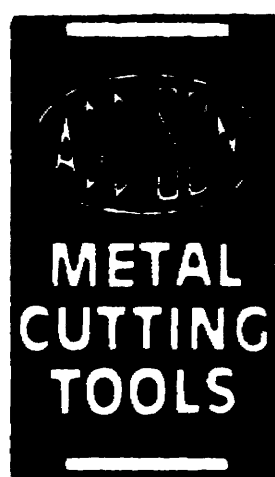


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IV. No. 10

Sept. 1 — 15, 1994

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First steps to Heritage Act

(By The Editor)

you, Madam Chief Minister, thank you, Sheriff Chockalingam, for the interest you have shown and the initiatives you have taken recently in several matters, connected with the heritage of the City, that the citizens of Madras had brought to your attention. Besides all the petitions and signed appeals you had received from eminent members of the public on some of these concerns, there has also been the voice of *Madras Musings* calling for action these past couple of years on five specific heritage-related matters. We are pleased to find that ours has not entirely been a voice in the wilderness.

The issues *Madras Musings* has focused on are: 1) A Heritage Act; (2) The DGP Building; (3) Government (and NOT Admiralty House which some Madras newspapers still insist on calling it); (4) Victoria Public Hall, and (5) the waterways of the City.

In the light of what has happened in the past few weeks in these five cases, *Madras Musings*, on this occasion brings its readers up-to-date on those happenings and offers some thoughts that might prove of some use in contemplating further action. Meanwhile, we look forward to all the action already initiated gathering momentum.

(See stories on this page and on page 3)

An act that will need action

Government of Tamil Nadu, in response to appeals by conservationists and environmentalists, has decided to consider introducing a Heritage Act. At a meeting convened by the Deputy Secretary, Municipal Corporation and Water Supply Department, this decision was conveyed to representatives of the various organisations concerned and representatives of the public who had made the appeal.

Following the meeting it was agreed that Chandrasekaran, a town planning officer and Joint Secretary in the Urban Development Department, would draft the

suggested legislation which could then be recommended to the Government. Architect Sujatha Shankar was also requested to offer additional inputs. It was hoped that the proposed legislation would draw from both the Delhi and Bombay laws as well as from legislation in Britain, Australia etc.

While *Madras Musings* welcomes this initiative on something it has long cried for, the following should be pointed out:-

- Any Heritage Act should not restrict itself to buildings alone. It should look at even whole areas, as for

instance, the *mada veezhis* around the Kapaleeswarar Temple and the area immediately behind each of them, and natural features like the city's rivers, Guindy Forest, the backwaters etc.

- Listing buildings, areas and natural features is only part of the exercise. The Act should not only save and protect all that has been listed, but it should also ensure that what is protected is **restored** and **put to good use** so that it becomes part of a living heritage. Towards this end, tax-free contributions should be sought

from industrial and commercial organisations as well as from abroad.

- Finally, the Act can only be successful if it is implemented wholly in the spirit of the Act and if every Heritage Building, Area or Natural Feature is brought to life again and made to survive in a meaningful way.

The Heritage Act, when it is passed, will be only the first step. There will be many miles to go thereafter. The Act's success can only be judged by the actions that follow.

New lease of life for DGP building

Government has asked all those seeking a new ten-storey Police headquarters on the site of the DGP Building to reconsider the need to destroy the existing building in the process. In pursuit of that reconsideration, will the Police invite conservationists, environmentalists and architects to discuss the alternative?

Madras Musings' feelings on this issue, are three-fold:

- Under no circumstances should a ten-storey building be put up on the Marina. With plenty of area available around the DGP Building, new three-storey buildings can be put up in all the area behind and beside the building and all the key departments the DGP would like around him could be accommodated. As someone suggested,

the Police should view this block of buildings as "Corporate Headquarters" and not the nuts and bolts departments. And corporate headquarters are successful these days because technology has made instant communication possible with any part of the world.

- The DGP building should be renovated, integrated with the new construction and **continue** to serve as what it has been from the beginning of the city's police force, its **headquarters**. Anything less, such as a museum, is to condemn the building to further neglect.

- A decision on this must be quick. Action on restoration must begin at the earliest. Delaying the whole issue is only another way of condemning the existing building.



Victoria Public Hall with its renovated new entrance. (Photograph by RAJIND N CHRISTY)

Architects rally to VPH cause

Madras Musings is pleased to learn that the Tamil Nadu Chapter of the architects' national association has deputed a team to look into how Victoria Public Hall can be restored and that these volunteers have begun to address themselves to this exercise.

At the same time, *Madras Musings* understands that Sheriff Chockalingam has started negotiations with two organisations occupying parts of VPH to get them to move elsewhere. The Corporation authorities, it is learnt, are taking active steps to find alternative accommodation for these organisations.

Action on restoring VPH is promised thereafter.

While complimenting everyone concerned for their initiatives, *Madras Musings* must also point out that a little teamwork from the first will be not without benefits later.

- If Victoria Public Hall — which *Madras Musings* hopes will become Town Hall — is to regain its past glory, it must do so in the role of what it was: Madras's leading theatre and concert hall, besides being a ballroom and a stage for entertainments and lectures. And if that is to happen, the users must be roped in from the beginning to discuss with the Trustees what they can offer and what their requirements are.

- With the Town Hall of tomorrow being looked at as a major cultural centre in the City, the cultural sections of the various diplomatic missions in the city could be included in the discussions from the start. They could arrange for expert advice on restoration, acoustics etc., besides offering suggestions on how cultural and conservation organisations in their country could help with funding.

- And then there is the business of fund-raising to create a first class cultural centre. This is a cause the leading industrial houses might well be inclined to support. And that support could be sought through discussions with the various Chambers of Commerce.

- Finally, a visit to Colombo to find out how its Tower Hall was saved and made a successful cultural centre would certainly help.

A concerted thrust, thereafter, under the leadership of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Sheriff of Madras, could well see Victoria Public Hall being inaugurated as Town Hall, the city's leading cultural centre, a year from now.



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PARRYS

Paranoia over photography

Several tales *The Man From Madras Musings* has recently heard from the Editor, over the problems *Madras Musings* and other publications have been having with photographs, have *MMM* wondering why this paranoia over photographs and photography. Consider these cases:

When the ANZ Grindlay Bank opened a new high-tech branch on Haddow's Road, a part of a new training centre-cum-residential complex it had built on the site of its historical *Morison's Gardens* property, it invited the Press to take pictures of the inauguration of the new branch. *Madras Musings* was not among the invitees, and The Editor is not complaining about that. But when *Madras Musings* contacted the Bank a few days later to photograph the new campus, something no other *Madras* paper seemed interested in, its photographer, after being passed on down the telephone line, finally was told by a woman officer of the bank that she wanted to see what was being written before permission would be granted. Perhaps that is the new style of journalism in India that institutional Public Relations is getting used to, but unfortunately all those connected with *Madras Musings* are rather old-fashioned. And so the Editor declined the offer and decided to explore new ways of photographing the unphotographable.

A few days later, the Editor noticed in *The Hindu* a picture of the Sheriff of Madras in his traditional dress at the inauguration of a book fair. The Sheriff's remarks on the occasion about tradition interested an old-fashioned paper like *Madras Musings* and, since *Madras Musings* had not been invited to the fair, a member of *Madras Musings* staff requested the organiser for a picture of the Sheriff in his dress. He agreed to give *Musings* a picture if the Sheriff gave permission. *Musings* couldn't quite understand why

permission was necessary for a picture of a public occasion that had already appeared in the Press, but nevertheless contacted the Sheriff's secretary. That protective worthy wanted to know what *Musings* was going to write. In the end, the *Musings* staff member managed to speak directly to the Sheriff and he was not only delighted that *Musings* wanted to use a picture of him but he also gave the paper the story we published last fortnight. With the Sheriff's 'permission' we went back to the book fair organiser and now he was prepared to give *Musings* a picture — provided it wrote about the book fair "as *The Hindu* had done". A resourceful staff member went looking for a photograph elsewhere and found a newspaper willing to oblige.

And then there's been the case of foreign visitors the Editor has taken to Fort St George and of a photographer wanting to 'shoot' for a tourism-oriented book the protected historical building in the Fort. Wanting to photograph St Mary's Church from the Legislature side, they were shooed away by a belligerent policeman from a nearby police post. Trying to 'shoot' the Legislature and the old flagpole from the St Mary's side was met with the same fate. And this was repeated in at least a couple of other places in the Fort. Yet no one in authority seems to realise that the Fort is perhaps the City's most valuable tourist asset and visitors to it should be welcomed — especially those scores of foreign visitors who marvel over its history and wish to record on film the solid memorials to the ghosts of the past.

Why this attitude?

The Man From Madras Musings wonders why there is this paranoid attitude to photography in India, but more so in Madras these days. It could be the Sivaras Syndrome, but then Sivaras and his gang could have gained admittance to that ill-fated Sriperumbudur maidan in a dozen different guises — as the LTTE has demonstrated over and over again in other assassinations.

The authorities in their wisdom often cite security considerations. In another era, *MMM* had something to do with maps — whose secrets are jealously protected by the Survey of India, an organisation with a long and continuing military heritage. In *MMM*'s two decades of battle with the SOI, there were scores of cases which he lost, with permission being refused for the publication of some

maps which showed Madras as one dot and its airport as another dot next to it or Digboi as one dot and an oilfield next to it as another dot or for using the word 'cantonment' to mark the cantonment area in a city map. It was no soap even when it was pointed out that anyone planning to bomb Madras airport even using a map of this scale and accuracy would probably hit Madurai! It was no soap even when the authorities were shown far more detailed maps published by the Americans and freely available abroad. These are maps made from satellite imagery which enables even the numbers of the cars on the road

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

to be seen and the state of the rice crop in the Thanjavur Delta to be noted from week to week! With technology today of this level, to prevent photography at the street level (or the publication of simple tourist maps) — especially of places of tourist interest or of public figures or of places of public interest — is the height of absurdity.

And on the count of security, *MMM* has also repeatedly cited to the most security-conscious in the country the case of Indira Gandhi and that of Anwar Sadat of Egypt. The enemy, more often than not, is within. And there's nothing that can be done about them. Could the Bombay bomb blasts have been stopped? How about that suitcase found near our own Fort a couple of weeks ago? Fortunately it was a box of workman's tools that a dis-appointed thief had got rid of, but even if it had been anything else, could its being placed where it was have been stopped?

MMM's answer, to attempts to prevent what's patently impossible to prevent, is eternal vigilance by wideawake personnel, not the shooing away like cattle of tourists and harmless local photographers by sleepy guards.

Would it be too much to hope for, a relaxation of attitudes to photography in tourist and historic destinations like the Fort? Would it be too much to expect institutional public relations to treat the Press as responsible friends, albeit critics, rather than as perpetual scandal-mongers? *MMM* hopes this will come about sooner than later — especially in the Fort.

The widow's triumph

Many moons ago, *The Man From Madras Musings*, then working across the Palk Straits, wrote a rather more topical column recording the people's voice. It was based on what the (wo)man-in-the-street, interviewed on the kerb, had to say about topics of the moment. Those were the days of Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike's austerity-bound, foreign-exchangeless, Sinhala Only Sri Lanka. And there she was sending her two teenage daughters, beauties both, to London and the Sorbonne! What did Jamis Appuhama and Jane Nona think of Sunethra and Chandrika being sent abroad for studies, while they could never even dream of such opportunities for their children? *MMM* will never forget the answer given by a loud-mouthed woman fish-vendor on

the pavement: "If Madam Prime Minister cannot send her children abroad for studies, who can!" And as she went on and on about the perks of leadership — all this shouted in Sinhala sounds far more effective and, more important, down-to-earth — it became obvious to *MMM* that for all the democracy this part of the world enjoys and nurtures, feudalism is still alive and kicking. And that, more than anything else, might allow Chandrika Kumaratunga to pull off a miracle and bring peace to the troubled island.

Convent- and Paris-educated Chandrika, once a fashion-plate like sister Sunethra, has not aged

greater Tamil Nadu-Sri Lanka links than the 'shopping express' which at present fly in and out of both countries. As things are, Chandrika Kumaratunga may have to spend all her time on the struggle to consolidate the position she has won.

In brief

★ Several reasons have been put forward by chess analysts and commentators for star Anand's surprise defeat at the hands of Kamsky. But the reasoning *The Man From Madras Musings* found most fascinating was from a meat-eating analyst. One, he said, Anand missed his mother while Kamsky benefited from the presence of his father! And two, he does not eat meat. The expert summed it up so: "No mum, no meat, A-nand gets beat!"

★ *The Man From Madras Musings* congratulates the head of the Alliance Francaise, the British Council, the Max Muller Bhavan and the US Information Service for their recent decision — at their first meeting — to meet regularly, but more important, coordinate their programmes in the city and even hold joint programmes. The first tangible manifestation of this decision has been the ongoing Festival of Photography, which separate exhibitions, following the other, are being jointly publicised. Only the British are not holding an exhibition in this connection, but they're holding a film festival of American films directed by British directors and introduced by a former USIS man, George Deligianis. Now if they'd only get together and do something for Victoria Public Hall, suggested elsewhere, *MMM* sure the Editor's cup of joy would runneth over — at least till he had another windmill tilt at.

★ A delightful performance at the Association of British Court Scholars' AGM was the Mithra Devanesan-compiled and directed *Sex before Supper*, which had a whole host of senior professors of both sexes blushing to discover that the literary greats and other world figures had found sex the most fun without having to get up. But even the got into the mood of the evening when Mithran split the reading with a Neil Simon skit that had Papa P C Ramakrishna offering a delightful Sameer Rao from Loyola a present on his 18th birthday — a splendidly swinging Visalam Ekambaram George Deligianis, the film reader, sat that one out, must over the past.

★ Is this the reason why Indian Airlines is having so many problems, *The Man From Madras Musings* wonders. P Chidambaram, addressing a Passenger Association meeting in the city recently, pointed out that Indian Airlines has a staff of around 22,000 for about 50 aircraft which makes it more than 40 people per aircraft, surely more than what an aircraft can take. A case of too many cooks, *MMM* wonders, looking forward to when Indian Airlines becomes leaner and fitter.

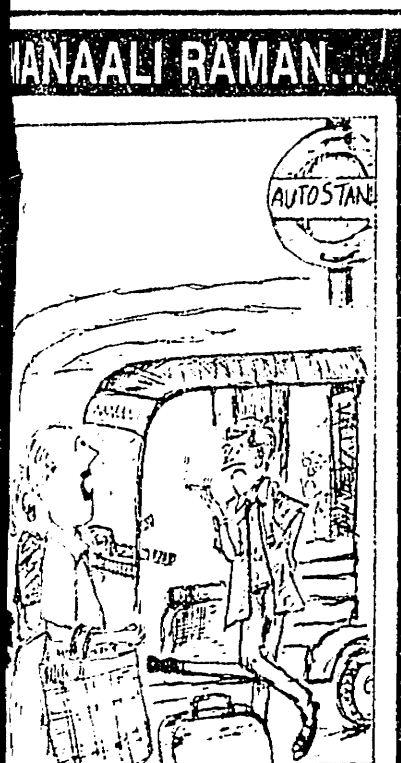
But will she be allowed to bring that peace to the island? Will the extreme Sinhala Buddhists ignore the people's mood and their adulation and prevent her from coming to terms with the Tamils? Will the ultra-politicised section of Buddhist monks once again scuffle peace moves? Will President Wijetunga — an Opposition President — in charge of the Buddhist Sasana, play fair or difficult? If only there were hopeful answers to those questions, *The Man From Madras Musings* would be predicting



Kamala Selvaraj with India's first baby born to a surrogate mother.

When does water flow again?

are's news' that Exnora International has received funding to clean the pollution in the waterways in Madras. *Madras Musings* is glad that more voice is to be added to that those who've been shouting loud about the pollution in the Adyar and the Buckingham Rivers and the Buckingham



"First tell me where YOU are going to go, then I'll decide where I want to go."

MAD, MAD MADRAS

WAMP, the NGO, the Pollution Control Board, Thames-cleansers Severn Trent and their successors in the waterways project in Madras have all expressed immense concern about the state of pollution in the city's waterways. Some have even come up with suggestions how this can be remedied and some remedial action has indeed got underway. Others have recommended how the waterways can be used and their suggestions have been pigeonholed.

Madras Musings has added its voice to this cacophony from time to time. Perhaps this is the time to say it again, now that Metrowater has announced that a major Japanese loan will ensure the cleansing of the waterways in the next few years and, hopefully, prevent future pollution! *Madras Musings* would like those waterways to flow again and the Buckingham Canal to be used once more as it once was. The Metro has made that something of a pipedream. But there are still stretches where something could be done to make the canal navigable.

Using the waterways for public transport has always been condemned by the authorities as uneconomical. So are the losing public bus corporations. But at least, water transport might help to relieve some of the congestion on the roads that's only bound to increase with an improving economy.

What's planned for Government House?

Work is going on apace on restoring Government House in Government Estate (NOT Admiralty House, which is in the Fort, and which also needs restoration). There is need to do almost as much to get Banqueting Hall, now Rajaji Hall, into shape again. With a start being made on Government House, we have no doubt that work on Rajaji Hall will follow. But then what?

There has been talk that Government House is being readied to become Police Headquarters while a new headquarters — either on the Marina, on the old site, or elsewhere — is got ready. But after the Police their headquarters and move out, then what? Another restoration for another purpose? Or will Government House be allowed to fall into disuse and decay?

Why not right away determine an end-use for the complex and work it from now? Why not, as suggested by a reader in these columns, make this the heart of a massive fair complex like Delhi's Pragati Maidan, with its not too tall buildings, is an area open to the skies? Or better yet, make this a garden conference centre with cottage-level accommodation all around?

Here again, discussion with environmentalists and conservationists the future of Government House and Government Estate is called for before it is too late.

A first in India

A surrogate mother's 'gift'

(By A Staff Reporter)

The first baby to be delivered by a surrogate mother in India was born in the city's G.G. Hospital recently. All involved in this little publicised June event are well, says Dr. Kamala Selvaraj, who was in charge of the case.

The parents, Mrs & Mr. A, are a well-to-do industrialist couple from Andhra Pradesh. I.V.F. (in vitro fertilisation) had been tried by Mrs. A in the U.S., but had failed. When the couple came to Madras, they heard that I.V.F. was being done in Dr. Selvaraj's hospital. The couple, in this case, were normal except the woman's Fallopian Tubes were blocked, so the embryo couldn't implant itself in the uterus. The I.V.F. would, therefore, not work. Dr. Selvaraj told them and informed Mr and Mrs. A that the only way they could have a child was by getting someone else to bear it. Mrs. A's problem being not with the fertilisation of the egg but with the implantation of the embryo in her uterus.

A month later, Mrs. A brought her cousin Mrs. C with her. Mrs. C agreed to bear the child for her. Dr. Selvaraj told *Madras Musings* what she had told Mrs. A: "In the surrogate mother method, the couple are the biological parents of the child. The other woman only bears the child. The child's hereditary characteristics are the same as those of the parents."

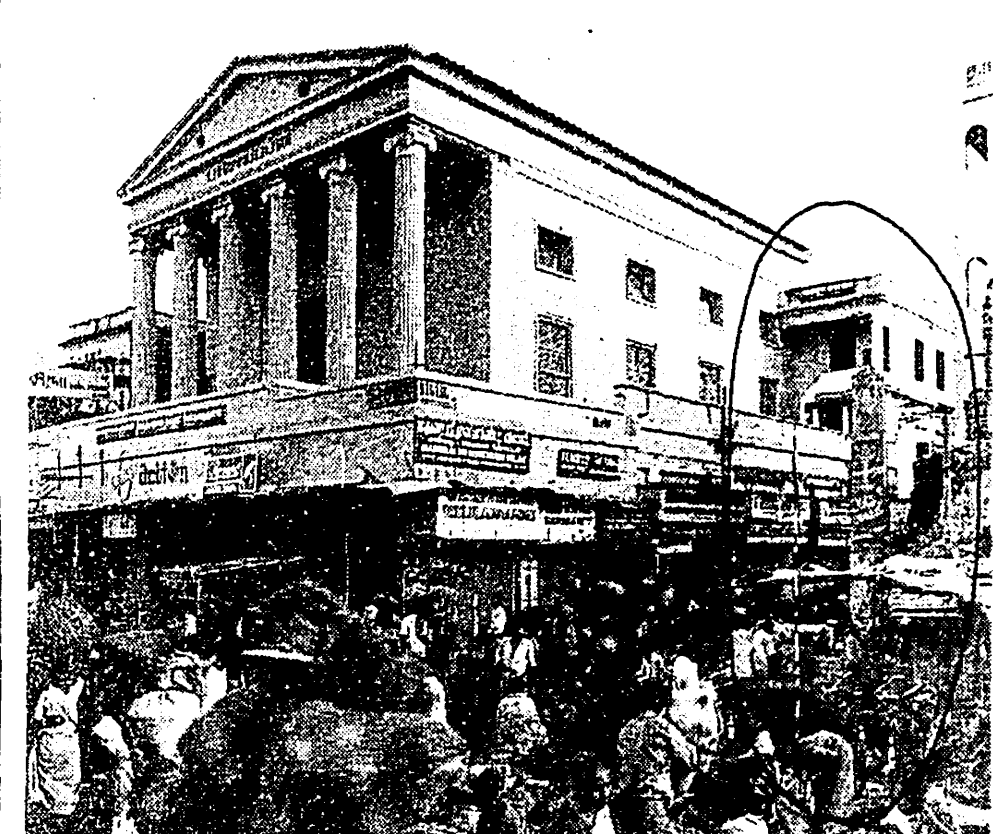
In this case, the cousin and her husband were not only related to the As, but were also their friends. So there was perfect understanding between the couples. For a woman to be a surrogate mother, she should be below thirty and already have had a baby, according to Dr. Selvaraj. In this case, Mrs. C had already had a baby girl. Both women were injected with fertilised eggs from Mrs. A and it was only the cousin who showed a positive result. She delivered a healthy baby boy in the eighth month through normal delivery.

As for the turns this method might take in the case of women totally

unknown to each other, the doctor herself can't guess. In fact, after this success, they made an 'open offer' for surrogate mothers. One woman who promised to get back to them, went back on her word and demanded more money. Dr. Selvaraj was furious: "Money is an issue. But the willingness to help must be there first". In future, the hospital plans to get a written undertaking from the surrogate mother to be sure that the baby will be given to the biological parents a few days after delivery — as in this case (after three days). Such an undertaking, Dr. Selvaraj feels, will help the surrogate mother to be better prepared for the fact that the child is not hers and she is only 'bearing' someone else's child.

OUR READERS WRITE
on page 8

A pillar in search of a saviour



The Indian town, 'Black Town', that developed north of the Fort's walls in what is now the High Court campus was razed by both French and English over the period 1746-1761 and the British raved the vast empty ground, that provided them a clear field of fire, THE ESPLANADE. The new Black Town, to be George Town, grew north of The Esplanade.

In 1772, a survey of the City fixed the limits of the Esplanade with six 15-foot tall masonry obelisks. On each was a tablet that read "Boundary of the Esplanade, 1st January, 1773". Though it was recorded in the first quarter of this century that pillars survived at Parry's, Kondi Chetti Street, Stringer Street and Badian Street, the only one I ever found was the one Parry's have carefully tended at the southwest corner of Dare House.

But just a few days ago, in the third week of August, photographer G VIJAYAN turned up a surprise. An old building at the corner of Badian Street and Esplanade Road (NSC Bose Road) was being pulled down and hidden by a projection of this building, there had survived one of the missing pillars all these years, serving as advertising space for the 'Maruthi Products' of Lakshmi Paper Converters.



around who'll tend this 222-year-old pillar as Parry's have tended theirs? — THE EDITOR

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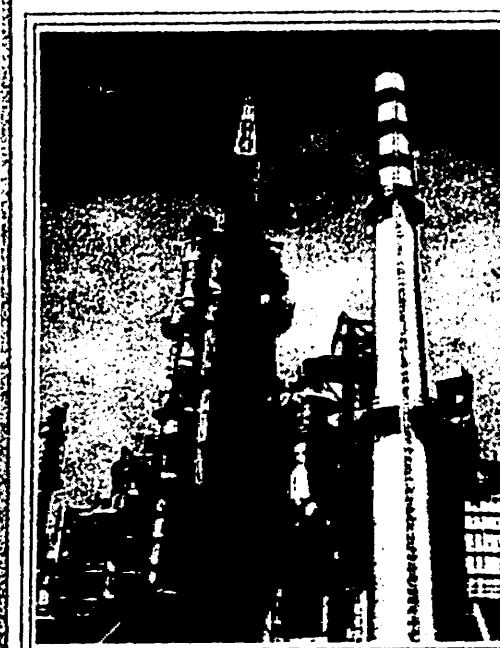
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When do we learn from the Arubans?

Time and time again over the years this writer has urged the Tamil Nadu Government to make use of the limitless waters of the Bay of Bengal by desalination to provide fresh water for this sprawling metropolis we call Madras, destitute of almost all natural resources as it is. I am told, even by officials of the World Bank, that it is too expensive, but when I point out that if you insist on having one of the world's largest cities (population eight million?) in such a silly place, you just have to pay for it — as we have paid many thousands of crores for a purely artificial harbour, ignoring the possibilities of exploiting natural ones further south — the conversation is deftly turned to other matters such as colling spiralling population density, merely urbanisation, old man!

and success at desalination denigrates all these grandiose schemes, so profitable to contractors and their masters, of bringing water many hundreds of miles through concrete pipes and canals.

Now additional support for the desalination comes from a totally unexpected source, as reported by MMN on May 16th, 1994. Our great oil refinery north of the City at Manali, and its sister fertiliser plant, were described to me years after its completion, by its Union leaders, as a 'Mother Industry'. They told me proudly that there had never been labour unrest at either of the plants, as they regarded other industries as being so dependent on them that strikes, or what are euphemistically termed 'industrial action', would be little short of treason to the Nation. Hence their proud title 'Mother Industry'. (The fact that even the lowliest workers there, such as sweepers, are handsomely paid may also have something to do with it, of course!)

But *Madras Musings* has now reported that the huge refinery is to unburden Madras Corporation and Metro-water by purchasing desalinated water. "Madras Refineries, which has just announced an all-time crude throughput of 5.85 million tonnes in 1993-94, continues to look for ways to avoid using the city's precious water supply. Pioneers in recycling water for factory use, MRL is the first to sign up to buy desalinated water from a plant TEAM and TIDCO have agreed to put up in Manali. The plant, when completed, will produce five million gallons of desalinated water a day and MRL has signed to buy 40% of this production."

Everyone knows that the oil-rich nations and Sultanates of the Gulf are entirely dependent on desalinated water, but the answer there is that they can afford it, with all that oil they can sell to Western nations who could so easily have taken it free, as indeed conquerors would have, in previous centuries. But how about the people of the tiny Caribbean island called Aruba, which can guarantee sunshine every day, when there is never more than 50 centimetre rain in any year, where the inhabitants and their flourishing tourist trade enjoy limitless fresh water to wash their cars, water their lush gardens, bathe themselves, flush their toilets as often as they like, and splash about in clean healthy fresh-water swimming pools.

How does this miracle come about? By exploiting the island's desalination plant, which is the world's largest. It was built at a time when the island's giant oil refinery gave it great strategic importance. Thought the refinery was closed in 1985, the desalination plant was left working and the Arubans and their lucky visitors have been wallowing in unlimited fresh water ever since.

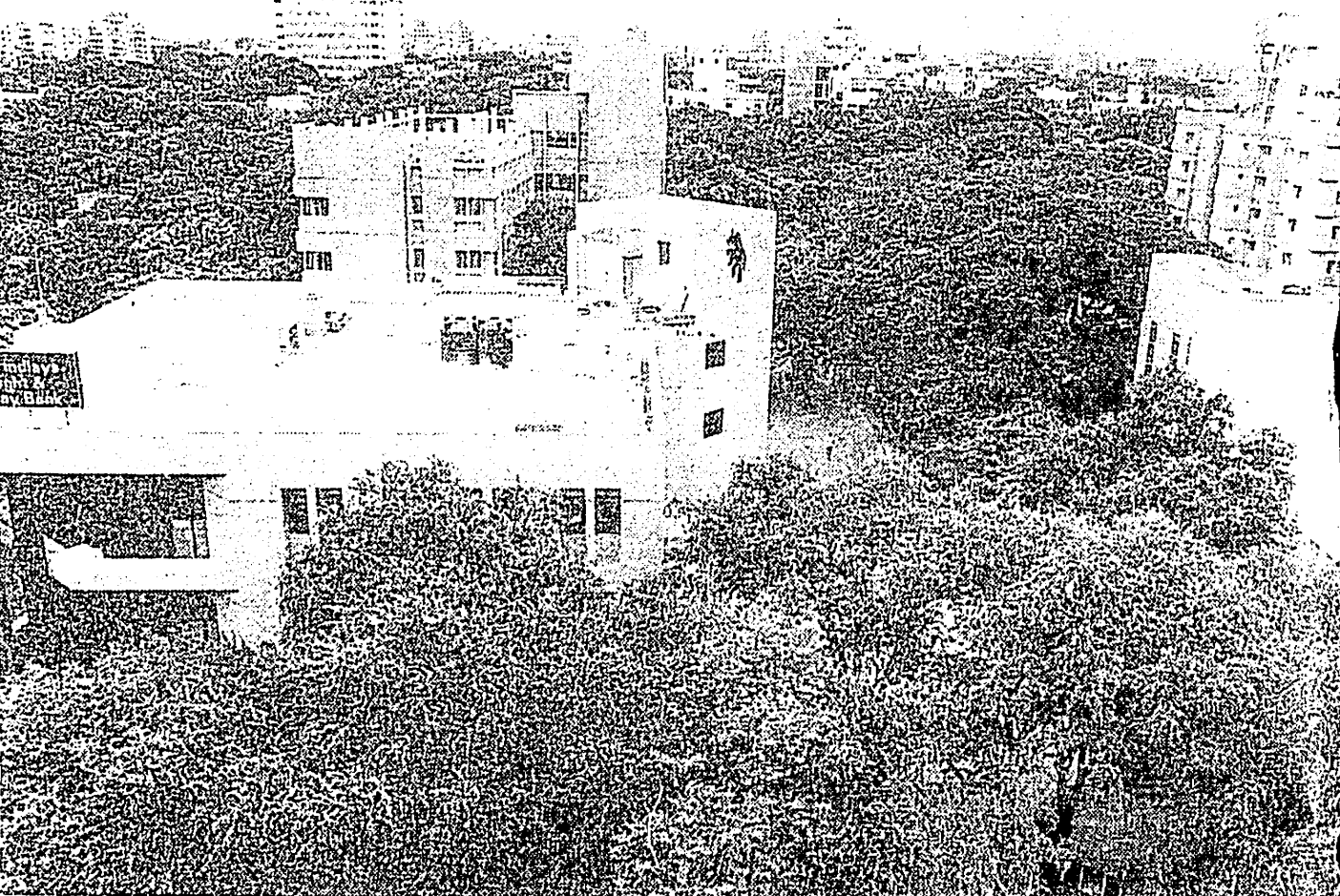
When are we in Madras going to learn from the Arubans, our own neighbours at Manali, and courageous little entrepreneurs on the beach?



It was almost exactly two years ago, in the *Madras Musings* issue of August 16, 1992, that we had carried slightly different versions of the two pictures you see today. Our OLD is of Morison's Gardens, a grand house that was in the process of being pulled down early in 1992. It was a different view of this operation we had carried two years ago. Morison's Gardens was the 'garden house' of the Regional Manager, ANZ Grindlay's Bank. It wasn't the quintessential 'garden house' because its architecture was too much of the 1940s vintage, but its location, in acres of tree-shaded garden, was superb and its interior, with its wooden floors and airy spaciousness, was splendid. We had at that time regretted the fate that was befalling it and had hoped that the highrise that we had featured rising in our NEW of that time would not despoil the garden atmosphere.

THE OLD...

We publish today a NEW view of what has come up in Morison's Gardens. In the left foreground is new Drive-In Banking Counter, in the right foreground is the Training Centre and Canteen. The tower seen behind the latter is Grindlay's Gardens, in fact two blocks of accommodation. And behind the drive-in counter is the main bank buildings. What is so nice about the whole serene campus is that the trees have been left alone and the buildings seem to have sprouted in a parkland. Congratulations, ANZ Grindlays, for being our fears and building an environment-conscious complex. But was it necessary to build in the sandstone of Delhi? Couldn't something better suited to Madras, especially to the Morison's Gardens' ethos, have been chosen? (Photographs: The OLD by SUSHEELA NAIR, the NEW by V S RAGHAVAN)



Circumspection

— The need of the hour

"The opportunities now are capable of pushing the index to the scam level of 4500 in a year's time", was our comment in this column a year ago. Look at the index today. Our prophesy seems to be working with clock-like precision. As predicted then, the *dramatis personae* pulling the strings are indeed the FIIs and investors, who, through their financial clout, are able to short-list equity offerings in a discreet and discriminatory fashion.

A rosy scenario always has an uncanny way of lulling people into sanguine expectations and now the word is that this boom is different from the one in 1992. After all, isn't it backed by sound fundamentals?

Indeed it is. But the present bullishness smacks of 1992 in more than one way. As then, 100-115 scrips are nothing up new highs every day as against the normal 20-30. Almost all scrips, even the half-a-penny ones, are reflecting fancy quotations. And going by a savant's reasoning that the stock market is a reflection of every

human frailty, and the big one now is greed, it seems prudent to forestall the subsequent pangs (if any) of regret by shedding loothardiness and treading carefully, more so now.

Allow us to stray a little; the primary market has virtually ostracised the small investor, what with the ushering

• BULL'S EYE

in of proportionate allotment, firm allotments to FIIs, Mutual Funds and the NRIs. He will virtually be an extinct species if the proposal that banks be allowed private placements in companies is approved. Tomorrow, with the FIIs making a go for the secondary market in a big way, trading in the ring and striking it rich could be a mere fantasy.

In such a scenario, today's secondary market clearly holds the torch. So make hay while the sun shines. Invest in infrastructural scrips like steel and cement. Most important of all, pore over companies which have been

riding their time over their long-drawn expansion, diversification programmes and new projects. Once these projects come into fruition, the companies, scrips, which have so long been in or less in *status quo* or inching up a snail's pace, will zoom in one stroke. On the other hand, scrips which have skyrocketed in the recent months without rhyme or reason, are to be ignored. The caveat is: "Don't abstain from buying discreetly and don't do selling decisions". Stick to your entry and exit targets and to the market. Our counsels this time are:

Hind Industries (CMP Rs. 97.5)

This share has now crossed its previous resistance and appears to be poised for a steep rise technically as well. The company is engaged in the export of frozen food, especially meat, which have gained acceptance in West Asia and Southeast Asia. For 1993-94, the company achieved turnover of Rs. 36.38 cr and a PAT of Rs. 5.10 cr, yielding an EPS of Rs. 10. For 1994-95, the company is confident.

(Continued on)

Blame varsities for falling share in IAS

Madras and Nadu's share in the Civil Services has gradually been falling over the years, so much so that it is a cause for concern. Certainly, there is no dearth of talent in a State which has more than its share of illustrious sons and daughters in the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha. Then what has gone wrong? Why this alarming drop in numbers in the administrative services, which, though well past its prime, is still looked upon by many as an indicator of wisdom, talent, character, creature comforts and even bliss?

Looking reasons for the steady decline, and also to discuss the quota in the all-India services (15 per cent of the seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and 7½ per cent for Scheduled Tribes; the Mandal Commission Report has recommended reservation of a further 27 per cent for backward Classes, and the report is

being implemented by the Government from this year), which many fear has sacrificed merit at the altar of populist measures, I met V Karthikeyan, former Chief Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Government (1976-81), a man who had spent 36 years handling public

Sashi Nair

affairs and who had the distinction of serving as Advisor to the Governor of the State twice. Not one known to mince words, Karthikeyan was as forthright as ever while answering my questions.

— What is Tamil Nadu's share in the all-India Administrative Services?

Well, it is only about four per cent now. It was between 25 and 35 per cent during 1947-57, when the standards were also higher. I had sub-

mited a report on this to the State Government in 1989.

— What reasons does the report give for the falling share?

Many universities in Tamil Nadu fail to meet high standards. The syllabus is outdated and the valuation is not upto the mark, compared to some of the universities outside the state. Weakness in both spoken and written language is a major reason, too. There is a visible deficiency in General Knowledge. Library facilities are inadequate and the coaching very bad in the mofussil areas of the State. On top of all this, neither do the colleges nor the universities take the initiative to motivate students to join the Civil Services.

— Has the IAS suddenly lost its charm?

Yes, of that there is no doubt. Spots have begun appearing and commitment

(Continued on P7)



V Karthikeyan

V Karthikeyan belongs to the first competitive batch (1947) of the Indian Administrative Service. In fact, he took the civil services examination a few days before India got independence. From the time he took charge as Sub-Collector, Gudur, upto the time he retired as Chairman of the State's Planning Commission (a post which MGR himself had held prior to Karthikeyan taking over) in 1984, Karthikeyan's innings in the Civil Services has been one of varied experiences.

He was involved in the survey and settlement of estates in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in connection with the abolition of the Zamindari system, as well as in the enactment of major land reforms all over India. As Collector of Thanjavur

(1957-58), and working under Kamaraj, he helped raise funds for a permanent building for the Raja Serfoji College, reorganise the Thanjavur Art Gallery and expand the TB Sanatorium (on the Thanjavur-Trichy road). For a brief while (1965), Karthikeyan served the Petroleum Ministry at the Centre as Officer on Special Duty. In 1966, Bhaktavatsalam, the then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, recalled him and gave him the responsibility of implementing greater use of Tamil in the State's administration. During his tenure as the State's Industries Secretary (1970-72), the initial steps were taken to set up industrial estates in Manali, Ranipet, Hosur and Maraimalaiagar.

S.N.

Dedicated to helping the less-privileged

Helping students from the Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes appear for the Civil Services Preliminary and Main examinations is the Periyar IAS and IPS Free Coaching Centre at Periyar Thidal in Vepery. Run by the Periyar Self-Respect Propaganda Institution, the centre (the only private institution running such classes in Tamil Nadu — the Special Training Institute in Anna Nagar is run by the Government) has been coaching students appearing for the IAS Preliminaries ever since it was set up in 1989. Coaching for the Mains commenced in 1993.

Results from the Centre have shown a progressive improvement and have been encouraging. Out of 30 candidates who appeared for the Preliminary examination in 1990, nine got through. The figures for 1991, 1992 and 1993 read — 17 out of 40, 23 out of 76 and 35 out of 75 respectively. Out of the 30 students who appeared for the 1993 Main examination from the Centre, nine came out successful. Two of them were finally selected.

Every year, the four-month coaching for the Main examination starts in July, while classes for the Preliminary examinations, spread over nine months, commences in September. The Centre also proposes to conduct a six-month Foundation Course for college students in Madras, the objective being to motivate them to

enter competitive examinations. Taking classes for students are more than 30 professors, some retired, from various colleges in Madras.

According to Prof M F Khan, Honorary Director of the Centre, there should be a system of proportionate representation for each state in the Civil Services and other government jobs. He says that the IAS has lost its glamour in Tamil Nadu, especially as students from the upper strata of society, have now switched to other professional courses.

Khan's point of view is endorsed by S N Balasundaram, a retired Professor of Politics and Public Administration, who, at 74, is actively involved with the coaching classes at the Institute. He says that the brighter lot prefer getting into engineering, medical and MBA courses. Even out of those who join, many lack dedication and consider the Civil Services as only one of many alternatives.

To make a sincere effort to get into the Civil Services, a candidate should devote at least two years for study. Many are not prepared to do this, and often taking up whatever jobs that come their way immediately after graduation, says Khan. And he adds that it would be obvious to a visitor to the Madras University or any of the colleges in the state that "the atmosphere is not conducive for serious study at all". Adequate motivation from

the plus-two level itself could reverse the trend, Khan feels.

From nearly 200,000 candidates who sit for the Preliminary examination, only 11,000 become eligible to sit for the Main examination. Under the new system introduced in 1979, a candidate who fails in the Main examination has to start all over again. Also, fifty per cent of those selected have to serve outside the home state, a rule which keeps away many from even making an attempt to enter the services.

In spite of several odds, the Periyar Coaching Centre is doing a good job, with committed persons like Khan and Balasundaram. However, it requires the joint effort of parents, teachers, academicians and the government to bring dignity back to the Civil Services and make such coaching ventures more meaningful.

S.N.

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

JEEVAN KISHOR



LIC Of India Southern Zone

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

JEEVAN SUKANYA



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AMERICAN CENTER LIBRARY

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

NOTABLE BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Arms Control and Weapons Proliferation in the Middle East and South Asia. Edited by Shelley A. Stahl and Geoffrey Kemp. St. Martin's Press, c1992. (355.033 ARM)
Bernard, Harold W. Global Warming Unchecked: Signs to Watch For. Indiana University Press, c1993. (363.7387 BER)
Bok, Derek. The Cost of Talent: How Executives and Professionals Are Paid and How It Affects America. The Free Press, c1993. (331.2 BOK)
Duke, Steven B. America's Longest War: Rethinking Our Tragic Crusade Against Drugs. G.P. Putnam Sons, c1993. (363.45 DUK)
Martin, Philip L. Trade and Migration: NAFTA and Agriculture. Institute for International Economics, 1993. (304.8 MAR)
Pfaff, William. The Wrath of Nations: Civilization and the Furies of Nationalism. Simon & Schuster, c1993. (320.54 PFA)
A Profile of Twentieth-Century American Poetry. Edited by Jack Myers and David Wojahn. Southern Illinois University Press, c1991. (811.559 PRO)
White, Jane. A Few Good Women: Breaking the Barriers to Top Management. Prentice Hall, c1992. (658.4 WHI)

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.

The fruit of charity

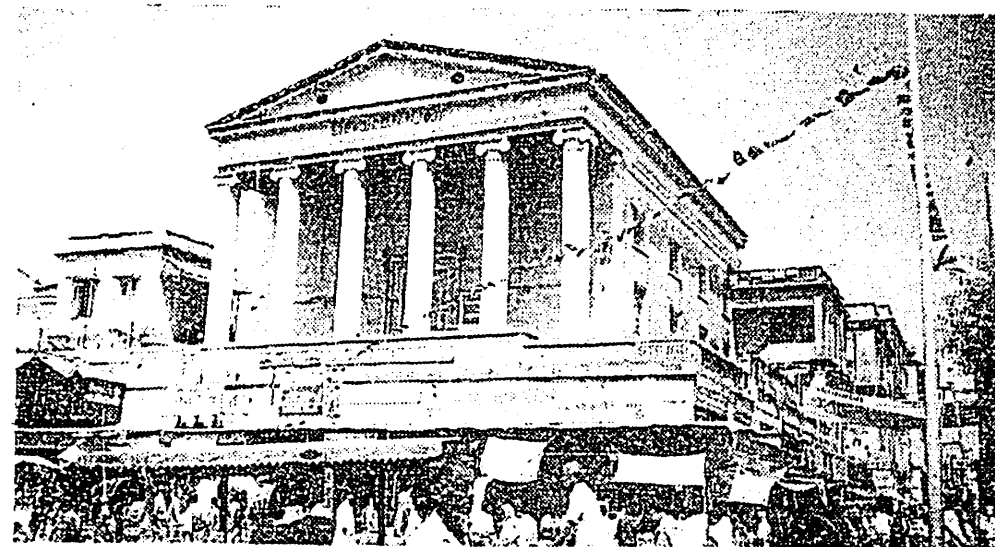
Pachaiyappa's School began as a middle school in 1842. It was to help the poor to get an education that the school was started. The subjects were taught in Telugu and Tamil to the respective streams.

Pachaiyappa Mudaliar, whose name the institution bears, was born in Periapalayam in 1754. His father died when Pachaiyappa was barely five and his mother brought the boy to Madras and sought the protection of a wealthy *dubash*. Pachaiyappa was educated and encouraged to start a business career by the *dubash*. Eventually he became a revenue farmer and commissariat contractor under the East India Company. He was of great service to the Company during the Mysore Wars, when the relationship between John Company and Indians was extremely tricky. In 1788, he assumed charge as the revenue collector in Tanjore and was of great service to the Rajah.

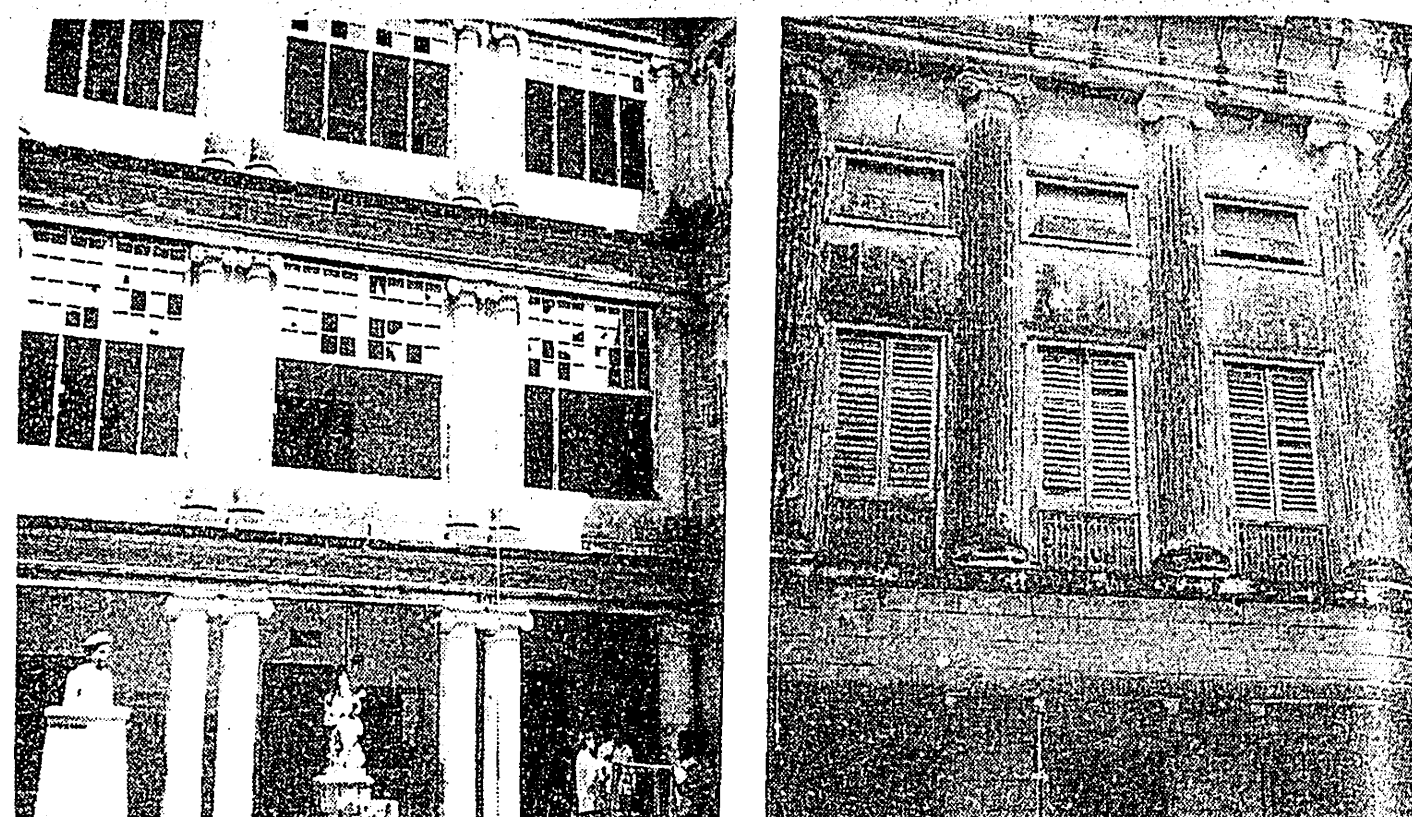
Though eminently successful in public life, Pachaiyappa was by no means happy in his domestic life. He

married his sister's daughter who bore him no children and Pachaiyappa remarried. His second wife bore a daughter and this was a sore disappointment to him. He turned to religion, charity and philanthropy.

Towards the end of his life he made a will leaving instructions that the bulk of his property should be devoted to charitable and religious objectives and the teaching of Sanskrit. His friend and lawyer, the great George Norton, was



The Pantheon splendour of Pachaiyappa's School seen from N S C Bose Road



Two pictures of the inside of Pachaiyappa's School. Note the Classical pillars used even inside the building. The bust in the courtyard is of Pachaiyappa Mudaliar.

instrumental in fulfilling apart of his wishes by starting the school. The new school building on what was then the busy China Bazaar Road was opened in 1850 by the then Governor, Sir Henry Pottinger. Basil Lavery was the first headmaster of the school. Students appeared for the university entrance examination. In 1865, Govinda

Naicker's School was started in the same building and is still there.

During the tenure of D M Cruickshank as headmaster (1878-1883), the school was upgraded as a secondary grade college and affiliated to the Madras University. The school progressed steadily and a branch school was started in Kanchipuram. The students' hostel was started on rented premises in Chetput. The college shifted to its present location on Poonamallee High Road in 1940.

The School, in a striking building of another age, today caters for the educational needs of about 850 students. The school's academic performance has been good. The headmaster is P Thangasamy and he is assisted by 52 teachers. The school has represented the state in boxing.

The school mainly caters for backward community and about 50 students apply for admission every year. One of the major events in the school's historic past was a lecture delivered by the school's magnificent hall, with roadside Pantheon facade, Mahatma Gandhi during a visit to Madras. Several leading politicians, C N Annadurai and Nedunchezhiyan, products of this historic school.

The school is managed by Pachaiyappa Trust and the future plans of the school include renovating the building whose large classrooms have been designed to provide good ventilation.

Text and Photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTIAN

Guindy Engineering to Anna U.

(Continued from last fortnight)

The oldest technical institution outside Europe, the Survey School which moved into its Guindy campus in 1920, was also the first to introduce many new courses: Mechanical Engineering (1894), Electrical Engineering (1930), Highways and Telecommunication Engineering (1945) and Printing Technology in 1985. One of the graduates from this college in Highways Engineering, Thillainayagam, went on to become the founding director of the Pallavan Transport Corporation and also of the Indian Institute of Road Transport. Another alumnus who made a major contribution towards lighting the way for Indian engineers was Diwan Bahadur A.V. Ramalinga Iyer, who became the first Indian Superintending Engineer in 1913 and Chief Engineer ten years later.

The College was also the first to introduce research facilities. As early as 1905, research was being done in the college by James. In 1935, a research degree in Engineering was introduced and K.L. Rao was the first to obtain this degree (M.Sc.). In later years, Dr. J.J. Rudra, an alumnus and principal

of the college for two terms, was responsible for improving the research facilities in the college. Incentives were also given for research.

The College admitted two girl students for the first time in 1940. The principal at that time, Dr. Chacko, wrote to Lalitha and Leela George inviting them to join the college. He also made arrangements for special accommodation for them. Later, girls who stayed in private accommodation travelled to college in a rickshaw. For the men too there was transport to come to college, in the form of eight-seater vans and buses. There was a transport committee which was in charge of all this.

The college had dress regulations from its earliest days till as late as 1948. Students had to wear a long or short coat buttoned upto the neck, a clean *dhoti* or trousers (the latter preferred during practicals) and a turban or a cap. Tufts had to be kept strictly within the cap or turban.

The college had sports activities too and at one time had one of the best boxing teams in the Presidency. It was also the only college to have its own swimming pool. Those who did not participate in extracurricular activities

200 years of engineering in Madras
By R. JAISRI

like N.C.C. had to take part in the compulsory mass drill every afternoon and the instructor, in the 1940s, Malayappa Iyer, a short man with a not very good knowledge of English, was very popular. He used to mark complaints against students in the register with initials like TMC (Talking Middle Class) and LCBC (Late coming bat coming), i.e. rushing to class with tennis bats etc. He was given one of the biggest farewell parties. In our own times, Guindy produced Venkatraghavan, a member of the famous spin quartet, and Srikanth, the dashing opener from Madras, both of whom captained India.

The College grew steadily in the years after Independence and when Tamil Nadu, in 1978, created a separate technical university, Guindy became its principal seat. Sadly, during its bicentennial this year as Guindy Engineering, it has ceased to be a 'college' in the strict sense of the term, and has become just another dean-led department of Anna University. Two hundred years of history would appear to have come to an end.

(Concluded)

supply milk to the hostellers. The college messes truly offered a variety spread, being classified as Anglo-Indian, Muslim, Andhra A & B, Smartha A, B, and C, Malabar, Andhra Brahmin, Arya Vaisya, Cosmopolitan Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian, Non-Brahmin Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian, Brahmin Coconut Oil and Brahmin Gingelly Oil. The messes were, however, integrated later. R.J.

CIRCUMSPECTION

(Continued from P4)

exceeding its EPS estimation of Rs. 14.07. We estimate a price of Rs. 200 for 1994-95 results.

Mesco Pharma (CMP Rs. 55.00) Mesco Pharmaceuticals, manufacturer of bulk drugs and formulations, approached the public in December 1993 with a par issue aggregating Rs. 4 cr. This was oversubscribed over 20 times. The company has posted impressive results for 1993-94. It utilises, at present, the marketing network of its group company, Mesco Laboratories Ltd, and is also exporting to Zambia, Kenya and Russia. For 1994-95 we estimate a turnover of Rs. 21 cr. The resultant PAT of Rs. 2.50 or yields an EPS of Rs. 3.75. This gives ample scope for appreciation for this scrip, which is expected to move up to Rs. 80-90 for 1995 results. A good medium/long term buy.

Narmada Macplast Drip Irrigation Systems (CMP Rs. 17.50): Engaged in the manufacture and marketing

of rigid PVC pipes, fittings and drip irrigation systems, Narmada Macplast, under guidance of Vajubhai Vagharia, who more than two decades of experience in plastic industry, took up a Rs. 5.24 cr project to set up a plant in Mehasana, Gujarat, for the manufacture of drip irrigation systems with an installed capacity of 2156 tonnes. Technical tie-up has been concluded with the Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology (CIPET), Ahmedabad. The company has projected a sales of Rs. 10.6 cr and PAT of Rs. 0.92 cr on the equity capital of Rs. 4.09 cr. The resultant EPS works out to Rs. 2.25. Even our revised EPS estimate would support around Rs. 35-40. Considering the promoter's rich experience in the field, marketing enquiries from developing countries and industry prospects, the company's future looks bright. A good buy at current levels.

K. GOPALAKRISHNAN

We welcome the first steps to THE HERITAGE ACT

We look forward to its enactment and implementation

Space donated by TAMARAI MILLS

Master V.V. RAMANAN's questions for the fortnight August 1-15)

1. The world's most wanted terrorist and assassin for Fredrick Forsyth's 'Jackal' in the novel was arrested recently by the French police. Name him.

2. There, in Madras, was a student community for hosting cultural events declared open by the Governor on Independence Day?

3. Team 'II' won the world championship in a ball game on August 14th. Name the country and sport.

4. On August 13th was celebrated worldwide as...? The silver jubilee of which historical event was celebrated during the week ending August 14th?

6. Which Tamil work was awarded the 'Rajiv Gandhi Award for Excellence in Secularism' by a Union ministry recently?

7. After which personality has the Mudumalai Wildlife sanctuary been renamed?

8. The 'Best Parliamentary Award for 1994' has been given to...?

9. What first did Britain's 400 m hurdler, Sally Gunnell, achieve at the European Championships in Helsinki recently?

10. The MHHH had its landmark 100th run on August 13th between Madras and Pondicherry. Who or what is MHHH?

11. To which country has the Bangladeshi feminist writer Taslima Nasreen fled for asylum after receiving a fatwa from Muslim fundamentalists?

Same varsities for all sharing share

(Continued from P5)

public interest has weakened considerably. There is quite a bit of discontent, too. Earlier, there was a rapport between ministers and MPs and the civil servant was given a patient hearing, but now, owing before the political bosses become more important. Almost all the MPs on a string.

Why we are getting to see people like Seshan and Khairnar?

In an atmosphere of moral decay, standing up for one's values and convictions requires a lot of courage. Seshan, of course, is protected by the Constitution and uses this to his advantage. But for Khairnar it is a test of immense personal courage. Coming back to the state, can we do to get Tamil in the forefront again?

The syllabus has to be upgraded. Talented students have to be encouraged at the high school level itself. Something like what the National Search Scholarship is doing. Dates have to be told how to them at interviews. On the basis of the Central Services should be made seven per cent. With the kind of talent available in the State, there is no reason at all why the share cannot be higher, if certain basic requirements are met.

There has been quite a bit of turnover over the percentage reserved in the all-India Administrative Services and Central services for the Backward Classes, with the percentage seemingly growing all the time. There is a feeling, in certain sections that some of the candidates are not doing...

Social justice demands reservations for the disadvantaged sections of society. Reservation was never done on a centralised basis earlier, except for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and not until the Mandal Commission report was there any brouhaha about this issue.

The states were allowed to prescribe quotas for the socially and economically Backward Classes and as early as the 1920s, the Justice Party wanted a guaranteed share in the services. In fact, there was a scheme of Communal Rotation in 1927 and sort of reservation system was in place even then. The under-represented quota kept increasing and increased in 1980, which was accepted. Indeed, it has proved to be in the long run and, unlike in North, where there has been a lot of disharmony associated with reser-

vations, things have been much calmer here. Tamil Nadu has a history of administering social justice and the mental make-up here is different.

— What about the quality factor?

There is really no truth in this. In the first place, it is very difficult to establish that quality suffers. Don't forget that there are many candidates from the backward communities on the merit list also. Experience has shown that when a poor student is identified and given the same exposure that a better off student gets, the poor student performs equally well.

— Are there institutions which help such candidates?

The DK Coaching Institute at Periyar Thidal is doing a good job and is the only one of its kind in the State. Candidates have benefited from the Institute's training programmes and have shown encouraging results. — Now that the Supreme Court has made it clear that every state should follow a 50 per cent reservation pattern, will the dust finally settle?

Oh! this is just a passing phase. There are several people from the backward community who are holding responsible positions today, and doing admirably well. After another 20 or 30 years, social justice will filter down to the lowest levels. With so many mixed marriages taking place, class and caste differences will narrow down after some years.

— How do you look back at your innings in the civil service?

Both my colleagues and the political parties treated me with extraordinary kindness. I have only happy memories. There was only one instance when, as Food Secretary (1967), I had a disagreement with my minister. It was over the pricing of rice (as a populist measure it was decided to sell rice at Rs 1 a measure against a price of Rs 3 a measure in the open market). I later impressed upon Annadurai that it was not practical to sell rice at a lower price, and that there was need for arriving at a workable solution.

— Do you see a change for the better in the relationship between the bureaucracy and the ministers?

I don't think that there will be any change immediately. For change, there has to come to power a new political class with higher values.

— Have you thought about writing a book?

Many people have asked me this question. But I have no plans for my memoirs. The atmosphere is not conducive for truth being recorded.

— Given a choice, would you join the Civil Services again? Perhaps not again!

Quizzin' with Ramanan

asylum after receiving a fatwa from Muslim fundamentalists?

12. Name the man, one of the main accused in the March '93 Bombay blasts, arrested in New Delhi on August 5th.

13. What significant step has the Tamil Nadu CM taken to preserve the heritage of Madras and end a recent controversy?

14. Which Madras-based company has been chosen as the Indian private sector promoter of the Madras Industrial Park or the 'Singapore corridor'?

15. What important first will be achieved during the by-elections to the Ambala parliamentary constituency in Haryana?

16. Who is to head the three-member panel on ILO conventions that has been constituted by the Union government?

17. A border between two West Asian countries was breached after 46 years of war, with the ruler of one country personally flying over the other's airspace to mark the onset of peace. Name the countries.

18. What historic medical first was achieved in India by Dr. Venugopal and his team at AllMS on August 3rd?

19. Name the three semi-finalists for the World Candidates Chess Championship who won that privilege at Sanghi Nagar recently.

20. According to new, accurate calculations by a joint team of Italian-Chinese geographers, which natural structure's actual height is 1.86 metres less than the earlier recorded figure?

(Answers on page 10)

This is the Man



Surendra Mehta

This is the Name he made legendary:

BAPALAL

This is What he made it famous for:



This is Where you'll find him now:

Mehta

Surendra Mehta.

An Institution by himself in the world of diamonds. The man behind BAPALAL, which he made famous for diamonds, for well over 50 years. With an expertise and infallible knowledge, that are legendary. He passed on his skills to his trusted team - brother Naresh, and sons Tushaar and Abhay. They have the uncanny ability to spot a 'dosham' at first glance.

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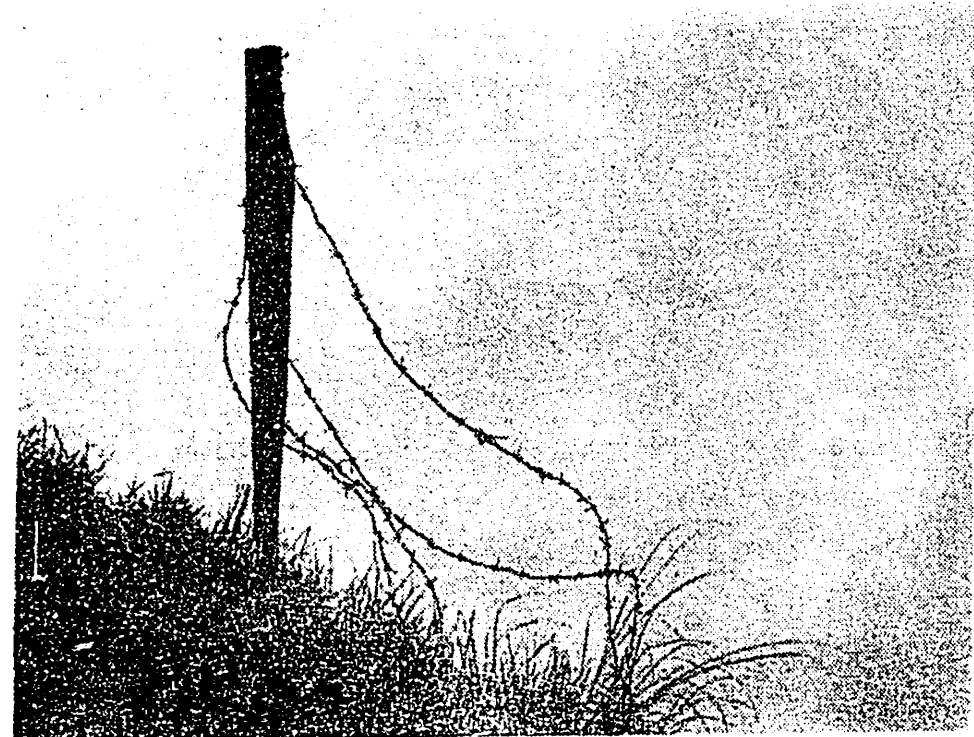
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Timings : 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. & 2:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



'Beyond freedom', a 1983 colour photograph by RAMESH GANDHI, which features in his exhibition.

Dates for Your Diary

Sep. 6: 'Wide-eyed with Wonder', a talk by H R F Keating, the author of the Inspector Ganesh Ghote crime novels, set mostly in Bombay. In this talk, Keating describes the coming of a British author at last to India. Sponsored by the British Council, the Madras Book Club and the Association of British Council Scholars, 6.30 pm at the Wallajah Hall, Connemara Hotel.

Sep. 19: A Study in Poetry — Words and Images. Photographs by Ramesh Gandhi

at Vimonsia Art Gallery, 10 a.m. — 6 p.m. daily, Ramesh Gandhi was born in Calcutta, lives in Madras and stays in the clouds. He has had six one-man shows in Madras, Bangalore and Bombay and three informal exhibitions in the U.S., in Chicago, Ulrica and Rochester. Most of his previous exhibitions were black and white. This is his first colour exhibition in Madras. Organised by the USIS.

All by himself

Re. Your front page note on *The Presidential Years* (MM July 16), you have given me more credit than I deserve. R Venkataraman's autobiography was written in total by him; even the commas and fullstops were done by the author. My role as his special assistant was to get ready the chapters he wrote day and night for 400 days.

I was really astonished at this great man's energy, memory and, above all, the cogency with which he marshalled facts. He had kept complete notes on all events, day by day, for the five years of his illustrious Presidency — all written in his clear handwriting. An amazing thing!

For writing such a momentous history of oneself, the qualities required are courage and integrity. R Venkataraman had both these in abundance and hence this book becomes invaluable.

K Venkatasubramanian
2 Judge Jambulingam Road
Mylapore, Madras 600 004.

In the World!

With reference to our letter published in your issue of July 1, on noise pollution, there is a gross error you have printed.

The first line of our letter itself says that "MADRAS IS THE FOURTH NOISIEST CITY IN THE WORLD" and NOT in India! Whereas in the title you have printed in bold letters as FOURTH NOISIEST CITY IN INDIA!

To all who know about noise pollution, no other city in India is as awful as Madras is. This is a fact beyond dispute.

N Raman
19 Alagar Koil Street
Madras 600 019.

OUR READERS WRITE

Effort appreciated

Hats off to the endeavours and perseverance of MM on preventing 1) the demolition of DGP office, and 2) construction of a multi-storey building. I wish you success also in getting a Heritage Act for Madras. Congratulations also to the Sheriff and Harry Miller for contributing their share in preserving the DGP office.

A Joseph
Thirukkanoorpati
Thanjavur 613 303

Moving out, the answer

Your Editor's note on the location of MSE building (MM, Aug 1) is quite appropriate, except the choice of location needs further consideration since basic issues relating to management of complex attendant problems are involved.

One finds endless numbers of vehicles moving from residential areas to business areas in the mornings and in the other direction in the evenings. All major Indian cities are afflicted with this irrational approach. This is due to an ill-conceived premise that residential and commercial areas should be kept apart.

This single misconception has caused the country ever-inflating fuel bills, deadly pollution levels, not to talk about other irritants like traffic jams, parking problems and obnoxious mushrooming of energy-guzzling high rise buildings.

No brains are required to test that Kotturpuram and many other areas in Madras are more easily accessible than George Town. The argument that mixing up of all sorts of buildings create innumerable problems is not substantiated. It is, in fact, non-mixing that has created these problems. Decongestion is the only answer if Madras is to survive decently.

The MSE would take a step in the right direction by moving away to a more pleasant and open area. Unfortunately, all of us are wary of commercial complexes due

to attendant evils like paan/cigarette tea-stalls etc. Such stalls have already up in front of massive CPWD coming up in Besant Nagar in anticipation of doing good business, where all people, including drivers, hang around nothing. They only create a nuisance environment/surroundings. As long as there is no work or little work in our offices, problems would continue. After all, we have to while away their time.

R. Aravind
5, First Line
Karpagam
Madras 600 005

Popularise Rajaji

Many many thanks for mentioning the only great political leader of Nadu who had the vision in the 1950s to bring out the Parks, Playgrounds Open Spaces Act (as mentioned in 'N' Snappy'). MM should popularise as the grand old man of Madras. Only can we also save the heritage of Madras thro' a similar Madras Heritage Act, lines of Bombay Heritage Act.

C T Vayala
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Ramanujan 2nd FRS

Many are not aware that the first Indian to be elected as Fellow of the Society was Cussetee (?) Wadia, a Mechanical Engineer, in 1841. The Wadias of Bangalore were building ships for the British Navy in 1800's.

Srinivas Ramanujan, the mathematician, was the second Indian to be made a Fellow of the Royal Society, in 1918.

Homi J Bhabha (1907-66) became a temporary S Chandrasekhar, N. S. Chandra, was Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and was in an Air India plane crash in 1966. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1941, one hundred years after the Indian Fellow of the Royal Society, Cussetee Wadia, Gopalapuram, which held an exhibition on the theme 'Know Your City'.

I wonder if anyone has written about the great contributions of the Parsis, who came to India as refugees.

C.A. Rajagopal
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Making Tamil katha beyond Tamil Nadu

(By A Staff Reporter)

awards were instituted in 1990 and the prize-winning translations are published as the *Katha Prize Stories*. This year, the project was sponsored by the British Council.

Shakuntala Ramani, the first prize winner, is associated with Kalakshetra, mainly with its vegetable dyes and weaving centre. She has been with the Lalit Kala Akademi and edited *Nunkalai*, an arts and crafts magazine. This was her first attempt at translation. She responded to a Katha ad in a newspaper and accepted the translation assignment "just to occupy myself"

while attending on a recuperating father. A year-and-a-half passed and having heard nothing, Shakuntala had almost forgotten her effort when the announcement came. It was truly a surprise because "I had done it just for the fun of it", Ramani says.

To Dr. Indra, who teaches in the Department of English, University of Madras, however, translation is a much more serious business, being a part of her academic activities. Her foray into translation began in 1988, when, as a participant in a seminar on women fiction writers in Tamil, she translated



Shakuntala Ramani.

a short story of Anuradha Ramanan to explain, with examples, the work being done in Tamil fiction. The same year, the British Council held a contest for translations of fiction (all languages) in South Indian languages.

Indra sent in the same story and won the first and only prize. She has also translated a story of Sundara Ramaswamy, *Pallakku Thookkigal*, for the Sahitya Akademi Modern Indian Literature series. And she has been a member of the Kshetra Samiti (regional body which recommends

fiction from the state) and is now on the Chayan Parishad (which selects the winners) of the K K Birla Foundation which gives the 'Saraswati Samman' award every year to outstanding vernacular fiction writers. She is also translating into English women's writing in Tamil for a book to be published by the Kali Press, New Delhi, and is the Chief Editor of the Tamil selection of Macmillan's translation project.

Everyone in Indra's family was interested in Tamil fiction and so she was naturally drawn to it, she explains. Indra now plans to continue with more translation work.

On the eternal questions of whether translation is necessary at all, whether it mars a work, whether and to what extent a translator can take liberties with the text etc, the views of both prize-winners are quite similar. The first thing is to be faithful to the text and be as close to it as possible, they feel, and both had, after completing the translation, read the English version independently to make sure it read well. Certain liberties had to be taken — such as using the approximate equivalent English word, to preserve the cadence of the language, or using a different set of English words to achieve the same effect as in Tamil, while ensuring the English version made good reading. Citing an example, Shakuntala says, "There's this expression *adappavi* in Tamil, which can only be translated as 'Oh, my God'."

There are some who accuse translators of considering themselves above the author, yet others who feel that translations dilute the text. But as Indra puts it, "Translations are the only way to get the world to know the serious work being done in Tamil today". Translations have to, it would appear, be accepted with all their shortcomings. After all, isn't something better than nothing?

Know Your City' exhibition shows:

The children care...

A Special Correspondent)

More and more schools seem to be heedless of INTACH's and *Madras Musings'* advice to discover Madras for it. First it was The School for the Blind which did an extensive project on Mylapore in 1992. Last year it was Vidya Mandir which did a project on Egmore-Vepery and covered an entirely 'new' city. And this year, it was the National English School, Gopalapuram, which held an exhibition on the theme 'Know Your City'.

As part of the project, each class was given an area near the school allotted to it. Like Triplicane, Royapettah, Egmore, Gopalapuram etc. The students were asked to get to know the area, to make as close a model of it as possible. Some students made models with clay, others did it with chart paper and still others did it with a combination of a few materials like Plaster of Paris, colour paper etc. These models were complete with roads, by-lanes, landmarks in the area, houses of famous personalities etc. They then conducted a door-to-door survey to find details like income, house rent, educational levels, qualifications, status under which the children lived etc. Examples from the study by the depth of the students' interest. The Sixth Standard students going to C.I.T Colony found that there was a tendency among house owners to rent their houses to commercial establishments, leading to rising rents and the houses beyond the reach of middle class person in search of a home. In Peter's Colony, students found there were certain pockets which had 100 per cent literacy, while on the whole, the literacy level in the area was averaging around eighty per cent.

In Kalakshetra, they found there were quite a few old houses still intact. In Royapettah, they found the opposite Adarsh School highly congested, with traffic almost coming to a standstill when the school closed for the day. The students took pictures of this area both when the school was open and during the day, and made a case for a traffic policeman to be posted in the area. It was the same at Gopalapuram-Mount Road. When a policeman here too, as there are



A Sixth Standard girl of National English School, Gopalapuram, explains the layout of C.I.T. Colony to a visitor to the school's 'Know Your City' exhibition. (Photograph by V S RAGHAVAN)

library above the Aavin milk booth in Alwarpet, as they found the area didn't have either. In another area they suggested an amusement complex and park as it was predominantly a residential area but had no facilities for recreation. In yet another area, it was setting up a T.U.C.S shop closer to the residential area. The tourist project's 'Future Plan' suggested how the tourist spots could be maintained better.

The school does a project every year culminating in an exhibition on

Independence Day. The most notable thing about 'Know Your City' was the better understanding by the students of the areas they had explored and their clear explanations, be it by a Sixth Standard or Eleventh Standard student.

The school plans to continue this work and follow up the petitions it has sent to the Government, the Headmistress, Mohana Chandrasekhar, informed *Madras Musings*. The Rotary Club of Madras East will be assisting the school, she added.

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Facilities galore, but no crowds

Tennis in Madras provides a curious picture. There are more clinics and playing centres, like the Madras Gymkhana Club and the Madras Cricket Club in the southern metropolis than in any other Indian city. The patronage they get would suggest that the costly international sport is as popular as any other discipline in Madras. Unfortunately, this is a wrong impression. Whatever little popularity it had enjoyed in the past has taken a nosedive.

This was crystal clear from the size of the crowds that turned up at the recent Hong Kong Bank-National junior championships, conducted by the MCC, and the Indian Bank-South India championships, organised by the Gymkhana. Despite all the media publicity they got, of course after the usual Press briefings, there was hardly any public patronage for the tournaments. Club members constituted well over 90 per cent of the small crowd.

Tamil Nadu players of repute like K.G. Ramesh, Manoj Kumar and K.V. Nirupama, and the up-and-

coming star, Sai Jayalakshmi, were, for instance, on view in the S.I. championships finals. But only a small crowd was there. Its size emphasised that tennis in Madras had lost whatever little popularity it had enjoyed in the past.

To make matters worse, the two tournaments exposed the city's paucity of knowledgeable match officials. Chief referee P. Narasimhan, with his in-

by
AJAX

flexible sense of duty, was all over all right. But nearly all his deputies were found wanting. At the Gymkhana, in particular, there were numerous doubtful decisions, which invariably led to heated arguments, with some of the players even abusing the officials.

Fortunately for the fans, the tennis at both tournaments was entertaining.

Understandably, they felt grateful to the sponsors, and the fortnight-long two-centre festival ended with the Gymkhana providing an unforgettable scene of three chief guests presiding over the prize distribution function.

It had officially been announced that M.V. Arunachalam, Managing Director, Tube Investments of India Ltd., would preside and distribute the prizes. But M. Gopalakrishnan, Chairman and Managing Director, Indian Bank, and N. Murali, Director and General Manager, *The Hindu*, had also turned up for the finals. The organisers obviously could not resist the temptation to honour them as well, one for Indian Bank's sponsorship and the other for his daily's exhaustive coverage of sport. So, the trio shared the limelight, and did so, unfortunately, under a misleading final-day banner, which read: "Sponsored by Tube Investments of India Ltd." It made the spectators rub their eyes, for the tournament was sponsored by Indian Bank and not by Tube Investments which it was learnt, only provided the floodlights.

Moin-ud-Dowla 1 & 2, but national blank

MRF, as so often in the past, has again hit the headlines. A couple of days after it won a case in the Coimbatore Civil Court for the restoration of the 'competition licence' to a racing motorist, the Madras-based, sport-minded motor car tyre-manufacturing establishment won the prestigious annual Moin-ud-Dowla Gold Cup cricket tournament at Hyderabad.

Ironically, the Madras team's resounding triumph over another Madras team, India Cements, in the Gold Cup final came in the wake of its home state of Tamil Nadu again drawing a blank in a National side, this time in the one to compete in the Quadrangular tournament in Sri Lanka, starting on September 4th. Ever since India opener W.V. Raman was axed

from a national squad a couple of years after former India skipper Krish. Srikanth called it a day, Tamil Nadu, perhaps the country's most cricket-crazy State, with a record number of clubs and tournaments, has had to eat the humble pie.

It is indeed unfortunate that the latest black-out has come at a time when T.N. can boast of quite a few India cap-worthy cricketers like Sunil Subramaniam. He is there all right in the Board President's XI for the Wills Trophy tournament, to be held in the South Zone from October 1st. But it is poor consolation for a State that has contributed so many players to National squads, and can boast of more than one Sunil Subramaniam deserving national recognition.

As though to rub it in, the Board of Control for Cricket in India has, for the second time in about three years, allotted a touring team's conditioning camp to the unlucky State Association. But, let it be said to its credit, the blank it has drawn has by no means come in the way of the T.N.C.A. performing its duty to the best of its ability. Mohammed Azharuddin and his Sri Lanka-bound India team, who all arrived in Madras on August 21st, have every assistance at their camp, held both in the mornings and early afternoons, at the T.N.C.A.'s historic Chepauk ground. As a result, the 15 India cricketers, staying at Hotel Connemara, will be a cent per cent fit team by the time the camp concludes on August 31st. This is the first time the Board has picked a 15-member squad, instead of the normal 14, and here is wishing them all the best in the four-nation tournament to be held from September 4th to 17th.

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ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Carlos, 'The Jackal'; 2. At the Gandhi Mandapam; 3. USA in Basketball; 4. International Left-handers Day; 5. The Woodstock festival in New York; 6. Mani Ratnam's film *Roja*; 7. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha; 8. Atal Behari Vajpayee; 9. She became the first woman athlete to hold the World, Olympic, Commonwealth and European titles at the same time; 10. Madras Hash House Harriers; 11. Sweden; 12. Yakub Memon; 13. The State government has decided not to raze the DGP's complex on the Marina; 14. SPIC; 15. It will be the first election in the country where there'll be photo ID cards for the voters; 16. Dr. Subramaniam Swamy; 17. Jordan and Israel. King Hussein of Jordan piloted his aircraft over Israel; 18. The first heart transplant; 19. Gata Kamsky, Valery Salov and Boris Gelfand; 20. Mt. Everest. The new height is 8846.27 metres.

Tamil Nadu girls and a BAT-boy shine in Juniors

Neither a Martina Navratilova nor a Boris Becker in the making was there. Indeed, when, if at all, our developing, overpopulated country will produce a Wimbledon star, time alone will tell. But the boys and girls from all over the country, who were on view in the recent National junior tennis championships, did provide competitive tennis.

Even if the overall standard was only in keeping with India's mediocre status, competition was so keen that there were several surprises, including the toppling of top seeds in both the girls' and boys' championships. Second-seeded Vikrant Chadda boosted the stock of the Britannia Amritraj Tennis Scheme, where he has now been for four years, by packing off top-seeded Jaideep Shetty in the boys' final, while fourth seeded Jhanvi Parekh humbled Shalini Thakur on her way to the girls' final, in which she virtually destroyed the Madras hope, Aparna Ravi.

While the Madras boys generally cut a sorry figure, the trio of Aparna Ravi, Rushmi Chakravarthi and Sai Jayalakshmi boosted the stock of Madras women's tennis as never before. Aparna was indeed the star of

the week-long tournament only for the fact that the 14-year-old unseeded lefthander made as many as three seeded players bite the dust in defeat on her way to the final. But the slim, lanky girl with exceptionally steady forehand came a cropper in the final, which she looked worried and inhibited. She was perhaps overcome by the occasion and scorching forenoon sun. Whatever might have been the reason for her surprisingly poor show, sympathies of the entire crowd went out to her and her father, N. Ravi, Editor, *The Hindu*, who had watched her entire progress with great interest and hope.

Perhaps, Aparna would have been a different performer had she the final, like all other big matches, been played in the morning or late in the afternoon instead of from 11 a.m. But the organisers, it was stated, had to obey Doordarshan, which has become a virtual dictator in Indian sport. And Aparna, who was the darling of the crowd in all her previous matches, was perhaps the loser for the TV coverage of her biggest event match thus far.

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