
- ½ cup shelled peas
- 1 tsp cumin seeds
- ½ tsp turmeric powder
- 1 tsp cumin seeds, powdered
- ½ tsp chilli powder
- 1 tsp dhaniya powder
- Salt to taste
- 2 lbs oil

Method

Heat oil and add the whole cumin seeds. When they splutter, add the chopped cabbage and green peas. Stir for 2-3 minutes. Add the salt, turmeric powder, chilli powder and dhaniya powder.

Lower heat, sprinkle some water, cover and cook till done and the vegetable is dry. Serve hot.

Chandra Padmanabhan

Quizzin' with Ramanan

(Quizmaster V.V. RAMANAN'S questions are from the fortnight March 1-15.)

- What information does one get on dialling 6426197 in Madras city?
- Why were Ms. Perez-Blanco and Sir Peter Harding in the eye of a storm recently?
- Apart from being the oldest in the country, what other distinction does the TN Fire Service hold?
- Who is the author of the 6-volume *History of Parliament in India*, the first volume of which was released on March 15th?
- India's first exclusive magazine for the stone industry was launched in Madras recently. Name the magazine.
- What theological first has Angela Berners-Wilson achieved?
- Why did Communique Advtg. of Singapore apologise in the *The Sunday Times* of Singapore, to Tamil Nadu in particular?
- Name the Indian doctor who gave the world wonder drugs like Tetracycline and DHC (for Filariasis), but who died in near obscurity, yet whose birth centenary is being celebrated now.
- On what occasion was the book 'Vision 2000 — Advancement of Women in Tamil Nadu — Policy and Programme of Tamil Nadu' released in the city on March 9th? And by whom?
- The first lady of the Indian silver screen, Mrs Svetoslav Roerich, passed away on March 9th. How was she better known?
- What is the new system the state owned Tiruvalluvar Transport Corporation activated to reduce accidents on highways?
- March 5th was celebrated worldwide as...?
- What diplomatic coup did India achieve at 17:15 hours on March 9th?
- Complete the list: Pt. Ravi Shankar, Ustad Zakir Hussain, Vikku Vinayakram and...?
- Which Indian publication group won a landmark judgement when the validity of an Indian copyright was upheld in the USA?
- (How much of Madras Musings March 1-15 do you remember, muses Ramanan)
- Apart from Taramani, what other sites were looked as permanent sites by the ITPO?
- Name the topmost ranked junior tennis player in Australia whose father was a Davis Cupper from Madras.
- Who makes the recently introduced instant dosa 'Dosa King'?
- For what purpose was the Salitre-Emerald-Blue Diamond theatre block, the Union Motors campus and the land near TNEB on Mount Road eyed for?
- Who referred to Madras as a 'Withered Beldame' in one of his writings after the growth of Calcutta?

(Answers on p. 7)

A Hindustani fortnight

'Roofs for the Roofless', an organisation founded by Dr. Chandran Devanesan to help people with no housing to make homes for themselves, organised an evening of *ghazals* by Jyoti Bellappa at the Museum Theatre to raise funds for their projects. The projects are not just housing, but also income-generating ones like workshops, cooperative stores, a *Balawadi*, literary centres, medical clinics, night schools for working children etc. *Ghazals*, with their romantic imagery, can deeply move if they are sung with feeling. Jyoti brought a sense of immersion, of un-rushed inevitability to her singing, but she never let go to her full capacity and range. Why? Was she self-conscious? More concerts may bring out more from Jyoti Bellappa.

Missing audience

There was more Hindustani music last fortnight. At I.I.T., there was a lecture demonstration of Hindustani

The View From The Wings by V.R. Devika

Music by Chandralekha Bannerjee. Students of I.I.T., tend to ignore classical music concerts. They crave rock music, but these very same students crave things Indian once they go abroad, which is where most of them seem to want to go. Rock music, of course, rouses the devil in one, but

classical music soothes the mind. Our youths seem to realize that only when they are overseas.

Chandralekha Bannerjee gave a very soothing concert with lucid explanations. There was 'melodrama' in her singing, not overt histrionics, as she brought out the emotions of the compositions.

Something said by Chandralekha's daughter about the Drupad form of Hindustani music, however, disturbed me. She said Drupad is completely devoid of emotion and is a very crude form of music.

Family tradition

Crudity was nowhere near at the Drupad concert played on the



Animators from the Institute of Mental Health (hidden in black robes) with the life-size puppets they've created with odds-and-ends. Seen by V S RAGHAVAN at a show they staged for the public.

Puppets that help unburden thoughts

There was nothing apologetic about the week long medical exhibition held at the Institute of Mental Health, Madras, as part of its Bicentenary commemoration. There were gay arches and festoons and microphones blaring music and announcements. The exhibition, intended to build awareness, was exhaustive in the information, it offered and went a long way towards demystifying mental disorder and drawing attention to the frail line which divides illness from health — one which all humans tread some time or other.

Today, a number of a caring citizens give of their time and resources to bring hope and happiness to 1800 patients and 400 outpatients at the IMH struggling for a share of our common sunshine. The Self Help Project at the IMH is part of this hope. Registered as a Trust two years ago, it works only with the women's and children's ward. (Female patients need special care and help. When the men fall ill and are in need, their women are there to support them, to tend and nurse them. When it is the woman's turn to be ill, her man has little time to care for her. She becomes, at best, an inconvenience.)

Issy Sanderson, who has had years of experience in theatre-craft and in the field of mental health, is a founder trustee of SHP. She and recreation therapist Kalavathy have been doing play therapy with the patients, using life-sized rod puppets which they make themselves using available local material. The puppets give the

animators an opportunity to unburden their minds and transfer their emotions and feelings to the puppets. Often a puppet serves as an effective alter ego or even as an intimate and understanding friend who accepts responsibility for the puppeteer's words and actions. The puppet characters also enact strong aggressions which invite identification and rejection from

by
Elizabeth Roy

the audience. The therapy sessions and discussions of a small group of patients who were nearing the end of their treatment and getting ready to be discharged evolved into a small story. The tensions and anxieties of the story held was presented as a puppet play on the occasion of the Bicentenary commemoration.

A small crowd that had gathered to see the show sat there tapping their feet to the theme song of the show: *Chinna Chinna Asai*. Comfortably dressed in black *pajama-kurtas* with thin black veils thrown over their faces and heads, the animators came on stage moving their extremely agile and expressive puppets. Young Lakshmi shows symptoms of withdrawal and occasional violence. Her parents are worried and anxious. Some friends advise exorcism and 'samyar therapy', others recommend solitary confine-

ment in a dark room. Her parents, instead, take her to Dr. Amma (presumably at the IMH)... Lakshmi is diagnosed mentally ill and advised hospitalisation for a period, at the end of which 'pazhaya Lakshmi madiri' she returns to her family. (Of course, to avoid a relapse she has to be very regular with medication.) There is a 'chinna' homecoming celebration. Dr. Amma joins them and they all dance to *Chinna Chinna Asai*. Will they be granted it?

The degree of competence both in terms of the puppets that were made and the way they were animated was remarkable. The identification of the animators with the puppets was total — their voice communicated it. The deceptively simple plot delivered the message loud and clear and offered a lesson or two on the importance of the positive approach and 'chinna asais'. Equally gratifying to note was the confidence level of the animators who are packing their bags to return to mainstream life.

For the enthusiastic reader of Bronowski, the experience is humbling and fairly frustrating. When a person is diagnosed diabetic, she is simply 'ill'. Treatment begins and the patient is encouraged to lead a normal life. Prognosis is very good. But, when someone is suspected to be mentally ill, all hell breaks loose. People either play the ostrich game or dump the person in an 'asylum' and before the cock can crow thrice all familial bonds are denied. Prognosis is very bad. But then, there is the bottom line — *chinna chinna asai*.

Sensational find

Jisha Memon, who acted in the Boardwalkers: *The Owl and The Pussycat* is a sensational find for the English theatre in Madras. She is such a natural actress, very lively and charming. Jisha and Michael Muthu, a formidable actor himself, outdid each other in the riveting, powerful and humorous play directed by Yesraub Ali at the USIS.

ANSWERS

- It gives calls the new number of a subscriber whose number has changed;
- Ms. Blanco sensationalised her illicit relationship with Sir Peter, the senior-most military officer in Britain, which prompted him to resign, thereby creating a national furore;
- Simple! It's also the largest with 221 stations;
- Dr. Subhas C. Kashyap;
- 'Natural Stones';
- She is the first woman priest in the 460-year-old Anglican Church;
- For carrying an advertisement for a local hotel, featuring a picture of the TN Chief Minister, Jayalalitha;
- Dr. Y. Subba Row;
- Mother Teresa on the occasion of International Women's Day;
- Devika Rani;
- Night patrolling by six specialist squads on the roads;
- World Deaf and Dumb Day;
- The unconditional last minute withdrawal by Pakistan of its resolution on Kashmir in the UN Human Rights Commission at Geneva;
- Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt — the only Indians to win the Grammy Awards;
- Living Media India Ltd., the publishers of *India Today*;
- Muthukkaadu and Narayanapuram;
- Aarati Venkatesan, daughter of Rabi Venkatesan;
- India Foods and Fermentation (Madras) Ltd.;
- By the AIADMK to set up its grand H.Q.;
- Rudyard Kipling.

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Doyen of Madras sportswriters

He studied Law, to practise as an advocate. But fate made him a sports journalist. He served in two newspapers, in one as a sub-editor and in the other as a cricket writer.

I refer to the long-time Cricket Correspondent of *The Hindu*, P.N. Sundaresan, who passed away recently.

Sundaresan's name has been familiar to readers of *Madras Musings* from its earliest days. He regularly wrote on cricket matches and cricketer personalities of the past.

Sundaresan, a good cricketer himself, possessed a deep knowledge of the game, was well-versed in its laws and could quote the game's rules with ease from memory. His comments were without any bias or prejudice, while his reporting was faithful and factual.

In the early days, he sported a tuft and it was rather amusing to watch him bowl and bat with it. The late veteran cricket correspondent, S.K. Gurunathan, of *The Hindu*, once described him as 'the gifted and tufted cricketer'. He used to open the innings and also the bowling.

Having been a regular player for MRC 'A' team, he came into contact with the then stalwarts of Madras cricket — M.J. Gopalan, Ram Singh, G. Parthasarathy and P.S. Ramchandran — to name a few, and he greatly admired them.

After Gurunathan's death, Sundaresan was in charge of editing

Indian Cricket (an annual publication of *The Hindu*) for many years. He had covered a number of Test matches in various centres in India. (His only disappointment was that he never went abroad to cover Test matches.)

His memory was remarkable; he could reel off the scores of any

A colleague remembers P.N. Sundaresan

important cricket match, even those played long ago. I recall meeting him once while walking along Moubray's Road (now TTK Road). We went to his home and spent two hours chatting. He recalled the various matches he had witnessed — of Jack Ryder's team from Australia, which included players like C.G. McCartney (known as the Governor-General of cricket). Sundaresan remembered Lord Tennyson's team which visited Madras and described it in detail, especially the great bowling feats of Amar Singh.

He could reel off any number of anecdotes about well-known national cricketers like C.K. Nayudu, Merchant, Amarnath, Mushtaq Ali, Adhikari, Hindlekar and Prof Deodhar. He was also in close touch with latter day Test cricketers.

He claimed that he could remember the scores of the Madras team and, later, those of Tamil Nadu, in all Ranji Trophy matches, including the individual scores of cricketers such as Gopalan, Ram Singh, B.C. Alva, C. Parthasarathy, A.V. Krishnaswami, C.R. Rangachari, N.J. Venkatesan, C.P. Johnstone, H.P. Ward, Ren Nailer and Carrick, to mention a few.

After retirement, he kept himself busy keenly following the matches all over the world and writing about them. A regular contributor to *Swatantra*, he also wrote for the Tamil magazine *Kalki*.

Sundaresan was the Indian Correspondent of *Wisden*, the international cricketing 'Bible'.

Besides cricket, his other love was Carnatic music; he took an active interest in the music magazine *Sruti*, run by his brother N. Pattabhi Raman. Sundaresan was its publisher.

Old-timers, journalists and cricketers of Madras will always remember the soft-spoken and gentle-mannered Sundaresan as well as his writings on cricket.

M R Krishnamurthi

EDITOR'S NOTE: P.N. Sundaresan will be remembered by all at *Madras Musings* as a good friend of the journal. All of us at *Madras Musings* and our readers will miss Sundaresan's contributions. May he rest in peace.

He needs to spare some time for this

Padmashree K.J. Yesudoss would do well to find ways and means to enhance the status of the annual South India tennis tournament in Madras for the Augustine and Elizabeth Joseph trophies which he launched a couple of years ago in memory of his parents. Well as it has had a smooth passage in its formative

go according to schedule, and, thus, paved the way for the tournament to lose much of the status it had gained in its short career.

It is up to Yesudoss to see to it that the tournament, named after his parents, regains its popularity. For this, he has to find the time, and take a personal interest, instead of leaving everything to the organising committee. Unfortunately, he is an exceptionally busy person. Even for the Press briefing, over which he was to have presided, he turned up over an hour late. And when it was over, instead of joining the media persons at the dinner that followed, he made a beeline for his waiting car.

In his absence, the talking point at the dinner was not his tournament but the line-up of the Indian team that played the USA in their Davis Cup world group match in Delhi later in the month, for it was the first National team in decades without a Madras player in it. Madras could, however, take some pride in the fact that three of the team's members, Leander Paes, Gaurav Natekar and Asif Ismail, were 'graduates' of the city's Britannia-Amritraj Tennis Scheme. It was with understandable pride that Mrs M. Amritraj and her son, Vijay, the BAT bosses, boasted of BAT's contribution to Indian tennis. It's significant that they did so weeks before the match was played.

by
JAICI

years, and earned All-India Tennis Association ranking status, its growth has not been in keeping with its founder's ambition to develop it into one of the country's top competitions. This was evident from the entry for its 1994 edition, held recently at the TTT courts in the YMCA College complex.

Music maestro Yesudoss has had no problem in obtaining sponsorship. The 1994 tournament was, for instance, sponsored by American Express Bank, AVM Charities and Gokulam Chit Funds. Even so, the tournament failed to attract a top-class entry. Various excuses, such as the Davis Cup team trials in Delhi and a prize money tournament in Calcutta, were dished out as the reasons at a Press briefing. The organising committee was obviously aware of the clash of dates. But, instead of seeking and obtaining a change, the committee let things

The unsung majority in a risky sport

"A jockey is not merely a rider; he's a highly trained athlete who puts in years of hard work to battle it out in this high risk sport. Unfortunately, he is looked down upon by the general public who know little about the profession," says S Marshall, President, Jockeys' Association of India (JAI).

A few jockeys do become highly paid sportsmen all over

Though the maxim is "good horses make good jockeys", the vice versa is equally true. Judging the pace of the race, steering the animal skilfully and getting the extra burst out of it without obstructing the other horses require skill and technique.

Marshall feels that just as the "pedigree is looked for in a horse, it should be in a jockey

a lump sum payment ranging from Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 2,50,000 will be paid to a retiring jockey. Further, jockeys are covered under a personal accident insurance policy for Rs. 2,00,000.

But Marshall does not favour fixing a minimum wage or mounts per season for a jockey. "We are licensed professionals and it must be the survival of the fittest," he feels.

The President of JAI would like the following proposals to be accepted by all the race clubs in India:

- Establishment of a Central Licensing Authority.
- Establishment of a Central Apprentice Jockey Training School, as in England, where only 25 to 30 students are trained and issued licences to race.
- All the clubs in the country to send promising young jockeys abroad.
- Issue of licences to foreign jockeys to ride here to be rationalised. "The Jockey Club of Britain permits a foreigner to ride only if he can contribute something to the racing industry there," points out Marshall.
- And race clubs should subsidise riders' equipment which have to be imported at high cost.

too. He should have a decent family background and a minimum education upto SSLC level". The Hyderabad Race Club rule laying down the minimum qualifications for obtaining a jockey licence should be followed by other clubs too, urges the President of JAI.

A risky sport, offering an uncertain future, prompted the riders to come together and form an Association for their welfare in 1971, despite stiff opposition from several quarters. Since then, several welfare schemes for jockeys have been implemented. The ex-jockey's and jockey's medical relief fund provides financial relief at Rs. 60/- a day to a rider laid low by a racing accident. Under the retirement scheme, which will become operational from 1996,

the world. In India, top notch riders are paid lakhs of rupees for a season/year as retainers and get perks like housing, conveyance etc. But many ride only for the mount fee of Rs. 400 and dream of the 7½% prize money.

To reach the level of being offered retainers by the new rajahs of the turf, a jockey has to sweat a lot and lead a disciplined life. "Unlike any other sport, you can't have a partly fit jockey. Such a jockey only endangers his life and that of the horse," says Marshall. Being 100% fit is the most important thing in the life of a jockey. "Dieting is an occupational hazard, but a jockey should be sure he gets enough protein-rich but not fatty food," advises Marshall.

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