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MUSINGS

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The Bhavani and the Noyyal

Two threatening river systems

Two tributaries of the Kaveri in the Coimbatore and Periyar Districts of Tamil Nadu, the Bhavani and Noyyal, are under increasing assault from acidic, alkaline and metallic discharges from the textile and textile processing industries of Coimbatore and Tiruppur. The region, one of the fastest growing in the country, has recently been the scene of confrontations between polluters on the one side and the enforcement agencies on the other, with protesting farmers and environmentalists joining in the action.

Several new industries proposed to be set up in the vicinity of the Bhavani have been given a timely warning by the closure orders slapped on SIV industries — formerly South India Viscose — by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB). The rayon pulp unit of the company had been discharging highly acidic effluents into the river, allegedly violating a large number of pollution control parameters of the TNPCB, despite having its own effluent treatment plant. The company said to be planning to change over to a new process to reduce the toxic emissions in the water discharged by it. The company has also launched an effluent irrigation scheme, by which the treated water will be used for land irrigation instead of being discharged

back into the river. Seshasayee Paper and Boards Limited in Pallipalayam, Salem District, has achieved notable success with similar efforts.

In addition to the large industries, there are hundreds of small industries that contribute to the pollution of the river waters in the Periyar District. These polluters, who dump their wastes indiscriminately into the river, escape action because they are unorganised,

• by A Special
Correspondent

making detection that much more difficult. The Bhavani River system, which supplies drinking water to over two million people and irrigates more than two lakh acres, is now threatened by the prospect of many new yarn-dyeing houses being set up on its banks. These will add to the already alarming levels of pollution. Further, industrial water usage also cuts into the supply of drinking water and irrigation. This has caused much heartburn among the farming community which has consistently expressed its resentment. The agitation launched a few months ago against the proposed location of a textile processing house in the area has forced the slowing down of the pace of industrialisation here.

According to experts in water technology, industries and municipalities do not observe government-imposed norms, which require that industries drawing water from rivers relet into the river 80% of the water used, after proper effluent treatment. The problem is aggravated by indiscriminate and, often, illegal drawals of water by unauthorised lift irrigation schemes. Water is also diverted from the Bhavani River basin to other river basins. Dr R K Sivanappan, currently studying the problems of the Bhavani River basin, recommends involving farmers in day-to-day water management as a step towards a rational sharing of water resources.

The Bhavani River Water Protection Joint Council, a confederation of a number of environmental groups, wants penalties to be imposed on civic bodies which fail to take action against polluting industries and those responsible for the indiscriminate discharge of municipal wastes and sewage water into the Bhavani River.

Meanwhile, the textile dyeing units in nearby Tiruppur in the Noyyal River basin, continue to pollute the river with their highly toxic, acid-filled discharges. The Orathupallam dam across the river in Periyar District has been described as "a black chemical reservoir," so great is its discoloration by effluents. Some 600 yarn and hosiery processing units contribute to this pollution which has, among other things, resulted in the large-scale destruction of fish. Provision of safe drinking water also becomes a major problem, with water mains often passing over open sewers full of industrial effluents.

One way of reducing the perils of pollution caused by effluents is to use manufacturing technologies, processes and chemicals less likely to provide toxic waste, quite apart from effluent treatment. But the dictates of the market place in respect of product specifications which depend on certain manufacturing processes cannot be overlooked, argue some manufacturers. The use of better machines, methods and materials could also lead to an increase in the cost of production. In Tiruppur, for example, starch from kitchen wastes could replace chemicals, but that would increase the selling price. Can business considerations be transcended by all concerned to serve the larger interests of the community?

(Continued on P4)



Mrs Ashokam Eswaran with her son Dr. Lakshmanan, the Chief Coroner of Los Angeles and one of the stars of the O J Simpson trial, photographed in Madras a couple of weeks ago by V.S. RAGHAVAN.

OJ trial star on holiday in the City

(by R Jaisri)

When The Man From Madras Musings recently (MM, July 1) wondered whether one of the stars CNN had created during the course of the O J Simpson trial, the Los Angeles Chief Coroner, Dr Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, might not after all be from this part of the world, little did I dream I'd meet him in Madras a scant ten days later. But meet him I did after readers C.A. Reddi and K.V. Lakshminarayan informed us that he is indeed from the City, the grandson of that famed judge of yesteryears, A S P Ayyar, I.C.S., son of the late Brig. L S Eswaran (an army doctor) and nephew of former Foreign Secretary A P Venkateswaran. The family is from Kerala, but they made Madras their home decades ago.

Tracking his mother, the writer Ashokam Eswaran, down, I was startled to learn that Dr Lakshmanan had just arrived to spend a short holiday with her. But as the trial is still going on, he would not speak to Madras Musings; he has been forbidden by Judge Ito to speak to the press. All that I could get from him was a 'Hello' and a 'Bye'. But I could always speak to his mother, whom, as she herself put it with a laugh, "no one can stop from talking!"

Dr Lakshmanan did his medicine at Stanley Medical, where he narrowly missed the best outgoing student prize. After

his house surgeency, he left for the U.S. That was in 1972. There, in Los Angeles, he studied pathology and forensic medicine. When his wife Vijayalakshmi began higher studies in paediatrics, he joined her to study Internal Medicine, then Infectious Diseases, in New York. Shortly afterwards he joined the Los Angeles Coroner's office, where he now holds the top position, Chief Coroner. He was appointed, his mother tells you proudly, after a "nationwide search" for the right candidate.

Dr Lakshmanan is the youngest person to hold the office of Chief Coroner in the LA office. The office processes about 19,000 deaths every year and that includes 7,000 autopsies. However, for Dr Lakshmanan, this is the most sensational trial he's been involved in since he joined the department. As is well known, former sportshero O J Simpson has been accused of killing his ex-wife and her friend Goldman. 'O J' has pleaded innocent, but the prosecution is making all-out efforts to prove otherwise.

This is where Dr Lakshmanan's role is crucial. In the initial stages, when he appeared in court, what he said did not get as much attention as the dismissal of jurors and controversies relating to their conduct. But his statements did not go totally unnoticed either. Especially

(Continued on P6)



WALK IN. BIKE OUT.

90, G.N. Chetty Road, T.Nagar,
Madras - 600 017, Ph : 8280942AB-11, 2nd Avenue, Anna Nagar,
Madras - 600 040, Ph : 5254647

Wooing the Yankee dollar!

Ford's still can't make up their minds about whether to set up shop in Madras, Pune or the Rajasthan desert. As *The Man From Madras Musings* pecks out these lines, a fourth Ford delegation is visiting the city to check out whether it'll suit Ford's — or, rather, the Ford men and women, an elite if ever there was.

MMM would have thought what was important was the fact that Madras has a port, the country's largest automobile ancillaries' industry, a pool of trained skilled labour and educated lower grade personnel besides a technical pool which comes of the same stock that constitutes the largest percentage of Indian talent in the United States, communication facilities comparable with the best in India and a rather laidback and comfortable lifestyle for foreigners in a city which offers more cultural and sporting attractions and more spaciousness and graciousness than any other city in the country. But apparently all that's not enough to assess whether Madras is superior to Pune or a Rajasthan desert site. So, the Ford men and women — and their Yankee dollar — are being wooed in curious fashion by Madras.

The Man From Madras Musings doesn't quite know who's been organising the wooing and the inspecting, whether it's been the American Consulate-General's office or the Tamil Nadu Government or Mahindra's (the other half of the joint venture) or a public relations organisation, but at times it's all struck MMM as being something like a circus. There have been parties at the Madras Club, no doubt to demonstrate the rather special atmosphere that awaits the temporary-members-to-be. There have been visits to the best hospitals and dental clinics in the 'Medical

Capital of the Country', no doubt in the drain inspector's spirit. And there's been at least one tamasha that must have taken a page out of small town America turning out for Ford's when the brass band would blare, the drum-majors and -majorettes would strut and the cheerleaders would leap in welcome.

Madras doesn't have brassbands or pretty drum-majorettes or cheer-leaders, but it did the next best thing when the Ford No. 2 man and his lady, both South Africans, turned up on the third inspection. It provided them temple honours, courtesy Nalli Kuppuswamy Chetty! They were led in delegation, with an accompanying army of 'interpreters' to explain the proceedings, into the Kapaleeswarar temple, greeted with aarati and other gestures five-star hotels have made VIPs familiar with, and then welcomed and blessed, with trunk pressed on head, by the temple elephant on its best behaviour. Led around the temple by elephant, *nadaswam* players and sundry local VIPs, the rather bewildered Ford couple admitted they'd never had quite such an experience before. To complete the proceedings, a profusion of silk shawls were draped around the shoulders of not only Ford's best but anyone else around who looked as though they might be from Ford's homeland — all courtesy of an extremely generous Nalli Kuppuswamy Chetty who really laid it on thick.

So if Ford's do indeed turn up to sink roots in Madras, you'll now know how it was accomplished — by taking a page out of the small-town America book and offering *nadaswaram* instead of brassbands, elephants instead of drum-majorettes and the blessings of the Lord and His Consort instead of a Bible Belt Preacher's Oratory. Welcome, Ford's, MMM is looking forward to meeting you and seeing how you run this town; there's a lot here you could help with.

Still waiting

Ever since the Sri Lankan Army went on the offensive, there have been a host of processions wending their way towards the Sri Lankan Deputy High Commission on Nawab Habibullah Avenue in Nungambakkam. And Deputy High Commissioner Gautamadasa has welcomed several delegations that headed these processions. Unfortunately, *The Man From Madras Musings* hears, he couldn't exchange anything

more than the most perfunctory courtesies with these leaders because local protocol has still not been completed.

Chief Minister Jayalalitha, who has welcomed American Ambassador Wisner, American delegations and several other foreign ambassadors in the last few months, has not found the time to meet the Sri Lanka High Commissioner or his Deputy in Madras. Undoubtedly the Chief Minister is conveying some kind of message in not meeting Gautamadasa in the three months he's been in the city, but is that message that the Sri Lanka team might not be welcome for the SAF Games at the end of the year or something similar? MMM hopes not; in fact, MMM feels it might be a splendid gesture for the Chief Minister to invite President Chandrika Kumaratunga for the Games and take the opportunity to have a woman-to-

proved tremendously, but Immigration continues to take its time and is one of the prime reasons for congestion in the Arrivals area. In the Departures area, visitors from the lounge and there's little seating space for them or those whom they have come to see off. Adding to the inconvenience nowadays are those who've decided to use any vacant space as a bedroom and stretch out. The toilets are filthy and the steps leading up to the 'luxury' restaurant are a disgrace. Outside the building, the entrance area is shabby, crowded and a parking place for touts of every description with nary a security man in sight.

On MMM's last visit to the airport a couple of weeks ago, a group of us decided to while away our time in the 'luxury' restaurant despite the uninviting staircase leading up to it. The decor seemed inviting and the

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

woman talk with her on how peace could be brought to the island. Now that would be a coup to crow about!

Meanwhile, *The Man From Madras Musings*' notes with regret that, as a consequence of the fall-out of the tragic war in the island's northeast, several problems affecting those living on both sides of the Palk Strait have cropped up in the past few months. The age-old Tuticorin-Colombo sea trade has ground to a halt and thousands have been affected in the Tuticorin area, Sri Lanka students are having problems gaining admission to Madras colleges, the Rameswaram fishermen have their own cup of woe as they cast their nets in troubled waters and the traditional rights of Indian fishermen to stop over at Kachativu and fish in the island's waters need to be restored. These are problems that the Chief Minister and the DHC could profitably exchange thoughts on if they ever get around to meeting. And if they strike an equation similar to the excellent one Gautamadasa had with MGR, in the past, perhaps the Sri Lanka Deputy High Commission might even get that little bit of land it's been dreaming about for years, on which to put up its own building.

Back home MMM returned at 7.30, after having explored the byways of several parts of T' Nagar, Nandanam and Saidapet, but without ever reaching the meeting's venue. There was just no crossing Mount Road, thanks to the Arjun Singh procession and the consequent traffic snarls it had caused. MMM hopes that whoever met, at what must have been a people-short EIC discussion, put as high priority on their agenda for the future a call for banning all processions in the city. This one, however, had a silver lining, MMM was pleased to note. And that was the neighbourhood boys in several localities attempting, with some success, to bring some order out of the chaos by signalling, diverting and generally organising a smoother flow of traffic. While these young men manfully struggled in the backroads, there was not a sign of those whose job it was to control traffic.

★ *The Man From Madras Musings* notes that the American Library plans to work a five-day week, with longer hours, 10.00 a.m. to 7 p.m. That's working hours for many who use the library, not all of whom are students who have variable free time during a week. When the Library used to keep open on Saturdays, it helped many a working person. Now they lose

that opportunity. MMM wonders whether the American Library will reconsider its decision. ★ An urban mapping project to provide planning help for the fastest growing towns in the country has been launched by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment. Among the 25 towns taken up in the first phase of the project are five from Tamil Nadu. They are, *The Man From Madras Musings* learns, Karaikudi, Nagapattinam, Rajapalayam, Tindivanam and Tiruchendur. ★ At 12, Bangalore's Maya Chandrasekharan had published her first novel, *Janaki's First Term*. Writers' Workshop, Calcutta, were the publishers, but most of their titles are author-financed. Now, a 15-year-old Maya has had her *Priscilla Rebels* published by Rupa and she is contracted to write four more children's books for them along the Mallory Towers-Chalet School series lines. Maya's chance in the world of big-time Indian publishing came, *The Man From Madras Musings* learns, when she accidentally bumped into the Padmanabhs of Affiliated East-West Press, Madras, at Landmark. AEW are the southern distributors of Rupa-Harper-Collins titles — and Maya's lucky break followed that unexpected meeting with the distributors of one of the biggest publishers in India. Obviously writers have to be at the right place at the right time to be successful.

Business briefs
★ Tower Air of New York, who offer the cheapest flights from Bombay and Delhi to New York, are now planning a Madras-Bombay-Amsterdam-New York flight from September. The fare will be Rs. 29,000 one way. Getting ready for the New York flight, Tower Air familiarised themselves with Madras by operating 14 flights during the Haj from Madras to West Asia. ★ Coimbatore, which came on the air cargo map of India last month, will, *The Man From Madras Musings* learns, become an international airport before the year is out. Indian Airlines is planning a Coimbatore-Dubai-Coimbatore flight from November. By that time, Air India Cargo may be eyeing the cargo potential of the Coimbatore, Salem, Tiruppur and Palakkad region if the Indian Airlines cargo operations prove successful and demand larger aircraft. At present, Indian Airlines lifts two tonnes of cargo a flight, three times a week to Madras and Bombay. If the volume increases and larger aircraft are needed, Coimbatore will need to have its runway extended.

★ PepsiCo is strengthening its presence in Madras by investing further to expand the joint venture it has with Indian Organic Chemicals. The Manali facility, Futura Polymers, was producing 20,000 tonnes of PET chips a year for beverage bottle use by PepsiCo worldwide. Now it will produce 27,000 tonnes. *The Man From Madras Musings* learns the extra line will involve an additional cost of Rs. 25 crore, which PepsiCo will invest, thus hiking its equity from 52 per cent to 70 per cent. IOC's equity may come down, but it will continue to look after technology and manufacturing services. MMM

restaurant proved one of the cleaner places in the airport. But the Taj should hang its head in shame; there was virtually nothing listed on the menu available, not even ice cream. And as for service, there was just one waiter! I'll scream, is what MMM felt like. Internationally, the restaurants in airports are amongst the most inviting places in them and all are well stocked with food and drink, because those are the places waiting passengers and their friends choose to spend an enjoyable time in. Not in Madras.

In brief

★ When the Exnora Innovators Club announced a discussion on 'Innovation for Madras', *The Man From Madras Musings* was determined to make it. And so, at 5.30 pm on the appointed day, he set out for the meeting being held a ten minutes drive away. Back home MMM returned at 7.30, after having explored the byways of several parts of T' Nagar, Nandanam and Saidapet, but without ever reaching the meeting's venue. There was just no crossing Mount Road, thanks to the Arjun Singh procession and the consequent traffic snarls it had caused. MMM hopes that whoever met, at what must have been a people-short EIC discussion, put as high priority on their agenda for the future a call for banning all processions in the city. This one, however, had a silver lining, MMM was pleased to note. And that was the neighbourhood boys in several localities attempting, with some success, to bring some order out of the chaos by signalling, diverting and generally organising a smoother flow of traffic. While these young men manfully struggled in the backroads, there was not a sign of those whose job it was to control traffic.

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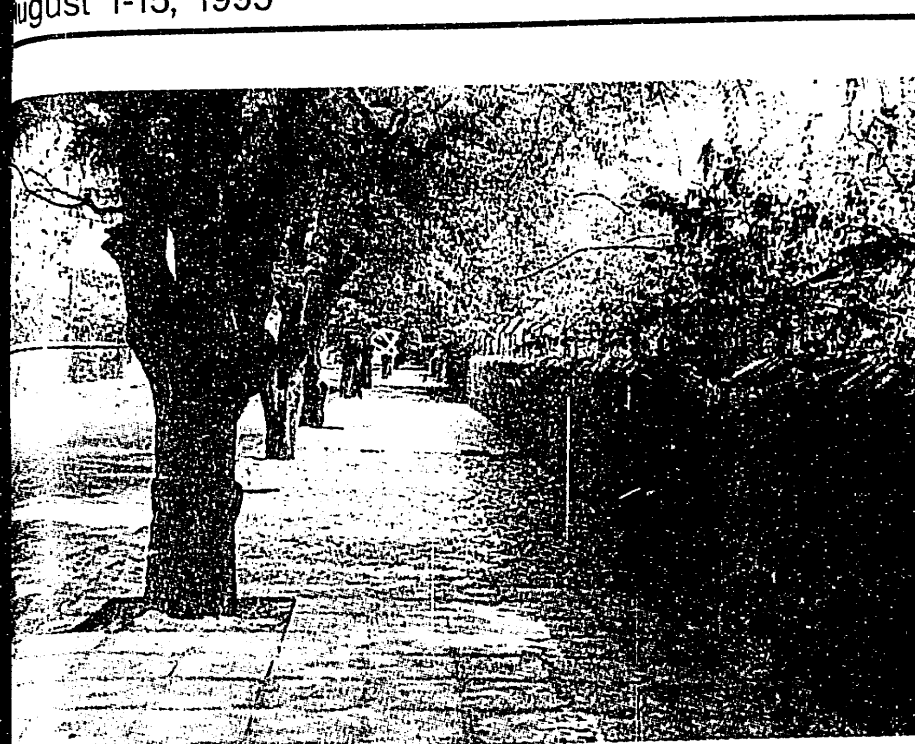
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Pavements are coming back into fashion again in Madras. And the Madras Corporation is on a busy binge laying them with pre-moulded concrete blocks that are an open invitation to theft. This Besant Nagar stretch photographed by V.S. RAGHAVAN must be one of the broadest pavements in all Madras and one of the most treeshaded ones. But is 'strangling' trees with surrounding concrete blocks advisable. wenders reader B. GAUTHAM below!

Focus on trees

I hope MM grows and its effect, influence and impact to make Madras a better city so grows.

There seems to be a story bias in the magazine on buildings, particularly preserving heritage buildings. The importance of the subject notwithstanding, may be the blame is getting a little tired and worn out. The limit was probably reached when there was a write-up on the compound walls of various institutions along the Marina, now it was all of the same type at one time, now it has changed and how it needs to be restored to the original.

From an aesthetic point of view, it will mainly look nice, but do you really see this happening? Why not focus on something that stands a chance of being accomplished?

There is a traffic island at Beach Road-Besant Road intersection (with a statue of a person — don't ask me who) that is big it qualifies as a mini-park. This was a neglected area, overgrown with weeds, veritable eyecore.

The Corporation is presently sprucing up the place. The entire traffic island has been dug up, a lawn I suppose will be laid, new fencing is being put up and I am sure we will have a neat little pretty spot, a pleasure to look at.

Now, this is something MM could have highlighted (rather than the compound wall), but didn't. The traffic island is after all on the Marina! So shall we say it's one up for the Corporation, that they don't need modelling from MM to do something commendable. Besides, it's nice to know that traffic island having a statue of an unknown person (unlike Periyar, Thiruvalluvar — you know what I mean) is getting a delight.

Now, I come to the purpose of my letter. I suggest MM shift its focus a little from buildings to trees.

As the city grows and old buildings give way to apartment and office complexes, many trees are destroyed. The concept of 'green' is on its way to obsolescence. Mercifully, in many places, the trees along the periphery are left intact. However, the entire area is paved with cement and when look at the trees, I am reminded of the phrase 'hermetically-sealed' and 'air-tight'. The masons have done such a perfect job that not a square inch of soil is left around a tree. Is this not harmful for the tree? Will such trees survive? Recently, I read an interview given by Surjit K Choudhary, Corporation Commissioner. Speaking on the need to preserve trees endangered by road-widening, he states 'seepage of water is necessary for their survival... A prefabricated grill can be placed over the area around the tree. People can walk over the grill, the tree will get water and there will be no ditch around the tree into which pedestrians could fall!'

MM should start a tree planting campaign. In many apartment complexes the front portion facing the road is completely paved. Why not plant avenue trees in this area?

How many trees are there in Madras? If you were to go up a multistoreyed building and look around, you will be amazed at the greenery and the number of trees. Our city has far more trees than can be imagined. However, appearances can be deceptive. In my house there is a mango tree and in the neighbouring house there is a jackfruit tree (no construction activity in either house).

OUR READERS WRITE

Years ago, in summer, the mango tree used to be full of fruit. A contract would be given out and a person would pluck all the mangoes and take away a few sacks full. Today, the tree, although to all appearances the same, yields just 25-50 fruits a season. The neighbouring jackfruit tree is sporting less and less green leaves and more and more brown leaves. How many trees (affected or unaffected by construction) are dying a slow death. I wonder.

B Gautham
122 Wallajah Road
Madras 600 002

EDITORS NOTE: 1) That statue is not of an unknown; it's Annie Besant, isn't it? 2) As for MM and trees, did reader Gautham see MM May 16 Page 1 and MM July 16 Page 8? We'd be glad to hear from him on those stories.

Indifferent to accuracy

Here are a couple of howlers that only show how indifferent to accuracy our newspapers are becoming:

1) *The Hindu (Bangalore Edition)* July 9, 1995 Page 1:
Heading on news item: Probe ordered into Pillai's death
Column 3: "... then running high lever — 105 degrees Celsius"
Next para: "Later at 1 p.m. his temperature dropped to 99.8 degrees Celsius and he even had his normal lunch."

(Emphases mine)
The Celsius temperature scale was developed by Anders Celsius, the Swedish astronomer, in 1742. According to this scale, the Freezing Point of water is 0 degree and the Boiling Point 100 degrees. Actually, he marked the Boiling Point of water at 0 degree and Freezing Point at 100 degrees. This scale was inverted eight years later by his student Martin Stromer.

That there was no slip in *The Hindu* report is confirmed by the fact that the Staff Reporter has used the term Celsius in two succeeding paragraphs: 103 Degrees Celsius is equivalent to 217.4 degrees Fahrenheit. No further comment is needed!!!

2) *The Hindu (Bangalore Edition)* June 30, 1995, Page 1:
Heading of News Item: Seshan leaves for US on 'private visit'
Datedlined New Delhi, 29 June:
Paragraph 2: "In his office order, issued on July 26 and ..."
(Emphases mine)
No comment is required!

K Ramamurthy
Flat D, 1 Vars Residency
Bhuvaneshwari Nagar
C V Raman Nagar PO
Bangalore 560 095

Vision Cooum 2000

Can you visualise the Cooum with water — salt water — flowing in it; a Cooum with boats and ferries plying its waters; a Cooum with sewage water and effluents no longer flowing into it; a Cooum with its banks bereft of hutments and cattle?!

This is possible, provided urgent action is taken to establish a Cooum Development Authority with a person of high integrity and administrative ability at its head and some initial resources to get the scheme started.

At the instance of the Corporation, Asst. Prof J S Mani of IIT had carried out a study in August 1993 and had worked out a project, whereby it was proposed to bury pipelines below the level of the Cooum-bed and connect the sea to the Cooum. The length of pipe on the Cooum side was to be about 225 metres and the length into the sea about 165 metres, taking into consideration possible seabed profile variations. The estimated cost of con-

necting the sea to the Cooum was put at about Rs. 2 crore. For such a plan to be successful, it would be necessary to define the extent of the Cooum, right from its sea mouth to, say, Naduvankarai, and the entire area should come under the Cooum Development Authority.

In addition to connecting the sea to the Cooum, much dredging would be necessary and a good amount of land would be reclaimed in the process. Taking into consideration the fact that the width of the waterway would not exceed 150 m and the present width of the Cooum, particularly off the Spur Tank, would be anything upto, say, 600 m, the considerable amount of reclaimed land made available to the Cooum Development Corporation would enable the whole project to be self-financing.

It may not be possible to take up all the work at one go, but it could be done in stages: with separate reaches

from the sea to Chintadripet Bridge; Chintadripet Bridge to Pantheon Road Bridge; Pantheon Bridge to Choolai; and, finally, from Choolai to Naduvankarai, each of these stages to be completed in a year in a time-bound project. Thus, all work could be completed by 2000, if started in 1996.

Such work would include, besides removal of huts and cattle from the banks, rehabilitation of the four existing water treatment plants at Nesapakkam, Koyambedu, Perungudi and Kodungaiyur so that sewage water does not enter into the Cooum. Further, the flow of effluents from industries located on the banks of the Cooum would be stopped.

Much benefits are likely to accrue from such a plan, such as land being available to settle, with adequate sanitary facilities, the poorer sections of society, while at the same time developing water transport to relieve congestion on the City's roads.

Lionel Jesudason
Commodore, I.N. (Retd.)

New life for an old market

(by Renu Agal)

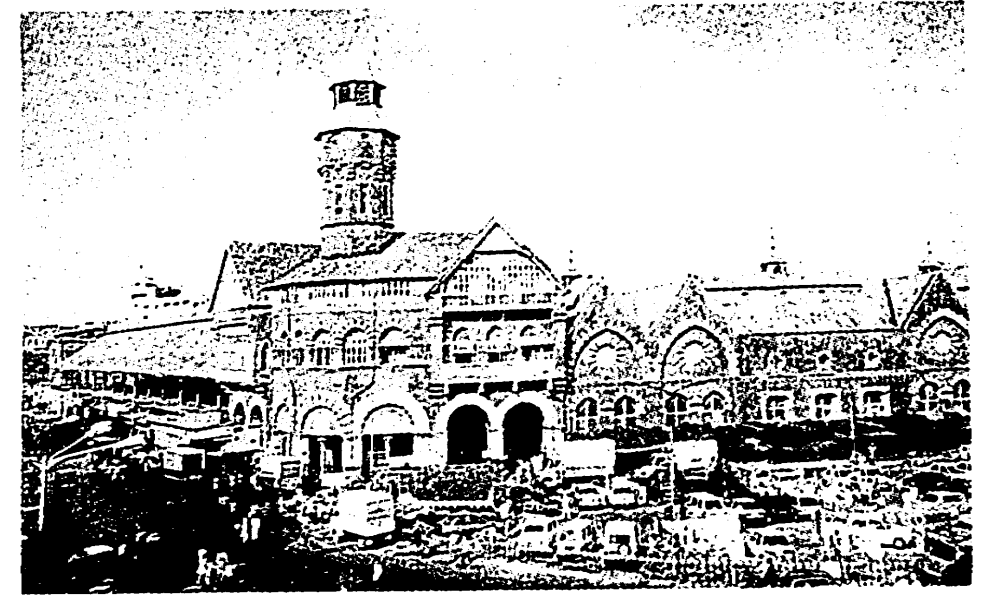
Bombay's Crawford Market is slated for redevelopment, aimed at restoring it to its original glory.

The Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Market, as it is now known, is going to benefit from the new socially correct attitude in Bombay. The refurbishing of Victoria Terminus and Rajabai Tower has drawn people's attention to Crawford Market ... (and) the Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay organised an Urban Design Open Competition for its re-construction and development.

Located in the heart of Bombay and covering an area of about 2.25 hectares, the complex's main building has been listed in the Grade I category in the heritage list of Bombay ... Today, the market has both wholesale and retail outlets selling fruits, vegetables and fish, as well as consumer items like toys, trunks, leather goods and footwear.

Over the years, the original edifice of the market complex has been eaten into by the haphazard growth of wholesale and retail outlets, as well as shopping, commercial, storage and transport activities. Today, Crawford Market thrives amidst the noise and smoke of hundreds of trucks coming from across the country to cross Greater Bombay from north to south and reach here. To add to the chaos, around 600 mango-laden trucks come in every day to unload their wares during the peak season.

The basic idea of the competition was to retain the heritage building while restoring its original ambience. The intention was to obtain urban design concepts for conservation and redevelopment of the market, to guide the development in harmony with the architectural character of the market and regain the lost urban space within the precinct, to develop the built-form to accommodate new functions, to improve the traffic conditions in and around the market and to make recommendations which would help improve the urban environment. It definitely was a job which needed someone who had a feel for the place,



Crawford Market, Bombay: due for restoration and integration with the new.

a bond, a sentimental attachment. Says Roopak Kothari of Kothari and Associates, who bagged the first prize in the competition, "We have a long association with Bombay. My father studied in the JJ School of Art and in the 40s moved to Delhi. This attachment helped us". The concern for Bombay's glorious past and to restore as much as they could of it was the guiding force.

Another prime concern was to recreate the ambience. "The idea was to bring back to shape what we think

The focal point was and should be the central courtyard with a fountain, he feels, and so efforts will be made to remove all outlets cramping the area and clear the spaces around it. Built like an English country market, Crawford Market had structures facing the three main roads with the central courtyard sporting a decorative fountain as a focal point. Designed by William Emerson, a renowned mid-Victorian architect, and named after Sir Arthur Crawford, it was completed in 1867. The market's architecture is marked by its beautiful ornamental designs which tried to preserve the local arts and crafts tradition. Sir John Lockwood Kipling, who founded the Bombay School of Art, adapted to Emerson's architecture and created fine bas-relief carvings above the main entrance depicting the Imperial ideal — strong-limbed Indian peasants thriving under a beneficial imperial sun.

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

Emerson's design is considered an architectural experiment in which he tried to implement both his stylistic loyalties and adapt to the functional and climatic conditions of the country he was residing in ... To contend with the extreme temperatures and heavy monsoon rains of India, Emerson equipped the building with thick walls and high rooms to obtain lofty and large windows and verandahs shaded by overhanging eaves. But one thing Emerson could not have envisaged; the kind of population pressure and attendant problems the building would have to face. (Continued on P5)

MADRAS MUSINGS

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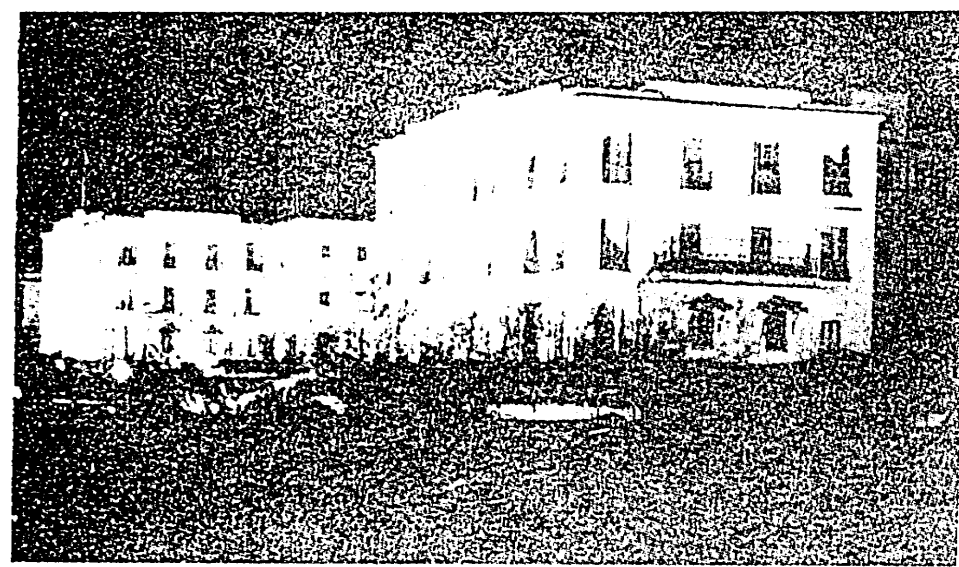
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Queen Mary's College all lit up in 1958. Shortly before World War II brought the blackout.

Wartime memories of QMC

Right now, the world is commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II. For those of us who were just past our teens in the War years, nostalgic memories of the time are being stirred.

Women students of Presidency College, and I was one, were, at that time, housed in Queen Mary's College Hostel. Q.M.C. is still there, only it is now known as 'Rani Mary Kaloori'.

Being so strategically placed, on the Marina, we felt the impact of the War more. Today, we have many more sophisticated weapons, but would you believe it, the Marina was in those days lined with anti-aircraft guns made of coconut palm trunks painted black and placed in a slanting position!

Complete blackout was observed in the premises of Q.M.C. with the result that you could hardly discern the building after dark. All windowpanes were pasted over with black paper and the lights were shaded in blue. 'Lights out' was at 10 p.m. sharp, but those of us due to appear for final exams felt the need to study and made an attempt to do so by the passage lights. We would be armed with flasks of coffee to keep us awake, but it was never a long vigil, because all of a sudden we would hear the stomping sounds of Principal Myers' footsteps. She made

the noise purposely to allow us enough time to escape into our rooms or hide.

Trenches were dug in the college grounds behind the College building. We had mock air-raid practices! The Principal would sound the gong, which made such a racket, and all of us had to scramble out of bed, dive into the trenches and remain there till the 'all clear' was sounded. Each block had one of the senior students as an A.R.P. (Air Raid Precaution) warden and she alone would be armed with a torch.

Ours was the last batch of Presidency College students who were allowed to stay in the Q.M.C. Hostel, for the Management felt that, after the Quit India Movement, all the unrest among the undergraduates in Q.M.C. was caused by Presidites.

During the 'Quit India' days, cutting classes and going to the Chief Presidency Magistrate's court to shout 'Inquilab Zindabad', thus lending moral support to friends who were brave enough to court arrest, was part of the scenario for students of both Presidency College and Q.M.C. I still admire the way Miss Myers, an Englishwoman, handled the situation. Students held no rancour against her.

What a difference from today!

Anna-Varki

No formula for success? Can we get them back?

Regular readers of this column would have, by now, come to understand much of our arguments for investment being a well-reasoned thought process and the necessity for a scientific appraisal of shares. But while we have been saying that investment is as much a science as, say, physics or chemistry, we would like to remind one and all that generic rules may apply to trading but not to investing.

Basing a strategy on general maxims, such as "Sell when you double your money", "Sell after one year" or "Cut your losses by selling when the price falls by ten per cent," is sheer folly. It is simply impossible to find such a generic formula that can be sensibly applied to all the different kinds of stocks. A fast grower, for example, could give you manifold profits. So, once you have confirmed your identification of this kind of a fast grower, you must stay with the scrip, until the entire growth has been completed.

However, you can follow some rules of thumb, such as:

New companies that are spun off by existing companies have great potential for profits. To begin with, these companies have the advantage of strong management, with business experience, and immediate, well-established access routes to the market. These spinoffs also have a strong balance sheet and are, fortunately, well-prepared to succeed as independent entities.

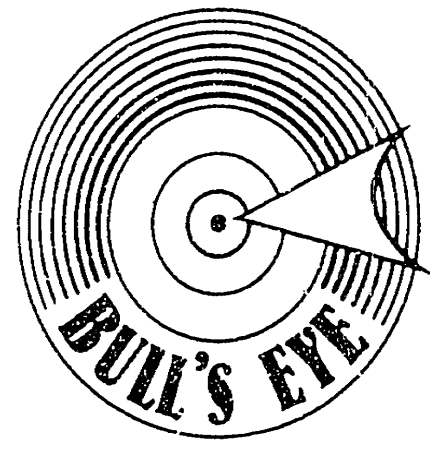
Avoid shares that have plans for the dilution of the company's capital, i.e. plans for adding more shares to its capital. Such additional capital can be required for various reasons that are largely unrelated to growth. Plans such as, say, for example, to stave off a financial crisis brought about by its growth plans going awry or it could be for an additional investment that is expected to gestate into a money-spinner over a short or long period of time. In any event, the share price will not grow until the short-term corporate objective is resolved through the injection of the additional capital.

This column will, from time to time, provide other such pointers so that investment may be as safe as it is rewarding. Meanwhile, here are this fortnight's recommendations:

Suryodaya Plastics (CMP: Rs. 18.50): Suryodaya Plastics, making custom-moulded plastic products such as TV cabinets, chiller trays, crispators, audio and computer keyboards, is all set to start commercial production in August 1995. It has already installed four small machines imported from Hong Kong and another, a large machine, is to be delivered shortly. It tapped the capital market a few months ago and the issue was successfully oversubscribed seven times. The share got listed at Rs. 28 and, due to initial profit booking, the scrip is hovering below the offer price. Suryodaya, located near Madras, has increased its capacity from 807 tpa to 2383 tpa and the BPL group has agreed to lift the entire additional production for the next three years at a mutually agreed price. BPL has also participated in the equity to the extent of Rs. 0.50 cr. IDBI has also taken part in the equity at a higher premium of Rs. 15 for a total of Rs. 0.49 cr, apart from sanctioning a term loan for Rs. 2.50 cr.

Suryodaya's clientele include Videcon, Reed Relays and Voltas apart from BPL. It has achieved a turnover and PAT of Rs. 3.18 cr and Rs. 0.32 cr respectively for

the nine months ended December 1994. For 1995-96, it projects a PAT of Rs. 1.32 cr on a turnover of Rs. 9.56 cr, which will yield an EPS of Rs. 3.40 on the present equity of Rs. 3.90 cr. With the promoters' good background and track record, buy-back tie up with BPL and bright



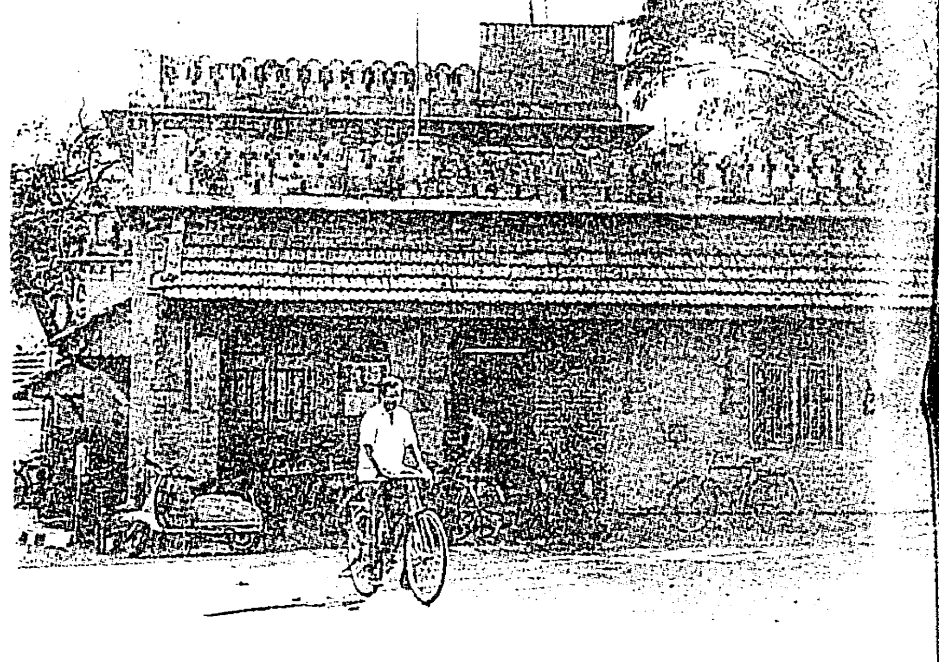
prospects for the consumer durable industry, the scrip holds good potential in the long run. One other factor to note is that the mutual funds bought around three lakh shares at Rs. 25 and, reportedly, are holding on to them.

Saijan Udyog Exports (CMP: Rs. 16.50): Promoted by Shiyamsunder and Saijan Jhunjhunwala, this OTC-listed company is into exports of cotton woven fabrics of heavier quality used in industries.

The company's plant has 20 Ruti "C" looms for woven fabrics and manufactures cloth in 50", 59", 63", 67", 75" and 100" at Madurai. This manufacturing unit contributes to only one-third of its exports. The balance is sourced from other manufacturers. The company enjoys the reputation of being the second largest quota-holder in cotton textiles and the fourth largest in the Past Performance Quota category to EU countries. It has plans to set up a 100% EOU for open-end, spinning and yarn dyeing units costing about Rs. 25 cr.

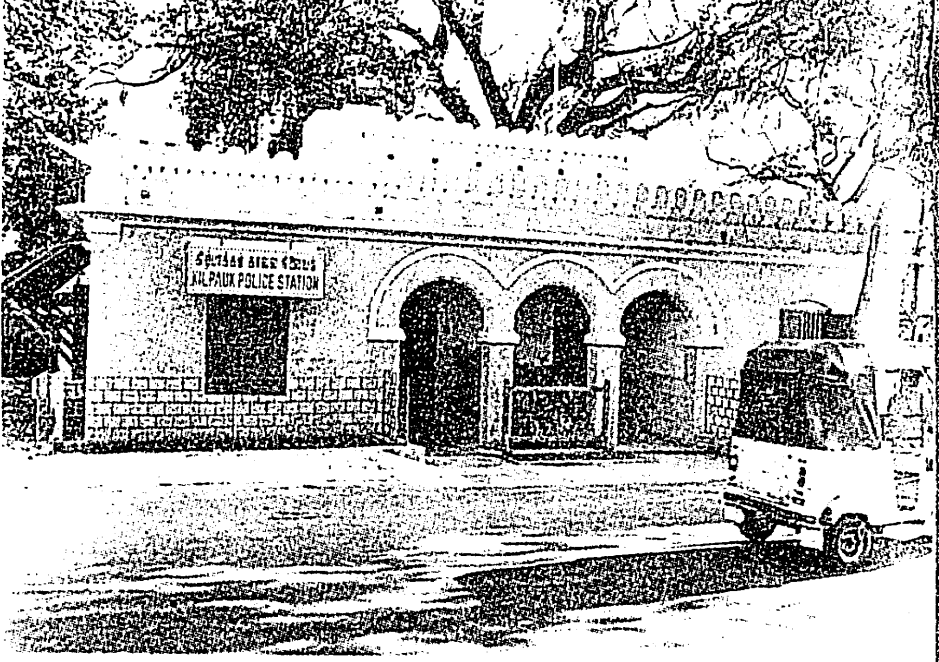
For March 1995 the company marginally exceeded the projections and achieved a sales and PAT of Rs. 24.45 and Rs. 1.90 cr respectively. The scrip's EPS is Rs. 4.13, which discounts the current price about four times. With the quota position the company holds in regard to cash-rich EU countries and with the export market picking up, SUEL is all set to do better in the coming year. For March 1995 the projections are Rs. 30 cr sales and Rs. 2.40 cr PAT resulting in an EPS of Rs. 5.20. This scrip has been very strongly supported at the Rs. 16 level and is recommended as an excellent pick for long term gains.

K. Gopalakrishnan



Our OLD is the Royapettah Police Station, looking dilapidated, unpainted and much in need of repair. Nor does it have the look of the traditional Madras police station, whose red 'brick' and white line finish tends to call attention to it. The NEW is what an old police station can look like when it is spruced up. But when the Kilpauk Police Station got its 'new look', it was given a coarse sand and granite look, a far cry from the traditional thana.

THE OLD... & THE NEW
Striking as the NEW looks on Poonamallee High Road, it might well have looked better if it had been renovated in the style of the City's old police stations, almost all of which are in dire need of repair, restoration and refurbishing. (Photographs by V.S. RAGHAVAN)



THREATENING RIVERS

(Continued from P 1)
Effluent treatment remains an essential component of the pollution control process. With zero emission remaining a distant dream at current levels of effluent recycling technology, the land discharge approach, as practised by Seshasayee Paper and Boards, is considered a viable option with the

added advantage of enabling the reclamation of wastelands. The Tiruppur Exporters Association, for instance, has offered to set up a common effluent treatment plant which will serve to irrigate its own proposed farm. Perhaps the future of the Bhavani River basin also lies in such co-operative endeavours.

A feature strictly NOT Madras, or even Tamil Nadu, but one which is sure to interest the thousands in the state who have kin who are part of the brain drain.

In a move to slow down the exodus of Indian scientists to greener pastures abroad, the government is attempting a complete turnaround in its policy regarding scientific research.

Besides expediting a Rs. 10-crore package from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to help involve Indian expatriate scientists in leading areas of research, it is seriously considering a proposal to create permanent jobs for them and, perhaps, more important, is adopting a holistic approach to the issue by considering sociological aspects as well. Earlier, it was content with merely looking into the financial aspects.

This move comes close on the heels of a study by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), which estimates that 540,000 Indian scientists and technicians will be working abroad by the turn of the century and underlines that slow economic reforms have resulted in a low demand for research scientists in the industrial sector.

"Research scientists were earlier offered short-term assignments with allowances. But over the years, it has been seen that these incentives are not enough to make them stay. This is why proposals for permanent posts are now being mooted," explains Ashok Jain, director of the National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS).

The attempts to lure Indian scientists abroad started way back in 1980, with a UNDP-funded Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) programme instituted by the CSIR. Highly-placed Indian expatriate scientists are invited under TOKTEN for projects of 6-12 weeks duration in both private and public sector industries and research institutes.

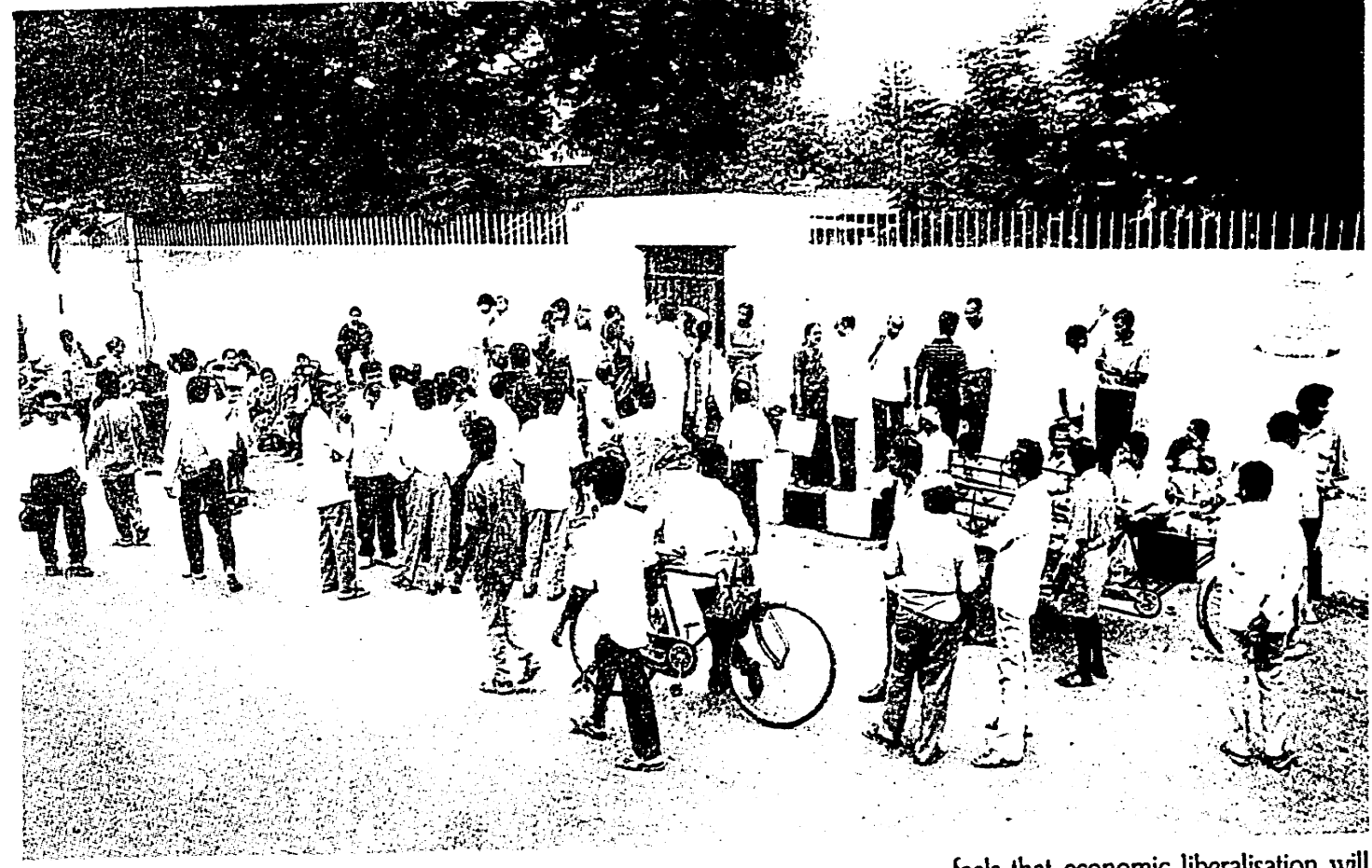
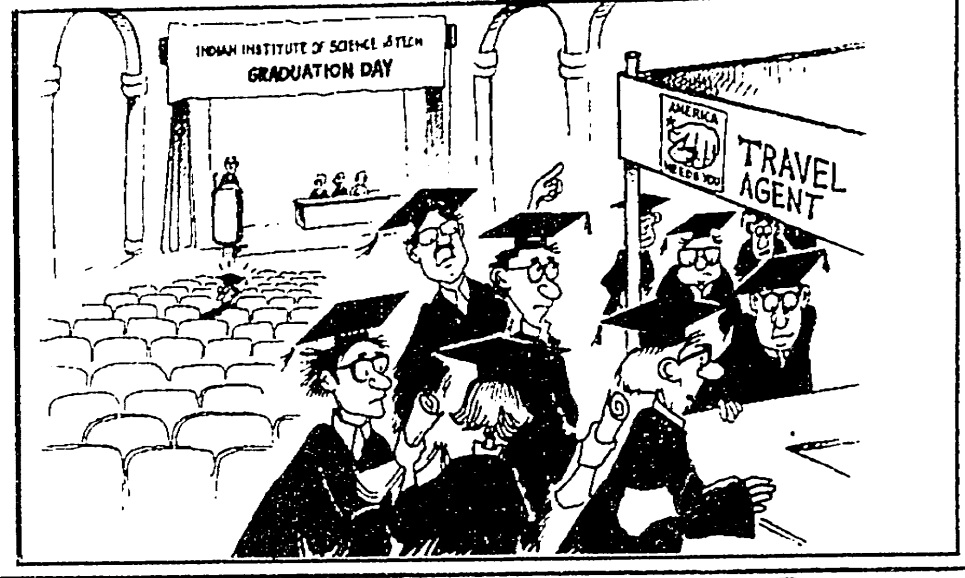
Till 1993, 450 experts were placed in 250 institutes. UNDP has already provided Rs. 90 lakh for the programme. Following its recent evaluation of the programme, CSIR and the department of Company Affairs, UNDP, has allocated another Rs. 75 lakh for six years.

In addition, the Scientists' Pool scheme launched in 1958, offers temporary placements, for a maximum of three years, to highly qualified Indian scientists, engineers, technologists and medical personnel returning from abroad. Paid between Rs. 2500-6300 a month, "pool officers" are placed in government-funded organisations. The scheme was later also thrown open to qualified scientists graduating from Indian universities. About 9000 scientists have so far been placed.

Essentially, these are short-term programmes. And B V Reddi, general secretary of the CSIR Scientific Workers' Association (SWA), is dis-

missive of them. He offers the steadily declining number of people availing of the scheme — 333 persons employed as pool officers in 1988, dwindling to 77 in 1992 — as proof of their inefficacy. He is also sceptical of TOKTEN's value: "The high level experts invited under this programme are generally misfits for ongoing projects in the country. Moreover, these experts are keener to visit India on a 'paid holiday' in order to meet their families. Not only are they less interested in contributing to a project, there is no system of accountability for them either."

Further, a study carried out by NISTADS covering six leading scientific institutes reveals that despite allocations for more and more specialised areas of research, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, for instance, lost 27 of the 51 doctorates trained at its molecular biophysics unit from 1974-84. Data collected from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Bombay, The National Chemi-



10 a.m. at the entrance to the consular office of the U.S. Consulate-General's. This morning, when S. ANWAR took this picture, was not as big a crush as it often is. On such days it looks like a free-for-all. On this morning, however, those part of the brain-drain and those accompanying them wait stoically for entrance to the promised land, bothered neither by rain nor shine, dust nor hawkers.

cal Laboratory (NCL), Pune, The Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmadabad, The Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), and The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS), Calcutta, indicate similar trends.

Various earlier studies have already noted the high levels of migration from Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) — 33.7 per cent of students who graduated from IIT, Madras, in 1983-87 migrated to foreign countries.

feels that economic liberalisation will soon plug the brain drain, as the demand for research scientists shoots up with the arrival of state-of-the-art technologies. He points out that institutes such as National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore, have bagged contracts from British and Russian air authorities to conduct high-level aeronautical research.

But not many scientists concur with Rajagopal. Reddi says, "In the age of liberalisation and with foreign products flooding the market, the term 'brain drain' itself is outdated. Instead of developing our own research capabilities and products, we have simply decided to give in to foreign competitors." Multinational corporations entering India are keener on establishing a market base for quick returns rather than initiating long-term R & D programmes.

In fact, a NISTADS study found that the key factor, other than the economic incentive, responsible for emigration of Indian scientists is their isolation while working in highly specialised disciplines, a fact that needs to be urgently addressed if the government is serious about its current 'bring-back-scientists' campaign. — (CSE/Down To Earth Features)

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Rimjhim Jain

NEW LIFE FOR AN OLD MARKET

(Continued from P3)

Overcrowding and congestion have played havoc with this market. The entrances to the building are choked by trucks unloading and trucks waiting to unload. People are wary to go inside the market because they fear facing the crowd, noise and dirt created by the wholesale and retail markets. To add to the misery is the stink caused by the mutton, beef and egg sections, much aided by the unhygienic conditions in which they are kept. There is no proper waste disposal system and any movement out of the market means contending with roads without zebra crossings.

The wizardry required to dodge the traffic here comes out of sheer practice!

The architects plan to keep the gable end facade-free, restoring the Keating fountain as a focal point, facilitating pedestrian movement in the courtyard, limiting all construction to the rear and managing traffic by a two-level basement parking system, thus bypassing unnecessary traffic to other major routes. The new constructions will include a bar, a departmental store with a restaurant at the top, a terrace cafe, stores on four levels interconnected with escalators and glazed lifts and a new shopping complex with large- and medium-sized shops and

offices, with godowns and car parks in the basement.

The designs have been finalised and work will begin as soon as the Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay is able to fund the project. The costs on the project are estimated to be around Rs. 30-35 crore, the money to be sourced most probably from private parties. The construction will carry forward the design dreams of Kothari who plans to use a lot of new building material in his project. Float glass, solar panels, better wall finishes is what he thinks would be economical in the long run. In fact, he feels, float glass will be the material of the future

and will be ideal for exteriors. Better quality concrete mixed bricks, better paints which last longer, insulation for roofs and other such measures are what, he says, will be increasingly used.

Modern ideas and a love for all things old seems to be the magic mantra behind Kothari's winning the contract. Ask Kothari about what made him the winner and he says with a smile, "My simplicity and my respect for the existing building". And, of course, team effort and hard work by Matisha Kothari and Runjhun Saklani, who were actively involved in the project.

We welcome the first steps to THE HERITAGE ACT

We look forward to its enactment and implementation

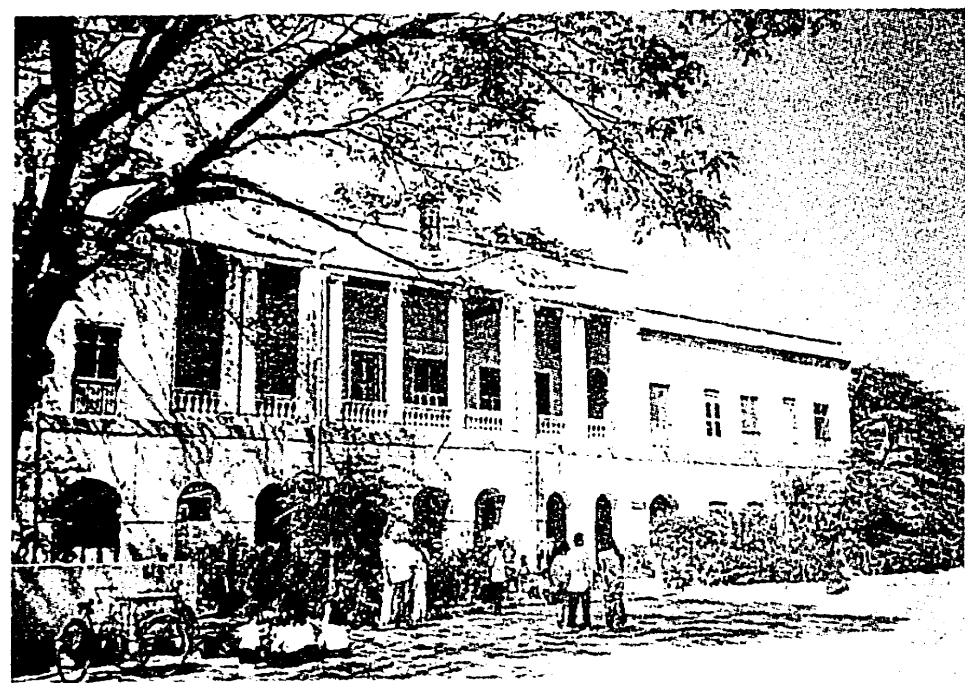
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NOTABLE BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Berkowitz, Gerald M. American Drama of the Twentieth Century. Longman, 1992. (812.509 BER)	Mathews, Forrest David Politics for People: Finding a Responsible Public Voice. University of Illinois Press, c1994. (323.042 MAT)
Beyond NAFTA: An Economic, Political and Sociological Perspective. Edited by A.R. Riggs and Tom Velk. The Fraser Institute, c1993. (382.917 BEY)	United States Congress. Office of Technology Assessment. Information Security and Privacy in Network Environments. U.S.G.P.O., September 1994. (005.8 INF)
Coleman, Daniel A. Ecopolitics: Building a Green Society. Rutgers University Press, c1994. (363.705 COL)	United States Congress. Office of Technology Assessment. Technologies for Understanding and Preventing Substance Abuse and Addiction. U.S.G.P.O., September 1994. (362.2917 UNI)
Kuczmariski, Susan Smith Values-Based Leadership: Rebuilding Employee Commitment, Performance, & Productivity. Prentice Hall, c1995. (658.4092 KUC)	The White House: The First Two Hundred Years. Edited by Frank Freidel and William Pencak. Northeastern University Press, c1994. (975.3 WHI)



Colgrave House, St Aloysius' H.S. School, Vepery.

• 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.

Madras. The College functioned till 1906, and then was converted to a school again and was recognised as a high school under the code of regulation of European schools. In 1928, the school's name was changed to St. Aloysius High School and in 1978 the school was recognised as a higher secondary school.

The school emphasises its Community Development Programmes, training the students to place others before self. Dramatics is yet another activity the school encourages and it has staged many operas.

The school admits and gives preference to members of the Anglo-Indian community. It also answers the

Once a 'seminary for young ladies'

St Aloysius' was started in 1885, in Colgrave House, under the name St. Joseph's Seminary for Young Ladies.

Colgrave House, a large two-storeyed structure at the end of General Collin's Road, Vepery, had served as a Masonic Hall and was acquired in 1884 by the Presentation Sisters. Children started attending the school in 1885. The School started with a

modest strength of 44 pupils. Soon, there was a 'pay school' for those who could afford to pay a fee and a 'poor school' for those who could not. In 1889, the schools were amalgamated and were called the Middle School. In 1928, the school was named St. Anne's. In 1903, the School attained the status of a second grade college affiliated to the University of

St Aloysius' Anglo-Indian School has, over the years, grown in strength and now has about 1300 girls studying in it. Sister Marian is the headmistress of the School and she has about 35 teachers. The academic performance of the school has been good and a few students enter professional colleges every year. The school has done well in sport too.

challenge of educating girls, especially those from poor families. The Presentation Sisters, in this endeavour, constantly keep in mind the Founder, Nano Nangle, who devoted her life for the uplift of the poor.

Photograph and text by
RAJIND N CHRISTY

Quizzin' with Ramanan

(Quizmaster V V RAMANAN questions are from the fortnight July 1-15)

1. Mrs. Michael Aris, a Nobel Laureate was released after six years of house arrest by her country's military rulers. How is she better known?
2. The Tamil Nadu Government has abolished contraception targets given field staff and replaced it with the MCH approach. What is the MCH approach?
3. The tennis legend who played the longest singles match (112 games) died on July 3rd. Who?
4. According to a recent issue of *Forbes* who is the world's richest individual possessing a \$ 12.9 billion fortune?
5. Where in the city is the area developing a 'Zodiacal Park'?
6. The president of which country has ordered the sealing off of a part of country's waters, because of a report that the world's richest sunken treasure lies there?
7. Which exiled spiritual leader and Nobel Laureate celebrated his 60th birthday on July 6th in New Delhi?
8. Name the imprisoned business tycoon who died after being refused medical attention on July 7th.
9. Why was Naina Sahni in the national news recently?
10. A temple, the pride of Tamil Nadu, in the whole country, had its *Mahaabhishekam* on July 7th. Which temple?
11. What is common to M/s G.K. Moondra (Congress I), V.K. Doraisamy, O. Manian, D. Masthan, R. Marudamoni and N. Rajendran (all AIADMK)?
12. Which film star has been conferred Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 1996?
13. July 11th was observed around the world as...?
14. Which popular film director was the target of a bomb attack at his Alwar residence in the City on July 10th?
15. Name the Madras-based industrialist elected the new FICCI president.
16. A subject, the need of the country will be introduced in the curriculum of schools and colleges from 1996. What subject?
17. A tabletop experiment chilled an atom of Rubidium gas to the lowest temperature ever achieved (-273° Celsius) and created a new state of matter. The condensate (matter) has been named after Einstein and an Indian scientist. Name the Indian scientist.
18. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister recently handed over Rs 10 lakh to the family of a famous Tamil poet for national award. Name the poet.
19. According to a rate revision, what is the minimum fare for travelling in autorickshaw in Madras?
20. A Finn, Harri Pellonpa, set a world record by killing 21 in minutes, a feat many Indians can do as nothing unusual. What feat?

(Answers on p. 8)

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ANITA RATNAM —

Doing it all!

One day recently, Anita Ratnam was waiting for her suitcase at Bombay airport when a passenger cornered her and demanded to know why she had absconded with the trust of her followers.

Anita Ratnam has not gone into hiding, although at times like this, which are frequent, she wishes she had. No, she has merely moved on to the next chapter in her life.

Fifteen years ago, this captivating beauty, who possesses the stately poise of a diva, was the star of a hugely successful weekly TV programme of her own creation, *Cinema-Cinema*, for the Indian-American community in the United States. Meanwhile, she captivated TV viewers in India with her

refreshingly lively and personal style of reporting on the 'Festival of India' as it travelled across America in 1985-86. Which is why today her fans in India and the United States aren't about to

by VINOD CHABRA

let go of the past. The very private Anita Ratnam is considered public property.

At 40, Ratnam — TV producer, dancer, choreographer, corporate dynamo and, simply put, the sort of passenger you would like as a seatmate on a long flight — is a prominent star on the Indo-American cultural scene...

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

August 10-17: Photography in the former GDR in the Eighties: *Fragments of the Self* by Thomas Florschuetz and *The Big and the Small Step* by Gundula Schulze (At Lalit Kala Akademi, 11 am — 6 pm.)

In Florschuetz's portraits, the momentary aspect of a photographic record is transcended from the level of direct observation to that of drama. At the end of the Eighties, after a study trip through the USA, he started using colour film for the first time, and from then on has worked exclusively with colour.

The use of colour endorses the authentic character of his subjects and produces, at the same time, a defensive distancing. The images seem to represent metaphors for an increasing compartmentalisation of our lives.

Gundula Schulze, in *The Big and the Small Step*, explores public rooms to experience and present people in their everyday situations. The beginning of experimenting with colour photography in 1983 opened up an additional field for Gundula Schulze's need to have experience beyond her own sphere of life: the world of organised disguise, of theatre, of beauty contests, of bourgeois ballroom dancing.

August 10-12: *Berlin Days*: A theatre performance directed by Mitran Devanesan. Mitran Devanesan states, "*Berlin Days* is loosely based on the sights and sounds of a summer in Berlin which I spent in 1993 as a guest of the Goethe Institute. I have tried to capture the upbeat mood of Berlin after The Wall came down. Most of this is through some humorous sketches, song and dance — it is a piece for young adults and the young at heart." (MMB Lawns at 7 p.m.)

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Anita Ratnam

On August 25th, she will launch and narrate the world premiere of '*Purush: Expressions of Man*' at the Lincoln Centre Out-of-Doors festival in New York. This all-male dance ensemble of Indians and Americans, showcasing classical and contemporary Indian dance styles, will then tour 25 American cities in eight weeks and end just in time for Ratnam's dance-theatre event *Past Forward* in Madras.

Meanwhile, a trip to Chicago to help produce a documentary on Indian dance and another on Indian women, plus TV pilots on business, arts and current events, will somehow be worked in. And so will her newest venture, Yantra, her TV studio in Madras, which will produce a spectrum of programmes on South India.

How does she juggle so many activities and projects? "I am ruthlessly organised and disciplined," says Ratnam, one of whose talents is an ability to speak in brief, quotable sentences. There are no wasted words, no ambiguity.

In America taught her that time, patience, and attention spans are short. "Even God doesn't get more than seven minutes," she says, breaking into a gurgling, contagious chuckle. She kicks off her sandals, props up her feet, and gnaws at a leathery ear of corn

bought from a sidewalk vendor in Bangalore where we have met for an interview...

Even when relaxed, Ratnam exudes an air of urgency and purpose. And so it has been for years. When in her teens, her Bharata Natyam performances in India were sellouts. By the time she was 21, she stepped out of the national spotlight. "I had made it to the top, but the most I could hope to reach was an audience of just 500 people at a time," she says, her big, dark eyes squinting in theatrical despair.

Ratnam wanted a bigger stage. She dashed off applications to several American universities to pursue a master's degree in communications and drama. The University of New Orleans was about the only one that replied with a personal letter instead of a form letter, so she enrolled there in 1976.

her father, R. Ratnam, is the eldest grandson of T.V.S. Iyengar, founder in 1912 of the TVS Group which, today, is a huge conglomerate. Surrounded by an Orthodox Brahmin family with men and women of immense pioneering spirit. Anita grew up inspired, feisty, and precocious. In America she basked in anonymity and in "the campy, crazy warmth" of New Orleans... "Nobody cared who my father was or about my family's bank balance," Ratnam recalls. In America she would have to make it purely on her own steam, which is exactly what she wanted to do.

"Yet, I had pride in who I was. I didn't dilute my Indian links. I didn't cut my hair and wear a blue business suit. People thought I was some sort of an Indian princess with a hole in my forehead."

American TV journalism enthralled her. "There was that dynamism, fearlessness, solid reporting, intelligent humour," she says. "I realised (that)... if you weren't interesting — click! — the viewer switched to another channel. You had to be very good to survive!"

Ratnam excelled at New Orleans and did postgraduate work in communications at New York University. In 1980, armed with impressive credentials, she stepped into the real world — a shabby basement somewhere in the New York City borough of Queens which served as a makeshift TV studio. Here she produced a weekly Indian show, thoroughly under-financed by a small group of Indian physicians. To make ends meet, she worked as information officer at the Government of India Tourist Office in Manhattan.

(Courtesy: SPAN)

(To be concluded next fortnight)

OJ trial star in City

(Continued from P 1)

when he admitted that his deputy, Dr Golden, made as many as thirty errors during the autopsy and that he took only half the time he should have taken had he done the autopsies properly! But these are said to be of no great consequence.

Dr Lakshmanan has, in the course of the trial, demonstrated to the court how an autopsy is performed. He has also shown the court graphic pictures of the bodies, including the now 'famous' one of the bloody fingerprints of Nicole Simpson which were pulled off her dead body. And he demonstrated to the court, using prosecutor Kelberg as a dummy, how Nicole could have been slain by a right-handed killer using a knife (O J is right-handed).

Dr Lakshmanan's testimony is said to have been so disturbing to O J and the details and pictures so graphic that the former American Football star began to weep during some of the sittings. He requested that he be allowed to remain out of the courtroom when such pictures were shown. A compromise was arrived at between the defence and the prosecution; O J would be warned when disturbing pictures were about to be shown and he could leave if he wanted. But there have, since, been a couple of instances when he has been directed to remain in the courtroom when certain pictures were shown.

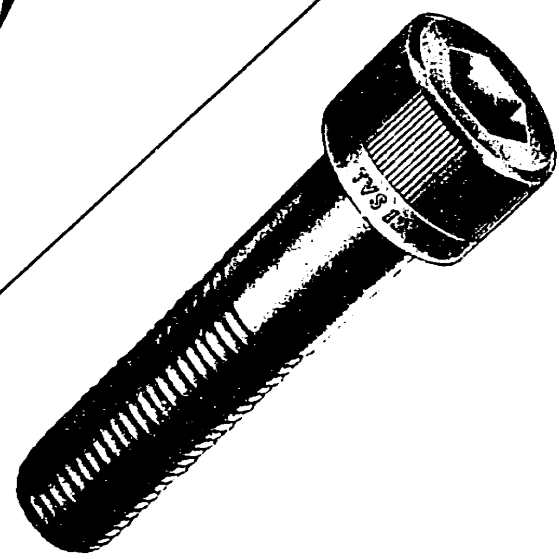
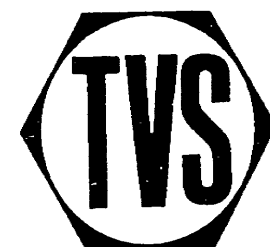
The pictures have had an impact on almost everyone in the courtroom, the jurors especially, many of whom have been moved to tears. Perhaps the only exceptions are the lawyers, the judge and, of course, Dr Lakshmanan, whose matter-of-fact way of handling the case

has been much-spoken about in the American newspapers. There are even papers which claim his answers to questions have been "well rehearsed".

During a short break in the trial, which is nearing its peak, Dr Lakshmanan was given the opportunity of taking a holiday, if he wanted to. He, his wife — a practising paediatrician — and daughter Ashwini, an XI Grade student, grabbed the chance to visit home and meet friends and relatives who have been even more keen on meeting Dr Lakshmanan. Back in the States, too, there are ever so many calls from friends and relatives who call to say "How proud we are of you".

Dr Vijayalakshmi has not watched any of the TV reports, as her job doesn't allow her the time to be at home when the 'show' is on, neither has she read the reports in the papers. But she's got tapes and clippings of all Dr Lakshmanan's appearances and will catch up with them one day. Meanwhile, she has been getting quite a bit of attention too from people wanting to discuss the case with her.

In India, Ashokam Eswaran is kept informed about the latest developments in the case by eager friends and relatives. She refuses to watch it all on TV, as she can't bear to see her son being grilled and asked questions like "Are you in the habit of testifying even when you have not performed the autopsy?" She has her own collection of paper cuttings and knows the latest on the case, such as the fact that O J's arthritis may alter the extent to which the hand gloves can be used as evidence. But that is where she stops. No watching CNN for the mother of the Chief Coroner.



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The Bureaucrat

When India became independent, Britain left her a wonderful legacy in the form of a foolproof system of bureaucracy. Governments may come and go, but the bureaucracy goes on for ever. Cumbersome or heavy-handed as the bureaucrats may be, it is they who run the country! Even the smallest cog in the system may pat itself on the back, in the manner of La Fontaine's fly sitting on the coach wheel and saying to itself, "See, what a dust we make!" The fact remains that the amount of dust from these human machines may take on the proportions of a thick duststorm. One wit remarked on the eve of Independence that the whole system was like a wound-up clock and might stop ticking of its own accord one of these days when men would have forgotten the art of winding it afresh!

The typical bureaucrat has no other interest in life apart from his office files. He is treated like a demi-God in his home and his office. All acts which involve any extra effort on his part, from lifting a chair to washing his hands, all these needs are anticipated by obsequious minions who come forward to do his unspoken bidding! His world is scandalised if he rides when he can fly. His wife shields him at home from all worries connected with the running of an efficient home by making him out to be an impersonal ivory tower to the servants.

So, suddenly, one day, when the date of his superannuation draws near, the poor bureaucrat feels his robes of office slipping and is made aware of the

occasional blasts of chill air blowing around him. He now suddenly turns religious and takes recourse to astrologers to find out if he has any further promotions that will put away the evil day of his retirement for some more time.

The top men in the coveted Indian Administrative Service do not face these problems that those lower down the rung have to face. They already have firm offers from the captains of top industries on five or six figure salaries in addition to many tax-free perks, in return for their

services as liaison officers with unspecified government parties. And it must be admitted that connections count everywhere. You cannot ignore someone known over a length of time. And so it goes on.

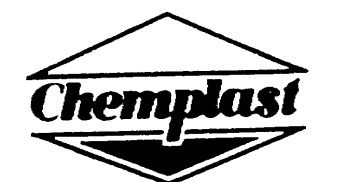
In the good old days, it was easy for an ex-deputy collector to end up as the Dewan of one of the numerous 'native states' existent in those days. But now they have to be content to remain as junior executives in small firms and that, too, only if they have succeeded in pleasing the head of that particular

(Continued on P 8)

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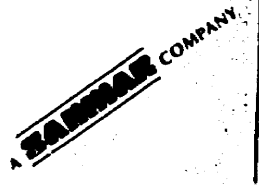
For, our land is our heritage. And that of our children.



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Madras to host hockey academy?

K. P.S. Gill, D.G.P., Punjab, and President, Indian Hockey Federation, who was recently on a day's visit to Madras to preside over the final of the Madras Cricket Club's annual Lifebuoy all-India hockey tournament, has virtually become Madras city hockey's darling. For, he seems to have paved the way for the emergence of the southern metropolis as India's hockey capital. It cannot be otherwise, considering the fact that the person from whom he got the assurances for Madras's transformation from an ordinary centre to the country's best-equipped hockey city, was none other than Chief Minister Jayalalitha, known for her interest in sport.

by
JAICI

It seems only a matter of time for Madras, where hockey unfortunately has lost much of its status and popularity, to leave behind such ancient centres like Calcutta of Beighton Cup fame and Bombay, home of the Aga Khan Cup. It cannot be otherwise, considering the fact that before long the Radhakrishnan Stadium at Egmore, with its synthetic surface now being laid, will be floodlit, and will have in its immediate neighbourhood a practice pitch as well.

That is not the end of the story. A synthetic surface is also to be laid at the University Union ground at Chetput, and, to crown it all, an I.H.F. Academy will come up on a four-acre

plot! It is not known how the I.H.F. chief came to pick Madras, whose present-day hockey has little to boast of, as the venue for a National academy. He was perhaps influenced by the good work being put in by the city's tennis and cricket academies.

Be that as it may, Madras hockey fans must be grateful for the salesmanship Gill showed when he met the Chief Minister for the first time. It is now up to the Tamil Nadu Hockey Association to take immediate steps to give hockey in the city a new look. There is no blinking the fact that hockey is virtually dead in the city's schools and colleges. City hockey is sorely in need of rejuvenation. Indeed, the TNHA will have to begin from scratch by taking the game to schools and colleges. Time alone can tell if it can help Madras hockey rise from rags to riches before the ancient city can boast of the country's first hockey academy.

The Facts of Life

1. 90% of things in our lives are right; only 10% are wrong.
2. 90% of our financial worries are due to 10% of overspending.
3. 90% of our work is routine; it is the balance 10% that requires thinking.
4. 90% of tension is created by 10% of carelessness and laziness.
5. 90% of your friends will hurt you and only 10% will give you support when the chips are down.
6. 90% of the old records and letters are never referred to again.
7. 90% of your work can be done by your subordinates and you genuinely get paid only for 10%.
8. 90% of the decisions can be taken immediately on the basis of past experience and only 10% require in-depth analysis.
9. 90% of your customers are reasonable; it is only 10% of them that require tactful handling.
10. 90% of the errors in typewritten letters can be hand-corrected; only 10% of such letters need to be retyped.
11. 90% of our members repay their dues in time; it is only the balance 10% that makes us spend sleepless nights!
12. 90% overdues become so only recently; it is only 10% that continue to be overdue for a long period.

Which do you think about?
The 90% or the 10%?

(Courtesy: The Integrated Share News, October 20, 1994. Compiled by: A. Krishnam Madras.)

The bureaucrat

(Continued from P7)

company during their tenure as government officials. And they continue to watch the current trends and the recommendations of various pay commissions which go on recommending higher scales of salaries and raised dates of superannuation.

When all else fails, the bureaucrat accepts retirement as inevitable. Then he tries to get at least half his pension commuted on the pretext of building a house or getting his youngest daughter married.

He also begins to become increasingly aware of the pin-pricks that the ordinary man has to face in his daily life. In the course of time, he blossoms into a true democrat and a good citizen of India. If he is one of the lucky ones blessed with good health and ambition, he may even take a shot at politics and end up as a minister at the close of his life. And that's when the royal life begins again.

The press ignored

Ever heard of a National tournament without a Press box? The dubious distinction of providing the rare scene went to the Madras Cricket Club, when they recently conducted the Hongkong Bank National hard court tennis championships. The MCC officials did a fine job in seeing through the well-patronised tournament to schedule. But they took no notice of the media's requirements.

On the final day, for instance, nearly a dozen Pressmen were left virtually stranded. In batches of two and three, they squeezed themselves into the lone, thickly populated wooden stand in front of the centre court, with not even elbow room to take down notes.

The organising committee members were there all right. But they were too busy receiving VIPs and offering them front-row seats. They seemed to have forgotten the presence of the media persons and their usefulness. Most unfortunately, the Pressmen included the hard-working, dedicated secretary of the Tamil Nadu Sports Journalists' Association, who, like his colleagues, took the afternoon's sweat in his stride.

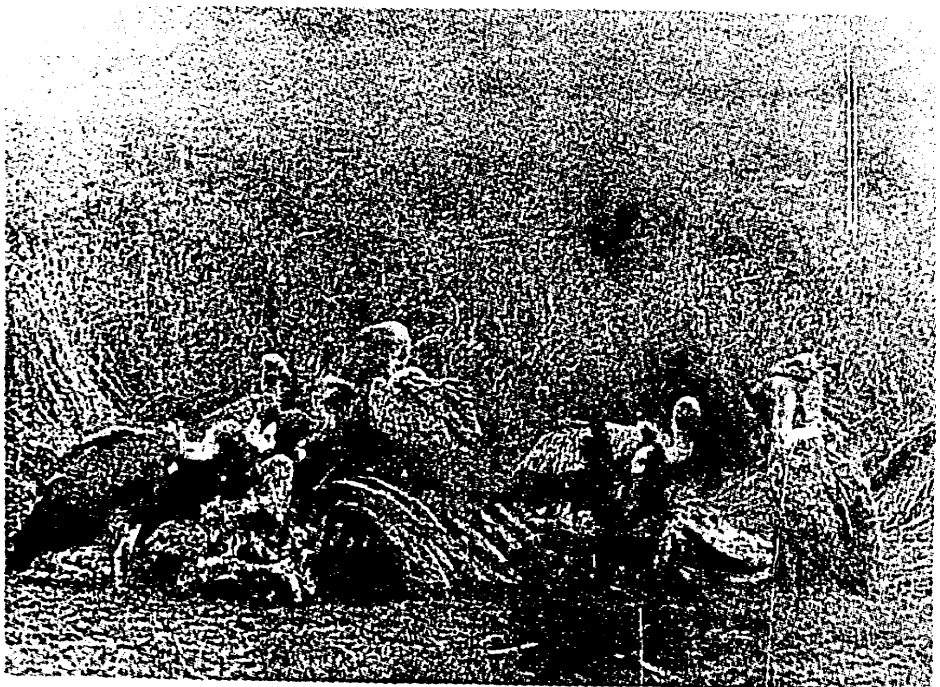
The blackout was a real surprise to Pressmen, who had only a couple of days earlier enjoyed every facility at the annual hockey tournament conducted by the same M.C.C. This was because the hockey committee had a knowledgeable organising secretary in former Olympian Muneer Sait, who made all the difference. Every day he came to Press box, looked after the media persons' comforts and gave them all necessary information.

Fortunately for the tennis writers, they had the satisfaction of reporting the performances of the most promising teenaged girl Tamil Nadu has produced in a while, Sai Jayalakshmi, the girls'

title winner. Since Ramanathan Krishnan won Loyola College's Stanley Cup as a schoolboy nearly half a century ago, no junior has caught the imagination of the knowledgeable tennis writer as Jayalakshmi has done. For a girl of her age and physique, the slim college student has a wonderful

backhand, and if only she can improve her service, she may go places. What ever is in store for her, Jayalakshmi fully deserved the special prize of Rs. 20,000 presented by N. Murali, president, Tamil Nadu Tennis Association.

Naturalists' Corner



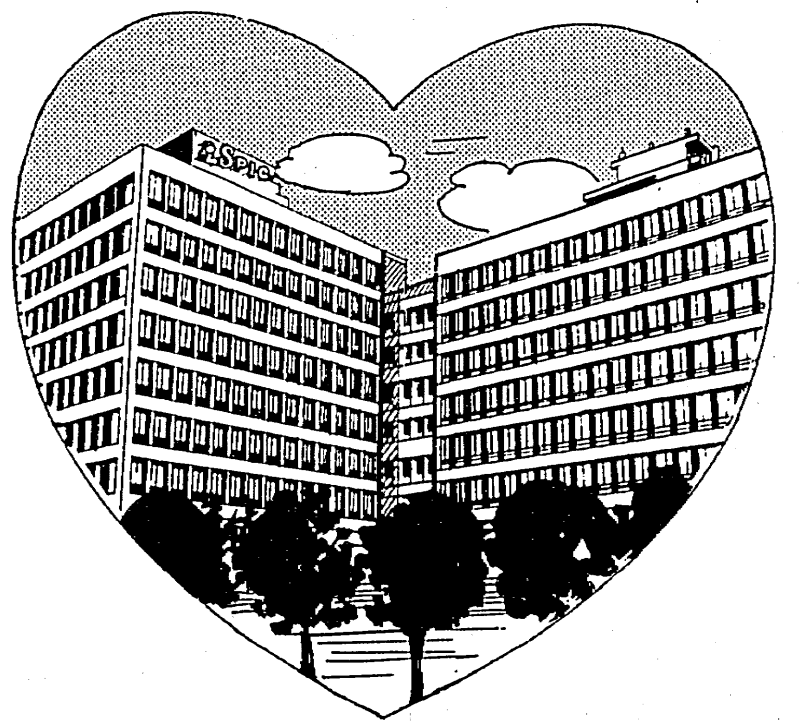
Portrait of a Nilgiri Tahr (on left by S KANAKARA) (Photo courtesy Madras Naturalists' Society). Above, we reproduce again the picture that was reproduced so badly last fortnight, 'Long-billed vultures preying on a carcass' by P. RAMANAN.



ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ

1. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar; 2. The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) approach seeks to improve the health status and quality of living of both child and mother, leading to voluntary contraception; 3. Pancho Gonzales; 4. Bill Gates, the Microsoft mogul; 5. The Island Grounds in Madras; 6. The Philippines; 7. His Holiness the Dalai Lama; 8. Rajan Pillai; 9. She was murdered and her charred body was recovered from the oven of an ITDC hotel in the capital, leading to the arrest of her husband, Sushil Sharma, an ex-president of the Delhi State unit of Congress-I; 10. The Meenakshi Temple in Madurai; 11. They were the six candidates elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha, from Tamil Nadu, during the House's biennial election; 12. Dilip Kumar; 13. World Population Day; 14. Mani Ratnam; 15. Deepak Banker of Kunal Engineering; 16. Human Rights; 17. Dr. Satyendra Nath Bose; 18. Pattukkottai Kalyanasundaram; 19. Rs. 5.60 and Rs. 2.80 from Rs. 5.00 and Rs. 2.50 respectively; 20. Swatting mosquitoes !!!

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