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No repeat yet of 'gold rush'

A recent news report stated that the Geological Survey of India had identified vast areas in Tamil Nadu rich in gold. These are reported to be in the western part of the State. But the major hurdle to mining here appears to be that the major part of the identified area falls in a forest zone. Since any kind of commercial activity is forbidden in such areas, both the Centre and the State Government are believed to be in a fix.

The lure of gold in this area is not new. A century ago there was a notable 'gold rush' to this part of the then Madras Presidency. Writing about this gold rush, S Muthiah states in his history of South Indian planting, *A Planting Century* (Affiliated East West Press):

Tea was (first) planted in 1864 (in the Wynaad) but was taken up seriously only in 1889 when it seemed certain coffee would go under.

Tea has proved a winner ever since, but there was a loud hiccup when planters in Southern India became goldminers for a brief period and thought the Wynaad was a bonanza. The gold rush claimed several lives during the frantic search and more so after a £ 5,000,000 investment turned into only 30 ozs of gold dust.

With planters ruined in Ceylon by aughted coffee and most of them in the Wynaad facing the same fate, morale amongst planters was at its lowest ebb

ever when the rumour of gold in the Wynaad took root. It received almost imperial blessings when Parry's, among others, were involved in the floating of the Alpha Gold Mining Company in December, 1874 with a capital of £ 100,000, and the company reported finding traces of gold near Devala, about seven miles from Gudalur. The Government brought in an Australian mining expert in 1879 and Brough Smyth started on his scientific goldhunt. Meanwhile, prices for estates, almost all of them skeletons by then, were skyrocketing. Prices went through the roof when Smyth gave an opinion that there were gold deposits in the Nilgiris-Wynaad and suggested that mining should be encouraged. What attention was needed to be paid to stricken coffee was totally ignored by planters who to a man began either prospecting on their estates or negotiating fancy prices for the properties. Meanwhile, the stock markets boomed in 1880 as they were to in the early 1990s.

Mining, which started in 1879, encouraged the floating of 41 companies in England with a capital of over £ 5 million and six companies in India with a capital of something over a quarter of a million pounds. These companies paid prices ranging from £ 70 to £ 2600 for an acre of land promising gold and put the self-styled mining experts — including, it is said, a "quondam baker and a retired circus

clown" — to turning up the miracles Smyth had promised. Devala and Pandalur became boom towns, complete with hotels, a magistrate in Devala and even a racecourse laid over the paddyfields of Pandalur!

Crushing began in 1881, but by May that year the returns were so poor that desperation was in the air. In June, however, there was spring in the air; one of the biggest companies reported four ounces of gold in a ton. In the excitement that followed the London announcement, Wynaad scrip appreciated half a million pounds in a week! But when in July the manager of the miracle mine announced that it was only the first ton that had produced such promising returns and that the subsequent 19 tons had yielded less than two pennyweights, the run began, prices collapsing 200-300 per cent and never to return. By 1882, fifteen of the

(Continued on P4)



G DATTATRI
Town planning efforts
recognised

Dattatri, after spending 43 years in town planning, says "I have always had, and still have a fascination for town planning." Armed with his Civil Engineering degree, Dattatri started his career as the Town Planning Officer of the Ooty Municipality in 1951. Four years later, he joined the Directorate of Town Planning as Junior Town Planner (under the Tamil Nadu Ministry of Rural Development and Local Administration) and rose to become its Joint Director. When the MMDA was formed in 1974, Dattatri

Honoured for urban planning

(By A Staff Reporter)

Sixty-five-year-old Gangadhar Rao Dattatri recently became the second Indian to receive the 'Scroll of Honour' from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). A former Chief Urban Planner, MMDA, and currently the National Consultant for the UNCHS-sponsored Sustainable Cities Programme, Dattatri was awarded the honour for having developed, implemented, monitored large-scale urban development projects.

was chosen as its first Senior Planner, the seniormost position that can be held by a professional in the MMDA. It was during his tenure at the MMDA that the I Master Plan for the city was published.

Dattatri was also actively involved in several World Bank projects, like the Madras Urban Development Projects I and II and the Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project. Dattatri was also involved in drafting the Master Plan for

(Continued on-P6)

Erosion warning

—and an answer to Pulicat siltation by studying remote sensing data

(By A Special Correspondent)

Remote sensing is playing an active and important role in fisheries development and management in Tamil Nadu.

The remote sensing programme for ocean development was initiated in 1990 by the Department of Ocean Development (DOD), New Delhi, with participation from the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad, National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi, Orissa Remote Sensing Application Centre (ORSAC), Bhubaneswar, and the Institute of Ocean Management (IOM), Anna University, Madras.

There are four projects under the programme. Remote sensing applications generating data on ocean parameters for dissemination to users; collection of marine data for oceanic and coastal studies; development of models for simulation and prediction of oceanic processes; and development of a Marine Remote Sensing Information Service (MARSIS).

NRSA houses the data base of remotely sensed information in general. The NIO keeps physical and chemical oceanographic data. The CMFRI covers biological oceanographic information. MARSIS data files relate to oceanography, climate, wind and waves, microbes, the socioeconomic status of fishermen, aquaculture, man-

groves, coastal industries, groundwater and sediments.

The IOM has initially focussed attention on the southeastern coast, covering Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. According to Dr S Ramachandran, Professor, IOM, the Institute has already set in motion several projects under MARSIS and completed some of them. These are Coastal Zone Information System (CZIS), coastal land use mapping for Tamil Nadu, Pulicat Lake sedimentation in coastal waters, and potential fishery zone information dissemination. A model study on the mangrove ecosystems in Tamil Nadu and work on shoreline erosion has also been carried out.

Coastal land use mapping has been carried out on 1:50,000 scale using IRS LISS-II satellite data. Levels of land use categories have been mapped to demarcate the areas suitable for brackish-water aquaculture. Thirtyfour maps have been prepared and handed over to the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Department. This information has also been digitised to create a coastal data base in the MARSIS System.

The Pulicat Lake siltation problem and its effect on the closing of the bar mouth during non-monsoon periods, preventing the movement of fishing boats from the lake into the sea, were studied at the request of the Fisheries Department and DOD. Based on the

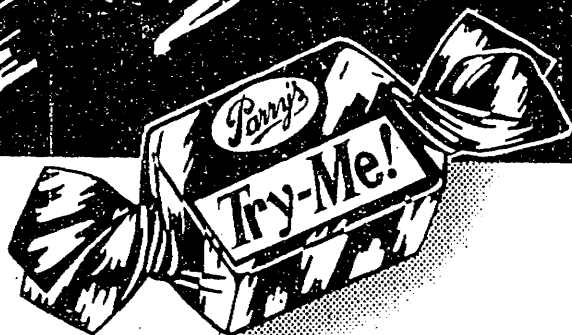
studies, the IOM has suggested a suitable site, which is frequently undergoing submergence and is narrow, for dredging. Dredging will make way for the movement of fishing vessels into the sea and permit the influx of seawater into the lake.

Suspended sediment concentration along the Tamil Nadu coast was mapped using digital analysis of IRS LISS-I data. The study showed that the high plumes of suspended sediments were coming from nearshore wetlands and river mouths and were then moving towards the Jaffna Coast. Allied studies identified four sites undergoing vigorous coastal erosion: Ennore, Mamallapuram, Rameswaram and areas north of Kanniyakumari, threatening human settlements and heritage sites. The erosion is maximum in the Rameswaram islands (483.76 sq.m), causing severe siltation in the coastal reef ecosystem.

For the mangroves ecosystems in Tamil Nadu, a model study has been carried out. The analysis showed that an area of 0.36 sq.km. of mangroves in Pichavaram has been lost over 1986-93. The total mangrove area in Tamil Nadu now is only 20.7 sq.km. (Courtesy: Fishing Chimes)

An Invitation Like No Other.

Go ahead!



The Bold New Taste

Parry's
Try-Me!

The long wait to be 'honoured'!

The Man From Madras Musings' daughter was an infant when we first went to this newly opened 'Ooty' vegetable shop down the road. Not much older than her and ever ready to play with her as Mrs MMM inspected every vegetable and kept up a steady stream of gossip with their parents were the girls who now run the shop. Only the shop has now become a popular 'department' store, besides being a liquor shop and a Customs Notified Shop where foreign foods and cosmetics are readily available. Over 23 years, the MMM family have kept going to the shop at least once a week, watching it grow through the efforts of a hardworking family, and over these years we've not only become favoured customers but almost friends, too, with the girls always sparing time to ask about our two.

Then a curious thing happened a couple of weeks ago. When Mrs MMM proffered a Diners Card to one of the girls, she took it, walked across to the phone and made a call. It was four or five attempts and about ten minutes later that she got through and returned to roll out the pay-slip. "Don't you know me by now?" an annoyed and impatient Mrs MMM asked. "I'm sorry, Amma," sheepishly replied the embarrassed girl, "But Citibank now insists we check with them EVERY time before we can accept a card. And if we don't put in an acceptance number, they don't pay us," she lamented.

The MMMs watched this same thing happening in several places over the last ten days or so, wasting much valuable time in the process of being 'honoured'. In five-star hotels it took place behind the scenes, in shops and stores the insulting procedure occurred openly. Curiously, in a couple of

restaurants, neither procedure was followed and the cards were accepted promptly, as in the happy past.

What, MMM wonders, is Citibank up to? Has it suddenly decided it cannot trust Indians? Or has it decided that it has too many clients and would like to irk a few to drop out? Whatever its reasons, the procedures it is subjecting its cardholders to are humiliating and inconvenient, not to mention time-wasting. What a change in American banking practices!

MMM remembers years ago, long before computers, when you could walk into your bank in America and cash a cheque over the counter in a couple of minutes, with no checks made, no questions asked. Wondering over this trust, MMM had once enquired about it and was told the losses from cheating are so negligible it is not worth wasting time and sacrificing service. Citibank's philosophy would appear to have changed over the decades.

Cricket in October

Whoever thought you could play cricket on the Coromandel Coast in late October and November? Maybe a Bindra from the Punjab and a Dalmyia from Calcutta might not know about the Northeast Monsoon and its vagaries, but surely the officials of the Tamil Nadu and Orissa State Cricket Associations know that more sport is washed out in this part of the country at this time of the year than is played!

Sportswriter Ajax is rather polite about this elsewhere in this issue, but *The Man From Madras Musings* is not willing to be as kind with organisations which think more of their coffers than of the public — not to say the players. Indeed, this was a bit of callousness not only agreeing to stage a Test in the middle of the Monsoon which was certain to assure SOME disruption at the best of times, but also planning to stage it on a ground that had not been got fully ready after being given a new lease of life. Knowing full well the course of the Monsoon, knowing that the outfield was not ready for a soaking, what made the TNCA — and the OSCA, who had a better outfield but not the best of covers for the pitch — agree to staging a Test? The Board of Control may have offered them the match, but there was no reason to accept it in these circumstances unless the circumstances, was greater than

the sport and the public. And that's a sad commentary on the TNCA's attitude, MMM is inclined to feel.

Fortunately for the public, most of them seemed to have a better feel of Monsoon history than the TNCA's officials, so not too many lost their money. MMM hopes that those who did, feel that they've done their bit for sport by investing in nonexistent matches.

M'puram mayhem

Of the 300-plus sites on the World Heritage List, 15 cultural sites and three natural ones are in India. Two of these are in Tamil Nadu — the Mamallapuram monuments and the Mahadeeswarar temple in Thiruvannamalai. Whereas the latter is comparatively well cared for and is reasonably hassle-free, the

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

state of Mamallapuram is shocking, the *Man From Madras Musings* found on a recent visit.

The problem is not with the care of the monuments, which are in a reasonably good state of preservation despite the elements. The problem is with town, shopping and vendor areas, hawkers and beggars all encroaching on the space of what in effect is an 'open-air museum' of stone sculpture.

The Government and INTACH have teamed together on drawing up a Master Plan for making the Mamallapuram area worthy of the designation 'World Heritage Site'. Work on it is slow, but MMM presumes implementation will be completed some day. Meanwhile, can't some simple things be done to make life easier and more pleasurable for visitors, while at the same time making the area just a little tidier than it is?

For instance,
 ● Can't the whole heritage area be fenced-in?
 ● Can't the fenced-in area be made a 'no traffic, no foot only' zone?
 ● Can't all hawkers, guides and beggars be kept outside the fenced-in zone, thus preventing them from being the nuisance they are to visitors?
 ● Can't shops and built-up areas in the fenced-in zone be licensed on terms that insist on certain minimum aesthetic standards and prevent additional growth or embellishment after the licensing?

If only this were done, not only would visitors enjoy Mamallapuram wonders more, but even the shops and vendors permitted in the 'protected' zone would benefit more, with relaxed visitors likely to be willing to spend more time in the heritage zone and, consequently, more time in its more modern facilities.

But as things are, MMM tries to avoid Mamallapuram as much as possible. And when he is forced to pay a visit, he tries to hurry his often-irked visitor through the area as fast as possible. In these circumstances, MMM wonders whether Mamallapuram really deserves to be called a World Heritage Site!

In brief

★ Many moons ago, this journal (*Madras Musings*, March 1, 1994) had featured a *dosai*-making machine that was going to revolutionise the fast food business, then in its nascency in the country. *The Man From Madras Musings* is sad to hear that the dream faded for a while and that the 150 *dosai*-making machines in the Dosa King chain of outlets had to be taken back because of several problems that were resulting in considerable down-time in the franchises. But the good news is that Dosa King is coming back fighting. A redesigned machine has just been launched and the first two 'new' Dosa King outlets have opened in Delhi; 150 more are likely to follow in the next 18 months. MMM wonders when the first outlet will open in Madras, where the *dosai*-

hovercraft or catamarans will take nowhere near the same time. So perhaps the authorities should start looking at an Ennore-Injambakkam searcraft service; introduction of such a service at reasonable rates would do much to reduce traffic congestion in Madras, MMM feels confident.

★ Speaking of gridlock conditions and driving schools, contributing greatly to the former are those who don't deserve driving licences being granted them, *The Man From Madras Musings* is inclined to feel. A foreign woman, after years of driving abroad, went to take her driving test here and was asked to drive around the block, in her car, on her own. Since she had been driving around Madras for years before deciding she needed to have an Indian licence too, she had no problem at all. But she watched with horror candidate after candidate being asked to do the same simple routine — and faltering even when STARTING. They all wound up with licences — and will add to the dangers on our roads, she was convinced.

Business briefs

OUR READERS WRITE

Banana growers, be warned

was pleased to read in *Madras Musings* (October 16th) that Tamil Nadu leads in the production of bananas. But bananas produce asexually and I wonder if the banana growers of Tamil Nadu have taken the precaution of establishing a banana gene bank, to avoid the terrible disaster that struck the Irish in the last century.

Around 1840, every adult Irishman ate about ten pounds of potatoes a day until, quite suddenly and with no warning whatsoever, their entire crop was blasted by fungus to which their single potato species had no resistance. In the next five years, one-and-a-half million Irish people died of starvation, and many more, as is well known, emigrated to the United States.

Nowadays, plants with new sets of genes are tried every few years to prevent this happening again. There is a potato gene bank in Scotland where 700 species are cultivated. In his recent book, based on the 1991 Reith lectures, the celebrated geneticist Dr. Steve Jones writes, "Other asexual crops, such as bananas, have as yet escaped the fate of the Irish potato although it cannot be indefinitely delayed." (Emphasis mine).

If this has not been done, in Tamil Nadu, in the case of the banana, the growers, with the support of Government, should lose no time in establishing such a 'gene bank' for the banana.

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Height of automation

Recently a friend narrated a story to me. It is not fiction, but true. As the story goes, one of my friend's acquaintances had chance to visit Japan on official work. He found that Japan is one of the most technologically advanced countries in the world where automation is at its peak. He also found, when he had to do his morning shower, that the commode lid opened automatically. When he finished his job, and on pressing a button, a hot spray issued and his brush cleaned him. Again there was spray of hot water and a blast of hot air to dry him. After this, a sheet of tissue paper emerged, wiped him and was flushed out. Imagine such heights of automation!

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MMM

'Hot spots' pose threat to coast

(By A Special Correspondent)

Studies conducted at Anna University's Institute of Ocean Management (IOM) using remote sensing data from MARISIS (the Marine Satellite Information Service) — an all-India project sponsored by the Department of Ocean Development (DOD) — have shown that, year after year, the intensity of fly ash accumulation in the same waters of the Tamil Nadu coast is increasing. Creating coastal 'hot spots' are many thermal stations situated on the shore, such as Tuticorin and Karaikal.

According to Dr S Ramachandran, IOM Professor, fly ash is a pollutant because of its physical attributes and chemical content. Fly ash from the ash contains elements such as zinc

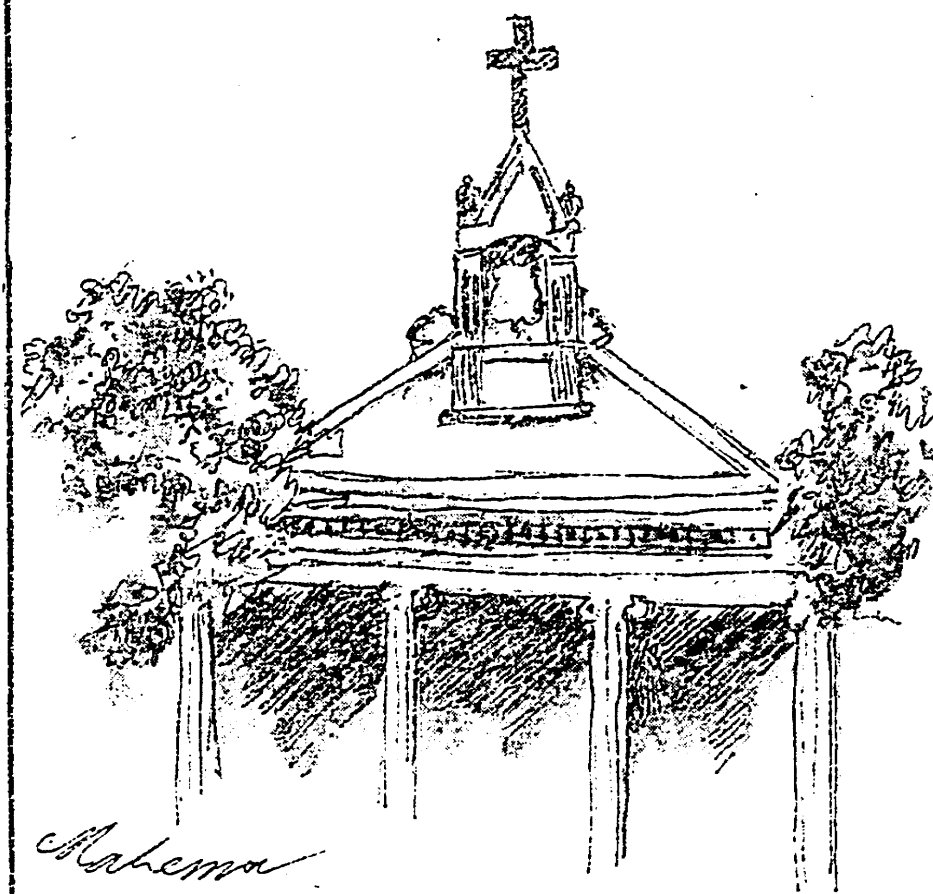
(1000 to 2500 ppm) and chromium (400 to 700 ppm). It interferes with the feeding habits of filter feeders like shrimps and oysters and also rejects light penetration.

In countries like the UK and Germany, more than 40 per cent of fly ash is utilised in construction and other sectors, whereas, in Tamil Nadu, the figure is a mere 3.5 per cent. Increased utilisation of fly ash on land would mitigate the pollution problem.

Besides fly ash pollution, there is strong evidence of pollution along the Tamil Nadu coast due to bacterial contaminants, domestic and industrial wastes, inorganic fertilisers and non-biodegradable wastes. A study by the Central Electrochemical Research

Institute, Madras Unit, covering Madras, Pondicherry, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Karaikal, Rameswaram, Tuticorin and Kanniyakumari, shows that pollution activity increases during the monsoon period.

While in Madras industrial wastes and sewage are the main concerns, the presence of pesticide residue in the marine waters is one of the worrying factors in Pondicherry. In Cuddalore, the coastal waters were found to contain fluoride from a chemical factory manufacturing hydrofluoric acid. In Karaikal, pollution is due to pesticides and benzene vapours, while in Nagapattinam, oil and diesel released by fishing boats are polluting the coastal waters. (Courtesy: Fishing Chimes)



A Mantle of Heritage

Young Sathianathan of the Clarke family, who did his master's at Yale and recently completed his doctorate in Harvard (both in Divinity), chose to return to his motherland, to live and work and be of service in India. That's becoming more common nowadays. But what was different was some kind of record he must have set.

On October 26, 1995, the Clarke family and a small group of the family's well-wishers gathered at the Zion Church in Chintadripet, Madras, for a special worship. Sathianathan conducted the service in this particular church for the first time. As he stepped into the pulpit to begin his sermon, it was a quiet but historic moment. Here he was, representing the FIFTH generation in a line of pastors, EACH OF WHOM HAD, at different times, PREACHED FROM THIS VERY PULPIT of this small, simple church.

In 1862, Sathianathan's great great grandfather, W.T. Sathianathan, became the pastor of this church and served its congregation for three decades. Later, young Sathianathan's great grandfather, W.D. Clarke, was the padre of this church for a period of 28 years. His grandfather, Samuel S. Clarke, worked in the same church for more than 20 years. Sathianathan's father, Suandar Clarke, the former Bishop of Madras, served as a pastor of this church, as a young man. What a record!

Now it was Sathi's turn to preach from here. The mantle of this extraordinary heritage, spanning 130 years, rested gently upon the young priest's shoulders at that moment. His sermon was thought-provoking and, in a sense, very moving.

Now we wait, with fingers crossed, to see whether after 50 years or so, Sathi's progeny, representing the sixth generation, will preach from the same pulpit.

MAHEMA DEVADOSS

More from MMDA's II Master Plan

ONE LAST LOOK

(By A Special Correspondent)

Education, health and recreation facilities in the Madras Metropolitan Area are grouped under the head 'Social Facilities' in the II Master Plan and the action suggested is:

- The future requirement of Higher Secondary Schools to be met by upgrading high schools and HSS to be started only wherever schools are not available
- More job-oriented vocational training programmes to be included in the curriculum.
- The demand for new technology courses to be met by locating them in the present technical institutes.
- Hierarchical and stratified medicare delivery services should be enforced through a well-established referral system for government and private institutions.
- Build 32 Grade I hospitals, 80 Grade II hospitals and 117 public health centres to meet the future demands.
- For general curative and outpatient services, separate general hospitals to be developed.
- Bring all the private hospitals and clinics under the umbrella of the Director of Medical Services in order to have centralised control over

the mushrooming of private hospitals and the quality and level of services offered to the general public.

- A new strategy, Minimally Directed Organic Growth, to be implemented. It would rely on minimal regulation of land use and seek to provide additional opportunities for more effective planned development.
- Consolidate the local governments outside Madras city into a few functionally and financially viable units for delivery and maintenance of civic services.

In order to efficiently manage and finance urban development, the Master Plan suggests the following:

- Strengthen MMDA's organisational structure to manage urban development.
- External input/stobe organised through three distinct task forces and a separate synthesising task group.
- Innovative methods for financing urban development projects by adopting the build, operate and transfer principle.
- Techniques, such as land sharing and land adjustment, higher FSI incentives and transfer of development rights could be thought of to further encourage the private sector.

MADRAS MUSINGS SMALLS

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KOCH, R	The investors guide to selecting shares that perform
LATCHEM, C	Interactive multimedia
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LEAKEY, R	The origin of mankind
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WILSON, F A (ed.)	An introduction to satellite communications
FICTION	
AIRD, C	Injury time
CONRAN, S	Tiger eyes
MCCABE, B	In a darkroom with a stranger

Power from the ocean

Tamil Nadu is likely to be the first State to install a plant which will generate electricity using temperature differences in the oceanic layers. As envisaged at present, a 100MW Ocean Thermal Energy Conservation (OTEC) plant is to be set up in the next three years off the Tamil Nadu coast at an estimated cost of US \$ 250 million.

When this plant goes on stream, India will become the first country in the world to go in for commercial scale ocean thermal power generation based on a technology developed by Sea Solar Power of the US. The patent for the plant is held by Prof M Anderson, an energy researcher.

Depending on the performance and economic viability of the OTEC project, as many as six such plants are to be

energy, but also because, in sea thermal power, there is no waste, no solution and no use of fuel. It is environment-friendly and provides power at the cheapest possible cost."

According to him, ocean power is the best answer to the power crises looming large over the world. He says that coal reserves would last only for another 100 years and oil reserves for just 50 years. Nuclear installations, besides producing much dangerous nuclear waste, emit radiation that will harm human civilisation for more than 2500 years. On the other hand, ocean thermal energy can be extracted day in and day out, free of cost and without adversely affecting the environment.

Oceans, which cover more than two-thirds of the earth's surface, can be a reliable source of inexhaustible

By Radhakrishna Rao

set up along India's shoreline. The first plant is to be set up off the Kulasekarpattinam coast by the Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency and the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. The cost of the power generation from this plant has been worked out at Rs. 2.20 per unit.

The project comprises a giant floating ship which will house a generator that is 100 metres long and 60 metres wide. The various components of the plant, including turbines, starter, generators and pipe, will remain submerged.

The plant will initially take the water from the top layer of the ocean, which is heated by the sun, and it will be circulated through the propylene-coated pipes. The steam generated by the heating of the pipe will be used to rotate the turbines to generate power. Used steam will then be taken to the bottom layer of the sea and be condensed. It will then be recycled to the top layer and the operation repeated.

The ocean thermal power project will also help in meeting the drinking water requirements of the area close to the coast. The desalinated sea water from the power project could easily be transported to the shore.

The Kulasekarpattinam coast was selected because the cold lower layers essential for generating power are found here 10-30 km off the coast, whereas these are available only at a distance of 70-75 km off the west coast.

Dr Nawnihal Singh, a Member of Parliament, who had worked with the Sea Solar Power Company at Harvard to develop the technology of OTEC, says, "The day is not far when the world will realise that this technology is one big leap for us. Not just because the ocean is an inexhaustible source of

energy. On a conservative estimate, man can harvest from the ocean about 2,00,00,000 MW-hours of energy each day. The thermal differences in the oceanic layers resulting from the trapping of solar radiation in varying degrees make it possible to generate energy a hundred times faster than by conventional means.

French scientists were the pioneers in experimenting with the technique of using the temperature difference in the layers of the ocean to generate electricity. However, the technology developed by them was not commercially viable, as their plant was located on land and most of the energy obtained from this system was used in pumping sea water into and out of the plant. For an ocean thermal plant to be technically and economically viable, the temperature difference between the surface layers and the lower layers should be as great as 50°C.

Researchers in the US have been able to develop a system whereby energy could be extracted by a floating power plant that eliminates the pumping problem. Propane or a related fluid that boils at the temperature of the surface layers of the water is used in the US-conceived OTEC plant. The gaseous phase of this fluid is released to a turbogenerator to generate power. After the gas is condensed to liquid in the cold, lower layers of the water, it is pumped to a surface boiler to be recycled. Essentially, the OTEC technology uses the differences in temperature between the ocean's surface and its depths to generate electrical power.

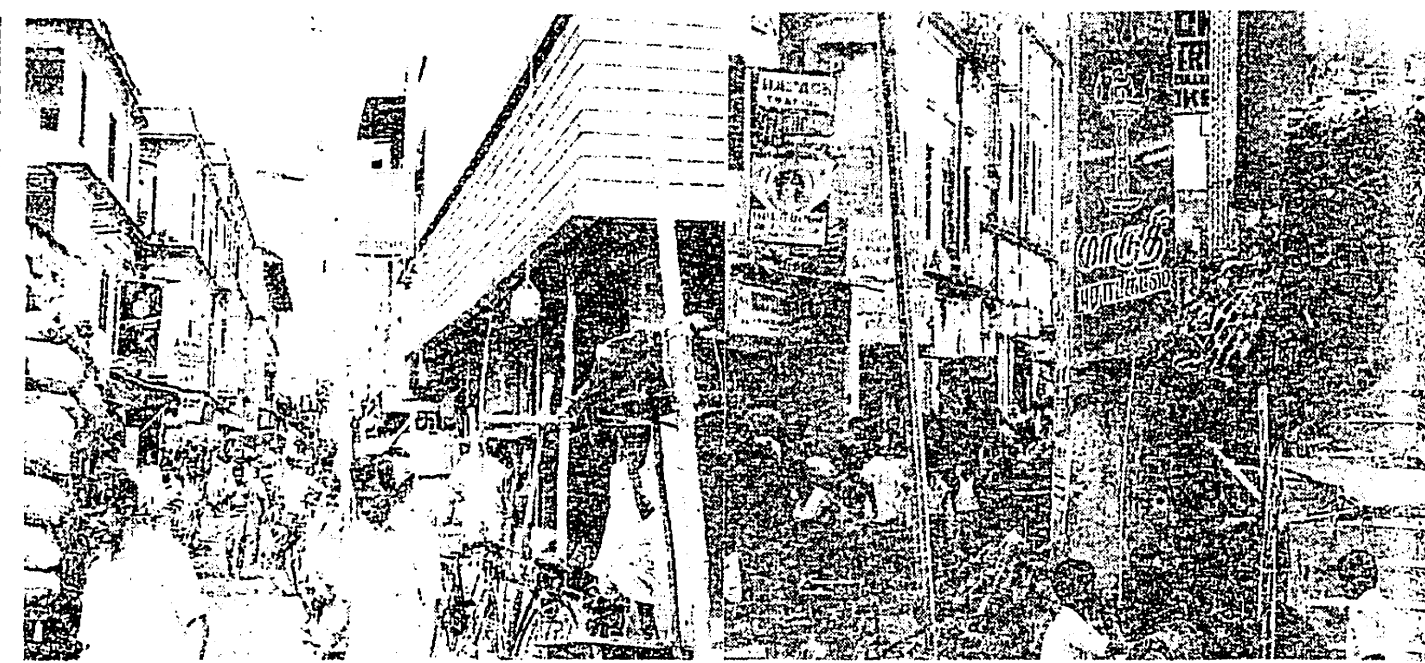
Ideally the major markets for the energy created by the OTEC plant should not be more than a few hundred miles away from the power plant. (Courtesy: The Telegraph, Calcutta).

No 'go'

(Continued from P 1)

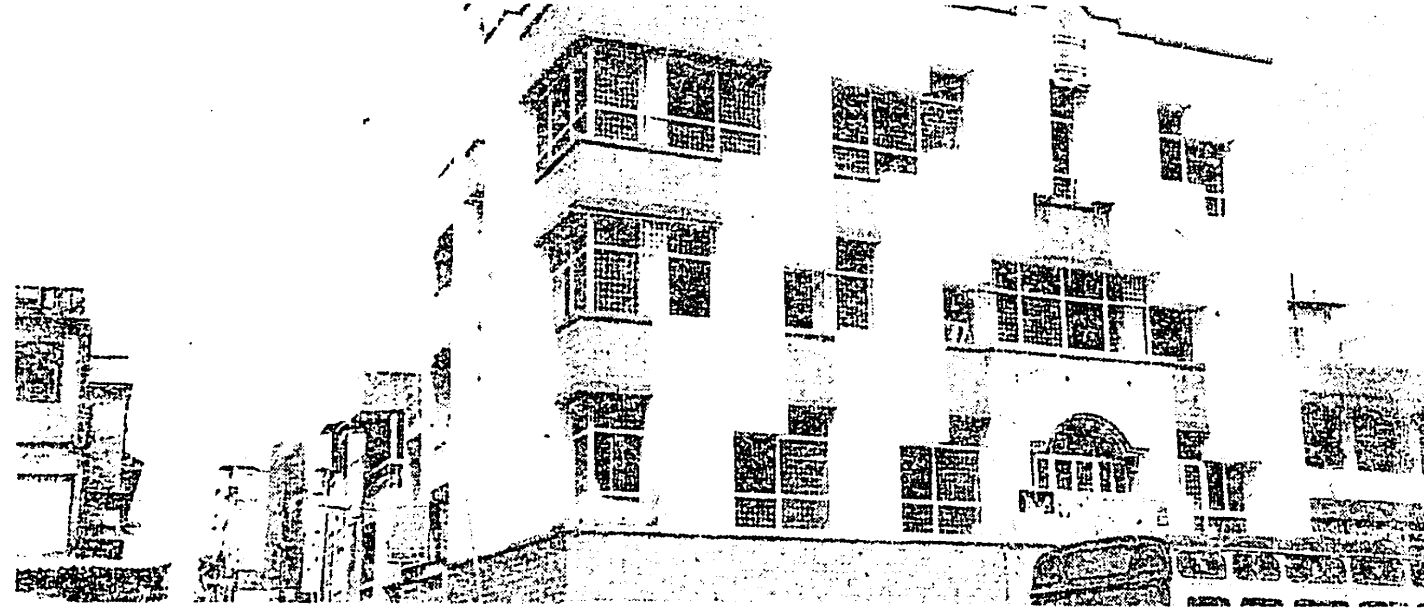
British companies had gone into the hands of receivers and Smyth had retired into Australian oblivion.

The planters of the Wynaad came back to their senses, returned to planting, made the wrong decision — with cinchona — before making the right one. Few planting districts of Southern India have had as colourful or as chequered a story as the Nilgiri-Wynaad.



What we had warned of in Madras Musings of September 1, 1994, and October 1, 1994, has come to pass. In those issues we had featured pictures of an Esplanade boundary pillar that RAJIND N CHRISTY had 'rediscovered' when a building hiding it was being pulled down to make way for new highrise. Our OLD shows that pillar at the Badrian Street-NSC Bose Road corner after the building and encroachments hiding it had been pulled down in September-October 1994. Our NEW is a year later, and in it is seen that this ancient pillar, a historical monument, has mysteriously vanished and a new building has come up by its side (Note the Thai Book Centre sign abbreviatedly visible in the OLD... & THE NEW... between pillar and walls). The NEW building may be a handsome one, but did the pillar have to make way for it? Couldn't the pillar have been 'protected' as Parry's have done with what was thought to be the last of the six boundary pillars (till the Badrian Street pillar was 'discovered') and which is, now, indeed, the last of these historic landmarks?

Questions in the neighbouring shops and to pavement hawkers as to how and when the boundary pillar vanished are met with blank looks or a sheepish "It just vanished one night, when we came the next morning it was not there". And so passes on one more bit of Madras history. When, O, when will we see that Heritage Act which will, it is to be hoped, put an end to such thoughtless acts of destruction?



Short and subdued

The seven-day short winter session of the Tamil Nadu Legislature sprang a surprise on Assembly watchers — though a mild one — by the unexpectedly subdued nature of the proceedings. True, there were one or two walk-outs, one eviction, and prompt reactions from the Treasury benches, but the acrimony present during the earlier sessions was absent. Chief Minister Jayalitha's interventions were also fewer — twice only — once to warn those who exploit communal and caste differences, and on another occasion to drag the CBI over the coals and, thus, emphasise a point she had earlier made, namely that it was not an organisation of angels. She left the House in no doubt about her competence and ability to hit hard and take unpopular decisions.

A Congress (I) member, C Gnanasekaran, was the focus of her wrath for referring to the death of a person in Periyar District while in Police custody. The Police have to account for the safety of those in their custody, he demanded. The Chief Minister said the person in question had consumed poison and had died while being taken for questioning. She referred to the detention of Kodikkarai Shanmugham who was caught by the State Police and handed over to the CBI. Not long after, he was found hanging from a tree and the incident was treated as suicide. The accountability which the member wanted must apply to the CBI too, she said.

Another interlude was during the discussion on the Tamil Nadu Maritime Board Bill (for the development of minor ports). When Gnanasekaran questioned the need for the Board and went on to ask whether the Government wanted a favoured person to be its Chairman, there came the curt reply from Transport Minister A Sengottaiyan that that was the

Congress (I) style. Local Administration Minister Selvaganapathy amplified that a non-party person had been appointed to a GATT Committee with Cabinet rank. Congress (I)'s Gnanasekaran and Sundaradoss referred to Dr Subramanian Swamy by name, and said the appointment was for his intellect. The PWD Minister Kannappan queried whether that was really so or whether it was just to get at particular individuals. More objections followed from the Congress (I), and V R Nedunchezian, Leader of the House, tried to smoothen the situation by advising

The Speaker also pulled up Parithi Ilayavazhuthi, who was pressing a point in spite of the Speaker's ruling, and at one stage told the member that if his leader advised him to speak thus, he could do so. Taunted thus, the member shouted back, and the Speaker ordered his eviction.

The Government put up a strong defence that it was in no way responsible for the delay in holding cooperative elections or elections to civic bodies. There are pending petitions before the High Court and these are responsible for the delay in holding co-

The View from Fort St George... by R.K.K

that members would do well to avoid the attribution of motives.

The Opposition's attempt to raise the issue of an attack a few days ago on media persons at Shastri Bhavan, during an inquiry by the Enforcement Directorate, failed when Speaker Muthiah pointed out that no complaint had been made to the Police or the Government. A protest walk-out by the Opposition followed.

Independent member R Tamarakani alleged that violence in the southern districts, including burning of buses, was instigated by some political parties. This drew angry protests from Congress (I)'s Gnanasekaran and DMK's Parithi Ilayavazhuthi. While Minister R Indrakumari was on her feet saying something, Congress (I)'s S Alagiri objected to it. Speaker Muthiah pulled him up for "gesticulating" while talking to a woman Minister. Alagiri, still arguing even after he was asked to apologise, was named by the Speaker and ordered to be evicted. The Congress (I) members walked out.

An old-age home for cattle

The Madras Pinjrapole on Konnur High Road, Perambur is a refuge for hundreds of animals. The Pinjrapole provides aged and infirm cattle a haven of peace and comfort in the evening of their lives.

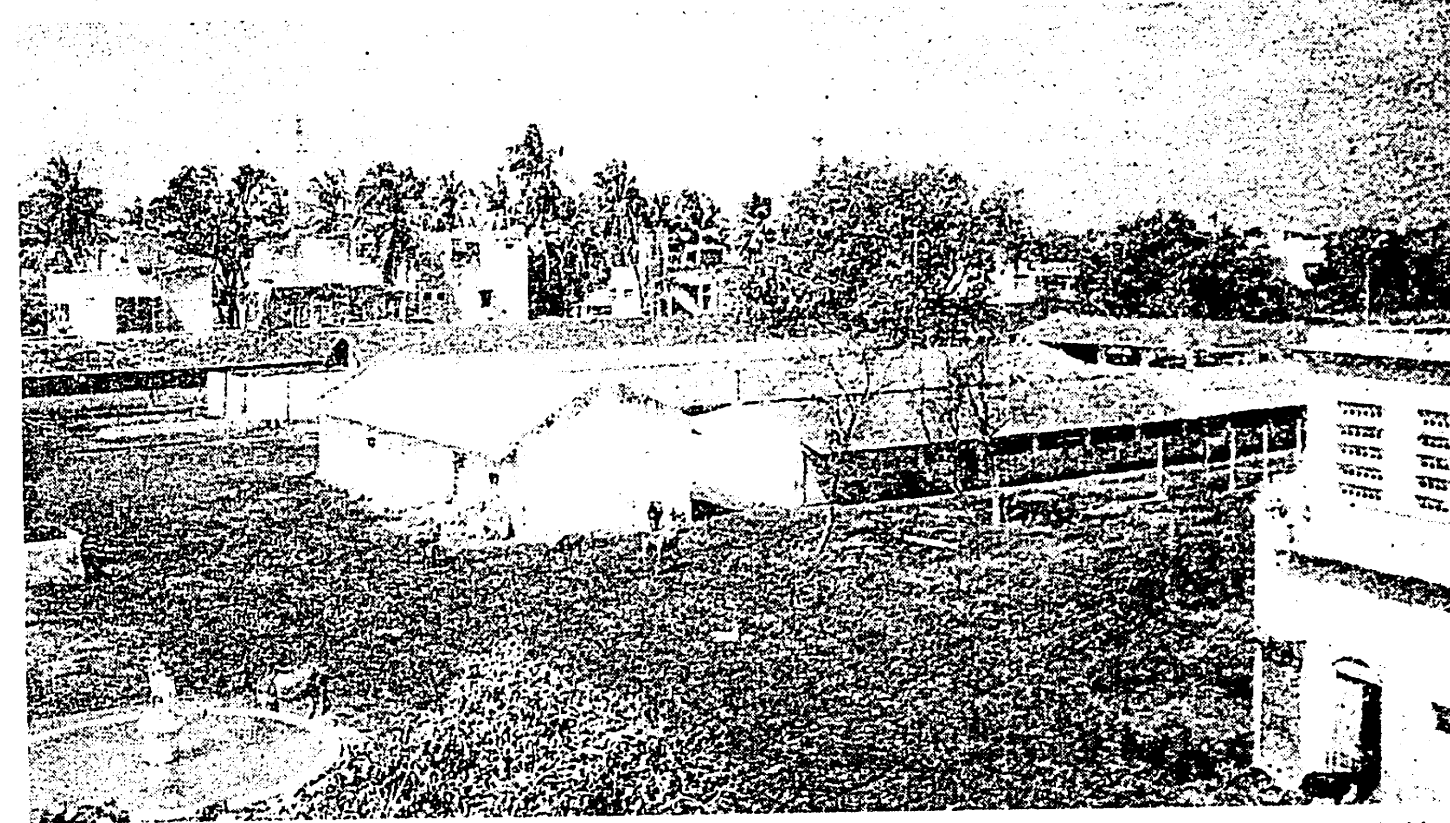
The institution was founded under the auspices of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, on a suggestion made by Justice H Tudor Boddam of the Madras High Court, and was declared open on January 11, 1908. The object was to take care of and feed aged animals until they died a natural death.

To deal with cattle unfit for work due to old age or other causes, the SPCA had been contemplating a pinjrapole since 1898. In a drive against ruthless owners who overworked or ill-treated old and sick animals, SPCA inspectors filed cases in Court and the animals were sent to the SPCA headquarters hospital, which is named after Rajah Venugopal Bahadur. But what was the hospital to do with the animals? Neither could they be released to the owners, whose

promises of future care meant nothing. So the need for a pinjrapole.

In the initial stages, the Pinjrapole developed slowly because the Indian

public thought it would be conducted contrary to the views of the Indian community. As the years passed, the idea began to receive greater public



Above, an overview of the Madras Pinjrapole Campus. And below, once unwanted cattle now mill around happily in the 'old-age home' that's welcomed them. (Pictures by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)



support and public meetings held in George Town brought about voluntary contributions. Girderdass Chaturbujdass and Diwan Bahadur Lord Govindoss, the leading philanthropists of the time, gifted 12 acres of land, the present site at Konnur High Road, in-memory of Sri Chaturbujdass K. haldass. The Maharani of Madhoghadd Rewah state, donated one lakh rupees, and Marwari, Gujarati and Chettiar families added significant contributions. And so, the Pinjrapole started, being managed by the SPCA for its first 36 years.

Like many other institutions, this pinjrapole too ran into financial difficulties and further admissions to it were abandoned after a while. In 1915, the Marwari, Gujarati and Sindh communities offered more help and were given a larger share in its management. The Pinjrapole committee was reconstituted as the Madras Pinjrapole Mahajan Committee and authorised to collect funds to maintain the animals. Since the reconstitution, the 12 members of the Pinjrapole Committee include eight from the Mahajan community and four

from the SPCA. In 1950, the Mahajan Goshala was amalgamated with the Pinjrapole. The ground, buildings and other properties were transferred to the Pinjrapole in 1948. And, in time, The Pinjrapole was registered under the Societies Registration Act 1960. The Pinjrapole maintains about 1400 milch cows and buffaloes, bulls, heifer calves; dry cows, dry buffaloes, bull calves and blind animals as well as about 2000 pigeons. The Pinjrapole runs a dairy farm in which there are a number of cows rescued by the Mahajan community. Most of these cows were owned by poor people who had no inclination to feed them during pregnancy and sold them to butchers. The dairy produces over 600 litres of milk a day, which is sold to the donors. The Pinjrapole's daily expenditure is about Rs. 10,000 by way of straw, cattle feed, green grass and pigeon feed. There are about 80 labourers and five administration staff. The work in the Pinjrapole starts at four in the morning.

The Pinjrapole has a biogas unit which was installed in 1991. The biogas is supplied to 25 workers' quarters within the campus for three hours in the morning and evening daily. About one ton of cowdung is used every day to produce the required gas.

The Pinjrapole raises funds by selling manure, a lorryload costing about Rs. 500. The Pinjrapole also gets rent from shops let out to private parties. But donations from philanthropists is the main factor that keeps this home for ageing animals in existence.

The Pinjrapole plans to build a veterinary hospital within the campus. At present, a veterinary doctor visits the institution on alternate days to check the health of the animals. As they draw up their plans, the members of the Pinjrapole Committee wishes it got greater support from other Madras communities instead of having to depend on the Sowcar community alone.

Text and Photographs
RAJIND N CHRISTY

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(Quizmaster V.V. RAMANAN's questions are from the period October 16-31)

- Germany's Michael Schumacher, in winning his second successive Formula 1 motor racing world title, equalled the most number of GP wins in a year, nine. Whose record did he equal?
- He had written the award-winning *Thaneer Thaneer*. Name the eminent Tamil playwright who passed away on October 28th.
- An Indian, Aluru Prasad, was arrested by the FBI for trying to steal a highly sophisticated aviation defence technology. What is the technology?
- Where did the AIADMK conduct a mass wedding for 1080 couples on Oct. 26th in the presence of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister?
- Name the Secretary-General of NATO, who resigned after being charged with corruption in his native Belgium.
- The Tamil Nadu Government is to set up a new transport corporation, the 20th in the State, with its headquarters in Pudukkottai. After whom is it to be named?
- When did the decade's shortest solar eclipse take place?
- Which international body celebrated its Golden Jubilee with more than 180 world leaders addressing the gathering in New York?
- Name the tennis player and hustler extraordinaire, who played and lost the

Quizzin' with Ramanan

publicised 'Million Man March' of African-American men to Washington on October 16th.

- Sachin Tendulkar became the richest cricketer in the world, it is reported, when he signed a multi-million dollar contract with an U.S.-based sports promotion company recently. Name the company.
 - Where was the latest NAM Summit held?
 - Who were Orugodawatte and Kolonnawa, near Colombo, the subject of 'hot' discussion on October 20th?
 - After a month-long turmoil and period of uncertainty in the BJP government in Gujarat, who was appointed the new Chief Minister of the State on October 21st?
 - The proposal to have an Indian equivalent of a 'Green Card' in the near future was not okayed by the Prime Minister. What was the suggested name for the card?
 - An invaluable two volumes of historical documents written by calligrapher Prem Bihari Narain Raizada and illustrated by Nandlal Bose will be kept in a nitrogen-filled case to slow down decaying. Name the document.
 - Who has been chosen 'Santa of the Year' by the Greenland Government, an award which offers \$ 100,000 as a donation and a life-size model of the personality dressed as 'Santa Claus'?
- (Answers on p. 6)

The shop that's a 'showpiece'

Some shops, even as they are opened, manage to create an aura around themselves and become showrooms which people look at with awe even before they actually visit them. One such shop is Roopini Silks in the city's busy Pondy Bazaar area.

Even as you begin, "It is claimed that Roopini Silks is the biggest showroom in Asia..." P.C. Varghese of Roopini insists, "No, it is not a claim, it is a fact". And proprietor Vincent chimes in, "Ours is the largest, exclusive showroom in the whole of Asia", being particular about the adjectives and the spacing of his words, so that you don't miss any of them.

So what is shopping like in 'Asia's largest, exclusive showroom'? Let's explore. Get down at Pondy Bazaar, push past the pavement emporia, and as you enter Janpriya Centre you see

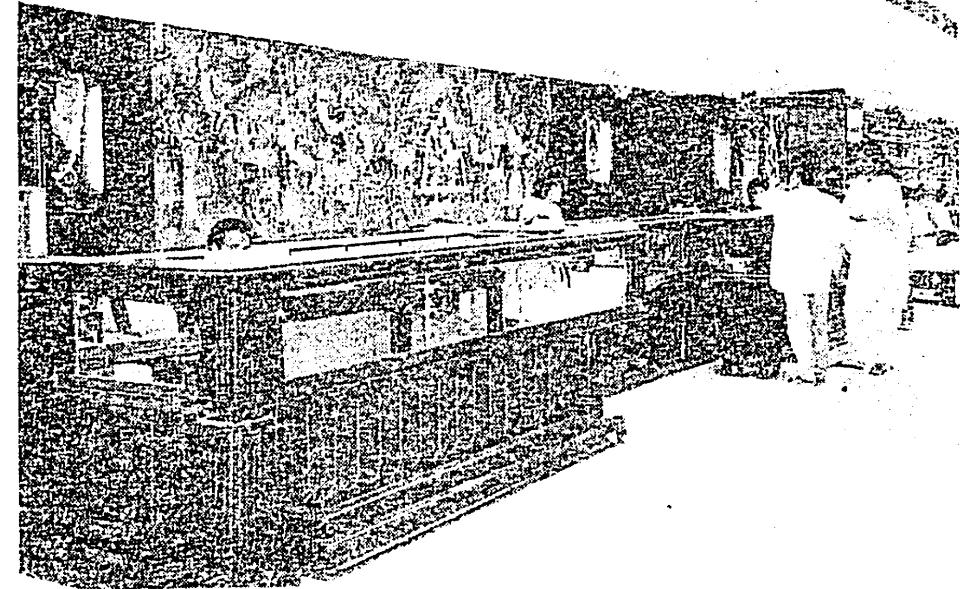
It takes you a moment to decide which way to start. The first to catch the eye of most visitors is the stand with cotton sarees on the immediate left. Before a hostess notices you and comes to 'help' by leading you to the shelves with more expensive sarees, it's a good idea to take in these eye-catching, fancy cotton sarees.

Moving over to the shelves, you find before them spotless white mattresses on convenient, low-height tables, with cushioned chairs in front of them. On the shelves are sarees from almost every saree centre in the country. When I visited the shop during the Deepavali season, there were more sarees on the mattresses than on the shelves, visitors turning these mountains of sarees upside down, with and without the help of the staff.

a few visitors who were looking lost. But once the hostesses spot you, they are helpful, and whether you buy something or not, they will escort you with a smile to the door when you leave. They also remind you to have your complimentary Pepsi, this again irrespective of whether you had purchased something or not.

Talking of the range of sarees available, Vincent says, "We have sarees priced from Rs. 100 upto one lakh and if a customer wants one at a higher price, we can arrange that too. We also have bridal and designer collections". And all customers are provided comfortably cushioned chairs so that they can make their choice at leisure and in comfort.

The atmosphere of the shop and the service that is offered are things on which Vincent has lavished attention.



Roopini Silks' ornate cashiers' counter.

Centre, also belongs to Vincent. Two more floors are getting ready, for women's readymades and accessories and also for men's and children's ranges. Vincent, however, made his mark in marine exports and manages all his businesses with the help of professionals. For instance, Mr. Gul, who is the General Manager of Roopini, has 46 years of experience in the textile business.

One thing that strikes you at Roopini is the quietness of the whole place. Conversation, if there is any, is in the softest of tones. The excitement and noise of other shops is markedly absent here.

Is it a shop for the upper class? No, says Vincent. It may not be a shop to cater for the basic needs of a 'food, clothing, shelter' kind of clientele, but it is a shop for the middle class, insists Vincent. "Won't people think such a posh shop will have only costly goods and that the shop will pass on all its expenses to the customer?" I ask. Vincent replies by talking about how "class and looks" matter to him, how he rates customer comfort more than anything else, and how he doesn't mind spending to maintain standards. "Sensible people will feel happy enjoying these comforts at someone else's expense while they shop at very reasonable prices," he feels.

What has the feedback been like? Many have appreciated the idea of installing TV sets which continuously show fashion shows so that customers get an idea of what is available in the shop. Others feel it's a shop like the ones they've seen abroad. Still others have commended the barcode system in operation at the billing counter. But all said and done, what Roopini has done best is excite the curiosity of the public.

On the occasions I visited the showroom, especially in the morning, there were many people hanging around the shelves, telling the hostesses, "No, we've just come to see". Typical

was this couple I noticed as I left the shop. They had apparently finished their shopping elsewhere; to judge from their bulging carrybags. The wife was not very keen to enter this new

by R. Jaisri

showroom, but her husband told her in Tamil, "It's all right if we don't buy. Let's just see the showroom". Better days are ahead for the showroom when such 'visitors' turn buyers. And Vincent does not seem to mind waiting.

Urban planner

(Continued from P 1)

Coinbatore. During a brief stint as UN Advisor to the Government of Sri Lanka, Dattatri helped in the formulation of the development plan for Colombo and the Plan for the Greater Colombo Economic Commission.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Nigel Mansell of Great Britain; 2. Konnal Swaminathan; 3. The technology of the radar-absorbing paint used on the B-2 Stealth bomber; 4. Chidambaram; 5. Willy Claes; 6. Veeran Azhagu Muthokan; 7. October 24th; 8. The United Nations; 9. Bobby Riggs; 10. Ananda Shankar; 11. Queen Elizabeth II; 12. A. Nageswara Rao; 13. Louis Farrakhan; 14. WorldTel; 15. Cartagena, Colombia; 16. The LTTE; 17. Suruchi Mehta; 18. 'Orange Card'; 19. The Indian Constitution; 20. Nelson Mandela.

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Hidden by walls of silence

Margot Lovejoy, who had visited Madras at the height of the last cultural season to gather material for a multimedia installation at the Queens Museum for Art in New York, has successfully completed her project.

While in Madras, she researched early mythology, symbolism and the Sakti tradition to lay the foundation for the first part of her multimedia installation which she calls 'Parthenia'. She worked with dancer Rajkumar, a

Kalakshetra graduate, and Koothupattarai actors and created a video tape for the four-part work. She took plenty of video footage of life in Madras. Margot writes, "The experience of living in an Indian environment provided a powerful perspective on the divide between East and West. As I met women in Madras from all levels of society, I became deeply aware of their issues and problems".

Children's awareness reflected in creativeness

The idea of *Landscapes: children's voices*, published by Tara Publishing and released on November 14th, evolved out of a theatre production staged by Madras Craft Foundation in July 1994 in which over 1000 school children took part (Aayana '94, a celebration of Nature and its landscapes).

The ancient Sangam poets spoke of five kinds of landscapes in South India, called *thinai* or ecosystems. They were *Neythal* (sea), *Mullai* (pastoral), *Marutham* (paddyland), *Kurinj* (mountain) & *Palai* (desert). In Sangam poetry, a particular landscape could also describe a feeling. For example, if a poet set his poem in *Palai* (desert) he wished to speak of separation and loneliness. *Aayana '94* dealt with these themes in a poetic way. *Landscapes: children's voices* is a compilation of these children's writing and art.

In February 1994, the Madras Craft Foundation conducted a series of literary and art workshops, with children who lived in the regions of South India described in the Sangam texts. In choosing the regions, the aim was not geographical accuracy in keeping with the ancient texts, but to demonstrate the quintessential landscape features.

The children living in these landscapes were asked to draw and write about the work their parents did, their beliefs, festivals, crafts, games and tales.

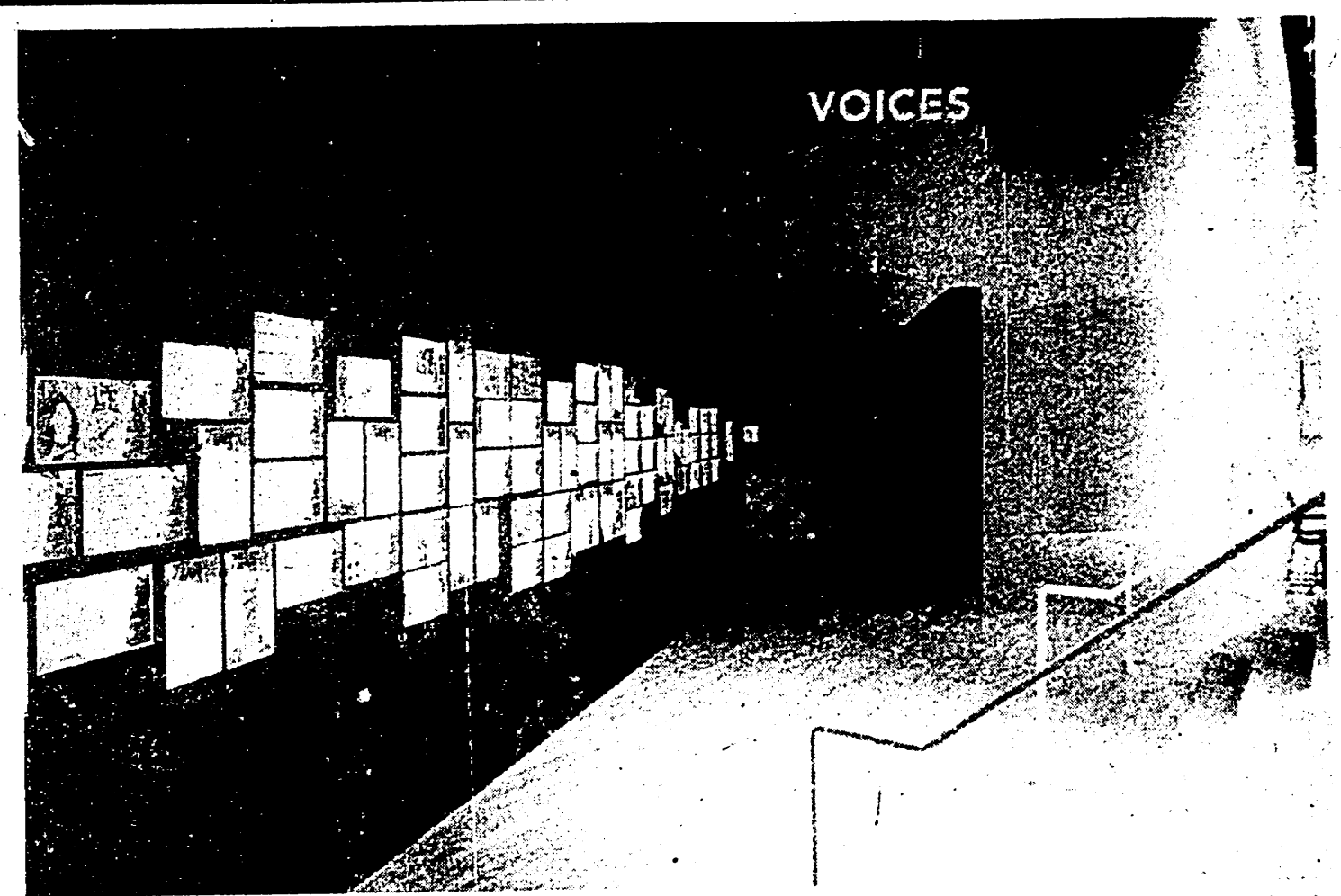
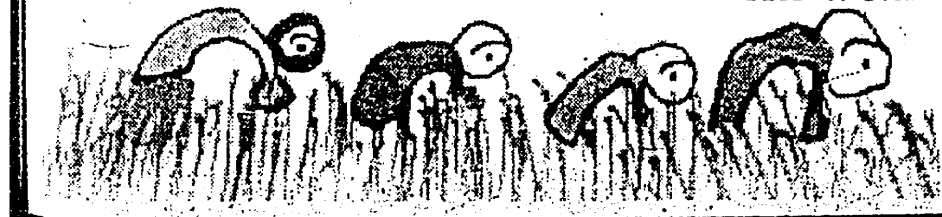
The material gathered was exhaustive and rich, a glimpse of complex knowledge systems unknown to the average urban child. To bring it to publishable form necessarily involved choosing, compiling, translating (from Tamil and Telugu originals) and editing the texts. As far as possible, the freshness of the original idiom and syntax were retained.

The themes which emerged from the compiled material were unique and fascinating. Water was a recurrent theme throughout. The action on the sea deals with fishing and trade — the sea is everybody's property, and fishing an uncertain livelihood. The drylands section is a lesson on possibly the last remnants of traditional organic farming. The river valley section emphasises irrigation, prosperity and the civilisation of plenty. The children of the *Kanis* tribe, in the mountains section, demonstrated a knowledge of their forests, of the trees, herbs, animals and birds that would be the envy of professional naturalists. In the section on deserts, it was decided to explore an idea which was part of the original concept of the five landscapes; the idea that any landscape could be turned into a desert. Madras, a city with a growing water problem, was itself an example of an urban desert.

When larger conceptual themes emerged from the main text, some of these themes were explored by editors in boxes alongside, forming links between the children's writing and the wider issues that parents or educators could explore with children. A number of crafts, puzzles and games, the making of which was itself an educational project, were included. Detailed maps of specific places as well as the region in question precede each section.

Although the majority of the child-contributors were from village schools run at subsistence levels, their contributions were rich and prolific. Their store of experimental and practical environmental knowledge made the editors redefine their narrow conception of learning. They emerged from the project convinced of the creative potential and depths of awareness inherent in every child.

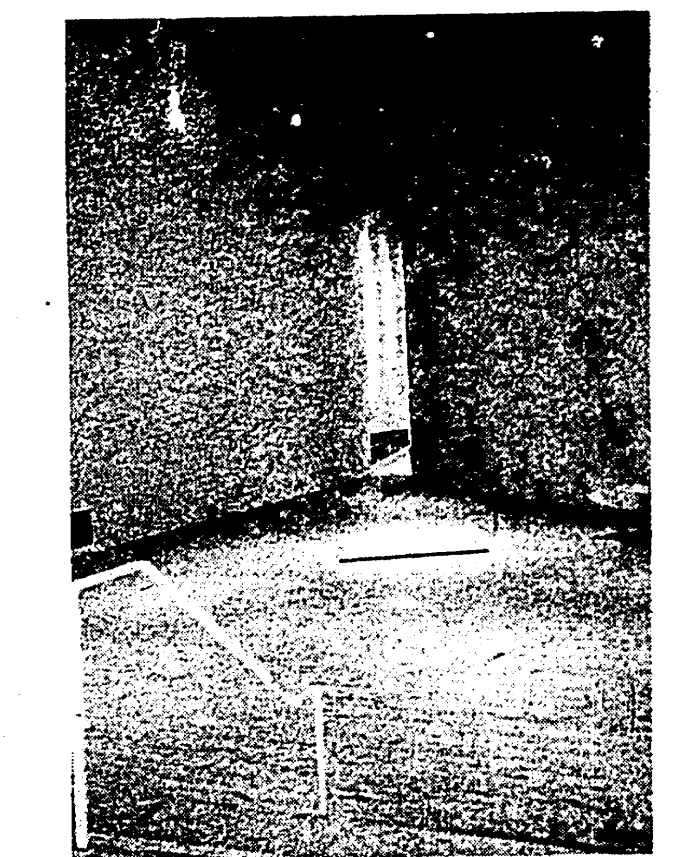
GITA WOLF



The exterior of, and entrance to, Lovejoy's installation at the Queens Museum, New York, showing the black walls covered with stories and drawings from victims of domestic violence.

The title 'Parthenia' is derived from the word *parthos* meaning the one who does not belong to anyone but herself, alone generating herself and the universe without the intervention of a male counterpart. Margot Lovejoy designed 'Parthenia' as a multimedia installation that is a place for healing and renewal. It memorialises domestic abuse as a human rights issue that is one of the most pervasive yet is one of the least recognised in the world today because it is hidden by walls of silence.

Margot Lovejoy says that the women's personal stories of abuse displayed on the black walls at the entrance of the installation in writing and drawing are meant as an affirmation of change. Drawing imagery from science, mythology, history, the contemporary media such as newspapers and magazines, cinema and dance, Margot has created a montage of images where the viewer can discover meaning by gauging the gap between juxtapositions of contrasting images. "In this way, I seek to engage the viewer in a dialogue to reconstruct attitudes", says Margot.



This is the museum space where Lovejoy created her installation. More recently, Chandralekha danced here.

The 'Parthenia' installation was a part of the Queens Museum's exploration of the immigrant identity in the US. From the beginning of August to the end of October there were screening of films like *Taxiwala* *Autobiography*, examining the experience of New York's Indian and

other Asian taxi drivers, Indian dance and music, and Margot Lovejoy's presentation on 'Perspectives of an Experience of India: Goddess, Women and Culture'.

V R DEVIKA

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November 20-24: Architecture Films.

The Indian Institute of Architects, Tamil Nadu Chapter, presents a festival of films on architecture from five countries. The festival is being organised by the Indian Institute of Architects in collaboration with the United States Information Service, Alliance Francaise, Max Mueller Bhavan, Russian Cultural Centre and the British Council Division.

November 20: British films

November 21: Russian films

November 22: French films

November 23: American films

November 24: German films (At the British Council Auditorium. Details from IIA — TN)

November 20-24: A five-day workshop on 'The Post Beijing Scenario: Strategies for Advocacy' sponsored by the British Council in collaboration with Initiatives - Women in Development (IWID), Madras.

The workshop will review the Platform for Action in the Indian context: — Enable participants to develop strategies and action plans for lobbying with the government to implement the Platform for Action, and — Give participants the opportunity to share and compare experiences and approaches to lobbying and advocacy.

The workshop will be led by Georgina Ashworth, Director, CHANGE, an international NGO in consultative status with UN ECOSOC. She is a visiting Fellow at the London School of Economics, Centre for International

Studies. She was the adviser to the BBC World Service on the Beijing Conference.

Participation in this workshop is by invitation. (At the YWCA, Madras).

November/December: Artist of the Month: S Murali, who teaches in the Department of English, University College, Trivandrum. Participated in group shows, including the National Exhibition of Art organised by the Kerala Lalit Kala Akademi, 1992. (Max Mueller Bhavan).

December 2: Concert by the New Leipzig String Quartet with Frank-Inno Zichner (Piano). The Quartet was formed in 1986 while its members were still students at the Conservatory

Mendelssohn-Bartholdy in Leipzig. It is proof of their outstanding artistic talent that three of its members became part of the world-famous Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. (6.30 pm, Museum Theatre).

December 3: Christmas Concert. Carols and solo performances by young artists — Polyphonics (+ Juniors) and The Subjunctives — conducted by Gita Menon, usher in Christmas. A session of Christmas carols interspersed with short instrumental solos by young Madras talent. Gita Menon's choir was formed in 1986 and has performed regularly for many years in Madras. (6.00 pm at Max Mueller Bhavan Library).

A prize for your poetry?

A poetry competition, sponsored by the British High Commission, British Council Division and Poetry Society (India), is open to resident and non-resident Indian poets and translators.

The poems entered for the competition will be read by a panel of eminent Indian poets who will prepare a shortlist. An eminent British poet will join them to select prize-winning poems from the shortlist. The prizes are an

excursion ticket to Britain or Rs. 25,000 in cash, Rs. 5,000 in cash (Second Prize) and Commendation Prizes of Rs. 2,500 each.

All entries, along with entry form, should be sent to: All India Poetry Competition 1995, The Poetry Society (India), L-67-A, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110 017. Closing date for entries is December 15, 1995. Entry forms are available at the British Council Division, Madras.



Metres and metres and metres of shelves, sarees and chairs at Roopini Silks' splendidly lit showroom that's a showpiece. (Pictures by RAJEND N CHRISTY.)

little paper signs on the pillars saying, 'Way to Roopini Silks'. As you go up the smooth granite steps, there is a huge signboard welcoming you to Asia's largest saree emporium. And as you leave your bag at the counter, collect a token and enter, it is quite a sight, those thousands of square feet of showroom space in front of you and sarees as far as your eye can see.

Talking of salespersons and the hostesses, who number around 150 here, Vincent says, "Our salespeople are from some of the leading silk showrooms in town. We also give them training to improve on their experience." The hostesses, however, do not have any distinguishing uniform, so it takes people some time to find one; on the day I visited, there were quite

"I want to bring to India the class that is so much a part of shops in Singapore or Malaysia," he says and explains how he has spent a lot on the lights, the mirrored shelves and the smallest details. He has a similar shop in Quilon and a jewellery shop too, both of which, he says, are the best there. Incidentally, Kanchana Mahal, which is on the ground floor of Janpriya

Ah! That was a pudding!

(By A Special Correspondent)

In a recent review of *The Raj at Table*, by David Burton, particular reference is made to the difficulties Indian cooks had with the sahibs' desserts. A Colonel Kenney-Herbert is quoted at length on many of these problems.

However, the Colonel wholeheartedly approved of the Madras Club's Pudding. And had written this recipe for it:

The Madras Club Pudding (called 'St George' after the club crest) is a good one: eight ounces of sponge cake; two ounces of pounded ratafias (Editor's Note: A biscuit flavoured with almonds or the kernel of peach, apricot or cherry); two ounces of breadcrumbs; eight eggs; four ounces of finely chopped suet; four ounces of preserved apples; four ounces of currants; two ounces of raisins; four ounces of mixed dried fruits; five

ounces of sugar; one ounce of candied orange peel; one ounce of preserved ginger; the juice of a lime; a few drops of almond essence; half a wine glass of brandy and a liqueur glass of curacao. Stone the raisins, wash, pick and dry the currants, chop the suet as small as possible, and mix them with the sponge cake (crushed to crumbs), the pounded ratafias, and the breadcrumbs; add the candied peel shredded, the apples cut into dice, the dried fruits and ginger minced, the five ounces of sugar, the almond essence, and a saltspoon of salt with a pinch of nutmeg. When all ingredients are well blended, stir the mixture together with the well-beaten eggs, the brandy and curacao and half a pint of milk. Butter a pudding mould, fill it with the mixture, cover the bottom of the pudding with a sheet of buttered white foolscap, tie it up in a cloth, and boil for four hours. Turn it out, and serve with Sauce Royale as follows: Beat

eight ounces of butter to a cream, sweeten it with two ounces of finely powdered sugar, add half a liqueur glass of brandy and the same of Madeira. Keep it quite cold and serve it in a bowl!

The length of the recipe would seem to reflect an era of leisure and good eating.

Many a meal in that era began with a soup that was called mulligatawny (deriving, of course, from 'pepper water', or *rasam*). Legend has it that mulligatawny was 'invented' at the Madras Club whose 'butler cuisine' was, till recent years, superb and has many hopping for a revival. The mulligatawny connection was the reason the British who lived in Madras were called the 'Mulls' by those who lived in other parts of India, namely the Bombay 'Ducks' and Calcutta 'Quoi Hais'.

Questions... as SAF Games draw near

The South Asian Federation Games, to be organised by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu in Madras in cooperation with the Indian Olympic Association, are only a month away. They begin on December 18th and end on December 27th. Sivanthi Adityan, the IOA

to some of them had raised doubts about their completion on time. How, for instance, a live-nation hockey tournament can be gone through in just four days, from December 21st to 24th, perhaps the organisers alone can tell.

To the media persons, however, nothing was more encouraging than the IOA Chief's assurance that they would be provided with all facilities. He could have gone one step further and listed the amenities that would be available at all the scattered venues from Nehru Stadium in Peoples Park to the Velacheri swimming pool, for the ready transmission of reports. He could have also told correspondents whether they would be provided transport facilities to rush from one venue to another.

The suggestion for transport is certain to give the organisers food for thought. Be that as it may, Madras sportswriters are wondering how many more times the IOA Chief will go to Delhi to announce the latest arrangements. Instead of Delhi visits, he would do well to take Madras journalists on an inspection tour of all the venues and leave the rest to the knowledgeable writers.

by
JAICI

president, recently announced that all the infrastructure required for the Games would be ready in time. He made special mention of the Games Village with as many as 560 apartments to accommodate teams and officials.

The IOA Chief stated that, including the hosts, seven national squads would be in the fray for the tournaments in 14 disciplines. He could have gone one step further and explained the tournaments pattern, because the number of dates allotted

Strange are the ways of selectors & administrators

The rain-hit India-New Zealand second Test at historic Chepauk brought both the Board of Control for Cricket in India and the National selectors into disrepute. The BCCI should have known that the Northeast Monsoon had seldom, if ever, given a Madras Test in either October or November a safe passage. After a week-long bright spell, which seemed to vindicate the BCCI's choice of Madras as the venue for the second Test of the current series, the monsoon returned with a bang and played havoc with the five-day match. It exposed the BCCI's inability to avoid pitfalls in the organisation of an international series.

The selectors were equally guilty. After the long blank he had drawn, world bowling record-holder Narendra Hirwani

was brought back into the fray for the first two Tests. He was not picked for the Bangalore Test, which India won handsomely. The leg-break bowler thus looked a banker for the Madras Test on the very same ground where he set a 16-wicket world record nearly a decade ago. It was easy to guess his feelings. His omission indeed was criticised by the entire crowd, even though the majority of them had not witnessed his 1988 feat.

Old-timers had only the satisfaction of seeing the one and

only Hirwani in the pavilion. The leg-break bowler, who wrote the most shining page of Chepauk's history, was reduced to an also-ran at the same centre where he had made a great, unique and unforgettable Test debut in 1988. He bagged eight for 61 and eight for 75 in the fourth Test of the five-Test series against the West Indies to set up a world record of 16 for 136 on his first Test appearance.

The Madhya Pradesh youngster's feat helped India score their lone victory in the series and earned him the unique distinction of being India's first spinner to earn a place in the international record book. His tally bettered the previous best of 16 for 137 by Australian R.A.L. Massie against England at Lord's in 1972.

by
AJAX

OUTFIELD THE VILLAIN

The five-day Test in Madras was a wash-out, yet there were more than two days of bright sunshine! The monsoon, then was not wholly the villain heavy; slippery outfield was the real villain. Historic Chepauk had recently been re-laid. Unfortunately, the contractors did not pay sufficient attention to the outfield, which remained slushy and slippery.

This was clear from what the TNCA curator, K. Parthasarathy, had to say on the third day. "Had it been the old Chepauk

ground, play would certainly have been possible after lunch... This was the first time in my 25 years' service that play has not been possible because of the outfield".

Parthasarathy should know better than others. Naturally, his assertion prompts a question. Was the TNCA aware of the dangerous condition of the outfield, and if it was aware, how could it have accepted the Board of Control of Cricket in India's offer of a Test in mid-

October? If the BCCI erred in allotting the TNCA a Test in mid-October, the TNCA committed a bigger blunder in accepting the offer, for the local body should have known better than the all-India one. It was indeed a surprise that neither former India skipper Sunil Gavaskar nor the former Board and TNCA president, M A Chidambaram, who both blamed the BCCI, had a word to say about the TNCA's green signal to a Chepauk Test in mid-October!

Heading for more records

The best bet for the new Madras racing season is Robert Foley's stable, in charge of the horses of the country's leading owner, M.A.M. Ramaswamy. If any proof of its certain domination of the 38-meeting season

were needed at all, it was provided at the first two meetings, held on October 29th and November 4th, when it saddled ten of the 14 winners, including a hat-trick at each fixture. It is indeed so studded with Classic winners and

fashionably-bred juveniles awaiting their 'baptism' that the champion trainer looks certain not only to improve upon his world record of four successive centuries at one centre, which he established last season, but also to set another world record with a century and a half of winners.

The two-year-olds under Foley's care have indeed developed so well that it remains to be seen when and which trainer will break the champion stable's monopoly of the juveniles' races.

What, however, is in store for the champion's stable in the Classics and the Indian Turf Invitation Cup remains to be seen. For, there will be formidable challengers from Bangalore for all the Classics and the best of every centre in the Invitation Cup field.

The Invitation Cup is returning to Guindy after a lapse of four years. When it was last run in Madras, in 1991, the then England champion, Lester Piggott, provided an unforgettable scene by steering the Bangalore-based, Byramji-trained Delage to a facile victory.

The Invitation Cup season, with a record prize money, had a wet start. The first meeting was held with the going heavy. On the forenoon of Saturday, November 4th, the rains lashed the city so much that there seemed little chance of any racing being held at all. But the Department of Racing Stewards gave the second meeting the green signal, and racing was held in such slushy going that they should thank their Gods that no runner took a tumble.

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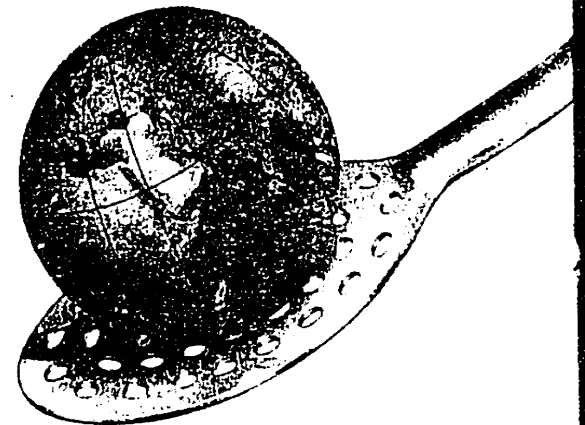
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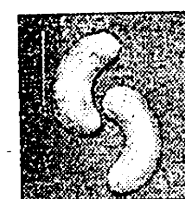
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