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City to be another gateway

— But Madras third choice of international airlines

(By A Special Correspondent)

Number of foreign airlines are targeting Madras as a third entry point to the subcontinent. The preferred entry points remain Bombay and Delhi.

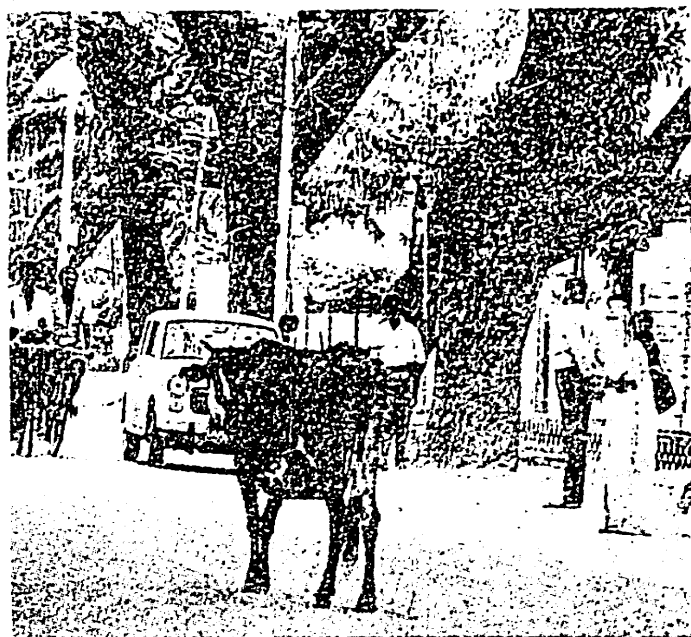
Royal KLM launched its weekly service as Atlas Boeing cargo flight daily connecting Europe with Madras. Air France has also obtained permission from the civil aviation authorities to fly to Madras, a right they hope to utilise soon with an eye on the heavy traffic.

Several US airlines, including North West and United Airlines, are also expected to be interested in Madras. According to an Air France official, the port city of Madras is seen as a major export centre and an important hub for the whole of southern India. "A project report, prepared by KLM choosing Madras as a cargo flight

destination, pointed out that not only is it at the heart of a region specialising in export products like leathers, textiles and food, but several major multinational corporations, including Intel, Motorola, Siemens, Yamaha and Texas Instruments, have developed substantial industrial facilities in the area.

Air France's executive for Asia, J M Mason, says his airline hopes to sell South India as a major tourism destination in Europe. In fact, a number of hoteliers and tour operators feel, given its beaches, temple towns and peaceful climate, South India might develop as a major magnet for tourists.

Tourism infrastructure development in the South too has gathered considerable momentum, thus making it an attractive destination for European airlines.



There's no fight for space on Madras roads between Man and his best friends, as these photographs by V S RAGHAVAN show. There's many a privileged 'pet' too among them which expects a snack or a monetary offering for which he'll bless you. Live and let live is a way of life on the City's roads and newcomers had better get used to it fast.

State looks at bees, spices, fruits and flowers

(By A Special Correspondent)

The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has sanctioned Rs. 5.7 lakhs over the next three years for experimentation with herbal spices in Yercaud. Five important herbal spices, Oregano, Parsley, Rosemary, Marjoram and Sage, have been planted in two hectares in Yercaud to evaluate their culture potential and commercial prospects in the domestic and export markets.

India is a major exporter of medical plants, exporting Rs. 86 crore worth of them last year. Export at the turn of the century is expected to be more than Rs. 200 crore. The Ooty, Thadankudisai, Kodaikanal and Yercaud horticultural research stations of the TNAU have been investigating ways and means of making this target

possible. As many as 106 species of medicinal plants have been collected in the Yercaud centre alone.

The Government of India has also sanctioned a scheme for development of bee-keeping, with 'Italian bees' (*Apis mellifera*), in Yercaud, Coimbatore and Periyakulam at an outlay of Rs. 5.5 lakhs.

Italian bees are said to be more efficient in producing honey from flowers, and a colony can produce over 70 kilos of honey in a favourable year. These Italian bees can travel distances of three to four kilometres and can produce honey worth Rs. 3,000 a year from one hive, whereas the local variety's produce only fetches Rs. 600. The Italian bees, in addition to producing honey, will help to increase the

yield of many horticultural crops by improving the pollination. Fifty hives, each costing about Rs. 1,000, are expected to arrive in Tamil Nadu shortly.

The Yercaud horticultural research station has also now introduced an attractive new cut flower, Jerusalem Anemone (*Anemone coronaria*) from Israel, in three different attractive colours, blue, pink and scarlet.

The Thadankudisai hill research station is working with avocado, commonly called 'butter fruit'. It is a fruit with a fat content of 28 per cent! The yield of the experimental fruit is 400 fruits per tree (265 kilo). The fruit is said to be eminently suitable for the lower elevation hills of Tamil Nadu, such as Yercaud.



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Nisha may move to Karnataka

(By A Sports Reporter)

Nisha Millet, Tamil Nadu's champion swimmer and last year, as a 12-year-old, the country's leading 'woman' swimmer, did not enhance her reputation at this year's swimming nationals. True, there was a newcomer to the Indian scene, 16-year-old Sangeetha Rani Puri, who was older, fitter and better trained, but Millet's display was rather disappointing from all accounts. Could this have had anything to do with the fact that she neither has the best of training facilities in Madras nor the necessary encouragement of the Tamil Nadu Swimming Association and the State?

The question being asked is in the context of talk that Nisha Millet is planning to move to Bangalore, which is making a mark for itself in women's swimming. Some months ago, Nisha's father was transferred to Bangalore, but he got the transfer held in abeyance, *Madras Musings* learns. Now he is

having second thoughts about the transfer, it is stated.

It is being pointed out that Nisha has been training in a 36m pool in Madras, instead of an Olympics standard pool of 50 metres. *Madras Musings* also learns that neither the State nor the Association is helping in any way in lessening the burden a family has to bear in training such a talented swimmer. And as for rewards after national meets, while Karnataka rewards its swimmers in thousands of rupees, in Tamil Nadu the monetary reward is in the hundreds.

With many more swimming pools in Bangalore, with several of them 50 metres in length and with excellent coaches plus other training facilities, Bangalore is certainly a better place for their daughter, the Millet family feel. And unless the Tamil Nadu authorities wake up fast, what will be Tamil Nadu's loss will be Karnataka's gain.

Cycling for a challenge

(By AJAX)

No sporting event has aroused greater interest in India than Viswanathan Anand's 20-game challenge match in New York against world champion Garry Kasparov.

India's first Grandmaster, the 25-year-old Anand, has trained for 3½ months in Spain with his team of seasoned professionals for this match. But how many of the thousands he has inspired to take to the game will concentrate on physical fitness as he has done?

He maintains that physical fitness is as important as mental sharpness — and so, in Spain, where he trained, he spent a few hours EVERY DAY cycling. That's got him fighting fit, but how many in India will follow his example? None, I fear.

Tamil Nadu cricket cries for a coach

The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association has again drawn blank in the national selectors' latest list of Test probables. When the Second Test against New Zealand is played on the TNCA's famed Chepauk ground in mid-October, the State's hopefuls will be mere spectators. As though to add insult to injury, the probables are having their preparatory camp in Madras with the assistance of the same State controlling body.

Soon after his recent unanimous re-election as the TNCA president, A C Muthiah told Pressmen that every effort would be made to revitalise Tamil Nadu cricket. Obviously with a view to helping them develop their talent; a new tournament for youngsters has been launched. But, frankly, there is no dearth of tournaments in the State, which, perhaps, organises more competitions than any other State!

In Madras city, for instance, beginning with the current Buchi Babu All-India tournament, with a record number of outstanding teams competing, tournaments go on round the

year, irrespective of the weather. But they have not in recent years produced a player good enough to don the India cap. Obviously, more important and useful than tournaments is expert coaching of promising youngsters. Unfortunately, since English coach A F Wensley's contract expired

by
JAICI

a few years ago, the TNCA has not engaged a coach of repute, who can spot talent and transform talented youngsters into champions.

Expert coaching would indeed seem to be the crying need of the hour. The TNCA which, for instance, spent a sizeable amount in conducting its annual Buchi Babu Trophy tournament and which is now engaged in getting its Chidambaram Stadium floodlit, can certainly afford to engage a first class coach, who can transform the image of Tamil Nadu cricket and halt the blank it has for so long drawn in the National teams.

Krishnan Tennis Centre gets underway

by
AJAX

The Krishnan Tennis Centre at Taramani, on the city's outskirts, is the brainchild of India's greatest-ever champion, Ramanathan Krishnan. It is also the world's first-ever father-son-run academy, with Krishnan as its guiding spirit and his eminent son, Ramesh, as its Principal.

A number of sponsors have contributed handsomely to the Rs. 1.6 crore scheme. Three of the centre's scheduled ten courts have been got ready. When

completed, there will be eight clay and two synthetic courts, and a well-equipped club house. The centre will then emerge as India's most modern tennis academy, with the country's best tennis brains giving the 10-16 year age group trainees all they require to develop their skills. Already, despite its high training fee of Rs. 5,000 a month, no less than 15 trainees have enrolled.

Well as it deserves to be called the Krishnan Centre, it would have been more appropriate to have it named after the man who made Krishnan what he was in his heyday. Not to mince words, Krishnan owes everything to his father, the late T K Ramanathan, who not only initiated his only son into the game but also coached and trained him to emerge as India's best ever.

A talented doubles player with C J Mullen as his partner in the days of such illustrious stalwarts as C. Rameswamy, T B Balagopal, N Krishnaswamy and V R Narayanaswamy, Ramanathan was elated as never before the day Krishnan emerged as the first schoolboy to win Loyola College's annual Stanley Cup tournament for students. Indeed, a few days after Ramanathan's death, Krishnan had announced that he would start a Ramanathan Tennis Trust. This has, perhaps, remained a dream. But a Ramanathan Tennis Centre would have been a befitting memorial to the man who helped Krishnan scale the heights.

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