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IV. No. 15

Nov. 16 — 30, 1994

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CUTTING

TOOLS

Sulabh to go to schools

And also generate biogas in the City

(By Lakshmi Nagappan)

ph International, the volunteer anisation whose work on propublic toilet complexes and low cost sanitation alternatives atured in MM February 1, 1993,

ANAALI RAMAN...

ooks like the city's man-holes are I clogged... What to do you think?

MAD, MAD MADRAS

is now working on improving school sanitation in Madras and on producing biogas from human waste.

T S Kannan, a former Chief Engineer with the TWAD Board and now adviser to Sulabh, explains that it is futile tutoring children in health education when basic amenities such as toilets are not available in some schools. Sulabh intends to put in place toilets that are tailor-made to conform with the demands of each school. The concept is in the blueprint stage, but Sulabh hopes to get started on this shortly in Madras.

Meanwhile, the Corporation is now thinking of handing over 125 more of its toilets to Sulabh in a 'phased programme', according to Surendhra Jha, Vice-Chairman, Sulabh International. Sulabh already maintains 49 pay-and-use public toilets it has built in Madras and looks after 63 public toilets entrusted to it by the Corporation.

The proposed biogas plants are to be located near many of the Sulabh-maintained toilets which are in more spacious surroundings and where the number of users of the toilet is guaranteed to be over 1500 a day (as in railway stations, markets etc.). The

two products to be obtained from the plants will be biogas and digested slurry. The latter makes good quality manure. The biogas can be used in many ways.

Assuming that a thousand persons use a toilet complex every day, the gas produced from the waste can be utilised for one of the following options:-

- To fuel an 8 cft. biogas burner that will enable a regular warm water supply at the toilet complex for bathing.
- To generate gas to be supplied through pipes to the kitchens of neighbourhood residents.
- To run the water pump at the toilet complex. One water pump of 5 BHP can function for 12 hours on the fuel produced daily.
- To help operate a dual fuel genset of 3.5 KVA capacity combined with a 6.5 BHP engine. In 11 hours of operation it will generate 31 units of power, which means 70 tube lights can be used with the power within half a kilometre of the plant.

Sixtyone biogas plants have already been set up by Sulabh elsewhere in the country, but the idea is still in the formulation stage in Madras. The cost of the biogas plants in Madras will be met by the Corporation, with a sizeable subsidy from the Central Government.

Sulabh has built over 12,000 low-cost household latrines in Tamil Nadu since 1989. This work has been carried out in association with the Directorate of Town Panchayats, the Directorate of Municipal Administration, the MS Swamination Research Foundation and Associated Cement Companies Ltd. Other government and non-government organisations have also assembled such latrines.

Since 1990, 28 low-cost house-hold latrines in the city are being closely monitored to evaluate their effectiveness. It has been found that the pour flush water seal latrine with twin leach pits is most suited to Madras. These units are to be found in the highly congested slum areas of North Madras, like Vyasarpadi, as well as in Thirumangalam and Ezhil Nagar.

These latrines require just 10x15 feet space and are, therefore, a workable proposition in congested areas. A minimal amount of care is needed. The waste collected in the

(Continued on P6)

URBAN DESIGN OPEN COMPETITION

CONSERVATION AND RE-DEVELOPMENT OF MAHATMA JYOTIBA PHULE MARKET (SIR ARTHUR CRAWFORD MARKET) BOMBAY

ORGANISERS

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF GREATER BOMBAY

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PRIZES

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Architects, urban designers and planners registered with the Council of Architecture are invited to participate in the Competition.

Against a date of registration control of the control

tration please send a written application along with copy of

The way to preserve heritage

This is the key portion of an advertisement that appeared in a Madras daily recently. The Urban Design Open Competition is for the Conservation and Re-development (emphasis ours) of the Mahatma lyotiba Phule Market, Bombay's famed Sir Arthur Crawford Market. Note that the competition is NOT to replace the market but, as we see it, to conserve its building and redevelop both building and market. Bombay is tackling several Heritage Buildings in this way. This is what should have been done in Madras; too, in the case of the Director General of Police's office. It is still not too late to do so. Must we continue to lag behind Bombay and Calcutta in conservation and re-development (about which we propose to have several features in the coming issues) when we could so easily have shown the way, having founded Aside and LPOCH in the 70s with a conservation and heritage orientation long before other publications and movements in other cities in India?

- THE EDITOR

This American Center Library

It has got the largest circulation anywhere

(By A Staff Reporter)

Now open again, after refurbishing that's given it a more spacious but also a more businesslike look, is the American Center Library on Anna Salai, the USIS library with the largest 'circulation' of books in the world. It is also the USIS library that answers the largest number of reference queries from the public every year.

Stocked with over 20,000 books and nearly 200 journals, it has a book withdrawal turnover of 120,000 a year and offers answers to over 26,000 reference queries annually — both records for United States Information centres worldwide. Over 250,000 visits are worldwide. Over 250,000 visits are paid to it in a year by its 10,000 members and others. This too is a USIS

world record, says Mrs Miriam E Guichard, the Director of USIS in South India.

As part of the refurbishing exercise, the library now offers CD-ROM, OPAC (which links the five American libraries in India on-line and which is expected to spread its links further) and computerised facilities speeding up issue, according to Mrs. Indira Soman, the Director of the Library: It also offers microfilm facilities, for members, and four major US dailies.

The Library has certainly come a long way from the small USIS library that opened in 1947 in rented premises on Mount Road, not far from where the British Council Library now is



When the written word is missing A dream not quite dead as yet

When Madras Musings carried Dr S Gopal's comment a few weeks ago that former President R Venkataraman's autobiographical memoirs lacked authenticity because they offered no documentation in support, little did The Man From Madras Musings realise that history would repeat itself all over again within days. T N Seshan's biography by Govindan Kutty is yet another publication that does not offer documentary evidence, in the form of letters, written records etc, to back up anything the Chief Election Commissioner has had to say to his biographer. No wonder there is a lack of authenticity about much of what Seshan and Kutty have stated in the book.

In fact, this does not apply to the remarks about Annadurai alone. Former Prime Minister Chandra Shekar, it is reported, has also found much wrong with Seshan's recollection of events past. Kutty, he states, weaves a tale about the country wanting Seshan to accept the CEC's mantle. He, Chandra Sekhar, however, remembers it differently; he recalls Seshan angling to become Principal Secretary to the PM and he also recalls Rajiv

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Madras 600 085. Phone: 418925.

Gandhi telephoning him to request that Seshan not be rejected for the CEC vacancy.

MMM would be the first person to admit that Chandra Sekhar's version of events is also without supporting documentary evidence. But given the amount of reporting that goes on in Indian newspapers without such evidence, Chandra Sekhar's recollection of events should be accepted or rejected with the same alac: ity as Seshan's version of the truth.

As Gopal wondered the other day, MMM too wonders when we are going to have biographies in India with a greater aura of truth about them than the current outpourings. Meanwhile, despite getting G Ramaswamy, the noted advocate, to represent them in the Supreme Court, Konarak Publishers have issued a version of Seshan: An Intimate Story without the Annadurai reference. But MGR remains in the pages - and so there's another stay order sought.

Landmark judgement

All these requests for stay orders come at a time when the Supreme Court has ruled in a landmark judgement that there can be no PRIOR restraint on publication of any material, even if it is defamatory of the state or its officials. The remedy, if any, for public officials or public figures, the Court stated, will arise only AFTER the publication, when they can prosecute the offenders under Section 499/500 of the Indian Penal

In terms of this judgement, the remedy for political parties in Tamil Nadu against what they feel are baseless allegations by Seshan is to file action against him for defamation and seek damages. The problem with libel and defamation suits in India. The Man From Madras Musings feels, is the time they take to get heard. Justice delayed is justice denied. It is in these circumstances that much that is unsubstantiated tends to get published in books, journals and news-

papers in India. The ruling, which followed an attempt to restrain the journal Tharasu from publishing Auto Shankar's life story which cast aspersions against several politicians and public officials, also went on to emphasise the citizen's right to privacy, stating that none can publish anything about a person's family, marriage, procreation, motherhood, childbearing, education and other matters without the person's consent - whether truthful or not, whether lauda-

tory or critical. But, the ruling went on, publication was possible if it was based on public records, including court records. An exception was, however, stated: in the case of a female who had been kidnapped, abducted, sexually assaulted, molested etc., she should not be subjected to further indignity by having her name published in the media and the incident described.

If the exception is not looked at, MMM reads the Court's ruling as yet another instance of insistence on documentation before publication. And that's what the view of the Venkataraman and Seshan cases should be all about

hala politician at will - including her, if she did not play ball. Or it could be a way of keeping the government in Colombo from the peace talks — as has happened before - and allow the LTTE to blame that government for breaking off talks on the excuse of a crime despite the LTTE being no part of it.

Certainly it could be one of all these reasons. But it could also be part of the violence unleashed in every election in the Sri Lankan South in recent years, with the last elections perhaps being among the most violent. But whatever the reason might be, the crime certainly was not cricket - but Dissa-

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

- not politicisation of issues that would normally have not been noticed by the average reader.

P.S. Since these lines were

written, the Madras High Court has taken another view on Seshan's writing. It has been pointed out to The Man From Madras Musings by someone's who's gone through the judgement that the Court has felt that while being the Chief Election Commissioner, Seshan had no business to comment on politicians, past or present, as his views might affect the people's views of the parties of the politicians commented on. Certainly a most interesting and intriguing point of view, MMM thinks, especially in the light of the above.

Cricket's loss

When Sri Lankan Presidential candidate Gamini Dissanayake was tragically killed in what seemed a repeat of the Rajiv Gandhi murder, India lost a friend. So did Indian cricket. And thereby hangs a tale which could contain in it the

motives for his murder. After the events of 1983 led to the ethnic polarisation in the Island, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam went from strength to strength, bringing the Sri Lankan armed forces almost to their knees. At this time, Gamini Dissanayake, a minister in the JR Jayawardene government, was President of the Board of Control of Cricket in Sri Lanka and overjoyed with the Indian support that enabled Sri Lanka to be admitted into the International Cricket Conference's major league. It was about then that N Ram of The Hindu, once a cricketer and ever since a diehard fan, met Dissanayake and they talked of cricket and peace in the island-nation. Out of that conversation was born the direct Indian involvement in Sri Lanka and the accord that put the Indian Peace-Keeping Force in

the LTTE areas of the island. Whether the LTTE are responsible for Dissanayake's death might never be known. But there's no denying that his role in getting India involved in northern Sri Lanka could have only helped him get on the Tigers' 'hate list'. In the present context, they could visualise that if he won the election, he might involve India again, be it cricket or not. It could also be a signal to India to keep out of the Island's politics lest harm befalls its friends. Or it could be a signal to Chandrika Kumaratunga that the Tigers can eliminate any Sin-

nayake, for all his love of the game, would have been the last person in the world to expect anyone in Sri Lankan politics today to play by the rules no matter how much the Island loves the game.

* Swadesamitran, the oldest

In briet

Tamil daily in the State, but defunct for 17 years now, has got a new lease of life. But instead of a Mount Road location, where it once thrived, it operates from Guindy Industrial Estate, The Man From Madras Musings finds. The Estate, MMM finds, is becoming quite a large printing and publishing complex. with the next publication to grow being the Industrial Economist, whose publisher S Viswanathan has plans to take his company public. The Swadesamitran was founded in 1882 as a weekly by G Subramania Aiyer, one of the founders of The Hindu four years earlier. In 1899, Subramania Aiyer made it a daily and devoted himself to it full-time. MMM has heard it said that through its columns he became 'Tamil Nadu's foremost teacher in politics'. The paper on which Subramania Bharatiyar worked as sub-editor and columnist was to reflect this reputation till well into the early 1960s. But when it failed to keep pace with the times, there came the end of an era in 1977. Will the new era - in the hands of former Civilian R Nagarajan — herald a return to the paper's heyday of constructive opposition? One thing, however, has intrigued MMM about this resurrection. In calling for journalists, the new Swadesamitran wants MAs and feels that experience is not necessary. That's rather a change from the beginnings. And is undoubtedly the IAS approach.

* In all the thousands of words The Man From Madras Musings an avid reader of romances has read about the goings-on in the British Royal Family, the most delightful quote he has come across was the headline "He laid down his wife for his country" referring to Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles, whose wife has been the on again, off again mistress of Prince Charles. It's a rather more clever oneliner that the local Glossnost hoarding which referred to fun and games in ___ingham Palace! Incidentally, MMM finds these local hoardings continuing to be verbally-striking, but there appears to be an element of viciousness creeping into them

from time to time, rather taking Editor's Note: This may not be away from the fun they were in eletter about Madras or Tamil Nadu, but it is a telling comment on Indian the early days. * Apropos the transfer of mort — of which the Tamil Nadu

Maneck Patel of the Taj Coro rene is a part and a part with

mandel as General Manager of everal such stories of its own to the St James's Court in London which The Man From Madra Musings referred to in theu columns a month ago, he $_{10}$ The Asian Games are over and hears that several promined India's large contingent won Indians in London and regula mere 17 medals. If you are guests of the St James from India wondering how a country of have not exactly welcomed the right hundred million achieved change. Reports from London only this, let me give you an say many of the regular users an insider's perspective. making a plea to the Taj Grow Everybody has a dream. to allow popular 46-year-old Mine was to prove two things: Sam Bhadha to stay on as GM first, that in the realm of sport, Bhadha, who came to the Indians are no less than anyone St James from the Taj's Lexing

ton in New York, is under

transfer orders to return to the

Lexington. MMM hears that his

supporters have been pointing

robotics at the University of out that during the four year Massachusetts and training in Bhadha was in London, he made he sport of rowing. "a low five-star" hotel into In an effort to fulfil my "deluxe five star" which hosted dreams, I have spent the last Presidents, Prime Ministers, eight years in the U.S., earning Chief Ministers and Cabinet academic degrees and teaching Ministers besides the leading myself to be a competitive Indian film stars and interrower. While I have made pronational sportspersons. They say cress in both areas, I still have that he also made the 400-room long way to go before I can hotel another major success (consider myself a success. The

the corridors of the St James come at a time when the hotel is launching an Euroissue to itish statues raise funds for a £10 million refurbishing. Will Maneck Patel from Madras see that issue through or will Bhadha stay on the ONGC, the more majestic statue, east to supervise the renovation? * The cyclone's come and gone, wy surroundings of a Municipal Corpogiving the City a glancing blow a grant park. A Indo-British company or once more on the eve of a around Deepavali. By the tin these lines are read, most of the time to, George Town.

would have forgotten the diff

city. True, these things happen

- but you don't ask for apprecia-

tion till you've done something

to put things right. As it is, as

MMM pecks out these lines, it's

FIVE days since the electricity

lines in his area went dead. And

the Taj Group. These tremors in

culties of those first days after the cyclone. But one thing The Man Aids Ltd. From Madras Musings will not forget in a hurry in his fire visitors on Deepavali day, them ends of the Napier (previously them ends of them ends of the Napier (previously them ends of the Napier (p proudly announced, as they had the Iron) Bridge, 'vested/casted' sought the usual Deepavali inam. 211.45, instead of stating that it was re-Only wiser counsel prevented an orded in 1941-45. Down with English' explosion in a house that had the be the policy of the Madras been two days without electri-

ndia's most admired marketing still no one at the MES has a companies in the soft consumer other answer to offer except goods category and four in the say they are attending to it consumer durables category, this day and age, does it take fi according to a recent A & Mdays - and MMM does not kno MARG poll. In the soft consumer how many more are to follow. goods category, Pond's is 11th to set right electricity failures in and Coats Vivella 26th. What, a city that has really not been however, pleases The Man From battered by the elements? Madras Musings is the fact that ★ Tamil Nadu is one of thos Pond's has jumped to 11th from states with a rather alarming the 22nd place it was in last incidence of AIDS. The World year, improving greatly on 11 Health Organization has been out of the 12 parameters, mainsupplying developing countries taining its score on the 12th. world-wide, condoms for distri-Amongst consumer durables, bution in red light districts to Tamil Nadu - based Titan is first combat the disease. Curiously and MRF 2nd, with companies the supplies in India have not like TTK (which has moved up) been Nirodhs from Hindustan and TVS-Suzuki (a new entrant Latex or TTK's London Rubber, to the list), making their but condoms from South Korea. resence felt. Other companies And one Indian NGO involved in with strong links with Tamil the fight against AIDS points out Nadu, like Tata Tea, Britannia, that the Korean condoms are Dunlop, Lipton's and McDowell's 3 cm longer and 1 cm wider are in the top 30 but only than Nirodh, making them Lipton's and McDowell's have "ineffective" in Indian condimoved upwards. The poll, contions.' True or false, it is bound ducted among marketing perto deflate Indian egos, if nothing sonnel of various companies, else, The Man From Madras considered parameters like designing the product to meet

road has been a long and arduous one: in order to finance my education, I have had to work part-time in menial jobs. I saved every penny I carned just so I could afford the equipment needed to pursue my sport.

The Rowing Federation of India, whom I informed of my potential, allowed me to try out for the national team for last year's Asian Rowing Championships, a prelude to the Asiad. I had spent the last 21/2 years training on my own for these competitions, while other Indian rowers spent months in Europe under leading coaches. However, I managed to earn a spot on the team for the Championships in the event of my choice,

the single sculls. This year, I was asked by the national coach, Col. P K Uberoi, to come for the Asian Games trials to be held in Pune in July and spend the next few months there. Understandably, my professors were against the idea of me taking off for three months in the middle of a PhD programme. After failing to convince them of the importance of my presence in India, I risked putting my academic career in jeopardy and spent my last dollar

to come to Pune for the selection

trials. There, I set a national record in the single sculls, 7 m 25s over 2km, a 15s improvement over the previous mark, which was set by Dalbir Singh who won two bronze medals at the 1990 Asiad and was awarded the Arjun. The selection committee unanimous-

ly named me for the single sculls. I spent most of the next 21/2 months in Pune, missing my studies and my job, training for the Games. I can honestly and proudly say that I trained longer and harder than anyone else on the team, just so I could ensure a place on the podium.

With just a few days remain-

ing for our departure, we had made all preparations - our boats were packed, our travel documents were in order and we were mentally bracing ourselves for the tough battles ahead. And then, on Friday, September 16th, just five days before we were supposed to leave for Hiroshima, I was informed by Col. Uberoi that the Department of Sports (DOS) had decided not to send me to the Games! They had decided against an entry in the event — and I was the only member of the main team to be dropped.

whom the words 'courage' and When I contacted the DOS. 'dedication' mean little. I was told that it had been decided to "no longer consider the results of selection trials" and that the Department of Human Resources was respon-

Now that the Games are over, here is how I would have done: My best time of the year, which I clocked 11/2 months before the Games (7 m 18s). would have won me the bronze and put me within striking distance of the silver; my average time over the year (7 m 21s) would have also won me the bronze.

My dream was stolen from me. Fortunately, it takes much more than that to break my spirit; I fully intend to be on the Olympics podium — with or without the support of the Indian Government. Something died in me that week. Perhaps it was the dreamer in me, perhaps it was the athlete in me, or perhaps it was pride in India. At the same time, something was reborn within - perhaps it was the dreamer, or the athlete. It certainly wasn't national pride. That remains dead.

> Shashi Buluswar Vision Laboratory Computer Science Dept. U. of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003, USA.

Thile the George V statue, north of the War Memorial, is well maintained the Flower Bazaar Police Station, is in ishould come forward to have it better hand, this symbol for the area it gave

The statue of King Edward VII before atrance to Rajaji Hall, on Anna Salai; Imaintained by the Tamil Nadu Petro

else; second, that it is possible to

be an Olympic athlete and a

scholar at the same time. To that

end, I am pursuing a PhD in

The Madras Corporation has erro-

Unly two Tamil Nadu com-

vanies are among the top 30 of

C A Reddi 57 Rundalls Road Vepery, Madras 600 007.

Another neologism

Please tell your otherwise excellent Quiz contributor Ramanan that there is no such verb as 'author'. Like the idiotic and meaningless invention and unpronounceable 'Ms', this is yet another neologism invented by Americans who think such lunacies will make them sound smarter than us poor retarded hacks, content to use the words 'write', 'wrote' or 'written', then aped in this country by tenth-rate journalists (usually females, I can't help noticing) who nurture the foolish notion that this will make their gibberish more fashionable, if less intelligent.

Your contributor may also be reminded that the name of the famous records book he mentions is the Guinness Book of Records. The title Guinness Book of World Records is that of the American edition, used for some arcane legal reason. The mother edition, and the one usually available to readers in India, does not include the word 'World' in its title.

Harry Miller 3-A, Satyanarayana Ave. Madras 600 028.

OUR READERS WRITE

lust musing

n Madras, animals wander freely — cows, buffaloes and stray does — on the remains of what was once a tar road. One big family, they all are, living in pelect harmony.

Of course, guests are most welcome,

especially the two-legged variety, who are given a special place on the road, no matter what the mode of transport might be. Sans partiality, they are allotted left extreme lanes, for the dangerous right extremes are the abodes of the four-legged hosts. All goes well, until a crazy, disobedient human defies all rules and decides to negotiate the right lanes and then all carefully laid plans go awry and utter commotion prevails. But the

ever-grateful hosts, protect their guests by pushing them to safety into one of the many ditches (thanks to the PWD) and bravely contront the oftenders. For, what right have we, brainless humans, to interfere with the lords of the road by trying to usurp their position.

sible for the decision. No one

accepted responsibility for the

decision or gave me an expla-

nation for my exclusion from the

team, but I was told that my only

hope was to go to Delhi and

approach Mr Arjun Singh or

some other Cabinet Minister and

plead my case. After a week of

making futile phone calls all over

the country, I gave up hope and

Massachusetts — after spending

every last penny I had, 9000

dollars in debt (reimbursement

promised by the Indian Govern-

ment, but not a word about it

heard till date), jeopardising my

academic career, setting a

national record, and training like

a dog. As I try to put my life back

together after being deceived and

deprived of my right to pursue

my dream — to bring honour to

my country through my own

hard work, courage and dedi-

cation — all I can think of is how

I was let down and cheated by

a system infested with men to

Here I am now, back in

left for the U.S.

The one specie, higher up in the ladder of probable 'Kings of the Road', is that of the bureaucats, for whom it is statutory that even the four-lessed candidates should give

It is indeed a good pastime to 'muse' over such 'trivialities'. We shall find better things to 'muse' over, in future — provided Madras Musings continues this 'musing' until a solution is found...!!

> A two-legged sufferer 83 Ellaiamman Colony Madras 600 086.

Postal bolidays

Dostal service indeed is as essential and service-oriented as railway, telecom.

media, transport and health-care. Without it. Man is crippled in all aspects and activities.

When the latter services cater to the needs and expectations of the public on all the 365 days round the clock, without exception, it is really worrying to note that the Postal Department has been shutting down on all Sundays and public holidays. sometimes for two or three days at a time, without minding the inconvenience and stress caused the public.

Of course, work on Sundays and public holidays in the past has been by getting officials on duty by turns and their duty offset by overtime payments or by compensatory 'offs.' It is requested that the Postal Department go back to functioning 365 days like other public departments.

> Mrs Usha Rajendran 34th Street 7th Sector

K K Nagar, Madras 600 078.

per annum, MMM foresees the

earning proposition.

* Floriculture and horticulture

are becoming big business in India and exports are increasing. The Man From Madras Musings only recently discovered that a Tamil Nadu company, Kurinji Organic Foods Pvt. Ltd., in Batlagundu, at the foot of the Kodaikanal hills, has been supplying organically grown fruits to West Germany from as far back as 1986. The fruits are grown using only organic fertilisers. Soil fertility is enriched by using such organic methods as growing crops like legumes, sun hemp, acacia and subabul trees. Pest control is also done using organic pesticides. Drying the fruit is by solar heating. Fruit pulps and concentrates are also produced by this company for marketing in the new ecoconscious West. Here is an export market eco-friendly India could well tap, MMM feels.

lore with Israeli collaboration to grow flowers by ensuring "optimum utilisation of natural, human and purchased resources", The Man From Madras Musings learns. Special polyethylene films are to be used for greenhouses to ensure that the flowers attain the standards set by the international market. Forty hectares of land are being developed in Kanniyakumari and Dharmapuri Districts to produce more than 10 million roses and 1250 tonnes of strawberries, under this project. The foreign income would be around Rs. 80 crore after three years,

Southern Green Fields of Banga-

Israelis, India has the greatest potential of any country to grab this market. And they want a foothold, capitalising on their "make the desert bloom" knowhow.

* The Man From Madras Musings understands that Madras is likely to receive a state-of-the-art maintenance facility shortly. This will be the fallout if Indotik Airways commences operations. Indotik Airways of the Tikkoo Group of companies has tied up with Icelandair to provide flight services to metro destinations in India and hopes to make Madras its service and maintenance centre. The centre will be run by icelandair. Ravi Tikkoo, head of the Tikkoo Group of companies, is a former Indian Navy lieutenant who quit his job, went abroad and made a fortune out of shipping, owning, at one time, the two biggest crude oil tankers. He was rated as one of the richest Asians in the 70s. He is now planning to enter Indian business in a big way and Indotik is part of these plans.

Musings would think.

-MMM

Business Briefs for flowers into a major money-* A one hundred per cent EOU consumer needs, innovativeness is being set up in Tamil Nadu by

of product, success in product launches, value for money, customer relations, keeping in touch with the market, superior advertising etc.

* The Man From Madras Musings, who recently discovered commercial floriculture was proving a gold mine for entrepreneurs, has just heard of the latest impetus to this new business option of Indian investors. The Central Government is setting up eight model centres for commercial floriculture and one of these will be in Madras. Eight centres in the private sector will also be set up in the same places. Tamil Nadu is one of the major growers of traditional flowers like jasmines, marigolds, roses, chrysanthemums etc., and with the world floriculture market growing at a rate of 15 per cent

South transforming its passion

it is claimed. Export are expected to begin next March. The global demand for flowers is estimated at Rs. 60,000 cr and growing at

17%. India's contribution to this

is Rs. 12 cr fresh flowers and Rs.

50 cr dried flowers! Yet, feel the

GAYFORD, M (ed.) GORDON, L HALL, H HOUSE, A INGHAM, C ISON, S KABEER, KIRKUP, G (ed.) MANN, J PAYNÉ,

A Select List of Recent Additions BAXTER, S BEARDWELL, I

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Natural products Women, health and poverty In charge Women and the environment The law making process (4th ed.)

One of the family Walking my mistress in Deauville

The day Anna was arrested

(By A Staff Writer)

The anti-Hindi agitation that Chief Election Commissioner Seshan recently described, rather unfortunately, as being CIA-inspired, was scheduled to begin on November 17, 1963. The man whom Seshan implies was the unwitting tool of American manipulation aimed at destabilising India, the founder of the Dravidian political movement, C N Annadurai, was, on that day, to go to the Marina with four others and burn in public Part XVII of the Constitution (Articles 343-351, relating to the official language). The agitation was to continue thereafter till year-end, with DMK cadres burning Part XVII and picketing Central Government offices and institutions in towns throughout the States.

This DMK response was to a Bill introduced in Parliament on April 13, 1963, that went against Pandit Nehru's assurance that English would be the official language in India as long as the non-Hindi speaking people wanted it. This was an assurance given despite the Constitution stating that Hindi would become the official language of India from January 26, 1965. It was as a prelude to this Constitutional resolve that the Bill introduced by Lal Bahadur Shastri, the Home Minister, provided for the use of English along with Hindi.

Describing the Bill as intending to "impose Hindi" on the Tamil-speaking people, Annadurai contended that the Bill made the use of English only obtigatory. NOT mandatory. He told a public meeting that the Tamils "would be reduced to third-rate citizens" and would become "slaves" of the North. He felt that Hindi alone could not be the official language, but that all 14 languages listed as India's major languages should be considered official languages.

The DMK general council and executive committee met shortly after this speech in June and decided on agitational measures. It was decided that Annadurai would start the agitation movement on November 17th. But, on the night before, he and other DMK leaders were arrested. When the matter was raised in the legislature a few days later. Chief Minister Bhaktavatsalam stated it was a routine Police matter and did not warrant discussion in the House. The Speaker then refused permission for the issue to be discussed.

In the months that followed. Annadurai and the other DMK leaders arrested were sentenced to six months' R.L., even as their followers continued to picket Central Government offices in the state and burn Part XVII of the Constitution. The agitation continued throughout 1964 and as Republic Day 1965, the day when Hindi was to become the official language, approached, tension began to build up despite Annadurai making it clear the struggle was against Hindi imposition and NOT against the Centre: "Long live the Republic, down with Hindi," was the slogan he offered the protesters.

But over 18 months of build-up had fired the masses. It was inevitable that the 'Black Day' the DMK had declared would reach an emotional high — even though, on the night of January 25th, Annadurai and other DMK leaders had been arrested. What followed was tragedy. There were several self-immolations, setting a trend that has continued to this day. Then

the students and the teachers came out in protest. The Chief Minister refused to meet their leaders and, when they refused to disperse, the police swung into action. Violence followed — despite all Annadurai's appeals. The movement had passed out of the DMK's hands. In the end, the official death toll, after several days of violence and police action, was 79. Unofficial figures put it as much higher.

Tamil Nadu Ministers C Subramaniam and O V Alagesan resigned from the Congress Government in protest. Rajaji appealed for peace and stated that the action of the two Ministers would have adequately conveyed the feelings of the State to the Centre. Annadurai issued another appeal asking the students to leave the issue to the political leadership. And, slowly, the fires burned down. But the constitutional guarantee on the nonimposition of Hindi did not materialise. The agitation, however, had served as a strong warning: What remains on the statute books carnot always be implemented without the people's

The anti-Hindi movement also consolidated the position of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam as a formidable political force. A people disillusioned with the Bhaktavatsalam Government for the food shortages they had to face only wanted an option when the 1967 elections came along. And the DMK, with its sterling role in the anti-Hindi agitation, provided it. The Dravidian movement, with its Tamil identity, has not looked back since, just as Congress in Tamil Nadu has found it impossible to wear the mantle of that identity.

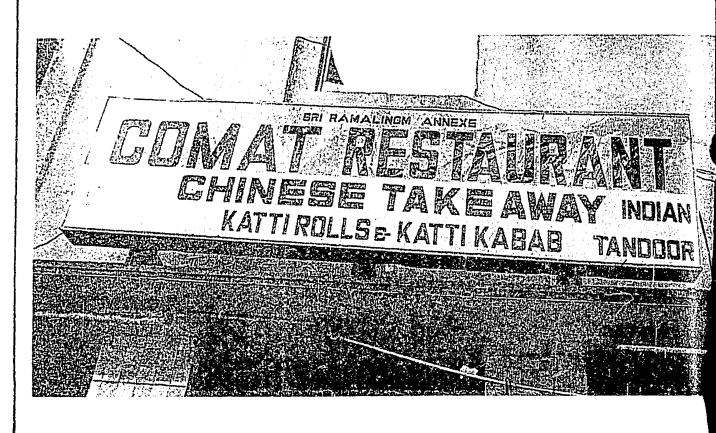


The OLD and the NEW are a bit different this fortnight. A few weeks ago, V S RAGHAVAN notice the OLD on Anna Salai, in the Thousand Lights area. Wondering what Sri Ramalinga Vilas could possibly to do with CHINESE take-away, or even with those Calcutta specialties, Katti Rolls and Katti Kababs, what companied our OLD for his collection of agricultus. He then went off

THE OLD...

photographed our OLD for his collection of curiosities. He then went off to trek in Himachal Himalaya and returned only last week. Imagine his surprise to find that in less than a month of the Ramalinga Vilas sign going up, there had been a decision to change the image of the restaurant! Now it was the Comat (whatever that is!) Restaurant and only an annexe of

Sri Ramlingm (sic). But the fare offered continued to provide the same surprises as before — only mores with Indian Tandoor added. Where, wondered Raghavan, did the restaurant's chefs, who all seem to be ful the deepest South, catch up with Chinese, Calcutta and Northern cuisines?



Cat Finance — Driven by profits

In a city characterised by tame and, if I might say so, pachydermatous organisations, it is rather refreshing to see at least one segment emerging on a consumer-powered turf. From the days when a buyer waited endlessly in queues for a car to those wherein deliveries occur in 24 hours, from paying arbitrary interest rates to cashrich individuals to witnessing organised, professionally-managed companies, from daunting documentation procedures to personalised and quick service, car finance has undergone a sea change. So much so that the business has seen a 30-35 per cent growth during the current year and nearly 65 per cent of the cars produced in the country are handled by car finance

Auto finance was initiated by foreign banks and it has caught on among the NBFCs and public banks. While banks have the maximum advantage in offering hire purchase finance, the cumbersome process has left them lagging far behind the private sector.

The large number of companies and their extensive operation in this field throw up mind-bossling disbursement figures. The financier, who has snatched the limelight from the dealer, usually offers two schemes: 25 per cent down payment and the balance in 12 to 18 Equated Monthly Instalments

with the borrowed depositing with the company 25 per cent of the car's cost (refundable after the expiry of the loan, with 14.5 per cent interest). Most pleasantly, the EMI, which was earlier calculated on the original loan amount (no matter the extent of principal repaid) is calculated on decreasing balances. The interest, normally at around

23 per cent, takes into account the cost

(EMI), or financing the entire price,

of money, administrative expenses and Currently, Citibank, Kotak Mahindra, Apple Credit Corporation and 20th Century have taken the top slots, in Madras. Thanks to a shift in focus from a few large corporate clients to many small individuals, the industry can boast a low delinquency ratio. The attractive recovery rate has drawn in companies like Alpic Finance (a sister concern of Cipla and, initially, engaged in bills discounting) and Apple (initially into computers), which were hitherto in totally unrelated terrains. A spread of 4-7 per cent compared to 2-3 per cent in other avenues, like bills discounting, render the business even more

the mantle of financiers.

Dealers also have tie-ups with finance companies. Maruti, which has virtually divided the market into the Maruti and the non-Maruti segment, is planning to float a financing subsidiary,

lucrative, often forcing dealers to don

following the Tatas, Hindujas and Bajajs.

The auto industry has come out of recession, Given the frenetic pace and the expansion and modernisation plans chalked out by our automobile majors. car finance is in for intense competition and price wars. To gear up to the challenge, some have taken to branching out and still others (like SRF Finance and Citibank) to financing second-hand cars. With each company in the business chalking up Rs. 20-30cr turnovers and anticipating an increase in disbursements by 50 per cent, with more cars like Daewoo, Volkswagen and Peugot being wheeled into India and with the RBI freeing-lending rates, the car finance business is on the high road to a boom. In the light of this, SRF, 20th Century Finance, Apple Credit and Sundaram Finance are all good buys. So are these:

SRF Finance (CMR: Rs. 104.00): Backed by the SRF Group, SRFF's operations include lease and hire purchase, trade financing, investment banking, money market operations and equity research and trading. SRF Finance is a sponsor member of the OTCEI and a major player in the wholesale debt market. SRF Invest Care, promoted by it, is in stockbroking and a member of the NSE. Plans are on to launch a Mutual Fund this year. We estimate an income of Rs. 65 cr and PAT of Rs. 15 cr for 1994-95, yielding an EPS of Rs. 10.75 and supporting Rs. 160. Share prices, after

moving sideways, have broken out upwar Buy with a stop loss at Rs. 90.

Shree Cements (CMP: Rs. 90.00 This flagship company of the Bangur god has shown excellent results for the first had of the current financial year. Sales and a profit spurted by 13.4% and 183% against the previous year's figures. The grown demand for cement has emboldened the company to chalk out a Rs. 700 cr expansion plan, the first phase of which, increase the capacity by a million tooms is already underway. For 1994-95, the projected turnover and PAT are Rs. 200 and Rs. 18 cr respectively. The EPS Rs. 7.80 on the present equity was support a price of Rs. 120 for March 1995.

I G Petrochemicals (C Rs. 95.00): Promoted by Mysore Chemicals, this 100% EOU, and the larg producer of phthalic anhydride. announced excellent results for Septem 1994. Turnover rose by 35% on annualised basis to Rs. 75.80 cr and Pl by 933% to Rs. 18.49 cr. The EM attractive at Rs. 7.04 on the equi enhanced to Rs. 26.28 cr by pri placement of equity shares. The comp exports to Korea, China, Taiwan and o Far East countries. The prices of phili anhydride have sone up in the internalic market and it plans to double its capac We estimate a turnover of Rs. 115 a a PAT of Rs. 28.25 cr which yields a EPS of Rs. 10.75 and supports Rs. 160 September 1995. A good buy at cur

K. Gopalakrishna

Telephone faults?

Madras, telephones becoming bad, due to cables failing at the monsoon shower, is a yearly licted a bumper monsoon for dras this year. That means more dielephones and, consequently,

NEV

more frayed nerves. And angry telephone-users will blame telephone engineers for their slackness in carrying out maintenance.

Few realise that these failures are not the fault of the engineers, on whom the blame inevitably falls.

THE (TAMIL NADU) HIT PARADE



EDITOR'S NOTE: This and the next two profiles in this series are of persons who have roots in Madras/Tamil Nadu and have continued to maintain close connections with the City/State.

Banking Guru

hat's a shuddh Brahmin with spiritual leanings doing as the chief of India's foremost development bank? Not just managing well but being path-breaking too. Under Narayanan Vaghul's stewardship these last nine years, the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India has undergone a significant transformation. It has expanded its own definition from a development institution to a financial conglomerate, thanks largely to Vaghul's visionary thinking. Institutions like the Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India, the credit rating agency CRISIL, and the Over-The-Counter Exchange of India owe their existence to ICICI and, therefore, to Vaghul since they are all creations of his time.

Vaghul is not your typical career banker, though his professional life began on a conventional note in the public sector State Bank of India in Madras. He was a star performer from the start and distinctions began to come his way. At forty-four, he became the Bank of India's youngest chairman ever. But the power that goes with position has never quite swayed him. He was literally bulldozed into his present job; twice he left banking to pursue his interest in teaching.

Through it all, Vaghul's personal integrity has never been questioned. He is approachable, disarming and a man of conservative habits; he is an early sleeper and begins his day at 4.30 a.m. May be that's what has always given him a head start.

(Sketch by DHIR, text by NAAZHEEN KARMALI — From: *THE HIT PARADE* - Symbols of Indian Industry, Published by Banyan Books, New Delhi.)

Don't blame the Monsoon — or the Department

The underground cable (UGC) is an ingenious product of modern engineering technology. It is rugged and can stand up to every vagary of the soil. It can be soaked in boggy slush for months during monsoons or roasted in hot earth during the scorching summer without any ill-effect. It is impervious to the onslaughts of rodents and white ants. When once laid, it can be forgotte:1, as it can give years and years of good service, showing signs of old age only after about 50 or 60 years. A cable is replaced not because it has become old, but because the demand has outstripped its capacity and a higher capacity cable is called for.

In fact, a cable will do its duty as long as an earth-digger's crowbar or pickaxe does not puncture it. And even if that happens and the cable is damaged, it will give good service — until the first rain of the season seeps through to interfere with the normal flow of current in it. Hence the usual spate of cable failures with the first onset of monsoon rain.

It is generally assumed that cables are damaged by road-diggers from other departments. This is not so. Such 'professionals' know the importance of cables and treat them with respect. Before commencing digging operations, the cable department is informed and it sends one of its men to see that the cable is not affected. If any damage is ritade in spite of it, it is purely inadvertent. But, then, who are the culprits?

The culprits are the political party workers who dig the roads haphazardly to erect cutouts, lights, loudspeakers and the like. When they come across a cable while digging, they treat it as a nuisance and push it aside or smash it out of their way. A long stretch along a highway may, thus, get damaged overnight. Isolated damage can be quickly repaired, but gashes at close intervals on a long stretch entail the replacement of a considerable length of cable which, necessarily, delays the repair work.

While laying a cable, due precautions are taken to prevent diggers piercing the cable. Flat cement slabs, about 50×25 cm size, are placed over the cable through its length. This will deflect the digger's tool, cautioning him that he is approaching a cable. But in many stretches these slabs are found missing. Where do they go? The answer is not far to seek. As soon as the department unloads and stacks a consignment of these slabs by the roadside. groups of slum-dwellers descend at night and take away most of them for use as floor slabs, washing stones etc in their homes. Even if the slabs have been placed in position and the trench closed, the earth is dug out, the slabs removed and the trench covered again by these vandals at night, without anyone being any the wiser about what has happened. But even if department personnel know what has happened, no one dare ask the slundwellers.

dwellers.

Since such losses could not be contained effectively, the department switched to the use of bricks, even though bricks do not perform the job as efficiently as cement slabs. But it was felt that some action was better than no action. It was, however, soon found that even bricks were not left alone. A cable supervisor recently told me this story:

A cable was laid and a workman was deputed to close the trench with bricks. As he was doing so, he noticed two toughs behind him, collecting the newly laid bricks in a gunny bag. Not wishing to confront them alone, he ran

not far away. When the supervisor came up and asked the brick-lifters what they were upto, one of them replied that they were collecting the bricks not for themselves but to build a pavement shrine for Lord Ganesha. The supervisor pointed out that, however laudable their purpose, they should buy the materials and not pilfer them. To which one of the ruffians responded, "Nee olunga oodu poi seranumana ithellam kandukkadhay. vadhyare!" (If you want to reach home safely, do not take notice of these things, Master!) The supervisor thought discretion was the better part of valour and ordered the trench to be closed

and informed the supervisor who was

without the benefit of the bricks!

Do you wonder at the state of our telephone system!

— M SETHURAMAN

Some cable facts

Until recently the underground (UG) cables for the telephone network were of the type PILC-STA, an acronym for Paper Insulated Lead Covered with an outer drape of Steel Tape Armour which gave mechanical strength and some protection against damage. Since the insulation of the wires inside depended on impregnated paper, it readily absorbed moisture. So, even new cables had to be sealed at the ends to prevent exposure to the atmosphere. In case of damage, the cable rapidly absorbed moisture and, unless quickly repaired, the moisture spread through the cable, lowering its insulation over a considerable length of cable which had

to be cut and replaced.

With the advent of Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) plastic, the state of cable art was revolutionised. PVC is impervious to water and can stand a fair amount of heat.

In case of damage to the cable, it is enough if the seat of the damage alone is attended to, since the insulation does not deteriorate as in the case of the PILC cable.

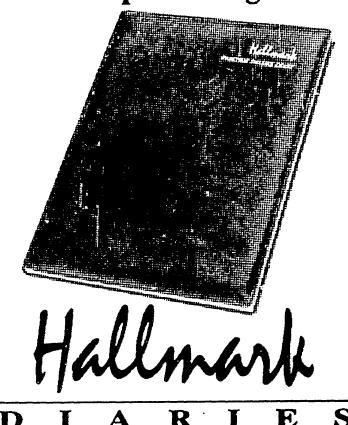
PVC UG cables are now produced with jelly-filled sheaths. When damaged, the jelly oozes out and solidifies at the seat of the damage, effectively sealing it.

Cables serving VVIPs are liable to tampering for espionage purposes. Hence they are encased in conduits of pressurised inert gas, normally nitrogen. The pressure is constantly monitored. Any fall in pressure will alert the authorities that the cable is being meddled with.

Detection of faults and repair of an UG cable is highly skilled work, requiring meticulous care and undivided attention at every step.

M.S.

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The fading music of the streets

Thank God. Madras still carries vertones of what Saroiini Naidu romantically called India's "singing streets" and what less reverent people term Street Services Inc. dispensed with discordant music! And how sad that this integral and beloved part of the Indian streetscape is fast slipping into oblivion, particularly in the big urban centres. To me it seems a particular deprivation, since the streets of my childhood in Delhi were full of the street criers' songs — the lovely channa jor garam, babu mai laya channa jor garam from the gram-seller's repertoire, the delightful old churan-seller's Lakkar hajam paththar hajam with which the sophisticated corridors of Connaught Place often resounded, not to mention the reassuring cry of the nightwatchman's Khabarda... Aar! in the dead of the night which would lull us to sleep as it had lulled countless others since Mughal times.

Summer holidays in Madras meant dashing out into the streets when the cartman selling mangoes belted out his marvellously dulcet Rumani — Malgo ...aar. And in the evenings the little flower girls would come bearing baskets of jasmine and parijaat venis, softly singing out their wares... Today, when I ask my flower girl to sing, she belts out Tu chees badi hai mast mast...

But Madras streets still have their occasional moments with dreams being traded with (but, alas, not for) a song. Every now and then a street-seller's cry rises above the noise of honking homs and the roaring traffic, hangs there with a Dickensian intimacy, carrying with it the anticipatory thrill of the bazaar coming to the begum, and slowly fades away. This morning I woke to the delightful sing-song notes of Sankara meen — Meen-o-meen — Kaala meenaai, rising to ever higher octaves and full of mouth-watering culinary promise! I succumbed totally, as much in anticipation of a fishy dinner as for the energetic colourful interaction with the old fishwallah plus the bargaining which ends with each of us feeling he's had the better of the other! Moments later, the rising notes of the street knifesharpener's full-throated cry fills the road, along with the rather menacing rattle of his sharpening machine. He dismounts from his bicycle, arranges his gleaming sharpening instruments, again loudly yodels of his virtues, and all the cooks and ayahs congregate around. knives of various sizes in their hands...

Sulabh goes to schools

(Continued from P 1)

leach pits after decomposition makes usable organic manure that fetches a good price. This makes the latrine costeffective, as a latrine is priced between Rs. 4000 and Rs. 5000. In a city like Madras, where water is a scarce commodity, this latrine is a boon, as just two litres of water is required for every usage of the latrine. In areas where sewerage is not available, this method could be implemented.

Users have been extremely satisfied with the demonstration units and consultancy reports submitted since 1991 (the latest in June 1994) say these latrices have been "accepted in principle"

News... pay... paari is another ubiquitous street cry we are all familer with in the city, but my newspaperwallah has a baritone which could wake up the dead. He certainly wakes me up once every month from my afternoon siesta, but I forgive him much because he really is an amazing recycling machine and gets rid of my month's entire supply of old bottles, used tins, plastic bags, newspapers, you name it. We spar like old adversaries

and watch each other like hawks while

100 years old.

no high school in the southern half of

Madras city in those days, this school

catered to the needs of the people of

Royapettah, Mylapore and Triplicane.

The Rev. Dr. William Miller, the

legendary principal of Madras Christian

College, used to inspect the school and

years of service to the community, but

it calculates its age from the year 1851,

when it became a more formalised

Madras — Christian, Presidency,

Pachaiyappa's — there was need for

more colleges and Wesley School was

raised to a second grade college in

years and a training college established.

The training college was named after

Meston, a Professor of Philosophy at

Madras Christian College. The college

was headed by the Rev. TR Fougler.

The Wesley School served as a training

The school and the college's office

complex are located on property got

from the Nawab of Arcot. The school's

building had been used to store

ammunition during World War II. The

Wesleyan Hostel had at one time been

school for this professional college.

The college was closed after some

1887, when the FA class started.

With only three Arts colleges in

The school has completed 177

helped with its progress.

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

he arranges his weights and scales and proceeds to cheat me with elan.

Often the street cries follow a seasonal, festival-oriented rhythm. The

• by Pushpa Chari

mango season obviously brings out the music in every mango-seller, reaching a crescendo when the season is at its height and there are mountains of mangoes everywhere. Is it during

war-cry brought so many housewives to battle and bargain at their doorsteps? Changing patterns of social interaction reflect changing societal rhythms.

Pongal that young boys loudly playing

a flute-like instrument bring their dressed-to-the-teeth cows to every house? I am not terribly enamoured of cows with gleaming, dressed-up horns,

but a therukoothu, howsoever truncated. I never miss. A therukoothu

in Harrington Road! Yes, I saw one years ago... it was about some confused

issue, but great fun all the same. But where are the monkey-men of my

vouth with their dhumroos or even the

stainless-steel-in-exchange-for-old-

clothes gentlemen whose distinctive

But it is sad that the joyous, intimate street cries of India are dimming fast, and giving way to the streets of the future. Full of fast-moving, roaring traffic — and an alienating silence.

be given up because no Veterinary meagre salary offered.

The Meston Educational Rehabi-

The school is managed by the

Text and Photographs by

national cricket team for adopting a 'go ski attitude in a recent one-dayer against

13. Why was a Bangladesh registered ship Sagar, in the news recently in Madia ?

15. What historic ruling was given by the Mate High Court on cheque dishonouring?

simultaneously released in India and th rest of the world on October 25th.

to encourage learning about flora and laural

Jawaharalal Nehru University and the National Institute of Oceanography, which state's population will be most affected by 2010 A.D. by a predicted submergence coastal areas as a result of the 'Greenhour

19. Which political leader was charged 'contempt of court' by the Supreme C and sentenced to a day's imprisonment connection with the Ayodhya tragedy

Gandhi Award for National Integration? (Answers on P. 8)

Science Graduate came forward to impart training on account of the

litation and Research Centre has a small school, palmgrove, garden and playground in a village near Muttukadu to help rural children. A branch on the Meston campus helps disabled children in their learning tasks.

Meston Education and Development Association, which plans to develop a college of technology on the vast

RAIIND N CHRISTY

Wesley School, Royapettah. The first high school

in South Madras The first school started by the Wesleyan Methodist missionaries in Madras was the Wesley School in Royapettah. Shortly after a Methodist mission team, under the leadership of Rev. Arthur Clubs, arrived in India, one of its members, the Rev. James Linch, established a small school and chapel in Royapettah in 1817. As there was

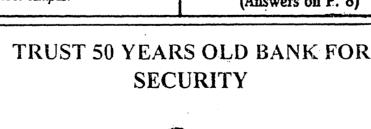
Meston College office on the Wesley School campus.

used as a mortuary of the Royapettah Hospital. Today, the school is sited on a 24-acre campus shaded by trees.

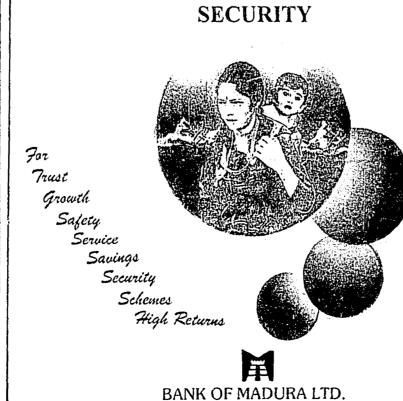
The school was upgraded as a higher secondary school in 1978. Its first Indian headmaster was Krishna Rao. It present headmaster is Selva Das, who is assisted by 60 teachers.

Both school and college were once known for their cricket. The school now has a formidable hockey record. It also has a good choir that has won many competitions.

The school has a very strong Parent Teachers' Association. Its vocational course on Small Farm Management is a rare course in Madras and imparts community farming and agriculture training. Apart from this course, dairy farming was once taught, but had to



Central Office 758, Anna Salai Madras - 600 002



seeing beyond closed doors

(Quizmaster V.V. RAMANAN's OU tions are from the fortnight Octo . Who is the new Vice-Chancellor of

University of Madras? . Name the Sri Lankan leader who assassinated on the midnight of Odd

Quizzin' with

- Name this former External Affairs Minis and the last surviving member of the elected Cabinet who passed away October 30th.
- Which city college (in the eye of controls: Nagarajan's daughter Kalyani is a Commission?
- 5. Who is the new coach of the Indian ha team following the resignation of Zafar lda 6. Name the Tamil leader whose life-size st
- was unveiled by the Chief Minister in their on October 19th. Which former India captain was the beat
- ciary of the second one-day internation between India and West Indies in Bonta on October 20th?
- centres (of which India is a partner) a costing \$700 million was inaugurated of October 18th. Name the system and the terminal points.
- According to a notification issued on Octob 21st by the Union Government, what is the new enhanced election expenditure limi Tamil Nadu?
- 10. Where in Asia was the world's highest airpn (at 15,548 feet above sea level) ope
- 11. Name Madras's best-known Wester Inusician and founder-director of the Mair Philharmonic and Choral Society who de
- 12. Which two Indians were axed from
- 14. Who is the new Chief Justice of India!
- 16. Name Madonna's latest album which w
- 17. Where in the city has INTACH (with ht from WWF and the Madras Naturalist Society) launched a programme for childre
- 18. According to a recent study by the
- 20. Who is the recipient of this year's India

has been 'shooting' for forty years, onts a small but important part of photo odvssey at the Lalit Kala demi gallery from December 1st to 7th. His focus here is on the turn he century homes of India that still

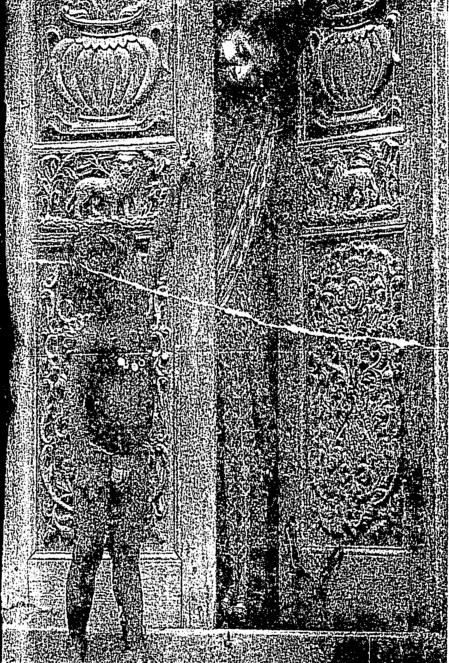
recently) has been declared a 'deem signer, whose unique stuffed toys and university' by the University Grants are the main feature at Rhapsody Cotturpuram Main Road. Architect in-law Pramod Balakrishnan has ited quite a few landmarks in tras. The couple are hosting this to exhibition called 'Behind Closed ors' and subtitled 'Photographic npses into the turn of the century mes of India'

Nagarajan, a Tamilian from Mysore 8. The world's longest optical fibre subman e'R K Narayan inner circle') worked cable system (18,190 km) connecting the Government of India in a variety

official photographer to Director of the Photo Division. He is best known for chronicling 'Young India' in a unique way, "It was a fantastic experience," says Nagarajan. "It gave me the rare opportunity to see India as few have seen it, presenting to me through my view finder all the beauty and ugliness, the colour and the vibrancy of our

In the present exhibition, he has expanded on his fascination for old doors by going behind them and looking at interiors a century old, but still lived in. To take these photographs he has travelled throughout India with his trusted assistant - his wife

Nagarajan's pictures are affectionate and loving and are as warm as the photographer who always seems to be



Doors had always fascinated veteran photographer T.S. Nagarajan. And soon he found s opening to a whole world of different interiors. So there began his Indian odyssey earch of the interiors of turn-of-the-century-homes still lived in. His trusted assistant ough this long journey has been his wife Meenakshi who, here, peeps out from behind foor in Kashmir. This picture is one of the exhibits at 'Behind Closed Doors', which garajan is presenting at the Lalit Kala Akademi.

Dates For Your Diary

vember 22: 'The Making of the The Green Revolution' — Lecture by C Submaniam, former Union Minister for ood and Governor of Maharashtra. American Center, 6.00 p.m.)

ember 22-29: Vessels for Use and Contemplation — Ceramics by Kristine Michael. A graduate in Industrial Ceramic Sign from the National Institute of ksign, Ahmadabad, Michael trained at Delhi Blue Pottery, Punjab Potteries. Hitkari Potteries and the Golden Bridge Pottery, Pondicherry. She has worked on rural pottery training and design projects in Varanasi, Jaipur, Pondicherry and Bhondsi. (At the British Council, 10.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.).

ovember 23: 'Contemporary British Studio Pottery Practice' - an illustrated talk by Kristine Michael. (British Council, 7.00 p.m.),

Till November 30: From Ice to IBM An exhibition to celebrate 200 years of American diplomatic presence in South India. (American Center Seminar Room, 9.30 a.m. — 6.00 p.m.).

Till November 30: An exhibition of collages by Dasharath Patel. The collages are made from rice paper, papiér maché and gold and silver foil, placed on wooden panels. Patel places these various kinds of papers in such a way as to create different structures based on the materials lying closest to the surface and has made several innovations in colour and form. (At Sakshi Gallery 11.00 a.m. -6.00 p.m. except Sundays).

December 1-7: Behind Closed Doors — Photographic glimpses into the turn-ofthe-century homes of India by TS Nagarajan. This veteran photographer presents the magnificent interiors of the old homes of India-which are still lived in. (At the Lalit Kala Akademi Gallery).

talks with such childlike delight about

A script for 12

Rang Vidushak, a theatre group from Bhopal, directed by Bansi Kaul; a frequent visitor to Madras, presented their work as a part of the theatre

V.R. Devika

laboratory network programme hosted in Madras at the end of October by the Koothu-p-pattarai theatre group. In the programme, 12 theatre groups from different parts of the country discussed their work. Ford Foundation grants to the groups had made this interaction possible in several cities. The programme was in Madras for the first

In Madras, each of the groups tackled a 15-minute script, Leprosy Patients, written by N Muthuswamy of Madras and Hartman D'Souza of Goa, presenting their own interpretations of it. A discussion followed the presentations.

Unfortunately, the cyclone did not allow me to see the other groups; could see only Rang Vidushak and they turned the play upside down.

The Rang Vidushak actors, I felt, could not understand the script of the play. So they decided to make a complete Chhhichhaaledar, or 'mess' of it. They converted a serious script into nonsense and came up with a tragicomic farce - but candidly stated their problem to the audience, saying the unintelligibility of the script would make its author eligible for the Nobel Prize. All the clowns in the play agreed to play a game in which the weaver of the magic cap involuntarily recites Muthuswamy's script till the cap is taken away from him. Many in the audience too did not get the full import of the play because the dialogue was all in French, but what we saw was as magically fascinating as the humorous demonstration of the training methodology presented earlier.

Watching the play, however, was like seeing a fantasy/dreamworld come alive, not just because of the comic element and the colour, but because of the smooth precision and exquisite artistry with which the players tried to involve the audience at every level. Rang Vidushak derives its movement style from India's various folk and tribal theatre forms, martial arts, rituals, folklore, games, jokes, riddles, wisdom tales etc. The actors have their voices and bodies in perfect control and speak in various dialects.

Bansi Kaul has lived and travelled with street acrobats, entertainers, nats, kathagayaks and akharas and has given his group such a variety of exposure and good humour that they are able to capture an audience even unfamiliar with their idioms.

When smoking ban?

I tried to sit in during the discussions at the Max Mueller Bhavan of the interpretation of the Leprosy Patients script, but the smoke made it impossible for me to sit there even for a few minutes. When will we in India ban smoking in work environments?



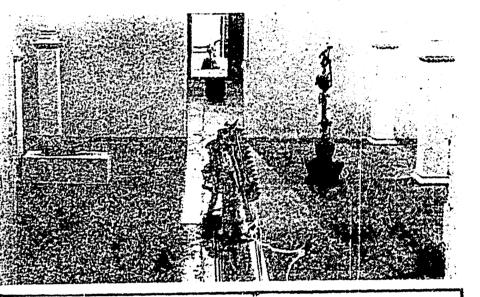
A sense of loss in an ill-kept hall

One cannot enter memory-soaked Centenary Hall at the Government Museum in Egmore without a sense of loss. The entire Museum buildings are badly in need of a facelift. But the Hall, where very many famous Madras artists held prestigious shows, in particular cries for better upkeep.

Valsan Kolleri, who sculpts in an environment-iriendly manner, using throwaway materials, had to spruce the Hall up himself before his recent show. This exhibition was itself an appeal to the authorities to bring the Hall back to its pristine glory. Can artists and the public expect a change of heart from those in charge of the Museum?

The biggest show of sculpture ever held in Madras was also an appeal to lessen environmental pollution and better maintain our heritage buildings. The pictures show the Centenary Hall and Kollen's attempts to spruce it up.

O T Ravindran



In the headlines for better or worse

ricket-crazy Tamil Nadu has again drawn blank. Since W.V. Raman was somewhat unceremoniously dismissed two years ago, no Tamil Nadu cricketer has donned the India cap. No Tamil Nadu player could find a place even in the Board President's XI that played the West Indies in Bangalore recently. Will the state fare any hetter when the teams are chosen to play England 'A' to tour India later this year?

Meanwhile, the TNCA has been capturing headlines for other reasons during the first weeks of the current season. To begin with, it earned the gratitude of all city fans by revoking its ban on the dashing batsman, Robin Singh, whom it had sacked for his unwelcome comments in an interview given to a local

Allotted the Bombay-Haryana Wills trophy final, its first big assignment after a long gap, the TNCA organised it in a manner which emphasised it was none the worse for the blank it had drawn, and vindicated the Board of Control for Cricket in India's choice of Chepauk as the venue for the Indian season's first big match. In its wake came the World Wills trophy inaugural match between India and the West Indies at the same historic Chepauk ground. Its organisation before jampacked stands added another feather to the TNCA's cap. But before the onedayer, the TNCA rather unnecessarily adopted a rigid stand against the Madras Race Club

(MRC) and found itself not only in the Madras High Court, but also at the losing end.

Virtually dormant for years since it was taken over by the Tamil Nadu Government and remained the Department of Racing (DU), the MRC now acted, suing the TNCA for not honouring its decades-olu commitment to give the MRC 600 complimentary and 1,200 concessional tickets for every big match the TNCA conducted. This was a gesture in return for the MRC's donation to the TNCA for the construction of its stadium. Denied this privilege for the recent India-West Indies onedayer, the MRC promptly took the MRC to court and won the case. But the MRC-TNCA tussle sadly did not end with the court order.

The TNCA rather pigheadedly wanted the MRC members, and not their representatives, to collect their tickets. In other words, it wanted judges, top industrialists and newspaper magnates, all MRC members, to queue up before a TNCA office counter! Understandably, the MRC took this as an insult to their status and dragged the TNCA again to court by filing a contempt application. Its outcome will be known only by the month-end. But the question being asked, meanwhile, is whether two major sport institutions in the state are to suffer because of personal differences between those at the helm of

JAICI

The little mermaid is country's best

As the swimmers in their colourful costumes walk to their respective positions at the head of the pool for the next race, the nervousness and tension are palpable. But one girl calmly looks away from the blue waters and gazes intently at her father. Their eyes meet and the girl gets the message. Her eyes close for a moment and she seems to meditate on a particular thought. Then, with renewed vigour, she plunges headlong into the pool and, within 30 seconds, Nisha Millet has created yet another wave in aquatic history!

"I am going to beat everybody and nobody is going to beat me!" she exclaims in a quiet, modest tone. These are her last thoughts before every race and they are what instil in her the confidence and determination to set records in the swimming pool.

"She's had this spirit of determination ever since she was a kid,"

A touch of failure

Nisha has had her share of failure too. Her age and inexperience has let her down on several occasions. While the Indian star from Madras won a bronze at her first ever international meet in Hong Kong in 1993, this year's Asia-Pacific meet held in Delhi proved a disaster, Nisha earning not even a single medal.

"Nisha was in the lower end of her age group — 12-13 years - this year, and while this did not prove to be a handicap for her in beating Indian swimmers she could not get the better of her international opponents," says Sheila Millet. "Although the press rated her chances very high, we did not think much of them because the Chinese girls are very talented. In fact, the Chinese of her age group are among the top ranked swimmers. in their country and close to world standard," adds Aubrey Millet. Nevertheless, Nisha is not disappointed with her performance — "there's always next year", she adds optimistically, her eyes gleaming towards that distant goal, the Olympics!

N.L.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Professor P.K. Ponnuswamy: 2. Gamini Dissanayake: 3. Sardar Swaran Singh; 4. Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute; 5. Cedric D'Souza; 6. Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar: 7. Dilip Vengsarkar; 8. The SEA-ME-WE-2 connecting Singapore and Marseilles; 9. Rs. 4.50,000 (Parliamentary constituency) and Rs. 1,50,000 (Assembly constituency); 10. At Bangda on the 'Roof of the World', Tibet; 11. Handel Manuel; 12. Manoi Prabhakar and Nayan Mongia; 13. It was 'grounded' by the shore at Tiruvottriyur during the cyclone of October 30th: 14. Justice Aziz M. Ahmadi; 15. The reason 'account closed' given by a bank while dishonouring a cheque can be used for launching a criminal prosecution against the drawer of the cheque; 16. Bedtime Stories; 17. The Guindy National Park; 18. Tamil Nadu (about 1.62 million people may be affected); 19. Kalyan Singh, BJP leader and former CM of Uttar Pradesh; 20. The eminent parliamentarian and scholar, 90-year-old Bishamber Pande.

relates Aubrey Millet, Nisha's father. "She learnt to cycle on her own and would fall several times, but she never cried once in spite of the bruisings she got." It is this spirit of undaunted fight to the finish that made Nisha 'India's Fastest Swimmer' at the age of 12, three years after she made her maiden dip. But Tamil Nadu's youngest aquatic champion confesses, "I used to hate swimming as a beginner. In fact, I even stopped my classes". But today, Nisha reigns supreme, with more than 15 records to her name, a collection of 132 medals and 16 trophies at home and, now, recognition as India's Champion Woman Swimmer.

Nisha attributes her success to her father, who has been her source of motivation. Before a race begins, father and daughter can be seen in a corner, the former boosting the morale of the latter, apart from giving her technical guidance, "He teaches me how to swim a race and points out my strengths and weaknesses," says Nisha. While mother Sheila's encouraging words echo down the pool, father Aubrey has the stopwatch in his hand. I would rather forget to leave my wife behind than leave the stopwatch!" laughs Aubrey, who, unlike other parents, does not bother with carrying video cameras for championships. What the stopwatch reveals about every lap goes into his notebook and new targets are set for every lap next time out.

But for all her parents' support and advice, it is Nisha's intelligent approach to the sport and her ability to plan her race that makes her score over her rivals. Apart from her sense of strategy, she also has excellent judgement of 'pacing' and an inbuilt stopwatch. "She understands perfectly what is meant by the term 'pacing'." explains Aubrey Millet. "Suppose a coach tells her that she must do three laps in 29 seconds, she will take only 29 seconds — not a fraction more, not a fraction less."

Nisha's course of victory did not begin smoothly. In her debut at the South Zone meet, in Bangalore in January 1992, she emerged from the pool with lears in her eyes, after being declared silver medallist. The foul start by the winner had gone unnoticed. "I cried, but I decided that I'd beat her next time!" Nisha remembers. And there she was at the National Championship in July 1992, the individual champion. The reign of the girl from Madras had begun!

In 1993, Nisha earned the unique distinction of being the only Indian girl to be selected for three events at the Asia-Pacific meet held in Hong Kong — 50 metres free-style, 50 metres

O by N. LAKSHMI

backstroke and 100 metres freestyle. And she returned home with a silver and a bronze, the first and youngest swimmer from Tamil Nadu to bag medals abroad. And earned despite a sprained ankle which had not yet fully healed when she flew into Hong Kong.

At the National Open Championships held in Goa.in August this year, Nisha made a clean sweep of all the freestyle events - 50, 100, 200, 400 and 800 metres. With five golds, a silver in the 400 metres individual medley, a bronze in the 200 metres individual medley, and a silver in the 400 metres relay event, it was no wonder that she was the National Champion, the youngest ever. "What was really special about this meet was that Nisha could not actually participate, as she is below 15," says Nisha's mother. But that is the stuff that champions are made of!

However, this success story is also a saga of sacrifices. No time to skip



Nisha Millet

around with neighbourhood kids or attend birthday parties. But that is not all. "No ice creams and chocolates," grumbles Nisha with a wistful smile. Except for those triumphant moments, when she enjoys a delicious lop of ice cream. Nisha has to abstain from them. But there are dry fruits and nuts and drier diets like porridges, pulses and pasta to make up for those delicacies. Sheila, who is in charge of the diet department, feels that it is Nisha's diet that goes a long way in keeping her fit. And the girl whose target is to participate in the Olympic Games in 1996. willingly makes all these sacrifices to that end.

Nisha's favourite pastimes are to watch basketball on TV, listen to music — and study. "I do not know from whom she inherited that particular interest — she simply loves to study, especially Geography," laughs Aubrey. And the 12-year-old takes all her books along during her tours and studies amidst championships!

Back at school, she is completely at home in her VIII Standard classroom at Church Park, signing autographs and being a 'model' friend of all. "I like the fuss. It's fun," she grins sheepishly, enjoying the headlines she creates in the papers.

Meanwhile, there's competition slowly developing around the comer. From a nine-year-old girl called Reshma Millet. As you watch the sisters gracefully cleaving the waters at the Shenoy Nagar Pool with their powerful strokes, it ceases to be a wonder when Sheila Millet murmurs, "This water is their natural home!" Meanwhile, for the little mermaid, her song of triumph continues ...

Test in searc of a sponsor

Association is raking in lake it doesn't, at the time of writing, apply to have spared a thought to the play of the Tamil Nadu Women's Crid Association (TNWCA). With hard two weeks to go for the first The between the touring Australian tearned India at Chepauk, the TNCW has been receiving funds only trickles. Till date (8/11), the mand long have been the Indian Banke India Cements who have donated the specific of the specific of the specific of the second of t

Banking heavily on the corpora sector to sponsor the match, which, all probability, will be covered Doordharshan, the Association has priced the tickets very low to attract large crowd and do the Australian at Indian cricketers proud. Says Mrs Shi Ranganathan, President, TNCW "The budgeted expenditure is Rs. lakhs and whatever funds we have mobilised till now is solely due to a personal equations with donor Wonders a cricketer, Sumathi Iye "While local companies compete wi each other to sponsor boys' under-12 -14 and -19 matches, why don't the sponsor a women's cricket match?

The TNCWA hopes to get the sports-loving Chief Minister to grace the first day's play at Chapauk. They also look forward to Government declaring a holiday for the city schools at women's colleges on that day. It apart from the unwillingness of sport to come forward, what baffles TNCWA is the silence of the State Government on the question of providing a grant, which it had provide all these years.

Cola battle?

With the five one-day matches to be played by the Australian women cricketers being sponsored by Peps Cola, the TNWCA has written in hope to the Coke bottlers in Madras to sponsor the Test match. And if the comes through, there'll be not only royal battle of bat and ball at Chepauk but also one of bottles — as Pepsi are providing 35 crates of soft drinks to the teams at every Test match.

V. Jagannathan

Prize ousts tradition

Rains which recently lashed Madras delayed the October 30th start of the 1994-95 Guindy racing season by forcing the postponement of the first two meetings.

Postponement of the opening fixtures because of rain is nothing new. All the November meetings of the 1960-61 season, for instance, were washed out by rain, and the season started as late as December 4.th. But this year was the first time an opening fixture was TWICE postponed.

The postponement came in the wake of the welcome return of the preseason Press briefing, which had been buried fathoms deep for the last few seasons. It was revived by Dharma Ebenezer, Secretary, Department of Racing (DOR), Government of Tamil Nadu. He thus earned the gratitude of turf writers, who had for long been kept in the dark about what the season had in store for the racing fraternity.

The briefing left hardly any doubt that the new season would go more or less on the same lines as those of the last two decades, with Robert Foley's stable, in charge of M.A.M. Ramaswamy's ever-growing establishment, dominating it and even bettering its last-season world record of a century of winners. It may even better its winnings record as well, for sponsorship has enriched Guindy racing as never before.

Because of the world of uncertainty in which the Tamil Nadu Turf has for long lived, lack of sponsorship had left Guindy way behind the other centres. The ITC-sponsored S.I. Derby was the lone sponsored race until last season, when The Hindu, whose proprietors have for long been associated with the Madras turf, stepped in to sponsor one of the other Classics. The popular daily proved to be a veritable trendsetter, for all the Classics of the new season, barring the Oaks, have been sponsored. According to Dharma Ebenezer, the Oaks to be run on January 7th, could also find sponsor by then.

The sponsors are *The Hindu* (1000 Guineas), Sans' Craintes (2000 Guineas), ITC (Derby Stakes) and Chettinad Cement (St Leger). But pride of place among the sponsors goes to the U.B. Group of Bangalore, who

have sponsored a new race called the McDowell Million, a terms event for three-year-olds, to be run over 1,400 metres on Saturday, January 14th. It has an added money of Rs. 9,50,000 as against the Rs. 5,00,000 of the Derby, hitherto the Madras turf's richest prize.

The premier classic of the Southern India turf, the S.I. Derby, launched on Pongal Day, January 14, 1959, has thus lost some of its status. This is not the lone setback it has had. Hitherto run on Pongal Day, it is this season being run a day after the festival day, which has, oddly enough, been allotted to the McDowell Million, obviously because it is the season's richest prize. The DOR obviously does not believe in maintaining a tradition.

AJAX

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