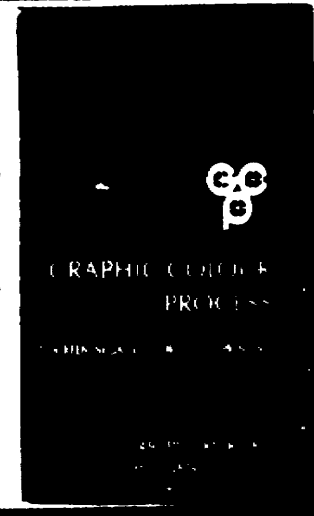


WE CARE FOR MADRAS

Hallmark  
Classique Diaries  
Hallmark Printers  
Pvt. Ltd.  
Admn. Office.62/63,  
Greens Road,  
Madras 600 006,  
Tel: 8278153 / 8277945  
Fax: 044-8271332

# MADRAS

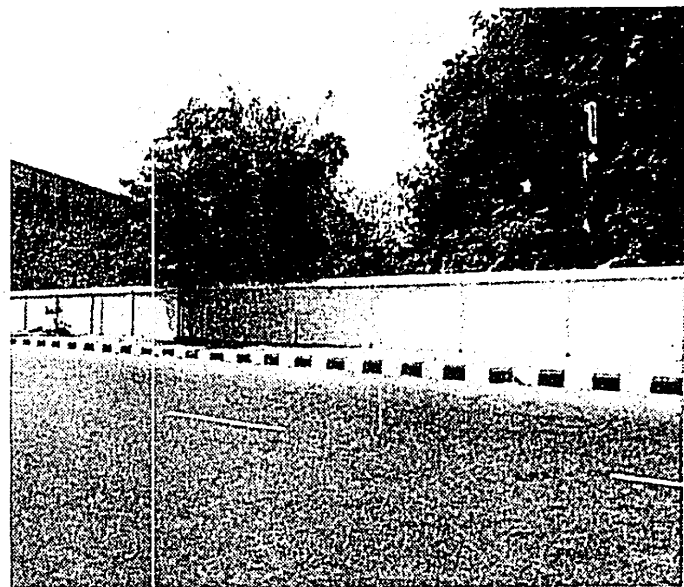
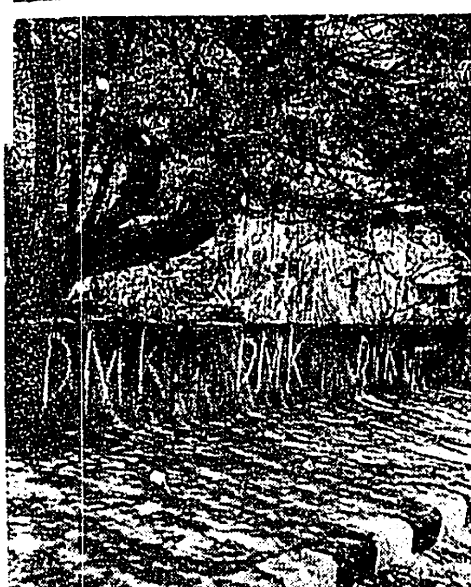
MUSINGS



Vol. V. No. 20

Feb. 1 — 15, 1996

Rs. 3 only



## Family Welfare

— A Tamil Nadu success story..

(By A Staff Reporter)

Tamil Nadu's experiment with curtailing birth rates has been a very successful one indeed, and it has grappled exceedingly well with infant mortality too, so much so that the State can be likened to an oasis in the Indian desert. The past decade has seen the State perform spectacularly on this front — while the average 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 to 66 in 1993.

Tamil Nadu's achievement 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

32. For Uttar Pradesh, the figure remained static at 37 between 1991 and 1993. On the infant mortality front, India's largest State had reported a figure of 105 per thousand in 1990; by 1993 it had fallen only marginally, to 98.

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 Vandalar 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 wireless 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)

The AIDS Research Foundation of 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

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.



WALK IN. BIKE OUT.

90, G.N. Chetty Road, T.Nagar,  
Madras - 600 017, Ph : 8280942

AB-11, 2nd Avenue, Anna Nagar,  
Madras - 600 040, Ph : 5254647







# Dravid's Cup of despair

"The great man is talking through his venerable hat," said E. W. Swanton of Sir Neville Cardus when the doyen 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

In the case of Rahul Dravid, it seems some kind of reverse favouritism is at work. Is the fact that the Chairman of Selectors is from his State, a State which has already contributed Kumble, 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.

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 bleeding new talent, they have stuck to a formula of tried and tested material in pursuit of short-term success. The Manoj 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

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.

## 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 match-winning 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, 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 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 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 well-maintained ground with a turf pitch and a near-ideal background. It is so well maintained, and has every modern equipment, that it has every claim to be rated the city's No. 1 ground."

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

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

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. Inaugurably, 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 pinch-hitter 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 Nadu player. It is a sad commentary on the State's status in the national scene that not a murmur has been heard on this aspect this time. But then, no one in the State has done anything to be considered, leave alone selected.

No one can deny the individual brilliance of several members of the Indian team. In Tendulkar it has been the world's most exciting one-day opener — though Kaluwitharana is determined to change that — and in Azhar a delightful stylist now developing a strategist of significance. It has been an excellent Karnataka brigade that has changed the course of a match. Talented, determined performers Sidhu, Jadeja and Mongia. On this day, the Indians can combine to be the best. The question is, will they produce their best, day after day, to challenge the mighty of the sixth World Cup?

## FORWARD TRADING

(Continued from P4)

manufacture of speedometers, odometers, tachometers, 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 5.89 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 the bright industry prospects and the company's past record, allottees can retain holdings. Fresh buying can also be considered for long-term.

— K. GOPALAKRISHNA

## ANSWERS

1. 6 tmc ft; 2. ITC; 3. The Osho Misfit Award; 4. For extinction in 1996; 6. East Bengal; 7. Francois Mitterand; 8. Arjun; 9. Tamil University at Thanjavur; 10. 'Fear Nadia'; 11. Chess Grandmaster V. Anand; 12. A computer-based interactive response system to answer reservation related enquiries over the telephone; 13. Enron Bahbol power project; 14. *Calypso*; 15. For calling Hillary Clinton a 'congenial'; 16. It held that horse racing is a game of mere skill and not gambling; 17. Good — an animated cricket ball in batsman's gear; 18. Gen. Colin Powell; 19. Culturing high 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-in-the-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 hand-drawn 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 self-contained colony.

Anna Varki

## Dates for Your Diary

**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 three-day 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 Sangalna and Chennai Kala Kuzhu will be presenting their productions.

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

## ADVERTISEMENT RATES

**Display Advertising**  
(Column Width - 4.25 cms)  
Corporate - Rs. 80/col. cm.  
Retail outlets - Rs. 60/col. cm.

**Classified (Small)** Rs. 40 for every four lines or part thereof for one issue OR Rs. 100 for every four lines or part thereof for three issues.

**Display Small** 4 cms x 1 column  
Text only, Rs. 200 for one issue  
OR Rs. 500 for three issues.

All cheques to be made out to:  
**M/s. Lokavani Hall Mark Press Pvt. Ltd.**