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MADRAS

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INTACH, intent on conservation in Madras, finds its...

Projects go two ways

(By The Editor)

The Tamil Nadu Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) has, these last couple of years, been striving to get two conservation projects off the ground: **One**, the restoration of the University of Madras's *Senate House*, described as "a work of genius ... perhaps the finest example of Indo-Saracenic in India", and, **Two**, the restoration of the Elphinstone Bridge in Adyar and putting it to new use. Interestingly, both projects have taken quite divergent routes at about the same time.

The **good news** is that work has, at last, begun on the restoration of *Senate House*, more or less to the plans drawn up for it. Some time ago, the plants and trees growing from the crevices in the building were removed. Now, structural investigation of the building is to be carried out by the Structural Engineering Research Centre at the CSIR. The scaffolding, from IIT's ECC Division, seen on the right, is the first step to that investigation which is expected to be completed in three months. Restoration will begin hereafter, followed by chemical treatment of the building.

The work in its entirety, supervised by a team of the city's leading engineers

and architects, is expected to be completed in a year, provided the funds become available. At the moment, the University has about Rs. 40 lakhs in the kitty, but its fund-raising effort targeted one crore — about 80 per cent of it for the restoration and the balance to ensure regular maintenance. Will the gap be bridged in time for the restoration to be completed in a year? That is the question the city's large corporate houses will have to help answer in the next few months.

The equally important question in connection with this restoration has, however, still not been looked at. What is to happen to *Senate House* after the restoration. Restored buildings survive only if they are lived in. Who's going to occupy *Senate House* and see that it is maintained?

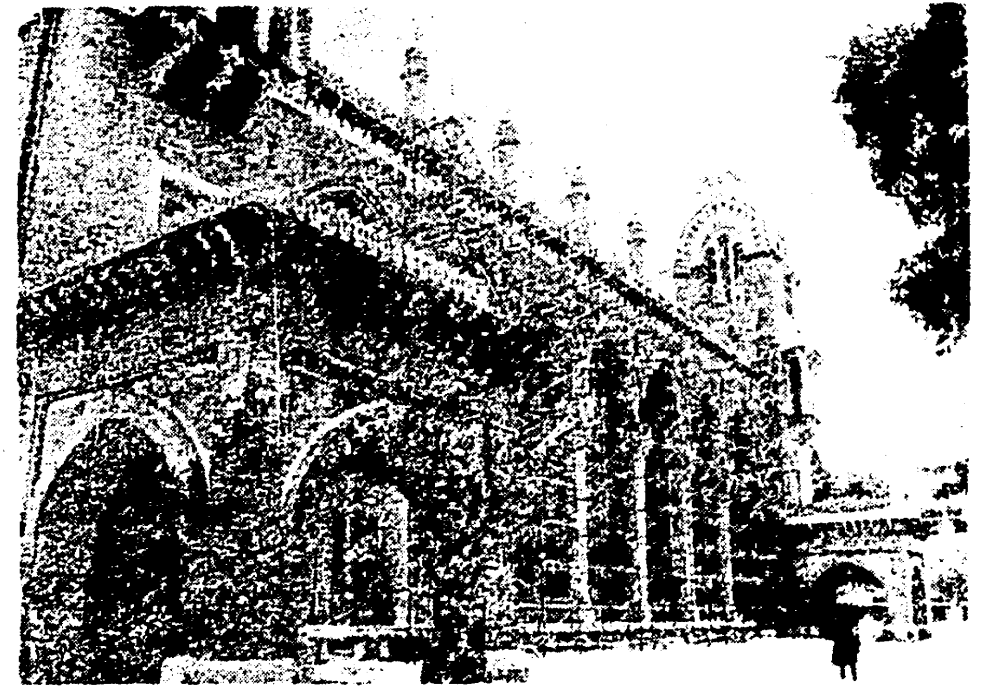
The best thing would be for the Vice-Chancellor to use it as his offices. An alternative would be to lease it to a big hotel chain to run as a major conference centre teamed with the DGP building restored and used as accommodation for it. A third alternative would be for it to be leased to the Indian Council for Cultural Relations for its southern regional offices, Madras International Centre and theatre. Whatever the final decision, a renovated

Senate House must **NOT** be left with no specific use chalked out for it.

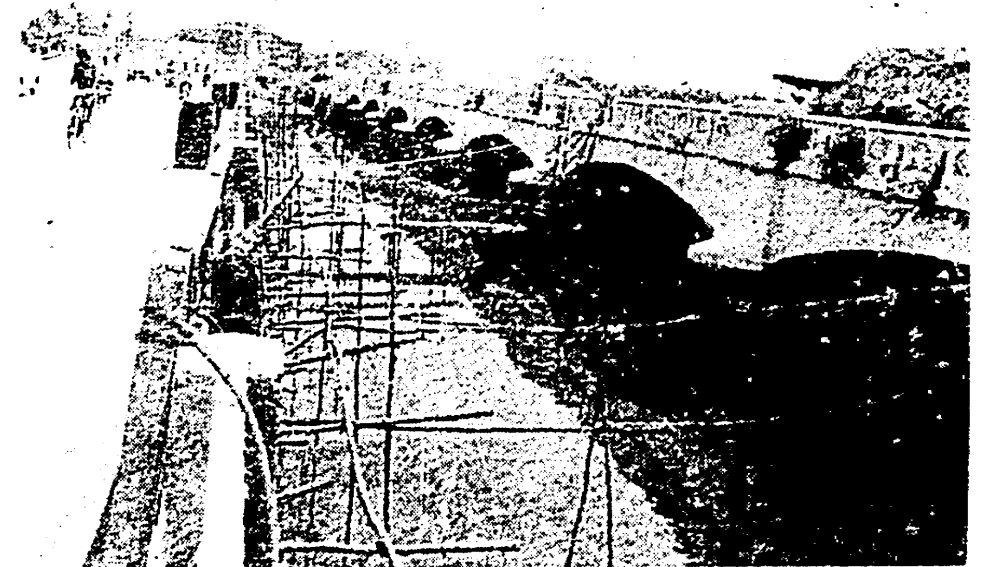
The **bad news** is the fate of the renovated Elphinstone Bridge in Adyar. After INTACH persuaded the Corporation to spend a few lakhs on restoring it, INTACH went looking for a taker who would help develop and maintain it as park, walkers' track and bird-watchers' vantage point. Takers there seemed to be none, except for political parties painting their graffiti without a 'by your leave'. Then came the Round Table and it's been over a year since that band of young over-40s decided to make the INTACH dream come true. But MOU or not, nothing has happened since the first promises.

Meanwhile, without the knowledge of INTACH or the Corporation, a hut was erected on the bridge a few weeks ago, part of the bridge wall was knocked out to make a 'doorway', scaffolding was put up and a team of workers moved in. V S RAGHAVAN investigated and reports:

● Structural repairs and plastering are being carried out on the underside of the new Adyar bridge. The old bridge serves as the approach road for trucks carrying building machinery and materials. The thatched hut is a cement warehouse and living quarter for the



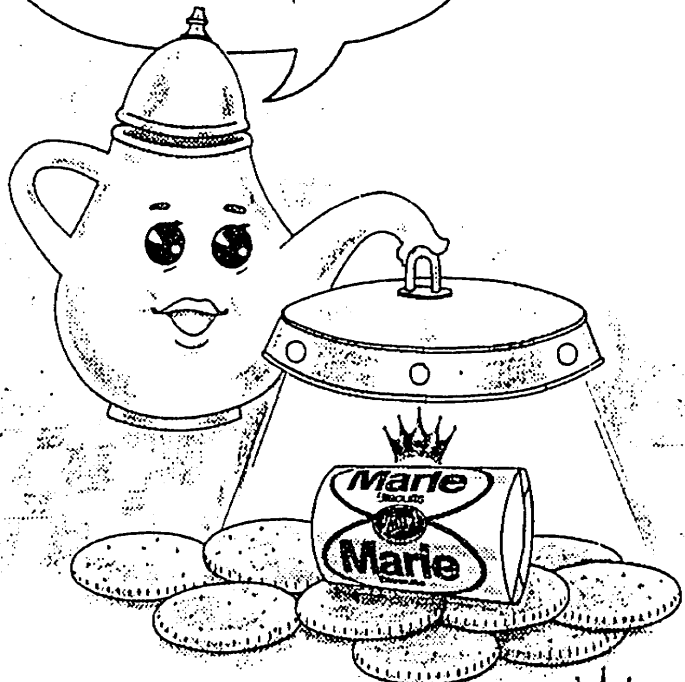
Work begins on the restoration of *Senate House* (above). Meanwhile, the Elphinstone Bridge in Adyar (below, right) is put to use-but not for the use INTACH planned for it. (Photographs by V S RAGHAVAN).



construction workers. A temporary footbridge, connecting the Elphinstone Bridge and the new bridge, has been built as access for the PWD workers and supervisors. The workers at the site are ignorant of the plans INTACH had for developing the Elphinstone Bridge into a public park. Whether the old bridge becomes a public park or not in the future, public convenience-it is at the moment. ●

So now we know. As usual, the PWD is being insensitive to restoration efforts. But we also see the divergent ways INTACH projects can go when citizens prove as insensitive to restoration and preservation efforts. Meanwhile, who'll save the Elphinstone Bridge? Could it be Malar Hospital, offering walking space for space its parking arrangements have occupied? (Also see page 4.)

Guess who's come to tea?
Queen Marie!



The Queen among Maries

A great novelist ignored

The Sunday Telegraph,
Calcutta's, London columnist
SUMAN BHUCHAR writes:

I was driving along listening to feminist author Germaine Greer — *The Sunday Telegraph* recently picked *The Female Eunuch* as one of "10 books that shook the world" — wax eloquent on BBC Radio 4 about a writer who she said would still be read in 50 years.

"There is a great novelist who is ignored pretty much in England," she began. "He writes in English but he is not English and he is as great as any writer in English we've ever produced..."

I had guessed she was talking about R K Narayan.

"Go out and buy R K Narayan," she continued, "and



R K Narayan ... a Germaine Greer favourite for the Nobel Prize.

you will read English as well as it can ever be written. There are stories of massive significance and great profundity and utterly beguiling simplicity. He's a great, great writer."

When I telephoned Dr. Greer, she revealed her mother had given her *The Bachelor of Arts* when she was about to go up to Cambridge. "I didn't actually

like it at the beginning," she admitted. But Dr. Greer, who now lives in Cambridge and lectures at Newnham College, was soon won over. Her favourite is *The Guide*. "It's a wonderful book — makes it so clear that when people need a saint they make it out of the most uncompromising material."

She uses trips back to her native Australia as "an excuse to go to India". She adds: "That's the real world."

Her great ambition is to meet Narayan who, she hopes, will win the Nobel Prize for Literature. "He's too much of a good Hindu to give it a nudge. Only thing you can do is touch his feet."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: That last is as it was in the original. Wonder what that's all about!)

PARRYS

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War & Peace in the Indian Ocean

War and peace in the Indian Ocean were the main subjects discussed at the recent release at the University of Madras of Vice Admiral Mihir Roy's book, *War in the Indian Ocean. The Man From Madras Musings* was rather sad that all the preamble to the release of the book had concentrated on war in the Indian Ocean and not peace. The more important subject received only footnote mention when R Venkataraman, the former president, released the book and added, almost as an afterthought, that it was time to revive the Sethusamudram Project "without delay".

The Sethusamudram scheme, first mooted by Ramaswami Mudaliar in the 1950s and once seen by Indian political leaders in Ceylon as a means of offering Indian labour on the island work nearer their home areas if Ceylon was not prepared to treat them on equal terms, envisaged digging a channel through Adam's Bridge to connect the Gulf of Mannar with the Paik Bay. The way *The Man From Madras Musings* remembers the scheme, the channel would save Indian vessels from Bombay and Cochin to Calcutta and Vishakhapatnam better than a day and a half's steaming and it would open out the backward and desolate Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram Districts to development.

Money has always been the constraint. But, as was pointed out, in these days of international financing and the World Bank's good equation with Tamil Nadu, money could be found if there was a will. And if there was that will, the Sethusamudram scheme would, in today's context, do much to rehabilitate the fishermen of the

Fisheries and southern Coromandel Coasts who are facing innumerable difficulties in their daily struggle to eke out a living.

There are several little-known inside stories of war in the Indian Ocean in Admiral Roy's book and much of the morning was spent recounting them. Tribute was paid to the frogmen of the Mukti Bahini who destroyed more Pakistan shipping in Bangladesh than India had in all its wars against Pakistan. Commodore Gopal Rao, now retired in Madras, recalled 'Operation Trident', in which he had led Indian missile boats almost into Karachi harbour, sank the Pakistan destroyer *Khyber* and caused enormous damage to the Pakistani war effort. Admiral Roy narrated the mystery sinking of the Pakistan submarine *Ghazi* just outside Vizag and recalled the USSR's ingenious contribution to turning back the American Seventh Fleet: an order that caused all Russian nuclear submarines in the Indian Ocean to SURFACE!

It was all good fun and games to war buffs like MMM. But MMM, as he grows older, becomes fonder and fonder of peace and found it regrettable that on this occasion the talk of peace in the Indian Ocean was limited to the reference to the Sethusamudram project. MMM has long been a supporter of that project, but he would like to have also heard some thoughts on making the Kachchiv area a zone of peace, on joint Indo-Sri Lankan patrolling to protect fishermen and help end the war in the island, the coordination of fisheries and other ocean resource information among the countries of the Indian Ocean littoral, and closer ties among the countries along the Indian Ocean Rim, from Australia to South Africa.

No chief!

Amongst the welter of words that made the morning overlong, there were two thoughts expressed that *The Man From Madras Musings* thought significant but which few others paid heed to. One was Admiral Roy's repeated stress that what Britain had considered the Senior Service — to the extent that in the heyday of Empire the naval presence in India was always under the Admiralty and NEVER under the Viceroy! — had not only become the Junior Service in India but was little used in war. Many a time the Navy would have served India better in war ... but no one in power seemed to want to use the Navy till it took the bit on its own during the 1971 War!

Arising out of this was an even more significant observation made by Lt Gen Inder Singh Gill, who had been Director of Operations during the 1971 War. Regretting the "lack of coordination in command and control", he pointed out that India had chiefs of staff in charge of the Army, Air Force and Navy who met in conclave and chose a committee Chairman, but there was no CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF who would ensure coordination in times of emergency. You can't run wars by committees, he pointed out. And hoped the politicians would view the suggestion as a national necessity rather than a subtle move to put power into the hands of one individual in uniform.

Most countries have a Chief of Defence Staff and in the U.S., in particular, the system works very well with no threat to the civil authority. It's time India began to view such reorganisation more seriously, MMM is inclined to feel.

Old boys' meet

It struck *The Man From Madras Musings* that the gathering at the release of Admiral Roy's book resembled an Old Boys' get-together more than anything else. And MMM is not talking about the large Navy and ex-Navy presence. What he is

The *eri* which gave the village its name is no more a wild and beautiful lake midst stretches of green slopes and patches of thorn, scrub and woods. Now it's a holiday-makers' lake — with park and boating facilities and gardens ... and, of course, scores of vendors. The old ornamental lake near Montfort has lost out in the process and is little better than a fenced-in ditch. Where there were just a couple of shops, one hotel — the Shevaroy's — and the house of film legend Sundaram and his English wife dominating the residential accommodation, there's a regular bazaar on four streets, several hostels and what appears to be a school where the home of the Modern Studios' monarch was. As for the hotel, the Shevaroy's is still the best IN town (if you don't count the far superior Sterling Resort some way out), but MMM found it a far cry from the cosy family-run hotel of yesteryear when the tiny dining room, with just six tables, boasted the finest nappery, Sheffield cutlery, crystal glasses and jugs and immaculate butler service. Today, it's little better than a 'lodge'.

As for Montfort, the two old main blocks, the old cinema hall (now library), the chapel, a couple of the brothers' residential quarters, are still recognisable, but they're all dominated by the new ... a separate junior

SHORT N' SNAPPY

talking about is these titbits garnered on the occasion.

* The scholar-sailor had been the first uniformed officer to be made Secretary to Government when Minister of Defence R Venkataraman had invited him to be his Secretary.

* There were others in the audience present who went back to the Tamil-speaking Roy's days at Presidency College, Madras, where he took two University of Madras degrees.

* General Gill and the Admiral go back fifty years and more, when their fathers served in various parts of the Madras Presidency together, Gill Senior in the Prisons' Service and Roy Senior in the Forests' Service spending one memorable stint together in Vellore.

* And *The Man From Madras Musings* discovered that the Admiral was ALSO an Old Boy of Montfort School, Yercaud.

FOOTNOTE: General Gill, who figured in this column last fortnight too, MMM now discovers, served in the famous Scottish regiment, the Black Watch, and the Royal Engineers from January 1941, when he was 19, till May 1947 when he transferred to the Indian Army. During that course of World War II service, he served in Greece, Egypt, Italy and India and was wounded in action twice, which the Americans would have honoured with a couple of Purple Hearts ... but which the British ignored. Though there was a Mention-in-Despatches for other reasons.

Montfort times

Speaking of Montfort, Yercaud, Admiral Roy would certainly not recognise school or town these days. Certainly *The Man From Madras Musings* did not during a recent visit, fifty years and more after his last.

national cricketers even if it doesn't love its own (to judge by *Sportstar*), so *The Man From Madras Musings* thought he'd share this bit of fun — though some of it has not been in the best taste, it's still clever enough to provoke a laugh — with readers.

The British popular press has gone to town on the Imran Khan-Jemima Goldsmith "wedding shock". The "tall, dark and handsome" playboy of the English cricketing world and the "Jewish heiress with a penchant for plunging necklines, short skirts and champagne" have even captured the cover of the satirical *Private Eye* just as they have the tabloid headlines. On the *Private Eye* cover Imran Khan and Jemima's father Sir James Goldsmith feature in conversation. "May I have your daughter's hand?" asks Imran. And Sir James responds, "Why? Has she been shoplifting?"

Sick but still clever and good for a laugh are the headlines only the British tabloid subeditors can create. The *Daily Star* screamed of Imran's arrival in London, "I just Khan wait" and *The Sun* bannered, "Don't they Mecca lovely couple!". Imran's sudden return to London was necessitated by a printer's leak — not to be confused with a printer's devil. It appears that the London Press got the news when it leaked from the printers printing the invitation card for the June 20th civil ceremony. The result was headlines, the moving forward of all plans and the *nikah* in Paris.

The Madras Press has been quiet about all this excitement, but elsewhere in India they have caught up with India Jane Birley, Jemima Goldsmith's half-sister, daughter of Lady Annabel Goldsmith by a former husband. Christened India because Grandfather Birley was "fascinated" with India, India Birley is the wife of the India-head of a British investment bank that operates out of Bombay. Birley, who apparently knew of the Jemima-Imran romance, commissioned top Bombay designer Tarun Tahliani on behalf of the family to design Jemima's dress for the wedding. The *salwar-kameez* for the *nikah* was also Tahliani's. Jemima was expected in Bombay on a three-day visit before the wedding to shop and have a fitting. But no, the honeymoon won't be in Kashmir. How wouldn't that have been an ideal

In brief

* Ahead of Sir James Goldsmith on the list of the richest people in Britain, *The Man From Madras Musings* finds Srichand and Gopi Hinduja, whose biggest investment in India is Ashok Leyland's Madras. The richest Asians in Britain, the Hinduja's, with £ 850 million assets, are ranked 5th in the Top 500. Another Madras-linked name in the list is Vijay Malloya of McDowell's and Best & Co. He's ranked 122 with assets of £ 80 million.

* Sharjah-based Menon Airways, which has been linking the United Arab Emirates to Africa is planning to link Africa with Madras and Bombay via the UAE. Menon Airways is already flying Dubai-Malé-Thiruvananthapuram. If Indian permission is granted, Menon Airways feels it can start its Bombay and Madras operations by the end of June. MMM

Love story

This is not strictly a Madras, or even a Tamil Nadu, story. But all the world loves a lover and Madras just loves inter-

Elephants are now the burden

Elephants taken from Mudumalai and other Western Ghats forests in Tamil Nadu and Kerala are wreaking havoc on the ecology of the Andamans. These elephants were shipped from Madras by timber companies which used them in their logging operations. Once operations ceased, they were left to fend for themselves. Since then they have been on the rampage and are proving to be particularly disastrous to the island's fauna and flora.



Elephants play havoc with the ecology of the Andamans, says the author in his caption to this picture, but he doesn't say whether the elephant in his picture is one of those turned loose or belongs to the logging camp in the picture.

Threatened with total extinction are native animals — comprising 23 per cent of the 214 bird species, 60 per cent of the 58 mammal species and 32 per cent of the 85 reptilian species.

The fault is not entirely that of the pachyderms. PC Ray Timber Company, for example, abandoned 40 elephants in the Sixties, when the company went bankrupt. And like other leral populations across the world, the pachyderms have gone on to breed, multiply and threaten an ecology that was not built to sustain them.

A recent report by N Sivaganesan and Ajith Kumar from the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) in Coimbatore takes a look at the status of the elephant populations of the islands — in the Interview Island Sanctuary, created in 1985 to protect the elephants, and in the Diglipur Forest Division.

The report suggests an overabundance of elephants. While the Interview

Island Sanctuary supports 70 elephants in 71 sq km, the Diglipur Forest Division has eight. But even this small number is too much for the islands to sustain.

The study already records "considerable depletion of several plant species", with at least three *Calamus* spp., *Areca triandra*, *Caryota mitis* and *Licuala peltata*, facing extinction as a result of feeding by elephants. And the King Cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*) and water monitor lizard (*Varanus salvator*) are endangered through the loss of habitat.

In this light, the final recommendations made by the report come as something of a shock. After stating, in the introduction, that the habitat degradation caused by the elephants "should be of immediate concern", one of the options put forward in the conclusion for the Interview Island Sanctuary in North Andamans is that "the elephant population should not be interfered with", because the island could serve as an experiment "to study the long term impacts and dynamics of the introduction of a large herbivore into an island ecosystem".

Though a second option of managing the elephant population at sustainable levels is also suggested, SACON director V S Vijayan endorses the first option and implies that it is better than "protection of the Interview Island ecosystem".

He states in the foreword that this "would widen our knowledge in the area of introduction of species to ecosystems from where there has been no record of the species earlier".

But the research community around the world has had ample

OUR READERS WRITE

Time for bathers

There is a small statue of the late Thiru Annadurai, in a sitting posture, reading a book, under the Gemini Flyover. I have watched it for the last two years. Similarly, there is a bust of Anna at the junction of Venkatakrishna Road and Sringeri Mutt Road in RA Puram. Both statues are overlaid with the droppings of birds and none of the parties who recite his name at every meeting and sing his glory at his birthday seem to care to give him a bath, at least once a year.

If some unemployed youths could take up "bathing" the statues in the city every week or month, for a fee, of course, to be paid by some corporates, that will help them, besides keeping the statues bright and clean. Who knows, the government, after reading this letter may set up a 'statue-cleaning corporation' with a political dignity as Chairman and a staff larger than the number of statues!

You should also visit the Quaid-e-Millat College for Women, better known as Govt. Arts College, an old and impressive building, badly maintained — cobwebs, cracks on the walls, painting peeling, broken furniture in the classrooms, sinks in the science class-

rooms with rusted pipes, accumulated garbage under the staircases etc. We generally believe that women are better housekeepers. Perhaps they keep their homes neat and tidy, but not the offices where they work or the institutions where they study.

S Radhakrishnan
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R A Puram
Madras 600 028

The biter bit?

I read with interest the article 'A language murdered' (MM, May 16), wherein the author bemoans 'slovenly writing' and the deteriorating standards in English Journalism. He takes to task the present-day editors (who) are made of softer stuff!

Can we hope that MM will prove to be the exception rather than the rule? Alas, one need go no further than page-5 of the same issue to be disappointed. The author has committed a classic blunder in stating "A philanthropist, Iyer helped several poor families to marry their daughters." (!)

This reminds me of a well-known joke. In one of its many variations, the employee approaches his boss for a loan from the company. When asked the purpose of the loan, he replied, "I have to marry my daughter". Needless to say, the correct 'phrasology' is 'get my daughter married'. 'Iyer helped several poor families to get their daughters married'.

B Gautham
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Saving Bombay

(By Vaishali Honawar in *The Times of India*)

In the Seventies, a new dawn of awareness broke over the Neo-Gothic skyline of Bombay city, fast being overshadowed by skyscrapers. A small group of people calling themselves the Save Bombay Committee pushed forward a petition to the then municipal commissioner of Greater Bombay, B.G. Deshmukh, that the development of Bombay city — a totally unregulated one — be controlled and guided into a more organised form, ensuring that the city's architectural heritage was preserved.

It was an important step, not least because nowhere in India had an attempt been made to conserve the rich architectural legacy left behind by the British. And it was only apt that Bombay, with the highest concentration of 19th century Neo-Gothic architecture in the country, should flag off the movement. Indeed, the collection of monumental buildings in the city's Fort area has often been described as the finest Victorian ensemble in the world.

Deshmukh, admitting that the Bombay Municipal Corporation has a role to play in preserving the city's heritage, asked the group to draw up a list of buildings deemed worthy of preservation, and even sanctioned Rs. 10 lakhs for the purpose. The list they came up with under the guidance of noted historian Foy Nissen included 75 buildings, most of which were historic structures located in South Bombay.

In the years that followed, quite a few bodies seeking the conservation of heritage structures emerged in the city, including the Bombay Environmental Action Group, the Indian Heritage Society, the Bombay Civic Trust and the Bombay chapter of INTACH (The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage). In the mid-eighties, INTACH prepared an initial draft list of nearly 200 heritage buildings in the city.

In Bombay, conservation has taken off because there has been the right chemistry between the various aspects involved," says Rahul Mehrotra, conservation architect and founder of the Bombay Conservation Group. "The government has been sympathetic, there has been public awareness, the financial mechanism has been right... Also, former municipal commissioners, such as Jamshed Kanga, and S.S. Tinaikar, have been pushing

Another in our series on how Indian cities are beginning to look at their heritage

for the city's development. Many banks — Deutsche Bank, Hong Kong Bank — have taken over old buildings, perhaps because banks want to project an image of having been around for ages.

One of the factors that has helped the restoration and conservation of old buildings in Bombay, feels Mehrotra, is the fact that Bombay is a contemporary city and no structure is too old to be redeemed. Indeed, most of the heritage buildings in South Bombay, including the Old Secretariat, the Post and Telegraph building, the University building, the High Court building and the Prince of Wales Museum, came up in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

"The government has also been very cooperative so far, and more sympathetic than any other state government in the country. While they have not really implemented any of our suggestions, they have not done anything against them either," he says.

The first significant help from the government came in 1990 when,

following informal discussions with heritage groups, it appointed a working committee under the chairmanship of Jamshed Kanga, former municipal commissioner and then revenue secretary of the government of Maharashtra, to look into the matter. Going by the recommendation of the Committee, in January 1991 the government proposed the addition of provisions to the Development Control Regulations for Bombay. These provided for: a) the listing of buildings, precincts or landmarks of heritage value; b) restriction on construction, demolition, alterations, repairs, and so on of listed buildings, based upon the advice of the Heritage Conservation Committee to the Municipal Commissioner; c) the power to alter or modify the DCRs in respect of listed buildings; (d) granting transferable development rights in cases of potential loss of development rights.

In February 1991, a list was published containing 624 buildings and precincts identified for conservation in the city. A three-fold system of grading was developed for the buildings under which prime landmarks of the city's historical, aesthetic and cultural wealth would be Grade I buildings, architecturally and historically significant buildings not as important as the Grade I buildings would come under Grade II, and buildings which were important from the point of view of townscape would come under Grade III.

However, according to Sadashiv Gorakshakar, director of the Prince of Wales Museum who headed the committee which prepared this list, "We could not include all the structures in Bombay worthy of preservation in this list and there are many more which deserve to be added." He cites as an example the beautiful old Films Division building in the city which "we are now hoping to convert into a museum."

(To be concluded next fortnight)

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Author	Title
ALLEN, R D M	A manual of renal transplantation
ARGYLE, M	The psychology of inter-personal behaviour
BRIDLEY, K	Words made simple
CAMPBELL, D	Business for non-business students
CAVE, A	Managing change in the work-place
CLARE, J	Pagemaker 5.0 for the Mac and Windows
CLARK, P	Data interpretation for MRCP
CLUTTERBUCK, R	Terrorism in an unstable world
COLLIN, J	My secrets
DUMITROULIS, G	Orthognathic surgery
LEAKEY, R	The origin of humankind
WHITING, D P	Mastering banking. 2nd ed.
WILSON, J	Eurotunnel

FICTION	
ADLER, E	The secret of the Villa Minnosa
ALDIN, B	Somewhere east of life
FOX, V	Bermuda

TN MPs flood LS with Cauvery

The Cauvery issue surfaced in the Lok Sabha again (and) Tamil Nadu MPs sank their party differences to let loose a flood of condemnation against their Karnataka counterparts. Mr C.K. Kupuswamy raised the issue by heaping abuse on Karnataka for reneging on its undertaking to the Cauvery Waters Dispute Tribunal, that it would release 205 tmc of water every year.

(SONA THAKUR, *The Telegraph*, Calcutta's Parliamentary columnist, writes another delightful piece on Tamil Nadu's MPs. This time it's on their tryst with the Kaveri issue.)

"Mr Speaker, sir, I beg you to save 6 crore Tamilians who are being deprived of drinking water ... If the Union government does not do something, it may even lead to the split of Tamil Nadu from the country," he ended threateningly.

Mr P.G. Narayanan took up the thread and, true to the manner of all AIADMK members, soon turned his protest into a paean of the Puratchi Thalavi. "Our chief minister went on a fast for Cauvery, sir," he said. "...And the water resources minister, Mr V.C. Shukla, assured her that a committee would oversee the implementation of the Cauvery Interim Award. Now, the Union government is going back on its promise to her," he added.

Not one to be ever put into the shade by an AIADMK member, Mr Era Anbarasu of the Congress (I) added his two pennynorth. "The people of Karnataka are our neighbours and I appeal to them to feel the pinch of the Tamilians," he said. Ms Chandrabha Urs lumbered to her feet to

answer the charges of heartlessness being flung at the Kannadiga community. "With all due respect, we have equal concern for our farmer brothers in Tamil Nadu," she began, before laying out a defence of helplessness. "Water is a natural commodity and we in Karnataka can only give what we get. If there is inadequate rain, how can we be expected to give them water?" she asked with inescapable logic. However, the Tamilians refused to buy her plea and, with one unified shout, were on their feet. With typical Tamilian theatricalities, they spent the next five minutes waving arms, thumping chests and generally shouting themselves hoarse.

Intermittently piercing the din was Ms Urs' high-pitched voice crying, "Water is a natural commodity, sir..." As the din reached a crescendo, Mr Narayanan signalled to the AIADMK contingent behind him.

On cue, Ms K.S. Soundaram marched into the Well of the House and sat at the feet of the water resources

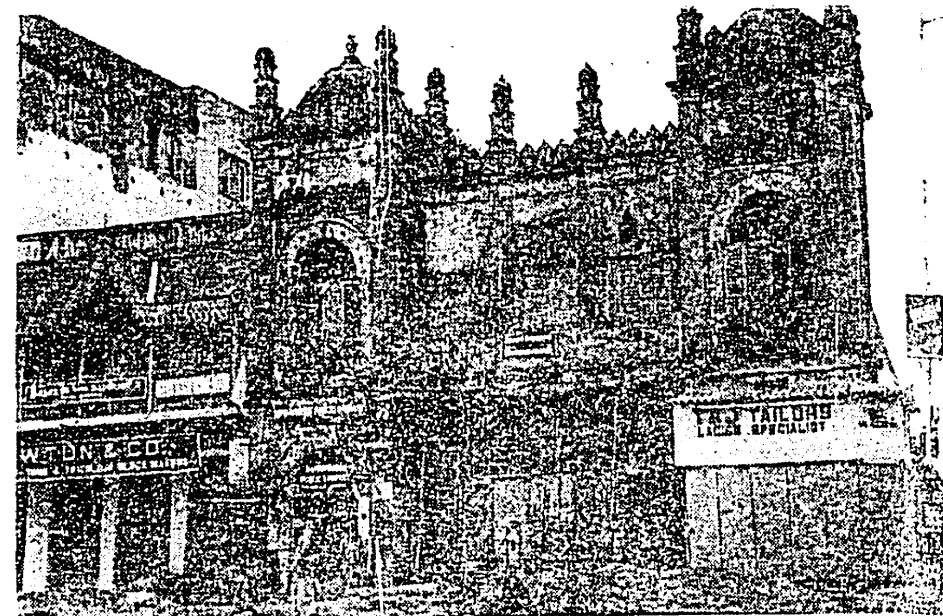
minister, Mr V.C. Shukla, the other AIADMK members following suit. Spurred, some Congress MPs, too, came marching down, turning the Well into the venue of a carnival, where, dressed in their natty best, the members milled around, talked, chortled and slapped each other on the backs.

Above the tumult came the CPI member, Mr Bhogendra Jha Azad's, helpful advice. "Samundar kapaani meetha kar ke istmaal kyon nahin karte, jaise Saudi Arab karta hai?" (Why don't you make seawater sweet like the Saudi Arabians do?) he asked the raging group.

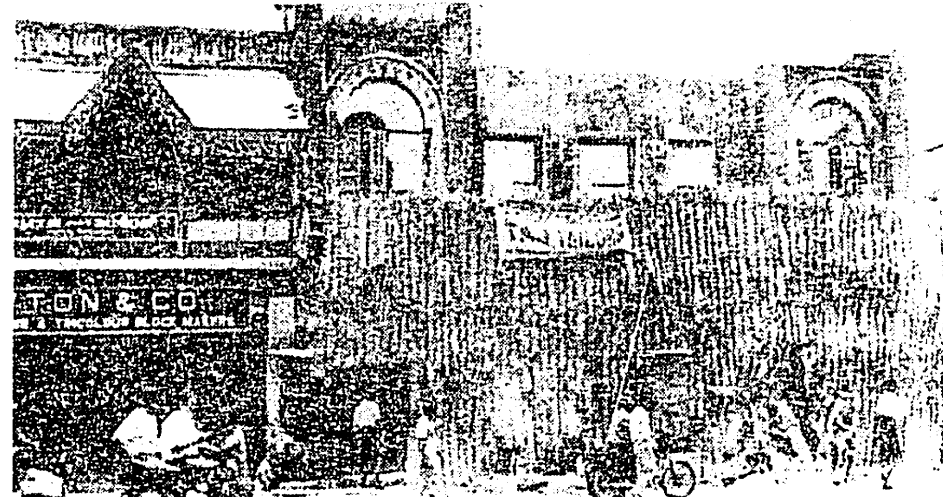
No one was quite in the mood to answer, but that did not deter him. "Jab paani barasta hai to paani ko jama karke kyun nahin rakhte?" (Why don't you collect rainwater and store it?) he asked again. All this while, the Speaker sat on the dais, clutching his head in wondering despair. Suddenly, his control seemed to snap. "Will you all stop shouting," he called out, rising swiftly to his feet. He severely quelled the House to silence so that Mr Shukla could reply.

The minister's reply, needless to say, said little beyond assuring the House that the Union government was monitoring the situation.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We wonder how many Tamil MP's understood that Marie Antoinette-style 'helpful advice' offered by Mr. Azad in Hindi.



In V S RAGHAVAN's pictures of the Muhammadan Public Library, the OLD - was taken a couple of years ago when some structural repairs were being carried out. In the NEW, June 1995 picture, the towers have come down and work proceeds apace on razing what was possibly the only building in true Mughal architectural style left in the City.



THE OLD ... & THE NEW

If ever there was a heritage building in Madras, it was the premises of the Muhammadan Public Library on Wallajah Road which the wreckers reduced to rubble in a few days, giving the conservationists no chance to swing into action.

The library was established in 1850 by Ghulam Muhammad Ghaus Khan, the then Nawab of the Carnatic, and had, since, built up a treasure trove of manuscripts and books in Arabic, Persian, Old Turkish, Urdu and English. It has a collection of over 10,000 books

and hundreds of manuscripts, which are regularly used by scholars from all over the world working in the field of Islamic studies.

The OLD shows the building built in the latter half of the 19th Century and displays its classical lines of Mughal architecture. The NEW is the June 1995 picture of the tragedy that befell it. Indeed, tragedy it was, for it happened at a time when Mohammed Abdul Ali, the present Prince of Arcot, is President of the committee running the library. The Prince has always shown an interest in the conservation of the historical in Madras and is demonstrating that interest in the restoration work going on at his palace, Amir Mahal. Sadly, he let this historic library building be brought down. Sadder still is the attitude of the Wakf Board, an institution with a strong cultural background. When the story of the demolition of the library was featured in the Press, the Board hastened into print the next day only to state that THEY were the people who were in charge of the library. Presumably, then, the greater part of the responsibility for this destruction rests with the learned body and only partially on the president of its committee. Also, it seemed obvious, they were more interested in their status than in the heritage building. When learned groups behave in this fashion on matters of conservation, what hope is there of protecting heritage buildings in our sad, sad city!

Meanwhile, work goes on apace on the restoration of Amir Mahal. The Government of India, still honouring the obligations of a treaty the British Government had entered into with the Prince of Arcot over a hundred years ago, maintains Amir Mahal under the terms of the treaty. Such maintenance is carried out by the Central PWD - and it is they who have renovated the Prince's private family prayer hall, giving it a gleaming new interior out of the Saudi Arabian school of modern religious architecture, while retaining the old facade. Work has now started on the Durbar Hall. The CPWD have got rather a dedicated engineer on the job, but it would have been nice if he had worked with conservationists like INTACH and its experts. The end results might have had less glitter but may have been truer to the Carnatic's heritage.

Ucal Fuel Systems (CMP: Rs. 145 CB): This Madras-based company has reported commendable results for the year ending March 1995. The turnover registered a 35% growth rate and the PAT nearly doubled, thanks to increased capacity utilisation, cost reduction measures and the upswing in the auto industry. It recommended a higher dividend of 20%. A bonus in the ratio of 1:5 has also been announced. To cater for the increasing demand from its main clients, Maruti Udyog and TVS Suzuki, Ucal Fuel is increasing its capacities of four-wheeler carburetors, two-wheeler carburetors and fuel pumps. It also plans to set up manufacturing facilities for catalytic converters and gas-safety devices and humidifiers. A PAT of Rs. 7.20 cr on a turnover of Rs. 60 cr is expected for 1995-96. The resulting EPS of around Rs. 10 would support around Rs. 170 XB. The share prices, after making a saucer-like base, are now nearing their good support level at Rs. 125. Buy with a stop loss at Rs. 125.

Lakshmi Auto Components (CMP: Rs. 81.00): This TVS Group Company (T S Srinivasan and Krishna group) has announced encouraging results for the year ended March '95. The turnover has improved by 46.2% and PAT by 85.4% over the previous year. The EPS is an attractive Rs. 5.93. The company manufactures crankshafts, connecting rods, gears etc., mainly to supply to TVS Suzuki. The expansion plans of the latter augurs well for this company. For 1995-96, we estimate an EPS of Rs. 8. The current price discounts the expected EPS by less than ten times, which shows that it is underpriced. Buy with a stop loss at Rs. 65.

K. GOPALAKRISHNAN

THE EDITOR (Photographs by V S RAGHAVAN)

The best of two worlds

Jayakrishna Ambati has a string of achievements (see box) to his credit that would put him in the prodigy class. The 24-year-old physician, medical physicist, artificial intelligence expert and electronics engineer rolled into one has been recognised as outstanding and ranked in the US where he now lives. In reading Jayakrishna's exploits, you think they are hard to believe, wait till you read about his younger brother's (see box). By now it is common knowledge that 17-year-old Balamurali Krishna Ambati has become the world's youngest doctor, with honours in all

basic sciences, medicine, paediatrics, psychiatry, neurology, emergency medicine, community medicine, ophthalmology, otolaryngology and neurosurgery. Bala has been featured in newspapers and magazines in four continents and appeared in several TV and radio programmes worldwide. I had the pleasure of meeting the Ambatis to catch a brief glimpse of the well-learned and responsible for the growth and development of the two gifted brothers.

by V. RAMNARAYAN

A few minutes after I reached their newly built home in Mahalingapuram, where the Ambatis were staying, they only arrived after a hectic round of work. It was 8.00 p.m. and pitch dark. Thanks to a power breakdown, "I caught the power cut was confined to morning," remarked Bala, innocent of the ways of Tamil Nadu's power supply agency. After a few minutes of chaffery conversation, we decided to proceed with the interviews in the dark. Unknown to us, Jayakrishna had a walkabout, in search of candles, learnt later, a search that took him far as T'Nagar. Bala was by then springing himself to yet another press interview only to be reassured that I'd do his parents. Obviously grateful for this reprieve, he gave a wonderful, fishy smile that said it all.

It is pretty obvious to even the casual bystander that the Ambatis are



The Ambati family in the Madras dark. Dr Balamurali Krishna on the left, Dr Jayakrishna on the right and their parents, the Murali Mohan Raos, in between. (Photograph by V S RAGHAVAN)

a closely knit, old-fashioned family where traditional South Indian values are respected. Much of the conversation within the family is in Telugu, without a trace of an American accent. In attire, too, the family is difficult to tell apart from the average Madras family. Murali Mohan Rao takes pride in the way his children have been brought up to be truly Indian in their cultural outlook.

Murali Mohan Rao was the fifth of eight sons born to Ambati Subbaraya Gupta, I.C.S. the first Indian District

Magistrate of Cuddapah District. Ambati senior was an *ashlavadhani*, or an adept at the simultaneous performance of eight different feats of mental agility. After his schooling at RECC High School, Perambur, Murali Mohan Rao finished his B.Tech at IIT Madras in 1969. From then, until his departure for the States in 1980, he taught maths at Voorhees College and CMC School in Vellore, followed by a stint at IIT, Madras. In the US, he studied industrial engineering and operations research.

As Murali Mohan Rao grew up, the atmosphere at home was conducive to learning and academic excellence. Another brother to benefit from this helpful atmosphere was Ramalingeswara Rao, who recently retired as Deputy Director of Health Services. "He does not even own a house," remarks Murali Mohan Rao, proud of his family's standards of integrity. He

strongly believes that the mother's presence at home is vital to the well-being of the children. The reason why his wife Gomathi has not taken up a full-time job, though qualified. "Why should the wives of Indian doctors in the US take up jobs when they are so well off? I call it greed."

Gomathi, who is from Madurai, had a degree in mathematics before she went on to higher studies in Tamil. In the US, she obtained a master's degree in education. She teaches a couple of courses at the University, once she has completed her daily household duties. During the first three years of the Ambatis' stay in the US, it was Gomathi who took care of the boys' educational and development needs at home, while Murali Mohan Rao was settling down in his studies. Jayakrishna was ten and Bala three then.

It was Gomathi who first noticed Bala's precocious talent, his language skills, cognitive ability and mathematical aptitude. Jayakrishna would also participate in honing young Bala's prodigious intelligence and memory. Bala could spell quite well at three and knew the multiplication tables before he was five. Yet the US school system did not permit him to join school until he was six.

It was only after Murali Mohan Rao completed his higher studies and started his teaching career that he started devoting time to Bala's intellectual stimulation. He used his new professional status to argue with the administrators to win Bala 'double promotions' repeatedly.

There were, and still are, several brainstorming sessions in the Ambati home, making learning a pleasurable experience - the word 'fun' is anathema to Murali Mohan Rao. There would be quizzes on maths, physics, the environment and so on, in which all four would take part enthusiastically.

The Ambatis follow a traditional lifestyle at home - respect for elders, humility, our spiritual heritage, discipline are important ingredients. There is much Telugu spoken and an effort to bring the boys up as normal persons. Sport is not ruled out - basketball is a favourite and chess is more than a hobby with both the sons. All four are regular visitors to the Hindu temple where they conduct an Educational Excellence Programme on Saturday afternoons to train middle and high school students to prepare for the National Merit Scholarship and SAT exams.

It is easy to see the close ties of the Ambati family, the parents' affection

The teenage doctor from Vellore

(By A Staff Writer)

Dr Balamurali Krishna Ambati, the 17-year-old Vellore-born, U.S.-based Indian, the youngest doctor in the world, is at least ten years ahead of his peers in the U.S. The New York State legislature has had to pass a Bill so that he can start practising before the minimum legal age of 21!

Balamurali finished high school at the age of 11. At 13, he became the youngest graduate in the history of New York University, with a bachelor's degree in biology. He was America's youngest Westinghouse Science Talent Scholar and has already authored a book on AIDS with his brother Dr Jayakrishna Ambati, another brilliant scholar. The book has entered several public school systems in America educating students older than him. A book on the threats to global environment is ready for publication. Now, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has invited him (and his brother) to do research on the epidemiology of the disease. The PMO has also shown keen interest in a mathematical tool developed by the brothers which 'vastly reduces' the costs of HIV tests.

After the graduation ceremony held by the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, the 6 feet tall Balamurali Ambati said he had achieved a goal he set out to reach when he was a child. Bala's ambition to become a doctor took birth at the age of four during his seven-month stay as a patient in a hospital. Then, "About ten years ago, I was

reading the Guinness Book of World Records and saw that the youngest doctor (an Israeli) had graduated in Italy at the age of 18 years and three months. So I thought I'd try it."

Bala intends to finish four years of residency in ophthalmology at Harvard and take a Ph.D. Then he plans to work in India, the country which has the largest number of blind people in the world.

The youngest doctor in the world has won several awards for excellence in mathematics and science. He won the NASA award at the International Science and Engineering Fair, has received commendations from U.S. Congress and Maryland State Senate etc.

His only brother, Dr Jayakrishna (24) is a physician who has also won many accolades for academic and professional excellence, including, with Bala, the Governor's Salute to Excellence, the highest civilian honour in Maryland. He graduated from John Hopkins when he was 17 with an Electrical Engineering and pre-medicine degree. He was an outstanding mathematics student and a good chess player.

Bala, who plays chess and table tennis and enjoys going to the movies in his spare time, attributes much of his success to his cultural heritage. "I find that many Asian families bring with them the traditional values that emphasise academic achievement and educational success and family involvement," he says.

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The widest smile

Make the best of the worst

In the first fortnight of April this year, we had written about how the stock markets react like a spring to any policy pronouncement or economic incident. We had then, in no uncertain terms, declared that the market would remain dull for the next six months, after which the index could rise to 3800 and, thereon, to 5800.

The market, true to our prediction, has gone into a shell. And in the quest for knowing when it will peep out, Bull's Eye conducted a survey of a few eminent merchant bankers, brokers and investors. From their feedback have emerged two schools of thought. One school avers that the index will stage a sharp rise to the 5000 level, in case *baala* is reintroduced and the Macgfan Committee comes out with its recom-

mendations for the primary market. Subsequent to the rise would be a sharp fall. Another stream of thought is of the opinion that the market will continue to move sideways till March 1996, *badla* or no *badla*, as the political uncertainties loom larger now than ever before. Both schools are, however, unanimous in their view that any intermittent rise or fall should not be construed as the harbinger of a change in the trend.

In the scenario of the primary market not evoking even a vestige of confidence among the investing public (in spite of SEBI's modifications in the proportionate allotment system to the effect that half the net public offer would be reserved for individual investors applying for less than 1000 shares),

you can only fall back on the secondary market.

In the event of the index moving sideways for a while, you can pick up a few bluechips at rock bottom prices. However, for those who still cannot afford the bluechips, there is no reason



for heartburn. For, opportunities for making big money are more in low-priced counters than in the high-priced ones. The probability of manifold growth is also higher in the former. Consider Balaji Industries which was at Rs 15 two years ago. It changes hands at Rs 300 today. While picking up the low-priced scrips, ensure that the company has aggressive and, at the same time, practical growth plans. Its projected growth in sales should be high and that of equity low.

The following are some promising bets:

Anco Communications (CMP: Rs. 55.00): Based in Bangalore, this decade-old company manufactures telecommunication equipment such as digital switching exchanges and small EPABX. The first half results have been excellent, with increases by 149% in sales and 234% in PAT. At present, the company's only customer is DOT, from which it has Rs. 18 cr orders. The company also plans to tap the telecom markets in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

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The Madras woman in Indian fashion

• Fashion Kaleidoscope, the first fashion book in India, traces the evolution of fashion through the eyes of the pioneering fashion chronicler in the country, MEHER CASTELINO, who has been a part of the Indian fashion scene for the past three decades. Taking a quick look at that scene from the 1920s, Castelino writes about the men and women who created India's fashion trends. The only designer from Madras whom Castelino profiles is SABITA RADHAKRISHNA, described as 'A versatile talent'. The accompanying article is what Castelino has to say about Sabita Radhakrishna in Fashion Kaleidoscope.

Meher Castelino herself has Tamil Nadu connections. Her involvement with fashion and beauty goes back to 1964, when she won the Miss India crown soon after graduating from Lawrence School, Lovedale.

The famous Bombay-born model, who appeared in over 2000 live fashion shows in a career that spanned over 14 years, began writing in 1973. Since that first article in Eve's Weekly, she has been a full-time fashion journalist and syndicated columnist.

A versatile talent

It isn't easy writing about Sabita Radhakrishna's many talents. Should one highlight her designing talents or her ability to present interesting programmes on radio and TV or her prolific writing in leading magazines? Of course, the fact that she is a housewife, mother and business-woman rolled into one is another matter.

For Sabita, designing didn't just mean clothes. She started off with creating posters, greeting cards and knickknacks as a teenager. Her family and friends encouraged her by giving her their saris to print. One thing led to another and she opened her own printing unit in Madras. Exhibitions followed, not just in her city but all over India. In 1974, Sabita gave her boutique a name and an identity - Amrapali. Her creations? Saris, fabrics and ethnic wear.

Madras in the Seventies was hardly the centre of fashion. But Sabita was its pioneer. From a single branch in Egmore, Madras, Amrapali multiplied into another at Indira Nagar. There was frenzied activity at both the shops as buyers from India, the USA and Australia flocked to Amrapali to place orders. The Sharrock Mills (Mafatlals) appointed Sabita as their design consultant from 1980-'85.

Sabita's creativity is down-to-earth and basic. She makes simple wearable garments. As a journalist she travels around the city and while on her many jaunts the environment around her is her inspiration. "Nature, earth colours and traditional motifs - temples, sculptures, relief work on walls or traditional paintings - they leave a mark on my imagination."

Vegetable dyes are her favourite. There are marked preferences for maroons, mustards,



Sabita Radhakrishna

olives, greens and black. At other times it could be a collection in white or white on white. Hand-loom and cotton are her choice and her prices are reasonable, aimed at the upper middle-class.

Sabita's fashion designing has an added impetus as she gets her fabrics woven as per her instructions. There are innovations. When she uses man-made fibres, blending polyester and rayon with cotton, she gives it the feel of raw silk. Her bestsellers have been the cotton silk saris and the polyester-cotton saris in very traditional designs which look very much like printed Kanjeevaram saris.

Besides the woven designs, Sabita's Kalamkari printed fabrics and handpainted Kalamkari saris are a collection by themselves. Working with hand-loom of the South has made Sabita one of its leading designers. She was a trendsetter in the sari department when she introduced mismatched blouses in 1989 in an exhibition in Bombay. Bombay's fashion-conscious, who had been very particular about matching blouses to saris, surprisingly accepted this fashion revolution.

When the salwar-kameez made its initial entrance into the

fashion scene in the Eighties, Sabita decided to make life easy by printing specially designed salwar-kameez sets that were ready to be cut and tailored. In the Nineties it is a common item.

Basically a very traditional designer, Sabita has never played around with the natural form of the kurta or salwar. "Indian fashions are here to stay. The length of the kurta may vary, and the flow and swirl may be replaced by the no-nonsense kalidar kurta. The kali salwar too may be replaced by the elegant churidar, and dupattas may lengthen or shorten. But, essentially, it will remain Indian. Styles prompted by Western trends are not likely to be popular. Indian fashion, which is guided by tradition, is admired throughout the world," says Sabita, who creates 35 to 40 styles per season.

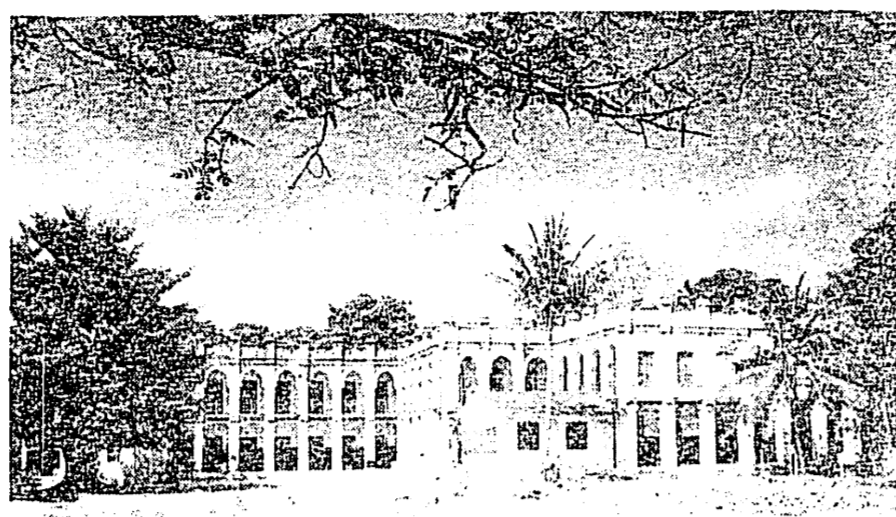
For many, Madras isn't where fashion happens. But Sabita can be considered a pioneer, having conducted fashion shows for her boutique as well as for other designers. Madras being the centre of the leather industry, Sabita has not only designed leather garments but also organized the leather manufacturers' show.

On the literary front, she scripted the programme, *Beyond The Storm*, a film on leprosy rehabilitation, which won the Transtel West German award for the best documentary on Indian television.

Sabita's contribution to the South for the promotion of hand-loom is an achievement that cannot be overlooked. But then she can't be ignored either as a writer, broadcaster and organizer of shows.

(From Fashion Kaleidoscope)

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.



Two views of St Ebba's main block... a building out of the past.



'Tis a name from Lona's isle and Berwick's shores

St Ebba was a Scottish princess who became a saint. She spent her happy early life on the island of Lona with her brothers. To Ardan, who lived on the island and who was later to be made a saint, Ebba owed much of her education and beliefs. When Ebba grew up and came to England, she and her brothers settled in Northumbria. When the King of Scotland asked her to marry him, Ebba refused, saying she wished to use all her time and thought in the service of God. On her brother becoming the King of Northumbria, he gave Ebba a piece of land on which to build a convent. This was near the river Devent, on the site of an old Roman camp now called Ebbchester. Later, she became the Abbess of Coldingham, near the coast of Berwick. On the coast, north of Berwick, there is a rocky promontory called St. Ebba's Hed. It is named after St. Ebba. To

warn sailors of the rocks, she used to hang a lantern out there every night. This was called St. Ebba's smile. Today there is a lighthouse.

The mission school in Mylapore named after her came into existence in 1886. The school, which was started in a small way, has had its ups and downs. During World War II, it was shifted to Namakkal when its premises were occupied by the military. After the dawn of independence, the missionaries left the school in the hands of Indian counterparts and the school has grown substantially in the last forty years.

The present Headmistress, Mrs Pauline Daniel, is assisted by 42 qualified teachers, a few of them old students of the school. There are about 1400 girls studying here. The school's academic performance has been good. The school has a computer centre and offers computer courses from the lower primary to the senior school standards. The school also has well equipped laboratories for science, art, literature and music.

The school, a part of whose buildings is *Sullivan's Castle*, has several striking old buildings with long corridors and spiral staircases. The school maintains them reasonably well with available resources. The Good Shepherd Church was once part of the school, but today is a separate entity of the Church of South India's Madras Diocese.

The large campus is tree-shaded and has many flowering plants and a playground for nursery children. In 1986 a centenary block was built.

— Pictures and Text by RAJIND N CHRISTIAN

- Name the U.S.A.'s radar-absorbing helicopter unveiled recently. It is the equivalent of the US's B-2 Stealth bomber.
- Which century-old public building in Madras, built in Mughal style architecture, has been demolished?
- Name the boxer who died of head injuries sustained in a title bout and sparked off a worldwide call for a ban on the sport.
- Which Indian woman has been conferred this year's 'International Humanitarian Award' by the Lions Club International?
- The world's smallest and fastest 256 megabit chip was recently developed by three leading industrial houses in USA, Germany and Japan. Name the companies.
- According to the recently released schedule for cricket's World Cup next year, which cities in India would host the semifinals and send the finalists to Lahore.

(Answers on p. 8)

Madras's first man of Jazz

For years now, jazz has found increasing acceptance among Madras audiences. Once confined to 5-star hotels and exclusive clubs, this vibrant music has built up a considerable following in the city over the last 15 years. One of the main reasons for its popularity may have something to do with the fact that jazz in its derivative forms is used extensively by music directors in the Tamil film industry. Another is the role one man, Frank Dubier, has played in keeping the jazz music scene alive in the city, with the Frank Dubier Jazz Ensemble.

Founded in the early 80's, Dubier's group was first called 'The Frank Dubier Big Band'. And not without reason, for at the time it featured what is possibly the largest line-up of jazz musicians on the Indian subcontinent! Included five saxophones, three trumpets, three trombones, guitars, a piano and drums!

"Jazz is my first love," says Madrasman Frank Dubier. "I have always had to make time for it despite my other commitments." And those com-



Frank Dubier

ments include his contribution to the Tamil film music industry over the last two decades. In fact, until recently, he served as the Vice President of the Cine Musicians' Association.

Frank Dubier was born in 1929. His father, Antony Dubier, was a violinist and a pianist. It was from his mother that young Dubier inherited his love for music. His earliest childhood memories are learning to play the piano when he was seven. Thanks to his mother's influence, he was able to master the violin as well as at a young age. Word of young Dubier's talent got around and before long he was a well-known name in Madras music circles.

By his early teens, Dubier was recruited into the Governor's Band, considering that most of its musicians were well into their prime in life, it was an achievement for Dubier, who was just starting out on his career.

Eager to learn the flute, as he had never played it before, he went out to buy it at around 11 in the morning - and at one that afternoon he was playing it in the restaurant! Dubier's years in Delhi also saw him as the main flute player for the Delhi Symphony Orchestra. It was during this period that he got to meet jazz greats like Duke Ellington, Cat Anderson, Rolf Erickson and Buddy Rich.

In the late Sixties, Dubier moved to Bangalore for a brief period, before returning to his native Madras. Back in Madras, Dubier played for a year at the Savera Hotel, before turning to film music. After his first foray in the film industry in 1971, Dubier rapidly made a name for himself as one of the leading trumpet players of the day. Before long, he was on the call sheets of all the leading music directors, starting with the likes of M S Vishwanathan. It was around this period that he met a struggling young guitarist. They struck up a friendship almost

immediately. Five years later, when the guitarist made his debut as a music director in the 1976 film *Annakili*, Dubier played on its soundtrack. He has, since then, played the trumpet, saxophone and tenor saxophone in almost all Ilaiyaraaja films.

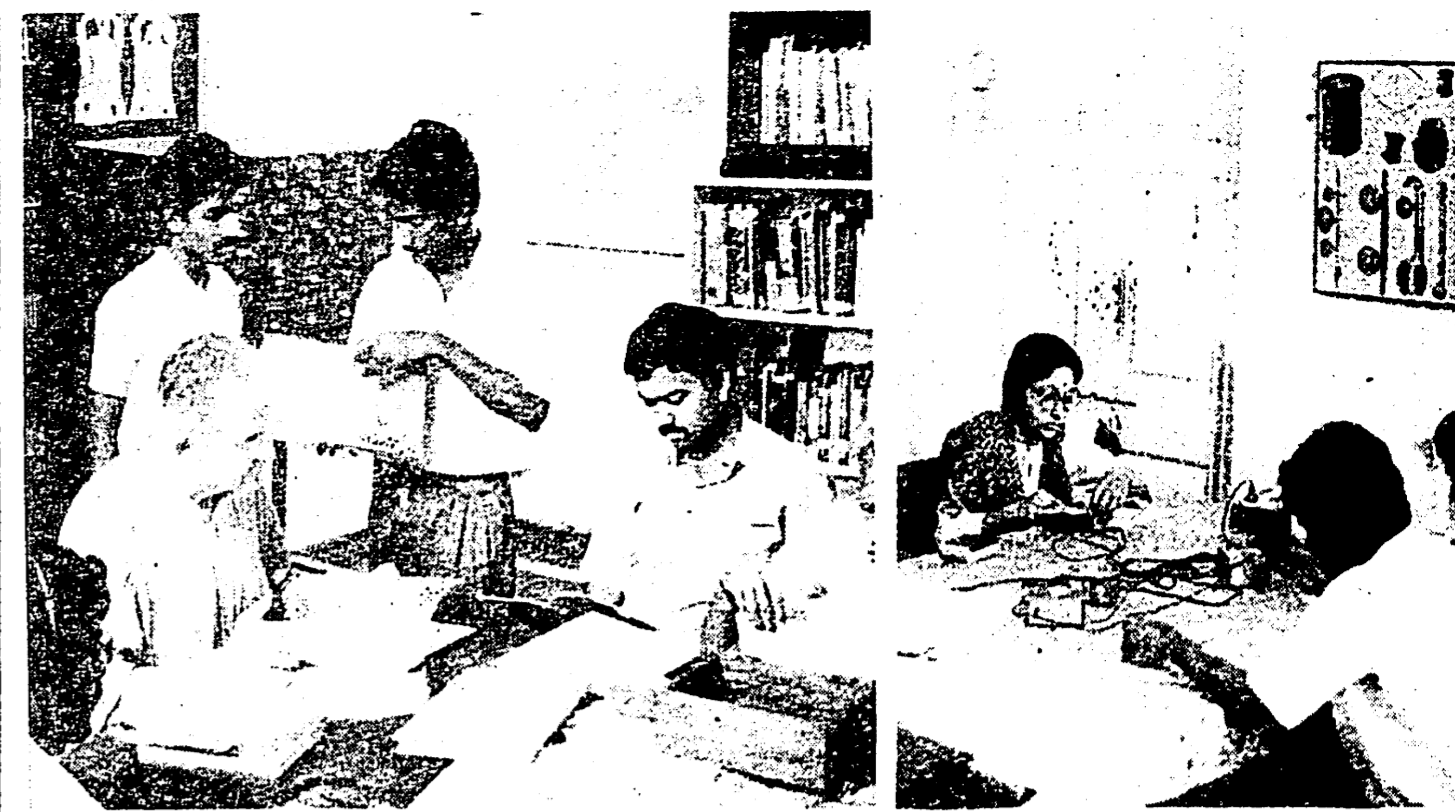
"Raja is one of the most talented musicians I have ever met," says Dubier of Ilaiyaraaja. "His ability to compose is simply phenomenal; his symphony stands testimony to that."

cap it all, he mastered the instrument in a bare three months!

In 1951, Dubier returned to Madras to join the Gymkhana Club's band. After spending a good part of the decade in Madras, Dubier, by now a family man, moved to Calcutta in 1957. Calcutta in the Fifties was the place to be for any young jazz musician. For Dubier, the heady sounds of jazz in Calcutta's dimly lit restaurants and smoky bars began to take on the nature of a lifelong love. Indeed, many of the country's jazz greats, such as Pam Crain, Louis Banks and Braz Gonsales, were taking the first steps in their careers during this period. It is not surprising then that Dubier considers this period as the most influential phase of his career. During his four-year stay there, he played with jazz bands in some of Calcutta's top restaurants, such as Mogambo's and The Grand Hotel.

In 1961, he moved to Delhi, where he had received an offer to lead his own jazz band at Gaylord's restaurant. Shortly afterwards, he moved up to the Ashoka Hotel, where

By JOSEPH FERNANDEZ



Two views of Sampradaya in Mylapore... and both show how pressed for space this music archives is.

Music archives in new hands

Sampradaya is looking for a place to put down roots. It is at present located at 1, Musiri Subramaniam Road (Oliver Road). It is looking for a quieter and bigger place.

Sampradaya is a music archives founded to preserve and bring to light those little-known areas of South Indian music traditions which are overlooked and neglected by commercial music producers and concert organisers. Sampradaya provides access to rare music traditions through documentation and archiving of recordings, interviews, books, journals and manuscripts.

Sampradaya now has over 2000 hours of music and music-related recordings, with 106 concerts, 76 extensive interviews, 104 recordings pertaining to workshops and seminars and 79 field recordings. Many have donated Sampradaya's 378 spool recordings, 81 loaned recordings and 386 old gramophone records. All these have been mastered, documented and archived. A large part of this collection is quite rare and of historical value. It is probably also not available anywhere else.

Sampradaya had begun in a rented house in Karpagam Gardens and then moved on to its present home. It has been a place where music purists and students or even lay music-lovers can



Sriram Parasuram and Anuradha Sri, dedicated to making Sampradaya usable by more.

go to listen to some extraordinary music. They have a few cassette players with individual earphones so that visitors can listen to the music in privacy. Specially valuable are the long interviews with musicians which should prove of great value to music training institutions and universities.

Two young foreigners were responsible for the founding of Sampradaya. Michael Nixon, the affable veena player who was a student of Savihri Rajan, went to Wesleyan University, Connecticut, USA, from here. Being a white South African who had opposed apartheid, he was overjoyed at the political developments in his country and has now returned there. Ludwig Pesch, the co-founder, is a young German completely committed to high

quality, hard-core classical South Indian music and he keeps coming back to Madras every year to recharge his batteries. A new team has now taken charge of Sampradaya.

The new directors of Sampradaya are young and energetic and promise a great deal. Sriram Parasuram, the violinist, and his wife Anuradha, the singer, have great plans for Sampradaya. Sriram is just getting introduced to classical music circles in Madras through his concerts. He grew up in Bombay and was known as a prodigy (he had given a 90-minute solo concert on the violin at the age of eight). After many awards, fellowships and titles for music and winning the President's Gold Medal for both Carnatic and Hindustani violin. Sriram is now a Fellow and Ph.D candidate in ethnomusicology at the world music programme of Wesleyan University, but he is working at it from Madras. What is amazing is that he is also an Engineering graduate from the University of Bombay and an MBA from IIM Calcutta.

Sriram says people tell him that Sampradaya must continue in the heart of Mylapore, as the music collection is so precious to hard-core classical music lovers, but finding a place for it is difficult. He hopes some of these music-lovers will help him find the place.

The new management of Sampradaya wishes to continue the documentation and collection process. But would like to work harder at utilisation and dissemination. They are willing to let the media use the archives. AIR and TV could use the recordings in their programmes, particularly the interviews. Sriram gave an interesting and informative demonstration of the Carnatic and Hindustani music streams at a conference of archivists recently and his wife Anuradha joined him in a very impressive rendering of Marathi Natya Sangeeth.

Given the excellent presentation of this and other demonstrations by him, Sriram should be able to present classical music programmes in an appealing way to a modern audience. He wonders why good high quality, classical music should not be presented on the TV music channels. Some artists could be helped to make visual presentations of their music on videos and the music channels could use them. But it requires money. Are any sponsors listening?

Sampradaya is one of its kind in India and Madras should nurture it.

— V R DEVIKA

(Quizmaster V.V. RAMANAN's questions are from the fortnight May 16-31.)

Quizzin' with Ramanan

- Dr. Pankajam Sundaram has been appointed the new Vice Chancellor of which university in Tamil Nadu?
- Which current cricketer (and captain of his country) has asked for legalising 'ball tampering' in his book *A Test of Cricket: Know the Game?*
- Name the Indian boy who, at 17, has become the youngest doctor in the world.
- Where was the National Centre for Labour, the apex body for labour organisations and representing some 30 crore workers, inaugurated recently?
- Which film won the prestigious Golden Palm award for the best feature film at Cannes this year?
- Why was Ms. Vidisha Pavate in the news recently?

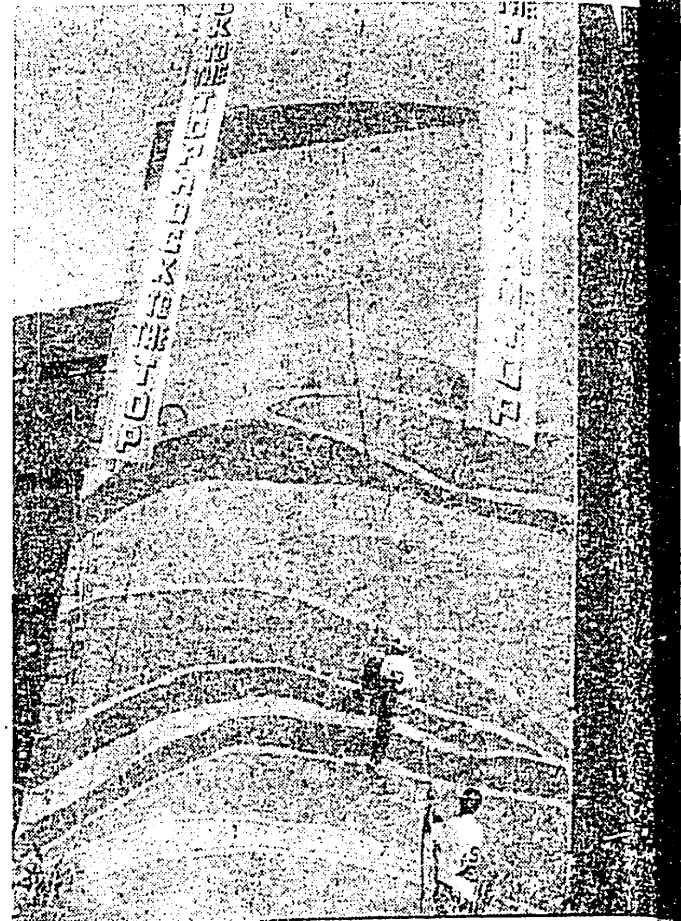
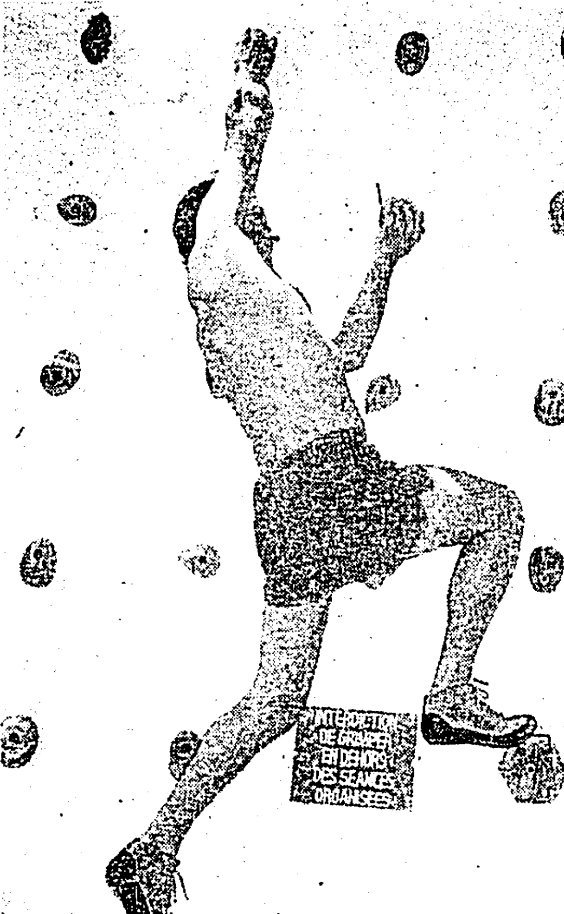
- Which famous Indian cricket captain is the new GM (Planning) of the State Bank of India, Madras Circle?
- The noted painter, M.F. Husain, is doing a series of paintings on an actress after seeing her impressive performance in a blockbuster, which he claims to have then seen 30 more times. Name the actress.
- Which country won the World Team Cup in tennis recently?
- Mira Nair's *The Perez Family* ran into criticism in USA recently at its premiere. What 'controversial' topic does it deal with?

- Dr. Anjali Mehta, a 27-year-old paediatrician, recently wed one of India's most eligible bachelors, a sportsman of international fame. Who?
- What is the breakaway faction of the Congress Party, led by N.D. Tiwari and Arjun Singh, called?
- Name the two educational institutions which recently conducted a unique programme for exceptional schoolchildren in Madras.
- Name the Kelan Mehta film which has been refused a censor's certificate because it lampoons the country's sociopolitical order.



From left to right, rock-(wall)-climbing in India: Cicily Thomas, the Madras spiderwoman, scales the Lycee Francais wall in Pondicherry, which is part of the School's facilities for extracurricular activities; Ake from Sweden climbs his apartment wall in

Madras, which is Cicily's usual training ground; and a view of the action at the 2nd Open Rock-Climbing Competition in Delhi last December. Note the belayer at the bottom right.



The City's own spiderwoman

Venkatachari Jagannathan

climbing with absolute confidence, she states with certainty.

Citing foreign countries, where such rock wall climbing is a popular indoor sport, with regular competitions being held, Cicily says that it is becoming popular in Delhi and Bombay too. In Delhi, an open competition was held last December. Nearer Madras, the Lycee Francais School in Pondicherry has included the sport in its curriculum after fixing wooden holds on one wall of its building.

A freelance French interpreter-translator, Cicily is an adventure sportswoman who has completed rock-climbing and mountaineering courses at the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi. Apart from mountain-

nering, Cicily is adept in scuba diving, mountain cycling, kayaking, ice skating, skiing, wind surfing and hang gliding. "When I was in France for three months, some time ago, I got opportunity to participate in all the events," she states.

In order to introduce the sport in Madras, Cicily has submitted a proposal to the Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority to build an artificial rock wall. She awaits their sanction. The TNSDA is committed to promoting adventure sport in the State. But, as usual with Government departments, Cicily's proposal is caught in the mire of bureaucratic red tape and getting a sanction is itself proving to be a part of adventure sport, she is finding.

The champ from Madras quits college, turns pro

(By A Sports Reporter)

Twenty-year-old Mahesh Bhupathi, the second seed, failed to win the most coveted prize in the prestigious inter-collegiate NCAA tennis championships in the US, the individual singles crown. But he made amends by teaming with collegemate Ali Hamadesh to clinch the doubles crown. And enabled his college, the University of Mississippi, to finish runner-up in the team event.

His performances have earned him a wild-card entry in the main draw of the '95 US Open doubles and a one-year contract with Advantage International — one of the sport's three leading management companies. With this contract, he has cut short a four-year management course in Mississippi to take the plunge in the world of men's pro-tennis.

"I felt totally exhausted playing the singles, but was far more relaxed in the doubles semis and final," said Bhupathi after his



M S Bhupathi ... giving up college and turning pro.

victory. He and his Lebanese partner Hamadesh toppled the fancied Stanford pair of Scott Humphries-Paul Goldstein 7-6, 6-3 in the semis before getting the better of Chad Clark-Trey Phillips, the Texan pair, 7-6, 6-2 in the title round.

No. 275 on the ATP computer list, Madras-born Bhupathi is the second-highest ranked player ever to leave the US collegiate ranks and turn pro. Only Jeff Tarango, now in the top 80, had done better — some six years ago.

Advantage International will manage Mahesh's tournament schedule, clothing and racket contracts (endorsements) as well as fix wild cards and 'exhibition' appearances. They had offered Mahesh a four-year contract, "but we settled for a one-year period," says his father, who has moved from Madras to Bangalore, to set up that city's first tennis academy.

A spiderwoman in Madras! That's an apt description of 26-year-old Cicily Thomas who climbs rocks and walls of buildings. And of rock-climbing Cicily says, "To confront a rock face is to look up at the impossible and to climb it is to know that there is nothing impossible." The sport also develops self-confidence, courage, faith, agility and a better perspective, she adds.

Having founded the Centre for Adventure and Recreative Activities (CARA) in Madras, Cicily is now working on a project which will facilitate rock-climbing in the city! Sounds weird, till she explains, "People living in cities do not have the time or patience to go to the mountains to practise rock-climbing. In order to enable such adventure sports lovers to practise in the city, I plan to build an artificial structure, a rock wall".

The rock wall she is talking about is a 25-foot high concrete wall with small granite holds of varied shapes screwed on it at different intervals. To climb this wall, the climbers would use the holds as grips. It might sound simple, but in actual practice it is far from it. The granite holds will provide little hand/foot space for gripping and will ensure that it will be very difficult to lift the body upwards. "That is the challenge in this sport. To reach the summit with minimum comfort and support," Cicily points out, then adds, "And we will be able to alter the holds and change the climbing route to make it more difficult and challenging".

What about the risks? "They are almost nil. With proper safety gear, like harnesses, slings, friction shoes etc and with a belayer below, a climber need not fear anything," she says confidently. After practising on this artificial structure, a person can tackle real rock-

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. The Mother Teresa Women's University at Kodaikanal; 2. Mike Atherton of England; 3. Dr. Balamurali Krishna Ambati; 4. Bangalore; 5. *Underground*; 6. She was chosen as the 'Ford, Supermodel of the World '95 — India'; 7. Ajit Wadekar; 8. Madhuri Dixit; 9. Sweden; 10. The boat people of Cuba; 11. Sachin Tendulkar; 12. Indian National Congress (Indira); 13. Anna University and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan; 14. *Oh! Darling Yeh Hai India*; 15. 'Comanche'; 16. The Muhammadan Public Library in Wallajah Road; 17. Jimmy Garcia; 18. Sonia Gandhi; 19. IBM, Siemens A.G. and Toshiba; 20. Mohali (Punjab) and Calcutta.

The best of two worlds

(Continued from P5)

and pride in their children, tempered by orthodox Hindu parental ideas of discipline. No smoking or alcohol is allowed in the house. The young men are models of good behaviour and excellent manners.

Just as the family was getting ready to leave for elder statesman C Subramaniam's house for dinner, Jayakrishna returned triumphantly with the candles, to lighten the gloom, but, alas, too late to join the conversation. In a refreshing display of adolescent curiosity, Bala asked me whether I spoke Tamil or Telugu and we exchanged notes on our respective heights. I asked him whether he watched the TV serial 'Doogie Howser, M.D.' the story of a teenage surgeon much like Bala. He was quick to point out that he has been around longer than the serial. In fact, after graduating in biology at 13, he had

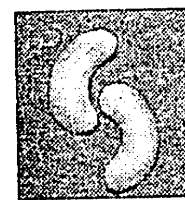
declared his intention of completing his medical degree by the time he was 17. The TV serial followed a year later, perhaps even inspired by Bala. Like Doogie Howser, Bala is a brilliant young doctor with a maturity and wisdom far beyond his years. Like Howser, too, he does show flashes of boyish innocence and humour.

Power supply as yet unrestored, I came away seeing in different light the simplicity of a family that finds itself in the limelight, their patience with the irritants of life in Madras after the luxuries of America, their fierce pride in their Indianness. They appear to have found the right mix of tradition and modernity. They are excellent examples of the merits of the best modern education, aligned with a world-view and nourished by the values of a well-knit, traditional Indian family.

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