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MUSINGS

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Making waste come clean

(by A Special Correspondent)

The recycling of urban waste for profit is already a successful business idea in the West. Madras is virgin territory for any innovations in waste management. It simply abounds in the material. To get rid of it, it might be well to study a pioneering success in waste-recycling in Bombay.

Bombay-based Excel specialises in converting biodegradable waste into compost, rich in nutrients. It sets up operations at dumping sites where garbage is treated by spraying microbe-slurry over it. This removes the bad odour of the garbage. Pebbles, plastic and glass are shaken out by agitators as the garbage rots quickly as it is covered by bulldozers. The compost which emerges from the process — called *Celrich* — is sold to farmers in rural areas. This organic manure has produced excellent results.

Excel supplies other services to farmers including seeds, plant protection and drip irrigation facilities. They also plan to buy farm produce at higher-than-prevailing prices, thus completing a cycle of urban waste disposal, recycling into organic man-

ure and marketing of rural crops in cities. The company's technology has spread to cities like Bhopal, Calcutta, Hyderabad and Bangalore and it will franchise it to other parts of the country. The Corporation of Madras and NGOs like EXNORA should seriously consider locating potential franchises in the city.

Meanwhile, local reports indicate that the State-owned Metropolitan Infrastructure Development Corporation (MIDC) has plans to instal power-generation plants using the methane emanating from vegetable garbage as fuel. This plant may be located at the proposed perishables market complex at Koyambedu. Such a project would be following a path beaten, for some years now, by some industrial canteens in Madras which have been generating cooking gas from their own kitchen waste — examples are some TVS group companies.

It is quite obvious that urban waste can be used to start profitable ventures that can provide employment to some of the most underprivileged city-dwellers. It can also be converted into environment-friendly energy, saving on

costs and encouraging independence from external sources of power and fuel. All it takes to make it all a reality is the exercising of the collective will of the people, the government, NGOs and business houses.

Madras's indifference to garbage

(By a Staff Reporter)

The garbage problem in the City is compounded by the average Madras's general indifference to efforts to keep the city clean. People dumping litter on the street or tipping rubbish over their walls on to open plots are a common sight. The dust bins at street corners are woefully few in number and an eyesore brimming with filth of infinite variety. The City's ragpickers, who forage wherever garbage is found, take away what they can sell to eke out a meagre living, but they leave rottable waste behind.

EXNORA is a voluntary organisation which has done pioneering work in trying to keep Madras streets clean. Unfortunately, the Madras resident is yet to come to terms with having to fork out a regular subscription — a very modest one — to the volunteer who comes round every month to collect it. A similar operation in Delhi, Shrishti, has built up a sizeable network of garbage collectors. NGOs like *Mythri Sarva Seva Samithi* (MSSS) — with its garbage collection, disposal and recycling project *Waste Wise — Waste People Want* and *Suchi* have done exemplary work in Bangalore, focussing on social responsibility in waste management and getting a fair deal for ragpickers. Madras still has a long way to go.



Burma Bazaar not only has a traders' association, but it also has a Security Committee. And these two signs put up by it tell you in Tamil, Telugu, English and Hindi that (above) "If anybody follows or give troubles to you, please complaint to the Burma Bazaar Security Committee", and (above), "If any person call and advice you to get goods at low price from out side don't go with them. Buy only at shops." (Photographs by RAJIND CHRISTY)

Indian unity

— As seen by NTR

A theme we've heard argued in several places in India, but received not well anywhere, is one N T Rama Rao, a longtime resident of Madras, spoke on when he not so long ago visited Britain as Andhra Pradesh's Chief Minister to woo the British to invest in his state. We wonder how Indian politicians and historians would have reacted to his statements if they had received more widespread publicity than they did. We record below a report from London of NTR's views on history and economics. The report may be a bit dated, but what was said deserves greater attention as India attempts to liberalise and enter the mainstream of globalisation.

— THE EDITOR

"The people of India became one under British rule," Mr Rama Rao said at a meeting at the Institute of Civil Engineers to which several potential investors were invited.

"So many states, divisions, kingdoms are now united. India has been made a single country. The credit goes to the Englishmen who made the country one unit," he said.

India had learnt new disciplines from Britain, he said at the meeting attended by well over 100 persons. Now, he said, "we know the working of parliamentary democracy which became the highest order of respecting the wishes of the people."

The English language, Mr Rama Rao said, is the central language "of understanding and expression". He said, "I am a Telugu man, but I am

speaking in English to appeal to all of you, to express what I want".

He allayed fears of British businessmen about political uncertainty. "No matter what happens after the next election in 1996, we will have political stability and acceleration of the pace of economic reforms."

Mr Rama Rao also launched a European Telugu Association (ETA) to provide a common platform for about 1,300 Telugu families living in Europe, including 1,000 in Britain.

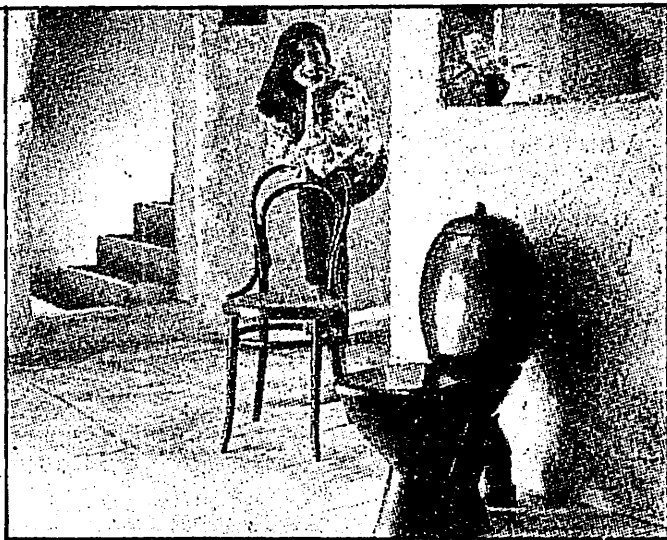
No shit!

The Dutch plan of using India as a dung dump has been squelched.

Import of the highly contaminated cattle dung as manure had been banned by the Indian Government in September 1994, but it took the agriculture and fertiliser ministries several months of dithering to finally say 'No' to a persistent Dutch businessman who offered upto 6 guilders per tonne for Indian farmers to take the shit off his hands. Farmers back in the Netherlands are reported to offer as much as 20 guilders per tonne for the dung disposal.

The Dutch press has stated that the dung is so toxic it cannot be disposed of anywhere in their country.

Fortunately, Indian administrators seem to have woken up to the fact that it is time India steps away from the wrong end of the environmental milk cow. (CSE/Down To Earth Features)



No bathrooms for your house. Only

GLAMOURROOMS

by Parryware

What's wrong with Journalism these days?

The Man From Madras Musings spent the first half of his working life on a newspaper and the second half in a publishing house. Now, watching the passing scene from the kerb, he's finding out ONCE AGAIN that those who know best about what's wrong with newspapers, publishing and, now, Journalism are THE ACCOUNTANTS. MMM was reminded of his experiences of the past listening to another chartered accountant recently; only S Gurumurthy these days masquerades as a "Columbian".

national concern these days, Gurumurthy appeared to think as MMM listened to a harangue that, if better moderated, would have been a worthy memorial lecture.

What's the solution?

New weekly Outlook, having survived the Shiv Sena bonfires in Bombay — and, no doubt, having taken a decision to leave Kashmir alone for a while — turned to Sri Lanka in its second issue, helped immensely by Madras-based correspondent A S Panneerselvam who had journeyed to Sri Lanka and into the Tigers' lair. Narrating how he reached Jaffna and met most of the Tiger leadership, Panneerselvam recently told a small audience at the University of Madras's Department of South and Southeast Asia Affairs how much luck had to do with his being able to slip in and out of the territory north of Vavuniya.

The Man From Madras Musings, however, found Panneerselvam's perceptic is of those made the victims of both sides the most interesting part of the whole morning. What do we do between the Tiger on one side and the Lion on the other, apparently wonder the vast majority in the northern territories of the stricken island.

Helpless they may be in such a situation — except to dedicate themselves to education, seeing it as a way out and into the world beyond Sri Lankan shores, according to Panneerselvam — but recent events have once again made them doubt the honour of the Lion and get closer to the present offensive and during it, events arising out of indiscriminate bombing by aircraft and shelling by ground artillery, with resultant heavy civilian casualties, have shattered the hopes in Colombo that many in the North had nursed in silence, Panneerselvam felt.

Given the almost total built-up nature of the terrain in Jaffna, where village merges with village, bombing and shelling will undoubtedly take a toll of noncombatants, MMM is aware of. Which is why, if the Sri Lankan Army is to win Jaffna without civilian casualties, it has to fight with one arm tied — and even if it can win such a fight, it has to win the hearts of people in an area where they don't speak the language of the population. The option, MMM is inclined to think, is all-out war — and an attempt to win outright, giving the people no choice but to survive as the conquered. That seems to be the way the present offensive is developing,

with no civilian prepared to stay in 'conquered' territory.

In these circumstances, many a 'do-gooder' is ready to cry 'Genocide', MMM notices. But what do you call massacres of Sinhalese and Muslim villagers? The 'do-gooders', who could do much good for negotiation between the combatants as well as the innocent victims, are strangely silent. That those in a position to help and dampen the fires of war are unwilling to do so and prefer empty political rhetoric is the biggest tragedy of the Sri Lanka bloodletting, MMM feels.

Food revolution

The Indian Food Processing Industry, now valued at Rs. 1750 billion, is perhaps the fastest growing sector in the industrial field. In the next few years, its growth will be phenomenal. The Man From Madras Musings is convinced.

Looking for pointers to that growth — and being a food buff — MMM ventured into Foodpro '95, expecting an array of food products to tempt him. The two

concerned from both cities are talking in terms of trade and economic relations. There is even talk of a corridor between India's fourth most industrialised city and Japan's fifth. Both are port cities and both have major interests in the textile, automobile and engineering industries. Creating a 'sister city' relationship based on commerce and industry is rather more meaningful, MMM thinks, than relationships with cities based on lectures, exchange of jaunts and statues. The Madras-Denver link is, sadly, still on those lines forty years after it was forged. When is the Denver Chamber of Commerce going to send a delegation to talk turkey with the Madras Chamber? That would make the sororal links more meaningful.

Who says cinemas are out-of-date? Delhi's Priya, in its new avatar, as an 'entertainment centre' is booming. Now, The Man From Madras Musings hears, K K Modi and his son Lalith, of the Modi Group, are planning to get into the 'entertainment centre' business and their first multiplexes will come up in Madras and Hyderabad.

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

halls-full of machinery — or, rather, information about machinery — rather dampened MMM's enthusiasm. But there was a stall or two where he lingered a little longer than elsewhere.

Most interesting of all was the discovery that coconut was going to come into its own. An Andhra manufacturer was planning to offer coconut water in tetrapack and in a whole range of flavours too. He was going to offer grated coconut for cooking. And, best of all, coconut milk in tetrapack for cooking purposes — a variant of Nestle's enormously successful coconut milk powder manufactured in Sri Lanka. If this proves a success, MMM can see hundreds of manufacturers jumping on to the coconut bandwagon and following the lead of the Godavari District's trailblazers.

Among the few stalls displaying food products, there was one from Assam where MMM was intrigued to find bottled wood-apple, carambola (star fruit) and green mango cordials and bamboo shoots pickle. These may be pointers to things to come, but MMM just hasn't been able to understand why we feel we have to reinvent the wheel all over again. Sri Lanka has made an enormous success of coconut milk cooking powder, passion fruit juices and cordials, woodapple creams and guava jellies. What are we waiting for instead of getting into THIS international market which we could supply in even larger quantities?

And, lastly, there they were, attracting MMM's attention. Pet bottles for liquor. Apparently over 20 states permit them. But Tamil Nadu is not one of them. Why, wonders MMM.

In brief

The Man From Madras Musings understands that it won't be long before Madras will be 'twinned' and become the Japanese city Nagoya's 'sister city'. What pleases MMM about this proposal is that the people

MMM hears that each of these multiplexes will be spread over at least three acres of land and will have TEN theatres, with aircraft-style seats and folding trays, speciality restaurants, games parlours, books, record and video shops and indoor 'parks' to relax in. Each multiplex will cater for at least 10,000 people a day. Work on the Madras multiplex is getting underway, MMM hears. Sad that the Safire complex, which started the beginnings of such thinking and was before its time, is now no more.

As these lines are written, India's easy Test victory over New Zealand makes it seem almost certain that Vikram Rathore will not play in Madras too. But that shouldn't depress him too much. The Man From Madras Musings is inclined to think; it should just give him more time with Deepali Kapoor, to whom he is engaged. Deepali is Aashish Kapoor's sister and the Kapoors consider Madras home. Aashish learned his cricket here and played for Tamil Nadu, but like many another Tamil Nadu player migrated when the Tamil Nadu selectors did not give him the opportunities he thought he deserved. Many another Tamil Nadu cricketer has also taken the same route as Aashish, but MMM wonders whether the romantic route will bring Rathore into Tamil Nadu's fold.

Two Madras-based 'departmental' stores are set to expand their operations in novel ways, The Man From Madras Musings hears. One of the oldest department stores in the country — and at one time its best — Spencer's of Madras — which in recent years has been losing its polish, has decided to take the plunge and move into the middle class market, setting up a chain of what it will call 'supermarkets' and retail packaged commodities. The RPG Group, who took the glamour out of Spencer's, plan to tie up with a Hong Kong Group, Dairy Farm International, to set up the chain, which is expected to start with a 6,000-

10,000 sq.ft. store in a Madras residential area which will stock 7500 items of interest to the home market. MMM, however, is more intrigued by the Group's plans to set up a retail training institute in Madras to train the selling staff for the chain; MMM hopes the trainees do not take their cues from the Spencer shop — whatever its present description — now functioning in Spencer Plaza, whose ambience has obliterated all vestiges of Spencer's glorious part.

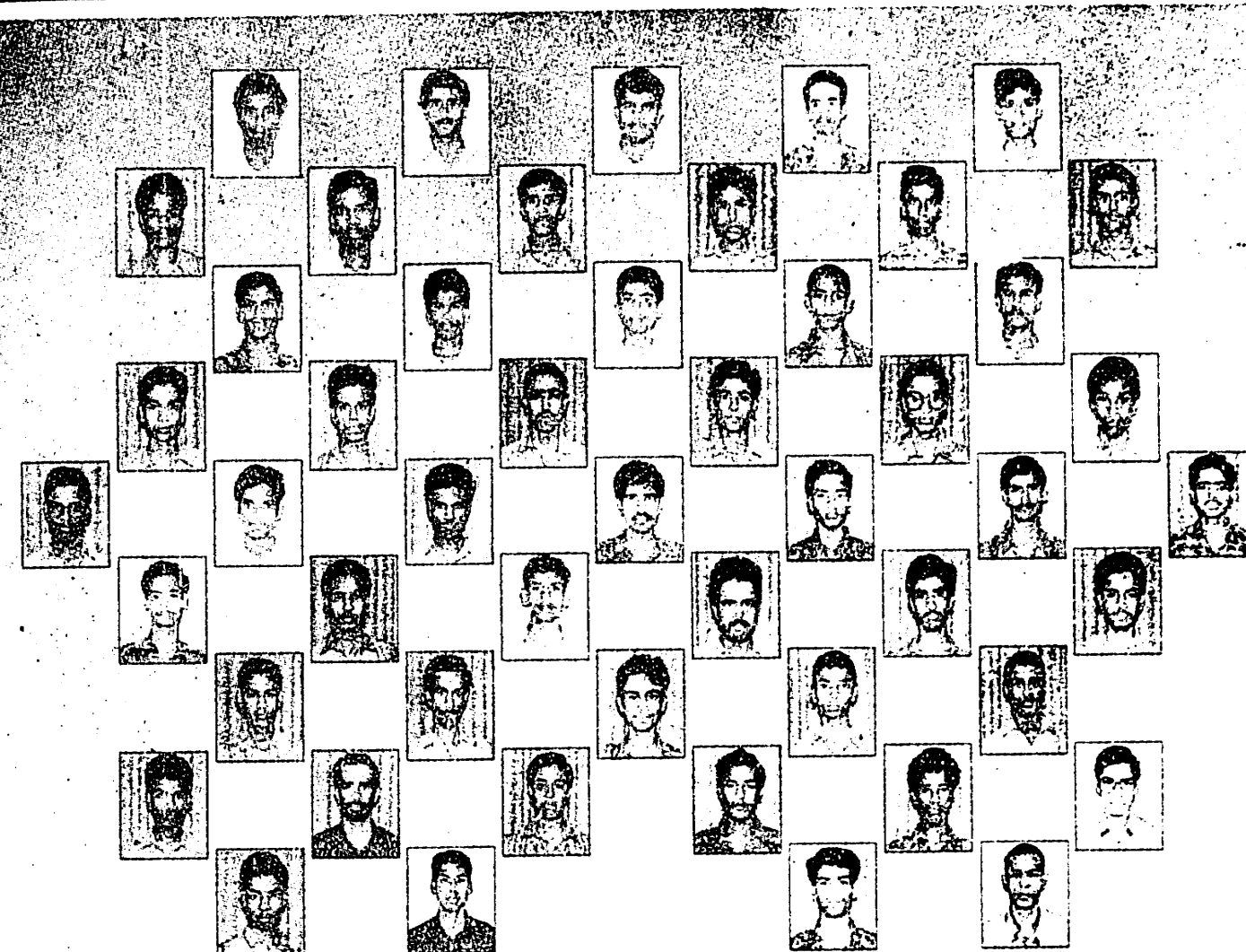
A smaller Madras group, Vitan's, which supplemented its export-oriented activities of manufacturing tennis and badminton racquets by establishing 'departmental' stores in leased premises in Madras, Anna Nagar and Purasawalkam, is now looking at opening up in other parts of the city in its own premises. The first of these will be in Tiruvanniyur early next year. The feature of the new stores — and the old ones when they move into Chokhani Group-owned premises — will be entertainment and recreation areas equipped with games and multimedia systems. "They will be places to spend time in, not merely to shop in," say the promoters of the Vitan chain of stores.

Business briefs

NEPC continues to soar. After virtually taking over Damania Airways — the line with the best passenger service — NEPC is consolidating its position as the No. 1 private airline by taking over the management of the state government-owned UP Air. The combined 15 aircraft strength of the three airways will now reach out to 70 destinations a day, and more will be added when they are strengthened by eight more aircraft shortly. Five more aircraft are also being considered for induction. Already a monopoly in 13 states, NEPC will now have entry into UP, Rajasthan, Punjab, Bihar and West Bengal.

Blue Dart, the courier people who have just entered the aircraft cargo field, will operate their five cargo flights, from Tamil Nadu, The Man From Madras Musings learns. Madras-Calcutta with Bangalore, Bombay and Delhi connections is scheduled for January and Coimbatore-Delhi, connecting Bangalore and Hyderabad is scheduled for March, MMM hears. Hosiery, handlooms and automobile components are expected to be the major cargoes from the South.

Madras-based Gem Granites Ltd. has concluded a joint venture agreement with Mobius Green Energy Inc. to produce nickel metal hydride batteries. A new company, Gem Mobius Green Power Ltd., will be floated for this US \$ 30 million project. The Man From Madras Musings hears. The American company will have a 40 per cent equity stake in the company and the balance will be shared by the Gem group and financial institutions. Meanwhile, another Madras-based manufacturer of dry cell batteries, Indo National Ltd., is planning to produce mercury-free, environment-friendly slim batteries. The slim battery segment, MMM is told, is a high-growth area.



இன்றைய சும்முடிப்புண்டி மண்ணின் மைந்தர்கள்
நாளைய சமுதாய மேம்பாட்டின் வேந்தர்கள்

What the postman brought us this evening was a rather striking greeting of large size and a rather tasteful invitation. The former (above left) was Thapar's PR man Alan Reso's attempt to get out to the world the world of good things DuPont are doing for "the families of the local youth and the local contractors who trust with Thapar DuPont's destiny must begin". The rather better, poetically signed Tamil message says that those

featured are "today's sons of Gummudi-pondi's soil" and that they will... "the community leaders of tomorrow". With such a promise, surely you can't let Thapar DuPont move from Gummudi-pondi, no matter what all those agitating environmentalists might have to say, can you? The rather striking picture on the right was on the front of an invitation to "meet the new guardian of your banking". And that guardian, it is revealed, will be the Bank

of Ceylon, which, after years of dilly-dallying, has at last begun to put down roots in Madras. What a boon that is going to be to Indo-Sri Lanka trade in the years ahead! For the moment, however, what struck us about the invitation was the appropriateness of the front picture, a symbol both of the guardian promise as well as a poetic reflection of the closeness of Tamil Nadu-Sri Lanka ties. All over central, north-central

and northern Sri Lanka there is found the legacy of the skills Chola sculptors introduced in the island over the centuries. And a favourite subject of the ancient Sri Lankan sculptors was the guardian doorkeeper, the dwarf-impala. Madras greets the bank which claims to be "the bankers to the nation", Sri Lanka, and the guardian of your banking. Inaugurating on October 50th the bank's first branch in India, on Poonamallee High Road, was Mangala M. M. Srinivasan, Sri

Lanka's High Commissioner to India. It was a lust for him too — this visit to Madras in his official capacity. By the time these lines appear, readers will undoubtedly know whether he had been granted an audience by Chief Minister Jayalalitha. He has been waiting a while for such a meeting, which could well help build bridges in the troubled island.

— THE EDITOR



WHAT THE MAIL BROUGHT...

Struggling with gridlock

(Continued from last fortnight)

One solution to the Mount Road congestion would be to prevent busloads from entering the city proper at all by getting them to terminate somewhere to the south, from where travellers would have to transfer to inner city transport, just as we do with trains. After all, the Bangalore or Mangalore Express trains are not seen rattling along Mount Road, so why should long distance buses?

Another possibility, which should seriously be considered by the Traffic Police and other authorities, would be to divert mofussil buses along the beach road, avoiding Mount Road altogether, until they reach the city's outskirts. This would halve the existing traffic density. The other day, a justly impatient driver growled, "Why doesn't the Government just widen Mount Road. Simple, isn't it?" Far from that being impossible because of the huge properties abutting it, which no one could possibly move, more such buildings are currently under construction. Where Abbotsbury stood, scene of so many elegant, memorable weddings, a very large 5-star hotel is being built, probably the biggest in Madras; while the present Spencer's Plaza, already a vast complex, is apparently only Stage One, since an adjoining plot has notices advising us that Stage Two is about to commence. Obviously, far from making widening Mount Road possible, these formidable constructions are going to intensify the traffic congestion we already suffer.

One Man's Madras — HARRY MILLER'S

dwelling, is now the scene of a frenetic building spree. First, two or three lovely houses, not even very old, with spacious compounds, were knocked

down. Their lawns are now crammed with blocks of flats, with perimeters as near as possible to the side of the roads, taking advantage of every square inch of space. These are now being raised from two to three floors. Nearby, another area is being converted into STREETS of 'cottages', handsomely designed but desperately crowded, while two remaining open spaces in the same area are seemingly being prepared for the same purpose.

(Continued on P6)

OUR READER'S WRITE

Cost of Medicare

Hiramalini Seshadri's values may perhaps justify her enthusiasm for the Sundaram Medical Foundation (SMF, Oct 1) but not mine. Take the single aspect of charges that this 'community' hospital makes. Even if figures like Rs. 5000 for "average" hospitalisation were to be statistically correct, they do not "spoil good value". How many members of our "community" can afford a half pair jogging shoes at Rs. 1000 a pair, every time a member in the family needs outpatient treatment?

Quite different from the figures quoted, I was quite surprised to hear the amounts that had been charged by this "community" hospital in a couple of cases at least. In one case - a very difficult and complicated one, no doubt - the bill was in five figures and the family, most unprepared as it was for the amount, had to pledge jewellery to be

able to pay the bill and get released from the hospital. This is not exactly an "offering of gratitude to one's fellow beings". I am not for a moment finding fault with the quantum of charges - it is entirely the hospital's business and people can take it or leave it. What I am pointing out is the dichotomy between what is professed and what is practised.

And certainly my grouse is against Madras Musings for carrying a one-sided story without ensuring that it also contained the opinion of people who had occasion to use the facility and, thus, make the article better balanced.

Let me make it clear that I am writing this purely as a matter of general interest and I have no interest whatsoever for or against the institution concerned.

B S Doraiswamy
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10 Pulla Avenue,
Shenoy Nagar, Madras-50

More from MMDA's II Master Plan

A look at infrastructure and shelter

The Madras Metropolitan Development Authority's II Master Plan has projected the water requirement of the city by the year 2011 as 1504 ml/d. While the standard water requirement per person has been put at 135 l/d, Madras currently supplies just 70 l/d — the lowest in the country. The plan suggests that even after Krishna water becomes available to the city, the water supply to the city would increase only to 105 l/d and 127 l/d by 2001 and 2011 AD. And the average domestic per capita supply would be 75 l/d and 95 l/d respectively. Curiously, the Plan discounts desalination projects, describing them as unviable and being justified only when alternate sources of water are not available. The answer the Plan suggests is

West Mambalam, Padmanabhanagar and Korrukupet, so that these areas are not starved of water even in normal days. — Completing Stage I and II of the Krishna Water Supply project without time overruns. — Evolving a pricing mechanism for water so that installation and maintenance of the systems become self-supporting. — Planning future policies and projects in line with the spatial policies of MMA. — Recycling of sewage for industrial and other uses. — Extending the operations of MMWSSB to cover the entire metropolitan area. — Implementing the sewerage improvement master plan to match

— Relocating cattle outside Madras. Looking at the problems of generating more space for shelter for the people, the Plan suggests the following measures to augment land supply in the MMA for construction purposes: — Orienting land subdivisions towards provision of higher densities, coupled with small plots and low rise developments. — Encouraging the use of appropriate standards in lieu of 'high standards'. — Applying the Urban Land Ceiling Act to land in Madras city alone, and increasing the compensation level for land acquired under the Act. — Legislating the draft Act framed by the MMDA for acquiring land for

of the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority Act. — Enforcing variable FSI based on activity norms and road width throughout the metropolitan area for planned, intensive development. — Introducing vacant land tax on vacant and unutilised lands to discourage speculative landholding. — Formulating rolling plans for housing, involving the public, private and cooperative housing suppliers. — Enabling the setting up of co-operatives for land assembly, development and housing.

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This bacteria makes lean, green bacteria

Take some silk cotton. Add a dash of the bacteria *Rhodospirillum rubrum*. Keep aside for a few days. Sieve and dry. This, in essence, is the recipe for a new, environment friendly method of paper manufacture that scientists at A M M Murugappa Cheltiar Research Centre (MCR) in Madras have developed.

Cellulose, a carbohydrate that is the main constituent of plant cell walls, is also the main constituent of paper. Since the 19th Century, forests have been axed the world over to provide the raw material for cellulose-hungry paper and pulp industries. But perhaps not for much longer. Says T M Vatsala, deputy director at MCR, "The technology we have is different, because it uses only the tree products and not the trees".

The floss from the silk cotton tree, *Ceiba pentandra*, has a fairly high cellulose content — 64-72 per cent. The rest is primarily hemicellulose, a compound similar to cellulose, which binds the cellulose to lignin that forms the woody tissue. If this floss is to be used as a raw material for paper manufacture, the cellulose would have to be isolated.

In the conventional method of manufacturing paper, mechanical and chemical pulping are used to separate the cellulose from the rest of the material, usually using sulphates or soda, which can lead to effluent problems. Enter *R. rubrum*, a bacteria that can feed on both cellulose and hemicellulose. When both are present, the bacteria preferentially attacks the latter. The optimum temperature for growth for the natural strain of the bacteria is 26°C. MCR scientists have, by selective adaptations, found a strain more suitable for Indian conditions which can grow at temperatures upto 38°C.

The process of manufacture is fairly simple. Fibre length of the silk cotton floss is first reduced using a kitchen mixer, after which it is boiled and cooled. The bacteria is then added to the floss and the mixture left for 2-6 days. During this time, the bacteria acts on the hemicellulose, breaking down

the bonds between the cellulose and lignin so that the cellulose is freed.

After treatment with *R. rubrum*, the mixture is ready to be sieved and compressed into the final product, a sheet of crisp, white paper.

About 2.5g of silk cotton floss is required to produce one sheet of A4-sized (8½" x 11½") paper. The waste, which contains the bacteria, can be used to treat fresh batches of silk cotton or fed into a biogas plant. Says C V Seshadri, scientist emeritus at MCR, "What we are making is clean, green paper".

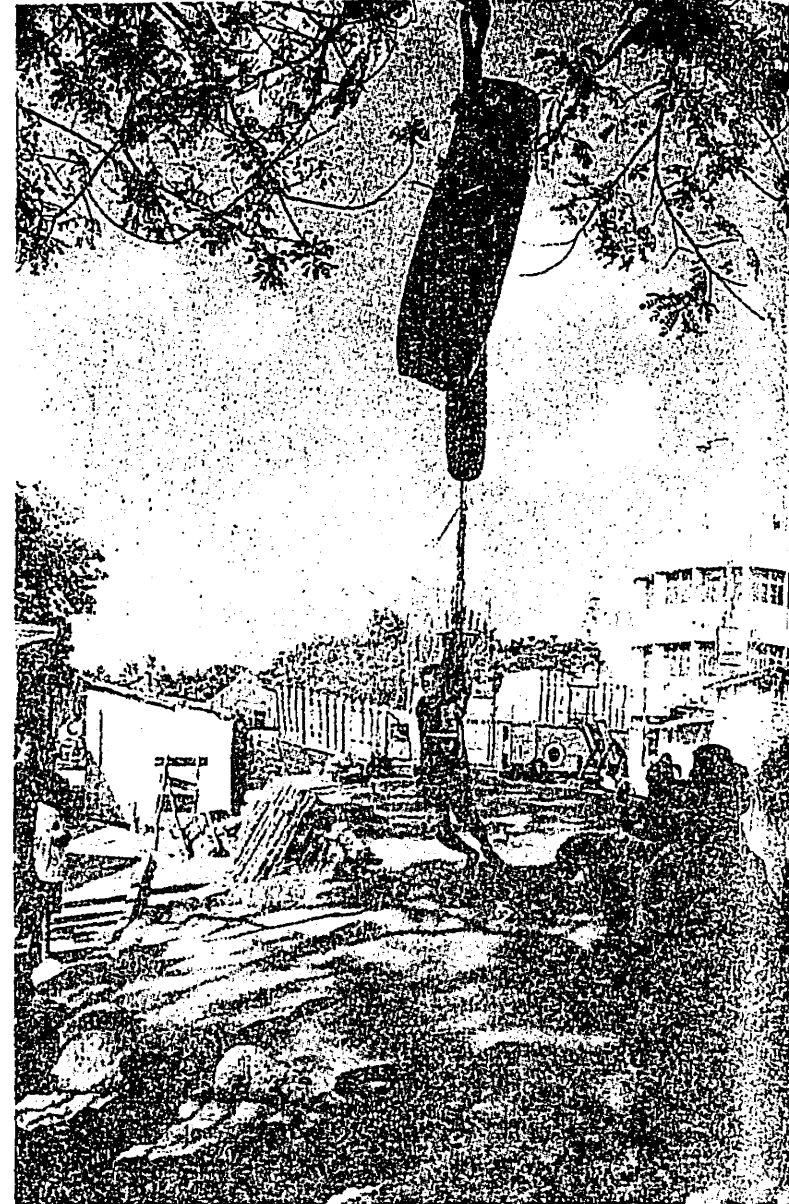
MCR hopes to completely replace the polluting technology currently used by the paper industry with what it has developed. "Right now, the technology is still confined to the laboratory, but we are confident of being able to start large-scale manufacture soon," says Vatsala. (CSE/Down To Earth Features).

MEERA IYER



THE OLD...

Our OLD and NEW take a completely new tack this fortnight with people, not buildings, being featured. In the OLD, a brother and sister seem to be having a whale of a time swinging on old tubes in the traditional roadside fashion, as Mother looks on proudly. In the NEW, the Australian NGOs who've launched their own Vision 2000 in Theagaraya Nagar have got the kids OFF THE STREET by creating a playground for them just west of Eldam's Road Junction. Here, tyres and straps provide the swings for deprived children wanting to play Tarzan. (Photographs: The OLD by RAJIND N CHRISTY and the NEW by V S RAGHAVAN.)



...& THE NEW

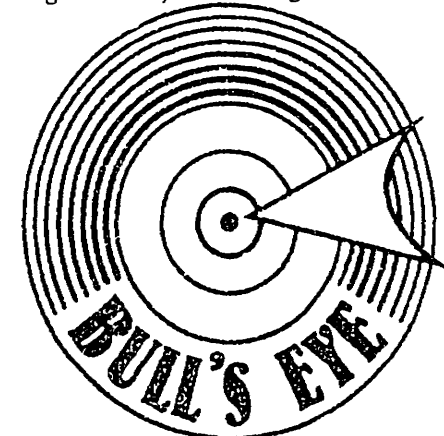
Logic and Investment

It is quite common to find analysts and investment publications using technical jargon in their analyses. This puts the ordinary investor in a quandary. By an 'ordinary investor' we refer to the majority of investors who are employed in fields other than those that are stock market related and use the bulk, if not all, of their savings as their capital.

Many investors do not read the investment publications in depth with the result that the thread of logic so painstakingly laid by the analysts is not even recognised let alone followed. The recommendation at the end is the only part of the article that is taken into consideration. We have been attempting through these columns, to rectify this situation, putting the logic of equity research in an easy-to-understand format.

What is the method of identifying scrips that are worth investing in? How can laypersons analyse the quality of

each share and that too on a day-by-day basis? This is a daunting task, made more so by the obvious pre-occupations brought on by their official and personal duties. It thus makes sense to invest with a long term perspective. With the end goal firmly in our sights, we can



then establish a simple and logical three-step process to make our choices.

The first step is to identify an industry segment that has excellent prospects of growth. It is perfectly correct to assume that different industry segments would fare better at different phases. But it would be fatal to consider alike the prospects of all companies, in any one sector that is booming. Inherent strengths would place some ahead in the race and these are the ones that have to be identified. However, identification of an industry and a comparative selection of the scrips are but the initial steps. The third and most important one is understanding the future growth prospects.

Growth in share prices is triggered by an event that is anticipated. In the recent case of Bank of Madras for example, the price growth took place due to the Bonus and Rights announcement being much better than anticipated. A large profitable export order or a favourable turn in the implementation of fiscal policies, can be some of the other factors triggering a price rise, or again it could be something like the germination of a company's growth plans. Recognising such price triggers of import is the last step before deciding.

Thus it is apparent that once a logical process is established, investment decisions become simpler to make. But

it has to be borne in mind that this is not the only way to make investment/disinvestment decisions. As detailed in some of our earlier columns, building a portfolio is a slow and steady process. As a portfolio must contain shares from a wide range of industries, the job naturally becomes time-consuming and complicated. But as it is our life-time savings that are involved, the time and care taken should not be begrudged.

Square D Software (CMP Rs. 56.00). One of the top ten software exporters in the country, Square D Software in its 1994-95 result has exceeded the estimations it made at the time of issue in April 1993. The company has secured a Rs 15 cr contract from the UK based AT & T — a 100% subsidiary of the US telecom giant, AT & T. With this, the order book position stands at Rs 55 cr which compares favourably with the Rs 42 cr turnover for the year ending March 1995.

Apart from AT&T-Isel, Square D's clients include Shell, HFC of Chicago, OKI of Japan, Cadam Pacific and automobile majors like BMW, Mercedes, Chrysler and Volkswagen. The company expects to achieve a turnover of Rs 65 cr for 1995-96. We estimate a PAT of Rs 16 cr for this period which yields an EPS of Rs 8. The share is currently discounting this by only 8 times when the industry average is 14 and

thus offers good scope for further appreciation. Technically, the share has been registering higher bottoms since May 1995 and the moving averages are rising indicating bullishness. Buy with a stop at Rs 55.

Amtrex Appliances (CMP Rs. 43.50). With an 18% market share in the total air conditioners market, Amtrex leads specifically in the room air conditioner segment and is acknowledged as the fastest growing company in the industry. The changes in the tax structure have helped the organised sector increase its 36% market share to 54% in the past three years. The company reported a turnover of Rs 52.56 cr and a PAT of Rs 3.56 for the year ending March 1995, improvements by 82% and 148% respectively. Out of the year's EPS of Rs 5.32, the company paid Rs 1.80 as dividend. It expects to achieve a turnover of Rs 100 cr in 1995-96 and a PAT of Rs 6 cr which should yield an EPS of Rs. 6.30 on the enhanced equity of Rs 9.50 cr. The current price discounts the EPS by only 8.40 times and we guess the share could move up to the Rs 75 range by the time of results. Technically, the share has been moving sideways between Rs 45 and Rs 55 since July 1995. Of late, it is exhibiting higher bottoms. Buy.

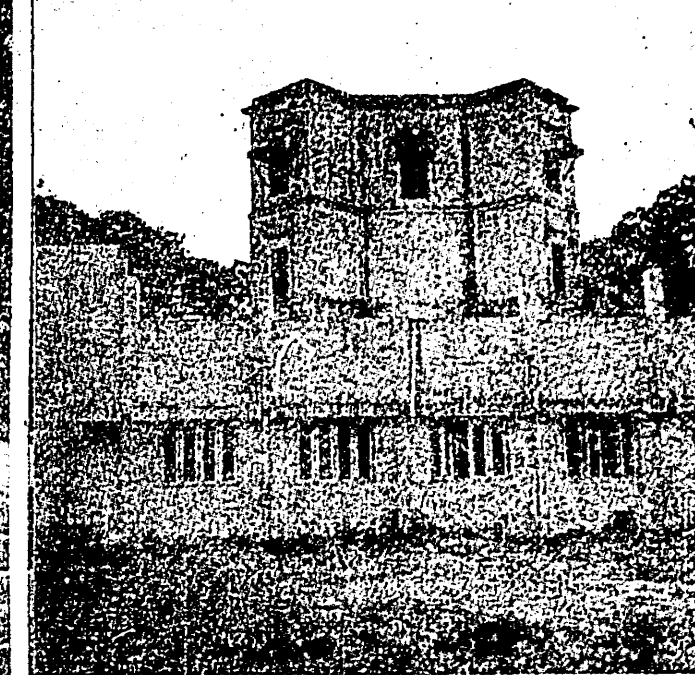
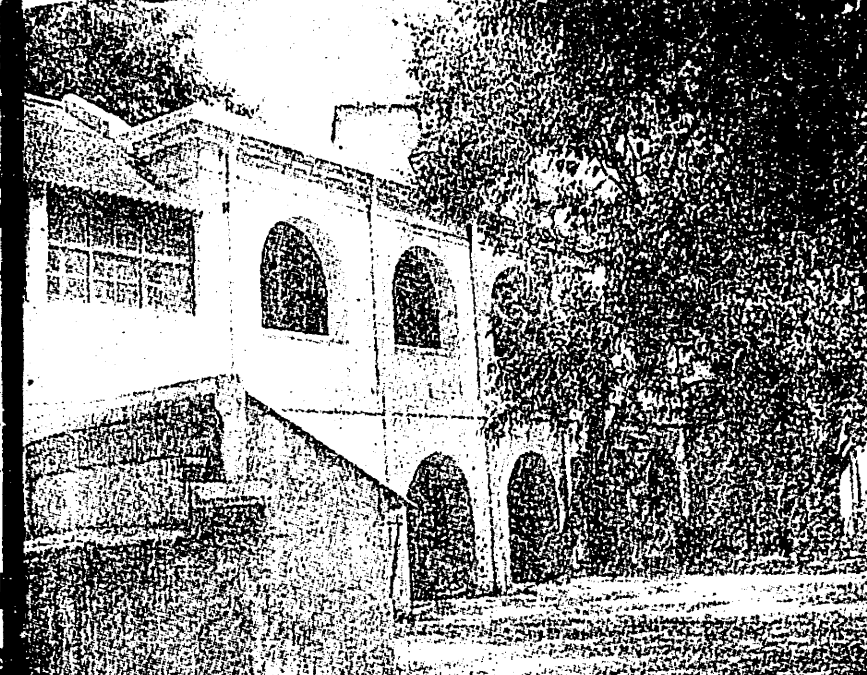
- K. Gopalakrishnan

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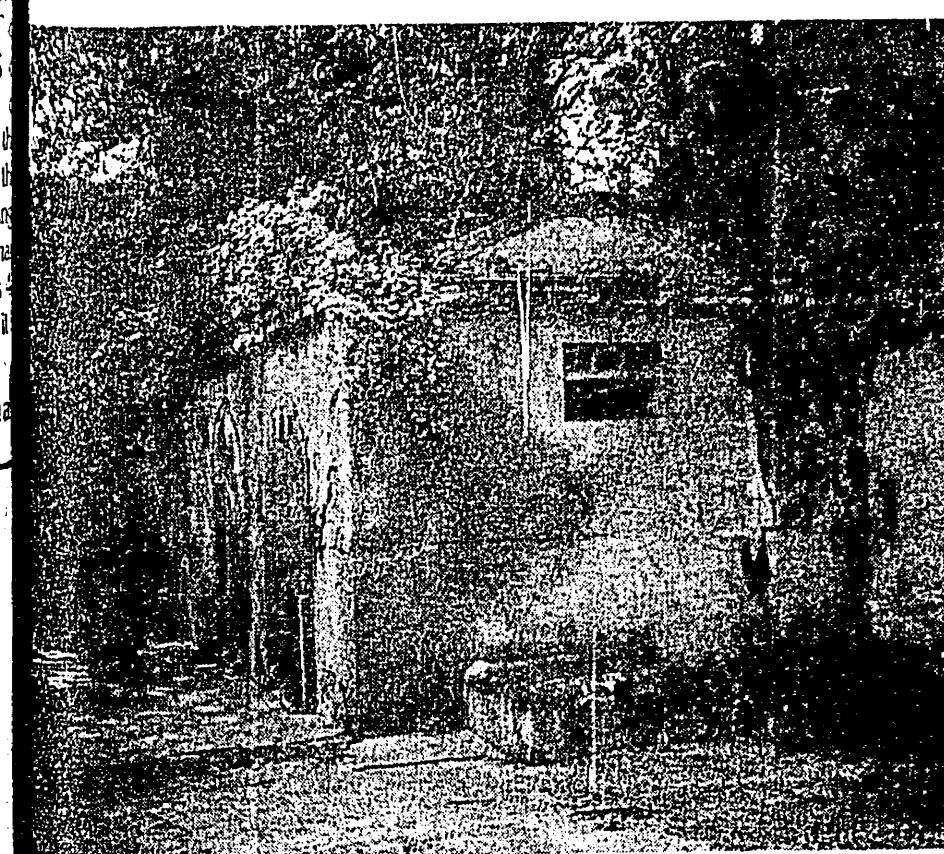


City debtors' jail now a college

How many in Madras know that an old jail in the city is today the home of a college, with many of the classes still being held in the old jail buildings? The college-in-a-jail is in George Town, the then Black Town, at the junction of, naturally, Old Jail Road and Broadway. The Civil Jail, as it was called, mostly held debtors and was situated in what was then a very public part of Black Town.

As far back as 1692, debtors were confined to the Civil Jail. Usually debtors had to pay only a small amount, but they had to pay a considerable amount on account of the exorbitant charges of the Attorney of the Mayor's Court, which decided Civil and Criminal cases. The debtors were invariably poor and had no opportunity to earn money to pay their debts. On the other hand, the Court did not see the sense of releasing them!

One exception to this kind of debtor was the Rev. John Phillip Fabricius, the well-known missionary and Tamil scholar, after whom the L.M. Fabricius School is named. His plans to expand the school compelled him to go for help, to a local money-lender who, in time, sent him to languish in the prison for a year-and-a-half, for default of payment of Rs 2,877-16-49 pagodas.



The toilets of the old block... slowly falling to pieces as trees take their toll.

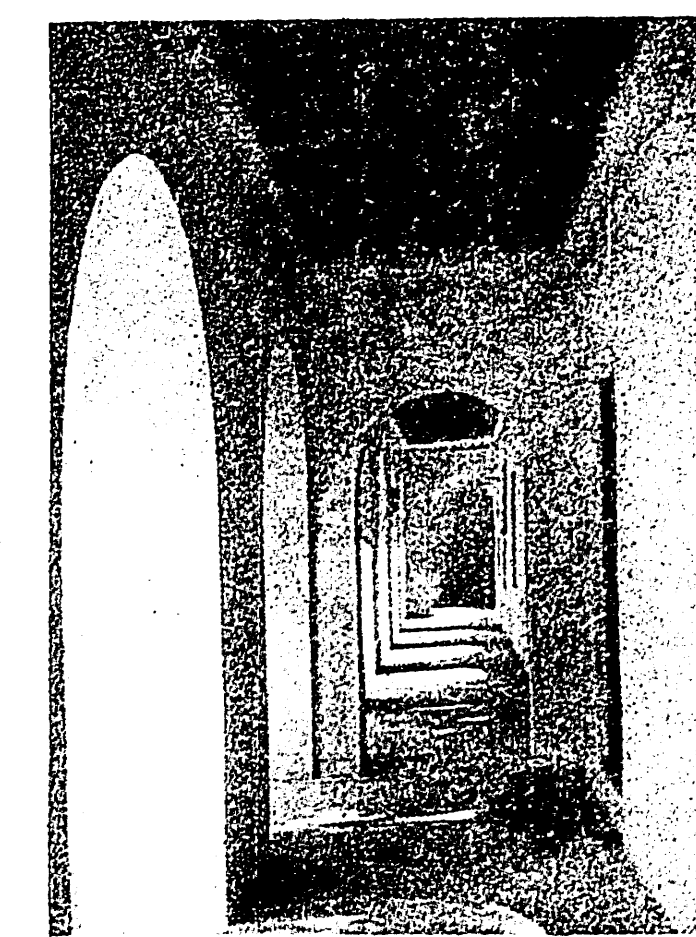
Another well-known resident of old Madras who found himself behind bars was the Nawab of Carnatic's physician, Sir Paul Jodrell. Fearing arrest for debt, he had asked the Government to regard him as a member of the Nawab's family and, thereby, exempt him from the civil process, but the Government refused his request.

Various Sheriffs took steps to mitigate the lot of the debtors and

other prisoners. They helped to provide better accommodation for debtor prisoners and built new buildings. Edward Aitkinson was the Sheriff in 1793 and his contribution to the jail was immense. He is remembered in Aitkinson Road, Vepery.

After the British left, the jail premises were used as the headquarters of the Congress Prachar Sabha when Chandrasekar Mudaliar was the president. The premises were used to train people in cottage industries and a regular visitor was the late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu K Kamaraj. After his death, the place was neglected till it came under unauthorised occupation by a VIP and was rented to a private party who started a nursery school and a men's club. After a tussle, the premises were acquired by the Government to set up an Arts College for Women in 1964. This was started in a portion of the Civil Jail, while the main building was occupied by the Central Polytechnic. When the latter moved to Adyar, the College took over all the buildings and was renamed Bharathi Women's College.

The main two-floor Civil Jail building was two parts. One part, which had been the kitchen and the stores, was in a dilapidated state when I visited here and was due for demoli-



On left, the corridor of the newer block, with classrooms to the right. On right, the entrance to one of the cells in the old block and the staircase to the second floor.

through a broad spiral staircase which leads to a spacious landing. There had once been chains fixed to the walls, but these have been removed. There must have been about 20 big dormitory-like rooms and they had windows that looked out on the tree-rich surroundings. The campus is surrounded by a 20-foot compound wall. Entrance was once through two gates, but now there is only one. The large doors of the dormitory-like rooms are wooden, while the main entrance to the floors is through a big iron door. Cellular isolation was a hallmark of the early 1800s and once the dormitories were partitioned, cellular isolation was ensured.

In the Civil Jail premises, the old-type chimneys of the kitchen stand out. The jailors quarters are within the compound and remain a strong building. There is also a Hindu temple in the premises, which is used by the staff and students.

An interesting feature of the Civil Jail was that when a creditor filed an insolvency suit and put a debtor behind bars, he had to take care of the latter's food needs. If sufficient money was not deposited with the jailor for his maintenance, the debtor would be set free! Debtors and criminals were confined to civil jail for indefinite periods and officials sometimes forgot the very offences for which the prisoners were confined. Many debtors were released after a certain period of confinement only by the King's Act of Grace.

— Text and Photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY

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Quizzin' with Ramanan

(Quizmaster V.V. RAMANAN's questions are from the period October 1-15)

- Name the scion of one of India's most respected industrial families who passed away on October 1st.
- A 28-year old frigate of the Royal Navy has been inducted into the Indian Navy as a training ship. What has it been named? (Clue: An avatar of Vishnu)
- One of the most sensational and publicised cases in U.S. legal history saw the accused acquitted, a decision which stunned the country. Name the personality.
- A new, Rs. one crore international prize, on the lines of the Nobel Peace Prize, was instituted on October 2nd. What is the prize called? (Clue: No clues)
- Two new facilities were introduced recently, wherein on dialling 4913291 and 8242001 in the city, a certain service could be obtained. What services?
- Name the freedom fighter, former chairman of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and a patriarch of State politics, who passed away on October 3rd?
- Who has been awarded the prestigious Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for 1994?
- The 'largest' software park in the country was inaugurated at Tharamani on October 4th. What's it called?
- The Bangalore-based BPL has signed up, at a fee of Rs. 10 crore for two years, a big entertainment luminary to endorse its products. Who? (Clue: Big 'B')
- Why were Seamus Heaney of Ireland and Prof. Joseph Rotblat in the news?
- Where in the State did illicit liquor-kill 22 people on October 15th?
- The day of the visually handicapped, October 15th, is observed worldwide as...
- Nigel Leeson, a journalist of *The People* in England, had a great scoop on October 14, when a classified and secret fax reached him by mistake. What was the fax about?

(Answers on p. 8)

Junk bargains

I belong to the small silent band of citizens of Madras who mourn the winding up of Moore Market complex. I was a consistent patron of the junk shops that operated there. Most people detest junk. But I like it — unashamedly so. I have a room full of patiently collected junk I have nurtured through a lifetime. I have a miser's affection and concern for it. I must feast my eyes on it and feel the junk at least once a day. Unless I am in the midst of this junk. I am unable to do any worthwhile work.

I can give you a reason for this collection. In this age, when every gadget seems to break down at the most crucial moment for no apparent reason, my junk steps in to bring them back to order. As I am able to communicate with these objects and keep myself amused, I have no use for any sort of intercourse with humans. Consequently, my neighbours consider me taciturn and give me a wide berth. But as soon

as any of their gadgets fail, they come to me first. Only if I am unable to fix them do they think of taking it to a service mechanic.

This trait for junk collection surfaced in me from a very early age.

• by M. SETHURAMAN

I have a feeling that I must have been born with a piece of junk in my hand, just as some are born with silver spoons in their mouths. But, my mother and the nurse who helped me enter this world would not admit it. When I started going to school I would, on my way, collect bits of coloured rags thrown away by tailors. I pestered cigarette shopkeepers to give me empty cartons, aerated water bottle caps and the like. I rummaged in dustbins to collect knick-knacks thrown away by

householders. These I stored in the small floor desk drawer presented to me by a granduncle. I would sit before the desk and spend a lot of time arranging and rearranging my treasure. One day, my father caught me in the act. He

ended. Each shop in the annex brimmed with war surplus materials. While returning from office, I used to take a detour into the Moore Market complex and pick up the pieces which attracted me most. Soon, my stock of junk swelled. My wife (by this time I had acquired a wife — not the just variety to be sure) suggested that I go away while I passed Moore Market. Dear readers! tell me, is it possible to be a drunkard to ignore a tavern that stands invitingly in his way? So my collection went on in spite of my wife's protests. At present, my collection of junk has dwindled considerably as my mobility is restricted due to advancing years. Yet even how my stock is certain to be the envy of any junk dealer in Madras!

If you think buying a piece of junk is an easy matter, you are mistaken. If you go to a junk shop and ransack the bins for half an hour to get the piece you desire, the shopkeeper is sure to think that the piece is very valuable and will ask a price many times the true value of the material. All your arguments that a new one costs much less will not pass muster. If you ask for a price a fraction of what he has quoted, all hell will be let loose. The shopkeeper will blast you and your ancestors with a series of epithets in the foulest of Madras language! A conventional, educated person will have no longer to match. Hence, a subtle method should be followed. On the first visit, you select the pieces and keep them in a place from which they could be easily picked up later. After two or three days you go to that shop, pick up the piece which you had selected earlier, although you are choosing it casually and ask for the price. The conversationalist would go something like this:

"How much?"
"Ten rupees."
"Ten rupees! For this? If I pay two more rupees I can get a new one, don't want it." You put back the thing and walk off to the next shop. As you move, you will hear the shopkeeper calling you.
"Saar, Saar! Don't run away like that. Saar. Tell me, how much you are prepared to give." You go back with affected reluctance. Now the shopkeeper smiles and says, "You are the first person since I opened the shop to

never make them good when they have finished their digging, hammering or tamping down the loose soil, and giving it at least a temporary layer of black-topping, as they do in other cities. And in a few days the humps of bare earth and stones they dump into those trenches are turned by countless heavy wheels into holes again, narrow but deep.

So perhaps we could follow the example of other countries and coax our people to move out into satellite towns. No? Of course, I'd forgotten, they've already done so. After all, Avadi, Tambaram, Tiruvotriyur, Ennore, were all at one time satellite towns. Unhappily, they aren't any more. They have all long ago been overwhelmed and swallowed by a surging tide of hideous, industrial slums; they are already outposts of Greater Metropolitan Madras.

Whatever happened to that lovely little old city I used to know?

(Concluded)

Struggling with gridlock

(Continued from P5)

Remember that each of these residences, whether it is a flat, a house or a 'cottage', is designed 'executives' (as the Chairman of one of the companies told me) and, therefore, each requires a telephone, water and electrical power, all facilities in desperately short supply in this non-city, as I have come to call it. For years now I have found that I have to dial a number ten or twelve times, getting the engaged signal every time, yet when finally I get through and enquire, the person called assures me his phone has NOT been in use all that time. Why the engaged signal then?

My guess, an educated one I think, is that it's the EXCHANGE not the individual phone that is always engaged. If you have an exchange (electronic or otherwise) designed for, say, fifty thousand phones, which has even sixty thousand, then the chances are that at any given time the number you are calling will be 'engaged', but it is the exchange not the number you are calling that is engaged. Choked would be a better word. Yet, for motives I can only guess (an educated guess again!), more and more connections are constantly being given for all these new, elegant residences without any extensions being made to the infrastructure, to give it a trendy name, in this case the exchanges themselves. The same is true of other municipal services, including power and water supplies. Wait until the next four-year drought and see what happens!

It seems to me that the situation worsens from day to day. I go earlier and earlier to my office, trying to avoid the worst of the rush-hour, but cannot avoid the grim realities of the return journey. And though I seldom go anywhere else, I am assured that there are other main arterial roads elsewhere which are just as bad. The roads themselves are in a deplorable condition, never properly laid in the first place, weakened by heavy vehicles they are not strong enough to support, ruined by innumerable government departments, like Metrowater, telephones, electricity, who are forever digging

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The Gemini touch



S.S. VASANA

Editor, publisher, mail order specialist, film-maker and a racing man. (Photo: From RAGAMI'S COLLECTION)

soon learnt that the job would be his, provided a deposit was paid.

With his flair for writing, Vasana had written several stories and novels by this time. He had just negotiated an advance with a publisher for a new novel which would go towards the job deposit. Everything seemed fine till the publisher had to pay up. With the non-payment of the advance went Vasana's opportunity of becoming a clerk in the M. & S.M. Railway! In later years, Vasana would often wonder what course his life would have followed if the publisher had kept his word.

Vasana now entered the world of advertising and began work as a representative, canvassing advertisements all over the Madras Presidency which he placed with publications like Periyar E.V. Ramasami Naicker's *Kudi Arasu*, Raya Chockalingam Chettiar's *Oozhiyan* and a few others. Soon, he thought that he would do better if he owned his own magazine. And so he acquired a sagging monthly, paying Rs. 200 for it, at the rate of 25 rupees for each Tamil letter of its name. Before long, he built *Ananda Vikalan* into a best-selling weekly, which became a

part of the life and culture of the educated Tamilian.

Vasana also ran a successful mail-order business, a new concept half-century and more ago. He offered several articles, like sarees, wrist watches and sewing machines, at seemingly throwaway prices. As a child in the 1940's, I acquired a hand-operated movie projector with feature film reels for Rs. 6 via this route. It was my initiation into the world of movies!

Vasana also proved enormously successful in the world of horse-racing. He believed that there was a science to horse-racing and that he could spot a winner by studying the animal and its form. During his tenure, he was a force in the Indian racing world, be it as a punter or as an owner.

A successful magazine, a booming mail-order business, one of those rare moneymakers in racing... Vasana was a rich man before he was thirty! But he did not forget his early beginnings... those days of poverty, the struggle he and his mother had to wage to survive. He did not forget how he cycled all the way from Trichy to Madras on his first visit. He did not forget the days when he wrote, printed and published his books, then sold them himself, hawking them up and down railway station platforms and in moving trains, jumping from one carriage to another.

Eventually, he entered the film world. As a creative person, he was drawn to movies and it was as a distributor-financier that he made his debut in the late 1930's, thanks mainly to the persuasion of that Indian film pioneer K. Subramaniam. Thus was born the Gemini Pictures Circuit, which successfully distributed Tamil and Telugu films.

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city it was before the second half of the century began. In this series, you will meet many of them, the men and women who have earned their place in the history of Madras between 1900 and 1950. Come, take a walk down Madras memory lane with me and let us remember their contributions.

R.G.

In 1939, the Motion Pictures Producers' Combines (MPPC) studio run by K. Subramaniam caught fire and had to face closure due to severe losses. Vasana acquired the studio in a court auction for Rs. 86,427, 11 annas, 9 pies! (Why this odd figure? After much search, this writer recently found that the amount included wages due to studio workers, inclusive of accrued interest!) Vasana re-opened the studio in 1940 as Gemini Studio.

The rest, as they say, is history!

Vasana went on to achieve phenomenal success. And then, in 1969, passed away. Today, Gemini is no more. And his homes are ghostly mansions on Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai. Fortunately, the Anna Salai Flyover is better known to everyone as the Gemini Flyover and the roundabout is still spoken of as Gemini Circle.

Junk bargains

(Continued from P6)

evening. Pay a reasonable price and do *boni*, Saar!" (In Madras parlance, *boni* is the first sale in a shop for that day.)

You say, "I will pay five rupees!" "Aiyoi! Aiyoi! You are hitting me in my stomach, Saar! How can I live on it?"

"Then tell me your lowest price!" "Pay nine rupees and take it!" "No, no. Six rupees"

And so it drags on, till the bargain is settled at seven or eight rupees.

Recently I took a walk on the road adjoining the new broad gauge suburban railway terminal where the Moore Market annexe used to be. There were a few pavement junk shops — the poor cousins of the once great sheikhs of Junkdom. The wares these sold! Not worthy to be in any self-respecting junk shop, leave alone my house!

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Lakshmi Shankar

in Europe and the United States. She has sung in many films, including for *Gandhi*.

It was an emotional moment for Madras at Lakshmi's concert of light classical music. The bereavement had

Lakshmi Shankar sang for Parampara on October 10th. The famous South Indian Hindustani classical vocalist had been in town for a whole month before that and no-body even knew. She wanted it that way as she is mourning the loss of her daughter (who was married to violinist L. Subramaniam) about eight months ago. She now has four grandchildren to look after.

Lakshmi is among the very early South Indians to master North Indian classical music. She was seen as a dancer when she was barely 13 in the legendary Uday Shankar film *Kalpana* and learnt the Patiala *gharana* of music from Ustad Rehman Khan, Prof. B.R. Deodhar and Pandit Ravi Shankar. She was the first Indian

Synonym for Courage

Another experience of being carried forward was with a young artist who used to be a dancer and who has now made Madras her home. Rohini Krishnan (28) grew up in Delhi where the Krishnans, a prominent South Indian family there, entertained friends and guests with Carnatic music and dance. Any artist visiting Delhi from Madras was welcome in their house and a small chamber programme arranged. Rohini's mother, Jamuna Krishnan, is a dancer, musician and a scholar herself. Rohini was groomed in Bharata Natyam and Carnatic music, while studying at Delhi's Modern School. She was busy giving dance programmes as well as being involved in every activity in school.

When she was in her school final year, she began to have stomach upsets and giddiness. The doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Health made her a test case; they took some eighty and more X-rays of her body and gave her a whole range of medicines. In the middle of being sick, giving dance programmes and attending music classes, Rohini did very well in

class and gained admission for post-graduate work in the U.S. Her sickness never came in the way of her academics. While preparing for her Ph.D., her condition was recognised as a case of multiple sclerosis and she came back to India. But her condition only worsened here.

Rohini, however, remains a synonym for courage. In her wheel chair, she moves about Madras, gives tuition in Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics, works at the Pathway Centre for the Mentally Retarded and listens to music, especially T.N. Seshagopal and T.V. Sankaranarayanan. Her ambition is to start a centre for multiple sclerosis in Madras for which she needs help. She recently gave two well-received talks at Stella Maris College on the subject.

I remember seeing her performing at a lecture demonstration by her mother at the Krishna Gana Sabha's Natya Kala Conference ten years ago and demonstrating *padams* at a private concert at the *abhinaya* exponent Kalanidhi Narayanan's house. While she describes that past with no bitterness, she says what is heartrending is to see the retarded children at the Pathway Centre. Anyone wanting to contact her, may write to me care of

Runs in the family

When 15-year-old Jeetender Singh recently represented Madras City under-16 against the Districts XI, he reminded followers of Tamil Nadu cricket that the Ram Singh family saga continues. Jeetender, a XI Standard student at St. Bede's Anglo Indian High School, San Thomé, like many of his family before him, is a stylish righthand batsman and useful leftarm spinner. And he already has a few centuries to his credit in the TNCA league and inter-school matches.

No history of Tamil Nadu Cricket can be complete without reference to the contribution made by octogenarian A.G. Ram Singh and his progeny. Ram Singh was a lefthand all-rounder of the highest calibre, regarded by the knowledgeable as distinctly unfortunate not to have played for India. Considerations of merit could have never kept him out, though, in Vinoo Mankad, Ram had a worthy rival for a place in the national eleven. Ram Singh and M.J. Gopalan were the devastating combination that destroyed Mysore in the inaugural Ranji Trophy match at Chepauk in 1934 — a match Madras won by an innings in a single day.

A.G. Ram Singh & Sons is the name of the sports shop in Triplicane frequented by generations of cricketers who receive the personal attention of the patriarch of the leading cricket family of Madras. For very nearly half a century, Ram Singh helped young cricketers as both the official coach of the TNCA as well as in his capacity as an individual assisting various schools. Evidence of the quality of his coaching was provided in ample measure by his sons Kripal, Mikha and Satvinder.

The late Kripal Singh scored a century on Test debut versus New Zealand at Hyderabad in the 1954-55 season and in the second half of his



From top to bottom, Grandfather Ram Singh, father Satvinder Singh and Jeetender Singh (Photograph, RAJIND N CHRISTY)

career bowled off-spin for India. He was Madras's most successful batsman of his era and a shrewd captain known for the psychological battles he waged against his opposite numbers.

Lefthanded Mikha was a stylist who dominated Tamil Nadu's batting for nearly a decade, but, pitchforked into Test cricket at the age of 18, failed to come off with the limited opportunities he received at the highest level.

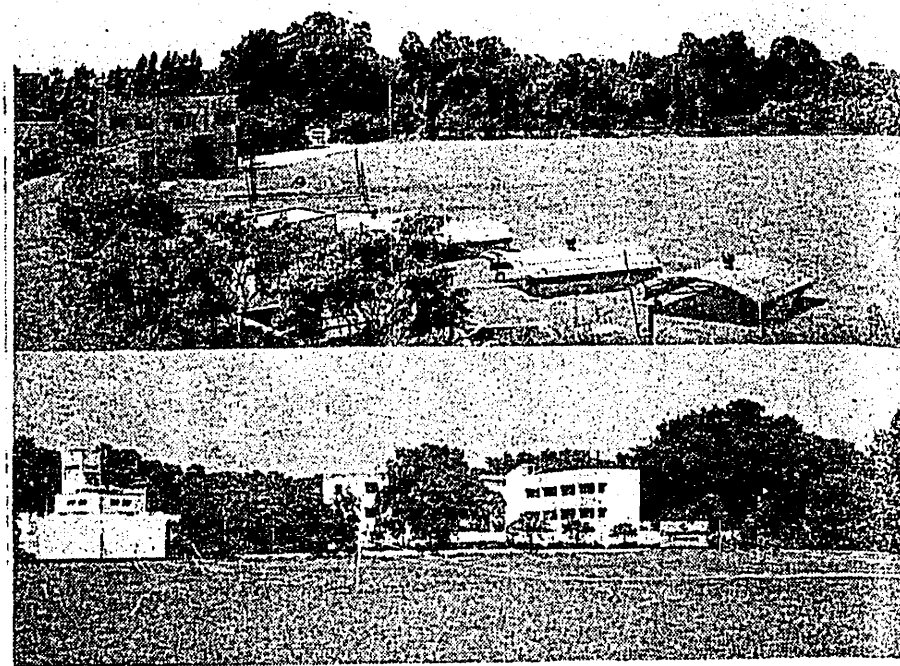
Great things were expected of Satvinder Sinah, the youngest of the brothers, who commanded a wide range of strokes, perfect technique and an excellent temperament. An unfortunate road accident and the resultant knee injury put paid to Satvinder Singh's hopes of playing for the

country, yet he remained Tamil Nadu's outstanding batsman in the late Sixties and early Seventies.

Until the Eighties, the large Ram Singh extended family lived together in a sprawling house in San Thomé. Cricket was always in the air and there were a whole lot of cousins and nephews, most of whom studied at St. Bede's, making it a strong team in local competition. A.G. Jamail Singh and A.G. Harjinder Singh are Ram Singh's nephews who did very well at school level, Harjinder going on to play for Tamil Nadu in the Ranji Trophy. Kripal Singh's two sons also played Ranji Trophy — Swaran opened the innings while Arjan Kripal Singh proved a most competent attacking middle order batsman who once scored a triple century against Goa in a South Zone league match.

Jeetender, a son of Satvinder Singh, is by all accounts, a chip of the old block and is expected to be picked for the State under-16 team this year. Cricket-lovers of Madras will be delighted when he succeeds, for the Ram Singh family has been extremely popular with the connoisseurs and crowds alike for over 50 years. With their fluency in Tamil and their winning ways, they have endeared themselves to one and all. The hard-working Jeetender is no exception.

— V. Ramnarayan



The beautiful Guru Nanak College ground, with its splendid pitch covers (picture in the foreground). But note the incongruous hoarding in the picture above. (Photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY)

A Beautiful Ground

— But it could do with a spot more taste

The final of the annual Buchi Babu Shield tournament, sponsored this year by the Indian Bank, was played at the distant Guru Nanak ground in Velachery on the city outskirts. Understandably, it drew only a small crowd. But the fans who turned up there for the first time had a pleasant surprise. The college can take justifiable pride in owning the city's most green and well-maintained ground, with a turf pitch and a near-ideal background. It is so well-maintained and has every modern equipment that it has every claim to be rated the city's No. 1 ground.

The well-grown, leafy trees in close proximity all around it provide a village background to the thick green grass in the playing arena which has hardly a brown patch. The state of the turf is indeed a tribute to the attention paid to it by the college's sizeable contingent of groundsmen and their families, who provided another unique scene as soon as it started raining on the day of the Shield final.

In a matter of seconds, they can be replaced by the modern, heavy covers and the costly four-wheeler 'tents', available only at Guru Nanak, to give the ground such protection that it did not suffer serious damage. As a result, play can be resumed after a 40-minute break. The quick resumption boosted the status of the ground as the best equipped one in the city.

There is, however, one blemish. Two advertisement signboards of well-known cement firms strike a discordant note. I believe the firms have contributed much to the excellent state of the ground. But the fact remains that the signboards alone deny the ground an all-green background. Oddly enough, the companies' managing directors are both cricket fans. They will surely enhance their status and reputation if they have their advertising created more tastefully and positioned more discreetly, in keeping with the all-green background they have helped create.

— A. J.

A saddened Anand — despite the records

India's first Grand Master, Viswanathan Anand has like scores of other Indian challengers in the international arena disappointed millions in India. He too was found wanting when it came to the crunch.

Anand has, however, scaled the heights in a different arena. The championship carried such a big purse that even by filling the runner-up berth, he has emerged as India's richest-ever sportsperson. He has indeed achieved more. His emergence as the challenger gave Indian chess, nay Indian sport, its biggest-ever boost. He has indeed

revolutionised Indian chess by prompting lakhs of youngsters throughout the country to take to the game. No discipline in India has had such a rapid, phenomenal growth as chess, which owes its present unique status as the country's most popular indoor sport solely to Anand's rise to world stardom.

Though he tasted the bitter pill of defeat in his first cham-

pionship final, his genius being what it is, Anand could yet wear the world crown, for he is only 24. A pointer to the future is the manner in which he outplayed Kasparov in the championship's ninth game. It made the 32-year-old world title-holder trail for the first time in a Championship match since he became champion a decade ago!

— JAIC

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ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Aditya; 2. INS *Krishna*; 3. O.J. Simpson; 4. Gandhi Peace Prize; 5. Getting autos for hire (4913291) and finding out a pin code (8242001); 6. M.P. Sivagnanam (MaPoSi); 7. The slain Punjab Chief Minister, Beant Singh; 8. Elnet Software City; 9. Amitabh Bachhan; 10. They have been awarded this year's Nobel Prize for Literature and Peace respectively; 11. Saltur; 12. White Cane Day; 13. A privatisation proposal for part of the BBC; 14. Bayerish Motor Werken (BMW); 15. Rev. Father Peter Hans Kolvenbach; 16. Doppler Weather Radar; 17. Garry Kasparov; 18. Shantha and V.P. Dhananjayan; 19. Ian Botham. His nickname is 'Beely'; 20. She became the first foreigner, in the history of the 10th century temple, to perform the *Ekadasi-Rudra Japa*

We welcome the first steps to THE HERITAGE ACT

We look forward to its enactment and implementation

Space donated by TAMARAI MILLS

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