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CRAPHIC CONTO A PROTOTOS

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Are Ford's coming?

(By A Special Correspondent)

That's the \$ 64 crore question — and by the time you read these lines, e answer may well be known. And t answer may be one of three this mespondent heard in the last couple weeks. Those answers have been:

We have heard nothing, said S Consul – General in Madras imothy Hauser, who has done his liest to get the project here. He gave this answer during the course of an informal chat at a book launch function. But he promised to send the interval Home, In Madras — A Handbook, a guide to the information of the information

• The most recent answer has een that Ford's will be signing a temorandum of Understanding with the Tamil Nadu Government on anuary 3rd to set up the plant in adras. This agreement, it is stated, is being reached after Ford's have had bein last doubts cleared on the land d on sales tax.

Just ten days before the ecember 30th information, the same surces were singing another song. ord's will decide on the site for their clory only after the coming elections, they had stated. These sources had felt

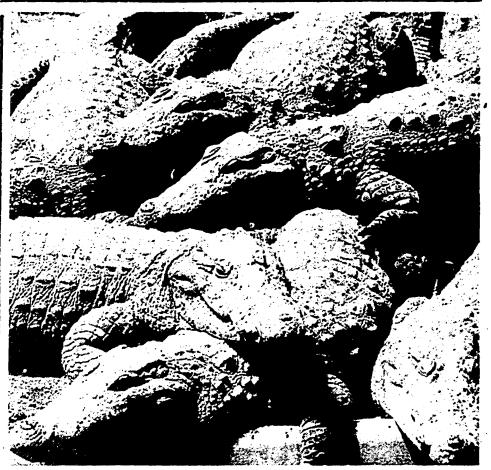
that a delayed decision would help the Joint Venture Ford-Mahindra project from facing any uncertainties due to change in government. In this context it was stated that the chances of the unit coming up in Maraimalainagar, in suburban Madras, had decreased due to two reasons. These were:

Firstly, the fear of a change in Government after the Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu. The term of the present state Government comes to end in mid-1996 and the elections for the State Assembly may be clubbed with the general elections.

Scondly, the role of the Shiv Sena if the company decides to locate the unit in Tamil Nadu. Though happy with the response from the Tamil Nadu Government to setting up the plant in the state, the unstable political scenario in the State was proving to be a major concern, these sources stated. They were unsure of the kind of support the project would get from a new Government, if the present regime failed to return to power

Meanwhile, the Government of Maharashtra was keen on prevailing upon the company to decide the site in its favour. The Shiv Sena, the majority partner in the ruling Government in the State, had reportedly introduced an ethnic angle

to prevent the company from going to Tamil Nadu. The Shiv Sena, it was stated, felt that since Mahindra & Mahindra is based in Maharashtra, the new unit too should come up in the State.



That's how crowded the crocodiles are at Crocodile Bank. (Photo: V S RAGHAVAN).

Whither crocodile research?

The Union Forest and Wildlife Ministry has called a halt to research work on crocodiles at the farming centres in Tamil Nadu and directed that efforts be taken to rehabilitate them in the wild in view of their burgeoning population in captivity, according to S C Dey, Additional Inspector General of Forests, Environment and Wild Life, Government of India. Crocodiles bred in captivity for various purposes, including research, have not been rehabilitated for the past ten years in the State.

Nearly 20 crocodile farming centres are functioning in India, including three in Tamil Nadu: Aringnar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur; Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, Mamallapuram; and Children's Park, Guindy. These farms function as research centres where marsh, estuarine and gharial species are bred. At present, an estimated 13,500 crocodiles live in captivity and another 7000 in wildlife reserves in the State. The function of the farms is to breed and release the crocodiles into places of safety. But the research activity has been overshadowed by a commercial approach. Hence the farming centres have been asked to identify sites for rehabilitation, especially in protected areas, where no fishing activity is allowed, and in the available reserve forests where fishing is restricted, stated Dey, who added that the rehabilitation of crocodiles would help in maintaining a balanced ecosystem.

Reacting to this decision of the Union Government, Romulus

Whitaker, President, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust (MCBT), said that not much headway had been made in research on crocodiles, which lived to nearly 100 years. He stated the Crocodile Bank Trust would be happy to release its 5000 'surplus' crocodiles, if suitable protected habitats could be identified. In most of the habitat where the public was prepared to tolerate the mugger, restocking had reached saturation level. Villagers and fishermen were not enthusiastic about the reptiles being back in the water in large

by A Special Correspondent

numbers. Wild life management techniques, including commercial crocodile farming, were sound measures to save the wildlife and habitat in the long-term, he felt. Though the preservation approach was laudable, it had never worked in any country where humans had to compete with wildlife for food and habitat. A standing example was India, where wildlife and wildlands continued to be depleted due to the spread of humans.

According to Whitaker, making the crocodile valuable and encouraging commercial ranching of crocodiles was the only solution to the problem. If this was done, crocodiles would become acceptable to the people and would become top foreign exchange earners.

The MCBT, meanwhile, has plans to reorganise its crocodile park at Vadanemmeli, 14 km from Mamallapuram, so as to make it more visitor-oriented and educative, giving the visitor an exciting opportunity to see the crocodiles as if in their natural habitats. The plans have been prepared by the Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmadabad and are supported by World Wide Fund for Nature-India. The surroundings would be made to resemble the true habitat of the crocodiles, thereby helping to evoke their behaviour in the wild. The crocodiles would not be aware that they were being watched, as invisible dividers between the viewers and crocodiles would ensure that the crocodiles were not disturbed.

Apart from the crocodile display, the MCBT would continue its research on crocodiles. One of its important research findings has been that varying temperature on the eggs of the mugger could produce the preferred sex in the hatchlings. This discovery would help in regulating the male-female ratio, according to Harry Andrews, Deputy Director of the MCBT, which also breeds water monitor lizards and carries out field studies on other reptiles and amphibians. MCBT had also started a breeding and research programme on turtles after it found that 26 species of Indian turtles were endangered and that some species, like the cane turtle of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, might survive only through captive breeding. (Courtesy: Fishing Chimes).



by Meera Raghavendra Rao

No, The Man From Madras Musings is not referring to Mohammed Riaz or Shiny Abraham or Sabir Pasha or the weightlifting and kabbadi champions from Tamil Nadu. He's referring to the State's Police, who once upon a time would have been among the medal-winners on the field but now have no time for sport or athletic achievement. The Force's achievements are now entirely in different fields - and in the instance to be discussed, off the field!

That the Tamil Nadu Police Force is perhaps the best in the country, as was stated at a recent seminar. The Man From Madras Musings does not doubt. Not only is its record of crime-solving right there at the top but in every inter-police meet calling for demonstrations of police skills the Force has been a champion. Then why was there so much ham-handedness on its part during the recent South Asian Games?

Getting those Games off to a flying start was indeed an enviable achievement of the Jayalalitha Government. There might have been some tardiness in getting the infrastructure ready in time, but came the opening ceremony and all of it was ready for the competition bar the Indoor Stadium which took just a couple of days longer. Finishing touches may still be needed, but the competitors certainly had what could well be described as the best sports facilities in South Asia.

Having achieved what many had doubted, the Jayalalitha Government went one step further - and in a splendid gesture threw the Games open to one and all FOR FREE. Not only was this to ensure packed stadia but it was, more importantly, meant to kindle a passion for sport among the have-nots. But what was meant to be an enjoyable, fun occasion turned

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sour too many times for comfort. And that was entirely due to Tamil Nadu's Finest.

The safety factor

Given the political scenario in South Asia — not to mention in India itself — there was every reason to ensure the Games were trouble-free. And the Police are to be commended for ensuring a competition in which at no time did any competitor feel threatened. But whereas no competitor was endangered, The Man From Madras Musings is aware of several occasions when competitors were discomfited, pressmen were harassed and the public's patience was taxed to such an extent that many turned away from the Games.

MMM sees little point in repeating all the incidents in which the police threw their weight around or in entering into a debate on the merits and demerits of every police action which has been described at length in the dailies. But MMM would like to point out a couple of things which might give Tamil Nadu's Finest food for thought in the days to come.

MMM doesn't know whether the Police noticed or not, but during the Sri Lanka-Pakistan basketball match and on the occasions the Sri Lankan sprinters proved their superiority over India's best - including homegrown talent - the cheering for the Sri Lankans mostly Sinhalese - was truly something to see and hear. Certainly those Sri Lankan basketballers were spurred on to a greater effort by the cheering of the Madras fans. And then when Pakistan pulled two back in the hockey final against India, the cheering was again heartwarming. Certainly there may have been Sri Lanka - and Pakistan-haters in those crowds. but they would have been an individual or two. And against an individual or two, not even the best security forces in the world - say, for instance, the Israeli - can do anything, not even when they know there is a definite threat as they did in the Rabin case. In such circumstances, harassing the public and

Another scenario

to encourage.

being overprotective of the

players does no good for

anyone's morale and in this

instance certainly put a damper

on the Games the Jayalalitha

Government had done so much

In this context, Tamil Nadu's Finest might like to consider another scenario. On the several

Musings has had to go to the airport in the last few months he has noticed the hordes of Sri Lankans - mostly middle class shoppers and carriers and mainly Sinhalese - being disgorged from and taken back on the flights to and from Colombo. On one afternoon during the Games, MMM watched a near-planeload of Buddhist pilgrims arrive in Madras, undoubtedly on their

way to Bodh Gaya. Over a third

of the group were grim-looking,

Police can get the public to look on the Police as friends. But then neither did the floor have anything to offer on this theme - which was, in fact, the theme of the seminar.

MMM was astounded to hear that hoary theory that the Police Force is a legacy of the Raj when it was an instrument of oppression and that it has continued to live up to that image in the years since Independence. Surely 50 years is enough time to start thinking

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

yellow-robed monks who'd break into smiles only when a porter or another local offered to wheel their luggage out. And the only Police presence MMM noticed as these allegedly anti-Tamil elements set foot in Madras was a paunchy police sergeant half asleep in a chair. The thought struck MMM that if anyone wanted to create and incident during the Games it would have been child's play against these groups at the airport. You didn't have to waste your energy going as far as the distant venues of the Games.

And if it was VVIP security that was part of the reason for the discomfort the public had to go through, MMM will once again - as in the past - cite John Kennedy, Anwar Sadat, Rajiv Gandhi and now Rabin. Harassing the public can in no way stop such assassinations or individual incidents. Security around the individual is the best anyone can do — the security net flung out wider is not going to help, it'll only make the security force lose more friends.

Call for a smile

S hortly after the Games, The Man From Madras Musings was at a seminar where Police-Public Relations were discussed, Sadly it turned out to be an outpouring of several tales of woe - a grievance session from the floor (most of it centred on autorickshaw fleecing!) and very little to do with the public relations necessary to improve the police-public relationship. Perhaps this had much to do with the fact that most of the complainants from the floor had little to do with Public Relations though they were all members of the Tamil Nadu Chapter of the Public Relations Society of India. In fact, it once again demonstrated to The Man From Madras Musings how little professionalism the Chapter is showing and much of that can be laid at the door of the overwhelming majority of the membership being non-professionals.

The Police Commissioner the star of the panel, did little to raise the level of the discussion. MMM noted that most of his lengthy comments were a defence of the Police and much of this centred on Police behaviour at the Games. There was little the Commissioner had to contribute to how a smile could be brought back on the face of a policeman and how the differently? Surely it is time for the Police Force to start thinking of a different training programme for its recruits, a programme that puts Public Relations high on the list of subjects in its syllabus. It is no use winning medals for fingerprinting, dog-training, pistol-fire etc if you are not going to be a good human being and a friend of your fellows. And that's something Tamil Nadu's Finest might like to introduce in their curriculum and once again show India's other police forces the

Let's start by putting a smile back on the faces of policemen again, from the highest to the lowliest recruit.

Airport delays

The Man From Madras Musings notes with resignation the various reasons why planes are held up in airports, delaying passengers. In one recent case, the Indian wrestling team - embellished with medals won at the SAF Games demonstrated its muscle power to hold up an East-West flight till one of its number who had gone walkabout was found. MMM wonders what the National Wrestling Federation is going to do about this disgraceful, nearviolent behaviour. Probably nothing, as is usually the case these days.

What intrigues MMM even more about this incident is the explanation given by a wrestling official for the wrestler wandering away. He's not of quite sound mind and he's deaf, the official is reported as saying. If the wrestler is indeed what he is said to be MMM wonders what he's doing in the team in the first place and, more importantly, if he is good enough to be chosen despite his handicaps why greater care of him was not being taken by the officials of the

In another recent case, the delay was due to a passenger feeling ill before take-off. It took an hour for a doctor to declare the passenger unfit for travel. But what intrigued MMM was that it took over another hour to find the passenger's checked-in baggage and unload. Surely there are quicker procedures for both these eventualities? If there aren't, it's time they were found and put into operation - instead of keeping passengers sweltering for 21/2 hours inside a plane!

* ITC have at, last found

Chairman. And The Man From Madras Musings cheers Y C Deveshwar's Madras connection. The new Chairman certainly seems to have been born with a silver spoon in his mouth. If MMM remembers right, he started his career with ITC in 1965 as a management trainee in its printing unit in Tiruvottriyur. After a couple of years, he moved to the Head Office in Calcutta and returned to Madras in 1974 as factory manager of the country's biggies printing and packaging unit the time. Four years later, he was its General Manager. It was during this time in the Seventies that the manager who had trained him at ITC left apparently a Madras University degree was not going to take him the places where an IIT (Delhi) degree led. Curiously, technicians at the ITC plant in Tiruvottriyur still seek tha Madras man's help on printing and packaging problems; MMM hasn't heard any of them consulting the new Chairman on his way to the top. But then all I are not born to be Chairmen of multinational organisations. * The Man From Madras

had organised a series of film

shows at the British Council on

conservation of historical

buildings in several countries.

MMM was thrilled to note that.

they were SRO shows

throughout the week — but once

again without practising

architects helping to fill the hall.

It was, however, nice to see so

many members of the public

interested in conservation. Why

wonders MMM, don't they show

the same interest in helping save

* Speaking of conservation,

MMM wonders whatever has

happened to the DGP building

on the Marina. The Courts had

ordered a stay on its demolition

and had asked the Centre to

appoint an expert committee to

report on the heritage value of the

building and on the surrounding

environment. That team came

and went long ago — and The

Man From Musings is rather

inclined to think that it

submitted its report not long

afterwards. But what's happened

to that report? The longer it

takes to place it before the

Courts, the more the unused

building will deteriorate. Is that

the game? And, if so, what is

INTACH, who took the matter to

court, doing about it?

MMM

the old buildings of Madras?

As we waited in the hotel lobby for Musings was pleased to note at our escort to join us, it proved an the Southern Regional Convenandless wait, for she did not make an tion of the ' Institute of ppcarance. The next morning, she of impasarrived, apologising profusely. "I am Architects sioned pleas by itects to preserve heritage it of its and sony for what happened last evening. My bag was stolen and I had to spend traditional construc. the whole evening at the police station." Even if conservations. gerial nowhere with Senan. Her next words were even more douse, Rajaji (Banqueting) Hall shocking, "When I saw the cassette and the DGP building, it's nice replayed (the lobby had a closed circuit to know that a few architects N), I noticed a man entering the lobby care that these buildings are while I was busy allotting rooms to you threatened. But how few care all. He came straight in and picked up was demonstrated a few days my bag, which was on the centre table, later when Australian architect George Michell spoke at the and walked away, all in 30 seconds!" Institute's premises in Madras on Though we had never imagined we Royal Architecture in India. The would start losing things so early on bulk of the small audience were the tour and that the first victim would students who had been be our tour escort herself, we could not 'persuaded' to attend; help admiring the way the 'intruder' practising architects there was and gone about his job in the full view but a handful. Curiously, a few of 30-odd spectators, and in record time weeks earlier, the Institute, together with local consulates,

> Amsterdam was the next stop on our tour, All of us were excited at the ospect of a Canal Cruise along the mster river. But just as the tour was about to start, we found two in our party, who were from Baluchistan missing. They later told us that they had gone to get new shoes but after ourchasing them one of them had

and we made a point of noting down the numbers of our travellers' cheques. We also began concentrating more on the safekeeping of our valuables than on the sights of the countries we were to visit during the rest of the tour.

Sightseeing in Germany and Austria passed off without incident, except for a few complaints of overcharged telephone calls at the hotels. We now began to feel easier and morale was at its highest when we reached Venice.

We were in St. Mark's Square once the religious and political centre of the city, and the local guide was explaining the significance of the Bell Tower when our attention was distracted by a hue and cry raised by two young members of our group from Singapore. Their faces were flushed and they kept repeatedly digging into their sling bags, almost turning them inside out. But they could not find their cameras, driving licences, mementoes they had purchased, baggage keys o credit cards. One of them had even had a lovely bracelet given by her boy friend in her bag and she was, as a result, almost in tears. We forgot all about the Bell Tower and our guide, till he started explaining how the thieves in Italy were the smartest in the world We were demoralised by his words and began counting the days when the tour would come to an end and we would be back home.

As I awoke in Paris on the last day of our tour. I heaved a sigh of relie and triumph at having been able to

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is an art

Tike any other art, I feel thieving is an ART. I realised this during a recent tour of Western Europe.

"Please be careful with your passports and other personal belongings because there are thieves always on the prowl looking for innocent tourists" cautioned our tour escort when we alighted from the luxury coach at a

notel in Brussels, our first stop. Paying

need to her warning, we literally clung

to our passports, wallets and handbags.

not to speak of the video cameras, as

we got ready to set out to see the sights

If the Belgian capital. Little did we

know at the time what was in store for

noticed that his wallet had been picked. There was a whole bunch of American Express travellers' cheques in it. He, however, was lucky; when they went to the American Express office, he had got full replacement for the missing travellers' cheques as he had noted down their numbers. Needless to say this experience made our escort repeat her words of caution more emphatically

protect my personal belongings (which included all the expensive jewellery on my person) wherever we had gone. As we breakfasted at the Fran Tour hotel, the aroma of coffee was so tempting that I decided to have a second cup. When I returned to the table, I noticed a young man had taken the chair in front of me and was sipping a cup of coffee. After he left, I bent down to pick up my handbag (which I had placed by the leg of my chair) but to my shock found it was gone, along with all its valuable contents! I soon realised it was not the Italians but the French who were the smartest thieves in the world, being able to steal something right from under your nose without your being aware of it! How naive I was, I thought, to be under the impression that our country produced the smartes ones!

CENTS OF THE ABSURD he 1995 State of the World's Children report from UNICEF says that we need to kindle a sense of absurdity at the idea that the orld cannot afford to meet the needs of all the world's children for adequate nutrition, basic health care, primary education, and clean water. The following figures are offered as kindling: \$ Spent \$ Needed Estimates of amount spent Estimated extra cost of worldwide on: meeting world-vide need for per year Bosic child health 585 5/3 Primary advaction Safe water and sonitation 5400 Family planning \$250 \$800 \$34

Considering all the extravagant spending that's been going on in the State during the past year, considering all the extravagant spending each one of us indulges in every day, this UNICEF message provides telling comment. No further comment is necessary, but a New Year Resolution or two on curbing extravagant spending might not be out of place at this time of the year. On that note, all of us at Madras Musings take this opportunity to wish our readers and well-wishers

A Very Happy New Year

Floriculture bloom

Cropping patterns are rapidly changing in Tamil Nadu. No longer is cultivation confined to crops like rice, millets, pulses and cotton. Much interest is being shown in the cultivation of vegetables, fruits and flowers in the State which seems to be on the threshold of a floriculture and horticulture revolution.

In Coimbatore, for instance, companies like Global Blooms and layaram Floriculture have set up floriculture businesses. Others all set to take the plunge include Roots International, Pricol, Venkateswara Paper and Boards and Udhaya Semiconductors.

Several companies have realized the potential of the business and tie-ups with Dutch majors like Flodac and Movhrien are likely soon. In fact, Lakshmi Machine Works has already entered into a venture with Flodac for exporting cut flowers to Europe. The group has purchased land near Bangalore where it will grow flowers. Exporting flowers is not easy though, as much depends on getting the perishable commodity across in record time to the traditional buying centres of Europe and other regions in the

Estimates reveal an annual world market for flowers close to an amazing Rs 75,000 crore. Achieving even a one per cent share of that market will mean sizeable revenue for the country. There also exists a good domestic market for

Indians traditionally use flowers at religious ceremonies, marriages and functions. For most Indian women, flowers are part of their make-up. And with the ever-increasing demand for bouquets and massive garlands while sending off or receiving our politicians. surely no floriculture venture in India can possibly fail!

The Madras flower market, with more than 400 wholesalers and commission agents, is one of the country's largest. Roses, marigold, chrysanthemum, and jasmine are mostly sold locally but a small portion

finds its way to Malaysia, Singapore and West Asia where many Indians live. Cut flowers and exotic varieties - high-value orchids, tulips etc - form the bulk of exports, however.

The State government has not been slow to react. Floriculture centres in Dharmapuri and Udagamandalam areto be set up soon to propagate export varieties of flowers. The government has also decided to establish an exportoriented market for floriculture near Madras at a cost of Rs 20 crore.

The horticulture scene in Tamil Nadu looks equally promising. The total area under fruit crops has increased

by A Special Correspondent

and so too has production - by five lakh tonnes, to reach 33 lakh tonnes in 1993-94. Vegetable production, too, has gone up by more than five lakh tonnes, to touch 41.60 lakh tonnes in the same period. The Tamil Nadu Cooperative Horticultural Produce Enterprise (TANHOPE), a growers' cooperative, established by the Government, will co-ordinate all aspects of crop production, processing and marketing.

Like exotic flowers, exotic vegetables, too, can prove to be highly lucrative for farmers. An example is the gherkin, a cucumber-like vegetable. now being cultivated by several farmers, after procuring imported seeds from various private agencies in the State. About 9,000 tonnes of this exotic vegetable were exported to Australia, Belgium, Germany, Spain, the US and the UK. With several other exotic vegetables, like baby com, silver skin onion, broccoli, and fruits, like grape, litchi, mango and strawberry proving cultivable in the State there is a veritable gold mine waiting to be tapped, by those prepared to put their money in

to horticulture. Maxworth Orchards, Ltd, is a successful company engaged in the

business of dryland horticulture. Using the latest scientific techniques, the company cultivates orchards in agricultural lands bought by its investor customers. The company markets the produce, too. Here again, the State government

has been supplementing private efforts. More than 500 subordinate officials are to be transferred from the Agriculture Department to the Horticulture Department soon, an indication of the Agriculture Ministry's interest in giving a thrust to developing horticulture. The officials will guide farmers on new techniques in floriculture and horticulture.

Tamil Nadu has been doing very well in agriculture the past few years even though the State has exhausted most of its surface water, and the Cauvery water problem continues to persist. The agricultural pattern has always followed the irrigation system and rainfed dryland cultivation. With vast stretches of land in the State coming under rainfed areas, the government should form a strategy to make the best use of these lands for

agriculture, floriculture and horticulture. The new Tamil Nadu Agricultural Policy (expected to be operational from 1996-97) is likely to focus on agriculture, floriculture and horticulture. In lanuary this year, a workshop, titled "Maharasi Agri Vision 2000", was held in Tiruchchirapalli where farmers, professionals and officials interacted. Highlighted by the workshop was the need for better water management, remunerative prices for agricultural produce, an export market for agricultural produce, increasing production of vegetables, seed patenting and biodiversity.

A wind of "commercial agriculture" is blowing across Tamil Nadu, and private capital is finding its way into agriculture, especially floriculture and horticulture. Signs are there of a "colourful" revolution taking place, and there is no reason why the State cannot be in the vanguard of the country's agricultural development again.

British Council Library, Madras (Telephone: 8525002) Select List of Recent Additions in Education

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Matt's mining a Madras lode

Writing for a magazine like Madras Musings, which considers a study of Madras and its history a way of life, makes you more responsive to the work of any person who researches even one aspect of Madras. And that I discovered when I met Dr Mattison Mines, Chairman, Department of Anthropology, University of California, whose association with Madras dates back to 1967.

To start with. Mines had no special reason to choose Madras as the subject of his research. It was just that the professor under whom he was doing his research felt that North India was getting all the attention from foreign researchers coming to India and suggested that Mines pay some attention to the South. And when Mines, whose knowledge of South India and Madras was practically nil at the time, arrived in Madras, he fell in love with the city; there then began a historical romance that has continued ever since.

"Madras has a special place in my life, for all that it has done to boost my academic career." declares Mines. The merchant communities of Madras have been the specific subjects of his research papers and books. These include *The* Muslim Merchants: Economic Behaviour of an Indian Muslim community (1972) and Warrior Merchants: Textiles, Trade and Territory in South India (1984).

Mines' latest visit to Madras was in the year 1994-95 and was to study the history of the Komatti Chetties of Madras, their interests and business activities. It was for two projects he is working on: The Social History of Individuals in South India from 1639 to the Present and Public Faces, Private Voices: Community and Individuality in South India.

Mines' research of the merchant communities and their activities is a painstaking task. And with most of Madras' earliest business communities centred in George Town. Mines today

knows this area inside out. To get about his research, he makes contact with a helpful local who introduces him to a merchant family or families which have had a then on. Mines and his assistant take over. There are a series of personal interviews, long sessions with the head of the family or the eldest member of the business community, detailed enquiries about all the ancestors the

• by R. Jaisri

person can remember and, finally, the drawing up of the 'family tree', which is one of the most important parts of the research. "I have family trees of more than 100 odd business families of Madras." Mines remarks casually.

I interrupt with a tangential question: How do you tackle those maddening crowds at Parry's? And to my surprise, he answers, "It feels so safe and comfortable in the midst of them. Even in the Tamil Nadu Archives, with so many people moving around, it somehow creates an atmosphere of togetherness, a feeling

he adds, "I just love the crowds, especially the ones in George Town"!

A lecture by Mines that I attended

gave me an idea of how thorough he was with his subject, going by the whole lot of anecdotes he narrated. Take how Kola Perumal Charifies came into being. One of the philanthropic members of the Kola Perumal family, during the days of the British, wanted to make a donation to a charitable cause. He was also close to the British. All that he wanted in return was some small recognition from the British for his act of charity. The British readily obliged by giving him a silver staff with his name engraved on it. And Mines went on in this manner about other significant places and landmarks in Madras with the Sri Kannika Parameswari Devasthanam (which he calls the SKPD) figuring more than once. The authority with which he handled the families he knows and his willingness to admit his ignorance about others was impressive. an individual's role is significant in



business communities — and families — of Madras. (Photo: V S RAGHAVAN).

His latest project, on individuals in South India, he says, is an attempt to historicise individuality in South Indian society, "especially as it is presented and evaluated in urban settings in urban Madras". Mines has found that to negotiate successfully in ordinary daily life, a South Indian must know a large number of people and they, in turn, must know him/her. He is focussing on this 'need to be known' and how it affects relationships between individuals and society, creating the highly personalised nature of Tamil Nadu urban life. He is trying to show that

Tamil Nadu society and how understanding this is a key to against the common notion that an the picture would be complete. "I fact," he says, "the very fact that I am project able to interview women shows how society, has changed, compared to an meeting of all interested was held at the earlier time, when this was not Bishop's residence on 2.7.81 and a

been visiting Madras every few years Vice-President, Verghese Eapen,

and provide medical aid to the poor and needy. It was originally thought that the many doctor members of the Church could join together and run a understanding local urban society free dispensary to help the people. Subsequently, it was felt a mobile individual has hardly any role to play dispensary could be established for the in South Indian society. He was also urral poor. Later, it was felt that a small interviewing women this time, so that hospital with 50 beds and a good clinical laboratory might be a better To discuss these ideas, an informal

lew people were elected to formulate As part of his projects, Mines has schemes. Dr K M Cherian was elected

(Continued on P6) Secretary, and C O Verghese. Freasurer. The Bishop was to continue as President. An Advisory Committee was also formed and it was suggested



Hospital' be looked into.

Money was the major bogey in The company plans a tic-up with the thinking of anything big. The objective However, many felt the effort should be to start a big organisation which

An informal gathering, a few weeks e a major one. Those present were TTG Industries (CMP: Rs. 93.00) Dr K M Cherian, Verghese Anwar, Abraham, K E Koshy, M A Abraham

nd Verghese Eapen. It was pointed out at the meeting that a major project needed villing to leave his safe job, with the

A circular was sent to 35 people r this purpose.

Activities gained momentum after circulation of this note. At a K. Gopalakrishnan bsequent meeting it was decided to



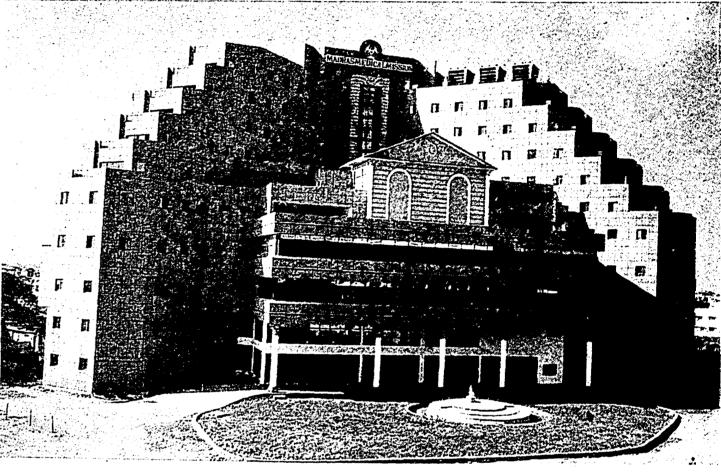


THE OLD...

...& THE NEW

Our OLD are pictures of the parched, barren and rocky plot in Mogappair (West Anna Nagar), 3.65 acres in extent, that was bought by the Madras Medical Mission to make its Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases a reality. In the second picture the Bishop is

The NEW shows the magnificent new superspeciality hospital that has, ten years later, come up on the site. A new architectural landmark in the city, it is a building as elegant inside as it is outside, with Dr K M Cherian turning interior decorator for the purpose, The building was declared open last month, with its splendid auditorium hosting a major international heartcare conference. The building is now expected to be operational by the end of the month.



by A Special Correspondent

name the project 'The Madras Medica'

Mission' to give it wider acceptance and

appeal. The word 'Madras' represented

the roots of the community behind the

project and 'Mission' represented its

character. The Madras Medical Mission

was registered as a Society under the

Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act

in January 1982.

In the search for a suitable site. M M Mathai located 3.65 acres at Mogappair, very near West Annanagar. The owners, who wanted Rs. 5 lakh for the land, were willing to enter into an agreement and wait for a few months if an advance of Rs. 50,000 was paid. The members approved the site and decided to pay the advance, the required funds being raised from among those present. The advance was paid on January 7, 1982. When further enquiry about the land with various Government departments commenced, it was found that, in the Master Plan of the Madras Metropolitan Development Authority, this land was marked for housing purposes. The Minister concerned was contacted and he said that there would be no difficulty in reallocating it for institutional purposes, but nothing further happened on this promise

In the meanwhile, a campaign was launched to raise funds through a membership drive. Life membership was open to those who paid Rs. 5000 each. Through this drive, sufficient funds were raised for payment of Rs. 5

lakhs for registering the deed and this was done on April 22, 1983. It was then decided to start construction of the hospital at an early date.

President Giani Zail Singh was visiting Madras in September 1983. A request was made that he lay the foundation stone for the hospital

building on September 15, 1983. The President readily consented to this.

It was at a committee meeting in

early September'83 that the unexpected happened. The Secretary of MMM received an urgent message that he should immediately meet the authorities in charge of the President's visit. They informed him that the Housing Board had advised that the land purchased by MMM was to be acquired for housing purposes and, hence, the President would be advised not to lay the foundation stone there. This was a shock. Though the Secretary immediately met the Minister concerned, it was soon apparent that nothing would be possible immediately. Thereafter, it was a struggle to get the land released from the Housing Board. It took about nine months before an order was received allocating the land to the Madras Medical Mission to

establish a heart hospital. The enthusiasm for the whole Project cooled considerably a result of this brake. The Government order also wanted a series of formalities to be completed, which meant further delay in starting construction. And in September 1984 Dr K M Cherian went to the USA, returning only in December.

Another major problem that arose was the approach road to the site. Earlier, the approach to the plot used to be through a side lane. But that area was built on by encroachers. A proper approach road was a must. It was decided to request the MMDA for help in building a 60-foot road. After discussions, the MMDA agreed to sell a 60 ft. wide stretch, from the MMM

plot to the main road, to the Madras Medical Mission. This solved a major problem. An approach from any other side would not have been so effective.

In 1984, efforts were made to form an organisation exclusively devoted to research. This was necessary to give donors the benefit of 100% tax exemption on the donations. Though a society called the MMM Heart Foundation was registered and the application for this purpose was submitted to the authorities in Delhi recognition was refused. Attempts in this direction are still continuing.

In 1985. Dr K M Cherian was away in the US for a year. Building work could not progress due to paucity of funds and lack of proper permissions. Then, at a meeting held on October 23. 1985, Dr K M Cherian, just returned from the US, stated that he would thereafter be in India on a permanent basis and devote his time to developing the Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases. The Governing Board, after detailed discussions, decided to explore the possiblity of establishing the Institute in hired premises in a working hospital in Madras. The estimated investment for this purpose was Rs. 35 lakhs. This was expected to be raised through loan certificates and other schemes, as bank finance was a remote possibility in the absence of proper base capital.

At a meeting of all the members on November 20, 1985 it was decided to start the Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases at the Vijaya Hospital, Madras, in May-June 1986 with Dr K M Cherian as the Chief. Funds

(Continued on P8)

Will the markets move up?

The sudden slide during November and the partial recovery in the allimportant indicator, the 30-scrip Sensex, has caused deep concern amidst the investing community. All those who have India's interests at heart have been equally troubled by the toopublic brawl that erupted between the Reliance Group and India's premier exchange, the BSE. While a compromise seems to have been reached in the latter imbroglio, the former issue has not yet been resolved, at least not completely.

Many reasons have been put forward for the Sensex going below the 3000 mark on 22.11.95. If some reports can be believed, the bears seemed to have taken full control of the markets, which were already in the doldrums. It is well-known there are psychological barriers which, when pierced, create dismay in the market.

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A MEMBER OF THE AMALGAMATIONS GROUP

The Sensex going past the all-important 3000 mark was one such moment that will deline investor behaviour for some time to come. Happily, the index recovered on the same day and has, since then, steadily, though only marginally, moved upwards. However, the time is not yet ripe for optimism. as any rise in the index has immediately been offset by a decline. Investors, in India and abroad, are naturally quite concerned about the future. With the restrictive atmosphere on the credit front and insufficiency in foreign investment, any expectancy of a surge in the Sensex seems unfounded.

We have noticed in the past few years that the index climbs to a peak in the middle of September. In 1992. the index peaked to a high of 3463.00. In 1993, it climbed to 2839.00. Last year, 1994, the index touched a high of 4643.00. However, this year, the Sensex was moving in a narrow range in September before it peaked to a high of 3609.19 on October 6th. Thereafter, the uptrend began to weaken and a new bottom was formed. In the first week of November. the Sensex showed signs of becoming more volatile and seemed ready for a major move. But by the last week of November, the index was on a roller-coaster ride, first dipping to the year's low and then managing to gain lost ground by staging a corrective rally only in the last two trading sessions. This rally triggered an intermediate uptrend in the index which could last anywhere from three weeks

to as long as six months or more. It may still be early days to say if the index has staged a turnaround or if the bear grip on the stockmarkets has slackened. However, the intermediate uptrend has been confirmed by the formation of higher tops and bottoms. Most of the indicators point to this intermediate uptrend carrying on.

On other grounds too, no big or sudden boost can be expected in the capital markets. With the electoral process being flagged off, statements like the one made by the Prime Minister, when he said that national interests would not be compromised in the globalisation process, will become increasingly common. Dr Manmohan Singh has made similar statements, indicating that PSU reforms will be handled by the next government. Dr Singh also said that new policies on mergers and takeovers and the throwing open of the insurance sector will be considered only after the next



elections. The silver linings are the healthy state of the primary market and the soon-to-be-passed Bill on depositories. The latter, especially, may help increase foreign direct investment

Summing up, though we might not see a surge in the market, there are enough pointers that signal an end to the decline and the continuation of the present intermediate uptrend for some time to come. Under such circumstances, speculative activity, with all the attendant risks, will be the major source of profits. Caution, however, will have to be the key word.

Keeping this-in mind, here are two recommendations:

Indiana Dairy Specialities (CMP: Rs. 34,00): Indiana Dairy Specialities (IDSL) manufactures milk and milk products such as pasteurised milk, sterilised flavoured milk, ice-cream, ghee and casein. Ice creams are manufactured for Brooke Bond Lipton India's Dollops brand and IDSL has its own retail sales outlets. At present, it has three milk-processing plants - in Bangalore Hyderabad and Naspur - with a total capacity of 3.5 lakh litres per day.

The company has set up three joint ventures - the first in Nepal for ice cream milk and milk products, the second in Muscat and the third in Hyderabad, with Monte Bianco, Italy, to manufacture sugar cones and allied products. Plants are afoot to set up two more joint ventures - at

IDSL has announced exemplary result

for the first half of 1996 which are, in fac closer to the achievements for the whole 1994-95. The turnover and PAT Rs. 21.12 cr and Rs. 2.53 cr have increase by 167% and 90% respectively over the previous corresponding period. The turnove and PAT for March 1995 stand a Rs. 22.73 cr and Rs. 3.09 cr respectively.

US-based yoghurt manufacturer TCBY for of the project remained hazy. To what production and marketing of the latters extent, a charitable registered society products in India. This will boost the would be able to attract the requisite bottomline of the company in the near finance remained an unknown factor. future. For 1995-96, we expect IDSL achieve a turnover and a PAT of Rs. 50 and Rs. 6 cr. which will yield an EPS of Rs. 8.50 for that period. The projected EPS would create an impact in Madras. discounts the current market price by four times, leaving enough scope for price later, felt a cardiovascular hospital was appreciation. Buy for medium and long-term leasible idea. All agreed that it should

TTG has declared excellent results for the V George, Samuel Verghese, K V first half of the current year, with sales at Rs 48.58 cr marginally ahead of its full-year figure of Rs. 48.10 cr for 1994-95. Its half yearly PAT at Rs. 4.42 cr has also exceeded the previous year's figure of Rs 3.92 a TTG, which originally manufactured considerable funds and well-established pollution control systems, diversified into doctors in whom people would have wind electric generators in 1994 for which confidence. While funds could be it has technical collaboration with Husuma collected, the second element posed a Schillswerft (HSW) of Germany. The problem. A specific question was now company claims to have orders on hand mised: Would Dr K M Cherian be worth more than Rs 100 cr. It now plans to diversify into coke oven batteries for steel ? and copper plants and will also supply coke Berambur Railway Hospital, and join It also plans to set up a cattle feed plant such a hospital if the money could be (500 tpd) in Kerala with technical support bund for it? He readily agreed. With from a Danish company, Heem Horst, For M Mammen Mappillai also supporthe coke oven technology it has entered into the proposal, it was decided that a collaboration with RAG Systemtechnik Cardiovascular Centre be established GmbH, Germany, and Giprokoks, Russia under the auspices of the Diocese.

For the full year ended March 1996 WE expect the company to achieve a sales of Rs 106 cr and a PAT of Rs 10.14 cr. The mentioning Dr K M Cherian's offer, the resultant EPS of Rs 22 discounts the CMPHeed for equipment and a financial of Rs 88 only four times, giving ample scope quirement of Rs. 1 crore... It also for appreciation. Although share prices have bentioned how a public limited been declining after making a high of Rs 117 mpany, with majority shareholding in October 1995, they have currently been the Diocesan Trust, could be formed making higher tops and bottoms in the very short term. Buying recommended with stop loss at Rs. 75.

The record, to date PATIENT STATISTICS AS ON NOVEMBER 30, 1995 Total no. of out-nationts

lotal no. of out-patients		
(including Outreach Programmes)		1,53,693
Free out-patients		-,,
(including Outreach Programmes)		1,30,210
Total surgeries		7,925
No. of children operated		2,447
Free		576
Concession		641
Total invasive and interventional proced-	ures	8,530
TMR		59
Heart transplants		2
Andhra Pradesh Karnataka Kerala		905 744 1326
Keraia Tamil Nadu		1326
20 other states and Union Territories		2713
20 omer states and official territories		1385
	Total	.7073
OUTSIDE INDIA	•	
Kenya		88
Sri Lanka		346
UAE	•	131
Others (West Asia)		89
(Africa)	-	13
(Elsewhere)		185
	Total	852
•		

Growing beyond preventing cruelty

The Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) was established in Madras 116 years ago. The first patron of the society was the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, the then Governor of the Presidency, and its first president was the Rt. Rev. F. Gell, Bishop of Madras. The main object of the Society was to prevent cruelty to

The Society purchased 17 grounds of land on Vepery High Road. The

The Society took many pioneering steps. A lethal chamber for stray dogs was built, a journal devoted to animal welfare was started, an ambulance service for sick and wounded animals was commissioned, and a hot-shoeing forge was installed

The SPCA has come a long way since then. Besides a free veterinary clinic, it now runs a beauty clinic for pet dogs! Named 'Pink Parlour', this was the first pet beauty parlour in the country when it was founded, in 1968.

by Rajind N Christy

Rajah Venugopala Bahadur of Venkatagiri then helped it to build a hospital for animals in its premises in 1898. This was the first veterinary hospital in the city and was named after the Rajah. The present Veterinary College opposite the Society was established in 1904 by the Government. The students of the College initially utilised the Society's hospital for their practical training Later, the hospital and its equipment were gifted to the College.

(Quizmaster V.V. RAMANAN's

questions are from the period

1. Name the Congress (I) MP and

2. Queen Elizabeth II. the head of the

industrialist who was shot dead on

Church of England, became the first

December 1 to 15.)

December 1st.

The parlour undertakes hair-cutting. nail-clipping, de-ticking, and grooming of pet dogs at a cost of Rs. 25 an animal. This parlour is quite famous now. There is also a hostel for pet doss which accommodates and cares for a pet during its master's absence. In addition, the SPCA extends its services to people who rear street dogs and educates them in animal welfare.

The SPCA has an inspectorate of nine inspectors vested with police powers to detect and prosecute persons

Quizzin' with Ramanan

British monarch in 400 years to do

The breakaway faction of the Congress

4. Which world power and major donor

recently pulled out of UNIDO?

been christened...?

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about its owner.

headed by Narain Dutt-Arjun Singh has

who cause cruelty to animals. These inspectors operate in Chengai-MGR District and in the City. Because of the small numbers of this force, many acts of cruelty go unnoticed. In 1994-95, about 700 cases were booked and lines totalling nearly Rs. 60,000 collected.

The SPCA is supported by the Animal Welfare Board (AWB), which functions under the Ministry of Environment and Forests. There are about 250 SPCAs all over India. The AWB, the first of its kind to be established by any government in the world, was started in 1962. The AWB advises the Government on improving animal welfare, giving financial assistance, and recognising animal welfare organisations. It encourages organisations to start sanctuaries for animals and birds. Seventy per cent of government grants to the AWB are given to non-government organisations, like the SPCAs, all over India.

The SPCA needs much more financial assistance at present. It is building a new hospital in its premises at a cost of Rs. 5 lakh. And more inspectors are needed.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 is, at present, a noncognizable Act and the AWB has made

5. What distinction has 11-year-old

6. According to Forbes, who is the highest

earner in sports for 1995 (earning

Name the popular Tamil matinee idol

who has decided to contest the Lok

8. From where was India's third

9. What is India's entry for next year's

0. Which spacecraft's probe entered the

11. After much speculation, who has been

12. Which district of Kerala has been

chosen the next chairman of ITC?

named the country's first 'Bachat'

(Savings) district recently? (Clue: The

district was the first in the country to

"Outstanding Parliamentarian" Award?

be declared completely literate!)

13. Who is the recipient of this year's

lovian atmosphere on December 7th

to begin a epic journey to the beginning

indigenous communication satellite,

INSAT-2C, launched on December

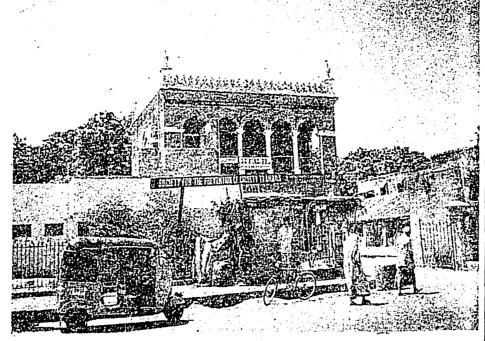
achieved?

\$ 43.9 million)?

Oscar Awards?

Sabha polls next year.

French chess player Etienne Bacrot



The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' headquarters on Vepery High Road is a striking bit of Indo-Saracenic. In the foreground is a functional new building where it is proposed to establish a veterinary hospital. (Photo: RAJIND N CHRISTY):

representations to amend the Act to make offences cognizable. Another drawback is that the fines imposed are

insignificant and many offenders pay the fines without any problem and so con's, if she was a widow. She had no back to their old ways.

Matt's mining Madras lode

(Continued from P4)

over the last 25 and more years. And each time he has found a new facet of the city. "The city used to be much less crowded then," he says, recalling the days when it was not even necessary to close the doors of their Kilpauk home, when friendly neighbours would walk in any time they pleased, when he, a foreigner in Madras, was a well-known name in the neighbourhood, more so because he had to meet many people in the course of his interviews. He also speaks of the late 60s, when he had a picture taken of him standing on Mount Road and he was the only one on the road at the time the picture was taken. On this trip I could not even stand at the spot for a second, leave alone take a picture," he laughs. Of course, the standard of living of the people has

improved a lot, and quickly too, The city, however, has not been as quick to shed its conservative outlook.

more today and their life seems much more comfortable, he feels

children too share his fascination for of both sexes. What was more, she Madras. His wife, he says, has always withally wrote the entire magazine, all been thrilled by the way the city throbs its liction serials, short stories, articles with life. The colour in the lives of the and comment. people of Madras, in their clothes, in their flowers, in their personalities, cothodox lyengar family in Triplicane, enthralls his wife, he says.

Compared to other foreigners many of whom believe in that clicked incredible. However, she had the wisecrack of not eating Indian food drinking Indian water or breathing Involved in the study of Tamil literature Indian air, Mines is a refreshing change. and Vai Mu Gopalakrishnamachariar. He can handle Indian situations if way Indians do, he proudly tells you What does that mean? "For example, no auto driver can cheat me or demand regione by beating a new path, writing approximate fare," he explains, will a twinkle in his eye. That's truly achievement, even for anative Madrasi I would think.

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14. Who have been voted as the IAAF's 'Athletes of the Year'? 15. Which player recently became the fifth

Tamil Nadu batsman to score a century on debut in the Ranji Trophy competition? 16. Which Tamil literary work has been selected for the Sahitya Akademi Award

17. What name has been given to the

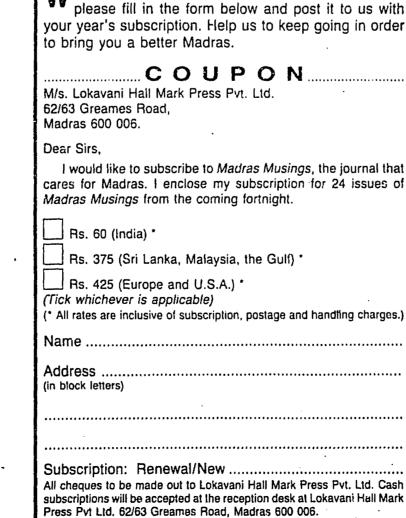
planned single European currency?

18. Which industrialist became the first Indian to be invited to join the prestigious Advisory Council of Stanford University?

19. The doctor who performed the world's first heart transplant was in the city to attend an international seminar. Who?

20. Javier Solana Madariaga of Spain is the new Secretary-General of ...?

(Answers on p. 8)



Madras's 'Agatha Christie' was called...

The Queen of Novels'

Ouring the early 20th Century, women were treated as second ass citizens in Madras society. Mannade tradition, custom, rules of onduct and even laws relegated her a back seat. She was expected to ronfine herself to her home — her irents', if she was a spinster; her husband's, if she was married; and her independent existence of her own.

Jan. 1-15, 1996 Jan. 1-15, 1996

A few women, however, were nade of sterner stuff and achieved lame, recognition and success, despite all the male chauvinism. One of them Vai Mu Kothainayaki Ammal. A noted writer of her day, she was pioneer in the South Indian world of women writers. During a long innings note about 150 novels, a spectacular hievement indeed for any writer. And But, the people are able to spend that was not all. She edited and blished a successful monthly agazine, Jaganmohini, which was Not just Mines, but his wife and copular in those days among readers

> Considering that she was from an family steeped in tradition, her Anievements bordered on the advantage that her family was deeply the head of the family, was a noted lamil scholar.

> But Kothainayaki Ammal surprised ective fiction in Tamil, the first woman to attempt such a genre in South India. At that time, detective liction was considered a cheap form of riting and an idler's pastime. owever, there were a few noted amil crime writers, such as Vaduvar Duraiswami Iyengar, J R Rangaraju and Arani Kuppuswami Mudaliar. But heir novels were adaptations of crime lidion in English. Kothainayaki Ammal did something totally different; her hovels were creations of her own fertile nagination, incorporating in them local ocial issues and causes.

Her first novel was Vaidehi (1925). but her literary career had begun earlier with the play Indira Mohana. Her early trime novels had liberal doses of omance which shocked puritans. Many openly expressed their protest over a woman writing such 'obscene dulf and in some small towns her povels were burnt at street corners. Unfazed, Kothainayaki Ammal continued her writing. But soon a hange was seen:

Her novels began to feature burning ocial issues, like the Indian Freedom lovement, the teachings of Mahatma bandhi, upkeep of orphans, widow Pmarriage, child marriages, the craze or loreign goods, the temple-entry issue: nd the dowry menace. All these were onveyed to the reader in a fictional ormat without appearing as gopaganda. One of her most successful ovels, Pudumaikoil, was based on andhism. The hero is called 'Gandhi asan' and the locale of the novel lahalma Nagar'.

One of her most popular novels, ^{nadhai} Penn ('Orphan Girl'), was



Kothainayaki Ammal, the 'Queen of Novels'. (Photo courtesy RAGAMI's

made into a successful film by Jupiter Pictures. Before she sold the rights for the novel, she inststed as part of the contract that M K Radha, the leading Tamil film star of the time (the handsome hero of Gemini's Chandralekha), be cast as the hero and that the producers show her the scenes as they were shot for her approval. That is something unthinkable in the movie business even today! But Kothainayaki had her way in the 1930s, a reflection of her popularity, fame, and clout. She also suggested to the producers and the director, Raghupathi Prakash (a pioneer of Indian cinema), that for the heroine's role a new face should be chosen, an actress with no image and who really looked like an orphan girl! Bowing to her wishes, the filmmakers searched

thoughout the Presidency for a suitable girl and, after much effort, discovered T A Sundarambal

Anadhai Pen (1936) was a boxoffice hit and M K Radha's Western clothes, top hat and all, and hair style became popular not only in India but also in Sri Lanka. Many young men made demands on their hairdressers for an 'MK Radha crop'!

One of the many battles Kothainayaki Ammal fought in the pages of Jaganmohini was for Bharata Natyam to be compulsorily taught in girls' schools. Those were the days when Bharata Natyam did not enjoy social acceptance and was known as Sadirattam, a dance performed only by devadasis. In such a situation, for Kothainayaki, herself from an orthodox family, to conduct such a crusade was truly courageous. As expected, she met with severe opposition from the orthodox sections of society who attacked her in strong terms. However, she enjoyed the support of the famed journalist, brilliant writer and art critic Kalki' (R Krishnamurthi).

Kothainayaki Ammal also involved herself in the Indian Freedom Movement and actively worked with that legendary orator and parliamentarian S Satyamurthi. She took part in the meetings of the Indian National Congress Party and spoke as a representative of women freedom fighters. That noted journalist, globe-

They made OUR Madras A walk down Memory Lane

with **RANDOR GUY**

contributed to the unforgettable Madras that existed in the first half of this century. Statesmen ... lawyers ... judges ... doctors ... writers ... journalists ... musicians ... film personalities ... theatredevotees ... performing artists ... social workers ... educationists ... indians British ... All of them did their bit to make Madres the grand

Many men and women

trotter and Gandhian, A K Chettiar, made a monumental documentary film on Mahatma Gandhi. Among those who delivered the off-screen commentary was Kothainavaki

Kothainavaki Ammal was also a talent-scout and encouraged women writers, for which purpose she promoted a publishing firm

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. RG Jaganmohini Nandavana Prasuram Many women keen to write found their contributions appearing in print, thanks to Kothainavaki Ammal. A woman of dash and dynamism, she created history in modern Tamil journalism and fiction.

The noted Tamil writer, translator and

scholar Yogi SuddhanandaBharathiar

aptly described her as 'Pudhina Arasi'

city it was before the second

half of the century began. In

this series, you will must

many of them, the meri and

women who have earned

('Queen of Novels'). I like to think of her as our own Agatha Christie. Nadaswaram — playing sisters

handrakala (19) and Manimala (17) are two musical sisters who are different. They play the nadaswaram, considered a man's instrument till

The tenth standard-educated sisters learnt to play the instrument by accident. Their father, who loves the instrument, met with an accident on his way to learning the art. Disappointed, he resigned himself to play the thavil and also acting in dramas.

Unable to realise his own dream, he thought of realising it through his daughters and sent them to Ambai Shankaralingam and Palai Sundarakambar, even while they were in school

Five years ago, Chandrakala and Manimala gave their first performance. Though they initially restricted themselves to just thirty-minute or one-hour programmes, they have started to give longer performances now.

Despite all the new and crowded fun worlds...

lhe Season is magical

The dizzying world of music and dance has left me breathless again. running from sabha to sabha to listen to some great concerts and look at some great dancing - and much that was-not so great too. But the crowds of Madras seemed oblivious to all this intense cultural activity in the city. They all seemed to be at the new MGM Dizzy World fun park, I noticed, when I went out to Dakshinachitra at Muttukkadu during the last two weekends in December. There were cars and buses parked almost up to the boat landing and the noise of the revellers on the dizzying roller-coasters and giant wheels drowned all other sound. They seemed completely unaware of Margazhi's magical music and dance season in Madras, the exclusive preserve of the crazy. traditional art-lover who comes from all over the world to brave all the discomforts of the sabhas of Madras:

Even Sadanand Menon, who hates the traditional ways of presentation during The Season, was a regular visitor at the sabhas. His carping criticism in the Economic Times on The Season made interesting reading, as he raised several pertinent questions. He wanted to know what the sponsors were sponsoring, as every programme had backing AND sold tickets, while the artists got paid almost nothing. The dance scene, he stated, seemed to be



Song and dance

A couple of months ago, Ramli Ibrahim of Malaysia had called me and said he would be in Madras and would like to perform here in December. Refusing to go seeking for a programme for a performer of his international calibre, I organised performances for him and his group at the S.O.S. Children's Village in Tambaram and for a few friends at a friend's home. These two programmes have remained the highlight of The Season for me. This was true artistic excellence. A vocal Carnatic concert by Aruna Sayeeram at Bharath Kalachar was, on the other hand, the peak of musical excellence.

The Natya Kala Conference of the Sri Krishna Gana Sabha this year considered the role of the male dancer in Bharata Natyam. Anita Ratnam had already given the theme a preview with her mega Purush festival and there was a Bharatha Purusha festival in

Bangalore too. There is now a new constituency in Bharata Natyam.

To the already over-supplied dance scene there are now added male dancers who want a platform. Mrs Y G Parthasarathy suggested that young female executives should marry young male dancers to support their talent. There was also talk about new pieces of dance for the male dancer. as he has to present the male point of



Ramli Ibrahim (Photo courtesy Chu Li).

demonstrated today. But what is prevalent is actually the male point of view, since all the literature for dance was written by men and it was men

who viewed the performances. Dhananjayan talked about the partial attitudes of government bodies. But he has grown in stature without government patronage and that should be example enough for young dancers not to become dependent on patronage.

Despite Criticism

Sadanand Menon's harsh but true criticisms are also subjective, since he is always in the opposition and feels bound to say negative things. The crowd that comes in and keeps The Season alive year after year has proved all of us wrong. Year after year there are complaints about the conduct of the Madras music and dance season, yet the country's best dancers are willing to perform for nothing, and in appalling conditions, just to be here during The Season. Critics, scholars and dancelovers come from everywhere to be here. No matter if a Rs. 100 ticket seats you far from the artist and the chair tears your saree, no matter if the sabha secretaries behave like mafia dons, no matter if there is not a hotel room available in the city. They are there, Sunil Kothari, Sadanand Menon and all the rest. Indeed, there is something magical about the Madras Season.

Gavaskar vs. Azhar, in verse

Not strictly Madras, but Madras loves cricket. And so here's the winner of the The Telegraph (Calcutta) Reader's Forum contest which had selected as its subject 'Gavaskar vs Azharuddin'

Judges Ramachandra Guha (the author of Spin and Other Turns, Andy O'Brien (Assistant Editor, Sportsworld) and Gautam Bhattacharya (Special Correspondent, Ananda Bazar Patrika) awarded the first prize to this poem by S NIRUPAMA of Calcutta:

Clash of the titans

It's really not in the nature Of sportsmen of their stature To battle it out and cross swords By indulging in a war of words.

We all believe in freedom of speech, And "practise what you preach" A columnist is allowed reflections, Opinions on the game and speculations.

Gavaskar can always have his say
On "double standards" and "fair play",
But if you're ready to give your view,
You'll have to listen to others' too.

Those comments were bound to attract A retort which would be difficult to retract, But everyone was quite taken aback By the captain's acerbic attack.

Now, it's no use taking sides
Weighing the issue to decide
Who was wrong and who was right,
Who shouldn't talk and who shouldn't write.

This is behind us, now, let's look ahead, Who'll recollect what sportsmen said. We'll think of their run or catch, Not some personal slanging match.

It's time to get out of this sticky wicket And get down to some real cricket. We should forgive, forget and make up And concentrate on winning the cup!

The birth of a mission

(Continued from P5)

to the extent of Rs. 50 lakhs were to be raised. For this purpose, it was decided to raise Rs. 20 lakhs through 200 loan certificates of Rs. 10,000 each from among members and well-wishers. M M Mathew was asked to explore the possibility of getting an institutional loan of Rs. 50 lakhs for machinery and equipment. Dr K M Cherian was requested to prepare the list of equipment.

The economics of working envisaged at the time reveal the thinking of the period. It was expected that "the income generated from the operations at Vijaya Hospital premises to be Rs. 3 lakhs per month. Of this Rs. 1 lakh would go towards interest and another 1 lakh will be needed for overhead expenses including salaries. This will leave a surplus of Rs. 1 lakh for contingencies and also for repayment". How modest the thinking was!

In 1986 it was decided to start the Institute with 50 beds, of which 20 would be in a general ward. The surgeries expected were about 600 a year and the annual income Rs. 11 lakhs. The total requirements were Rs. 60 lakh, of which Rs. 53 lakh were to be spent on machinery. However, subsequent events showed that more machines needed to be procured and on this alone the total requirement would be over Rs. 1.1 crore.

In the meanwhile, negotiations were going on for a loan from the Indian Bank. One morning. Dr K M Cherian and Verghese Eapen visited the then Indian Bank Chairman at his residence. Just as the preliminary discussions started, the Chairman

received a phone call. Coincidentally, it was about a heart patient from Calcutta who needed surgery. Dr K M Cherian took the responsibility to look after this patient. The Chairman's interest in the patient helped create sympathy for the project. In the course of the next few days he found ways and means of sanctioning the required funds in spite of various worrisome rules and regulations. He correctly assessed the potential of an organisation of this nature.

By early 1987, major equipment started arriving and Dr K M Cherian had more or less organised his team. Decisions were taken to pay the employees and doctors salaries as prevalent in good private sector companies. It was also decided that 20 per cent of the facilities should be given by way of free treatment for the poor.

On Sunday June 21, 1987, there was a special service at the St Thomas Cathedral in Broadway, Madras, at which Dr K M Cherian and Verghese Eapen spoke about the proposed inauguration of the activities of the Institute on the next day. On June 22, 1987, Dr K M Cherian did his first operation at the MMM's Cardiovascular Institute. And the Project was on its way.

Today, eight years later, the MMM has its own hospital in Madras, a landmark building in the City. Opened on December 14, 1995, medicare in the magnificient new premises will commence next month.

When the MMM's Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases started in June 1987, it had 13 doctors and 21 nurses. Today, as one of the finest superspeciality hospitals in Afro-Asia, it employees over 50 doctors, 150

A query or two on the Games

And so the curtain has come down on the VII SAF Games — and Indian sports authorities are overjoyed by the performances of Gulliver amongst the Lilliputians. The Corner Flag only hopes they will soon temper their joy and come down to the reality that every Gold-winning performance is still some way away from even Asian records. There's still much to be done to move up even the Asian ladder — and it is in that context that The Corner Flag can't help but wonder at some of the curious happenings at the Games which could lead India to close its eyes to the reality.

The most significant thing about the Games that struck *The Corner Flag* was the absence of doping tests. *The Corner Flag* had always thought that it was mandatory for doping tests to be conducted at such international meets. But does the rule book permit otherwise? If it does, no wonder several queries have been raised over quite a number of SAF Games performances. Such performances are routine in India — but they are seldom matched when the competitor competes overseas.

Another curious happening was the sudden inclusion of the Hammer Throw after it had been decided in committee NOT to hold the event. If a Maldivian 'hammer thrower' could have been discovered at the last moment to make up the numbers, surely he could have been encouraged to participate in the High Jump too, thereby giving Indian and Sri Lankan jumpers the chance to jump for gold.

nurses, an equal number of paramedical and support staff and caters to patients from over 20 countries. In the short span of eight years, over 7800 cardiac surgeries and an equal number of invasive procedures have been performed with a success rate comparable to the best in centres of the West. The Institute has created a niche for itself in treatment and surgical correction of complex congenital cardiac diseases.

The team led by Dr K M Cherian has many firsts to its credit — the first correction of transposition of great vessels; the first bilateral internal mammary grafting, the first successful triple valve replacement, the first Trans Myocardial Revascularisation in Australasia and the first heart transplant in the private sector in India. It is probably the only centre in the world offering TOTAL HEART CARE under one roof.

The Institute's new 200-bed, centrally air-conditioned hospital at Mogappair is equipped with state-of-theart technology. It has five operating rooms, two cath labs, a 40-bed Intensive Care Unit with 20 beds for adults. 16 beds for paediatrics, two beds for transplants and two for TMR, and a 20-bed Coronary Care Unit with 24-hour DocView monitoring facilities. It also has fully fledged departments of Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery with Adult & Paediatric Divisions, Cardiac Anaesthiology, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Microbiology, Biochemistry & Haematology, Blood Bank, Cardiac & Clinical Pathology. Cardiac Nursing, Chaplaincy & Medical Social Work Service, Transplant Co-ordinators, Medical Data Research, Biomedical Engineering & Support Systems, Dietetics & Housekeeping. This makes it probably the largest superspeciality heart hospital in Asia.

It was poetic justice the Pakistanis won the hammer gold. If there had been the High Jump, would the Sri Lankans have won that?

Then we had the curious case of the Bangladeshi football finalists having to go through an unnerving experience before they reached the football field — and it would have served the Indian football authorities right if the Bangladesh team had persisted with its initial decision not to play the final after being treated so shabbily. How is it that the Bangladesh team was not provided with a proper escort to enable it to reach the playing arena in comfort and in time?

THE CORNER FLAG

Two other curious happenings were Pakistan's performance against India in their hockey clash and India's performance against Sri Lanka in the volleyball tournament. In both matches the losers showed glimpses of being far superior to the winners — Pakistan during the last few minutes when they with ease scored a couple of goals and India in at least one set — yet they seemed strangely lethargic throughout the rest of the game.

And then there was Usha demonstrating that her day is over — unless she begins looking at other events.

One last question. Where were lyotirmoy Sikdar, Saramma and Molly Chacko? Has marriage taken its toll or will they make comebacks every bit as impressive as Shiny Wilson's?

To *The Corner Flag*, no matter what the Sri Lankan sprinters achieved, THE performance of the Games was Shiny Wilson's and Mrs Consistency deserved the Esteem not only of Chief Minister Jayalalitha but of every sports enthusiast.

As for Jaspal Rana's record-breaking eight golds, they showed he's among the best in Asia — but his comparatively low scores indicate a touch of inconsistency. And that is cause for concern — not dismissed with remarks like 'these things happen'.

Perhaps the most heartening performance of the Games was India's victory in football. The team clearly showed, after a long time, that it was superior to every team it played. It now needs tougher Asian competition before it can improve further. And a tour of the Southeast Asian countries would do it a world of good.

In this context, the suggestion that the best of South Asia compete with the best of Southeast Asia in every sport is a welcome idea to improve the standards of both. Another way South Asian countries can improve their standards is to compete more frequently with teams from the Asian Republics of the former Soviet Union. Training camps are no substitute for competition — especially against teams slightly superior.

As for the hockey team, it's long had the talent. It's only beginning to translate some of it into goals. If that goal-hungriness increases we can look forward to still better performances. But as it is, too many chances are still being missed, behind defences that have been well and truly beaten. Their game against Sri Lanka was a disgrace. Maybe the win over a dispirited Pakistan will show the way.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Magunta Subbirami Reddy of the Balaji Group; 2. Attend a Roman Catholic service; 3. All India Indira Congress Committee; 4. The USA; 5. The youngest International Master; 6. Michael Jordan, the basketball player; 7. Sarath Kumar; 8. Central Spatial Guyana, near Kourou in French Guyana; 9. Kurudhipunal: 10. Galileo; 11. Y.C. Deveshwar, the former CMD of Air India; 12. Ernakulam District; 13. The former Prime Minister Chandrasekhar; 14. Britain's Jonathan Edwards (triple jumper) and Gwen Torrance of U.S. (sprinter); 15. S. Ramesh; 16. Vanam Vasapadum by Prabanjam; 17. 'Euro': 18. Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries; 19. Dr. Christian Baarnard 20. NATO.



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