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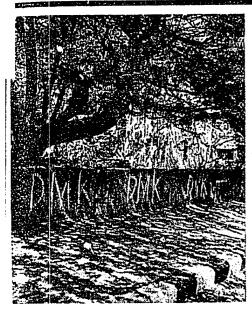
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MUSINGS-

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Feb. 1 — 15, 1996

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birth rate in the country has

been 28.7 per thousand in

1993, Tamil Nadu's is 19.7.

From an infant mortality rate of

104 per thousand for the State,

in 1981, the figure came down

can be better appreciated by

looking at the comparative

figures for Bihar and Uttar

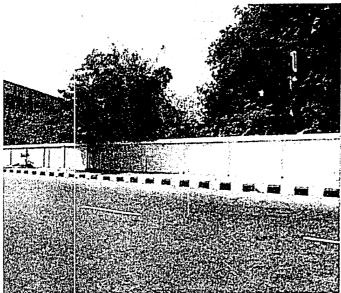
Pradesh. In Bihar, the growth

rate in 1990 was 32.9 per

thousand. In 1993 it was still

Tamil Nadu's achievement

to 66 in 1993.







Family Welfare

A Tamil Nadu success story...

(By A Staff Reporter)

32. For Uttar Pradesh, the figure T'amil Nadu's experiment with remained static at 37 between curtailing birth rates has been a very successful one indeed, and 1991 and 1993. On the infant mortality front, India's largest it has grappled exceedingly well State had reported a figure of with infant mortality too, so 105 per thousand in 1990; by much so that the State can be 1993 it had fallen only likened to an oasis in the Indian marginally, to 98. desert. The past decade has seen the State perform spectacularly on this front — while the average

What Tamil Nadu has demonstrated is that with active State participation, improved literacy, serious implementation of family welfare programmes and female work participation, it is possible to stem the population explosion tide.

Zoo or Jurassic Park?

One day recently, over a dozen visitors to Vandalur Zoo's lion safari had a frightening Jurassic Park experience. The battery-operated van in which they were travelling got stuck inside the forest and they were caged in it for about half-an-hour while 15 lions roared around the vehicle.

It took some time for the Zoo officials to realise that something was amiss, as there was no communication between the van and the Zoo office. Fortunately for the visitors, before anything untoward happened the officials sent a rescue van to bring the terrified visitors back to safety.

Enquiries reveal that the Zoo's two battery-operated vans are far from being in a fit condition. Further, the vehicles are, most of the time, under repair, disappointing hundreds of visitors who wish to see the lion safari. But when they do work, there is always the chance of a fright as in the recent case mentioned above.

More amusing is the insistence of the guards at the gate on nothing less than a marriage certificate to allow couples inside the Zoo! When queried, the guards answered that unmarried couples indulge in behaviour embarrassing to others. Affected recently by this unofficial embargo were some students from a city engineering college. I watched them and several others turned back by guards deaf to their pleas.

Would Conservator Wildlife R Sundarajan like to respond? He was "busy" when I tried to contact him.

V. JAGANNATHAN

Reserved space!

These are the walls of Anna University — in the last week of January 1996. Some walls have been 'reserved' by political parties—and all of them are part of this 'booking' game. Some time later, the 'reserved' sections will be whitewashed — as in our second picture, which shows what they could and should be. And then the political 'artists' take over, in our third and fourth pictures on either side of the gates of Madras University Vice Chancellor Ponnuswamy's residence. We're not quite sure what the election laws have to say about all this artistry, but we'd certainly like to hear T N Seshan on the subject! (Photos by V S RAGHAVAN.)

...And so is AIDS counselling

(By A Special Correspondent)

India (ARFI), one of the 26 voluntary agencies in Tamil Nadu, the largest number of non-governmental organisations in any state to campaign against AIDS and extend clinical assistance and therapy, is the first Indian agency to lend its technical knowhow to the entire subcontinent. It will now help set up both Western and Asian NGOs. ARFI is helping NGOs in Pakistan, Burma, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand, by offering comprehensive consultancy services.

ARFI is a non-profit society dedicated to AIDS prevention through education, training and research. Dr S Sunderaraman, founder member, says it aims to make sexual health education and services accessible to disadvantaged communities in "an environment that fosters comfort and confidence". ARFI has been coordinating integration of AIDS health care programmes with sustainable development schemes.

Other consultancy services relate to formulation of guidelines for a plan of

he AIDS Research Foundation of work, tapping corporations and international donors for funds, identifying committed NGOs, motivating training, inculcating awareness of hazards, and working on political lobbies for promotion of AIDS health care and integrated programmes. "This way we are able to form a network across the subcontinent," says Sunderaraman. ARFI's technical assistance makes India a leader in offering consultancy services on AIDS.

> ARFI's earnings from consultancies are used to fund programmes in Tamil Nadu. These include AIDS education for long-distance truck drivers and blue collar industrial workers, assessment research of injected drug use in Madras, and HIV counselling training.

> Tamil Nadu, where, till date, 372 AIDS cases have been reported, has consistently worked to promote AIDS awareness, counselling and detection ever since the first case was reported in the State in 1986.

Madras leads the way with mineral water on tap

Madras now has automated water vending outlets -- an alternative to the expensive bottled mineral water which process and purify about 1,000 litres of water per hour using the reverse osmosis process with the help of a membrane.

This technology is being introduced in the country for the first time by S & S Industries and Enterprises, who started off vending oil and making 'Vendee' a success. Encouraged by the public response, the company plans to set up these units in other parts of the country.



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Madras First – Without municipal empowerment? It's not far

D K Oza, former Administrator and Vice-Chancellor, is determined to make his period as head of the Association of British Council Scholars one of major achievement. And in a display of this determination he recently organised an important ABCS seminar on 'Madras First'. wanting Madras to follow in the footsteps of 'London First' and the British Council-initiated 'Bombay First'.

wards. In both examples Oza would like Madras to follow, major industrial groups have got together and funded their own 'think-tank' and plan to act as powerful pressure groups to enable their suggestions to be implemented. Above all, they plan to make local government conscious of the fact that a better city with a better civic environment will mean considerably more business, industry and trade. The only trouble with that argument is something The Man From Madras Musings has said many times before and which several people who attended the Seminar stated too: In the case of London or Bombay, there's an elected corporation or municipality to talk to, with Councillors responsible to their wards: in the case of Madras. who does a Madras First movement, IF it gets off the ground, talk to without an elected municipality in place? power, MMM mused, listening to

L M Menezes, a former Administrator who had served with almost every Government organisation connected with the development of Madras and now, in retirement, is Project Coordinator of the UNCHS 'Sustainable Cities' Madras project, echoed these thoughts and called for the end of the "Special Officer's Raj" before its Silver Jubilee was celebrated! Twentythree years without municipal government has seen major and massive managemen failures in the running of

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Madras, charged Menezes. And then he made a heartfelt plea: "Madras is burning . . . Madras is too precious to be left to the machinations of politicians, bureaucrats and the builders . . . Madras First is an idea that should be developed to show a new path". But as others

reiterated, that path would only be possible if Madras had an elected Corporation with Councillors responsible to their Another speaker on the

occasion made the point that if the Madras fire was to be doused, a political will was necessary. Tamil Nadu, as it has functioned these past several years, has depended entirely on the political will to push through matters. If that will demanded it, miracles like the Nehru Stadium and the SAF Games infrastructure could be wrought in days. If that will wasn't interested in a particular project, nothing would move, no matter how sympathetic the bureaucrats might be, as in the case of the DGP building. In the case of Madras, there'd have to be a political will to react to Madras First's suggestions and lobbying, in the present context, and there'd have to be a political will of a different sort if an elected municipality is in place especially if its majority owed allegiance to a party not in

this speaker. In the context of Bombay First being initially funded by Rs. 50 lakh each by the Tata's, Godrej's, Hindustan Lever's and GEC Alsthom, MMM wonders which industrial groups in showed a pantheist streak as Madras would put up that kind they filmed standing crops, of money merely to dream about a better city? The Man From Madras Musings' pessimism on this point is based on the fact that every such urban planning seminar he has attended in the last few years has been marked by the noticeable absence of the industrial leadership. The ABCS seminar was no different. There were a couple of representatives of industrial/commercial organisations and the Executive Officer of CII (Southern Region). Executive representation from the Madras Chamber of Commerce, other chambers of commerce and management

their absence. Whether they were invited or not, MMM does not know, but he wishes ABCS President Oza all the luck in the world as he tries to wake up the citizenry of Madras to its duties. Madras Musings has been doing that for five years now — and support for it has been only from a generous

associations, not to speak of

representatives of major

industrial groups and business

houses, were conspicuous by

British Council Library, Madras

(Telephone: 8525002)

Select List of Recent Additions

Author ANDERSON, A H BEAUMAN, N BOLTON, W BREMNESS, L COPELAND, L S DONOVAN, P HOOD, J L HOSKER, LINTON, M LORD-SMITH, P J MacDONALD, M McNAIR, B McILVEEN, R **FICTION** HIGGINS, J

KING, S

THORNE, N

Effective business policy Morgan: a biography of E M Forster Engineering science. 2nd ed. Exchange rates and international finance

The art of linear electronics Complete wood finishing Money and votes Avoiding claims in building contracts Gender planning in development agencies News and journalism in the UK Talking points in psychology

Sheba Insomnia Profits and loss

'Shooting' in guise

The high-power team that made an impartial survey of the Kaveri's bounty in two States is said to have been not particularly convinced by Tamil Nadu's case. The Man From Madras Musings wonders how much a video reportedly 'shot' by the Karnataka Government had to do with this conclusion.

A columnist in The Telegraph, Calcutta, has an intriguing story to tell about how that video was made and the consequences of the 'shoot'. Writing in 'The Diary' he says:

• Keen to counter Tamil Nadu's claim that its crop — no, not yet the state — had withered away thanks to selfish giants in Karnataka hoarding up precious riverwater, C M Deve Gowda planned a grand scheme. Truth would out once a top secret mission headed by a deputy inspector general of the state police delivered the goodies. The team was briefed to film

extensively the lush green fields in the neighbouring state. Disguised as pilgrims headed for the Sabaramalai temple in Kerala, the crack team boarded a chartered bus with the words landmark Ayappa Bhakt Sabha emblazoned on it. Six video cameras kept hidden under the by its study". seats were flicked into action and long shots, close ups, soft pans abounded. The bunch of faithfuls

farms being watered and freeflowing irrigation canals. The rolls of films were flown back from Madras to Bangalore. To the delight of producer cum director cum editor Gowda, the film captured his point of view in the Cauvery debate. He personally took them to the PM who was impressed by the visual evidence. The PM suitably tempered his interim award in favour of Tamil Nadu, (which) in turn, was so incensed that it immediately instructed its police and district administration to keep a special watch on pilgrim groups headed for Sabarimalai through Tamil Nadu.

Euphonious books

A couple of years or so ago, The Man From Madras Musings was shown a manuscript about music and asked whether he thought there'd be a market for such a book. MMM still knows nothing about music, but he knows the questions many abroad interested in music ask about Carnatic music. The manuscript seemed a possible answer, dealing as it did with the elements of Carnatic, Hindustani and Western music, though it seemed aimed at those who already knew something about music rather than those who knew nothing at all. MMM is happy that the book, now titled Euphony, has at last seen the light of day; thanks to Affiliated East-West Press, the Madras publishers who appear committed to publishing material that introduces new vistas to those seeking more knowledge of the South Indian experience.

On the occasion of the release of Euphony recently,

recalled teaching his neighbour. oceanographer had been using since 1950. Cousteau is the young L Subramaniam, and launching a worldwide how quickly the prodigy campaign to raise \$20 million absorbed knowledge. U Ramesh for a new state-of-the-art Rao recollected how he had, on a flight, introduced himself to L Subramaniam and suggested he write his autobiography. Subramaniam and his wife Viji agreed his knowledge should be shared with a wider audience, but not in an autobiography. Euphony, to which the talented Viji Subramanian contributed much, was the result. T T Vasu, who released the book, mentioned the "melancholy attached to the release of this book". Vasu went on to explain, "Subramaniam's wife, Viji, who was his main inspiration and collaborator, passed away in February last

Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer

several moments of emotionladensilence, went on to narrate, in a voice with a constant tremor

year." MMM has seldom seen an

audience as moved as this one

was as it sympathised with

Subramaniam. The young

maestro broke down as he began

his speech with mention of the

missing co-author and then, after

in it, the story of how Euphony emerged. Vasu hoped the music world would find "this publication euphonious and would benefit

In brief

* Jasper Utley, Head of the British Council in Madras, is a history and heritage buff for whom tracing his family tree has been a several decades-old hobby. He's got as far as the 1660s and is still looking. When he was on a home posting last, he narrated at a recent meeting, his brother had one of the American Utleys — then visiting London - call him. Said the American Utley, "Wherever I go, I look through the telephone books for an Utley to call. That's how I got in touch with your brother. Do you know any other American Utleys?" "I know one or two," replied Jasper. "I know dozens," laughed the American Utley. "And they're all black!"

"I must have had a Southern plantation owner or a slaver captain as kin some time,' deadpanned Jasper, as the small Madras Book Club audience roared. Jasper Utley's subject was 'The Past Historic', where he spoke of many memorials to the past around us, including the old pictures of India the British Council was exhibiting at the time, and the recently released book, Madras — Its Past and Its Present. The Man From Madras Musings was, however, more interested in the origin of the title of his talk and Jasper Utley, English Language specialist, explained it as a grammatical tense used when you narrate a past even at a later time. MMM hopes he's got that correct and

pulling his leg. ★ Jacques Cousteau, the famed undersea explorer renowned for his underwater films, recently lost his famed research vessel, Calypso, when it sank in a Singapore dockyard. The Calypso was a 55-year-old, 20-metre, converted British

that Utley the humorist is not

research vessel, Calypso II, to replace the wooden-hulled Calypso which sank when his by a drifting barge while being refitted for its next voyage. But before the campaign gets underway, The Man From Madras Musings hears, the 85-year-old Cousteau will be in Madras to take part in a UNESCO workshop on 'Echotechnology and Shaping the Future'. Also at the workship, to be held February 4-8 at the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Taramani, will be the famed agricultural scientist, the 'Father of the Green Revolution', Norman Borlaug! The workshop's subject is exactly what Cousteau is planning for Calypso II: "She will be equipped to monitor the future

minesweepeer that the

Business briefs

generations!'

course of this planet so that we

may reserve it for future

* Ever hear of Oddenchatram?

The Man From Madras Musings

still does not know where this village is though he suspects it's in the western part of the State, probably in Coimbatore District. The village is now becoming well-known for being one of the most successful wholesale vegetable markets in the country. Serving villages within a radius of 60 km of it, Oddenchatram trades in 500-600 tonnes of fresh vegetables every day, sending 70% of it to Kerala and the rest to markets all over Tamil Nadu. Over 2500 farmers and traders congregate here daily at the two hectare wholesale market and transact lakhs worth of business. Over a thousand men are engaged daily, MMM learns, just to load the hundreds of vans and trucks which begin loading after the day's transactions are completed in a mere four hours in the afternoon.

* Ford's, BMW and now Hyundai Motor Corporation of South Korea, all eyeing a Madras base for motor car manufacture! After Ford's MOU, Hyundai seems keener than ever to look at Madras seriously. Looking for an initial allotment of 300 acres, with space to expand a further 200 acres, Hyundai has looked at three sites, The Man From Madras Musings understands. They are near Sriperumbudur, near Gummidipoondi and between Tambaram and Maraimalainagar. MMM hears that the 1.3 litre Accent and the 1.5 litre Elantra are what Hyundai hopes to manufacture in India. Hyundai, however, is not looking for an Indian partner; it prefers to go it alone, MMM hears.

* Madras Fertilisers in spending something more than Rs. 487 crore on the expansion of its Manali plant. The Man From Madras Musings hears that the work will be completed by the middle of this year, when an additional 185,000 tonnes of NPK and about 75,000 tonnes of urea will be produced. Now if only there was enough Kaveri water available for farmers to want all that extra fertiliser!

-MMMM

flamingoes expedition, and that word was justified

in those days, to see the flamingoes at

Point Calimere, of which we had heard

so much. I drove there in my old

Ambassador. It was a long journey and

One Man's

Madras —

HARRY

MILLER'S

we had to break and stay the night at

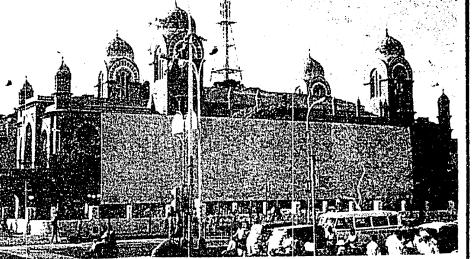
a reasonably comfortable Tourist Board

notel near Thaniavur.

Fveryone knows, and everyone talks about, the celebrated bird sanctuary at Vedanthangal. When I first went there with my wife Revati almost no one had heard about it and it was quite unspoilt by tourists or by bureaucracy. The villagers told us of a legend that, generations before, a local 'princess' had charged them with the protection of the birds and, though they had forgotten why, they had kept that bond. Their custom at that time was to charge one family of the village with the duty of protecting the birds, and we talked to the old villager who on our first visit was the one responsible at the time. The old man knew little of ornithology, but shortly afterwards his place was taken by Forest Officers who

knew even less. A few years later, I took my wife and both my small children on an

We had with some difficulty booked accommodation at the Forest



The latest hoarding on the Marina (see MM, January 16th), telephones in a reader, hides much of Senate House, a heritage building. Surely a place like a university, especially a hallowed institution like the University of Madras, should take a lead and say Enough is enough? she wonders. With even universities being hidden from view, or defaced (see page 1), where are we headed, wonders Madras Musings. What is happening to our standards, educational, cultural or otherwise? (Photo by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)

OUR READERS WRITE

Stadium in need

In spite of my appeals through Madras Musings and approaches to big business houses, no one came forward and Bro. George, the Principal, had to, with singleminded devotion and strain, some friends and a Bank loan, complete the stadium on 17-12-95 — one day prior to the start of the SAF Games. With the Governmentsponsored Indoor Stadium not getting ready near the old zoo, the Montfort Stadium, of international standard, saved the day as the venue for the Table Tennis and Boxing

Through your paper, I would appeal to ne sports-loving Chief Minister to subsidise the cost of Rs. 3 crore. When over Rs. 240 crore have been spent for the Games, an additional Rs. 1 crore is not much, but it will go along way towards clearing the burden of the school and will earn for her the gratitude of the sports-loving parents and public. Will the Chief Minister oblige?

> M Fazal Flat No.1, Seaview Apartments 16 Leith Castle Road Madras - 600 028.

friend in need

Chhavi Madan completed her swim from Cottesloe Beach to Rottnest Island on December 11th. She entered the water at about 4 am and took 6 hrs 14 min. 58 seconds. A wonderful, courageous little girl. Mission completed.

This would not have been possible if was not for Lt. Col. Richard (Dick)

Mennase, who went and fetched Molly Madan and Chhavi and brought them to his house where they stayed. He then ran them around all over Perth in his van. He got in touch with John Gitfoil. President of the W.A. Swimming Association, who was more than helpful: he got in touch with two lady champion swimmers to help Chhavi. Dick Mennase was a stalwart.

There was a dinner at Annalakshmi to which Molly and Chhavi were invited and introduced to the guests. There was a "whip around" and \$ 300 was collected and presented to Chhavi.

Incidentally the recommended time to cross to Rottnest is late February and March. This is cyclone season and Chhavi was

453 Abernethy Road Cloverdale Western Australia 6105 Edition Note: Both Currion and Mennasc

R M K Currion

Suave lawyer

are ex-Indian Army officers.

enjoyed reading the article on V L Ethiraj. remember watching him ride in his open Bentley, so suave and majestic, down the Marina. It was a treat. Randor Guy's trip down memory lane was very enlightening. I didn't know much about Ethiraj till now, except that he was an outstanding lawyer.

Mrs Anna Varki

No. 9 Central Street Kilpauk Garden Colony



Flamingoes feeding at the north end of Pulicat Lake, near the island of Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. (A Harry Miller print from a Barry Blake transparency taken over a decade ago.)

doubtless over-loaded for some reason.

capsized and many children drowned.

used because its propeller stuck in the

sand! It's a sad reflection on a fact that

I have so many times laboured in the

Press: very few Indian children learn

to swim, whereas ALL children should

learn from the earliest age that water

is a natural human element in which

the human body cannot sink, unless

Sriharikota you don't turn off the main

trunk road at the 'Pulicat' sign; you

carry straight on. The road signs are

unmistakable, and when you reach the

point nearest the famous research

station island you drive over the raised

bund of the road, down towards the

water, where you will find a dead

straight and excellently surfaced road

leading to the island. It was from that

road that Barry Blake took those

wonderful flamingo photographs, but

he was careful, too, not to venture

further along the road towards the

island lest he rouse security problems.

On my own visit with Barry there

and so should you.

But for the flamingoes and

you force it to in panic.

Department's dak bungalow at Point Calimere. To our amusement we found the charges and facilities at the bungalow hadn't changed since the days of the Rai. You had to take your own bedding, cooking utensils and cook, no such facilities being available there, but the charges were (I write from memory) something in the range of two or three rupees a night. We certainly saw the flamingoes, but my most vivid recollection of Point Calimere is of the almost unlimited supply of delicious fresh lobsters available from local fishermen.

Decades were to pass before Dr. Barry Blake, then with the British Council in Madras, told me that if I wanted to see flamingoes, and many other fabulous birds. I could find them no further than 35 miles from Madras. Barry showed me his colour photographs of flamingoes, one of which I reproduce here today, sadly. but of necessity, in monochrome. This picture, and many similar ones, was taken on the Pulicat Lake, which begins north of Madras in Tamil Nadu but extends far into Andhra Pradesh. He took me there and shortly afterwards we published in my own newspaper. the Indian Express, but under our joint authorship, a feature on the flamingoes and other spectacular birds of the Pulicat Lake.

Tamil Nadu, whereas the flamingoes

feeding grounds were at the northern

tip, near India's rocket research institute

To get there you must travel up

Wall Tax Road, alongside Central

Station, until you come to the leading

edge of the Red Hills reservoir bund

Crossing there, usually in the company

of many heavy lorries heading north

towards Calcutta, you come to the

village or little town of Red Hills itself.

You continue on the main trunk road

and, after a few miles, you will find

a notice directing you to Pulicat, and

that's where all my readers went, only

to be disappointed. If you take that

turning you do indeed come to the

village of Pulicat and the road ends

or two ready to take people across the

water to the wide sand bar that

separates the lake from the ocean and

bears on it not only Dutch ruins and

a tiny village but a surprisingly smart,

There you will find a country boat

abruptly at the edge of the lake.

at Sriharikota.

were, indeed, thousand of flamingoes, but I didn't have Barry's luck, for they were much too far from the road for Next weekend scores of my friends photographs, even with my longest in the city set off to see the same lens. There they were, far away on the wonders, but all came back and many northern horizon, thousands of them telephoned, called on me or wrote to feeding, and sometimes flocks of them express their great disappointment descending from the clear blue sky in They had not only seen no flamingoes. clouds of angelic pink. There was no they had seen no birds of any particular way we could get any nearer to them interest at all. Perhaps it was my fault except by boat, and there weren't any or their mis-reading, for they had boats. If you go there, now is the time, accepted my 'Pulicat' location as the village and old Dutch fort remains called by that name at the southern tip of the lengthy lake where it extends into

and until February end when they return functional lighthouse. And it was there to their breeding grounds in the Rann only last year that one of those boats. of Kutch, you may have Barry's good luck or mine, the lesser fortune, but you will certainly see the flamingoes, ironical because the water is so shallow whether they are near or far off. that the outboard motor of a rubber dinghy I once took there could not be

And that's not all. Pulicat is a refuge for many migratory and non-migratory birds, ducks of several species as well as our resident and comical pelicans ('... Whose beaks can hold more than their bellies can'). Nor should you stop and turn back there. Only a few miles further on is Andhra's pelican sanctuary, carefully kept and guarded from poachers. The area is protected by a stout fence and strong gates, where we found two men aimlessly smoking. At first I took them for the village nuisances often found in such places, on the look-out for the odd tourist to fleece, and I stemly rebuked them and rebuffed their offers as guides.

I was quite mistaken, for they turned out to be official Forest Department guards, intelligent and educated men who understood and were devoted to their birds. They proved excellent guides and were wellinformed as to the feeding, nesting and breeding habits of their somewhat comical wards.

So, for a change from Vedanthangal, splendid though that sanctuary is at this time of the year, try the route north. The bird areas are well signposted by the Andhra Forest Department in an amateurish sort of way. I strongly suspect that putative artists among officials are often responsible for the children's paintings of birds and animals advertising animal sanctuaries. It's a pity they can't spend a little money on some of India's superb artists and get a professional job done

Y.M.C.A ROYAPETTAH

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(By Gunvanthi Balaram)

The "dreadfully uninformed" maintenance of the Elephanta Caves by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has shocked Bernard Feilden, arguably the world's foremost authority on heritage conservation. He is writing to the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) recommending that if the ASI continued "vandalising" Elephanta, it should be delisted as a world heritage site.

Sir Bernard was until recently an adviser to UNESCO and president of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Centre for the study of the preservation and restoration of cultural property, Rome (ICCROM).

The 86-year-old British conservation architect and writer, who heads the INTACH-U.K. Trust, visited the caves recently.

The delisting of Elephanta would mean an immense loss of prestige for the ASI and for India because it would be the first time a historic site has been removed from the world heritage list. It would mean a sharp drop in the number of foreign visitors coming to the caves. It would mean the loss of any international grant for their preservation and conservation. And it would imply a complete reoganisation of the ASI.

"It is with deep sadness that I am doing this. But the ASI has to be pulled up," Sir Bernard told The Times of India. "It is an agency of professionals and cannot be allowed to get away with such ignorance and carelessness.

The expert was horrified at the irreverent manner in which visitors were being allowed to treat the ancient sculptures. "I saw some young men jumping over the railings and climbing on to the Trimurti — the principal sculpture," recounts. "And no custodians were available to stop this vandalism."

Sir Bernard noticed that the ASI had used cement to rebuild the original pillars of stone that had been damaged or destroyed. And that the cement columns had been camoullaged with a coating of stone dust to make them. appear like stone. "This is a violation of the cardinal principles of conservation and is morally dishonest," noted the expert.

The ASI had flouted the basic tenets of conservation which stress the use of similar material in the restoration of the

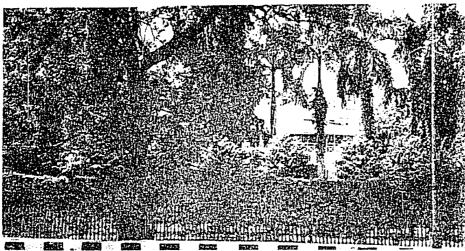
• Since every word said here could be as relevant for Mamallapuram, we publish this interview with SIR BERNARD FEILDEN, that appeared in The Sunday Times of India recently.

original object and that of reversibility. The ASI could have used stone — any kind of stone — to restore the pillars, according to Sir Bernard. Cement is certainly not stone, and once a cement column has been constructed, it cannot be easily removed, making it an irreversible process, he says. The ASI ought to have approached the World Heritage Convention for technical and financial assistance to restore the caves.

"The ASI's alterations seriously devalue the significance of the Elephanta site and alter the basis of its merit," he notes in his letter to UNESCO. This is why he goes on to suggest that the caves be delisted "unless the ASI improves its management and obtains post de facto approval of its alterations by UNESCO'

Sir Bernard says he understands that the ASI is desperately short of money. But he feels that this is no excuse for bad maintenance and the absolute lack of policing at the caves. He also says the ASI ought to determinedly prevent projects like the 'toy train' — which will carry visitors from the jetty to the foot of the caves — from being introduced on the island by the MTDC. "They are turning a wonderful old-world island into a theme park," he observes causticly.

He hopes that there will be an immediate political effort to give the ASI more money, and that private industry will also begin to help in conservation efforts. "INTACH should get the private sector to sponsor conservation projects along with the ASI," he advises. "But this will require a big change of heart on the part of ASI; it will have to stop being defensive and start being cooperative, especially with private industry," he says. (Courtesy: The Sunday Times of India.)



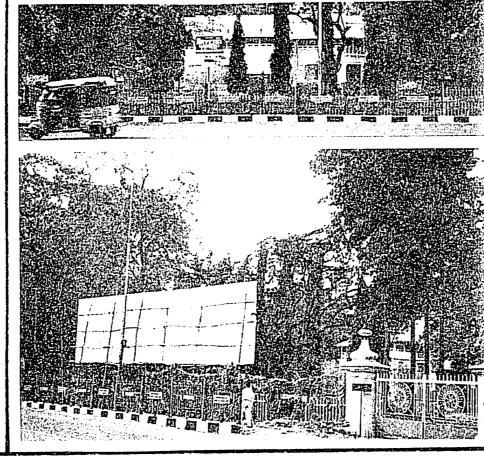
Some of the nicest bungalows in the City are the old railway bungalows, especially those with large gardens. The two in Haddows Road, belonging to the two top Southern Railway officials, are particularly good examples of what latter-day garden houses were like. But now some curious goings-on are taking place in one of them, our NEW.

In the OLD, plant life virtually hides Kaveri - and even if you are on the spot you'll be hard put to it to see much of the

building. In the NEW not only has a lot -- & THE THE of the plant life vanished but the entire lawn OLD... as well. In fact, if you're on the spot you

get a splendid view of a long-hidden building. Madras Musings hopes that this is just an exercise in re-doing the garden and is NOT part of a plan to BUILD in the garden. That we even suspect such desecration is due to the fact that a huge hoarding has arisen in the garden of 'shorn' Bhavani and is getting ready for painting. Is the hoarding really necessary. Mr Railway Manager?

(Photos by RAJIND N CHRISTY



Indian capital markets. In a ontroversial move that day, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) banned Forward Trading/badla. in spite of the broking community amonst others, contesting the decision hotly. The speculative fervour that had gripped the markets earlier had driven he 30 scrip Sensex up to the 3500 mark and had clearly alarmed the authorities. There were reasons to subscribe to the theory that held that... the markets were becoming overheated, though there was little or no rationale for a total ban being imposed on badla. Forward Trading can be described as the process by which shares are sold prior to the physical delivery of

The then Chairman of SEBL G.V

as badla financing etc. Ramakrishna, was of the view that the market was buoyant with the active participation of FIIs and, therefore, did not need any 'artificial' boost. SEBI obviously feared a reoccurrence of the 1992 scam, but failed to recognise, let alone appreciate, the fact that speculation is the driving force of the markets. It should forcefully be pointed out here that our markets lack the necessary infrastructure and are yet to mature into a well-developed structure.

Thus, calling the ban the

culmination of faulty implementation and monitoring on the part of the Stock Exchanges (SEs) would be quite accurate. There was a complete lack of transparency in dealings and incomplete reporting of transactions. Worse still, SEs functioned as closed, elitist clubs ignoring the interests of general investors. Also, SEBI failed to realise that abuse of an instrument or system is not enough reason to do away with it. The lack of a forward trading mechanism has brought about quite a few problems, like the very serious liquidity crunch which, in turn, has led to spiralling interest rates, thereby crippling the money markets. Lack of liquidity has also driven prices of most scrips way down and investors have been hit extremely hard. They have seen their capital eroded and are seeing the cost of fresh capital shooting

SEBI has relented to the extent of allowing a re-revised version of the Forward Trading mechanism being introduced. The new version is based on the recommendations of the G.S.

monitoring and regulation of dealings and stricter disclosure and capital adequacy norms imposed on brokers. These steps are expected to help the small investors. More importantly, SEBI is betting quite heavily that market conditions will improve, that too almost overnight. Such optimism seems highly unfounded, as the money position does



The lack or interest in the markets has reached pervasive limits and there have to be more factors at play for a better state of the markets. The political scenario has to become much less unsettled, the Credit Policy has to ease, broker and corporate disclosure norms

MM Forgings: (CMP: Rs 60.00 This company has declared quite decent half yearly results with turnover and net profi recording a 41% and 33% increase respectively. The annualised EPS stands Rs 6.15. It should be noted that the second half results are usually much better than theft first half. MM Forgings manufactures stee forgings with a capacity of 15,000 tpa and it proposes to increase this to 22,000 tp: by 1997-98 in view of the boom in the automobile industry. It has a tie-up with Tokai Corporation of Japan for technology transfer. This ISO 9002 company is a major exporter of forgings to leading multinational and exports contributed about 28% to turnover last year, which is expected to increase to 35%.

underwent a sea change. Madras introduced to India the concept of accountants, marketing managers.

Suprajit Engineering (CMI Rs 28.00): This newly listed Bangalore based company is an existing profit-making and dividend-paying company. Promoted as a smallscale industrial unit in 1987 in technical collaboration with Toh Fon Machine Company Ltd, Taiwan, Suprajit has emerged as one of the leading OEM suppliers of control cables, especially for two wheelers like TVS Suzuki, Hero Honda and Rai, is a recipient of the 'Award for Excellence' from the KSFC and, with others has a stake of 46.12% in the post-issue equity. Interestingly, TVS Suzuki also has a stake of 1.7%. The company went public premium to finance its expansion into (Continued on Page 1

Seeing the City through the eyes of two who care for it

The coming of age of Madras

Madras has come of age; she certainly has. From being the sleepy fourth metropolitan city of the **NEW** Country, she is now the medical capital. sports capital, the cultural capital and with Ford's coming in rustling their breenbacks, she is all set to be the amultinational capital of India!

Feb. 1-15, 1996 Feb. 1-15, 1996

Till the Seventies, Madras was a quiet old city; conservative with a capital C. only given to occasionally observing an anti-Hindi agitation and with a clear weakness for the silver creen. Cinema stars ruled the Tamil heart and, later, the land itself. But Madras herself remained untouched: a slow city with simple honest citizens who filled the temples by day and inema theatres by night.

The Eighties changed all this. It

egan with Dr. Pratap Reddy, a U.S.-

returned ex-Stanley-ite, discovering that

Madras had the best doctors in the

world but no proper hospital. Soon

Madras had a world class hospital

sporting state-of-the-art equipment, with

well-oiled housekeeping, dietary,

maintenance, and engineering

departments run by trained hospital

managers. The age-old Indian picture

of hospitals being constituted by

dectors, nurses and lab personnel

ecretaries, public relations officers and

executives running hospitals. This recipe

was an overnight success and today

every train and plane reaching Madras

brings patients and their kin from all

the corporate hospitals of the city —

and the hotels which sprang up beside

Madras has further consolidated her

position as Number One in the medical

field by becoming the heart centre of

the country. In this area the Madras

wer India and neighbouring countries

Medical Mission merits attention. Theirs is a slightly different success story. A group of philanthropic individuals led by the Orthodox Syrian Church of Kerala, took the lead in establishing a medical mission at Madras about a decade ago. Dr. Cherian, the protege of the legendary Dr. T.J.C, headed the mission which operated from rented premises at the Vijaya Hospital. Cherian, a brilliant cardiac surgeon. built up the unit into one of the finest cardiac surgery centres in Asia. To the Mission's credit, a lot of surgeries were done free for the economically not-so-

With funds flowing in, the MMM has built itself a beautiful state-of-theart Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases.

inaugurated recently by the Chief

Minister herself. The inauguration also

kicked off an international cardiology

conference attended by such all-time

greats as Dr. Christiaan Barnard

Indeed, in the Nineties, Madras has

emerged as a hot favourite for medical

conferences of various kinds. The

Association of Physicians of India had

its national meet here in 1994. And

international conferences in Respiratory

Medicine, Neurology. Psychiatry

Lymphology (read as filariasis) and

Oncology have been held in Madras.

Two other less glamorous fields in

which Madras leads the country are

Ophthalmology and Rheumatology.

Silently and efficiently the Sankara

Netralaya, founded on the inspiration

of the late Paramacharya of Kanchi,

has grown into the premier Eye

in recent years.

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by Hiramalini Seshadri

department in India functions from General Hospital under Dr. A N Chandrasekaran. And the recent multiorgan transplants, including the first ever liver transplant in the country, at Apollo and Stanley have once again put Madras in the headlines. If ever there is a Most Sporting

the first full-fledged Rheumatology

Chief Minister Award, it must go to Chief Minister Jayalalitha. Thanks to her decisions to host sport-meets and sports extravaganzas in Madras, the city now has the needed infrastructure to hold world class sporting events. The SAF Games have proved that Madras can manage sports competitions of international standards with aplomb. Indeed, Madras is all poised to bid for the Asiad! Corporate and individual efforts have also contributed to Madras' sporting image; the BAT Academy, the MRF Pace Foundation, the Tennis Academy of the Krishnans, Chandrasekhar's table tennis scheme. Aaron's chess training venture, all have helped make Madras a sports city.

Art is another area that is growing. Madras had always been the bastion of South Indian culture when it came to music and dance. But even the Music 'n' Dance season has expanded from a fortnight of Music Academy-Mylapore-T'Nagar recitals into a near two-month extravaganza of music and dance at various sabhas. Today's rajas. blue bloods, and Brahmins who patronise these Art Festivals are the comorate kings, the intelligentsia of the 1.1.T and hundreds from abroad — and I'm not talking of the NRIs. Madras of Mamallapuram vintage is also making her foray into sculpture. architecture. painting and crafts. The arts and crafts villages coming up on the East Coast Road augur well indeed for the city.

Hospital in South Asia. Today, the Another field that Madras seems to Netralaya is helping found a similar have entered into with gusto seems to hospital in the Northeast and has also be the Leisure Industry. Amusement set up the eye department at the unique parks, such as Kishkinta, Little Folks. Sri Sathya Sai Insitute of Higher Dizzee World, Mehta's Water Park and Medical Sciences in Puttaparthi the older Golden Beach are all part of Another first is the little-known fact that the entertainment circuit in Madras today. The number of people visiting these parks is steadily growing; and it means more employment for locals and more money being pumped into the local cafés, eateries, transport companies. Indeed, so well is the private sector doing, I wonder why the Government should not turn over such 'sick units' as the Vandalur Zoo to private trusts. The snake parks are excellent examples of how well private

individuals/trusts can run such parks. The Madras skyline is changing too. Even as the Government sadly seems to show no interest in restoring and maintaining the aesthetic buildings of old, the private sector seems to know that old is gold. Intricately carved doors and furniture scurried out from Chettinad adorn many a Madrasi home. And even while building public places, such as kalyana mandapams, a sense of history and ethnicity seem to be retained. The Raja Muthiah and Rani Meyyammai Halls on Marshall's Road bear eloquent testimony to this

Some exquisite new temples have come up too, the most beautiful being



Memories of days long ago...

As you entered the gates of Queen Mary's College, the single-storied building right in front was Capper House. The first floor housed the 'European Section', named so because those who opted for it were served 'Western', typically British food. Its floor was also used as a dance floor.

In those days, unlike now where there is just the 'vegetarian' and 'nonthe new Shirdi Sai Mandir at

Injambakkam. Set on the beach amid casuarinas, it is enchanting to say the least. The Durbar Hall of Baba is so very grand you simply must see it. Another temple that promises to be a landmark of our times is the Jagannati Temple coming up on the East Coast

The final effect of all this growth of course is that Madras has become much more cosmopolitan. The Eightic saw an influx of North Indian settler and with the Hong Kong deadline a the end of 1996 fast approaching. another exodus into Madras expected. A natural corollary to this has been the real-estate boom. Lik Bombay, Madras is growing into a city of suburbs. The traditional Madrasi is of course, rather bewildered by all this: the Mylaporean, for whom Nungambakkam was the city-limit and Anna Nagar meant Outer Mongolia. finds himself clearly out of his depths when developers tell him that Sriperumbudur is "almost within Madras City"!

And now Ford's are coming. Tha should translate as more jobs and more money being pumped into local

Under the surface, more things ar changing in the Madrasi too. The two wheeler has liberated the women of Madras. More women ride two wheelers in Madras than in any other Indian city. The perfect blend of tradition and modernity is exemplified by the Madras woman who sports a 'turmerised' mangalaya kayaru and to rings as she takes her son to school on her two-wheeler, with sun-goggles and helmet donned, en route to work Madras roads are almost bursting a their seams. The MRTS that is coming up should ease things a bit. A plus poin is that Madrasis on the whole are developing more road-sense. We are learning to operate Zebra Crossings EVEN Pallavan buses are learning to stop at them! Well, as I said, Madras HAS come of age!

vegetarian' choice, we had a choice of four, the European Section, Vegetarian, Non-Vegetarian and the Brahmin Section. In the Vegetarian Section the bill used to be just Rs. 10 a month, in the Brahmin Section about Rs. 15, with Non-Veg. around Rs. 20 and in the European Section around Rs. 28.

The ground floor housed the Vegetarian Section. We squatted on the floor on low wooden seats and food was served on banana leaves. understand the ground floor is now a music room, as music is a regular part of the curriculum of some students. When I went to the Platinum Jubilee I found the glasspanes of the doors replaced by cardboard. I guess glass is expensive, but surely there must be something better than cardboard.

There is now a new hostel at the far end of the compound for students. In the old days, the hostels were located on the first and second floors of the main building. The blocks were named Pentland, Jeypore and Stone. Pentland and Stone were once Governors of Madras. The Principal's office and residence were located on the first floor of Jeypore block. Nowadays, the rest of the place, which used to be the hostel, is used for classrooms.

The furthest we ever, ventured to walk along San Thome High Road was up to Chettinad Palace, which was a landmark at the time. Beyond that it was all jungle. St. Thomas' Church a small Protestant church, was visible as we walked down the road. There were hardly any buildings around it Coming to Madras after a couple of decades. I found it difficult to locate the church. There are now buildings in front of it and you have to walk into a driveway to see it. The church as such has not changed, except for an adjacent hall and parsonage.

In those days, we had trams in Madras. We made trips from Ice House (Widows' Home) to Mount Road. The Round Tana has entirely changed Haunts we enjoyed most are no longer there. Gone is Mazda restaurant, which served such delicious falooda; Elphinstone Cinema, where we could watch a matinee show for 9 annas; the lovely Udipi restaurant; Coronation Durbar Hotel with its excellent biryani the like of which I have yet to taste; and nobody can forget the Hanagraph Studio where, for a rupee, believe it or not, you could get eight passport size photographs of yourself or with a friend

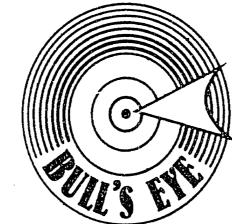
(Continued on P8)

We welcome the first steps to THE HERITAGE ACT

We look forward to its enactment and implementation

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March 12, 1995 will be marked as documents. There were also other Patel and Malegam Committees. There red letter day in the history of corollaries to the badla system, such is extra emphasis on transparency. not support this thesis.



have to improve vastly. These are but a few of the essentials and unless all such factors fall into place, and that too simultaneously, it is quite difficult to see how the markets are going to move up. But, of course, the establishment of one factor could trigger the others. If a stable government were to be sworn in, a not very likely event, the climate would easily become more salubrious and, thus, attract the oh-so vital loreign investment at increased levels. On such slender threads rest the future of our markets.

The company also plans to explore the warm lorging technique and super auto forging at a later date to augment existing technology. We project a sales and PAT o Rs 36 cr and Rs 2.50 cr. The resultant EPS of around Rs 8 discounts the CMP about 7.5 times, giving ample scope for appreciation. The scrip is likely to face strong resistance in the band between Rs 65 and Rs 70, while support would emerge in the band between Rs 53 and Rs 50.

Escorts. The core promoter, K Ajith Kumar in October 1995 with an issue at Rs 20

The pests that ruled Madras

It is said that if the human race disappears from the earth, insects will take over. In view of their prolific fertility, :nindless labour division and ability to survive a variety of extreme conditions, this is a possibility.

It may come as a surprise to many readers that there was a time when Madras groaned under the sheer numbers of these creatures and humans had to cringe for living space in this widely spread-out city! Go back to the early Thirties. Elders who spent their formative years during this era are likely to reminisce nostalgically about the balmy days when fresh water flowed in the Advar and Cooum. Masula boats

to prevent the flies from sharing your

Hot coffee seemed their favourite liquid to drown in. No sooner the server placed the coffee in front of you, a few flies tried to fall into it. The cautious server covered the tumbler with a dabara to prevent such an accident. Drinking coffee under these circumstances required a special knack. You held the tumbler in one hand. while the palm of the other covered the top. When you brought it near your mouth, you made a little gap in which you fixed your lips to sip the coffee. In spite of these precautions, if a fly fell into it, the server dutifully provided a

by M. SETHURAMAN

plied in the Buckingham Canal bringing in salt, rice and casuarina firewood from north of Madras. A clean sandy beach stretched from the Reserve Bank end in the north to San Thomé and beyond. These may be the plus points. There were also negative points. The chief among them was the insect menace. Those were the days before the much-abused, strong insecticides. Crude means used to drive away or trap these insects were, in most cases, ineffective.

August and September in Madras were the months for house flies. During these months there used to be just enough rain to wet and soften dung heaps. The humidity and the dampness of the subsoil were ideal for these creatures to deposit their ess in the heaps. What appeared as a few flies here and there in early August, grew in numbers and swarmed all over in about a fortnight. Soon they occupied every inch of space available. They were prominent in market places and restaurants. As you walked, they entered inside loose dhotis and sarees and tickled your legs. Some tried to enter ears and nostrils. You could not laugh or speak in the open lest some would enter your mouth! People walked about waving their hands in front of their faces to keep off these pests. When you ate food in a restaurant, as you shuttled your right hand between plate and mouth, the other hand involuntarily waved in front

'hotelier' washed the floor with phenyle. The tabletops were smeared with coconut oil in which naphthalene powder was suspended — both not very appetising to smell! Consequent to the activities of these flies, the citizens suffered ailments ranging from mild stomach upsets to the dreaded cholera. During this season the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Tondiarpet used to overflow with patients, while the civic authorities busied themselves with

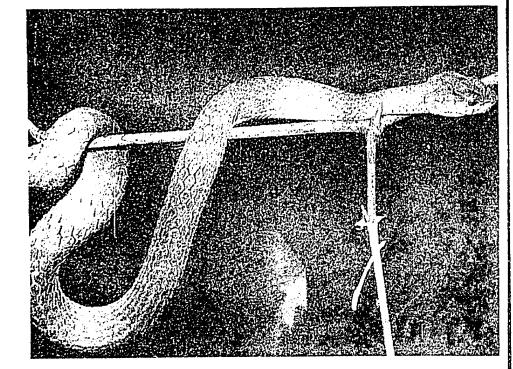
When the monsoon rains set in, the flies disappeared and mosquitoes appeared. If flies were a daytime nuisance, the mosquitoes were nighttime pests. In the quiet of the night, they announced themselves by their monotone music as they flew close to your ears. They sucked blood from whichever part of the human body that was exposed.

fresh cup of the brew. He did not throw the rejected coffee into the sin1 as one would expect, but took it back to the kitchen. I suspect that in the privacy of the kitchen the server removed the dead fly and offered the cup to the next

To keep these swarms at bay, the disinfection and inoculation procedures.

Health authorities had identified two main types of mosquitoes in Madras. One transmitted malaria and the other filaria. The filarial one was more predominent in Madras. Filaria started as a mild night fever with chills. It left after a day or two. Once set, it

In the Snake Park...



The Largescaled Green Pit Viper at the Madras Snake Park in the Guindy National Park Trimeresurus macrolepis is an elegant snake, the MSP Trust says, endemic to the higher hills of the southern Western Ghats. It inhabits cool and moist forests and is difficult to spot as it often remains motionless on a leafy branch. Venomous ... but its venom is of low toxicity, says the Trust. (Photo by R J RANJIT DANIELS, courtesy Madras Snake Park Trust.)

the first fever, one of the limbs swelled. which increased with each monthly bout of fever. There was no sure cure for this disease in those days. Persons affected moved about with swollen legs. In due course the leg grew to the size of an elephant's leg — hence the

and aversion to the onlooker. Since rainy days in Madras are hot and humid, it was unthinkable to use mosquito nets to cover oneself. In those days the electric fan was a rare luxury that could be afforded only by the minority rich.

name Elephantiasis for this disease

Soon warts appeared on the leg, which

festered causing misery to the affected

Mosquitoes disappeared or made themselves less of a nuisance when the cool season ended by March. This was the season for the minute red ants. which crawled all over, both day and night, biting the back and arms of a resting person. Eyelids were their favourite targets.

A bite there would have you uncomfortable for hours afterwards. These ants, in spite of their size, travelled far in search of food. You wondered where they got so much energy from to trek such long distances and return carrying food many times their weight. A careless gap while closing the lid of the sugar jar was enough to invite them in. Overnight, hundreds of them would invade and take away granule after granule methodically. In the case of toughskinned food, they would make a tiny hole in the skin and scoop out the soft innards, breaking it into tiny pieces to carry them off.

Another reprehensible and universally hated insect was the bed bug. Although it annoyed sleepers in other seasons too, its torments were of harassing proportions during summer. These pets hid in the cracks of walls and chinks in the roof during the day. They descended from these hideouts, attracted by the body heat and sweat of the sleepers. As night advanced, the bites of these insects grew in persistence and the sleeper was obliged to wake up and get rid of them. Some kept a small can of kerosene in which these crawlers were caught and drowned. Those who kept 'a hurricane lamp' threw the pests on its roof to die of the heat. The less fastidious squashed those crawling on the floor with their big toes. Those on the walls were crushed with the butt of a pencil or some such device, leaving a red streak on the wall. In time these marks accumulated and gave a revolting look to the room. This had one advantage though; it kept guests away!

Last but not least were the cockroaches. These generally lived in gutters but also formed colonies in dark closed cupboards in the kitchen. The householder periodically brought the cupboards out into the open to drive away these pests. The cockroaches were active during midnights. They came out when all the lights were put out and raided the kitchen for food. Some visited sleeping persons ant scraped the calluses on their feet and fingers. When they bore through them and came to the inner soft tissue, the sleeper felt a sharp pain and would jump up with a start, not knowing what

had bit him. By the time lamps were

from left to right, Joe Abrams of ABC, L Pradeep of Innovation Software and the And Haywards from DIC pose with Panda at the recent inauguration of the club in Madra specess he richly deserved. This motion

th Panda

(By A Staff Reporter)

Tennis star Vijay Amritraj's entertainment company First Serve Mount Road area, it was called Entertainment (India) Pvt. Ltd. formally launched the Panda Club Gaiety and survives to this day. of India in Madras recently. The Panda Club is an international club incept for the facade. the theatre is exclusively for children from 6 to 16 years of age.

The tea-time celebrations, the Club's first event for the first 100 members, included frolicking with the Giant Panda. The members were given their membership cards — the entry pass to all future events of the Panda Club. The event was sponsored by Innovation Software Exports Ltd., young company marketing Multimedia Software for Children's Education and Entertainment. And co-sponsored by Parry Confectionery Ltd.

The Panda Club of India was launched on Children's Day, November 14. '95, on DD Metro. On that day, children around the country were stut shop. The Madurai cinema house greeted on the 'Rimba's Island' show by Vijay Amritraj, who talked about the programmes brought by the Panda Club on DD Metro for children. Since then. Panda Club has also started a weekly quiz on the show.

The main objective of the Club is to create a magical world of excitement fun-filled entertainment and a universe of new experience for the child. It will organise special events and activities for children on a regular basis, Arakasha Rao. Better known as making it the first active Club of its kind. It hopes to build better values Prakash. The son emerged as a among children worldwide, through good programmes which do not have Honeer film-maker who established an any violence or bad language and which encourage family ties and a global accellent track record in both silent and

The fun and education-through-entertainment message of the Panda Club will be popularised in the metros through road shows. The life-size, cuddly Giant Panda costume, specially imported from the U.S.A., will be the main attraction at these events.

Quizzin' with Ramanan

(Quizmaster V.V. RAMANAN's questions are from the period January 1 to 15)

- 1. To resolve the Kaveri row, how much water did the Prime Minister ask Karnataka to release to save standing crop in Tamil Nadu?
- 2. Which Corporate giant was fined Rs 799 crore, for excise evasion, on the day its new chairman took over?
- Princess Diana, P.V. Narasimha Rao, Internet, Khushwant Singh and Gen. Colin Powell have been given a unique award by a worldwide commune. Name the award and commune.

lit to search for the offender. the roach would have taken cover. They also sipped saliva that dribbled from the mouth of those sleepers who slept with their mouths open.

All these insects had their share of predators. Spiders, lizards, centipedes and scopions caught them, each in their own way. But while spiders and lizards kept away from man, not so centipedes and scorpions. These crawlers on the ground bit or stung, usually when a person came in contact with them inadvertently. The result was considerable pain and incapacitation for about a day.

There were a host of other insects too, like winged white ants and liny insects which emerged after a rainy day and swarmed over street lamps — in fact, any lamp in the open. They obscured the lamps by their enormous quantity. They were not intent on annoying us, but were responding to a biological urge — that of being attracted by a powerful source of light. Most of them died in the heat or fell down exhausted and formed a dross under the lamp.

In 1939, Paul Muller of Germany formulated D.D.T. and that effectively put an end to the annoyance of these creatures which plagued the citizens of Madras for years.

village, . Kilkaranai Maramalainagar, will host famous multinational?

- 5. What is common to Queen Venkataratnam. Alexandra's Birdwing (the work largest butterfly), Chinese alligators, t Californian Condor and New Zealand flightless Kakapo parrot?
- Which team won the Durand Cup for the 14th time recently?
- Name the most influential of post-way 8. Name the indigenous Main Battle Tank Dught-after photographer by the rich.
- (MTB), one of the three best in t world, formally cleared for mas production on January 9th.
- Dr. K. Karunakaran is the new VC which varsity?
- 10. The legendary stunt queen, 'Hunterwali of Indian cinema, passed away on January 9th in Bombay. Name her.
- Aruna Ananthof Madras is to marry famous Indian sportsman, a prominer citizen of Madras. Who? What new automatic customer servi
- was introduced by Southern Railwa in Madras recently? Which beleagured project was cleared by the Maharashtra Government after
- renegotiation with a multinational? 4. Name the world famous survey shi of the oceanographer Jacques Cousteau which sank recently.
- 5. For what comment did William Saliro a columnist in the New York Times. invite a 'punch in the nose' from the U.S. President, Bill Clinton?
- What significant judgement did Supreme Court pass on horse racin in the Madras Race Club case? Name the mascot of the Wills Wo
- Cup, unveiled recently? 18. Which high profile world militar leader's autobiography is A Soldier
- 9. What lucrative marine research breakthrough was achieved by Central Marine Fisheries Researce Institute recently? 20. According to preliminary estimates

line in the country? (Answers on p. 8)

the Planning Commission, what is t

percentage of people below the pove

Madras's first movie-moghul

Te was the pioneer who brought movies to Madras, almost ninety ears ago. He was the first movie-house oshul of Madras. Later, he branched motion picture production, again, a pioneer, but sadly without the cture pioneer was Raghupathy enkaiah, one of the founding fathers

He built the first permanent cinema c in Madras city, in 1912. Situated h the banks of the Cooum, in the most the same as it was when first nilt 80 years ago.

Venkaiah built three cinema houses Madras, 'Gaiety', 'Crown', and Roxy', and 'Imperial' in Madurai. egrettably, 'Roxy' (originally called Tlobe'), the most famous landmark in ne Purasawalkam-Vepery area, has o has vanished.

Venkaiah was also responsible for tother pioneer of Indian cinema, his vourite son Raghupathy Surya ing picture-making.

Raghupathy Venkaiah was from achilipatnam (then known as lasulipatam), a port town now in dhra Pradesh. He was from a family British Indian Army officers. His rother was a noted personality of the 20th Century, an educationist, ne of the founders of Brahmo Samaj nd private tutor to many children of mindari families. Sir Raghupathy

Early in life Venkaiah developed an erest in photography which he took p as his profession. He established a photo studio in the Mount Road area Madras in the first years of this entury and succeeded in his chosen French Presidents who passed away fishession. Indeed, he was a much



Ragnupathy Venkaiah, pioneer Madras movie moghul. (Photo courtesy RAGAMI) feudal families of the old Madras province. He signed every one of his photographs, much to the delight of his patrons, and they are collector's items

In 1909, George V visited India preparatory to his being crowned

with the visual and played on a gramophone simultaneously with the screening of the picture. Of course, there was no lip-synchronised sound; the world had to wait nearly another twenty years for that.

fascinated by the magic machine was Raghupathy Venkaiah. As a still photographer he was interested in the novelty of motion, but he also saw in the gadget business possibilities. And so he bought the crono-megaphone

Soon Venkaiah was in business as a movie exhibitor and put up a tent in the Esplanade area, near where the

commentary, pre-recorded on a gramophone record, was synchronised

One of the many Madras-viewers educationists ... Indians ... British ... All of them did their equipment for Rs. 30,000, a fortune

e Many men and women 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 ... sociai workers ...

> bit to make Madras the grand houses. His first venture was 'Gaiety'. Then came 'Crown' in the Mint Street area (it still functions with success) and, finally, Globe', in Purasawalkam. The Globe's name was later changed to 'Roxy' — and thereby hangs a tale. One of the great pioneers of the movie house business in America was S L

with me and let us remember their contributions. R.G. could be made. So he sent Prakash to England to train in picture production at the famed Banker's Motion Pictures Studio, London, During his stay abroad Prakash also acted in a couple of films as an Indian. He also toured France

and Germany, where he observed

leading film-makers at work.

city it was before the second

half of the century began. In

this series, you will meet

many of them, the men and

women who have earned

their place in the history of

Madras between 1900 and

1950. Come, take a walk

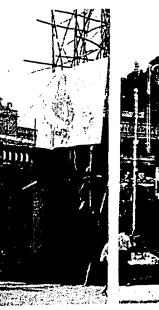
down Madras memory lane

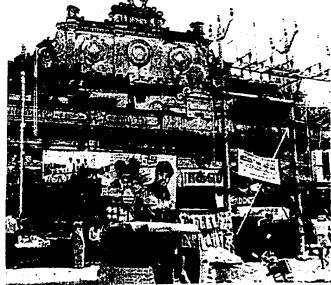
They made OUR Madras

A walk down Memory Lane

with

RANDOR GUY





Venkaiah's 'Gaiety', 'Crown' and 'Roxy' the last vestiges of a once-formidable movie empire. (Photos by V S RAGHAVAN.)

Emperor of India, Burma and Ceylon in 1911 in Delhi. His visit to Madras was a historic event and celebrated with pomp and pageant. An exhibition was organised in the city and one exhibit which astonished the citizens was a talking picture show! Talkies in 1909? Incredible? Science fiction? No! The noted British enterprise involved in the picture business, British Gaumont, had produced as an experimental item a piece of equipment called a 'cronomegaphone and put it on show at the exhibition. It was a combination unit comprising of a movie projector and a gramophone player. An off-screen

Raia Annamalai Hall stands today. Here he exhibited the short film reels he had acquired from the British businessmen. The tent shows were a sell-out and money poured in! Inspired by the sweet smell of success Venkaiah took his tent cinema not only to other parts of India, but also to Burma and Sri Lanka. When he returned home. he was wiser and most certainly

He had, however, realised the shortcomings of the tent cinema business and soon moved on to the construction of permanent cinema

The Hindu, as its most devout

admit, has never been very

readers will be forced to

Rothaplael. As his name was not easily pronounceable, everyone began to call him 'Roxy'!. He gave that name to one of his cinema houses in New York City whereupon Venkaiah renamed his cinema 'Roxy'. (As there was a 'Globe' in Purasawalkam, a cinema house that later came up in the Mount Road area. opposite Higginbotham's, called itself 'New Globe'!) Once Venkaiah made a success of

his picture houses. he thought that instead of exhibiting silent films imported from abroad he should take up picture production so that films based on stories familiar to the locals

mood studies of nature,

calamities, rustic scenes and that

most frequently photographed

building in modern India, bar

the Taj Mahal, the Bombay Stock

Exchange building, the pictures

that linger in your memory are

those of the people, as always.

A paunchy Vijay Malayya,

inspecting a bottle of liquor at his

new brewery; K L Chugh

(former chairman of ITC) pulling

pensively at the tip of his nose;

a totally dejected NT Rama Rao,

looking all his years, in his battle

When Prakash returned. Venkaiah put up a studio on vacant land behind the 'Roxy', and called it the Star of the East Studio. It had a glass roof to keep out the dust and allow sunlight in and. hence, came to be known as the Glass Studio. Venkaiah promoted a limited company for his picture productions, in which leading citizens of Madras, like Sir C P Ramaswami lyer and Gocooldoss lumnadoss, and some Chettiars had shares.

It was in the Glass Studio that Venkaiah produced his first picture, Bhisma Pratigna (1922), with Prakash directing. Prakash thereafter made a series of silent films with some success. However, because of lack of financial discipline and poor business management Venkaiah's ventures went into the red and, soon, creditors took

With great difficulty, Prakash managed to 'bail' out the movie camera seized by the Court and, with the generous financial help of Venkaiah's zamindar friend Motey Narayana Rao. a new venture was promoted. A studio was built on land provided by another close friend, the Raja of Challapalli, in the Tondiamet area.

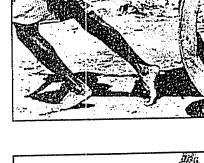
him to court. He had no option but

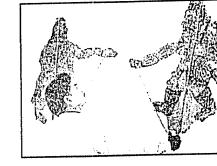
to seek the protection of 'Insolvency'.

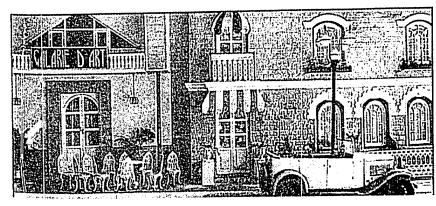
Broken-hearted and dispirited because of the reverses and the stigma of 'Insolvency'. Venkaiah took a back seat in the business and the show was run by the more business-like Prakash.

The great pioneer of Indian cinema. who opened out new vistas of visual entertainment in Madras, passed away in the 1940s. Pioneers are hardly remembered and Raghupathy Venkaiah is today a forgotten figure in the city to which he contributed so much. However, the Andhra Pradesh Government remembered him and instituted the Raghupathy Venkaiah Award for excellence and outstanding contribution to Telugu cinema.









ome of the exhibits from Enterprise '96, Business Line's second commemorative exhibition.

strong in visuals. However, another paper from the same group, Business Line, has, happily, from its inception emphasised the visual aspect of news. Enterprise-96, a photo exhibition organised to celebrate the second anniversary of Business Line, recently displayed a selection of black and white photographs on a variety of subjects.

Black and white film has the ability to invest a source of drama in almost any photograph, provided the picture really has a story to tell. In that sense most of the Business Line photographs were eyecatching. Worth special mention were a breathtaking picture of the ONGC oil well fire (Arunangshu Roy Chowdhury) and the portrait of grieving women at the scene of the Dhanbad coalmine tragedy (Partha Sanyal).

But when the viewer's eyes have quick scanned the many

weariness, after his ouster. Unfortunately for Enterprise '96, it had stiff competition right outside its doors. Hung on the staircase walls of the Alliance Francaise were the prizewinning entries from a photo competition held by the Alliance. They were absolutely mindblowing. No one going to, or coming from, Enterprise-96,

could help but pause on the stairs

Dravid's Cup of despair

"The great man is talking through his venerable hat," said E W Swanton of Sir Neville Cardus when the doven of cricket writing compared another cricketing knight. Sir Garfield Sobers, to his disadvantage, with Wilfred Rhodes, English all-rounder of an earlier era. I am tempted to use the same language while reacting to a statement attributed to Chairman of Raman who was shown the exit by the Selectors a couple of seasons ago can claim the same distinction too. Unfortunately, he, apparently, does not enjoy the same sympathy that his Bombay counterpart does from the Committee which hopes Kambli will regain his form sufficiently to face fast bowling with confidence once again. He and Sanjay Manjrekar have won

a few matches for India off their own

bats, we are told. Even if this claim

were true, other batsmen have rarely

enjoyed the extended tenures these

'Bombay Bradmen', to coin a phrase.

have. If you are in the team long

enough, chances are that you will

succeed one day, as Dilip Vengsarkar

found out in the early years of his

distinguished career. The trouble is, few

players outside some favoured States

ever get such encouragement.

In the case of Rahul Dravid, it which has already contributed Kumble,

Barring this singular aberration, is the Indian squad the best available in the circumstances? I believe the selectors have wasted several opportunities in the last season or so, when, instead of blooding new talent, they have stuck to a formula of tried and tested material in pursuit of shortterm success. The Manoi Prabhakar refrain is an overused two-in-one solution of a dual opener, who, never a tiger on the field, is no longer even passably mobile. True. Kapil Dev's retirement has left a void to fill for

seems some kind of reverse favouritism is at work. Is the fact that the Chairman of Selectors is from his State, a State Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad to the Indian side, working against Dravid's inclusion? This question is uppermost in the minds of genuine cricket lovers who believe gross injustice has been done to the most outstanding young talent in Indian cricket today.

FORWARD

which no all-rounder has yet been found and replacing Prabhakar at the top will compound this problem. But there are no easy solutions and the Selectors should have shown the courage to experiment in pre-World Cup series instead of placing themselves in a position now to state they cannot experiment during the championship.

With four pacemen in the side and two handy change bowlers in Tendulkar and Jadeja, packing it with three spinners is inexplicable. Surely Raju's place could have gone to Dravid?

It is too much to expect that the conditioning camp in Bangalore would have transformed the Indian team into a brilliant fielding side. Inauguably, we must be the worst in this World Cup in this department, though we are yet to see the newly promoted teams in action. With the absence of a pinchhitter felt strongly ever since Kapil left the scene, a lot depends on Tendulkar and Azhar to give India match-winning scores. The bowling in the slog too leaves much to be desired.

In the last three World Cups, had fielded at least one Tamil N player. It is a sad commentary or State's status in the national scene not a murmur has been heard on aspect this time. But then, no one the State has done anything to i consideration, leave alone selection

No one can deny the indivi brilliance of several members of Indian team. In Tendulkar it has world's most exciting one-day op — though Kaluwitharana is determ to change that — and in Azha delightful stylist now developing a strategist of significance. It has excellent Karnataka brigade that change the course of a match talented, determined performers Sidhu, Jadeja and Mongia. On day, the Indians can combine to the best. The question is, will produce their best, day after day challenge the mighty of the sixth W Cup?

World Cup Special — by V Ramnarayan

Selectors G R Viswanath that Rahul Dravid could not be selected for the World Cup because he had not performed at the highest level. How could he, when he has not been tested, despite consistently high class batting over the last couple of seasons at every level at which he has been given an opportunity?

The Karnataka righthander has proved himself in both brands of cricket. He has been his State's most dependable batsman while showing a touch of class in everything he does. He can play the sheet anchor role to perfection and he can blaze away when quick runs are needed. His performances for India 'A' in 'Tests' as well as limited overs tournaments in India and Sharjah have been matchwinning efforts. His fielding has been a pleasure to behold. And he shows a maturity beyond his years.

The justification for Vinod Kambli's continued inclusion, it seems, is that he is lefthanded! A certain Woorkeri

Will Chepauk be ready & the best again?

The recent official announcement of the umpires' schedule for the Wills World Cup tournament, to be organised in the subcontinent, brought to mind the responsibility of the Tamilnadu Cricket Association, which has to organise one of its quarter-finals

in March. Not many days remain. Understandably, all Tamil Nadu fans hope that the TNCA's famed Chepauk ground would have benefited from the rare rest it has been given.

It had to be rested because its outfield did not receive the attention it deserved during its recent renovation. Even the season's first Ranji Trophy match, between Tamil Nadu and Goa.

a new ground", as stated by a senior Madras cricket correspondent. The TNCA's Buchi Babu Shield final. between the Hyderabad CA XI and the TNCA IX, had 'baptised' the Velacheri ground months before the Tamil Nadu-Goa Ranji match was played there. Obviously, the cricket writer's discovery of the Guru Nanak College ground's "lush green turf" being "a sight for sore eyes in the city" has come

"The well-grown leafy trees in close proximity all around it provide a village background to the thick green grass in the playing arena. The state of the turf is indeed a tribute to the attention paid to it by the college's sizeable contingent

The senior cricket writer has indeed

was not played on the TNCA's historic ground but on the distant Guru Nanak College ground at Velacheri. It was, however, not "a debut for

a day too late. With photographs by Rajind Christy, AJAX had already hailed the Velacheri ground as the city's best in the November 1-15 edition of Madras Musings. He said the Guru Nanak College "can take justifiable pride in owning the city's most green and wellmaintained ground with a turf pitch and a near-ideal background. It is so well maintained, and has every modern equipment, that it has every claim to be rated the city's No. 1 ground.

of groundsmen and their families."

made his discovery a day too late. Meanwhile, it is to be hoped historic Chepauk sets ready in time for its World Cup match — and in the process regains its ancient reputation as the City's best ground.

(Continued from P4)

manufacture of speedometers, odometers, technometers, etc. in technical collaboration with Chao Long Motor Parts Corp., Taiwan. The financial record of the company for the past three years has been noteworthy, with Sales and PAT showing CARG of 50% and 122% respectively. Operating profit around 20% was well in line with the industry averages. This was in spite of the company catering to the OEM segments where margins are comparatively lower than in the replacement segment.

The expansion project expected to commence by March 1996 is at an advanced stage of implementation. For the first half of the current year. Suprajit has achieved a sales of Rs 3.46 cr and PAT of Rs 0.45 cr. On the pre-issue equity of Rs 1.38, the EPS stood at Rs 6.52. OPM and NPM were at 18% and 13% respectively. The high NPM was due to nil taxation and, with provision being made for the full year, this will be hit. The projected EPS of Rs 3.89 and Rs. 4.59 for 1995-96 and 1996-97 seem within reach. The share has now listed at Rs 28, slightly lower than

the offer price of Rs 30. Considering bright industry prospects and the compar past record, alloitees can retain holdi Fresh buying can also be considered for long-term.

— K. GOPALAKRISHNA

ANSWERS

1.6 tmc ft; 2. ITC; 3 The O Commune's 'Osho Misfit Award; 4. For 5. According to expert studies, they extinction in 1996; 6. East Ben 7. Francois Mitterand; 8. Arjun; 9. Tamil University at Thanjavur; 10. 'Feat Nadia; 11. Chess Grandmaster V. Ana 12. A computer-based interactive vo response system to answer reservati related enquiries over the telephone; 13. I Enron Dahbol power project; 14. Calyr. 15. For calling Hillary Clinton a 'congen liar'; 16. It held that horse racing is a ga of mere skill and not gambling; 17. Good - an animated cricket ball in batsman's se 18. Gen. Colin Powell; 19. Culturing l quality pearls on land; 20. 18.96%, 168.55 million, people.

Memories of long ago...

(Continued from P5)

in various poses. I have still got them. Amazing that with the technology then available the prints are still very clear and well preserved.

There was a time when 'Chinamen' used to bring all sorts of delicately and exquisitely embroidered linen, silk pyjamas, nighties etc to your doorstep. With a little bargaining you could sometimes get more than your money's worth. On Saturdays, the Principal allowed a few merchants to hawk their wares in the Visitors' area of the college. A couple of 'Chinamen' used to turn up with their beautiful material.

Money was not easy those days. With ten rupees you could procure a lot of things, but you had to be careful. When the Spencer's ice-fruit' man came along, he had a lot of customers. My grandchildren won't believe me when I tell them an ice-fruit cost only one and a half annas and a chocobar just two and a half annas. Those were the days!

Old students of Presidency College can never forget Pichu Iyer's melt-inthe-mouth idlis, or the ducking of new students of the hostel in the Buckingham Canal, a part of the ragging and initiation ceremony. Ragging has now been banned, rightly, because it has become a cruel sport devoid of all the fun and bonhomie.

*** I wonder how many people remember having a 15-minute joyride in a biplane of the Madras Flying Club. I had a ride for Rs. 10 at a time when

we never dreamt of air travel, national or international. It was all science fiction to members of our generation. A sea journey to England then took three weeks by luxury liners like the Lloyd Triestino.

Kilpauk Garden Colony, where we now stay, was then no-man's land. When the Madras City Improvement Trust announced a residential lay-out, my husband, who was with the Southern Railway when he saw the advertisement, decided to apply. We were always on the move and building a house for ourselves with a lumpsum seemed out of question. Here, the Trust would build a house for us for a stipulated amount which we could pay in monthly instalments after a small down payment, provided we chose one of their four designs. There was such a hue and cry from friends and relatives with expressions like "Imagine going and living near the cemetery!" etc. It was kind of bizarre at that time. but believe me we have no regrets.

When you open the newspaper and look at the obituary column and read of the demise of someone you know, you have to just walk across. Initially, there was just one petti-kadai where you could buy a match box, betel nuts, bar soap etc. Early settlers sent their children to school in handdrawn rickshaws; it was a means of transport for the elderly also, if you didn't possess the luxury of a car. Now, after more than thirty years, it is a selfcontained colony.

Anna Varki

Dates for Your Diar

February: 'Artist of the Month': Sajitha Shankar (At Max Mueller Bhavan)

February 6: The Sound of Music, directed by Brian and Christine Laul and containing several unique features.

Among the most resoundingly familiar musicals on stage, screen and audiotrack is this blockbuster of all time, The Sound of Music. The Broadway original has played a record 1,442 shows; while on a screen it has captivated audiences for the last 30-odd years. (At the Music Academy, a fund-raising effort of the Alpha to Omega Learning Centre).

February 7-9: National Workshop on Women's Theatre. Voicing Silence is a project on women's theatre, supported by the Hunger Project. It evolved as part of the communication strategies of Project Access, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Madras.

Voicing Silence is organising a threeday workshop on women and theatre. Women theatre persons like Anuradha Kapur, Maheswata Devi, Rati Bartholomew, Anamika Haksar, Usha Ganguli, B. Jayashree and Veena Pani will participate. Cultural activist groups like Janam, Sanlaap, Ethnic Arts Centre, Shri Mukthi Sangatna and Chennai Kala Kuzhu will be presenting their productions.

This workshop will explore the new voices, perspectives and concerns women theatre persons, playwrights a groups. For information contact: Many Voicing Silence, MSSRF. (At N Mueller Bhavan, by invitation only)

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— AJAX