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METAL CUTTING TOOLS

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Famil shorthand dying slow death

(By V. Jagannathan)

E ven as the State Government talks vociferously of promoting the Famil language — its latest proclamation making Tamil compulsory in all schools — the art of Tamil shorthand is dying a slow death in the State. Interestingly, it was in 1917 that the (British) Presidency Government introduced Tamil shorthand at the Police Training College in Vellore.

"Despite teaching Tamil shorthand fee of cost, student enrolment is very egligible," says SV Ramaswamy, lony. President, Stenographers Guild, fladras, referring to the classes the build runs. The cause for this, he splains, is the "non-use of Tamil horthand in most government departments and the non-availability of a extbook".

The Tamil shorthand textbook has teen out of stock for the last four years. After 1988, the book was not printed. Tis learnt that the Tamil Development Corporation had sent a note to the Secretariat on this, but nothing further has been heard.

Meanwhile, students take photocopics of the book owned by the Guild for their use. "That is of no use, as the differences between the light and dark strokes are not clear in the photocopy," points out Ramaswamy.

The Guild, which was started in 1937, is meanwhile slowly widening its activities. Apart from teaching shorthand, it has recently introduced computer classes, with the most recent software programmes.

Ramaswamy told *Madras Musings* that the Guild plans to install 25 shorthand computer machines. "The keyboard is like a telegraphic machine. The punched signals are converted into words by the computer and the transcript can be printed after editing very quickly." he said. Each machine. costing US \$2500, will be supplied by Stenograph Inc., USA.



The nuns in action... and woe unto eve-teasers! (Photograph by D. Krishnan)

Nuns learn karate to defend themselves

(By D. Krishnan)

F ortyfour saree-clad nuns of St. Anne's Convent, Madhavaram, are probably the first nuns in the world to have graduated in karate, under a scheme sponsored by their own organisation.

A second batch of nuns is getting ready to undertake 26 classes in which they will be taught ten basic techniques of self-defence.

"The idea is not to get them a brown belt or field them in competitions... Their requirement is limited to defending themselves in times of danger," explains Shihan Husaini, their instructor. Husaini, the only Indian to obtain the 5th Dan in two types of martial arts, undertook the assignment after being approached by Sister Inego of the convent.

"We were worried by the growing attacks on nuns throughout India. Some of our sisters who organised self-employment schemes for women in Tamil Nadu were also threatened by loan-sharks. And in many cases, there were attempts to molest them. The murder of nuns in Uttar Pradesh and Kerala made us realise the need to protect ourselves. And when we found schoolgirls learning karate, we asked ourselves why not us," she explained.

The best of the trainees, outspoken Sister Leema hoped the nuns would be able to pass on the techniques of self-defence to the rural girls when they went to work in the districts. "They need it as much as we do," she Nuns in the age group of 16-69 years have enrolled for the course. And of them Husaini says, "Having lived a peaceful and tranquil life, they were surprised by the power lying deep inside them. Many were surprised they could go this far in karate. It is wrong to underestimate them... After all, karate was invented by Buddhist monks who did not harm a fly. And

now, the nuns are actually rediscovering it," added Husaini, as he watched in admiration a group of sisters bring down knife-wielding opponents, who, by the way, were also nuns.

As news of the training spread, other convents and institutions training nuns have been contacting St. Anne's. And soon there'll be many more nuns following the course.

Sea snakes' aquarium for Madras

(By a staff Reporter)

A Sea Snakes' Aquarium is nearing completion at the Snake Park, Guindy, Madras. It is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 1.5' lakhs with 50 per cent assistance from the Central Zoo Authority of India, New Delhi. The aquarium will be open to the public shortly — as soon as the sea snakes are captured, for which permission has been sought.

snakes the world over and 20 of them are found in India. About 12 Indian species, will be displayed in specially constructed, large-sized glass tanks filled with seawater.

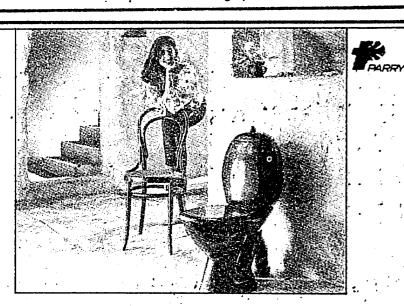
All sea snakes are extremely poisonous, the venom being four to eight times more powerful than the cobra's.

A LOT OF WIND

A set-up which will test and certify wind turbines is likely to come up at Kayathar, in Chidambaranar District, Tamil Nadu, shortly, the first of its kind in the country. It will also standardise the functioning of windmills. The Danish International Development Agency will help the Ministry of Nonconventional Energy Sources and the Tamil Nadu Energy Agency (TEDA) to establish the station.

The station will be set up on a two ha government wind farm. The station is the outcome of a proposal by TEDA to set up a Wind Energy Centre (WEC) in Madras. The installed capacity in the wind energy sector is today around 200MW, and measures are afoot to increase it to 1,000MW during the Eighth Plan period.

(CSE/Down To Earth Features)



No bathrooms for your house.
Only



Parry ware

The Rev. Canon Smith-Cameron, once

Built in 1904 by Jamshedji Tata, it was

declared a heritage structure in 1991

According to Mehrotra, in Bombay

the problems in a building to be

restored are usually maintenance-

related, though in the past "they made

A bit of Cambridge in India

I ndia has long had a tradition of public schools that are really EXCLUSIVE private schools turning out Westernised Oriental Gentlemen and Ladies. Just a bit down the scale are the 'convent schools'. (Incidentally. The Man From Madras Musings has long wondered what 'convent schools' for boys those institutions run by Brothers and Fathers - should be called.) And then, of course, there are public public schools, Government schools and Municipal schools. But now there seem to be developing a couple of new categories of schools. And each seems to offer its clientele something still more exclusive.

It had been mentioned in this column earlier (MM May 1) that the Americans were coming in. And MMM now learns that, whether Ford's are coming to Madras or not, the American International School WILL start here within a few months, offering education the American way from Classes 1 to 7 with American and other expatriate faculty. What's more, and this could thrill a few Indian hearts, the AIS might even allow in a few Indians.

American schools are not new to India. What is Kodaikanal International School today started as an American school in the days when American missionaries were more numerous in India. In fact, they appear to have been so numerous in the pre-Independence India that they needed a second school for their children - Woodstock in Mussoorie. Both Kodai and Woodstock were boarding schools and they thrived because of a large Indian student population - the children of Indians who saw a greater future in American education than in Oxbridge as far back as the 1940s. Today, both are 'international' schools and have lost

. SMALLS

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something of their American-

The AIS in Madras, which joins American schools in Delhi Bombay and America, will, however, be American in syllabus even if it has to be international in student strength in order to keep in business.

Rather different will be High open its doors next year. Coffee the estate as possible intact and still in business.

What is special about High Manor is that it will be a little bit of Cambridge in India and will be a Cambridge University Centre in India, allowing students to take their O and A levels on campus, without having to take the flight to Singapore or Hong Kong.

by the British consultants and partners for the project, who are an educational business organisation in Britain formed by several Cambridge men and women. The Man From Madras Musings understands that the Principal has already been chosen and will be in Yercaud by September. An ex-Cambridge man (what else?), he has been in charge of a small publishing business, MMM understands. And its most successful book has been by the publisher himself — Invasion, a might-have-been novel that considered an occupation of Britain by the victorious German. All other faculty, except the Tamil and Hindi pundits, will also be recruited in

pares its international, Indian and NRI students for the 'O' and 'A' levels PLUS Indian exams. But High Manor at the moment appears to be interested in only the O and A levels despite MMM's suggestion to look at an Indian examination too. Looking at plans, prospectuses and minutes, MMM is inclined to think that High Manor will not only be a success but will also pioneer corporate involvement in education, much as Apollo Hospital in Madras pioneered corporatisation of medicare. Triveni Academy, Hebron, St. John's International coming up near Sriperumbudur all have commercial links, but they cannot be considered corporate

a corporate entity. AIS promises to be exactly that, with the present private quest for equity being expanded to a public quest after the school begins functioning, MMM learns.

Seminar laughs

I f Rotary Clubs and other such institutions are looking for a speaker who's not only different but also guaranteed to be fun, they need look no further than S Ambirajan, Professor of Economics at IIT, Madras. The Man From Madras Musings heard him address the Madras Book Club now more active after its revival eight months ago - and he had the audience in stitches, laughing as no other audience at a Madras Book Club meeting has in the

Prof Ambirajan might not look like a fun person, and his deadpan, droll delivery are straight out of the British style of understatement - no doubt his years in Manchester may have something to do with that

the market had one!" remarked an amused Mithran.

* Those who have been following the O J Simpson circus thatpasses-for-a-trial in its CNN version would have by now discovered Dr Lakshmanan Sathyavigiswaran, one of the stars of the trial. For those of you who don't follow CNN, The Man From Madras Musings must say he sounds an awful lot like one of our own. But whether he is from Madras, Tamil Nadu, South India or from across the Palk Strait, this representative of the Los Angeles' Coroner's Office seems to have his answers down pat as he clinically, and in rather gruesome detail, describes the wounds that had been inflicted on Nicole Simpson and her male friend when they had their throats cut. Did O J Simpson do it or didn't he? Dr Lakshmanan, as he is referred to, gave no indications, but all America is waiting for the outcome of a true-life story that outsoaps the

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

soapiest 'soaps'.

- but what he has to say even on a subject like 'seminars' is 30-40 minutes of sheer entertainment.

professors scurrying to organise end-of-the-year seminars, as much to exhaust the budget as to project themselves as useful citizens doing something to spread recycled knowledge. He had a dig at bureaucrats who organised seminars to give themselves the opportunity to publicly fawn on their ministers. And he drew the attention of a blushing audience to the world of instant publishing that seminar-organiser had to do was put all the papers together and he found himself an Editor on the cover, and all a publisher had to dowas publish such an offering and he had another title to his on all the library shelves of all those universities and institutions from where the speakers

After all the laughs, all that the question and answer and winding-up sessions could produce was a discussion on the origins of the word 'seminar' and the belief that there were at least a few seminars which served a more useful purpose. MMM hopes that, the next time out, Ambirajan finds an audience that'll give as good as it gets.

In brief

★ Mithran Devanesan, Madras's leading English language theatre director, whose links with Colombo are close - his mother's brothers were amongst the leading Trotskyites in the island (incidentally, the island is one of the few countries with Trotskyist political parties, all of them led by London School of Economics-type Leftists) and his wife is Sinhalese too — recently led the Madras Players on a trip to Colombo. When The Man From Madras Musings bumped into him the other day, he was full of the communication revolution in Colombo. He was struck by the number of cellular phones in the city - "Why, even the woman selling fish in * The National Institute of Fashion Design, now headand handloom silks and cottons.

be, if he can keep an audience so engrossed for three hours.

exhibition complex in Madras, The Man From Madras Musings reported in MM April 1. The Federation of Indian Export Organisation's permanent fair site project, MMM now hears, may be a non-starter. Apparently, the foreign co-promoters of the project, Hong Kong Trade Fair Ltd., have been taken over by United Newspapers of London, a giant group in the exhibition business, and UNI seem to prefer other locales to Madras. The Rs. 110 crtwophase project, which would have given Madras 20,000 sq m of exhibition space, was to have an equity of Rs. 42 cr, of which nearly three-quarters was to

come from FIEO. * Madras is to get a Hyatt hotel in the next couple of years, The Man From Madras Musings understands. The 220-room hotel is to be developed on a twoacre site on Mount Road. Premier Housing and Industrial Enterprises of the Pierce Leslie group is promoting the Rs. 85 cr deluxe hotel project, for which Hyatt International would provide the management and technical support. The Shriram

September, MMM learns. * If it's August 1995, it's Tirupur, Tamil Nadu, many an international hosiery buying house - like C & A, Marks and Spencer's, J C Penny and others

optimists 'Good Luck'.

* While India has been looking at investments in Sri Lanka, The Man From Madras Musings notes at least one Sri Lanka company planning to make investments in India — teaming with a Madrasbased company, but, sadly, NOT in Madras. Apparently Madras's Shriram group are talking to Ceylinco about becoming the first company in the island to go into the 'chit' business. Meanwhile, the two companies have teamed on setting up a major finance company in Bangalore. Ceylinco has its roots in a major non-banking finance institution that was founded by Justin, the brother of former Ceylon Prime

area conservation. You have to take * The Man From Madras Musings has found more and agriculture-related activities developing in Tamil Nadu in recent times. And the surprise entrant to the State's agriculture scene this time is jute. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has, in principle, agreed to help in cultivating jute in about 1,000 acres in Tamil Nadu. The UNDP and the South India Textile Research Association will be going in for cultivating jute suitable for combination with cotton for clothing fabric. The low manpower and irrigation costs for jute are the attractions for

farmers. Surely a new use for the crop known only as material for gunny bags, MMM would think. But in that area too, the Madras Gunny Exchange has successfully processed around 100 tonnes of jute fibre and sent it to the jute bastion, Calcutta. MMM

OUR

READERS WRITE

Green' strawberries

 $oldsymbol{J}$ our front page story of strawberries in Tamil Nadu, (in Madras Musings May 16), is exciting news. But I hope that ne public will be reassured about the type posticides and insectides that will be used. the soft strawberry going to act as sponge like the cauliflower) to dangerous chemicals r are the promoters planning to go organic nd make sure that a 'green' pest-repellent used, like one manufactured from our

Continued from last fortnight)

ccording to Bombay conservation-

ists, there is a pressing need for

hanges in the existing bylaws, FSI rules

nd setbacks. "What is ruining our

ities is the blanket bylaws and FSI

regulations," says Rahul Mehrotra

conservation architect and founder of

the Bombay Conservation Group.

"Also, in the Fort area, the setback

Anna Abraham 14B Ganapathy Colony Madras 600 018.

Help our stadium

If thank you for taking lots of interest and publishing the pictures of the Indoor stadium of San Thomé Higher Sec. School. But the central and state grants are taking their own sweet time.

We, the parents, have been doing our bit, but it has not evoked the response which it should. Perhaps MM's interest would lead to a beautiful stadium for our city. Will our philanthropists respond enthusiastically? M Fazal

> Sea View Apartments San Thomé, Madras 600 028.

Tlat No.

Monumental depletion

was much hurt and pained to read about the 'Old Library Building being demoli-

The Government/civic authorities must understand while planning a demoliton that not one pillar of age-old grandeur could be matched in these times. The aim must be

J. Krishnamurthy 76 I Main Road Sri Iyyappa Nagar Madras 600 111.

Oueen's court

(By Venkatachari Jagannathan)

From Madras to the

xixtysix-year-old, Madras-born Ivor Gill Smith-Cameron was recently appointed Chaplain to Queen Elizabeth. With this appointment, the Rev. Canon Smith-Cameron becomes the first Asian in the history of Buckingham Palace to hold the office.

After finishing his MA Literature at Madras Christian College, Smith-Cameron went to England in 1950 to study for the priesthood. In 1954, he was appointed Chaplain to the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and served there for 15 years. He was Residentiary Canon Emeritus of Southwark Cathedral, London, when he was appointed to the Queen's of Madras and now Oucen Elizabeth's Household.

> Just before the appointment, Canon Smith-Cameron narrowly missed being made a Bishop. "He was not disappointed by that, as he won't be bound by the trappings of Bishophood and can concentrate freely on community work," said Mrs Savithri Devenesan, Director, Roof-for-the-Roofless and a long-time associate of the Canon. Apart from his ecumenical service. Smith-Cameron is known for the contributions he has made in Britain towards the promotion of racial and religious harmony. It is this aspect of him which undoubtedly weighed in his favour when being considered for the Queen's Chaplaincy.

> Smith-Cameron's qualities of religious tolerance and interest in other religions seems to have been ingrained in him from his schoolboy days. Brought up in a typical Anglo-Indian railway family, Smith-Cameron once found himself in a new school in Bellary, when his father was transferred there. There, Smith-Cameron chose Sanskrit as his second language. "We

allowed him to study the language, though many tried to dissuade us. saying that Sanskrit is a language only for the devout Hindus," recalls Mrs Noreen Smith-Cameron (89), his mother, who still lives in Madras.

Smith-Cameron is the first member of his family to enter Church service. His two brothers and four sisters are all settled abroad, but in their Madras school days it was only Ivor Smith-Cameron who involved himself in Church activities. Known as the 'boy with the golden voice', he used to sing in the church choir and preached the gospel to prisoners during his college days. "All my children are strong-willed persons who had the freedom to choose any profession they liked," says his mother.

Recalling his youth, Mrs Noreen Smith-Cameron says of her son, "As a boy he preferred reading books to playing games". But nowadays, when it comes to a noble cause, Smith-Cameron is even ready to participate in adventure sports. At the age of sixty, he raised funds for Roof-for-the-Roofless — the Madras-based NGO — by participating in a parajumping event in

Describing him as a humane person, who would see good even in criminals. Mrs Devenesan says, "The doors of his house in Britain have always been open to all. As a matter of fact, some miscreants walked away with his television set one day, after walking in and pretending to be in need

Smith-Cameron, a confirmed bachelor, will hold the office of Chaplain to the Queen till he reaches seventy years of age or till he is made a Bishop, Dean or Provost. May the latter soon happen.

In 1968, following complaints of leakage, the hotel management decide to see that the main structure is to completely restructure it from inside. adequately covered and protected.' "Over 100 extra rooms were added At Victoria Terminus, he says, a in the process and the restructuring conservation architect or expert was not helped us to make the rooms brighter consulted. But on the other hand there are people like Vijay Khanna, of the and fit them with modern amenities, says Ashok Kulkarni, director archi-General Post Office, who worked in tecture, the Taj Group of Hotels.

during the restoration of his building. of the major differences between the

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

much can be done.

ones that pose the biggest problem to

The Taj Mahal Hotel, which stands opposite the Gateway of India, is indeed almost as important a landmark in the city as the other, older building.

buildings to last a hundred years and more." Says Gorakshakar, "Grade III buildings are often maintained in such a way that they lose all their beauty. A beautiful clock tower at the Byculla zoo was recently painted a hideous pink from inside." Many heritage buildings are now government offices and Gorakshakar

rues their use of colour schemes inside the buildings. "These buildings look nice only so long as one doesn't bother to look inside them," he says. An important step in encouraging public awareness about conservation nas been the lighting of buildings

towards which several comorate houses have contributed, beginning with the Grade III buildings are usually the lighting of VT Station by the Tatas. The latest additions to the list have been. St Xavier's College and the GPO But, says Mehrotra, while it is a good thing that buildings are being lit. care has not been taken in illumination installation. "The fence around the Institute of Science building has been bent at places to position the focus.

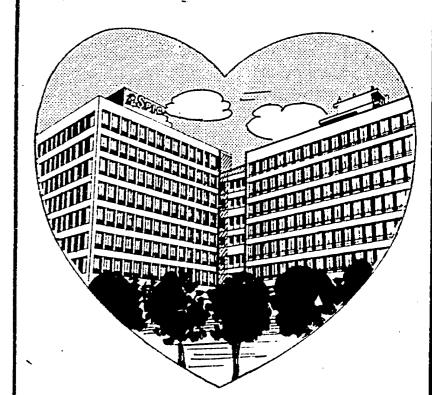
> space," he says. Some architects have also criticised the lighting as being too bright. However, says Mehrotra, "While certain buildings such as the Thomas Cook building are overlit, we will learn with time. Certain guidelines should be introduced and the level of illumination should be stipulated. Also, the hoardings of the sponsors should not be allowed to be displayed at street level. Instead, they should be allowed to use

lamps, robbing pedestrians of walking

the building in their advertisements. But the small-problems notwithstanding. Bombay has made a start in conservation even as the rest of the country struggles to begin.

(Concluded)

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Cases in environmental management

Bit of Cambridge Manor in Yercaud, which will

interests in Yercaud are behind the school, which will be located on an old 38-acre coffee estate about 10 km from town. The environment-friendly institution, The Man From Madras Musings learns, will be built midst the coffee bushes and silver oak, keeping as much of

This has been made possible

Mount Hebron in Ooty pre-

He took the mickey out of seminars helped create — all the credit, one sure to find a place

quartered in a five-star hotel in New Delhi, will open its first branch institute in Madras in a couple of months, The Man From Madras Musings hears. A fashion show will mark the inauguration of the branch. which, MMM hears, will emphasise work with leather

* At HDFC, one of the means of staff motivation, The Man From Madras Musings hears, is frank talks to the staff by the Chairman or Managing Director. But not long ago, Managing Director D M Satwalekar's pep talk on 'HDFC in the past, present and future' proved a 'talkathon'. MMM hears that he addressed the staff for THREE HOURS nonstop and that "Pindrop silence prevailed throughout his speech". Some speaker he must

* Fair stood the wind for an

- must be saying just about now as they draw up plans to visit the first India Knit Fair-1995. The Fair, organised by the Apparel **Export Promotion Council and** the Tirupur Exporters' Association, will be held for three days from August 17th in the little town that exports Rs. 2400 cr worth cotton knitted garments annually. Will the town be able to handle such a

participate in the equity.

* Maxworth's might not be

doing as well in the vegetable-

and-fruits retailing business as it

is doing in developing farms and

orchards, but that is not deter-

ring it from new plans. The Man

From Madras Musings under-

stands it is establishing some-

thing badly needed in Tamil

Nadu — a horticulture institute.

The institute being established

near Sriperumbudur will offer

three-year degree courses, two-

year postgraduate courses, six-

month diploma courses for

school-leavers and refresher

courses for company executives.

Headed by G Rangaswami.

former Vice-Chancellor of the

Tamil Nadu Agricultural Univer-

sity, the autonomous institute to

be run by the Maxworth Edu-

cational Research and Deve-

lopment Society will start

functioning with a staff of 12 in

Business briefs

'We have the same rules for all areas, e it Fort, Bandra, Andheri, Malad... All over India the rules are the same. "Instead, if we were to have major Fair, wonders The Man ylaws areawise, people in that parti-From Madras Musings. Everyone cular area could participate in the in town seems confident that it decision-making process." He suggests can and MMM wishes those hat if the bylaws, instead of forcing architects to use only certain materials, allow the use of certain other materials for building, there would be some new

nd lovely architecture. Bylaws should lso allow different kinds of buildings. lalabar Hill, for example, should have s own bylaws. "There should be only errace houses. That would look so regulations result in a building gaining eight vertically to consume the allotted SI. This results in a fractured skyline: ll these factors have to be looked at gain," says Mehrotra. "You cannot ook at a single building but at a whole area. Conservation must move into Minister Sir John Kotelawala.

old buildings in a certain ambience and onserve them." The existing traffic regulations too, eels Mehrotra, can create problems. At one time we suggested that the novement of private traffic in the Fort rea be stopped so that people would ravel around on foot and savour the eauty of the area. But major shops in ie area opposed it as they felt that if ivate traffic was disallowed, sales This lack of public awareness, feels adashiv Gorakshakar, director of the ince of Wales Museum, is the main

roblem dogging the conservation of uildings. "When the Victoria Terinus building — a Grade I structure which is 106 years old — was cleaned ecently, the workers broke the priceless ained glass in the dome of the building put up the bamboo scaffolding. Also, ome of the chemicals used were too arsh for the stone to withstand," he ays. He points to the scaffolding in the Prince of Wales Museum, the dome which is being worked upon: "Here we have taken care to ensure that the scaffolding stays away from the main structure. At the same time we take care

Giving Bombay buildings that heritage look

complete coordination with them

The lack of public awareness is one

Another in our

conservation work going on in India and the conservation work going on abroad, says Gorakshkar. "While in terms of technology we are as good as any of the conservationists abroad, until the public gets more aware of the need to conserve heritage structures not

conservationists as most of them are privately owned. Says Mehrotra, "The owners of these buildings often neglect them as they are leased out to several people, each of whom pays a nominal rent which was fixed years ago. One way of ensuring that owners take good care of old buildings is to exempt them from property tax," he says. Also, the Rent Control Act is an impediment to the conservation of old residential buildings. The rent a landlord gets for his building situated in a prime area in the city is often far below the prevailing rate which is not enough for main-

Architects, says Mehrotra, can play a role by demonstrating how to adapt and reuse an old building. "The Taj Mahal Hotel and the Deutsche Bank building (the Tata Palace) have been entirely reconstructed and modernised from inside, keeping the outer shell intact," he says

How the World Bank co'opts NGOs

We cannot help being sceptical when the World Bank tells us that it is henceforth going to encourage and practise participatory decisionmaking. The move to have an Inspection Panel is the latest gimmick of the World Bank's resourceful public rela-

tions systems. Apart from the fact that such gestures are about fifty years too late. we remain unconvinced that the World Bank really means what it says. This is not just conjecture on our part, but a conclusion based on its conduct in Sri Lanka over the past few years.

Sometime in the mid-'80s. Sri Lankan economist Gamani Corea, who served as Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for ten years, observed that all the countries of the so-called Third World have only one finance minister — the World Bank/ International Monetary Fund combine.

These Bretton Woods institutions have become the *de facto* policymakers in developing countries. No matter what the World Bank's highly pampered staff members say, the Bank remains an institution hellbent on pursuing its own agenda.

The World Bank today is projecting its image as a big investor and promoter of environmental reforms. Yet, many of the environmental crises that it now tries to solve have been aggravated by its own programmes and actions over the past few decades.

Its attempts to involve NGOs in its projects have often ended in disaster. In 1990, it was working on an environmental action plan for Sri Lanka as part of an Asiawide exercise to help national governments manage their environments better. The World Bank called a meeting of some local environmentalists and a handful of NGOs. This small group, to which we had been invited, was asked to endorse the Environment Action Plan on behalf of Sri Lankan NGOs.

While some NGOs seemed agreeable, we protested, saying that the group was not sufficiently representative. The entire document was only in English, which meant that 90 per cent of Sri Lankans and most NGOs could not fully comprehend it. Moreover, the documents had been (By Nalin Ladduwahetty)

Another piece that, strictly speaking, is neither about Madras nor Tamil Nadu. But with both having their fair share of NGOs, here is cautionary article from a neighbouring country that provides a word of warning that our NGOs might do well to heed....

prepared by a handful of consultants and it was clear that the World Bank was seeking NGO endorsement to give the Action Plan a 'participatory'

We also questioned the Bank's appointment of a Sri Lankan NGO as representative of the entire country's environmental community. This NGO had only about 80 individual members at the time, and it certainly did not have a mandate to represent the entire NGO sector in the WB's decision-making processes. With grave concern, we pressed for greater transparency and accountability.

The World Bank is trying to cultivate a breed of agreeable and 'tame' NGOs whose leaders are offered frequent junkets to Washington and other cities. In return for foreign travel and occasional consultancies, these avaricious NGOs are willing to act as a 'rubber stamp' of people's participation in WB-funded or implemented

We in the NGOs are ashamed to acknowledge that this co-opting of NGOs is now becoming institutionalised, with not only the Bank and other major donors, but also the Government trying to do the same.

Similar mishandling and co-opting of NGOs is being done in Metropolitan Environmental Improvement Programmes (MEIP), a pan-Asian technical and financial assistance programme which the World Bank is implementing with United Nations Development Project funding.

A couple of years ago, we came across a document describing cooperation between the World Bank and NGOs. The document mentioned a World Bank NGO committee, and listed a Sri Lankan representative on that committee.

Lanka. To our amazement, this NGO representative (who should have known better) was not even aware of the National Environmental Action Plan implementation. The above examples would no doubt strike a chord with other genuine NGOs elsewhere in South Asia. Over the years, we have seen so much

In desperation, we appealed to this

NGO representative to bring to the

attention of the World Bank the non-

participatory nature of World Bank-

funded environmental projects in Sri

deception perpetrated by the World Bank that we can no longer have any faith in any programme even remotely It has no scruples and has not demonstrated a genuine commitment to true participatory processes. Working

with a handful of elite NGO workers

is anything but participatory. We in the NGO movement have to be extremely cautious about the World Bank's overtures to the NGOs They come laced with lucrative offers to individuals and organisations willing to dance to their tune. Unfortunately, some among the NGOs cannot resist this temptation. (CSE/Down To Earth Features)

 Nalin Ladduwahetty is a young environmental lawyer.



A safe avenue awaits

W. ith the stock market in a tail-spin, making a buy or sell decision has, to many, become a nightmarish task. The common advice now is to stay away from the stock market and go in for fixed income avenues or Mutual Funds. The entry of private sector players with a plethora of schemes with innovative features has heightened the competition among the players. Of late, Mutual Funds have been in the eye of the storm. But it will not be long before the industry starts feeling the winds of change. The top discounts on the NAVs is just a passing phase. This phase provides ample apportunity for investment in Mutual Funds. But are all Mutual Funds Schemes good? Certainly not. Then how do you go about identifying a good unit available at throwaway

The following tips may be of help

Compounded Annual Growth Rate: Popularly referred to as CAGR, it indicates the returns to an investor after considering bonus, rights issues and dividends, if any. In a depressed market, CAGR tends to be low because the NAV would have stooped down, reflecting market sentiment. To see whether a scheme is capable of performance, you should look at the CAGR of a scheme during a bull run. For instance, the CAGR of Magnum Multiplier Plus stands at 22.5% on its present NAV

during the bull run in Septem 1994, when its NAV was Rs. 18.8 Further corroborative evidence be seen in the movement of NAV during bullish and bearish phases. the fall in NAV is not much, it ind cates efficient management of

Portfolio Composition: This is a vital importance. In a bearish phase a balanced portfolio (with a more of less equal weightage on equity an debt instruments) would yield bette returns. Whereas in a bullish phas it is an equity-dominated portfolio that gives good results. A Mutual Fur should astutely shuffle its portfolio take advantage of the various phase in the market.

Liquidity Modes: High liquidity of vital importance for an investo A good scheme should generally have two liquidity avenues - listing ar repurchase facilities. Repurcha period is usually available after specified lock-in period. You should also look at the repurchase pri policy. A good scheme usually effect its buy-back in the 10% discount range on the NAVs. As repurchase period nears, the units general witness a rise in price. So you ca adopt the "buy low, sell high strategy and earn decent return Open-ended schemes will be better suited for investors who prefer instan (Continued on F

would assemble near the ground's fencing to watch a party of three men in military uniform emerge from the

Finding it difficult to do research without qualified assistants and lab facilities, Dr Subba Row joined Lederle Laboratories as Associate Director of Research in 1940. In 1942 he became its research director, directing studies in chemical, medicinal and pharmaceutical research.

In his biography of Dr Subba Row, In Quest of Panacea, S.P.K. Gupta writes, "He was a man of all sciences. a chemist among chemists, a parasitologist among parasitologists and a clinician among clinicians".

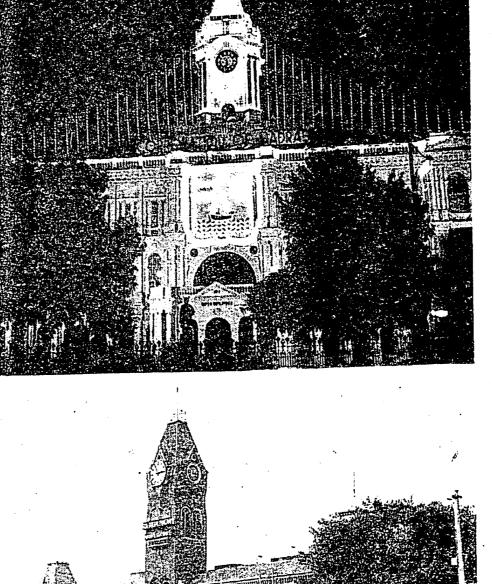
At Lederle, 'Sub and his boys' as the convenor and his 15-member think-tank were called - invented several formulations, such as a vitamin for tropical sprue, an anti-filarial, a novel method for treating cancer through nutrition. Independent of Fleming, he developed penicillin and helped Lederle set up its giant plant in

Dr Subba Row's major breakthrough in the field of medical research was the discovery of auriomycin, an antibiotic effective in treatment of infection when penicillin and streptomycin have failed. He was also instrumental in developing such antibiotics as gramicidin, aspergillin, fumigatin and streptomycin.

acclaimed was his discovery that f acid from microbiol fermentation bro helped to slow down cancer growt This research enabled the treatmen cancer through nutrition. Dr Sub Row died young, but many feel had he lived a few more years. would have found a cure for cano A programme for a major can laboratory was called off after his dea An American writer said

Dr Subba Row's death in 1948. because he lived, you may be alive well today. Because he lived you n live longer". The New York Her Tribune described him as "one of most eminent medical minds of century''. But all his life fame eluc Dr Subba Row mainly because he a poor businessman. He never grar interviews, never made the round academics who apportion accola and never went on lecture tours. shunned all publicity.

Nearly five decades after his dea honour him.

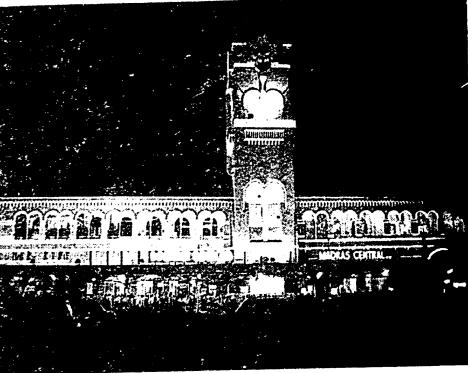


THE OLD& THE NEW

Our OLD and NEW do not show too much change, but, nevertheless, they reveal the passage of progress. The OLD are of the Corporation headquarters, Ripon Building, lit up on a festival occasion some time in the late 1960s, and of the Central Station taken about the same time. Both were taken by M SETHURAMAN, with the focus on the clocks. Sethuraman writes: "The Corporation building was photographed on a festival night when the building was floodlit and decorated with coloured bulbs. I forget the occasion, but remember to have set up my camera on a tripod after 10 p.m. on the pavement opposite the building and exposed for above five seconds at f-8 using a 250 DIN film. The Central Station had to be taken by daylight, as its red turned grey when printing.

In the NEW, both by V S RAGHAVAN, the clocks still keep time in their towers high above both buildings, but the floodlighting of Ripon Building seems more effective. And Central Station, its chaos hidden by night, looks positively handsome with some floodlighting. Several more of Madras's handsome old buildings could do with the same sympathetic treatment... as the heritage buildings of Bombay have been getting.





The timekeepers of Old Madras

After the blast, the smouldering torch would be put out by rubbing it on the ground, the wheelbarrow would be reloaded with the brush, torch and oilcan, and the procession would start in the reverse direction. And we got on with the game.

Much before the time I've recalled

the gun used to boom twice daily, at

noon and at 8 p.m. The residents

checked their watches and clocks

against this standard. In addition to this,

a shot was fired at 8 a.m. on Sundays.

This was to remind the white popu-

lation in and around the Fort of the

heard up to Mylapore in the south and

Tondiarpet in the north at noon. In the

quiet of the night, the 8 p.m. boom

could be picked up as far as Adyar and

Tiruvottriyur. In course of time, the

The boom of the gun could be

church service in it on that day.

was a strain on its finances. First the Sunday morning shot was given up. Later, the two daily shots were combined into a single one and fired at 4 p.m. That's when I saw the firing exercise. When it was tound that even this was costly, the scheme was completely given up.

This brought a spate of protests, as

there was no other standard time to go

by. The Madras Corporation then came

up with the idea of switching off all

street lights for a minute at 8 p.m. daily.

But this had to be given up in a hurry

because the nimble-fingered gentry

found that this one minute of darkness

was more than sufficient for them to

When All India Radio established

a broadcasting station in Madras in the

mid-thirties, time-keeping became really

easy. They transmitted time pips at

pursue their nefarious calling with profit!

you wanted to listen to international time announcements, you could listen to the B.B.C. news relay on A.I.R. between 9-20 and 9-30 p.m. The B.B.C. signed off its news relay with the 4 p.m. live chime of Big Ben on top of Parliament House in London. The world's best-known tower had

its counterparts in Madras. The clock on the spire of St. Andrew's Kirk showed accurate time ever since it was installed. Another clock that did silent service was the one over the Christina Rainy Hospital in Tondiarpet, a remote suburb of Madras city in those days. The clock over the General Post Office on North Beach Road also gave a good account of itself. But it was the clock over P.Orr & Sons that gained importance as the most accurate clock in Madras. Residents in the Mount Road area came there regularly to check their pocket and wrist watches against this

The clock sisters of Park Town, namely the one over Ripon Building and the other over Central Station, did not agree at all — always differing by few minutes. This pair formed a perfect example for schoolmasters of

The Central Station clock is unique in many respects. Its mechanism is a jumbo version of the grandfather clock. Its movement is powered by a gradual

falling weight in place of the main spring. When the clock is wound and the weight lifted high up, it stores ten days' working energy for the clock movement. The clock is wound once a week, that is three days ahead of the time when it would come to a complete stop. The chimes of this clock were distinctive. The quarter and threequarter hours were punctuated by a single stroke, while the start of the hour and half-hour were marked by a musical chime. At the beginning of the hour, the musical chime was followed by the number of strokes denoting the beginning of that hour. Some years ago, the chime system of the clock was silenced as it was feared that the vibrations caused by the chimes might weaken the tower.

Madras to explain to their students the

old adage that no two clocks agree!

It is not possible to list all the tower clocks that are located in various parts of Madras in a short article. Most of these clocks are still going sirong even to this day. But their relevance to modern life has ceased. Compact domestic and personal time-keepers have been developed using button cells and quartz crystals. Even the cheapest of such timepieces can work for years without attention and with a variation of less than a minute a year.

torgotten Indian

— He was always in search of a panacea

(By A Special Correspondent)

I t was an Indian long forgotten by India who saved several thousands during the plague epidemic that broke out last year in some parts of the country. Those who now recall that tetracycline, the wonder drug, was discovered by Dr Yellapragada Subba Row, do so only because his birth centenary year, 1995, has been noted in some parts of India - but NOT Madras, with which he had the closest connections and to which he owed

Born in rural Andhra Pradesh (then part of the Madras Presidency), Dr Subba Row got his Medical and Master of Science degrees from Madras University around 1915. When he realised modern allopathic medicine did not have all the answers, he joined the Madras Ayurveda College and, eventually, became its Vice-Principal.

much

Dr Subba Row, who was born in a poor family, married well and his wife helped to finance his studies abroad. He went to London University to study tropical medicine, then moved on to biochemistry at the Harvard Medical School. He was a Harvard University Fellow from 1923 to 1928 and a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow from 1928 to 1930. He obtained his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Harvard in 1930 and taught biochemistry there till 1940. Another achievement his

Dr Subba Row's unparalled gifts biochemistry and medicine continue be an inseparable part of human healt care the world over, working mirac everywhere. But India — nay, Madi and his alma mater - are still

northern entrance of the fort, two of them pushing a wheelbarrow loaded with a long brush pole, a cylindrical packet (gunpowder), a short length of rope (fuse), a can of oil and a rod with a cloth ball at one end (torch). On reaching the cannon, one of them would take the brush pole, push it into the mouth of the cannon and clean it vigorously. After that, he would take the cylindrical packet, insert it into the mouth of cannon and tap it in sently with the back of the brush pole. The second man by this time would have inserted the fuse rope into the finger hole at the rear of the cannon, leaving only a short length projecting outside. This man would then take the torch and pour oil on the cloth ball, completely dousing it. He would then light

W atching, the firing of the 'time

was a favourite pastime of mine during

my schooldays at Madras Christian

College School. Until Independence,

the school was next to Dare House

(Parry & Co), opposite the High Court.

In those days, the area in the High

Court compound now occupied by

various long-distance bus transport

corporations was a wide stretch of open

ground. This was the playground for

M.C.C. School. The last period (3-30

to 4-15 p.m.) twice a week was

allotted for games and we would go to

these grounds to play. From here we

had an uncluttered view up to the foot

of the Fort wall, where the 'time

At about 3-45 p.m. most of us

cannon was located.

cannon outside Fort. St. George

other. As he brought his hand down, he would shout a command which we could not hear from that distance. The torchman would light the fuse. As soon as the fuse caught fire, he would throw away the torch and all three would crouch, facing away from the cannon, their hands firmly pressed against their ears. It was a cue for us to close our ears too! In a few seconds, we saw a flash followed by a thunderous clap.

it and hold it near the projecting fuse.

The third man would hold the watch,

which he had been wearing as a

pendant, with one hand and raise the

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NOTABLE BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Arguing Immigration: Are New Immigrants a Wealth of Diversity... or a Crushing Burden? Edited by Nicolaus Mills. Simon & Schuster, 1994. (325.73 ARG)

by M. SETHURAM

To Make a Nation: The Rediscovery of American Federalism. The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, c1993. (321.02 BEE)

Hickok, Eugene W. Justice vs. Law: Courts and Politics in American Society. The Free Press, c1993. (340.115 HIC)

Sarason, Seymour Bernard. The Case for Change: Rethinking the Preparation of Educators. Jossey-Bass Publishers, c1993. (370.71 SAR)

Environmental Diplomacy: Negotiating More Effective Global Agreements. Oxford University Press, c1994. (341.762 SUS)

Taylor, John B. Macroeconomic Policy in a World Economy: From Econometric Design to Practical Operation.

W.W. Norton & Co., Inc., c1993.(339.5 TAY)

To Be One of Us: Cultural Conflict, Creative Democracy, and Education. State University of New York Press, c1993. (378.73 WAR)

Worthen, William B. Modern Drama and the Rhetoric of Theater. University of California Press, c1992. (812.509 WOR)

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A MEMBER OF THE AMALGAMATIONS GROUP

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

The school the debaters founded

The Madras Progressive Union was started in April 1880 as a debating society. The school with the same name owes its origin to the zeal of some of the most prominent members of the Union, who felt it should do something more than just hold weekly debates. So, a school was started with two boys on. September 1, 1888, at 4 Chinnathambi Mudali Street, George Town, a property belonging to Thirumanam Annamalai Mudaliar, a member of the Union. The fees were low and the lone teacher was paid Rs. 5 a month.

Soon, as the school grew, a separate committee was appointed to look after its affairs, with Doraiswamy Mudaliar as the Manager and M. Thiruvengada Mudaliar as Headmaster on a monthly pay of Rs. 7.

When the accommodation was found to be insufficient, the premises at 1 Vinayaga Mudali Street were made use of. And when the strength further increased, the shift was made to the present premises in Audiappa Naicken

The philanthropic work done by the Union attracted the public and many were the contributions received. Bhaskara Swamy Sethupathy, the Raja of Ramnad, the Holkar of Indore and Raja Sir Ramasamy Mudaliar were among those who gave donations to the school. The Raja of Ramnad, who was then at Madras Christian College, became the Patron of the Union in

1890 at the request of his friends and classmates who were members of the

When the school needed a bigger building of its own, the site the old school building stood on was bought in 1893 with the Union's funds and through the generosity of its patron, the Raja of Ramnad, who gave a donation of Rs. 3000. Temporary alterations were then made. The accommodation was further enlarged with the purchase of the adjoining building. The management then seriously took up the work of reconstructing the old building to suit the requirements of the school. With a grant-in-aid from Government of Rs. 5000, the work was commenced. The work was completed in 1908, When the management was unable to meet the entire expenditure, Rao Bahadur Thirumanam Annamalai Mudaliar, the then manager of the school, donated Rs. 5000 towards the building fund and, in recognition of this, the hall on the first floor was named the Thirumanam Annamalai Mudaliar Hall. Later, four houses were purchased to increase the accommo-

dation still further and they were temporarily altered to accommodate the The school became a middle school with a strength of about 800 students The middle school became a high

school in 1947. The school presented



Crunchy, Munchy KOKANAKA **COOKIES**

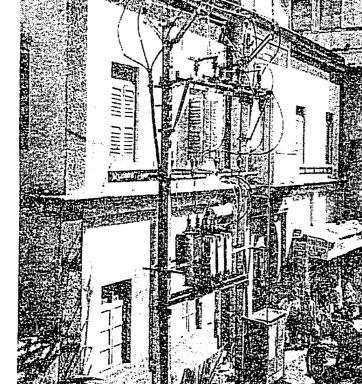


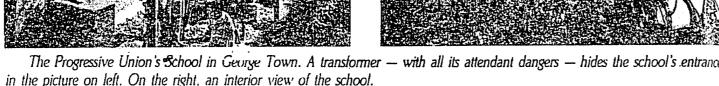


made from real coconuts not flavours









its first batch of students for the S.S.L.C. examination in 1948.

The four houses in the backyard that had been temporarily altered to suit the school's purposes were then demolished and a new block for the high school, with eight rooms, was constructed with aid from the Government and donations. The school was upgraded into a higher secondary in

Today, the school is a full fledged higher secondary school with S. Prabhakar as Headmaster. He is assisted by 38 teachers. There are about 750 students, but with the school being in a busy commercial area, the number

(Quizmaster V.V. RAMANAN's

Who is the new Chief Minister of Uttar

Name the actor who attained world-

Woven masterpieces by the physically

disabled in Tamil Nadu will be used

to adorn a global attraction in Asia.

Name the well-known writer on

natural history, wildlife and environ-

ment who has been awarded the

UNEP's prestigious 'Global 500

5. Name the Tamil film which has bagged

6. What form of gambling has been

7. S. Haridas of Thrissur is all set to enter

banned in Tamil Nadu from early

the Guinness Book of World Records

because of something he did in

. Name the British Chancellor of the

Exchequer who visited India recently.

. Well-known film-maker Shyam

Benegal is making a film on Gandhiji's

life in South Africa, the first Indo-South

African venture. Name the film and

Diane Sawyer recently interviewed, on

ABC, a famous couple who have been

attracting both admiration and contro-

versy worldwide. This first interview

of theirs was on June 13th and was

transmitted round the globe. Who were

. The prophecy, as inscribed on a stone

slab of a temple, came true, when its

samprokshanam was performed 322

years after the last consecration by the

Nayakar kings and in the presence of

an eminent woman. The woman was

the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister. What

around the world for his survival

techniques and determination. How?

12. Captain Scott O'Grady created news

best first film of a director.

8 seconds flat. What?

who, plays the Mahatma.

_ this year's Indira Gandhi Award for the

questions are from the fortnight

June 1-15)

Pradesh?

Award'

a riding accident.

year, about 300 poor students are admitted to various classes. The school organises night study classes for poor students who do not have the basic amenities to study at home and the classes are supervised by teachers living close to the school. The school has a formidable team

of students has been decreasing. Every

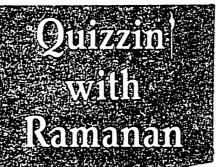
in kabaddi and an old student of the school is the present State coach. The school also provides facilities for volleyhall, badminton, cricket and football The Law College grounds are utilised for its sports activities.

The school starts with daily morning pujas and the newspaper

headlines, which are read out for the benefit of the student community Identity cards are issued to the student and teachers, who have to wear them during school hours. The school is situated in ter

grounds of space. An electric transformer has recently been erected front of its entrance, and all representations to move it elsewhere. fo safety reasons, have gone unheeded by the authorities.

> Text and pictures by RAJIND N CHRISTY



- wide fame as the screen 'Superman' and who was recently paralysed after
 - naval fleet called 'Fifth Fleet'? 14. It costs the world \$42 billion per year, threatens the livelihood of a billion people and already affects 70% of the planet's 5 billion arable hectares.
 - 15. Which Indian sports administrator, a resident of Madras, has been awarded the prestigious Olympic Order of Merit?

Where is the U.S. going to have a new

- 16. Which famous industrial family of Madras is to set up a sports foundation in Madras later this year with initial emphasis on hockey and cricket?
- 17. Name the British ship whose crew while on a stop in the city, helped Australian volunteers to clean up a part of the Mambalam Canal.
- 18. Name the three former Chief Ministers who were inducted into the Union Cabinet recently.
- 19. The first edition of which famou children's classic, signed by the autho (the protagonist child's father), fetched a record £ 6750 at a Christie's auction
- 20. For whose works did the Tamil Nad Government pay Rs. 75 lakh as interin

(Answers on p. 8)



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From Blueprints to landmarks



Astad Deboo in 'Thanatomorphia'. (Photograph by Shantanu Sheorey)

The politics of The politics of The politics of Discription of the politics of the politics

A stad Deboo was in town recently, for a private show at the Taj. The nodern dancer from Bombay has not had much opportunity to perform in Madras, not having a 'political' platform other than his work to support him. Which made his visit all the more

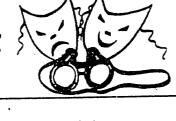
In Madras, only traditional dancers are patronised by the mainstream, which asks them to make great sacrifices to be able to get on stage. The

the organisations presenting them. Astad says he will have none of it. Dance to him is a profession and a passion and it cannot be trivialised. So he prefers to stay away from the politics of presentations.

Supporting change

reperimentation in Indian theatre and dance have, till today, thrived on the largesse of the foreign cultural organisations in the city, like the Max

THE VIEW FROM THE WINGS



dancers fuel this trend by performing in Madras for a pittance and in pitiable conditions. Dancers contribute to the corruption by paying huge amounts to

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enactment and implementation

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TAMARAI MILLS

DATE FOR **YOUR DIARY**

July 11: The Madras Musical Association presents The Long Island Youth Orchestra - a 100-strong sympony orchestra from New York. At the Music Academy, 6.30 p.m.

Mueller Bhavan, Alliance Francaise, the British Council, the USIS and the Russian Centre. Anita Ratnam has been trying to change that scene by giving artists without a platform a stage. Using her clout, charm and intelligence to find alternate spaces for performances, she has opened up the scene for experi-

Anita's Arangam is organising a Purush festival for male performers in August at the Music Academy, where dance and theatre experimentation, involving the male body, will be the

shadow puppet shows etc. This will be the first time such

All-night celebration

celebration has been organised in

n July 14th the Alliance Française

with an all-night event featuring drum

dancers, experimental theatre, dance,

will celebrate French National Day

Colombo welcome

M ithran Devanesan has just come back from Colombo, where he had taken the Madras Players' Conversations. Colombo welcomed the show warmly. There were big splashes in the newspapers and the supper theatre was sold out on both nights, even at Rs. 1200 a ticket. Mithran was greeted as a Colombo boy who had done Madras theatre proud (he was born in Colombo) and C. Ramakrishna. Vishalam Ekambaram and Rita Saldhana had the audiences enjoying their 'conversations'

Sound of music

The 100-member Long Island orchestra is in Madras on July 11th. This is perhaps the first time Madras will be hosting such a big group. But even with a 100-member group, I am sure the orchestra will not be as loud as some of our marriage concerts. Been to a wedding reception lately? The light music ensembles kill you with noise and the hosts feel insulted if you ask them to lower the volume a bit. But then, even Camatic music concerts at wedding receptions these days are too loud to bear. The hosts, perhaps, prefer the guests not to talk to each other.

In the light of this, it was so pleasant to hear a 'mikeless' concert at the Music Academy minihall! Organised by Sampradaya, the concert was a special on Rakthi Ragas, the alluring enchanting ragas of the Carnatic system.

P S Narayanaswamy, who courageously accepted the 'mikeless' challenge, gave one of his best concerts. The hall was full — and that too with a young crowd! It only goes to show that Madras will accept such concerts. In fact, such concerts should become the norm. The small theatre on the Island grounds, Sittrarangam, was built for exactly such a purpose. If more such theatres can be built in the suburbs of Madras, it would certainly raise standards in taste and get musicians to give of their best without having to bother about balancing sound and V R DEVIKA

soon on Channel I (By A Staff Reporter) F fforts are being made to beam a

done locally,

Cartoon animation

cartoon animation series for children by S.K. Ramanujam, better known as RANU, on Channel-1. This, the well-known cartoonist says, is the maiden attempt at cartoon animation in India. But he is quick to point out that it should not be compared with Walt Disney films, "as we are yet experimenting in this prohibitively expensive field".

He points out that about 600 technicians work on Walt Disney cartoon animation pictures, while he has been able to engage only ten technicians to prepare the two series of cartoon animation films. All the drawings needed for the series, some 30,000, had to be drawn by him. The artists engaged by him could only give peripheral assistance, as they could not draw to his expectations. There is a dearth of artists in India in this field, Ranu says.

The two series to be shortly telecast are Proud Lion and Flying Horse. Both are based on stories earlier published in his children's magazine Kutty & Kundu. He is confident that the two films will receive a great welcome from rural audiences, though urban audiences, used to seeing Walt Disney films, may feel that there is much to



Cartoonist Ranu... now

"I took a photograph of every frame and then changed it to video, duly synchronising dialogues and music as needed," says Ranu. But this is a time-consuming process, and he has decided to use computers for his future animation pictures. He is training himself for this.

Ranu has been striving to promote cartoon artists in Tamil Nadu since 1986. His Kutty & Kundu has been organising every year, from 1986, drawing competitions for children. He has also conducted over 200 classes for children in a television series titled "How to draw cartoons easily"

A SAFE AVENUE **AWAITS**

(Continued from P4)

Disclosure Norms: This imparts transparency to the operation of the fund. An investor should look for the frequency of NAV publication, and the quantum of portfolio exposures. In India. Mutual Funds, generally. disclose their top twenty exposures on an annual or semi-annual basis. But the open-ended Alliance 1995 has set a worthy example by disclosing its entire portfolio for its first quarter of operation. Such disclosures enable the investor to know how and where his money lies invested.

Objective of the Scheme: Those who are risk-averse and prefer regular income, should opt for income schemes (i.e., dominated by debt instruments). Investors who prefer higher returns can opt for equitydominated schemes.

The above norms are only broad guidelines and should be used in conjunction with other facts like overall scenario of various industries in which the Mutual Fund has invested, market movements, launch time and other qualitative facts like composition of Board of Directors in the Asset Management company, reputation of the sponsor etc.

Our recommendations for this fortnight are:

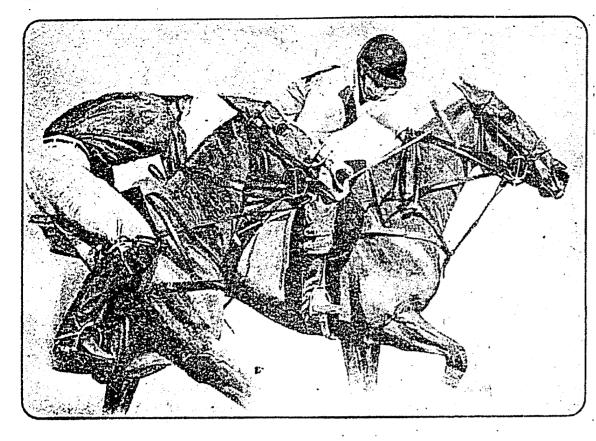
M M Forgings (CMP: Rs. 60.00): One of the leading manufacturers and exporters of forgings in South India, M M Forgings came out with a public issue in April 1994 to part-finance its expansion from 6,000 tpa to 15,000 tpa. It is likely to post good results for the year ending March

1995. The expanded capacity, which went on stream in March 1995, will contribute fully and the main user industry, i.e. automobiles, is now booming. Exports, which constitute 30% of the turnover, is expected to rise to 50% in a couple of years. The company is expected to report an EPS of over Rs. 8 for 1995-96, which will support Rs. 125 for this share. Buy with a stop loss at Rs. 60.

ALP Exports (CMP: Rs. 25.00): ALP Exports, manufacturing leather garments since 1988 with a capacity of 2.40 lakh pieces, came out with a premium issue (Rs. 10) in February 1995, which was oversubscribed ten times. The track record has been quite satisfactory with the turnover and PAT at Rs. 7.94 cr and Rs. 1.60 cr respectively for March 1994. For the years ending March 1995 and March 1996, the IPS is estimated at Rs. 4 and Rs. 5.80. The projected EPS for March 1996 discounts the current market price by just around four times. The company has a firm maketing tie-up for export of its full production of leather garments which, when viewed with the excellent experience of the promoters and heir sizeable stake, gives the share enough attraction to make it a medium to long-term candidate. Even when the prices of other leather shares were falling, it has been steady. Buy at current levels.

K. Gopalakrishnan

Advertise regularly





A few of Sabrina Siga's water-colours. From left to right, 'The Blue Devils' in action on the polo field; Pesi Shroff riding in a winner; and Sir Lester Pigott in action.

The horse beautiful

S abrina Siga, who gratefully remembers the late Mavis Durairaj, her teacher at St. Hilda's, Ooty — who kindled talent into a passion — and Gowri, art lecturer at Stella Maris, Madras — where she graduated in Fine Arts — is India's sole equine painter.

The fluency, accuracy and freshness of her paintings instantly create an emotional reaction, transforming the casual eye of a beholder into an almost transfixed gaze. Sabrina's pictures blazon a technique honed and perfected by acute observation, tender feel and years of painstaking draughtsmanship, besides innate aesthetic talent.

Nature, flowers in particular, ships, scene-scapes... all fascinated her initially and were subjects she chose to dabble with. With an eye that rarely missed

by KalyaniDavidar

out on anything beautiful, Sabrina's deft daubs could well have drawn from any area that lent itself to representation in form and colour on paper, but her marriage to a naval officer — and a keen polo-player at that — determined the course her art would take.

The dawn hours that John Siga spent schooling polo-ponies may not have seemed too appealing to the young wife who accompanied him each moming, but the equine exposure taught her more than just a thing about contour and muscle, tack and snaffle. Intensely, Sabrina would watch the stallion, bridled, saddled, muscle rippling in taut tension beneath the silken coat, standing still and soundless or in dramatic action with rider or colourful jockey astride. The rich gamut of browns and blaze of jockey hues

would be her palette, she decided. Sabrina's tryst with equine art had

Her first horse sketches, 16 of them, were sold even as they were exhibited on the walls of a dance-floor at a prestigious club in Bombay. With orders for more, her brushes knew little rest.

A holiday in the U.K. in '83 introduced the artist to Robert Cox, dealer in sporting art. Cox and Co., with its network of outlets, agreed to being her distributors in U.K. and Ireland. Commissioned to do dogs, Sabrina produced pet canines which proved to be a canophilist's delight. To date, Cox and Co. continue to be her

Her water-colours are, in a manner of speaking, certainly on the right walls. She has exhibited her work in Europe and U.S. Patrons who desire to have their favourite horses perpetuated in art are not wanting and among the list of champions that Sabrina has painted are 'Shergar', winner of the Epsom Derby in 1982, 'Affirmed' with jockey Steve

Cauthen winning the triple crown in the U.S., 'Seattle Slew' also winner on the triple crown in 1977, Camino winner in every classic race in the Indian season, and Track Lightning well-known to every punter.

Her style that portrays the sensitivity and subtle naunces of an animal dear from time immemorial to royalty and racers is amply testified to in her paintings of both trailblazers and poloponies. Flash, the champion polopony is a favourite.

Horses... dogs... birds have all given her joy, as the greeting cards done by her for the Bombay Natural History Society reveal. Though water colour has been the more-used medium, she is equally adept in oils too.

The backdrop is deliberately left uncluttered by irrelevant details. Says Sabrina: "I have eliminated facts in the background of my painting that do not express the subjects, so as not to detract from the primary object, the horse..."

— (Courtesy: Sunday Deccan Herald)

No answer to sorry state of Tamil Nadu cricket

The readiness with which the Wills World Cup Indian Committee Organising (INDCOM) allotted a quarterfinal to Madras was in keeping with the status the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association has earned by organising internationals in an efficient manner at its headquarters at Chepauk. TNCA President A C Muthiah has said the TNCA will modernise its M A Chidambaram Stadium at Chepauk so that the day-night match scheduled to be played on March 11, 1996 can be gone through in a manner that will vindicate Indcom's choice of the

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Ms. Mayawati: 2. Christopher Reeve; 3. The Great Wall of China; 4. M. Krishnan; 5. Mogha Mul; 6. Sale of single digit lottery and instant lotteries; 7. He calculated the 101st root of a 250-digit number, beating a computer which took 11 seconds; 8. Kenneth Clarke; 9. The Making of the Mahatma and Rajit Kapoor respectively; 10. Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley: 11. Sri Rajagopalaswami Temple at Mannargudi; 12. He is an F-16 pilot, who was shot down by a Serbian missile in Bosnia but managed to survive in hiding for a week on insects and rainwater; 13. The Indian Ocean; 14. Desertification; 15. Sivanthi Adityan; 16. The M.A. Chidambaran family; 17. HMS Sheffield; 18. Messrs. K. Karunakaran, Jagannath Mishra and A.R. Antulay; 19. Winnie the Pooh; 20. C.N. Annadurai.

ancient venue for one of the two quarter-finals to be played in India. One question that should be asked, however, is how did Mohali, near Chandigarh, a new venue, become a semi-final choice in preference to hallowed Chepauk.

Be that as it may, there is no mention of INDCOM's choice or

Dy JAICI

the TNCA's decision to modernise its stadium in the TNCA's annual report presented at its annual general body meeting held on June 25th. Equally surprising was the absence of any discussion at the annual meeting of the urgent need to revitalise the game in the State. The report admits that "the performance of our State team in the National championship this season (1994-95) was not as (?) in the past". But there is no mention of any plan to give Tamil Nadu cricket a new look.

The State's record in the 60-year-old national champion-ship is, perhaps, Indian sport's biggest irony, nay, joke. In no other State is the game so popular, better organised or played throughout the year, even in heat-waves, and yet the Ranji Trophy has come to Madras only twice, in 1955 and 1988. While Bombay has had a virtual one-way traffic, even such smaller states as Holkar and

Baroda have left Tamil Nadu way behind.

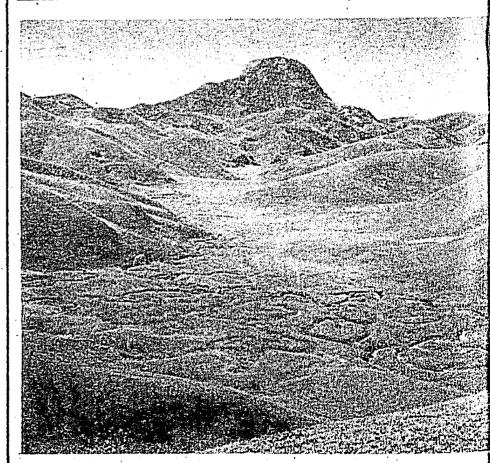
Tamil Nadu cricket indeed cries for reform and it will need a full measure of wisdom and toil to give it a National championship record in keeping with its popularity and the record number of annual tournaments the TNCA organises. The problem is not unsolvable, considering the sponsorship it gets from nearly all the top industrial establishments in the State. How the TNCA could not draw up a scheme to better the State's national championship record and present the same to its members, at its annual meeting is a surprise indeed.

Yet another surprise is the scant attention paid to the language of the annual report.

S. Sriraman, the late TNCA Secretary, used to enlist the honorary assistance of experienced journalists while preparing the annual reports of his time. The present executive perhaps felt there was no need to seek such assistance. Perhaps nothing exemplifies the literary quality of the report more strikingly than the statement on change of sponsorship. Which reads:

Till last year Dunlop India Ltd. were the sponsors of sponsoring the local league matches. From this year onwards, after Dunlop withdrew from sponsoring in the last minute, MAC Industries came forward to sponsor the local league tournament has readily helped the TNCA in the larger perspective.





Eravikulam National Park with a splendid view of the highest peak in South India, Anaimudi. (Photograph by ROM WHITAKER courtesy Madras Naturalists' Society.)

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