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METAL CUTTING TOOLS

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# Fair winds for T.N. energy by Sashi Nair

India, desperate for more electric power for its people, has begun to look at nonconventional energy sources seriously in the past two years. No State in the Union has responded better to this turn of events than Tamil Nadu. The State leads the country in wind power generation, producing 80 per cent of the 350 MW of wind power produced in India. But as the producers in Tamil Nadu draw up plans to further increase production, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) is still not able to make full use of the 'excess' power already being produced!

Although production of this non-conventional source of energy (only by a couple of public sector units in Tamil Nadu at the time) was almost static until a few years ago; the scenario changed yadually after the private sector entered the scene in 1989. The past two years have seen a sudden spurt in power generation in the State (as much as 139 MW was added to the capacity in March alone, this year, according to a recent report which appeared in the Economic Times!).

To cope with this spurt, eight new substations, which will transmit wind lower only, are to be set up by the NEB soon. While four of these will in the Kethanur area (Chidambaraar District), which already has one substation, the others will come up in the Tirunelveli-Kanniyakumari belt, nother area with wind potential.

Wind power generation has come a long way in Tamil Nadu since 1986, when the first windmill was installed at Mullaikadu, near Tuticorin, following the establishment of the Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA), under the Ministry of Nonconventional Energy Sources (MNES). Since then, the TNEB and TEDA have done a lot of good work by setting up more than 100 wind electric generators in parts of Tamil Nadu with good wind potential.

But most of the recent charge in this field has been due to NEPC-Micon, the company that pioneered wind power generation in the country. The company started producing wind energy in a small way seven years ago by setting up with Danish collaboration a 10 MW power project for the TNEB. Today, NEPC-Micon is readying itself to becoming the first organisation in Asia to set up a 100 MW capacity wind farm, a project scheduled to be completed two years from now.

That is not all. NEPC, which describes itself as "the largest manufacturer of wind turbine generators in the world", has begun to look at other sources for nonconventional energy. It recently signed an MOU with Omnion Power Engineering Corporation of the US to set up a TNEB grid-connected solar photo-voltaic power plant at its wind farm in Coimbatore. This unique project is scheduled for commissioning

in September this year and will generate 500,000 units of power a year.

Other private companies are moving into the business too. TTG Industries, Madras, has tied up with Husumer of Germany. The company imports blades used by German Aerospace, a reason why its windmills are reported to be generating 15 per cent more power.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has teamed with NORDEX A/S of Denmark and will be installing machines in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra soon.

The reasons for the enthusiasm shown by private companies like NEPC-Micon are not far to seek. Wind electric generators, which can be imported under Open General Licence (OGL), attract a customs duty of only 25 per cent. Import of components and spares is exempt from customs duty altogether and 100 per cent depreciation on the equipment is allowed. What is more, finance for upto 75 per cent of the project cost can be availed through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). And profits from the enterprises are not taxed for the first five years.

In Tamil Nadu, a private company desiring to set up a wind power generation unit can utilise the subsidy provided by the State Government — up to ten per cent of the project cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 15 lakhs. There is sales tax exemption on purchase of wind electric generators and exemption from taxation on electricity consumption from wind power as well.

Besides these incentives, the TNEB provides a banking facility — power generated during a month can be stored

(Continued on P6)



And so the city's landmarks of another age continue to be pulled down.

The Rajah of Wanaparthi's Palace had been seldom seen in recent years on Nungambakkam High Road, as the Income Tax Department had built its new offices in Iront of it, completely hiding it from view. The Department had taken it over from the Raja on a valuation of Rs. 2.96 lakh in 1954 to adjust tax arrears and had used it as an office ever since. Now needing more office space, it decided to pull it down despite the pleas of the Archaeological Survey of India. And as usual, Madras conservationists were too late to do anything about such wanton destruction of heritage.

The two pictures below are of the Prabhat on Popham's Broadway and the Minerva on Davidson Street, nearby. With the Prabhat, which was in a better state of preservation, in the process of being pulled down, the Minerva is the last cinema theatre left in George Town. But for how much longer? As a head ine recently had it, this decade is seeing the 'Sunset for cinema houses'. The Sun, Wellington and Rajkumari have all come down. And it won't be long before the Roxy and Sapphire complex follow suit. Who is going to follow the Delhi lead and upgrade cinema houses in Madras instead of pulling them down? (Photographs by V S RAGHAVAN)







## Dubai firm to run Binny's?

(By A Staff Reporter)

TA-Ascon, a Dubai-based company, has acquired a major stake in Binny Ltd., one of India's oldest textile mills, Founded in 1877 and 1882 as the Buckingham Mills and Camatic Mills respectively in Perambur, the South, Tamil Nadu's and Madras' first mills, they were amalgamated as Binnys' B&C Mills in 1920.

The group invested Rs. 15 crore in Binny about a year ago through a Mauritius-based subsidiary. An equal amount came from four other Bombay-based investors. Together, they till now held a 37.5 per cent stake in the 196-year-old company, according to

ETA-Ascon managing Director Syed M Salauddin.

The share of the Udayar family, the original owners, has been brought down to 37.5 per cent, he explained.

Salauddin felt Binny, like most other textile mills in India, had failed to modernise and adapt to changing consumer preferences. ETA-Ascon plans to totally modernise Binny's Madras unit while the Bangalore mill (1884) will be revamped.

Another new company, Binny International, is being set up to manufacture a new range of fabrics, especially for the export market.

"We want Binny fabrics to be sold even in Dubai, where it will face competition from all over the world," says Salauddin, who is now a director in Binny.

He was confident that Binny, which has a Rs. 200 crore turnover, would turn the corner this year and end up with a small profit and added that ETA-Ascon planned to take on more "responsibility" in the running of the company.

The plans for restructuring the company were endorsed at a meeting of the promoters in Dubai recently. "We plan to meet at least once every six months in Dubai," Salauddin said.

W hen the Hindus of Morrisville, North Carolina, Asia Studies, University of Madras, on the eve of her dedecided to establish a temple that parture from a city she has been coming to from 1969 on various would meet the needs of the study sabbaticals, classified the area's Indian community, which 'newer' temples into five broad came from different parts of India, they listed ten deities and categories: minor deity; eclectic, where the pantheon is featured; asked the congregation to vote guru-centred; neighbourhood, on which two of them they'd like installed in the shrine. Lords usually in small communities and meant for people from all Ganesha and Hanuman won; parts of India; and reduplicated. Lord Siva and Vishnu lost. Her Madras examples for these Narrating this incident the other were the Anjaneya temple in day at a lecture-discussion on the 'new' temples of Madras and the Nanganallur, the Madhya Kailash Temple in Adyar, the U.S., Dr Joanne Waghorne of the Shirdi Sai Baba Temple in University of North Carolina Injambakkam, the Sri Sankarapointed out that that vote narayanar Temple in Salireflected what she'd found gramam and the Ananthapadduring the course of her latest manabhaswamy Temple in year in Madras

Having studied 108 'new' If the Morrisville Temple in temples in Madras - shrines an old church is an example of dating from the time of the founding of the City in the 17th the neighbourhood community shrine, there's no better example Century till the present - she found that a preponderance of of the eclectic in the U.S. than the newer ones were dedicated the Siva-Vishnu Temple in Maryland built by Ganapathi Sthato Lords Vinayakar and Anjapathi. In one large hall there is neya and almost none to Lords a Siva grouping and a Vishnu Siva and Vishnu. But there were grouping with a corridor sepatwo differences in the scenario, rating them. Behind them are she had noted. Several of the two groupings of the minor newer temples in Madras were dedicated to Lord Venkateswara; deities. The four groupings together offer 16 ikons in all the States had only a couple. And with Nandhi making it 17. And while Mariamman and Ayyanar since the area has a large shrines flourished in Madras, Malayali population, Vishnu is there were none that she knew called Padmanabhaswamy here. of in the U.S. The Man From Madras Musings, whose strong American influence suit is certainly not religion of any kind, couldn't help but Reiterating what The Man wonder whether the former was From Madras Musings had heard not due to northern 'religioher say earlier, Dr Waghorne political' influences and the

pointed out once again that the

precision-built, building and

civic laws-obeying American

temples appeared to have the

older people and newer immi-

grants upstairs, in the shrine

area, and the young, especially

those who grew up in America,

in the basement where there

were classrooms, for dance and

music besides religious and

academic instruction (read

academic 'coaching classes' in

the case of the last-named).

restaurants and video viewing

(yes, religion-oriented, but a

convenient prop to 'hanging

wondering, what with religion

waning throughout the US

except in the South and the

young preferring the basements

to the sanctums, whether there

would come a time in the next

decade or so when the temples

too would be searching for con-

gregations, as many churches

are. But Dr Waghorne rather

feels that they'll continue to

thrive because they will, before

long, be meeting the needs of a

new constituency. More and

more Americans were turning to

Hinduism and, though at the

MMM couldn't help

under the auspices of the Department of South and Southeast

latter to the class structure of the

Indian immigration to the U.S.

MMM feels rather certain that if

the West Asian countries per-

mitted temple construction,

Mariamman and Ayyanar would

do very well in certain pockets,

just as they did in Sri Lanka,

Burma and the former Straits

Settlements.

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moment the elders of the temples tend to view them with some scepticism, she rather thinks there'll come a time when the

to flourish. The Americanisation of the temples is taking place in many ways, Dr Waghorne demonstrated and narrated. Hinduism Today is a thriving journal edited by an American Hindu and published from Hawaii and the Mainland. Besides its news and views, presented in American newspaper style, its ads, some of which she showed, appear to be one of the Americanised facets of Hinduism. Among the offerings

primer that offers a discount on 50 or more copies ordered. • A Kali tour ... Be 'Home for

Diwali', taking in a conducted

- Puja items by mail order. • Do-it-yourself astrology using
- special software. Temple in America' - the Balaji Temple in Malibu, California.

ning. The American Christian in-

SHORTMANAPEY

'to all intents, an Indian city. Of From Madras Musings was happiest over Edmo's honest the Indian South Africans, answer to the trickiest part of the 20 per cent are prosperous even question: I was a wino, an alcoholic for ten long years, he unblushingly confessed and went on to the other, less loaded questions.

\* Apropos the Imran Khan-Iemima Goldsmith reference by MMM last fortnight, here is a footnote that results from an observant reporter noting that the registry office where the couple went through the civil ceremony was just opposite the head office of Mills and Boon, Telephoning the publishers he asked whether the romance had the right ingredients for a good novel. "Oh, yes," gushed a company spokeswoman, he records, "He's tall, dark and handsome and she's an English

#### Business briefs

\* Madras' own James Rickshaw

his brother have been manu-

From Madras Musings is told. \* The Man From Madras Musings is pleased to note that the Housing Development Finance Corporation is moving into the rural sector. Teaming with an NGO, the Palmyrah Workers' Development Society in Kanniyakumari District, HDFC will lend for purposes ranging from housing to irrigation to marriage expenses. individual in the group. Peer pressure, is the jargon being used, MMM hears.

\* The Singapore Corridor pro-Corridor project which became a Madras Industrial Park project has taken another turn, The Man From Madras Musings learns. Sholinganallur, the original site, is now OUT because, apparently, it has only now been discovered to be uneven and lacking water dispersal infrastructure! So Sriperumbudur and Maraimalainagar are being looked at. The latter may have the edge if the indeed get used for the purpose

1972 and, since then, James and

\* Aiming to capture a share of the Rs. 80 crore Indian plastic moulded furniture market are Arham Plastics Ltd of the National Plastics group and Alico Plastics Ltd. The former plan to produce 25,000 chairs a month, the latter 30,000 to meet a demand that is growing by 35 per cent annually, The Man

What's different about this lending operation is likely to be ther, the more visible of the trio is the its plan to make the loans through \$57-year-old Metropolitan Building, groups that will be formed and lace a shamelessly luxurious departto make every individual in the thent store. In spite of its years, or may group liable for the default of any because of it, few new houses, how-

ject which became a Malaysian portions. land earmarked there for the paroque style. It has a wide podium, Ford-Mahindra car project does which rise, tier upon tier,

# tale of two bridges

During the years that followed, two me, the tale of the Elphinstone severe cyclones affected the city and Bridge (MM, June 16) began some caused the river to spate. The calane in the Sixties when a member of mitous cyclonic rain of the night of Boat Club, next door to the Madras November 24/25, 1975 — 45cm in b on the banks of the Adyar River. 12 hours - resulted in the loss of orted a deep, dangerous-looking hundreds of lives among the families rk in the stonework beneath one of arches of the old bridge. He noticed when rowing beneath it, for in One Man's se days it was common for Boat b athletes to row right down under Madras bridge to the mouth of the river. th and pollution, with the accom-HARRY

An Indian Express photographer ent down there in a boat to photoof those poor slum dwellers who had anh the crack and soon after the occupied the constructions put at their plograph appeared in the newspaper, bridge was closed to traffic. As a nporary measure, the weakened tion of the bridge was then supported sleel spans from above, similar to ose of the Napier Bridge today, and bridge was opened again until the w bridge adjoining it was complete. terwards, the supporting steel arches re removed and the old bridge left itself — and to those who found it prvenient public convenience, much

repaired.

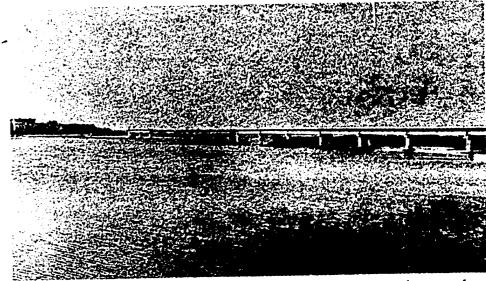
# MILLER'S

disposal by the Slum Clearance Board, which had ignored repeated warnings that it was building on the river's natural flood plain. Had it not been for the heroism of a single young police officer — now the Additional Director-General of Police, Walter Dawaram who worked through the night in total darkness against the terrifying forces of Nature, many more families would have been swept from the rooftops of their single-storied dwellings by that

unbelievable and unprecedented torrent. During the 1975 cyclone, the footbridge across the mouth of the river collapsed and some of its concrete spans vanished, presumably buried some distance out to sea beneath many tons of sand. The footbridge has never been

Meanwhile, cracked or not, the old Elphinstone Bridge has remained sturdily unmoved. Not so the new. modern, concrete structure that replaced it, the Thiru Vi Ka Bridge as it is called. Parts of it collapsed during its first severe test, barely a decade after construction, and now we read (MM June 16) that what appear to be extensive repairs and renovation are again in progress somewhere beneath the bridge under the supervision of the P.W.D. Meanwhile, old-fashioned, weed-infested public convenience shambles that it is, the 150 year-old Elphinstone Bridge still stands intact.

As for the new one, with two major repairs already required in its short lifetime, this calls to mind words I wrote in another context a few years ago: "Poor design? Faulty workmanship? Adulterated cement? Take your choice. Someone else has taken your money."



The footbridge over a portion of the Adyar Estuary. Ignored, then forgotten after (Photograph by V S RAGHAVAN) a cyclone had done its worst.

### OUR READERS WRITE

#### Greek exploits

W ith reference to your mention of Purple Hearts and the deeds of Lt. Gen. Gill in World War II, I am sure General Gill will not feel slighted by the absence of Purple Hearts for the two wounds he received. I don't think the award of Purple Hearts for wounds was ever a practice in the British or the British/Indian forces. However, a friend of a friend of a friend of mine recently told me he had an uncle who heard that his friend's son-in-law in the American Army had been awarded a Purple Heart after being scratched by the regimental

Those interested in General Gill's exploits in helping blow up strategic railway bridges in northern Greece during World War II may read a full account of the

Similar sentiments are expressed by

Debasis Nayak of Conservation and

Research of Urban Traditional Archi-

tecture, who sounds almost bookish.

Old buildings, he avers, function as

means to regulate the development of

a city and maintain the density of

Historian Kalyan Bhadra makes a

stronger case for preserving these old

beauties. That their fabrics have a

lasting value is there for everyone to

see. It did not even take a decade for

the multistoreys in Chowringhee to

look shellshocked. Already chunks are

coming loose from the comices of

Chatterjee International and its mosaic

Ganesha has lost its sheen. In striking

(Continued on P6)

population and quality of life.

operation in the book We Fell Among Greeks, if they are fortunate enough to find a copy. As one who has travelled on that railway, I can vouch for the importance of those bridges, for they carry trains across narrow, precipitous gorges that still provoke nightmares in a severe acrophobe like me. During my own journey across them, sickened by terror. I wasn't the least comforted by a Greek colonel fellowtraveller who pointed out to me in a gorge what appeared to be the rusting remains of what he said had been a German troop train. Forty years must have elapsed before I had the honour to meet here in Madras one of that heroic, volunteer team who were parachuted into the area to sabotage those bridges and whose heroism and success in doing so provided the British and Indian troops with crucial relief in their desperate struggle against Rommel in North Africa. Harry Miller

3A Satyanarayana Avenue Boat Club Road Madras 600 028

#### War Service

I t may interest readers of MM apropos MMM's comments in MM. June 1) late S. Radhakrishnan, was in the Army Medical Corps and was a prisoner-of-war in Singapore, along with the late Brig. Dr. Kesavulu. Major Dr. R. Rajagopala Reddy (83 years) of 1-31. 7th Street, Anna Nagar, Madras-102, just escaped being made a prisoner-of-war by the lapanese. He was present in Singapore when the Japanese surrendered to Admiral Mountbatten. All three doctors first served in Africa (i.e. Libya, Abyssinia, Egypt etc), during World War II. C.A. Reddi

Vepery, Madras 7. EDITOR: Recently, on the 50th anniversary of the blowing up of the bridge,

57 Rundalls Road

BBC TV did a feature on it Advertise

regularly

BEKERIE

## Can old really yield gold?

Must economics dictate that heritage buildings be allowed to crumble? Not necessarily, argues Soumitra Das.

aying stench of hydrogen sulphide

poisonous gas — have long ago —

ded those pleasant excursions.

he Life Insurance Corporation of India owns 70 buildings in Calcutta, tree of them landmarks. They are etropolitan Building, Esplanade Mansion and Queen's Mansion... All Free are gems of colonial architecture, kind of building for which Calcutta d won the sobriquet 'City of Palaces'. Esplanade Mansion (over a undred years old) and Queen's lansion (a little younger) were the first artment blocks to be constructed in er tall or swank, can hold a candle it, because of the imposing position commands on Chowringhee which lows to advantage its handsome pro-

Its arcaded facade is divided unimly by horizontal lines punctuated vertical ones. It has a stately central orch and masses of brilliant stained ass and art deco flourishes inside, but is difficult to miss the circular domes nits terrace silhouetted against the sky, there are no taller structures nearby steal the scene.

Esplanade Mansion, looking Raj havan in the eye, is a pearl of the undreds of balustraded balconies, hich lend an air of theatricality to this MMM wilding. Unlike most modern condos, th flat gets an equal share of light air in this building.

Queen's Mansion, standing at the busy intersection of Park Street and Russell Street, defines the character of the area, once the happy hunting grounds of sahibs, later the brown sahibs, and, now, every johnny-comelately. The circular ground floor office... is ornamental enough, but its massive columns and stucco wreaths tell passers by that it is not to be taken lightly.

But what a pass the trio has come to! Caked with the grime of ages, they are pictures of neglect and evidence of a deficit of civic pride in Calcutta's character. Think of what Bombayites

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

have done to show off Victoria Terminus!

But surprises never cease. The officer in charge of the LIC's vast estates says that plans are afoot to make "structural repairs" in Metropolitan Building, for which Rs. 2 crore has been allocated. But such a move, he says, would entail partial vacation of the building, though tenants are still in the dark about any such plan. He, however, beats about the bush when asked why LIC is suddenly so concerned about a building it allowed to mould for so long.

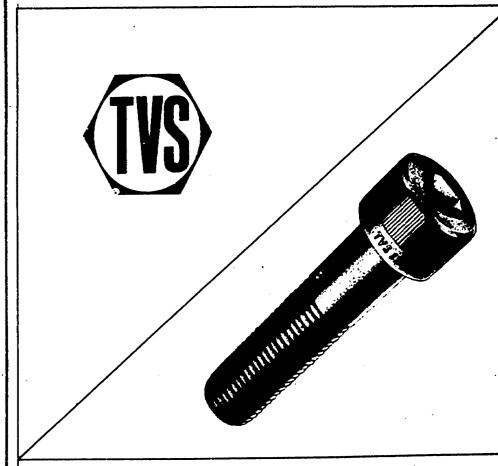
But the answer is not difficult to guess. These houses are white elephants, for the rent of the king-size suites is a fraction of what a slumdweller shells out every month for his hole in the wall. So why should a "commercial" organisation like the LIC

be obliged to spend even a paisa on a decrepit structure which is a liability now, and which would generate more cash if allowed to bite the dust? Think of the price its plot will fetch. Should the LIC invest a fortune in its upkeep because conservationists and other fuddyduddies say these are relics of the Raj and should be mothballed for posterity? No, says Debjani Sinha of the

Indian National Trust for the Art and Cultural Heritage, sentimentality has little to do with it. Recycling old houses to suit contemporary needs could make more business sense than constructing a completely new structure, as it is cheaper to begin with. And new buildings which are out of sync with the rhythm of life in a particular neighbourhood are likely to disrupt its delicate urban fabric...

In a city already hard pressed to provide basic amenities, upwardly mobile condos are the last thing it needs. The environment cannot handle the inevitable overcrowding once hordes of new tenants move in. In Park Street the water table has dropped because deep tubewells have been sunk wherever one chose to. So, the State Government, Sinha stresses, is expected to set an example by restructuring some old houses which deserve to be pre-

Sinha doesn't allow LIC to wrisele out that easily. She adds that since LIC is supposed to be a socially responsive organisation, it could follow the example set by the general post offices which have been declared heritage buildings. The Bombay GPO has already been made over into a showpiece. INTACH, she clarifies, is, however, not against the conversion of old buildings into multistoreys so long as their facades are scrupulously preserved.



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More than riches The blue woman James Bond in Seafire

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Select List of Recent Additions

# Temples new — in Madras and the U.S.

temples might depend on them

• Hinduism Simplified ... a

tour of India's shrines.

· Visit 'The Most Picturesque

But that's only the begin-

fluence, and the need to con-

form, have, in some ways,

\* Sunday morning communal

\* A sermon at prayer meetings.

\* ...where a Hindu Catechism is

Why am I a Hindu?

without losing its roots.

Home from home

taught with books like Daddy,

MMM hopes the young find

the answers soon to enable the

Hindu church not only to sur-

vive amidst alien corn but thrive

nother group of Indian ori-

A gin whom The Man From

Madras Musings heard discussed

recently were the Indian South

Africans. They were the subject

of a lecture-discussion by Dr T G

Ramamurthi, formerly of the

External Affairs Ministry's

Research Wing and now editor

of Africa Quarterly. That the

meeting arranged by the Society

for Indian Ocean Studies,

Madras Chapter, at the Univer-

sity of Madras, was sponsored by

the Satyamurti Centre for Demo-

cratic Studies, Madras, was

understandable. For Satyamurti

had taken much interest in the

affairs of the Indians who had

gone as indentured labour to

South Africa. In fact, Rama-

murthi recounted, so penetrating

and information-backed were

Satyamurti's questions in pre-

Independence Assemblies that

Official Members and Civilians

often asked him to refrain from

posing them and would give him

whatever answers they could in

private and agree to work on his

suggestions. Another Madras

personality closely connected

with the South African scene

was Srinivasa Shastri, the first

Indian Agent in South Africa —

an appropriate choice, for most

of the labour were from the old

to 1914, has left South Africa

with 1.3 million South Africans

of Indian origin, all of them

South African-born today. Eighty

per cent of them are in Zulu-

dominated Natal and Durban is,

The migration, from 1860

Madras Presidency.

worship with group chanting.

resulted in:

\* Sunday school...

by South African standards and, besides having numerous professionals among their number, run trade and commerce in Durban and Johannesburg. The rest, who once worked in the cane fields, have, for the most part, moved on to working in small industrial and commercial establishments. The result is that the South African Indians are the only community of colour ABOVE the poverty line of 7800 rand. The South African Indian's per capita income of 8000 rand may be way below the Whites' 20,600, but it is substantially above the Blacks' 2400 and the Coloureds'

Speaking of the South African Indians who, before M lela came into power, were thinking of emigrating, Ramamurthi mentioned that they had begun to look to the UK, the US, Australia and Canada. There was no mention of India. In fact, in MMM's view, no South African Indian, given his average earnings and comforts, would look to India as a home of the future, unless pushed to it. MMM can't

help wondering why India has,

over the years, shown more

concern for such Indians than

for those with much bleaker

futures at different times, like

those in Sri Lanka, Burma etc.

An academic interest is one

thing, a political interest - or

\* Balamuralikrishna Ambati,

the doctor-at-17 who had been

featured for that in achievement

Madras Musings on June 1, was

specially introduced to President

Clinton when the President in-

augurated the 13th annual con-

vention of the American Asso-

ciation of Physicians of Indian

Origin. And then the President

was introduced to Balamurali-

krishna's brother who had

become a doctor at 19. Then The

Man From Madras Musings

hears, he told the cheering

audience, while beaming at the

two brothers, "When I became

a college professor at 26, they

said I was too young. When I

was elected Governor at 32,

they said I was too young. When

I was elected the third youngest

president at 46, they said I was

too young. Where were you guys

\* At the USIS the other night,

Native American (the now

acceptable coinage for American

Indian or Red Indian) Edward M

Edmo, pigtailed, shawl-wrapped

and with whatever else stereo-

type image you may have in

mind of his people, kept an

audience engrossed with his

storytelling, though they did not

react as enthusiastically as he

might have wished to his pleas

for audience participation. The

five stories he narrated were of

a changing world seen through

the eyes of the 'Wise Old Man,

the Frontier Guide, the Father,

the Wino and the Fisherman

worried about environmental

degradation of his land 200

years after the White Man first

settled there and ousted him.

How many of these stories were

his own stories, asked a member

of the audience. And The Man

when I needed you?!"

lack of it — is another.

In brief

Industries has, The Man From Madras Musings learns, been exporting cycle rickshaws to Britain over the last 18 months. Now, says managing partner A James, they are planning to export the vehicle to Germany too. JRI started production in

facturing 10-15 cycle rickshaws every day in their factory. We have developed 18 models, they say. But the export models, for the owner to pedal his family around in an environmentfriendly manner, are the best.

**MADRAS MUSINGS** 

20 years later

## Emergency remembered

The Emergency of 1975 is one of with the deputy director of the Intelthe major events in the evolution of our polity on which an objective historical account is not yet available. There is no denying that a small percentage of civil servants enthusiastically co-operated in the implementation of the Emergency and became willing tools... Many of that group were subsequently rewarded and rose to the highest positions in their respective services... Some of the upright ones also moved up in their career ladders and got their just dues. Unfortunately, however, civil servants as a class are generally damned as collaborators during the Emergency.

I am recounting here my personal experience as the home secretary in Madras during the period March 1976 to July 1977. The impact of the

I visited the central jail in Madras and met the detainees who included the DMK MP., Mr Murasoli Maran, After listening to them I submitted a report to Mr P.K. Dave, and recommended that as political detainces they should get all facilities they would normally have in their daily life, including their

#### • by K. Subrahmanyam

Emergency in Madras was so minimal that while Mrs Gandhi lost all the northern states, she won hands down in Tamil Nadu because the negative aspects of the Emergency were not felt by the public. The same was true of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala. The only difference was the other three states had Congress ministries while Tamil Nadu was under

President's rule. In Tamil Nadu, political meetings were not prohibited during the Emergency if they were held in kalyana mandaparns since it was interpreted that they were not public meetings but private gatherings and, therefore, did not come under prohibitory orders so long as they were not publicised. Kalyana mandapams can accommodate more than 1,000 people. The DMK daily, Murasoli, continued to be published and an order by the information and broadcasting ministry to seize the press and close it down was returned by the state government as counter-productive. When I came to Delhi and returned it to the chief censor, Mr Harry D'Penha, he said: "What sad days are these! You and I were in the profession to inform and educate the people. Now we are asked to do this. I have to commend the

the chief censor of the Emergency. I took over as the home secretary when there were 11,000 detainees. When the adviser, Mr P.K. Dave. shifted me from my post as fourth member of the board of revenue to the post of home secretary as my predecessor had a cerebral stroke, he was personally aware of my strong anti-Emergency views and my friendship with Mr Krishna Kant who was one of the five Congressmen (along with Mr Chandra Shekhar, Mr Mohan Dharia and Mr Ram Dhan) who opposed the Emergency and were expelled from the Congress. Mr Dave empowered me to deal with law and order which was always the charge of the chief secretary in Madras and made me information secretary, in addition. Though we never discussed why he did it. I assumed that his aim was that the Emergency should be handled by a person who was not an enthusiastic supporter of it.

Taniil Nadu government for its bold

stand". This was the private view of

I set myself a quota of releasing 1,000 detainees per month and there was a committee presided over by me

ligence Bureau and deputy inspectorgeneral of police (Intelligence). In this case the former was Mr M.K. Narayanan who subsequently became director of IB and the latter was Mr Mohan Das who came into the limelight under the M.G. Ramachandran regime. There were no disagreements among the three and by the end of 1976 the number of detainees came down to less than Within a week of my taking over

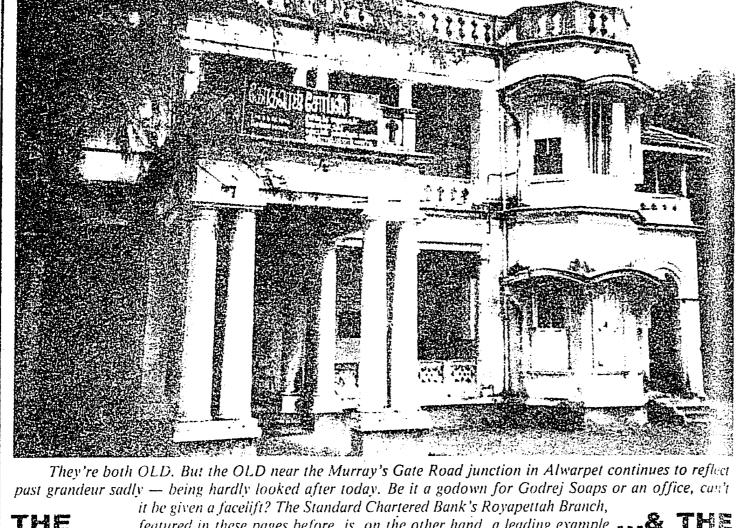
#### normal food. Mr Dave sanctioned all of them and only in the case of radios

he asked me to clear it with the home ministry in Delhi. The next time visited Delhi I had no difficulty in clearing it with the then joint secretary (political), Mr C.V. Narasimhan. The result of all this was a fierce attack on the home secretary of Madras

in the Lok Sabha by Mr O.V. Alagesan, a former Congress minister and M.P. from Tarnil Nadu, and a letter from the former chief minister. Mr Bhaktavatsalam, to the Prime Minister, demanding my removal as home secretary. Both these were referred to the Madras government. Though Mr Dave never mentioned it to me, he wrote a strong defence of my performance as home secretary. His successor subsequently showed me the file. The strange thing was though the IB was fully aware of the way the Ernergency was handled in Tamil Nadu, they were most cooperative. The person in charge of the southern states at the stage was Mr T.V. Rajeswar who was later maligned unjustly as a pro Emergency man. One of the amusing incidents was

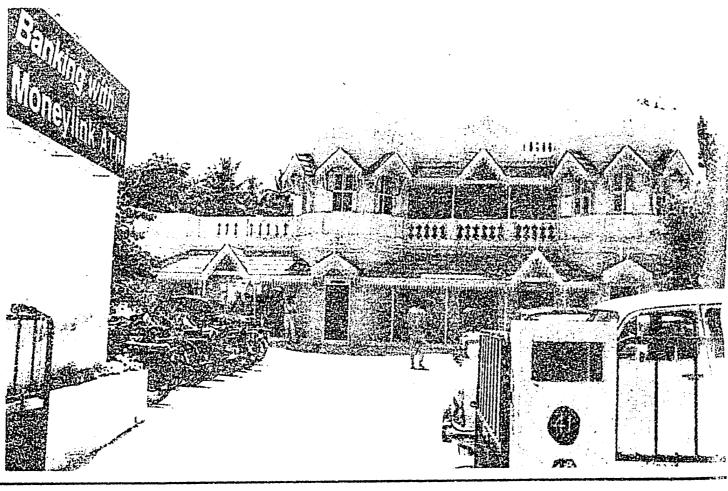
the case of Ms Srilatha Swaminathan daughter of Mr Govind Swaminathan, former advocate-general of Madras and a niece of Col Lakshmi Sahgal of the Ihansi Rani regiment of the INA. She was first detained in Delhi as a Leftist who organised agricultural labour and, then sent to Madras. She was not to move out of the city or engage in political activity and had to report to the police regularly. The inspector general of police, Madras, Mr E.L. Stracey, an upright and humane officer. had known her since her childhood At one time she came to us and said she wanted to go to Kerala to visit her grandmother, Mis Ammu Swaminathan, the veteran freedom-lighter She needed two sureties and she got them — the inspector-general of police and the home secretary.

Within the Civil Service in Madras there were fierce arguments about the Emergency. A few of us, including the then finance secretary, Mr S. Guhan, were of the view that it was a clear violation of the Constitution. But a majority of our colleagues, who agreed that the Emergency was unjustified, argued that once the Supreme Court had upheld the validity of the Emergency the civil servants had no choice. No doubt, the Supreme Court may



featured in these pages before, is, on the other hand, a leading example ....& The THE of how OLD could be made NEW. It's exterior gleams as it once must have OLD... done and its interior is smart, modern and new. Standard Chartered have

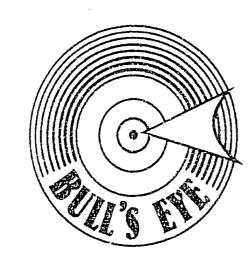
handled this property better than their main city office, which was once one of the city's grand old buildings It's been so changed around that this journal had once thought the old had been pulled down. But we were informed by a local architect that the old structure had been retained and changed both inside and out to be the unrecognisable (Photographs by V S RAGHAVAN) and undistinguished block it is today.



**B** uy cheap; sell dear — said Thomas Lodge in 1595. This is true even today vis-a-vis the stock markets. But this catchall phrase is not so easy to follow as otherwise we would be seeing the mushrooming of millionaires in every nook and cranny of the investing world. When other factors, such as timing, market sentiment, intrinsic value vs the perceived one etc, enter the picture, the entire subject becomes very complex and difficult to succeed in.

It is for such reasons that many people liken investment to gambling and cypics even rate the latter as having better prospects of success. But such a comparison is grossly unfair, as many people have proved time and time again. Such repeated success comes only with exercising the mind carefully and not through luck or coincidence. Though there are no generic formulae

have acted in a spineless manner but how could individual civil servants question the collective judgment of the Supreme Court? Therefore, the majoritv argued, while they would take no initiative to further the purposes of the Emergency they had to implement the orders given to them by lawful authority. This was an argument difficult to rebut. In the ultimate analysis, Parliament and the Supreme Court let the country down. (Courtesy: Times of for investing, there are some important criteria that, we feel, should form the bedrock of the basis of selecting shares. Let us examine some such criteria. It should be fairly obvious to anyone that more opportunities for large-



scale profit exist in low-priced scrips than in high-priced ones. More often than not, the latter have reached a plateau from where growth can only be measured in marginal steps. And more importantly, the extent of loss is also minimised as a ten per cent slide is more manageable in a share priced at Rs. 30 than in one at Rs. 300. Some experts rule out most of the cheaper companies, as they would have just come into existence. However, it should be considered that newer entities, enthused with the dynamism of their entreprenur-promoters, are better choices as vehicles of investment.

industries. Though pioneering contains risks, the opening up of an industry gives plenty of room for growth. But selecting such winners is not easy. How do you, for example, differentiale between two corporates when boil have the above factors? While one soars, the other's plans lie in tatters. So you have to pay attention to factor such as the company's focus not being diffused and whether it drifts away from its core competency, its having the necessary stamina to stay the distance and whether its balance sheet reflect a healthy and systematic growth. Build ing a good portfolio, therefore, require skill, proper evaluation and exhaustive research. Such efforts may seem pain staking. Believe me, it is. But it is also fruitful, and not only will your capital grow appreciably, but your returns will also be steady and spectacular.

Here are our choices for this fortnigh

S.I. Paper (CMP. Rs. 67.50): This manufacturer of kraft, writing and printing paper announced satisfactory results for the year ended March 1995. On the expanded equity of Rs. 3.75 cr, the company reporter an EPS of Rs. 8.80, which is now being discounted only 7.67 times. The buoyancy in paper prices, reduction in power cost due to co-generation facilities and the expanded capacity all spell a good future for the company. We estimate a turnover of Rs. 28 cr and a PAT of Rs. 4.50 cr for (Continued on P7)

Two from the City for Maths Olympiad returned with silver medals. "After shminaravanan and Sumankar

hankar, are part of the six-member dian team now participating in the 6th International Mathematics Nympiad in Canada (July 13-25th). oth came out with flying colours in ne final five selection exams conducted the National Board of Higher athematics, Department of Atomic ergy, at the IISc, Bangalore.

յսկ 16-31, 1995

July 16-31, 1995

Lakshminarayanan, a former student Padma Seshadri School, came first amongst the 45 who took the exams y scoring 146 marks and solving 14 roblems out of 20. Sumankar Shankar, a XII Std. Student at P.S. Senior Secondary School, came fourth, solving 12 problems. They attended the langalore finals after passing several malifying tests conducted at city and egional levels.

To prepare for the Olympiad, where they will answer two tests, both were practising hard solving the previous five years' question papers, when I met them. They were also working out problems in the books supplied by the organisers. But both were not sure as to the types of problems that would be asked in the Olympiad, as the syllabus — if at all there is one — is very vast. "We are expected to cover Number Theory, Geometry, Algebra, Combinatorics and functional Equations. There is every possibility for a person to score 100 in e first test and zero in the second," said Lakshminarayanan.

However, they are confident of performing well and cite the past performances of Indian students who

coming first at the national level, I am confident of winning a silver medal in the Olympiad," said Lakshminarayanan.

**not** influenced by any of their family members to take a serious interest in mathematics.

MADRAS MUSINGS

Sumankar's father P S Shankar, is a B.Tech and runs a business after

#### by Venkatachari Jagannathan

Speaking about the type of problems that were asked at the national level, Sumankar said, "They were entirely different from our textbook problems. You had to apply basic concepts and the main difficulty was finding the technique to attack the problems". To give an idea of the types of problems that the participant has to solve, Sumankumar mentioned these

a) Can you arrange the numbers, 0, 1, 2, ... 9 in a circle in such a way that the difference between any two adjacent numbers is 3, 4 or 5? b) There are nine boys — two wearing

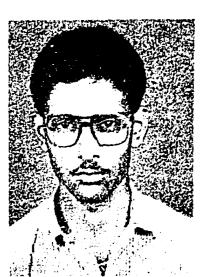
red shirts, three green and four blue shirts. If two boys with different colour shirts meet, both changed their shirts to a third colour. Is it possible that some such pairs meet and all the boys wear the same

"These were the simplest of the problems that we're asked at Bangalore," Sumankar added.

Apart from their interest in maths, the other similarities between Sumankar and Lakshminarayanan are that both are sons of engineers and they were

taking voluntary retirement when he was DGM, BHEL. Shanmathi. Sumankar's sister, a student of law, used to participate in intercollegiate quiz and debating competitions before entering the cine field as actress 'Kasturi'. Recalls his mother, "When Sumankar was a child, he used to work out sums even on the bathroom walls!" But no one else in the family was interested in maths - not even in that

On the other hand, Lakshminarayanan might have inherited his computing skills from his parents. His father, the late V. Subramaniam, M.Tech (Aeronautical Engineering), was a Scientific Officer in ISRO and his mother, Mangala, is a mathematics teacher in the Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan H.S. School. Remembers Mangala Subramaniam, "When Lakshminarayanan was in II or III standard, I asked him to add all the numbers from 1 to 9 and give me the sum. Within seconds he answered '45' and the method he adopted to solve the problem was to add the two extreme numbers one after another like 1 + 9, 2 + 8 and so on!"



Though both boys exhibited their

special skills early in life, it took some

time for their parents to come to terms

with their talent. But when they did.

the boys were encouraged with maths

puzzle books. Being a maths teacher

Sumankar Shankar

herself. Mrs Mangala use to challenge her son with problems to sharpen his skills. Now the boys face their biggest challenge ever.

Note: Answer to the problems: 'It is not possible'.

## **Tough Times.** Tougher Diesels... SIMPSONS **S433** Leading automobile manufact such as Mahindra & Mahindra have chosen JihrPSGNS 5 455 diesels as original egusprisent Features of \$433 diesels \* Direct injuction engine for improved the efficient. # Mechanical governor for efficient control of engine spend at different aud levels & Ower taxe of for driving typraulic pump and compressur ◆ Prefinished main bearings ◆ Lip seal on cranestiaft irrar end Water pump of improved design Simbler Hadid

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## The man who would be M.P., never was

(by G.C. SHEKHAR)

eerappa Gounder, also known as the "election king" of Tamil Nadu, died recently, leaving a vaccum in the country's electoral scene.

This small farmer from Acharapakkam probably had more expertise in filing nominations than sowing. He will be sorely missed by state election commissioners, leading politicians and scribes looking for the odd election story.

A man bitten by the election bug and the perks and publicity that go with it, Veerappa Gounder had contested the highest number of elections in the country and unfailingly lost his deposit in the process. He challenged heavyweights

like Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, MGR, V.P. Singh and Jayalalitha Jayaraman. When Indira Gandhi lost

from Rae Bareiuy after the Emergency, Gounder's name was on the ballot papers. He followed her all the way to Chikmagalur and then back to Rae Bareiuy in 1980.

He did not spare her son, Rajiv, either, standing against him in the Amethi byelection and against in the general elections in 1984.

Simultaneously, he ranged himself against MGR at Andipatti when the former chief minister contested from a New York hospital bed. Gounder, however, lost with flying colours.

When V.P. Singh fought the Allahabad by election to prove a point against Rajiv Gandhi, Gounder showed up there, to prove a point as well - that you cannot put down a doughty Independent.

The pleasure he derived from fighting elections made up for the sure knowledge that he would lose his deposit even in his home constituency. During the Allahabad bypoll,

the administration was determined to prevent the death of any Independent candidate which would have led to the election being countermanded. Each candidate was, therefore, given security cover.

Gounder, escorted by armed Uttar Pradesh policemen, took the next train to Madras. He flaunted them in his village and posed for photographs in Madras, as if the securitymen were some prized possession.

He never hid the fact that he was not a serious contender. He once told this correspondent, "I love the publicity that goes with elections, especially bypolls. All eyes are focussed on this big event".

Gounder never missed the opportunity to have photographs taken with VIPs and preserved most of the ballot papers that featured his name with theirs. And that is his only legacy for his grandchildren.

In 1984, the sitting AIADMK MLA, Ugam Chand, was denied a ticket. He fielded over 70 Independents to make life difficult for the Congress(I) nominee who had been given the seat. Leading the pack was Gounder who even floated a forum of Independents to protect their interests.

It did not bother Gounder that he was blowing away a small fortune every time he filed his papers with the help of some local voters. They demanded a price to propose and second him.

He claimed to have discovered a novel way of getting back his money. He would strike a bargain with an important contestant and opt to be his agent inside the centre. If the contestant agreed, Gounder would immediately present his statement of expenses.

The "election king", who died of diabetes at 54. had one regret: his inability to contest the Presidential elections. The dark balding man once said with a laugh, "No MP has the courage to propose my name". The ballot papers of the country will be relatively colourless hereafter. (Courtesy: The Telegraph, Calcutta.)

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## The fading dream

The Hindu Theological School was started in 1889 by Sivasankara Pandyaji, a member of the Gujarat Khedawal community. His ancestors had migrated to Thanjavur District and had made it their home. Pandyaii matriculated in 1868 and joined the B.A. Class in Presidency College, Madras. He had also passed some examinations in Law and settled down to a practice in Thanjavur. But his idealism prevented him from continuing in the legal profession. He came to Madras, became a teacher and taught in Pachaiyappa's School.

The Seventies of the last century was a crucial period in the intellectual history of South India. Many were carried away by the glamour of the West, its civilisation and its successes in various fields. This admiration resulted in many developing a contempt for things Indian.

This was also a time when Christian missionaries from various European countries were very active. Many missionaries devoted themselves to educational work and earned the gratitude of thousands of Indians. Others were converting Hindus to Christianity. Their usual method was to deprecate idol worship, decry the polytheism of Hinduism and skilfully express the superiority of Christianity. Young and impressionable minds were easily carried away by such rhetoric.

Pandyaji was greatly distressed by this trend and issued an appeal to his co-religionists in 1888. He was determined to start a full-fledged educational institution which, in addition to training students for public examinations, would impart knowledge of Hinduism, its essentials and its greatness. Pandyaji's original idea was that it should be a college, to be called The Hindu Theological College. But when this did not get off the ground, he started a high school in 1889 and named it The Hindu Theological School. Pandyaji was the first headmaster of the School, Professor of Hindu Theology and also the first President of the Managing

From the beginning, the school was popular. Before the end of the first academic year, a house was bought for the accommodation of the student. Further philanthropic assistance helped in new buildings being added.

The school today is situated at 375 Mint Street, in George Town, a busy commercial area. S Muruganandham, the school's Headmaster, is assisted by 35 teachers. The School's strength, however, is only 300 students and many classrooms are empty. Once there had been 3000 students in the school. The school is in a very crowded locality and has little scope to expand.

The school's special feature is the religious atmosphere that prevails every morning. Before classes begin, all students assemble in the hall on the first floor for prayer. All the important Hindu religious festivals are celebrated.

Among the distinguished visitors to the school have been Mahatma

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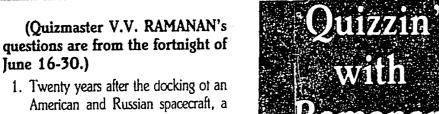
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Gandhi, the senior Sankaracharaya of Kamakoti Peetam and Swami Vivekananda.

The school is managed by the Hindu Theological School Committee.

> Photograph and text by RAIIND N CHRISTY



historic second docking took place on June 29th. Name the two craft involved. What is the quantum of aid that India's development partners pledged for fiscal 1995-96 at the meeting of the India

June 16-30.)

Which country's president escaped an assassination attempt in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on June 26th?

Development Forum in Paris?

- 4. Name the 'father' of polio vaccine, who passed away on June 23rd. 5. The world's most trafficked manmade
- waterway, linking the North and Baltic Seas, celebrated its centenary on June 20th, Which canal?
- After whom is the proposed. Rs 22,000 super-highway linking Madras and Amritsar to be named?
- 'The Peter-Pan of Pop Music' was recently knighted by the Queen for his services to 'charity'. Who?

The Hindu Theological School, George Town

# Ramanan

- 8. Where, near Madras, is the Rs. 20 crore centrally-aided National Institute for Multiple Handicapped proposed to be located?
- 9. Doordarshan's inaugural tie-up with an international news channel got off to a controversial start on June 30th, because of the maiden visual transmitted. Name the network and the
- 10. Where was the first State conference of the V: Gopalsami-led MDMK held? 11. 'The Sweater Girl', a pin-up of the Gls in World War II, died on June 29th.
- 12. Which powerful oil company gave up its plan to sink one of its abandoned twenty-storey oil platforms in the Atlantic Ocean, stopped by a hectic campaign by Greenpeace?

- 13. The 'U.N. Home Page' was launched on June 26th to coincide with the golden jubilee of the signing of the U.N. Charter. What is the 'U.N. Home la large hall like the Narada Gana
- 14. June 26th was observed worldwide presentation that is widely stretched,
- 15. Which film broke the record of Jurassic Park, by raking in nearly \$53.5 mesented a beautiful Abhinaya as million in the opening week of release? usual, but for us sitting at the back of
- 16. The tenth anniversary of which the hall she seemed static and sculpted. dastardly act, that claimed 329 people off the Irish coast, was observed on thins, yet Priya gave it the same treat-
- 17. Where was the latest summit of th seven (G-7) most industrialised nations
- 18. The first branch of the prestigious National Institute of Fashion Design is to come up at ...?
- the song and the voice more 19. Name the Madras-born person who has become the first Asian to be appointed the Chaplain to Queen Elizabeth. 20. Where is a 60-70 feet tall statue of

Adi Sankara to be installed?

(Answers on p. 8)

## Fair winds for T.N. energy

company whenever there is a need This provision makes a lot of sense, as most wind power is produced during the second half of the year, a high wind period when the power factor of windmills is good.

With wind farms being permitted to be connected to the State grid, the farms need not be set up close to the place where power is required. Although the TNEB earns a commission of 2 per cent of the energy generated, it is a very reasonable cut, considering the transmission and distribution losses that electricity boards usually incur.

With the kind of encouragement being given to the private sector by both the Central and State Governments. it should come as no surprise if the State is able to generate 2000 MW wind power (its estimated potential) in another five years - ten per cent of the country's potential. Districts with

with the Board and utilised by the and Periyar (Palakkad pass) — cost of every unit generated has almost and I congratulate him for it. In the 1200 MW; Tirunelveli-Kattabomman doubled in the last five years. and Chidambaranar (Shencottah pass) - 500 MW: and Kanniyakumari (Aralvoymozhi pass) – 300 MW.

Incentives apart, there is no denying the fact the wind power not only comes cheap but is non-polluting as well. With awareness of environmental pollution increasing all the time, wind power is a good way of reducing dependability on power from conventional sources which are not only costly but, in the case of thermal power, environment unfriendly.

Wind power generation, of course, depends on the vagaries of nature, and can be erratic. Wind speed depends on the location. Studies have shown that many companies operate on a low Plant Load Factor (PLF) — as low as 25-28 per cent in some cases. Although the MNES guidelines stipulate that state electricity boards purchase power from private companies at a

wind power potential are Coimbatore minimum rate of Rs. 2.25 per unit, the the classical Bharatha Natyam together

All this has not blunted the enthu- adassical music and dance, but had siasm. Indeed, a number of multi-monverted them into styles suitable for nationals are toying with the idea of thims. If film songs are to come into setting up wind farms in Tamil Nadu Sharatha Natyam, they must undergo in partnership with Indian firms. The iterasformation to suit the format of TNEB is also encouraging generation a stage presentation. from bagasse, biomass and municipal waste — all renewable energy sources in high point in the dance scene in which could add 250 MW is a few Madras and was extremely well years' time. Solar energy projects are greanised. also being encouraged - and the Kulasekharapattinam (Chidambaranan District) project to generate 100 MW from the ocean (a collaboration with a US firm -MM, 16.5.94) is near finalisation and may be operational b

The winds of change are certainly blowing in one of the most windy states in India. And in a State beset by power cuts, the problem may soon be one of plenty as Tamil Nadu gets the wind to blow in the right direction.

(Continued from P3)

contrast, the old houses forming part of the same skyline are still architecturally, aesthetically and functionally superior. They are gracefully and are even environmentally better adapted.

Promoters may argue that the frontage of Esplanade Mansion...is an example of egregious waste of valuable space, but such a provision precludes the use of artificial lights during the daytime in these buildings, and their high ceilings keep them cool even in the height of summer. If such old

structures have to be remade to meet present-day needs, keep their shell intact and rebuild the interiors using the original material, as was done in Paris when De Gaulle came to power. Bhadra, however, wouldn't give promoters as much leeway as even INTACH does. Paris was thus modernised though it looked as if it was frozen in time. The Elysee Palace is a shining example of such a process of reju-

...Calcutta, unlike other metros, has only Rai nostalgia to offer tourists and

this could be developed into an indus try. Tourists could literally be taken for walks down memory lane once ne life is breathed into old fabrics...

But before we become too amb tious, what we need first is to set a committee for conducting a cens of old buildings to help us pinpoint t ones which deserve to be preserved No such thing was done during the te centenary celebration, but we can do so now before it is too lat (Courtesy: The Sunday Telegraph)

with song & dance The Rhino effect

The imaginative Bharatha Vasan-

tham tribute in dance and music

the legendary singer M L Vasantha

Sumari featured songs sung by MLV

films and their interpretation in

haratha Natyam. Most of the leading

thools of Bharatha Natyam in Madras

gogramme failed to come alive for the

imple reason that Film and Stage are

Film's have the advantage of cor-

ecting, or cutting out, after a per-

ormance, unacceptable effects. They

so have the advantage of close-ups

hat can enlarge a glance or a twitch

of a lip. The stage, let's face it, is totally

Sabha's Sadguru Gnananda Hall needs

Privadarshini Govind may have

he music was fast, as it should be for

ent she would a slow padam with

aline being sung over and over again

reinforce ideas in different ways.

It was a treat to listen to the golden

emed to have the sensitivity to give

Special mention must be made of

ree little girls (students of Revathi

Ramachandran) who gave a very

chaste presentation and demonstrated

good ear for the music. They had

oreographed the dance themseives.

VAK Ranga Rao stood vindicated

The tribute to MLV was, however,

fadras Naturalists' Society)

Naturalists' Corner

Long-billed vultures prey on a carcass. (Photograph by P RAMANAN, courtesy

was a pleasure to watch them.

voice of MLV, but only Radhika Shurjit

audience oriented and is of the present.

wo different media.

ol one in close-ups.

nok part in the tribute, but, sadly, the

uly-August seems to have many things in store for the art lover in Madras. Apart from Anita Ratnam's Purush seminar and performances

Remembering MLV

#### The view from the wings by V.R. Devika

which will focus on choreographies for the male body in August, there are many other programmes being got

The Tamil avant garde theatre group Koothuppattarai, which will also take part in the Purush festival, is rehearsing a new play, Rhinoceros, in

Tamil. The author of Rhinoceros is Eugene Ionesco who, according to a note, provides a savage commentary on the absurdity of the human condition made tolerable by self-delusion. The play shows the struggle of the individual to maintain his integrity and identity alone in a world where others have succumbed to the beauty of brute force, natural energy and mindlessness.

In the play, a rhinoceros suddenly appears in a small town, trampling through its peaceful streets. Soon there are two, three, until the movement becomes universal. Finally, only one man remains who refuses to "move with the times". Rhinoceros has seen successful productions in France and Germany. The Tamil adaptation will be presented on July 21 and 22 in

## **Dates for Your Diary**

July: 'Artist of the Month': TOSHIKAZU KANAI of Yokohama, Japan. Held solo exhibitions and participated in group exhibitions in Tokyo, Japan. Came to India in 1993, Travelled all over South India and set up own studio near Madras. Tozhikazu says, "I see forms emerging from ruins: ruins are, I feel, a good metaphor for modern society". (Max Muller Bhavan)

ALGIS KEMEZYS: A professional photographer from Canada with credits both in journalism and in fine art photography. He presents here his 'Altered States', a very ambitious project that combines colour photography with hand-manipulated effects superimposed to create a dreamy hallucinatory quality on iconographic images. This portfolio began in 1984 on the eve of Chemobyl. (Max Muller Bhavan)

After a long summer The Gallery starts its season with Introductions... "a collection of affordable, buyable, collectable art by more than 40 artists". A new range of work. At The Gallery.

July 23: Handel Manuel Memorial Concert (An Evening of Sacred Music) with seven choirs of Madras: The Cathedral Men's Choir (Conductor: Benny Samuel), Madras Choristers (Conductor: Olga Frohlich), Madras Musical Association, (Conductor: S Grubb), Madras Philharmonic & Choral

Society (Conductor: Sharada Schaffter) Shamas (Conductor: Damayanti Santwan); St George's Cathedral Choir (Conductor: V Abraham); and Women's Christian College Choir (Conductor: Benny Samuel). String Ensemble: Madras Guitar and String Ensemble Guest Ensemble. Soloists (Vocal): Vijaya Thomas (Soprano); Vinodhini Moses (Alto); Kalyan Subramanyam (Tenor); Binny John (Bass) Conductor: Freia Wunderlich, (Offenburg, Germany). At MMB, 7 pm.

Till July 23: An exhibition of paintings by Ramalingam (Alliance Française Art Gallery, 9.00 am to 7.00 pm daily except Sundays).

August: 'Artist of the month': Radhika Vaidyanathan, Graduated from the National Institute of Design, Ahmadabad. Spent two and half years as research student in Tama Art University, Tokyo, Japan. Participated in group shows in Tokyo. Currently based in Madras (Max Muller Bhavan.)

## Criteria for success

Continued from P4)

1995-96 as against Rs. 24.29 cr and Rs. 3.29 cr respectively for 1994-95. The expected EPS of Rs. 12 is now discounted ust by 5.62 times, leaving ample scope for further appreciation. The share prices are at the lowest level now and appear to have little downside risk. Buying for medium-tolong-term can be considered at current levels.

Square D Software (CMP: Rs. 60): Despite a high equity base of Rs. 20.25 cr, the company has announced an EPS of Rs. 5.12 for the year ended March 1995 as against Rs. 0.86 for 1993-94. The company has a list of prestigious dients Shell: HFC of Chicago, OKI of Japan, AT&T-Istel, Cadam Pacific etc. It has agreements with automobile majors like BMW, Mercedes, Chrysler and Volkswagen to cater for their software requirements and Square D is now in the process of obtaining SEI (Software Engineering Institute) accreditation, the most reputable certification for software companies. The company is growing at over 40 per cent per annum and this is expected to continue in the near future also. The share is expected to quote around the Rs. 100 level by the time of 1995-96 results. Technicals indicate that the prices are currently moving upwards and have good support at the Rs. 50 level. Buy with a stop loss at Rs. 50.

K GOPALAKRISHNAN



Koothuppattarai actors (Photograph by MOHAN DAS V BADAGARA).

K riket, Prime Sports idea of an edited, abridged and spiced up version of cricket. has turned out to be no more than a colourful imitation of gilli-danda. Any so-called adaptation that tends to give Krish Srikkanth a batting average resembling that of a baseball player or reduces Ravi Shastri to a mere runner-outer of overenthusiastic part-time club cricketers is just not

Twentyfive years ago, I was one of a bunch of jobless youngsters who gathered every day to play a complicated form of tennis ball cricket on the rooftop of a South Madras residence. Our game was full of impediments to scoring, including a rule that stipulated dismissal if the batsman hit the offside parapet wall on the full - and the wall was only some 15 inches high. The legside was packed with fielders, all within handshaking distance of each other. To make the batman's life really miserable, he was also adjudged out if he played out a maiden over. Despite all these restrictions, one of our most feared batsmen, a left-hander by name Sivaramakrishnan, once scored over 300. The point is that it was possible for a batsman of skill to make a big score, if he applied his mind. In 'Kriket' it seems you have to be a genius to score three runs.

For all the apparent frenetic action, there is hardly anything happening. Srikkanth often gets out first ball, Shastri lasts hardly any longer and much of the action appears to be taking place beyond the camera. Harsha Bhogle screams hysterically like some old fashioned radio commentator at the Derby, but his excitement is so synthetic, his voice might well have been dubbed separately. Or is Prime Sports playing the same commentary every time? It is hard to tell. The programme has successfully

reduced one of one-day cricket's most

#### • V. Ramnarayan

exciting batsmen to a bit player. His only consolation seems to be that he has proved himself to be a better quizzer than his former opening partner. The only person who looks as if he is enjoying himself is compere Keith Stevenson and he is an actor:

Prime Sports would have done. better to attempt a miniaturised version of regular limited overs cricket with a soft ball, fast bowling on a pitch shortened to about 18 yards and perhaps six players a side. And batsmen with the technique to score off pace, including the current duo.

### **ANSWERS** TO QUIZ

1. The Mir space station and the Atlantis shuttle; 2. \$ 6.8 billion; 3. President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; 4. Dr. Jonas Salk; 5. The Kiel Canal; 6. Guru Gobind Singh; 7. Sir , Cliff Richard; 8. Muttukkadu; 9. Cable News Network (CNN), and a shot of cows ambling through the busy roadways of Bombay; 10. Tiruchi; 11. Lana Turner; 12. Shell; 13. It's a new service on the Internet, giving information and visuals about the United Nations; 14. World Anti-Drugs Day; 15. Batman Forever; 16. The bombing of Air-India's Kanishka; 17. Halifax, Canada; 18. Madrasl; 19. Rev. Ivor Gill Smith-Cameron; 20. At the Sri Chandrasekharendra Vishwa Mahavidyalaya in Enathur.

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# Football cries for national league

E Isewhere on this page there are references to the sad state of Tamil Nadu football. The truth of the matter is that football, the world's most popular game, is in a terrible state throughout the country. Today, even tiny neighbours like Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Qatar and Kuwait are in a position to beat Indian national football teams.

The Comer Flag's solution to resurrecting Indian football is the same as the answer being examined by Das Munshi and his committee of football pundits: a National Football League. But when is that committee going to report and when is a decision going to be taken? At the rate the Indian football

# A promise for cricket, none for football

A lmost the first thing A C Muthiah did after his unanimous re-election as the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association President was to tell pressmen that he planned to seek the advice of former Tamil Nadu stars, like Krish Srikkanth, to find ways and means to revitalise the cricket performances of the State team. Quite in contrast, C R Visswanathan, who was for the first time elected president of the Tamil Nadu Football Association and, thus, completed a unique double a week after he was reelected president of the Madras F.A., had nothing to say about Tamil Nadu football, though it is even more in need of a new look.

Stating that Tamil Nadu had enough talent, Muthiah emphasised that it was the TNCA's "duty to nurture it properly". And the Press came away with the impression that the TNCA DID intend to take the State's Ranji Trophy cricket endeavours more seriously.

While the TNCA elections and its plans received wide media coverage, the MFA and TFA elections got but meagre notice. This was mainly because the "double" president had nothing to tell pressmen, though Tamil Nadu soccer cries for reforms, for its standard has, frankly, hit rock-bottom.

The TFA's stock scaled the heights when it succeeded in persuading the Jayalalitha Government to have the antediluvian Nehru Stadium reconstructed into Asia's most modern and best-equipped football-cumathletics stadium. But the standard of football witnessed inside it is a mockery of Asian's best infrastructure! It is up to the powers-that-be to bring this to the notice of the Chief Minister whose government spent as much as Rs. 40 crore to put up the modern stadium. And she should insist on drastic steps to transform Tamil Nadu football.

JAICI

authorities are mulling this over, it will be a couple of years before the league is formed. But even then, what is the best type of league for India?

Scrap the national football championships, *The Corner Flag* suggests, and make the State teams professional

#### • THE CORNER FLAG

teams, each completely backed by one or more sponsors. The Tamil Nadu Terrors, by SPIC for instance; the Assam Planters, by tea interests; the Bengal Tigers, by ITC: the Bihar Steelers, by Tata's; and so on.

The teams could be divided into two divisions, I and II, a dozen to each, and play each other twice in the respective leagues. There'd be promotions and demotions in the divisions. And the leagues could be followed by a straightforward knock-out tournament, featuring all 24 teams for the Santosh Trophy.

The State associations would run the game at the grassroots level and organise as many state tournaments and interstate club tournaments as they want. But every State team for the national league - to be picked in the first year by the State association, paid for by the sponsor and to be recruited thereafter solely by the sponsor's scouts — will play **only** in the national league and knockout and for the national team if selected. About 25 to 35 games a year — and that's not too much for a true professional. To be chosen for a State, a player must have played for at least three consecutive years prior to selection in the State.

That's not too complicated a setup — and *The Corner Flag* offers it gratis to C.R. Visswanathan to take up with Das Munshi & Co.

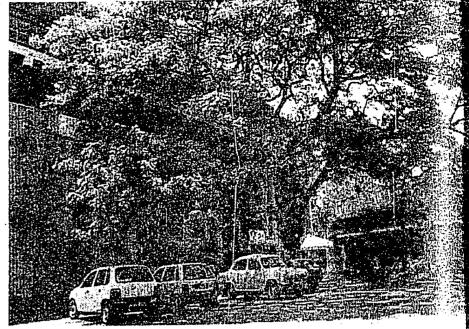
#### Rugged rugby

read any rugby football reports in a Madras paper, so it was a most pleasant surprise to find *The Hindu* devoting space to a few reports on the rugby World Cup from M S Prabhakara. Would that there had been more reports on the earlier games — especially on those of the Asia-Pacific teams like Japan, Tonga and Western Samoa — but, in the Indian context, rugger fans like *The Comer Flag* should be thankful for small mercies.

The final was a truly rugged match - and the South Africans played to one plan: **They shall not pass.** The result was that the New Zealanders were smothered by some of the fiercest tackling in the game, no one more so than the All Blacks young, tall and handsome Tongan, Jonah Lomu, arguably the finest player in the game today. The Corner Flag, however, wishes that . Prabhakara had pointed out that the only player who did any running with the ball - and who seemed dangerous every time he got into stride was Lomu. Only desperate tackling stopped him on at least four occasions - and those were four occasions more than anyone else on the field.

One other point worth noting was a consequence of this: The final was decided entirely on the kicking of two men, coincidentally the fly halves of both teams. Joe Stransky kicked that little better than the 21-year-old Andrew Mehrtens of New Zealand, but the kick of the match was Mehrtens' 48-yard penalty after he had missed with a 55-yard one. That was a kick worth recording, Prabhakara.

And to wrap this piece up, which few readers are likely to appreciate and is, therefore, a piece of sheer self-indulgence, it was nice to see that attempts at dropping goals are beginning to get into fashion again as an offensive weapon. In fact, South Africa's win was entirely based on Stransky kicking one more drop than Mehrtens while the young All Black missed two.



### Another endangered tree

For decades this tree has offered welcome shade in the gardens of the Madras Cricket Club. It still does, but the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association, which now is 'master' of ancient Chepauk and which has built the M A Chidambaram Stadium for once a year use, is finding it inconvenient. With a World Cup quarter-final scheduled to be played at Chepauk early next year and with the game to be a day-night one, the TNCA want to have permanent lighting ready in time for the match. The lighting contractors in their wisdom want one set of lights positioned exactly where this ancient tree is. And so the TNCA, which an environmentalist or two amongst its numbers, is planning to agree to the contractor's request. The MCC, which also has several environmentalists amongst its members, appears to be unhappy over these plans, but is powerless to stop them. All that we have to suggest is that the TNCA urge the contractor to use his ingenuity and find an **alternative** method of locating the lights at this spot rather than take the obvious route of cutting the tree down. The tree, we are inclined to think, is a more valuable contribution to society than lights used once or twice a year — even if it is only to provide YEAR-ROUND shade.

THE EDITOR

# Let's look at football, NOT hockey

The MRF Pace Foundation in Madras has done a fine job, and has vindicated the investment of tons of money in it. Now, at last, a welcome look is being taken at the other half of a cricketing attack. The MAC Sports Foundation, to be launched in the city in October, will help develop spin bowling, - an art India had begun to neglect. But the new Foundation is going one step further. It is also focussing on the development of another discipline, hockey.

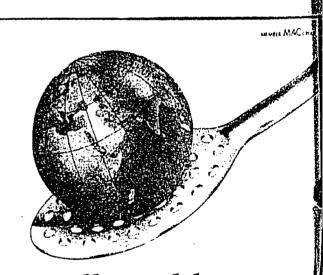
MAC, as every Indian sports fan knows, stands for M.A. Chidambaram, who, as president of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association, was mainly responsible for the TNCA's emergence as India's first cricket body to own its own stadium, the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium. He has now turned out to be a family trendsetter.

Unfortunately, the MAC family's latest contribution, the MAC Sports Foundation, has erred in its choice of "the country's most popular sports cricket and hockey". Considering its ever-growing number of academies and tournaments, cricket, which the British introduced in the subcontinent and which India would seem to have adopted as its national sport, has, perhaps, some claim to be named India's most popular discipline to judge by the interest during Test matches and One-Day Internationals when India plays. But, surely, football is the most participatory sport in India and the game that draws the biggest crowds year-round. Surely if popularity was to be the deciding factor, the MAC Foundation's first choice should have been football, a local league match of which draws bigger crowds than even a Ranji Trophy match in which Tamil Nadu figures.

Football, the world's most popular sport, is still the No. 1 discipline in Tamil Nadu though it has drawn a blank in the National Championship, But considering the emerging talent and the crowds the game still draws, no discipline in Madras is more in need of a transformation than football. The MAC Sports Foundation will do well to realise this before it gets going.

Hockey in Madras or in the rest of the country, despite the world titles it has given India, can never be rated above the ancient game of football.

AJAX



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