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IV. No. 9

August 16 — 31, 1994

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Sustenance likely for sustainability project?

by V. Jagannathan)

United Nations Centre for man Settlements (UNCHS)ed, US \$ 655,600, country/-Sustainable Cities Programme to help plan the development

of Madras in a comprehensive manner, is at last likely to get the go ahead any day now. The two-year old proposal 'had been pending with the Department of Economic Affairs, New Delhi, for several months now, despite initial

approval having been given and all subsequent queries answered. With this approval, Madras will become the first city in South Asia to benefit from the programme.

The speciality of the SCP is its holistic approach to city development - right from the stage of planning a city's requirements till its execution and proper maintenance. The programme is divided into three phases and the first phase is the setting up of a Task Force to identify problem areas. In fact, some ground work has been done in this respect in Madras. The second and third phases involve discussing ways and means to overcome problems and the implementation of the action plans drawn.

As far as Madras is concerned, the priority areas would be rainwater harvesting, inland aquaculture in irrigation tanks (of which there are around 200 in the MMDA area alone), environment protection laws, seawater intrusion, preparation of a geographical information system and low cost sanitation.

In addition to civic matters, the Programme also plans to assess the reasons for lack of employment opportunities in Madras and the slow growth of industries in and around the city and the infrastructural requirements for industrial development in Madras.

"The programme is designed to involve the local people at every stage so that their involvement in the action plan is total," says Achalla Shetty, Information Officer, UNCHS. "The other important aspect is the importance given to maintenance of the facilities created, something lacking in other schemes," points out G. Datlatri, Consultant, SCP, who adds, "Cooperation from the public and private and Government agencies is the keystone to a sustainable Madras."

The Tamil Nadu Government, which will contribute Rs. 5 million to the Programme, will benefit immensely if the SCP works in tandem with the Rs. 4,000 crore Madras Vision 2000 project. Together, they could make Madras a sustainable city. Dattatri is confident.

also begun in Ismailia(Egypt) and Tunis

The SCP has already been successful in Dar es Salaam; Tanzania, and this is to be duplicated in eight other cities in the same country. Work has

(Tunisia), and is likely to commence soon in Accra (Ghana), Katowice (Poland) and Ibadan (Nigeria). Will work in Madras start before these?

The dress maketh the Sheriff

(By A Staff Reporter) Photograph: Dina Malar.

The Sheriff of Madras, Dr. K. Chockalingam, is determined to make everyone in Madras aware of the Sheriff's office and its role in civic affairs. And to create that awareness he wants the city's citizens to recognise the Sheriff's official dress. To start this process, he turned up the other day, at the inauguration of a book fair, in official dress, complete with sword! "I wanted the children to get to know that the city has a Sheriff and what he looks like in official dress," Dr. Chockalingam explained.

Dr. Chockalingam is as amused as anyone else about the lady-like lace stockings that go with the dress, but is quick to insist that "I will certainly wear them, for the simple fact is that they are part of the Sheriff's dress". And the funny looks and objections he gets, starting with his own wife and children, are not going to stop him, he says.

At the book fair, two children were to garland the Sheriff and the Minister of Education, But both were so fascinated by the Sheriff's dress that they insisted on garlanding the Sheriff only. The Minister didn't mind and the children had their way! It is such reaction that prompts Dr. Chockalingam to say, "Left to myself, I would even come on a horse, like a 'real' Sheriff''. He'd be quite at home on a horse too, as he has a passion for horse-riding.

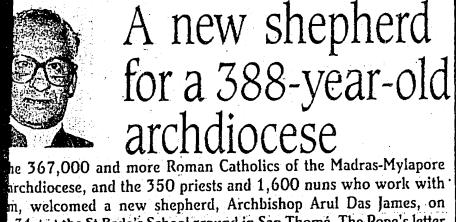
Preferring to out how Sheriffs in recent times have not been very keen on wearing the Sheriff's dress, Dr. Chocka-

lingam talks of the time when the Sheriff's costume was stitched only by a particular tailor in Hyderabad. The Sheriff had to go there one day for a trial and stay on for another day if there were any alterations. Dr. Chockalingam, however, had it easy, as the Prince of Arcot, who had worn his dress just once, and was keen on Dr. Chockalingam wearing it, gifted it to him. "Quite different," Dr. Chockalingam laughs, "from an earlier time when the relations between the Prince of Arcot and the Sheriff were so bad that the Sheriff was rolled out of his palanquin by the Nawab's men and was beaten up".

The gift fitted him perfectly. But Dr. Chockalingam was not quite satisfied. "The buttons on the coat are not according to the specifications," he points out and plans to remedy this situation in due course.

The Sheriff's office came into existence in 1727 by a King's charter (and so the Sheriff cannot be removed except by a similar charter or legislation). He was meant to be the voice of the common man in the Court.

Not only is Dr. Chockalingam taking the Sheriff's dress seriously, but he is taking the office - as the people's representative in Court - seriously too. His interest in three Madras Musings causes, the DGP's office, a Heritage Act and Victoria Public Hall, has resulted in initial action getting underway. But he must now see so it that the momentum does not slow down.



he 367,000 and more Roman Catholics of the Madras-Mylapore archdiocese, and the 350 priests and 1,600 nuns who work with m, welcomed a new shepherd, Archbishop Arul Das James, on 31st at the St Bede's School ground in San Thomé. The Pope's letter ppointment was read on the occasion and, in a symbolic gesture, keys of San Thomé Cathedral, the new Archbishop's official church, crozier were handed over to him.

The geographical area of the archdiocese of Madras - Mylapore is city of Madras and the district of Chengalpattu. It is one of the 19 hdioceses in India.

The diocese of Mylapore was established in 1606 by Pope Paul V. urisdiction extended to areas as far as Thanjavur, the Andamans northwards to Bihar, Bengal and Burma. The diocese was inistered by Portuguese or Goan bishops. There was another diocese ladras, formed in 1832, which included the town of Vellore and rby areas. In 1952, these two dioceses gave birth to two new dioceses Madras to Vellere and Mylapore to Thanjavur. What remained became new Madras-Mylapore archdiocese.

The Most Rev. Arul Das James, the fourth Archbishop to assume ce since 1952, was born in Udhagamandalam and, after being ained a priest in 1955, worked in the Ooty diocese in various acities. After higher studies in Belgium, he was appointed the first ian Rector of St Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore, where he studied. He was appointed Bishop of his own home diocese Ooty December 1973 and ordained a Bishop in February 1974.



No bathrooms for your house. Only



Not content with clearing and

sewage junction near Eldam's Road and

then converting it into a green park,

community centre and a busy dispen-

sary, an Australian team of volunteers

has now turned its attention to 600

more metres of the same channel. They

plan to dredge this stretch and ensure

free flow of sewage till the point it joins

the Nandanam channel. The work on

this stretch is expected to take six months

and help has come from the Rotary

Club of Madras in sinking a bore well

and providing a water storage tank.

It took Craig Hendry and his group

of volunteers months of hard work to

completely cover the first part of the

channel. They then built a thatched roof

dispensary on it, created lawns and a

garden and developed a volleyball

court. They also built their own

accommodation nearby. And they

persuaded the neighbouring slum

dwellers to use the nearby Sulabh toilets,

besides ensuring the cleanliness of these

To run the dispensary, Hendry's

group had been bringing in teams of

registered male nurses from Australia.

Dozens of patients queue from early

morning till the gate opens for a four-

hour shift, five days a week. A 'wound

clinic' attends to children with cuts,

bruises and infections. Patients with

relatively more serious problems are

examined inside the dispensary or

and other toilets in the area.

covering 60 m of the Mambalam

Australian volunteers — and their interpreters — at work indoor dispensary

water

Mylapore's Kapaleeswarar tank.

An award – despite state of waterways romise foreign numbers are dialled, Th

Well done, Metrowater. The Man From Madras Musings wishes you all the luck needed to bring home the Stockholm Water Prize for 1995.

Metrowater's achievements over the preceding three years in "applied science, technical development, education, training or shaping of public opinion in protecting the world's water resources" will be judged by the Stockholm Water Foundation's jury shortly and we'll then know whether it is the winner of the award and the \$150,000 that goes with the award. As an ardent supporter of all things Madrasi, MMM looks forward to the prestigious award coming home to roost in the city.

Metrowater's nomination has been made by Severn Trent Water International of Britain who were involved in cleaning up the Thames. Severn Trent have spent YEARS in Madras drawing up plans to clean up our own waterways — but have gone little beyond proposals, mainly because successive governments in Tamil Nadu have not been quite able to make up their minds about the proposals and

the funding for them. However, to Metrowater's and Severn Trent's credit is the fact that at least one part of the plans has got underway. And that is, diversion of most of the

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TRANSLATION

Translation: Indian/Foreign Languages: Tel: 569481.

sewage which used to fall into the Cooum to sewage farms northwest of the city, where three green belts of a thousands acres are being developed with this outfall. Another part of these plans that has materialised is the supply of 5 million gallons of secondary sewage everyday to Madras Refineries and Madras Fertilizers for further treatment and use as recycled water. But these have only been the first steps to a major project of recycling sewage and reuse of the output in industries. A Rs. 5,800 million Japanese loan is on the way for this project expected to commence in 1997 and be ready by 1999.

Under this major project, secondary treated sewage will receive tertiary treatment and 23 million gallons of recycled water will be supplied to Madras industry daily. At the same time, part of the Japanese contribution will be used to reline old trunk watermains in the city to extend their lives by a few decades.

All this action proposed by Severn Trent and Metrowater teaming together is what has put the Madras organisation in line for the award. MMM, however, has a bad

habit of throwing cold water on the warmest of occasions. And in this instance it struck him as singularly sad that on the same day the nomination was being spoken about in the City, there was a report that the city's four main waterways were still grossly polluted with sewage. The Adyar, Cooum, Buckingham Canal and Otteri Nullah, according to Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board findings and those of an NGO, the Citizen's Water Monitoring Programme (WAMP), daily receive sewage from 80 private and public institutions NOT connected to the city sewerage system (and these include Raj Bhavan and the University, among many wellknown institutions!), 65 points of discharge from industries, 66 from slums, 17 from sewage pumping stations not working at peak efficiency and scores of storm water drains that "leak".

Will all that Japanese aid go a long way towards plugging these gaps in the system and make sure that all this extra outfall comes within the system linked to the recycling plant(s)? Only if it does will even the nomination of Metrowater for the Stockholm award become meaningful.

Plans in tandem?

For some time now, V Narayanan, formerly of Ponds and Levers and now the moving-

spirit behind ACME, Madras's proposed answer to the IIMs of the country, has been calling for a joint effort by the southern states to work together and draw up infrastructural plans jointly so that the fruits of the team effort will enable more investment throughout the South, not only by local industrialists but also by those from the North. There was a hint in Narayanan's plan that, instead of individual roadshows, there should be a unified southern push to attract investors. With present political equations being what they are in the South, Narayanan, while talking eminent sense, is being not only overly optimistic but also unrealistic, The Man From Madras Musings would be inclined to

construction. Presumably MMM should say 'Amen' and be pleased with small mercies. But he still lives in hope and hopes an opportunity will be given for other voices to be heard.

Meanwhile, the sprucing up of Government House is going on apace. And MMM hears it could still wind up in the Tourism Corporation's hands for better use to be made of it. Here too a little discussion with INTACH and conservationists could go a long way.

And to round off this roundup of rather more-than-usual signs of promise, there appears to be some work in Government circles getting underway on a Heritage Act. MMM hopes the excerpts Madras Musings

Business briefs

tele-gyp.

Man From Madras Musings

distressed to find the practic

continuing, with even Englis

newspapers joining the race fo

this advertising. One Madra

daily offers internations

telephone numbers if you wan

friend', get your weekly hore

scope read, have the Tarot card

Bank of India, the biggest bank in India and the bank with the biggest branch network in India The Man From Madras Musing paper? And if it can't, must it introduce colour illustrations in it that can only print shabbily like faded frescoes? And must

Madras only increases MMM's embarrassment. * Who's bidding for the majority stake in Union Carbid American company, is SPIC. The Madras company is interested in UCIL's capacities to manufacture ethylene, low density polyethy lene, and various branded o, to take down the points made by agricultural and industrial mbers of audience, sent someone to

chemical products.

* Pentafour Software, Alaca, and Detecon Deutsche Teleposi to provide basic telephon the consortium.

thinking of going abroad will Cassidy outlets. To The Man

tell your future or discove might be the turn of the nearby whether you and your partne akalam to brim with water if are compatible. MMM wonder thing concrete emerges out of the how many gullible persons are wint that has been submitted to running up gigantic telephon mment. According to this plan, bills by being taken in by the rvoir is to be constructed in the thore Estate area, where water ales during the rains. Two pipes this reservoir — one each to the eswarar tank and Chitrakulam * As a shareholder in the State lensure that these tanks are 12d with water, while at the same

to 'dial a friend', speak to a 'teld. A Special Corresondent)

ending the stagnation problem in store Estate. is ashamed of the latest annual his was announced recently by report it has sent him. Can't the new Mylapore MLA, V. Bala-Bank afford anything better than amaniam, speaking at the Exnora white printing or creamwove national-organised "Meet your ted representative" meeting at the na Mandir School in Mylapore. He announced that approval was use a printer who sends MM/ ed for a sile to build a large tank in and family THREE reports ALL idaiveli to meet Mylapore's with the colour illustration annial drinking water problem. completely out of register? To Balasubramaniam promised his

remember that the SBI's begin tence that he would "go on nings were in the Bank of ands' in the streets of Mylapore" to ure that they were kept clean and nised to work with Exnora mational towards this end. Expora International has been India, now that the parent unising such face-to-face meets
American Company feels it has never an MLA gets newly elected had enough of the Indian experience? Among the several a a Madras constituency, irrebidders for the 50.9 per cent tive of the party to which he stake in the Company, amount mgs. And true to this philosophy of ing to 16.5 million-and-some tora, there was not a single cut-out equity shares held by the toster on the way to the venue, no ing party songs; in fact, only light malic music came over the speakers. Also different seemed the MLA,

him a notepad and pencil!

of Germany, are jointly bidding ho'll act? services in several towns in M July 1 had two splendid letters — Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry one on air pollution and another on The Man From Madras Musing the pollution in Madras. Nothing has been learns that they plan to provide the by anyone at the helm of affairs to at a cost of Rs. 350 crore, more like these and, without their initiative, than one lakh lines within 11/4 as are going to get disastrous. years of being licensed by the Both letters point out clearly what could Telecom Department. Coimbattand should be done to bring about badly tore, Periyar, Salem, Tiru and relief for the citizens of this once

th. That is the job of those who

* Madras-based Pan Clothin minister, monitor and govern a place.

37, 9th Cross Street Madras 600 029.

S Ravi

hope you would have noticed the new

alternatives for parking vehicles

"Sudarsan" 41, 7th Avenue, Ashok Nagar Madras 600 083.

Is there a plan?

This has reference to your well-justified on the way the so-called "Madras Vision 2000" is being implemented. Since a lot of money is being spent, it is not surprising that we see a few visible improvements, such as better road lighting on main thoroughlares and better garbage clearance in some areas. But the real questions to be asked are: "Is there a well-thought plan, worked out to the last detail, to improve, according to a set time-table, the deplorable conditions in the city, some of which you have pointed out in your write-up? And, more importantly, is every rupee spent from public funds going as far as it should?"

WRITE

lights function satisfactorily. Needless to say, we do not need foreign technology for this. It is true that the residents of the kuppams in Besant Nagar spoil the Eliot Beach by using it as an al fresco toilet. But if you look at the deplorable sanitary facilities provided for them in their houses, I wonder what else could be expected of them.

The problem is, we Indians are carried away by slogans, such as, late Raiiv Gandhi's "India into the 21st Century" "Relief work on war footing". "Commanding heights of the economy for the public sector" and, now, "Madras Vision 2000". The words seem to act like a soporific. We do not seem to be interested in working out patiently the details of any scheme, the wherewithal required for implementing it, and above all, calling for the necessary discipline and honesty in executing the job systematically.

Cosmetic glamour seems to have taken the place of a hard-nosed approach in trying to solve serious problems facing our country.

> R.C. Narayanan T-59B. 32nd Cross Street Besant Nagar Madras 600 090.

Welcome recognition

A boy being attended to at the 'wounds clinic'.

I ndowed with the 'gift of the cab'. Jasbir

And so the news of the storming of the bastion by Vasanthi and her almost 'auto'matic acceptance by the autochthonous crowd (MM July 16) is proof enough of the equal footing that the fairer sex enjoy, in many areas, in our very own Chennai.

such unique achievers as the first lady to wo-man a petrol bunk in Mylapore and, now, the first lady auto driver, and ensuring that they don't pass off as unsung heroines, is, I guess, what good journalism is all about. be a resident of Madras and a reader of Madras Musings.

> "Pinto Villa" 39. LDG Street Madras 600 015.

More on MCC

nstitution. Madras Christian College & School, in MM July 16. Both formed my alma mater. Hence my pleasure in seeing them in print, especially the pictures of their remains in G.T. The college complex had a distinct colour, red stripes on yellow back-

A drainage dispensary

— and far beyond advised to seek medical help. The Australians communicate with the patients with the help of Tamil interpreters. The nursing attendants spend at least twenty minutes with every patient. A mere Rs. 5.00 is charged for any drugs given. "This way, patients are aware that the drugs given to them are of some value and they take their prescriptions seriously," says Hendry. The dispensary is gaining popularity and there have been cases where patients have travelled hundreds of miles to get to it! Dr. Sundaram, an eye specialist, sees patients on Tuesdays. Surindher Dadha, a young indus-

Would you believe this was once an open sewage channel? Now, it's lawns, playgrounds

and Community Health Centre.

trialist, whose firm supplies drugs for this dispensary with a cause, works in it almost daily, helping with the Tamil interpreting. Other medicines are bought by the dispensary with the money it generales.

Volleyball, Kabaddi and other games are played in the evenings, while painting competitions and other activities are conducted for the children of the area during the day by the Australian volunteers.

The Australians' success in the area has been entirely due to their ensuring up in teams to keep going the facilities they have established here. When do our civic groups follow this example?

Text and Photographs by

V.S. RAGHAVAN

Kaur, who fought against all odds to not only become the first lady in India to drive a taxi, but also train other interested women in driving, had to apply the brakes, even before acceleration, as no one in Calcutta was willing to hire these taxis.

Madras Musings' drive in identifying You truly care for Madras. I am proud to

Sanjay Pinto

was thrilled to read an account of the great and It had a tall tower a glimose of which can be seen on the top picture on page 4 of MM. The tower had seven floors and the topmost had Gothic windows on all four sides. Of these, three sides presented a panoramic view of Madras, while the eastern side gave a picture of the wide expanse of the Bay of Bengal. It was the tallest structure in that area, barring the two lighthouses inside the High Court compound.

The College had three residential hostels. The Caithness was in the Errabalu-Lingi Chelly Street corner. Fenn Hostel spanned Lingi Chetty-Thambu Chetty Streets. Both have been demolished to be replaced by concrete office buildings. The third hostel in Thambu Chetty Street still stands, now occupied by a hotel complex with modern embellishments.

Adjoining the chapel facing the N.S.C. Bose'Road (which still exists) was Anderson Hall which could seat nearly a thousand persons. All College and School functions used to take place in this hall. This has also disappeared.

The statue of Rev. Miller was installed on the road close to the High Court compound. With its wrought iron fencing and miniature garden it used to jut out on the footpath as a prominent landmark. Later, the statue was pushed inside the High Court compound to give way to increasing traffic on the N.S.C. Bose Road. II languished there for many years. Fortunately it has now been shifted to its rightful place

- the campus of the school at Chelput. M. Sethuraman 8, Second Cross Road Mahalakshmi Nagar Adambakkam Madras 600088

British Deputy High Commission British Council Division, Madras

ADONIS, A CANWELL, D COOGAN, A DOUGLAS, T FELSTEAD; A GRANT, R . HALL, P HARBISON, R Roval fortune HICKS, W LOBB, E (ed.) MOOREHOUSE, F Grand days MORTOMER, P About time too Service quality in practice MURPHY, J A PARRIS, M Look behind you PEACOCK, J 20th century fashion The making of memory

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think. But don't let that stop the SHORT 'N' SNAPPY dreaming; dreams have a funny

way of suddenly materialising. Could the beginnings of that realisation be there in the Nagarajan Plan that the Confederation of Indian Industries (Southern Region) is pushing? The plan produced by a past president of the CII's Tamil Nadu Committee appears to be in tandem with Narayanan's but more pragmatically focusses on getting Tamil Nadu to not only take the first step but also the lead in inter-state cooperation in

the South. Besides speaking of regional cooperation in removing barriers between the states, the Nagarajan Plan also suggests infrastructure strengthening and an integrated energy policy which need must have interstate cooperation too, if they are to be meaningful. Then the plan gets more state-specific, seeking a single window clearance agency, support for productivity-linked labour settlements and for dealing with indiscipline, nondisruption of industrial activity by bandhs, a State-cum-CII forum to improve the investment climate and to tackle related problems in the State, and surplus-oriented long-term fiscal

policies. The plan sounds promising and if Narayanan also throws his weight behind it, we might see the Government getting more convinced and taking the first step to show the way to the South. And even if the other states don't follow, a start would have been made in Tamil Nadu to develop a more favourable investment climate to take advantage of the fruits of

liberalisation. Building plans

The Man From Madras Musings understands that some police officials still insist that all their eggs should be under one roof and so they continue to want a tower block on the Marina. MMM wonders whether they will give INTACH and some of the former police: gurus an opportunity to present the other side of the case to them one of these days. If they're not willing to do that and still wish to go ahead with their plans, MMM hopes they'll spread themselves laterally and build no higher than the tallest building on the Marina. As for saving the old DGP's office, MMM hears that there is some willingness to integrate the facade in any new

published last fortnight from the Bombay Act will come in useful. MMM'S NOTE: These lines were written before the latest news that a decision had been taken NOT to pull down the DGP's office. Well done, Chief Minister - but MMM leaves these lines stand because the Editor's comment next fortnight on this happy decision of the govern-

ment might also like to comment

on some of MMM's thoughts as

well.

In brief ★ The Editor of Madras Musings may think he know his Madras and its landmarks but he appears to have missed a point on two about the Yale flagstaff last fortnight. The Man From Madras Musings recently heard that the Yale flagstaff is threetiered and that the bottom tier came from the teak of a ship that was wrecked off the Madras coast in 1687. Anyone to confirm the story? Meanwhile, a local industrialist wondered why MM's editor had suggested the flagpole be taken to Yale; he was willing to raise it in his organisation's premises and have it looked after if he was given it by

the authorities. ★ India's candidate for the Chief Ministership of the Northeast of Sri Lanka, Varadaraja Perumal, wound up seeking sanctuary in Australia and then being settled in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat in turn. The Man From Madras Musings hears he was recently given a holiday at home — to pick the EPRLF candidates for the snap Sri Lanka polls. MMM will be watching the performance of those candidates with special interest to discover whether India is still backing the right horse — or has no concept of Sri Lankan politics, Sinhala or

Tamil. * Remember that VIP stretch of road MMM referred to on July 16th? Well, the middle class residents are overjoyed; their stretch was done during the last few days of July. Unfortunately, other areas MMM referred to have still not got rejuvenated and travelling on them is a guarantee for a good bone-shaking. When

do we say Joy! again? * Despite Madras Musings drawing attention (MM July 1st) to the unfortunate cost to many telephone owners as a consequence of advertising appearing in certain Tamil papers announcing futures being told if certain chchirappalli and Dharmapur ble, and now not, Madras. Districts and Pondicherry Many people will write articles, many

District will benefit from the me will applaud and support, but plans if the OK comes through hing will happen as long as someone up A request for a 5000-ling te does not bother to take responsibility exchange for Ambattur Industriated do something for the betterment of Estate is also being considered by Tybody. Individual citizens cannot act

and Consolidated, makers of the by have to get motivated to bring about Cassidy range of men's clothing ages. Are there any takers? Probably not, is going in for a major expansion the complacent metropolis of Madras! programme, to enter the global market. Meanwhile, fifty per cen of its expanded capacity will be reserved for export production Cassidy is also planning to open showrooms throughout t country. And then they're hose parking lot?

From Madras Musings w keeps watching international labels entering the country, it is heartening to find an Indian brand eyeing the global market Dubai will be the market firs penetrated.

arking area in front of a leading textile op on Usman Road. The road has now come one way, causing inconvenience to any people taking the bus from that spot. a this done just for the sake of the shop, park its customer's vehicles. Or has it come the parking spot for all people using Parea? I think this is very unfair, to make tha busy area in T'Nagar a parking area.

reinstate the bus stop and think of other Meena Reddy

comments in Madras Musings July 16

Roads were re-laid in Besant Nagar a couple of weeks ago using bitumen and metal. The method of laying is of such poor quality that I have no doubt that we will find pools of water on these roads soon after the N.E. Monsoon sets in. What is more, the metal put in will get dislodged after the rains, leaving pits on the roads. This is just one example of a thoroughly unprofessional way in which public jobs are being executed. The result: good public money goes down the drain. Some tube lights on the streets blink, while some others do not burn at all. (I must, at the same time, say that defective tubes are being replaced frequently.) But why can't the work be executed so tho-

OUR READERS

every Sunday morning, the

at the Armenian Church on

mian Street in George Town ring

ke those in the other churches of

as. But the similarity stops there.

huge panelled doors of the church

ned locked. Slowly, the peals die

and in the almost holy silence per-

ne the spacious churchyard shaded

scores of trees, a solitary figure by

durch's belfry begins reciting a

this Sunday prayer has been a

orld from the last Armenian in

the Armenian Church of Virgin

stands today a proud relic of

lras' 340-year link with the

thant Armenian community, it is

by due to the efforts of this one

Ironically, George Gregorian is

a native of Madras. Nor did he

any previous links with it when

ame to the city 30 years ago. His

been a mission of love, born out

heartfelt desire to preserve the

ry and traditions of his people. His

a truly multifaceted one, has borne

mony to his grit and determination

not to mention preserving a vital part

her. When World War I broke out,

Misplaced Vision?

The limited role of cosmetics in nhancing beauty is well known. Exercise, good sleep, balanced diet etc. are far more important. Simple, effective and natural. Is the beautification of city any different from this? Beauty comes from within... mere tinkering and painting are not enough. When will we begin to look at the following.

• Are we to really believe that those costly zigzag tiles on the Marina, bordered by fancy railings, would beautify the city, while the ugly patches of slums still abound in the city? • Our storm water drainage system only facilitates rushing the rain water to the sea. while water tankers bulldoze around, polluting the atmosphere, increasing noise levels, causing congestion on the roads, adding to the already high accident rates and burning precious fuel paid for in foreign exchange. Laying concrete slabs on pavements plugs the few avenues left for recharging ground water. Even traffic islands (Adyar, next to Aavin milk booth), which could be used to plant eucalyptus etc., have been concretised.

• State agencies like the Housing Board and MMDA are busy filling up natural lakes like Velachery and Ambattur. Wetlands like Adyar Creek, that help in maintaining an ecological balance, recharge groundwater, provide a welcome relief to the eyes from the concrete jungle and are a haven for various species of birds, are threatened. Though a regulatory development body has been in existence for years, the haphazard development of the city should shame anyone connected with it. Traffic congestion and an overloaded public transport system are just two consequences. And they have forced Madras to go in for an elevated MRTS with massive concrete pillars snatching away the beauty of this oncefamed garden city. Imagine trains hurtling over your head! And if preventive steps are not taken in time, the chances are that the entire stretch underneath the tracks would become yet another massive slum.

 Multistorey buildings have mushroomed without provision of essential facilities. Developers of flats build wall-to-wall and hang a big board on the gate - NO VISITORS' CARS INSIDE. Where then, on the road? Visitors to star hotels have to park their vehicles on the roads meant for public use. A hospital in Adyar has de facto taken over a public road for parking. Worse, it has been permitted to add another wing, inviting more vehicles.

For your darling child and I.T. Relief for you





That 4-lane system on Anna Salai, where do you walk if you are a pedestrian? Try crossing a service lane to reach bus stops during peak hours! Two-wheelers are always in danger of being crushed from either side.

We are accelerating towards a situation where we will have wells (or deep borewells), but no water, cars but no space on the road or for parking, air-conditioners or fans but no power. What should be done?

 On the water front, Metrowater had started educating the public about harvesting the rainwater. A simple formula could be followed: Live with your rainwater! Be it a house, flat, office or whatever, provide retaining walls and allow the water to seep down or create capacity to store in. No provision for so-called storm water drainage should be made. There are enough indications that confirm that, on the average, Madras gets sufficient rainwater to meet its

Encourage public transport through visible incentives like premium space and accessibility (such as both ways movement on oneway stretches) on the roads, efficient and express services, special services for officegoers/specific target groups and multi-fare structure. Madras can well be served by its existing train and bus routes, with suitable augmentation in service, provided daily use of private vehicles, like cars, is brought down. This can be effectively achieved by imposing a levy on congested roads like Anna Salai and N H Road. The fewer the passengers, the more the levy per vehicle. Such congested roads should also be restricted to one-way traffic for cars

• Fare structures should be very stiff within 10 km radius of say Parrys/Egmore. Gradually it should be eased, to say 50 kms. Travelling for 10 or 50 km should cost the same. This would encourage people to stay away from the central areas, reducing consestion. Residents of central areas should be made to pay for better quality of life available through superior infrastructural facilities and better opportunities on the social, education and employment fronts.

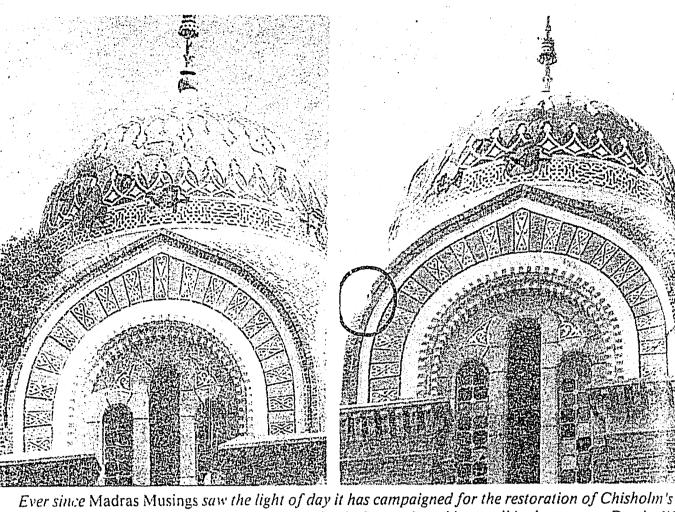
 Multistorey buildings need to be banned. They cause congestion, pollution, extra pressure on basic amenities, create slums and are high energy guzzlers. Thalamuthu Natarajan Building promoted by the MMDA consumed 2,709,360 units of electricity during the calendar year 1992 and around one lakh litres of water every day while people of Madras were struggling for a few buckets! Such buildings also use large quantities of high energy-consuming raw materials like steel and cement during the construction stage itself.

 Satellite towns should get priority for facilities like telephones, hospitals, schools, transport etc. in an effort to decongest the city. The State Government should consider shifting some of its offices to satellite

• Most important of all, efforts should be made to impart civic education to one and

The people of Madras are its greatest strength. They can contribute their mite by paying their dues/taxes in full and in time, keep their neighbourhood clean, plant a tree and act as watchdogs. And there should be people who will raise their voices in genuine protest rather than be one in a city full of sheep.

> Sadhna Adarsh 5 First Link Street Kanpagam Gardens, Advar Madras 600,020



House, considered by many as "the finest example of Indo-Saracenic architecture" in the country. Despite INT, drawing up detailed plans for the restoration of this - the first home of Madras University, nothing really happen in a strange tongue. For George till Prof. Sathikh became Vice-Chancellor. He went on a fund-raising drive to save Senate House, though a Gregorian, the church's careof his measures did not increase his popularity. He did, however, collect

a substantial bit of money from various business organisations and colleges ... a sacred ritual for the last thirty and we are glad to find a bit of it has now been put to good use. Our OLD OLD... A prayer for Armenians across is a picture of the southeast minaret on which a tree has been growing

luxuriantly these past five years and more, threatening the construction. Prof. Sivalingam, first Vice Char of Anna University, whom the Madras University put in charge of the restoration project was not prep wait for a new VC of Madras University to be nominated; the damage to the minaret was increasing day-b So, he got permission for just a bit of work to be done - and our NEW is the result. But look careful the encircled portion in the NEW — and you will see how wide the 'lips' have been parted by the roots of tree before it was removed a few weeks ago. Several other plants sprouting from the building have also been removed (Photographs: V S RAGHA)

Milch Cow — The dairy industry

advantage is offset by the huge volume

Australia and New Zealand, which

now enjoy an edge due to their subsi-

A DOUBLE LETTE

• • The cow is of the bovine ilk; one end is moo, the other milk". For many, this comment by Ogden Nash might sound the neatest definition of the herbivore and its produce; but for others, it could well end up eliciting displeasure and disdain. For, the long and short of the 'cow' and its 'milk' is more, much more, it fact, enough to keep churning a dairy industry.

The Indian dairy industry has moved from dependence to progressive self-reliance, with a total milk production of 51.50 million tonnes in 1989-90. It is now the second largest producer of milk in the world, next to the USA. Thanks to 'Operation Flood', launched in 1970 with the over-riding objective of increasing milk production through integrated cattle-cum-dairy development, dairying has become a primary source of income rather than supplementary activity, making possible a transition from chronic shortage to a surplus situation. While the organised sector has contributed to only about ten per cent of the total milk output, it has diversified into valueadded products and the identification of new markets has proved a sine qua non for the industry. So, the

industry in 1991. Ever since, the scenario has undersone a marked change, from one of a few Indian, multinational and cooperative players, like Nestle, Lipton and Vadilal, dominating the scene, to more players eager to grab a market share. The first to dash into the deregulated environment was Amrut Industries. Now scrips of companies like Indiana Dairy, Roadmaster Foods and Ravileela are actively traded on the

Government promptly delicensed the

In spite of 46 per cent of the milk consumption being in the liquid form, the industry has the peculiarity of five flush months (November to March) and four lean months (mid-May to mid-August), rendering necessary utilisation of sumly milk in the flush season h

conversion into value-added products. Thus, value-added products like butter and milk sweets have received a shot in the arm. Milk products, apart from sponging off milk surplus, also fetch higher price realisation. Though selling milk is low margin business, this disbreakthrough. The Food and Agricultural Orgre was an exodus. His earliest child-

zation has predicted a rise of M memories include one of a long o BULL'S EYE per cent in India's production fort arduous camel trek made from market it offers, as can be seen from the example of Aavin, which holds pride of place in Madras. On the other hand, the contribution of milk products is only about 10 percent of the total turnover of Rs 200 cr.

The prime objective of delicensing being to lend added thrust to exports, steps are being taken to tap the global market for ethnic food by exporting gulabjamoons and shrikand for starters. It is suggested that India could be a leading player in the global scenario once GATTproposals are implemented, since countries like Europe and

The Perfect

Financial Shelter

萬

Bank of Madura Ltd.

Central Office: 758 Anna Salai, Madras - 600 002. Phone: 8263456

dised products, will cease to the city's past subsidies. Already exciting Leorge Gregorian was born on prospects await India. Isolating pro-228, 1913 in Persia (now Iran). is emerging as a major indulather worked in an oil company. Extraction of lactic acid for prize was the second in his family; production of infant milk food is a had an elder sister and younger

With the co-operatives and the prima to Bombay! sector in the fray, competition is h up. Ultimately, however, it will all His family stayed in Bombay for down to their quality and brander before moving to Calcutta where motion, apart from value addinacles were. His father left for Persia Charles De Gaulle was, of countly afterwards and never returned; kidding when he marvelled ald died there in 1936. Gregorian's "How can one ever govern a nathood wasn't an easy one. He that has 240 different brands lied at St. Joseph's, Calcutta, and then transferred to the Armenian We had recommended Ind lege and Philanthropic Academy to

Dairy last fortnight. Now we supplete his education (and learn his Amrut Industries.

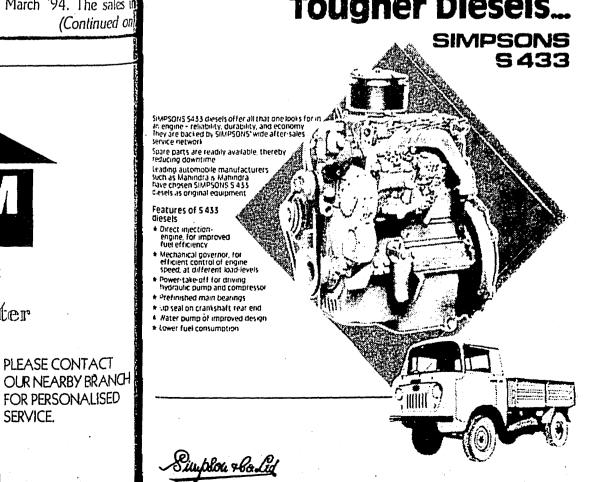
Amrut Industries (CMP Rs Amrut Industries Ltd has posted exem working results for the first half of the c year ended March '94. The sales (Continued

PLEASE CONTACT

FOR PERSONALISED

SERVICE.

The Armenian Church belfry in George Town. e tongue!). Here, his education



The keeper of the faith was ended abruptly when his uncles sent him to learn the ropes of the family cotton and jute business.

After a short stint in the business, he went to work as a cotton agent in a British firm in Chittagong. He was there till World War II broke out, when the company wound up. He then put in stints with the American Red Cross,

deed voo Tamence 2

the Ordnance Factories in Dum Dum, Ishapore and Cossipore and in the Gun and Shell factory.

The post-war years saw an exodus of Armenians from India. Feeling alienated in an independent India. they fanned out across the globe to the U.K., Australia and America.

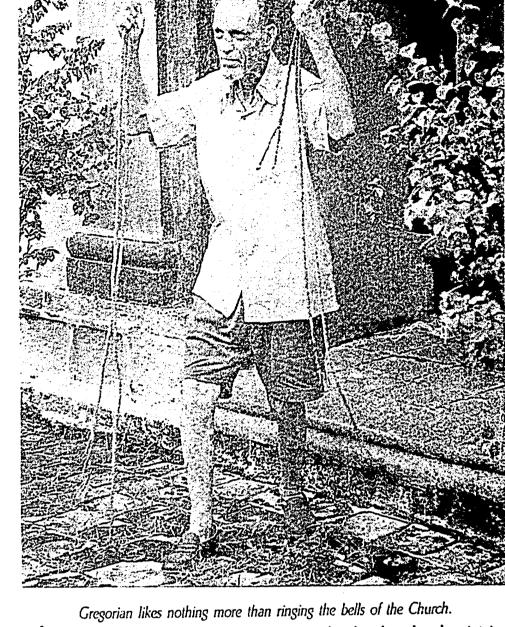
Like them, Gregorian too set his

sights on life in the West. He left for

England with his family in 1955, but after spending half a decade there, he began to feel his homeland calling. "My roots are in India," says Gregorian with a of touch of pride. So, having settled his children in Britain, he returned to India in the early Sixties.

The Armenian Association in Calcutta had, in December 1962, taken over the trusteeship of the Armenian Church in Madras from King and Partridge, the lawyers. Gregorian was at the time working in Calcutta. His uncle, Martin Martyrose, a member of the Armenian Association, suggested he go to Madras and take over the church as its caretaker. No mean task for one who was past his prime in life. "I had never been to Madras and had to begin a new life here — on Rs. 350 a month!

He arrived in Madras on August 20, 1964, with his wife Joan. To his dismay, he found the entire place in



shambles. The church was in a state of disrepair, the land was barren and the finances were in a deplorable state. There were long overdue rents, matured deposits and legal hassles to contend with. For George Gregorian, it was clearly going to be an uphill task.

"When we came here, we made friends — and enemies." he recollects, with a twinkle in his eye. "But we built this place up from scratch and restored

it to its former glory". Today, the Armenian church is everything that Gregorian says it is and more. The church today stands tranquil and majestic, set in a well laid-out garden. The adjacent cemetery with its tombstones in the quaint Armenian script stands today a reminder of 300 and more years of Armenian history in Madras.

Buried in the cemetery is Haruthiun Shmavonian, the world's first Armenian journalist and editor of the first Armenian journal Azadarar. At the time of writing, the Department of Post has plans to release a postage stamp on Shmavonian. (This follows a report in Madras Musings on Shmavonian!)

Despite his advancing age, Gregorian carries on his work. Apart from being the Caretaker, Vestry Officer and Sexton of the church, he is also the Hony. Secretary of the Armenian Assocation. For the last three and a half years, he has been single handedly maintaining the church property. He

Surgeon), Dr Mohan Das (Orthopaedic

Surgeon) and Dr Kunthala Jayaraman

(Biotechnologist). (Br. Council, 10 a.m.

British Council Scholars and the Madras

Theatre Club present Shakespeare's *The*

Winter's Tale at the Museum Theatre at

7 p.m. on each day. The production is

designed and directed by Mithran

August 19 and 20: The Association of

YOUR DIARY

to 6 p.m. daily)

sweeps the churchyard and maintains the garden for want of proper help. "Hard work never killed a man or a woman!" he insists. And adds "Being happy with your work helps too".

A raconteur, Gregorian is always ready with quip or anecdote. All things Armenian are dear to him. His sketches of Armenians and Bible scenes hang all over the church annexe. He peppers his conversation with a curious mix of old world wisdom, wit and acerbity A deeply religious man, Gregorian believes in the all-pervasive power of prayer: "It is the key to the day and the lock to the night!"

A big question mark, however, hangs over the future of the church. Gregorian hopes to visit Calcutta by the end of the year to find a successor. A worthy one at that. Having spent thirty years of his life in the service of the Armenian Church in Madras he is determined to see it live on as a part of the city's history.

One fact stands out very strongly about this man who has built his life around all things Armenian. He has never visited Armenia!

"That I intend doing some day, my friend," he tells me with a faraway look in his eyes.

Until then, he remains George Eliazar Gregorian, the Caretaker, the Custodian, the Last of the Madras Armenians. Above all, he remains very simply: The Keeper of The Faith.

For your beloved daughter and I.T. Relief for you





Tough Times. Tougher Diesels...

DATES FOR August: 'Artist of the Month': S Elbin Sudhakar Paul, a graduate from the College of Arts and Crafts, Madras.

August 18-22: People of Marina Beach - Seen Through German and Indian Eyes. A photo exhibition presented by MMB, and the Photographic Society of Madras. 'People of Marina' by Markus Bullik, an upcoming German photographer and photolilm-designer, has already been shown in Germany. And Raghavendra Rao, well-known Madras photographer who lives by the shore. teams with Bullik, to take you on a journey peopled with love, warmth and caring. The call of the coast and the people of the Marina, as seen through their eyes, cannot go unheeded, the MMB says. (At Sakshi Gallery, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

Till August 19: 'Science for Health' exhibition in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the British Council publication British Medical Bulletin. This poster exhibition will feature some of the many medical advances achieved in the past fifty years. The exhibition will include a video show on Science for Health. To support the exhibition there will be public

Devanesan and the cast includes Michael Muthu, Vinitha Nair, Mohamed Yosuf and George Deligianis. August 20: Live 'Rock' concert by two city rock groups, 'Raakshas' (with singer Loga) and 'Roc Citi Crue' (with keyboardist Joseph Fernandez), in aid of

'chemical dependents' (drug addicts). At

Anna Auditorium, opp. Doordarshan

August 29: Journey Through American

August 30:Three Tall Women. Both by the Artists Repertory Theatre, Portland, Oregon, a non-profit theatre company founded in 1982 and which produces innovative, high quality, socially conscious theatre. (At the Music



A view of St. Columban's School.

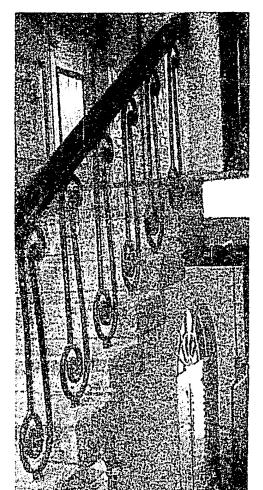
that there was no Catholic school in Madras for the children of parents who were quite well off. The nuns then established a boarding for the older girls and got going with six boarders.

In 1899, the foundation stone for the Presentation School building was laid by the Rev. Dr. Colgan, the Archbishop of Madras. The next year, the first students appeared for the matriculation exam. Classes for Junior and Senior First Year Arts were next started and the college was recognised and affiliated to the University of Madras as a second grade college. These classes continued till 1908, but University education for women was not popular and this led to the abolition of the F.A. Classes and the establishment of a Training College for Teachers in 1912. This was housed in the old

headmistress at present is Sister Clair

poor, died in 1784.

Text and photographs by



The steel staircase, a

A 'presentation' from Ireland

The history of Presentation endeavours in India began in 1841 when, on the invitation of Dr. Fennelly, Mother Xavier Curran of Rahan Presentation Convent, Ireland, and three Sisters from Maynooth,

had been started for children of Catholic soldiers by the widow of an English officer, Colonel Smith, Mrs Smith and her companions continued to assist by teaching the vernacular to the Sisters and to the orphanage children. The

This series is on Madras schools that are part of the City's heritage. These are not necessarily the better-known or more successful schools of today. These are the schools that helped the city to grow. Each of the schools featured is over 100 years old.

Ireland, volunteered to serve the orphan children of Irish soldiers who had died in India. On arrival in Madras, the nuns were requested to take care of the education of Catholic girls.

Dr Fennelly handed over to the

orphanage had been in Fort St. George and had 31 children. The school too had the same number of children. The children were taught by an Indian teacher whose work was supervised by the nuns. Later, a pay school for older Church Park in 1919. In 1912, too, the name of the school was changed from Presentation Convent to St. Columban's.

The high school came under the code of regulations for European Schools in 1908. The orphanage founded by Dr Carew too came under the regulation for European schools and became St Ursula's Middle School. This was transferred later to Church Park. In 1978, the school was upgraded to higher secondary status.

The School's majestic red architecture is an engineering marvel and many an engineer has agreed that its stairway is unique in design. The school is located in the busy George Town area, on an eight ground plot. It has about 1300 girls enrolled and has had girls was opened when it was found an excellent academic record. The St. Columban's.

and she is assisted by 32 teachers. The school has a good athletics team. The Presentation Order was

founded by Nano Nagle of County Cork who was educated in Paris because of the discrimination against the Catholic's in County Cork at the time. She opened her first school in Cork in 1754 and added six more schools in the city by 1774. The next year she founded the Order of the Presentation Sisters. The pioneer of Catholic education in Ireland, especially for the

RAJIND N CHRISTY

(Ouizmaster V.V. RAMANA)

questions are from the fortn

1. Where in Madras was a 1800.

2. Where, near Madras, is the S

Indian Temple Art Gallery to d

. The 1964 Nobel Laureate who

best known for determining

structure of Pencillin, Insuli

Vitamin B12 died recently.

4. Who won the first leg of the

in Madras on July 31?

5. Name the comet which crashed

6. The 'Bounding Basque', one of

legendary 'Four Musketeers'

tennis, died on July 17th. Name

7. The new Union Cabinet Secre

World Cup went to ...?

dismantled. Name the structure

words 'One small step for man,

giant leap for mankind' was co

rated on July 20th. When y

needed for payments upto Rs 5

5. The HRD ministry, in a land

. This eminent Indian's

its author.

talking about?

resolution, has decided to cha

one face of Indian education. He

released on July 25th has create

national furore. Name the book

. Recently, the 'King of Pop' ackn

ledged his secret marriage to

daughter of the 'King'. Who are

chosen from India for screening

18. As part of the inaugural ceremon

these words first spoken? Name the DMK literary

'lorever'.

'Golden Ball' for best player of the company

Flake Grand Slam billiards tour

Jupiter repeatedly from July

the Laureate.

onwards.

covered recently?

old sculpted Buddhist panel

July 16-31.)

Guindy Engineering

THE DAYS OF YOUTH'

(Continued from last fortnight)

The Survey School of Fort St. George, the oldest technical institution outside Europe and the forerunner of Guindy Engineering College, became a college in 1859, the year it moved to Khalsa Mahal. Functioning from the Khalsa Mahal, the northern half of Chepauk Palace, the Civil Engineering College sent out its first batch of graduates (assistant engineers) in 1863.

There had been more military students earlier, but with improvement in employment opportunities, the



"It's a symbolic victory celebration - NOT with champagne, but VAT 69!"

IN MAD MAD MADRAC

number of civilian students increased gradually. By 1880, there were ten civilian students. However, there was a problem for Indian students in communicating with European teachers and vice versa. So a programme to train the Europeans in the vernaculars was started and practical training improved greatly. Surveying the hilly terrain at Pallavaram was made a part of the training and the first survey camp was held in Pallavaram in 1862, the year a separate Department of Civil Engineering was created. At the time, the inspector in charge of surveying, Gilby, was granted a 'horse allowance' of Rs. 25 per month to enable him to supervise the students. The college was affiliated to the University of Madras

iri 1877. The employment opportunities which had been increasing in earlier years saw a decline with the reorganisation of the P.W.D. in 1879 and as a direct consequence, admissions to the College dropped. Within a year of this problem, arrangements were made, to assist the students of the college in getting jobs. In 1881, the Government ordered that six vacancies in the engineering division of the P.W.D. should be filled by students from Indian Engineering colleges — three from Roorkee and one each from Madras, Pune and Calcutta. By 1884, the

Government had set up a permanent

200 years engineering **Madras** by R. JAISRI

the vacancies again to be filled as far as possible with students from Indian colleges, five from Roorkee, two each from Calcutta and Pune and one from Madras. S.A. Subramanya Iyer, who passed out in 1884, was the first beneficiary under this scheme of Guaranteed Posting (G.P.). In later years, the G.P. was given to the best outgoing student of the college.

The Civil Engineering College came to be known as the College of Engineering in 1886 and in 1894 the B.C.E. degree was changed to a B.E.

In 1882, the Chief Engineer of the P.W.D. had made an attempt to include among admission requirements the ability to walk 20 miles in six hours and ride 25 miles in 3½ hours apart from experience in workshops. This was dropped, following opposition from many quarters, but the minimum qualification continued to be B.A. and the duration of the course was increased

The college moved to its present campus, built at a cost of Rs. 20 lakh, in 1920, when C.L. Cartwright was the principal. W.H. James, who was to be principal for four terms, designed the college buildings, workshops and laboratories, which have stood to this day, a notable aspect of the main building being its E-Shape, E standing for Engineering. While building the College, as the imported steel joints used at the time were not available. Indian iron and English steel were indigenously combined to make the girders. James was the first Principal to have carried out research in the college. During his last term as principal, James had to be removed following a students' strike as he kicked the lamps that had been lit in the hostel during Deepavali.

The College that had been begun with intention of offering training to Indians, took on Indian staff members only in the first two decades of this century. Rao Bahadur G.L. Nagaratnam lyer, an alumnus and one of the first Indians on the staff, became the first Indian principal of the college in 1920. Other Indians on the staff around this time included Durairaja lyer (Civil Engineering Professor), M.K. Ranganatham, Venkatakrishna Iyer, T.S. Venkatrama Iyer and Tiru-Iyengar (Mechanical malai Engineering).

(To be concluded

Quizzin experimentation with

Ralla and overs in Madras bored with the sion of Bharatha Natyam promes. Anita Ratnam and the gam Trust' (of which she is the live director) have lined up a al of new dance entitled 'Old New Textures: Exploration in y and Movement'on August 27th,

n August 27th there will be a nar convened by Lakshmi Viswaan at T T Vasu's mini-theatre at ome (6 Cathedral Road, opp. the Academy). Choreographers ali Kolanad from Singapore, Aditi aldas from New Delhi and apani Chawla from Bombay will onstrate excerpts from their work discuss the way their choreography

ı the 28th Gitanjali Kolanad's niber A.K. Ramanujan's 'What Said' and 'Frame Works' verses the Kama Sutra earlier?) new cography, 'Under Her Breath', will formed. This is a full-length dance piece based on A K Ramais translations of Sangam love y and his retelling of Indian folk Raiika Puri is the narrator (the dhar) and Deborah Dunthorn is frector. They are both from New Anita and Gitaniali dance, while ng dancers do the nattuvangam.

On the 29th, Veenapani Chawla 9. A 156-feet, 307-year-old histories 'A Greater Dawn', an structure in Madras was red

8. The newly instituted 'Lev Yat Iditi Mangaldas presents her experi-

Award' for best goalkeeper is in Kathak with the Drishtikon

secretary, elected to the Lok Salespite the rain, it was 'Standing Ananthan regaled his audience with in 1989 on an AIADMK ticket, Room Only' at the three lectures subtle digressions and pithy comments, recently rejoined the AIAD nised recently by the Awakened but he never lost the main thread of p for National Integration (AGNI) 2. According to a recent amendmente Bharathidasan theme 'Tamil is what is the value of revenue start (Tamizhukkum amudhendra

Without ever getting pedantic, 3. Name the UN's new organisation impuri John (modern), Kumari up to audit and investigate anthan (medieval) and M Karunamanagement within the world by (Sangam) showered the nectar of 4. Namethe best-selling author who three great periods of Tamil acquitted of charges of instature during the AGNI programme. trading' by the British Parliam ohn refused to cling to the past as by A Special overed, step by step, the range of literature from Bharathiar to s Pudu Kavithai. He lavished on the verse and prose of the but did show the same isiasm for the present. Nevertheohn welcomed the new words

have entered Tamil and called for lionary of such words. lumari Ananthan's talk was the delightful of the series. But that lalso have been due to the period h produced the literature he spoke of what world event in India welling on the religious literature Anand Shankar's specially compare age, he discussed how God was ballet, Buddhi Vijaya, perform and with whom the writers took 9. Which Malayalam film has thes — they teased Him, chided and at times even had arguments the festival '100 years of Wang themselves about Him. Illustra-

Cinema' to be organised in Alla his talk with profuse examples, he explained how Paarpan became 20. Eminent Italian gynaecologide reference to Brahmins. It came Dr. Severino Antinori refused the literal meaning of the word, ficial insemination to a celeville who sees", he explained. His. stating that she was a lesbian forations of Thalattu and Kutrala the child would miss a father is avanji captured the essence of folk and had an instinctively clapping

Name this celebrity. (Answers on p. 8) Tence joining in. enactment of Savithri, Sri Aurobindo's epic poem. It is a full-length dance theatre work, accompanied by original music. There are two soloists and a chorus of four who use spoken texts and a language of movement developed from Chhau and Kalaripayattu

Anita Ratnam says, "There is an increasing number of choreographers who experiment with dance forms like Bharatha Natyam, Kathak or Chhau and attempt to extend the conventional boundaries of these forms. Some introduce new themes, others use several dancers when the norm is a solo verformer. Critics and audiences are

The view from the wings by V.R. Devika

today welcoming these experiments, but the works, somehow, do not travel due to logistical problems. Arangam Trust has organised the Old Texts and New Textures' dance festival for this very reason.

Such experimental dance performances are generally viewed largely only by the English theatre-going crowd. Classical dancers and musicians still shy from watching such experiments. It is time they got rid of their inhibitions and attended and encouraged such experimentation. These only add to the glamour of traditional arts.

The three-day festival will be presented at the Museum Theatre.

Picasso & Shakespeare

days before the dance festival, is Shakespeare's Winter's Tale. Mithran Devanesan, who has designed and directed the performance, says his design has been inspired by a Picasso exhibition he saw in London and the 'V' TV Oye show. Well, then, here's one Shakespeare play thatmust be seen!

Powerful Presentation

The limited audience at Sittrarangam on August 4th, 5th and 6th were in for a big surprise. Electra, a theatre fantasy dramatically presented by Masquerade, had excellent acting by Shakila as Electra and Serene Thariyan as Clytemnestra. The production derived its power from the various special effects, like the make-up (Karthik) which was quite bizarre but eye-catching, the props-pots and hangings painted by Hans Kaushikwhich were most suitable for the small theatre, and the very ethereal ambience of the place.

Electra approached the audience quite menacingly, threatening it with the possibility of crushing it with her grief over a father stabbed, a mother with a new lover and a brother rotting in a death cell. The acting and the make-up took the content to a surrealistic level.

Young Krishna Kumar, the director, did a good job with the play despite all the constraints he had to face. He says the play almost had several

did not hesitate to defy the king. When

one poet, Kanian Poongundran, was

asked to sing a paean to the king, he

refused and said he would rather sing

▲ Iso at the Museum Theatre, a few

Electra and Clytemnestra flanked by Clytemnestra's aides.

abortions but finally had a Caesarean

Sittrarangam, incidentally, may be a little off the beaten track, but all those who came for the play had no problem with the distance that many others complain about. Where there is a will, there is, of course, a way.

Absorbing Production

I was unable to attend the dance drama Mohanavalli Parinayam presented by Girish Panicker and Usha Vasantha Kumar. But Usha brought me a video of it to watch. I had

planned to catch glimpses of it and fast forward most of it, but, to my surprise. found myself watching the entire two hours of the dance drama. At no point did I press the FF button.

It was a sincere effort to present a Kalakshetra-like production with dancers from different schools. Girish is a Kalakshetra product and dances in the unmistakable Kalakshetra way, but Usha has learnt from various gurus and has even had Manipuri training. There was a rare integrity about this production, which deserves a wider audience.

• BULL'S EYE

first half were Rs 35.36 cr and the PAT Rs 6.91 cr. Performance in the second half should be substantially better with the acquisition of a running unit at Kolhapur and recent expansion of capacity at the Hyderabad unit. The Taloja unit is to be extended by August. Plans are on to export milk and milk products. Amrut is planning a rights issue in September. By September '95, we expect the price to move upto

Divya Enterprises (CMP Rs 8.25): This Hyderabad-based 100 per cent EOU manufacturing terrytowels, approached the public to part-finance its expansion and forward integrate into dyeing and bleaching. While commercial production on the expanded capacity has commenced, it has a firm 100per cent buy back arrangement for them with M/S Mantex International Ltd. UK, for ten years. A turnover of Rs 2.25 cr

(Continued from P4)

1993-94. The PAT for 1994-95 is to be much higher, as it has Rs 11 cr worth orders on hand. The EPS works out to Rs 2.85. The results for 1995 should support over TVS Electronics (CMP Rs 60.00):

and a PAT of Rs 8 lakhs was achieved for

This computer peripherals manufacturer has announced encouraging results for the second half ended May 1994. For the year ended May 1994, turnover has grown by 17 per cent while PAT witnessed a whopping 370 per-cent jump over 1992-93. The company is planning to make facsimile machines. For 1994-95, turnover should touch Rs 100 cr. We estimate a PAT of Rs 7 cr. giving an EPS of Rs 5 and supporting Rs 100 for this share. A good buy for medium-term.

K. Gopalakrishnan

10. The silver jubilee of these histon **NECTAR**

his narration. While explaining *Thalattu* (which literally means the movement of the tongue), he might have subtly pointed out that a 'minority' was the most important organ of speech, despite the teeth being the 'majority', and while talking about the Siddhas he might have pointed out how they incorporated

Correspondent

poetic prescriptions advising people in power not to accept bribes, lose their integrity or fall at the feet of those above them, but he also pointed out that there were many words in Tamil which people were not sure how to use and he called for an organisation to clear such doubts under the auspices of

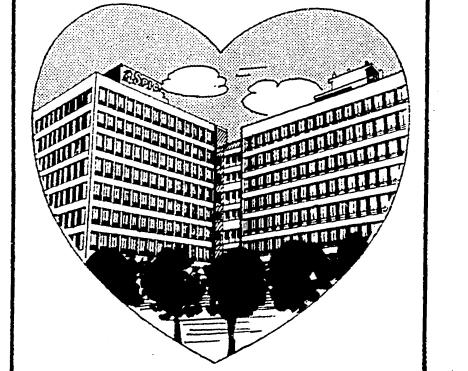
Popular not only as an authority on Sangam literature but as one who has rendered a good deal of it into 'modern' Tamil, Karunanidhi was much looked forward to. He explained at length how impersonality was the hallmark of the Sangam age. The greatest of epics or love lyrics had only the thalaivan and thalaivi, never particular persons with names. What mattered was the content and expression, he said, quoting extensively from Sangam literature and the 'modern' versions too. In fact, the poets were so devoted to their art that they

for the human race and so came the popular Yaadhum Oore, Yaavarum Kelir (Everywhere is home, everyone a relative). It was the human element of the art that made it superior to science, he averred. The weight of Karunanidhi's

scholarship, which awed the audience initially, began, however, to get it down when, in the latter half, he tended to read from a prepared text. Like John and Ananthan, who had each earlier said he had prepared for the lecture like a student studying for an exam, he too had started preparing for his talk, Karunanidhi said. But on the very day he began to prepare for it, there was, he claimed, a "wrong" report in a Tamil daily about his party which upset him and so he stopped his preparation! Come, come, Mr Karunanidhi! For a person who should be able to handle with ease an extempore on Sangam literature, this was hardly an excuse!

All the same, any doubts about the audience's interest in Tamil, especially literature, were set at rest by the reactions of the large crowds — comprising of scholars as well merely curious young persons. There was pin-drop silence during the talks, punctuated by loud peals of truly appreciative laughter. It was a serious audience as well as a happy one. All, it would appear, is well with Tamil literature and the interest

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SPIC **GROUP COMPANIES**



The British bikers — from left to right, Douglas Luke, Chris Smith and Mandy Patchett — at the start of the Madras — Birmingham expedition.

served in the Indian Army prior to Independence and left India only in the late Fifties. According to Luke, ever since his granduncle told him the story of being kidnapped at rifle point by a lone Pathan woman in the Khyber Pass and of remaining her hostage for one week, he had wanted to visit that area too.

After riding an Enfield Bullet, Luke decided to start his journey from Madras-the only place where the Bullet is now being produced — to reach Redditch, Birmingham, the birthplace of the Royal Enfields that are no longer in production there.

He convinced Mandy, who has travelled widely in the Far East and the USA, and Chris to form a team with

Will CM winds this race this race against time Only 16 months including unfort- on these and other matters like

Only 16 months, including, unfortunately, two monsoons, remain to put up a Games Village of 500 flats to accommodate 2,000 visiting sportspersons, a multi-purpose indoor stadium, a tennis stadium of international standards and a swimming pool of Olympic dimensions, besides renovating the existing facilities like the Mayor Radhakrishnan hockey stadium, the University Union indoor stadium and the Police Commissioner's Office

by JAIC

shooting range, for the Rs. 25-crore South Asian Federation (SAF) Games to be held in Madras in December 1995.

It is a veritable race against time. But Chief Minister Jayalalitha, who confounded the prophets by getting the Rs. 40-crore Nehru Stadium ready in two years, has the resources to win it.

Unfortunately, it is not known when the foundation stones for the Games Village at Koyambedu and the indoor stadium in the Madras Zoo area will be laid. There is also no knowing whether the Government will set up an overall organising committee, or a committee for each discipline. And, it is anybody's guess, though not of immediate importance, what the Government proposes to do with the 500 flats after the curtain is brought down on the Games. The State Information Department's communication to the Press, too, does not throw any light

on these and other matters, like accommodation for foreign journal and the media facilities in the countries in the countries in the countries and the media facilities in the countries.

Madras sports journalists, viitua kept in the dark, hope the Minister will call them for a spe briefing not only to enlighten them all aspects of the Games but also to their advice. The organisers willing expert advice in practically discipline, from athletics to wrestline the hectic fortnight-long meet to ha a smooth passage. This can be obtain only from experienced organises journalists, especially writers S Thyagarajan and Nirmal She who have covered internation championships at home and almo Their experience can help Government in a big way.

The unlucky slogan

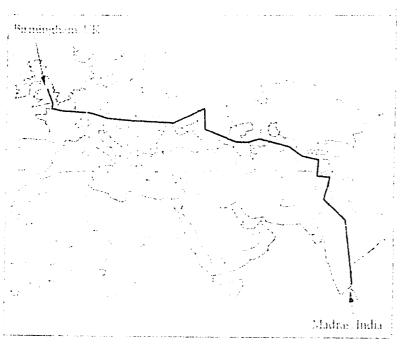
So Viswanathan Anands attempt to capture the FIDE world chess title has come cropper once again. But guess who predicted Kamsky's victory over the pre-match favourite. The sponsors of the Candidate quarter-finals, the Sanghi Ground themselves! Their hoarding with the slogan 'get a ticket to Kamsky's match' was certainly prophetic. It was indeed Kamsky's match!

Across Eurasia in 80 days

(By Venkatachari Jagannathan)

education facilities for children in developing countries.

A motorbike enthusiast, Luke, an Oxford graduate, decided on an adventure trip on a motorbike from India, after reading a fictional account of travel from Russia to U.K. on a camel. He also wanted to travel through North India, as he has his relatives in Jabalpur; his grandfather had



The route of the expedition: Madras - Bombay - Delhi - Islamabad - Chitral - Osh - Tashkent - Samarkand - Ashkbad - Baku - Tblisi - Rostov - Odessa - Budapest - Prague - Vienna - Munich - Paris - London - Birmingham

him. According to Chris, he agreed to the trip as he was feeling bored after leading a nomadic life travelling in Australia and Southeast Asias. When they wrote to Enfield India Ltd through Action Aid about their plans, the Madras company readily agreed to sponsor the trip as it was planning to reposition its bike in the market as an 'adventure vehicle' and go into production of 535 cc and 623 cc bikes.

The three riders were given training in the Madras factory to assemble the vehicle independently, so that the team would not be stranded midway anywhere if any vehicle developed trouble.

Mandy, the team's most outgoing personality, initially hesitated to make the trip, but became fully involved in the project after coming to India. By the time they set off, SHE was the strongest motivating force behind Douglas and Chris. In fact, she demonstrated her enthusiasm by racing at over 100 kmh and finishing ahead of the others when they raced to Mamallapuram on a warm-up trip!

The three will be joined by Adrian Quinn in Islamabad. Quinn, a journalist, will guide them through warravaged Afghanistan and record their experiences on the way to Birmingham.

Women power Tamilnadu to second place

(By Sportswatch)

P A Gladies and C Chamundeeswari did Tamil Nadu proud at the 12th

They're off to Birmingham, U.K. from Madras, three British advent-

urers on Madras-made motorbikes. The

three bikers, Douglas Hansen-Luke

(23). Mandy Patchett (27) and Chris

Smith (28) recently cranked their

Enfield 500cc Bullet on the Marina

and set off to travel through 15

countries in 80 days to raise funds for

Action Aid, U.K., a charitable organi-

sation providing healthcare and

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. On the walls of the Ellaiyamman temple in Triplicane, 2. Muthukadu village; 3. Dorothy Hodgkin; 4. Mike Russell; 5. Shoemaker-Levy 9: 6. Jean Borotra of France: 7. Surinder Singh: 8. Michel Preud'homme of Belgium and Romario of Brazil; 9. The flagmast at Fort St. George; 10. They were spoken by Neil Armstrong of USA on becoming the first man to set foot on the Moon; 11. K. Kalimuthu; 12. A googly! No stamp is required; 13. Office of the Internal Oversight Services; 14. Jeffrey Archer; 15. It has decided to ban admission tests and interviews to pre-school children; 16. My Presidential Years by R. Venkatraman; 17. Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley, the daughter of Elvis Presley; 13. The world chess championship candidates' matches at Sanghi Nagar; 19. Adoor Gopalakrishnan's Ellipathayam; 20. Martina Navaratilova.

National Women's Powerlifting Championships held in the city recently. They won gold in the 70 kg and 44 kg respectively.

Amongst the Tamil Nadu men. Bhagawathi won the gold in the 75 kg at the 20th National Championships. Xavier tied for first place in the 125 kg category with Ashok Kapoor of Chandigarh with a total lift of 775 kg (320-190-265). Xavier was, however, placed second because of his high body weight. Later, he set a new additional record in the squat with a lift of 325 kg.

Other notable performances from Tamil Nadu were K Valli, who won the bronze in the 52 kg, R Mohanakrishnan (silver-52 kg), N Murugan (Bronze - 56 kg), V Palanimuthu (Bronze-60 kg) and Senthilkumar (Bronze-67.5 kg).

More than 200 powerlifters from twenty states exhibited their prowess at

these championships, the first to be held in Tamil Nadu.

Unlike weightlifting, powerlifting is basically a sport to test the endurance power of the participant's thighs, chest and back. The event is divided into three parts-squat, bench press and dead lift. The total of the three lifts decides the winner. If there is a tie between two or more participants, the competitor weighing less is declared the winner.

Kerala won the inter-state women's title and the silver in the men's team and open national events and, in the process, claimed the overall championship with 61 points. Hosts Tamil Nadu finished second in the overall championships.

A non-Olympic event, it is only the Kerala Government in India that has recognised the sport and provides employment to participants. Almost all the Tamil Nadu lifters hoped the state government would follow the Kerala example.

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