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MUSINGS

Vol. V. No. 23

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A word from The Editor

Has Musings run its race?

It's been a good run. For five years, Madras Musings has run a good race on a track not very familiar to Madras readers. But now it looks as though it is just one issue away from considering its race has been run. UNLESS there is a godfather somewhere out there as concerned as Madras Musings has been with all those issues that have been part of its staple.

Over the last five years, we have brought back some consciousness of this city's heritage and history. We have addressed ourselves to the civic and environmental concerns of the city. We have focussed on the lesser-known achievements in industry and the arts and sport. We have demonstrated that we cared for Madras and its citizens more than most other publications which call the city Home. Now, is there someone out there as interested in this City as we have been, who would like to godfather Madras Musings and give it a new lease of life

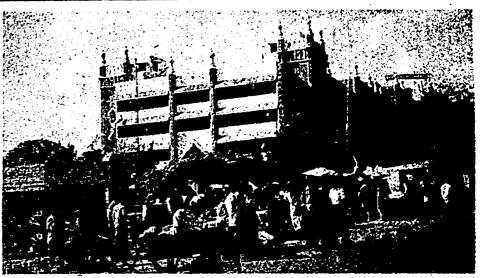
Curiously, when Madras Musings calls it a day with its April 1st issue,

the reasons for winding up will be as example they had set. Unfortunately, that was not to be, and the publishers have felt they can no longer continue to take losses.

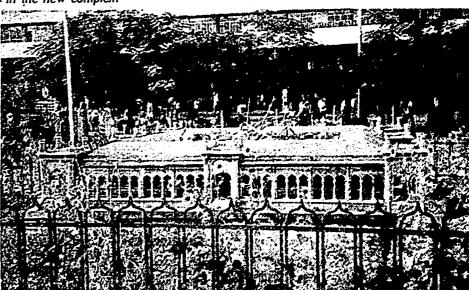
much due to the policy of liberalisation as the lack of support it has received from all but the few who felt the journal was serving a necessary purpose in the City. In the days of a restrictive import policy, the publishers of Madras Musings, M/s. Lokavani Hall-Mark Press, found some benefit in publishing a fortnightly journal. But as the country liberalised, the benefits decreased year by year till they have become nonexistent in the last two years. When subscription and advertising support were seen as the only way to keep going two years ago, only a few responded to our requests. We will be ever grateful, to those subscribers and the half a dozen or so business groups who care for this City, for the support they gave us. It may not have enabled us to break even, but it gave us hope that others would follow the splendid

And so, sadly, we announce that April 1, Vol. V, No.24, will be the last issue of Madras Musings. Unless a godfather comes to its rescue in the next few weeks. If that happens, subscriptions will be transferred to the new publishers. Otherwise, subscribers will receive back any remaining part of their subscriptions. Meanwhile, thank youlall, all of

you who stood by us.



The Lily Pond Complex — still awaiting tenants. Many of the traders who once occupied Moore Market are now hawkers outside the new complex while they await rehabilitation



Moore Market is remembered in this model in the parking lot of the Railway Booking Office Complex, which arose on the ashes of the market that was a part of the ethos of the City for wellover 75 years. Note the use the central courtyard of the model is now put to. (Photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY).

Proofe Placement, still not occupied

The new Moore Market complex (see picture above), unofficially called the Lily Pond Shopping Complex, is still empty, despite the allocation of 527 of its 859 shops. The allottees await electricity — and till that is given they refuse to move in. They also await a decision on rent.

When Moore Market was gutted on the midnight of May 29, 1985, its 857 stall holders were awarded an ex gratia amount of Rs. 2000 each from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and the Chief Minister ordered construction of a new market complex for them on 64 grounds by the Lily Pond next to the Central Railway Station.

The new complex was constructed at a cost of Rs. 6.25 crore and was inaugurated by the Chief Minister on November 28, 1991. Government assisted with a 50 per cent loan for the project and the Corporation managed the balance by obtaining advances from some traders. It was decided to dispose of the stalls on outright sale and a notification was made requesting the vendors to express their willingness to this scheme. Later, Government changed its mind and the Corporation was instructed not to sell the shops outright but to accept only a rental advance to be negotiated with the traders.

The merchants were allotted shops after a writ petition directed the Corporation to make allotment by lots. Allotment of 527 shops was made on March 15 and 16, 1994. Twelve shops were reserved for allotment to erstwhile Moore Market tenants if they staked a claim later.

The Lily Pond shopping complex has 78 'A' type shops, each of area about $7' \times 6'$, on the ground floor and 84 shops on each of the first, second and third floors. 'B' type shops, of area $7' \times 10'$, number 111 on the ground floor and 119 on each of the second and third floors. 'C' type shops, about $10' \times 15.5'$ area, comprise of eight shops on the ground floor and 16 shops on each of the first, second and third floors. And 'D' type shops, about $15.5' \times 19.5'$, only five in number, all on the ground floor. There is no lift facility in the complex.

The rents are about Rs. 19 sq ft for the ground floor, Rs. 17 sq ft for the first floor, Rs. 16 sq. ft for the second floor and Rs. 14 sq ft for the third floor. Every prospective shopkeeper will have to deposit six months' advance on his rent, Trading in liquor, fish, mutton, beef, pork etc is prohibited on the premises.

The traders feel that the rent demanded is too high and that this is: not rehabilitation of the victims of the

Moore Market blaze. Many traders, who lost their shops in the fire are close to poverty and were looking forward to shops in the new complex to rehabilitate themselves. Several traders have abandoned business and sought: employment. The traders have moved the High Court for reduction in rental charges and the case is pending.

Before the fire accident, a section of the Moore Market traders were accommodated at the Nehru New Market in the Kannappar Thidal Complex, close to the Periamet Mosque. They were required to pay a rent of only one rupee per squareloot. They were also provided with free electricity for two years.

Traders who are to occupy shops in the new complex feel that the present encroachments will not allow smooth flow of traffic. They want access from Sydenham's Road, as the shopping complex is far from the original place where the market stood:

All that is left of Moore Market today is a replica in the Railway, Booking Office's parking lot. It is maintained by the Indian Bank, but its courtyard seems to be used as a refuse dump (see picture above).

RAJIND N CHRISTY



Mar. 16-31, 1996

And is it the South Koreans next?

That charming picture alongside, of Chief Minister Javalalitha having a hearty laugh at the Mahindra Ford foundation stone-laying ceremony, could also be a sign of happiness over things to come. And among those things is Hyundai (pronounced 'Hundai') of South Korea virtually having made up their minds to put down roots on the road to Sriperumbudur. The Man From Madras Musings understands that they have begun looking out for homes for 120 South Korean families whom they hope to bring in once the last few details are tied up.

MMM wonders whether those last few details include removal of the bottlenecks on the Poonamaliee stretch and on the stretch west of Kovambedu. These two stretches, like the Pallavaram-Tambaram stretch on the road to Maraimalainagar, have motor repair shops all along the roadsides and the parked vehicles on both sides of the road have truly made all three stretches literal bottlenecks. Unless these obstructions are cleared and the roads here made to match the quality of the highways further up, MMM can't see Ford's or Hyundai being enamoured of working in these locations, no matter what other facilities and concessions are provided. Top priority will have to be given immediately to clearing these bottlenecks — otherwise there could well be second thoughts by the auto majors on wanting to put down roots here.

Meanwhile, with conditions in Karnataka becoming more and more difficult, especially on the power front, some of the players in Karnataka are beginning to eye Tamil Nadu for their expansion plans. One of these, The Man From Madras Musings understands, is Texas Instruments who are taking a good hard look at Madras. If TI move into Madras, several others



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Select List of Recent Additions

Think I ke a leader

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Identity and diversity

Psychology and policing in a changing

John Milton: a literary life Good rows: social ethics and the press

Growth and structural change Barbara Hepworth: a life of forms

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Teaching through projects

Managing for success

A period of adjustment



This happy picture by S ANWAR (Courtesy: Business India) is too nice a one to ignore, whatever one feels about Mahindra Ford's sinking roots in Madras. Against the grim background of her securitymen. Chief Minister Javalalitha heartily enjoys a joke shared with Chairman Harish Mahindra at the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the Mahindra Ford factory near Maraimalainagar. Certainly the Chief Minister seems to indicate that happy times are here again. Could it be one more sign of the times, wonders The Man From Madras Musings

> you must also have the infrastructure to provide for the hundreds who form each racing

Is F1 possible?

them in Bangalore.

in the software sector are bound

to follow into a part of the

country where software exports

have been considerable but with

little of the fanfare attendant on

The Formula Asia International Motor Racing Championship leg held recently at the Sriperumbudur motor racing track was a great success. So successful was it that people have begun to talk of a Formula 1 competition being held here. Formula 1 is the highest level of international motor racing and is held in no more than a dozen places round the world.

One Madras motor racing enthusiast, however, was more realistic about the chances of Formula 1 racing being held in the Madras suburbs. When The Man From Madras Musings bumped into him the other day and raised the question of Formula 1 racing in this part of the world, he said, "All of you are talking about the track. But that's the least of the requirements. Raise Rs. 10 crore - and that won't be difficult - and you'll be able to make the Sriperumbudur track a world class one. But then what?"

What MMM learnt over the next few minutes was astounding. Apparently if Formula 1 comes in, you must be ready not only for the affluent crowds of enthusiasts who come in from all parts of the world but

team. This means, MMM learnt there must be at least 2000 more five-star hotel rooms, entertainment facilities, an airport able to handle half a dozen of the biggest passenger

aircraft at a time, over a score of huge helicopters, fine highways and the airconditioned luxury cars and coaches to go with them, and scores of other facilities. The infrastructure needed for all this will cost a hundred crore. "Are we prepared to spend that kind of money?" asked MMM's motor

racing friend. Considering the kind of money we have spent on sports infrastructure and stadia that are likely to be used only once a year or so, MMM wonders why not. Especially if much of the infrastructure could be used regularly for other activities. But as of now, the figures are likely to frighten the powers-that-be.

Private roads?

The Man From Madras Musings' motor racing friend would, however, have none of that. "Don't waste your money on Formula 1 at the moment. For a fraction of that cost you could make life bearable on Madras roads merely be 'privatising' them.'' And he was off, enthusiastically telling MMM how he would make traffic flow smoothly on Madras roads.

Form a corporate consortium to run the roads of Madras, he said. Hand over to individual corporate organisations one or two of the major roads. Get them to spend on ensuring sidewalks, putting up lane barriers and signal lights where needed. Then get them to organise traffic wardens from among their staff, train them and team a couple of them with a constable for regular patrolling and junction duty. With such wardens unlikely to be susceptible to the kind of pressures police constables face, they'll be more likely to be obeyed by the public -Balakrishnan, 1AS, became the first woman in the YMCA's especially once they show they are ready to enforce the road hundred-year history to lead a membership campaign. Now laws. And to make such enforcement successful, set up a when will we see a man lead a new traffic court - again campaign to bring peace to local 'privatised' - which will act YWCA circles, wonders MMM. fast. All fines collected can go * That slip of a girl from into road improvement. And so Madras, who was among the on and so forth. This is one

stop when in free flow.

make a more meaningful

* Abacus, that school much

favoured for its instructional

methods for the very young, is

shifting from its Adyar location.

The Man From Madras Musings

hears it is moving to a lovely

campus in Perungudi where

Laurie Baker is developing

several beautiful environment,

friendly buildings. But no matter

how lovely the campus, will the

distance put off parents of the

very young, would distance

make it a very much longer day

for those young, wonders MMM.

* Where the Madras Cricket

Club's old pavilion stood is the

scene of much new building with

an echo here and there of the

green pillars and sloping eaves of

the historic old pavilion. Now

The Man From Madras Musings

hears that future plans include

doing up the lobby and clubfront

"to make it look as much like the

old clubhouse as possible".

While welcoming the idea,

MMM wonders what then was

the necessity to pull down the

old clubhouse. Couldn't it have

been integrated in some way into

future planning? Was it

necessary to create something

that has made the membership

feel they "are in the middle of

a concrete mass" before looking

★ Table tennis champion

Chandrasekhar's long-awaited

table tennis academy is expected

to get underway in April, The

Man From Madras Musings

hears. Sponsored by Sterling

Tree Magnum, it will be located

at the Rajaji Vidyashram in

Kilpauk and will start with 15

tables. He'll turn out Indian

champions from here, MMM is

sure, but the Academy will need

many more facilities and

increased staffing besides

Chandrasekhar hopes to turn out

players who will take India back

* The Man From Madras

Musings welcomes the news that

the YMCA constitution was

recently amended to give women

a place in the activities of the

association. The first spin-off of

this, MMM is pleased to note, has

been in Madras where Sheela

into the world first division.

dedicated trainees

back at the past?

comment than MMM's.

In brief

first journalists to reach riot-torn motoring enthusiast difficult to Colombo in 1983 and who since then has travelled into Tiger And so MMM ventured a territory several times, has come mild, "What nonsense!" Only to a long way from those early days be met with a challenge. "Get with The Week, The Man From them to let me try out the idea Madras Musings is glad to find and see if it'll work or not." Anita Pratap went on ioin Perhaps Menezes of the Sus-Time's Delhi Bureau in 1988 as tainable Cities Programme, who one of the highest paid is looking for ideas on how to journalists in India. Now, with make Madras work, should a move to CNN, she could indeed sound out this motoring be the highest paid journalist in enthusiast on how to make India. That's quite a climb for Madras roads work. Certainly the girl from Madras. he'd be in a better position to

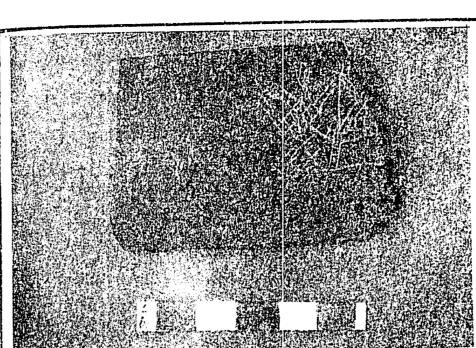
Business briefs

* Dharmapuri District, the state's leading mango-growing district, expects a bumper crop this year, The Man From Madras Musings is told. Its 22,000 hectares, about 40 per cent, of the State's acreage, is expected to produce 240,000 tonnes of mangoes this year, most of which will transit through the Salem and Krishnagiri markets. The district, which produces 50 per cent of the Tamil Nadu harvest, grows Naduchalai Gudadath, Malgova, Totapuri Bangalora, Neelam, Dilpasand and Imampasand. But little of its crop is exported overseas because of lack of storage and processing facilities in the district or in Salem. India at present exports about 20,000 tonnes of mango valued at over Rs 20 crore and over Rs. 25 crore of processed mango products. Dharmapuri plays almost no role in this scenario... and it is a role its growers are now demanding, MMM hears.

* The country's largest exporters of brakelinings, Sundaram Brakelinings Ltd, are likely to begin supplies shortly to Dana Spicer Ltd, the American truck-axle manufacturer, The Man From Madras Musings hears. This is likely to be followed by exports to Dexter, who supply axles to Ford, Chrysler and Opel. And this likely to be only the beginning, if car manufacture gets underway in the City.

* Are we going to find women managers on tea, coffee and rubber plantations before long The Man From Madras Musings wouldn't at all be surprised, judging from the fact that the Kothari Agricultural Management Centre in Coonoor has begun to enrol women candidates. KAMC, now handling its eighth batch of students for its postgraduate course, expects validation of the course from the Royal Agricultural College, UK.

* The Man From Madras Musings hears that the Tamil Nadu Government is keen to develop a Madras to Kanniyakumari super highway and negotiations are underway with a Malaysian Company on the project, which might be on a build, operate and transfer basis. The State, MMM learns, wants private sector participation in highway construction but it is also expecting Rs. 1000 crore from the World Bank for road improvements. When is all this going to start, MMM wonders.



At last, a picture of an ancient Tamil ship

What did the ships of ancient Tamil Nadu look like? Madras Musings has raised this question several times in the past and pointed out that it is curious that no representations exist of those vessels which sailed the eastern seas. Now, at last, there's a 'picture', recently discovered by the

Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology.

Excavating near Alangkulam, Ramanathapuram District, a historic port city of the Pandyas, a potsherd (a broken piece of ceramic), bearing graffiti marks was found. These depict the figure of a ship. "This is the first time we have seen the figure of a ship on a potsherd in Tamil Nadu. One such figure had been noticed earlier in association with the Sri Lanka Brahmi inscription. The depiction of the ship on the new find is however more natural than the figure found along with the Sri Lanka inscription," states Natana Kasinathan, Director of Archaeology, Tamil Nadu. The drawing of the ship found at Alangkulam is assignable to some time in the 1st Century B.C. to 1st Century A.D., he adds.

The Department is also carrying out excavations at Poompuhar in Nagai-Qaid-e-Milleth District, Karur in Karur Deeran Chinnamalai District and Sendamangalam in Villupuram Ramaswamy Padayachiyar District. Poompuhar was the emporium of the Cholas, Karur was the secondary capital of the Cheras, and Sendamangalam was the capital of Kadavarayan,

Among other artefacts found in Alangkulam are potsherds bearing an archaic Tamil script. Several potsherds with graffiti marks, beads made of different semi-precious stones, and bengles made of shell have also been

The archaic Tamil script found on some of the potsherds is assignable to the 1st-2nd Century A.D. All the excavations are being conducted by a team of archaeologists

headed by A. Abdul Majeed, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist, under the guidance of the Director of the Department.

'I've waited 40 years for this book!'

T've waited 40 years for this book -I for that's how long I've lived in Madras - and it's been well worth waiting for. Many years ago I toyed with the idea of writing 'A Guide to the Gods', when I discovered that there weren't so many Hindu gods after all. and that Siva. Vishnu and others have different names often associated with legends attached to them in different places. I thought such a book would help strangers who were puzzled to find that a single god could have so many different names.

Another bout of enlightenment came when I discovered there were no surnames as we in the West know them, that the two initials preceding a person's name were, respectively, the names of his village and of his father. and that his own. 'given' name, was the final one: hence the need for siving the name of your father on important documents.

In At Home in Madras — A Handbook *, all these points and many more are explained for the benefit of newcomers to Madras. It will certainly help them overcome the many bewildering aspects of Tamil life. S. Muthiah — that amazingly active workaholic — the admirable Overseas Women's Club, and (most of) his contributors should be warmly congratulated for producing a book that should have been written at least a quarter of a century ago. I particularly liked Gowri Ramanarayan's Right. That's Local Custom' in which she courageously makes no attempt to hide or disguise the darker aspects of Madras life, particularly the noisome pavements, though she might also have stressed the importance of using only the right hand not only for eating but for giving money, even to beggars.

Ashokamitran's history of the Tamil people is unexceptional, too, written with rare economy and accuracy, though I part company with him when he tells us that our lears that the Cinema would corrupt Tamil culture were unfounded: the reverse is true, though much is still gloriously conserved and cherished by the intellectual few. mainly at the Music Academy and Kalakshetra.

But the contribution from Dr. Hiramalani Sheshadri is bewildering. Not only do I question her medical advice, but she also seems to have devoted a substantial part of the

One Man's Madras — HARRY MILLER'S

space allotted to her for cookery recipes and religious proselytising. Nowhere, for instance, does she suggest that simple cheap codeine tablets are all that are necessary for the inevitable 'runny tummy' that afflicts most newcomers: nowhere does she tell us that, in cases of severe gastro-enteritis, antibiotics cannot be avoided, but that any use of the highly dangerous Chloramphenicol, alone or in combination with other antibiotics, can lead to fatal aplastic anaemia and does seem to have an ethnic prevalence. This drug led to the death of two of my British friends. while a third, Alan Turner, noted architect and town-planner from London, survived only after a year on blood transfusions - a hard price to pay, as he remarked to me, for a runny tummy. Fifteen mg of codeine would have sufficed. Chloramphenicol should be strictly avoided by foreigners.

As for mosquito repellants, the doctor should have informed us that those based on citronella are the least and those based on the Dimethyl and Dibutyl phthalates the most effective. This was shown conclusively in a Scientific American paper twenty years ago. And this is the first time I was ever told that all my Indian friends and their families regularly deworm themselves!

As for the good doctor's measures for purifying water, they are elaborate and futile: what's the use of twenty

minutes boiling. Aquaguards and whatever, when your bearer/cook/ avah puts a finger in the glass the moment your back is turned? Are you going to boil the glass? And the servants too? I knew of an American woman who tried to boil everything, even the bedsheets, and would have boiled the furniture if she'd been able to find vessels big enough to accommodate them. She was returned to the U.S.A. under heavy sedation for heroic psychiatric treatment.

In all the half century I've lived here Eve never boiled water: filtered yes, boiled never, and the hundreds. perhaps thousands, of foreigners who've been my guests, especially in the twenty years I spent in 'my' village, have never afterwards reported any sickness, not even when I ran out of Spencer's sodas and substituted sodas made locally with water from the village pond, though they never knew of course. After all, do you really think all these bottled drinks people consume in such prodigious quantities are made from water that's been boiled (for twenty minutes of course?!) If they were, they would cost ten times more than they do.

All the medical advice I used to receive from the eminent foreign doctors at the C.M.C. Hospital, Vellore. was that those who are the most fussy and concerned about hygiene are the very ones who are most frequently victims of G.I. infections, Americans in particular. The C.M.C. doctors used to eat in small 'otils (= hotels: there is no h' in Tamil) where the tables were oiled so that flies couldn't sit on them. and they swallowed their idlis and dosais made under conditions that few would think hygienic, but they quickly built up resistance to local bugs. In Madras, with the sun drying up the dust and blowing it from those unsavoury pavements Gowri Ramanarayan mentions, and with untutored cooks, avahs and other servants, elaborate attempts at complete and efficient

hygiene are futile. Elsewhere in this Guidebook there are a couple of clangers. The joint authors of the chapter on holidays can (Continued on P6)

* Available at all leading bookshops and from the Maureen Hudson-Murari, Overseas Women's Club (Tcl.: 642617, 6415027)

WRITE Rolls Royce news

Re. MMM's reference to Rolls Royces in MM March 1, may 1 set the record

OUR

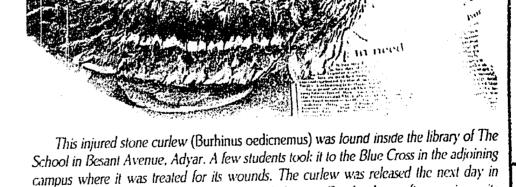
READERS

- 1. Geoffrey Bawa's Rolls was certainly not a Silver Ghost (pre-1920 Vintage), but a Silver Wraith C. 1950. This car is still in Madras.
- 2. V.L. Ethirai had a fine Bentley. Though made by the same company (Rolls Royce bought their chief rival Bentley in the Thirties), a Bentley is not a Rolls.
- 3. Another famous Rolls Royce owner in Madras was Dr. Annie Besant.
- 4. The Maharaja of Mysore certainly must have owned Rolls Royces, but like British Royalty of that period he preferred Daimlers. The cars he used, in my memory, were Austin Princesses, similar looking but surely not the same.
- 5. Emberumanar's father (Hoe & Co) had a 20/25 or 25/30 HP Rolls with a roof section raised to accommodate his
- 6. Geossrey Bawa briesly had a small 20 HP doctor's coupe in bare aluminium. This was from the late Twenties.

T.T. Raghunathan Madras-600 086

Name to remember

Re. MMM's comment in MM, March 1, about "a sentimental occasion and remembering a revolution". The third



the Siruthavur scrub forest, on the Old Mahabalipuram Road, where, after running quite a distance on its long, stilt-like legs, it took wing. The stone curlew can be found all over India, from the plains to 1000 metres in

the Himalaya. It is found mostly in dry scrub, deciduous jungles and in and around villages. Generally a nocturnal species, it is said to 'freeze' when stumbled upon during the day its plumage blending so well with the terrain that the bird is almost invisible. When disturbed, the stone curlew first runs through the thicket and flies only when threatened. The species feeds on insects, worms and small reptiles. Its nesting period is from February to August and its two speckled olive green eggs are laid in a scrape on bare ground.

S, the Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture during the historic period in the Sixties, was surely B. Sivaraman, ICS, and not

> Kamala Jayaram 16, Rutland Gate, 4th Street, Madras 600 006

MMM's Note: It was.... and mea culpa. Heard wrong... and didn't check!

Back to Square 1

If you travel by bus, you will see many a bus stop hoarding say 'KEEP MADRAS CLEAN' Something which everyone who loves Madras is eager to do.

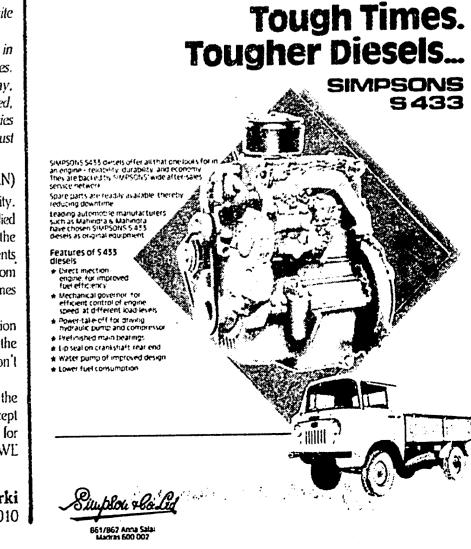
Recently, the four roads leading to the Jayalalitha stadium in the Kilpauk Garden

(Photo by V S RAGHAVAN) Colony witnessed a sudden spurt of activity. We discovered the roads were being readied for the SAF Games. In the process, the garbage bins were removed and residents asked to throw their garbage in a corner from where the garbage was cleared three times a day till the Games were over!

I told the engineer and Corporation inspector several times to see that the dustbins were put back. They said, "Don't worry, it will be done".

The SAF Games are over, and the lorries have ceased to ply, except occasionally. The roads were sal (Hindi for 'clean') for the SAF Games! NOW WL ARE BACK TO SQUARE ONE.

> Anna Varki Madras 600 010



The last 56551011

The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly's last session is over, and no privilege issue can arise if the truth be told that there are large numbers of people, reflected in the long queues waiting for a time-curtailed glimpse of the 'shouting matches' inside, who view its workings as part of the medley of Madras City. Some are surprised. too, to hear that these members doing public service get sumptuous pay and allowances — Rs. 4.450 per month, Rs. 10,000 a year as travelling allowance, a constituency allowance and also a postage allowance, besides Rs. 150 a day when the House is in session -- lacis revealed by Speaker Muthian on the closing day.

presented the interim budget which has an overall deficit of Rs. 680.82 crore. The interim budget for the first six months of next year was in deference to democratic norms.

The House passed the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill to give discretionary powers to magistrates in deciding the quantum for maintenance, the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill to streamline acquisition procedures, the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (Amendment) Bill making Government permission mandatory for establishing a college to be affiliated to the University, the Specified Commodities Markets

All said and done, the Assembly records show that the ruling AiADMK has been successful in setting certain records, and in meeting the merciless mauling from an ever-watchful Opposition, led by Congress (I)'s S.R. Balasubramaniam, the Opposition leader. Credit should go to Chief Manister Jayalahtha for "making legislature history by completing the full five year-term, especially after the Dravidian movement captured power from the Congress'

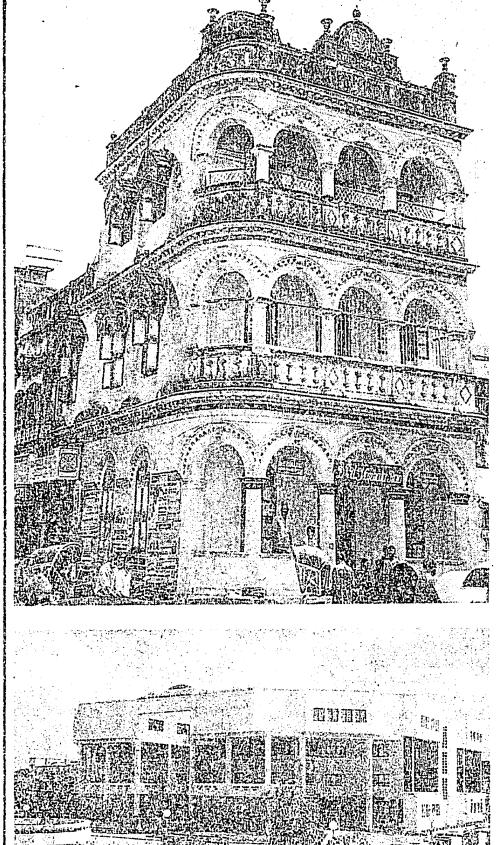
After Finance Minister Nedun-- chezhian suggested, presumably to the entire House, "Let the past be the past", the Speaker thanked the House and said many resolutions were passed unanimously because of the ruling party's tolerance and the deep sense of responsibility displayed by the Opposition. Chief Minister Javalalitha. he said, had created a record among all Tamil Nadu Chief Ministers by speaking for 65 hours and 45 minutes. Figures for the earlier Chief Ministers were: Rajaji (52 h 29 m). K Kamaraj (3 in during 1954 and 1957, and 16 m in 1962-63), M Bhakthavatsalam (44 h 52 m), C N Annadurai (21 h 4 m), M Karunanidhi (13 h 23 m in 1969.71; 62 h 53 m in 1971-76, and 22 h 29 m in 1989-91), and M.G. Ramachandran. (36 h 21 m in 1977-80 and 23 h 54 m in 1980-84).

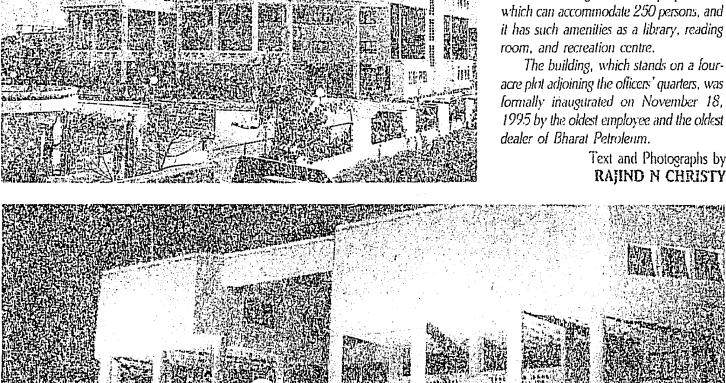
(Regulation of Location) Bill, and also three other amending bills to the Agricultural Income Tax Act.

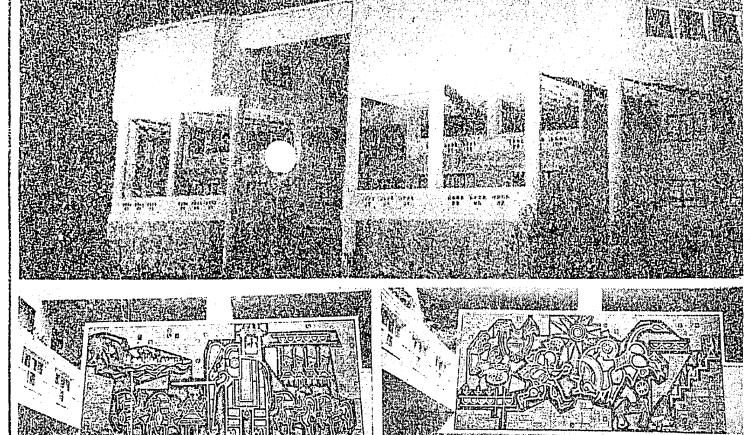
The Government was closely questioned by the Opposition about allegations of irregularities in the sareedhoti free distribution scheme, leading to Rs. 50 crore being unaccounted in the State-owned Tamil Nadu Textiles Corporation. Textiles Minister Indira Kumari heatedly replied that the TNTC had effected payments only through cheques and that too after getting the

Yet another issue that raised furore was the 'cremation shed scandal, following the High Court's directive to the CBI to investigat irregularities in awarding contracts for construction of sheds in the cremation grounds under a special programme. The Speaker ruled that the matter was sub judice and discussions would not be permitted. Since the Opposition insisted on speaking on it, he named and evicted them one after another.

In spite of the fact that the Ruling Party members far outnumber the Opposition, the Opposition proved again and again throughout the tenth assembly that their smaller nurabers was not a disadvantage to them in questioning the Government on its acts of omission and commission.







\$ 40 m profit without investment

Haven't you always wished your bank was A Madras-based company set the ball rolling by initating open on Sundays?
Or before and a joint-venture and three years later its American partner walked away with a \$ 40 m after office hours? killing, raising a hornets' nest in the world of cellular telephones! Announcing even more special reasons to move your Cellular Communication Inter-Savings Bank account to Bank of Madura. national (CCI), a little known USbased cellular operator, made this giant killing without

investing a single dollar, a

company Vice-President told a

leading daily in New York

its claim to participate in a

cellular telephone service venture in New Delhi in

exchange for \$ 40 million and

most of the payments would be

recorded as a gain in the fourth-

He said a unit of CCI waived

towards the end of last year.

Never before Savings Bank benefits!

Open on Sundays.

Banking hours that suit you.

Special counter for Savings Bank account holders. Computerised statements.

Prompt updating of pass books.

(By G Srinivasan)

quarter results. He, however, declined to say who made the payment. That's still unanswered, but this is the background:

Originally, Sterling Cellular, a joint venture between Madrasbased Sterling Computers and CCI, was awarded the licence for Delhi after an acrimonious battle fought for two years in the Delhi High Court.

In another step, telecom giant Swiss Telcom, which had been courted by Sterling and Essar, is buying a 30 per cent stake in the Delhi cellular

Interestingly, Sterling Cellular is now controlled by the Ruias of Essar and is being

marketed under the brandname of Essar Cellphone.

CCI's windfall gain of \$ 40 million came about by relinquishing its claim on the Delhi licence to enable Swiss Telecom to step in. CCI made its huge profit without investing a single dollar.

The proviso that a foreign partner is mandatory for companies bidding for a cellular telephone service is what led to this unintended gain to CCI. A little noticed but obvious fact, however, is that both the original partners have changed, a clear violation of the Supreme Court decision in this regard.

What's going to happen next? (Courtesy: The Telegraph,

... & THE NEW

Poth the OLD and the NEW are striking buildings in their respective localities. Noticeable for its spruceness in a shabby part of George Town is our OLD, an art-deco building that's for decades housed the Dr U Venkata Rao Clinic. Our NEW towers over its neighbours at one end of Anna Nagar, but at night Bharat Petroleum's Southern Regional Headquarters is sheer beauty as imaginative lighting picks it out

from the surrounding darkness. Built 70 years ago in Thambu Chetty Street was the U Venkata Rao Clinic and three generations of doctors have served the neighbourhood from here. Dr Venkata Rao's son Srinivasa Rao succeeded his father andamong those who consulted him were former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi and the late Poet Laureate Kannadasan in the years before they hit the limelight. The clinic is today run by Dr Srinivasa Rao's son Dr Rama Rao. The well-maintained building still has a few stained glass windows left,

THE OLD ...

Built on marshy land at Ranganathan Gardens in Anna Nagar is our NEW, the massive Bharat Petroleum Southern Regional Office. With basement and four floors, this Rs. 13.5 crore building has a built-up area of 120,000 square feet with parking entirely in the basement, hidden from public view It's the building and its beautiful terraced landscaping that attract

In the spacious entrance hall are two metal paintings by Natanam Natarajan which depict the southern festivals.

The building has a multipurpose hall which can accommodate 250 persons, and it has such amenities as a library, reading

acre plot adjoining the officers' quarters, was formally inaugurated on November 18, 1995 by the oldest employee and the oldest

Text and Photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY

What is a biovillage?

Contemporary develop-ment is associated with

- four distressing features: - A widening rich-poor divide in per capita
- Damage to the basic life support systems of land, water, the atmosphere, forests and biodiversity.

growth. - Growing feminisation of

economic

- Jobless

poverty. Such pathways of development are both environmentally destructive and socially disruptive. There is, hence, a search today for an alternative developmental

The M S Swaminathan Research Foundation's (MSSRF) Centre for

Research on Sustainable Agricultural

and Rural Development (CRSARD)

job-led economic growth rooted in the principles of ecology, equity, economic energy efficiency and employment generation.

The Biovillage model of rural development provides one such alternative, as it pays concurrent and integrated attention to natural resource conservalion, productivity improvement and poverty eradication. The model is based on the identification and promotion of market-driven small-scale enterprises, which lend themselves to decentralised production

The Green Revolution's Swaminathan is now

Propagating Diovilages

initiated a trial biovillage programme in

1991 in the villages of Pillayarkuppam.

Kizhur and Sivaranthakam in the

Union Territory of Pondicherry. The

Above, making coir rope in the family's home garden and, below, packing vermicompost

Seen in the biovillages ... (from left to right): An azolla nursery; Earthworms for the

vermicompost heap; Bag's packed with straw sprouting mushrooms; and a model toilet

centralised services. Economic viability is essential for replicability, while environmental soundness and gender equity are essential for ecological and social sustainability, it requires a process of learning by doing, and a close partnership with stakeholders. Thus, the Biovillage Project is cast on a participatory action mode with resource-poor farm families, scientists and financial institutions working and learning together.

M.S. Swaminathan

aim of the experiment was to use

Biotechnology to improve productivity.

profitability, stability and sustainability

in small-scale agricultural and

aquaculture operations and, thus,

empower resource-poor rural families.

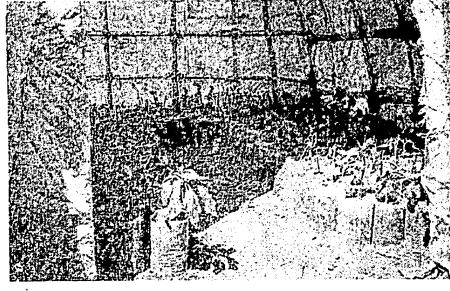
spread to 19 villages in Pondicherry.

representing three biophysical

environments — uplands, lowlands,

rendered under the poverty-alleviation

The biovillage programme has now







From top: A locally designed mist chamber for the plant nursery; An aquaculture pond that does not prevent the washing of clothes in it; and a fodder plot that feeds a family's cattle. (All photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY).

and low wetlands - and socioeconomic situations ranging from landlessness to a significant presence of community fodder plantation, hybrid small and medium farmers. The 19 villages extend over 3680 hectares and vegetable production, group aquaculture, nutrition gardening and. have a population of over 24.000 persons in nearly 5000 households. for landless women, sericulture, commercial vegetable production. The project receives support from integrated aquahorticulture in brick kiln UNDP, from the participants land, broiler production based on local themselves (who offer their labour). leed resources, azolla production as a commercial banks offering working bio-fertiliser, environmental sanitation. capital, the Government of the Union Territory of Ponicherry providing and biogas production. The small farmers involve themselves in jasmine infrastructure and support, and and crossandra (kanakambaram) flower channelised government assistance

and employment-generation pro-Income and employment-gene-

resource-poor have been mushroom a milch cow which was an additional production. group sericulture. source of income. She was made aware of composite fodder usage, which has increased milk production and reduced feeding costs by 50 per cent. The project then helped her to procure two crossbred milch animals with financial assistance from the State Bank of India. She has established a homestead fodder

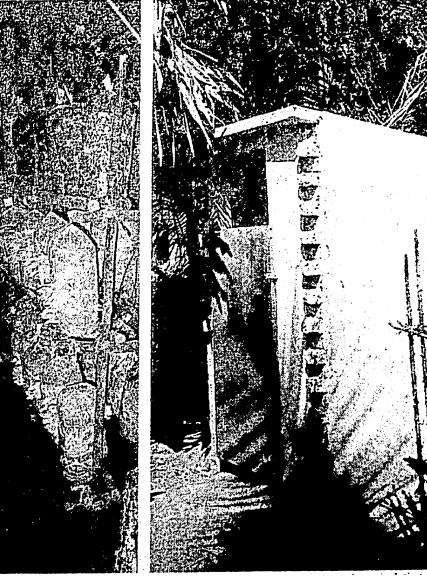
for marginal larmers. In Pillayarkuppam, Rani Nagappan, a landless women who works as an agricultural labourer, had

plot on 0.1 ha. with agathi, and subabul seedlings along the border. She feeds the cows the composite fodder and earns about Rs. 1200-1300 per month from the milk production. She pays back Rs. 400 a month production. There are flower nurseries towards the loan. She uses the dung and urine of the livestock as organic

manure for the fodder plot. There was no common threshing floor in the village. A 689 sq m community threshing floor was made possible by the District Rural Development Agency in 1994, and a 13-member committee now maintains

Ramaswamy, an innovative farmer, who owns a hectare of land, cultivates paddy and sugarcane. He uses azolla, a water fern, which is a weed suppresser and soil conditioner, as an environment-friendly technology to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers. Application of this technology has helped him in yield and profit. Many other farmers have also adopted this technology to improve their agricultural performance.

A vermicentre serves as trainingcum-demonstration centre for the resource-poor and is run by an umemployed youth. The waste from different sources is decomposed with the help of earthworms as vermicompost. The vermicompost is sold to the village larmers and urban gardeners. The centre also trains landless /women to take up





unparallelled to this day in the world

of film music. He composed hundreds

of film songs during his day and many

of them remain immortal melodies.

Two of his film songs which have

become part of Tamil idiom are

'Natakame Ulagam' (The world is a

stage) from Chinthamani (1937) and

'Manmadan Leelai Vendrarundo'

(Who has conquered the stings of

love's arrows?) from Haridas (1944).

Curiously, Papanasam Sivan was

neither from Papanasam nor was he

named Sivan by his parents! He

Haulist - biggest vehicle at Auto Expo

(By A Special Correspondent)

The biggest vehicle at the Auto Expo was sold for Rs. 60 lakh. Exhibited for the first time, it was the Hammar 'Haulift' from Ashok Leyland.

This mobile cargo hauler is the first and only one of its kind in India. The vehicle was manufactured by PL Haulwel Trailers, an Ashok Leyland company in Pondicherry, in tieup with Hammar Maskin AB of Sweden.

The trailer comes equipped with a crane that enables it to haul the cargo up and transport it. The trailer will be manufactured at the Pondicherry plant, while the cranes will be imported from Sweden.

The company is targeting the ports and internal container depots which are crowded with a backlog of cargo. According to company officials, roughly 1.2 billion TEUs are handled through India's major ports. The transport vehicles used at present have no mechanism to lift the cargo onto and

(Quizmaster V.V. RAMANAN's questions are from the period February 16 to 29)

- 1. NASA recently launched a probe, NEAR, which will, in two years time, start orbiting an asteroid Eros which will fly close to Earth in order to learn about the origin of the Universe. Expand
- 2. Name the only non-AIADMK candidate elected to the Rajva Sabha from the State in the elections held on February 19th.
- 3. Name the Coimbatore-based racing car driver who won the prestigious McDowell GP at the annual racing competitions at lrungattukottai recently. 4. A German research institute, which
- discovered Elements 107 to 111. recently discovered No. 112. Name this institute
- 5. Sahib Singh Verma is the new Chief Minister of ...?
- 6. Which cricketer set a world record by becoming the only one to take part in all the World Cups held so far? 7. Who won the prestigious Journalist of
- the Year and the Interview of the Year' award of the Royal Television Society in England? (Clue: The interviewee was a Royal guest)
- 8. Name the leading environmentalist and noted ethnologist, the 'Elephant Man' of India, who passed away recently.
- 9. Who won the inaugural Thanthai Perivar Social Justice Award, 1995. instituted by the State Government? (Clue: Think of Periyar's party).

Leyland looks comfortably on roads while transporting cargo. at giants

off the trailer and the operation takes about 27 minutes per container and requires an average of ten men. The Haulift life completes the operation in three minutes flat!

and minis

Company officials expect the vehicle to be an instant hit with private exporters who often have trouble hiring labour for manual operations in the

The Haulitt can handle up to 33 tonnes at one go and also carry two loads one on top of another. The length of the trailer can be reduced from 40 feet to 20 feet according to the cargo. Also, it can be handled through remote control. The vehicle can be run

The technology has been used in Sweden and Germany for the last ten years. Today, it is in use in over 50

Meanwhile, Ashok Leyland has tied up with Toyota and Daihatsu to manufacture cars to India. The smaller cars, to be made with Toyota, will be modelled on the Maruti 800. The larger cars will be based on the Daihatsu models.

Ashok Leyland has also announced a massive expansion plan. Faced with huge demand-supply gap for its trucks, the Hinduja group has decided to pump in Rs. 2000 crore over the next eight years and raise capacity by 150 per cent. The existing capacity of 35,000 vehicles will be raised to 1.00.000.

In a tieup with the German carrier, Lufthansa, Ashok Leyland has also set up Lufthansa Cargo India Ltd, which will run a cargo airline from Mumbai.

- 18. Name the Cambodian actor who won an Oscar for his role in Killing Fields, the story of the Pol Pot regime, and who was recently found shot dead in
- 19. Which newspaper's editors appeared before the PSI, Madras, in connection with a defamation case filed by the State government for an editorial published in June 1995?
- 20. Madras will see a Rolls Royce (Model: Silver Spur) grace its roads after a long time. Which prominent citizen is the proud owner? (Clue: Famous for owning other classical racers). (Answers on p. 7)

be forgiven for confusing the Bonnet Macague with the rare Lion-Tailed Macaque (page 357), for the Bonnet Macague is one of the two most common monkeys of India, the other being the Rhesus, found in the north.

The Bonnet Macaque can sometimes be seen in the heart of the city. For years there was a very wellfed family of them living in the grounds of Cottingley, home of the U.K. Deputy High Commissioners, and may still be there for all I know. Unfortunately people confuse this nasty sturdy monkey with the very beautiful and gentle Hanuman Langur, origin of the Hindu monkey god, but found only in the North. Servants should be discouraged from feeding local monkeys since, like all macaques, they are dangerous, particularly to children. If monkeys are seen moving about, get your children inside, away from the garden.

Don't worry about venomous snakes: they are about, especially in south Madras where there are still many big compounds and trees, but snakes have been my speciality for many years and I have never known anyone get bitten with the exception of people like myself whose business or vocation it is to handle them. Scorpions are more dangerous. Gardens, sheds, garages and storerooms should be cleaned out regularly to ensure there are none hiding there. There are no such things as the 'anthills' mentioned by Dr. Seshadri, but ermile mounds are common and children should certainly be encouraged

community living below. There may be snakes there, but they will slide deeper if disturbed. None of our snakes are aggressive.

Next to the kamikaze traffic, by far the most dangerous place to be in Madras is the sea. This books warns against swimming or bathing in the sea during the monsoons: I'd go further and advise never at any time swim in the sea off this coast. The currents and the configuration of the sand beneath are chaotic, mobile and vicious. Why take the chance when there are plenty of swimming pools in hotels and clubs And I learned as a cub reporter half a century ago in Wales where I was born that the most common victims of drowning are confident, strong swimmers, not timid novices.

Finally, the map of Madras: recommend that it should be pasted on hardboard and mounted on the walls of studies or other suitable locations. It's the only decent map of the city that's been published for half a century or more, and while it may not be complete or perfect, as S. Muthiah modestly admits, it should be treasured by anyone staying in Madras. Other organisations such as clubs should provide their members with copies of it, mounted in prominent places.

This is a book, then, that I could write pages on, mostly of lavish praise. If you don't have a copy get one and recommend it to all newcomers to our city. With the opening up of the economy we may expect an unprecedented influx of Europeans, Americans and Japanese. Every new expat family should be primed with a copy of this excellent book as soon as they step off the plane at Meenambakkkam:

Films made him the 'Thamizh Thyagaiah'

legendary personality who introduced the world of classical Carnatic music into Tamil cinema, this maestro of music's contribution to both worlds was phenomenal. If film music is today part and parcel of the life of the average Tamilian, some part of the credit should go to this great savant. But he has also been hailed, quite rightly, as the 'Thamizh Thyagaiah', which ranks him almost up there with the Carnatic Musical Trinity. Such was the musical genius of Papanasam Sivan. the leading composer of his day.

From the early 1930s to the mid-50's he was the uncrowned king



Papanasam Sivan who brought the classical to the silver screen (Picture from the RAGAMI Collection)

of Tamil film music by a long stretch. His speciality was that he wrote the lyrics of the song and, immediately thereafter, sang its tune, something

belonged to an orthodox Saivite Brahmin family from a village, Polagam, in Thanjavur District, and his parents named him 'Ramaiah'. By a strange guirk of fate. Polagam Ramaiah became Papanasam Sivan. Thereby hangs a tale... When his family suddenly found

itself in dire straits, he decided to leave home. He was just a boy. Being of a deeply religious bent of mind from childhood, a troubled Ramaiah lest home in search of inner peace and truth, something unusual for a lad of his age. He had an instinct for music and on reaching Trivandrum he sought

They made OUR Madras A walk down Memory Lane with RANDOR GUY

Neelakanta Siva, the great music composer of the time. Later, when he began to compose music on his own, he called himseif 'Sivan', after his guru.

After the death of Neelakanta Siva. 'Sivan' wandered far in search of peace and the inner truth, visiting temples and pilgrim centres. Wherever he prayed. he composed sones in praise of the Lord in His various forms. His peregrinations led him to a small town near Kumbakonam, Papanasam, where he settled down, singing, rendering harikatha kalakshepams and also taking part in amateur theatre. His singing of bhaians soon brought him recognition and he came to be known as Papanasam Sivan!

By now he was married and had a family. The need to keep the home fires burning brought him to Mylapore, then as now a hive of cultural activity. Here, Papanasam Sivan developed a friendship with a popular Mylapore lawyer living in Nadu Street, V Sundaram Iyer. A patron of the fine arts, especially Carnatic music, Sundaram lyer took Sivan under his wing and engaged him to teach his children, S Rajam (later a leading Carnatic musician, a painter of repute and a star of early Tamil cinema), and lavalakshmi.

The lawyer's third child, a six-yearold son, was already showing signs of (Continued on P8)

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Near Earth Asteroid Rendevouz.; 2. P. Alphonse of the Cong. (1); 3. J. Anand; 4. Society for Heavy Ion Research in Damstradt, Germany: 5. Delhi; 6. Javed Miandad of Pakistan; 7. Martin Bashir, for his candid tete-a-tete with Princess Diana on BBC; 8. M. Krishnan; 9. K. Veeramani of the Dravida Kazhagam; 10. They were the sons-in-law of Saddam Hussein who

defected last year, returned to Iraq and were; executed; 11. Sense and Sensibility; 12. Hamas; 13. Canada; 14. The enamel on the teeth of rats 15. Sanjay Marijrekar; 16. J.S. Verma. They are the three-judge Bench examining the hawala case; 17. Shringar Gauri in the disputed Viswanath Temple-Gyanpavi Mosque in Varanasi: 18. Haing Nor: 19. The Statesman; 20. M.A.M. Ramaswamy.

Dates for Your Diary

March: 'Artist of the Month': Birroy Varghese of Kerala.

March 7-12: 'Nedunaal Uravu with Schindler', a six-day festival of theatre, dance and film in honour of Klaus Schindler, head of Max Mueller Bhavan, who leaves India shortly. (7.00 pm daily - except March 10th when it will be 6.00 pm — at Max Mueller Bhavan). March 7: Premiere of Mapa Theatre, Bogota, Colombia's and Purisai Duraiswamy Kannappa Thambiran Paramparai Theru-k-Koothu Mandram's collaborative production in theru-kkoothu of Gabriel Garcia Marques' short story A Very Old Man with Huge Wings. (This production is to be presented with the support of the ICCR at the 5th International Bosota Theatre Festival in March/April 1996.)

March 8: Rang Vidushak, Bhopal (Hindi clown theatre group) presents Neeti Mana Keekaran Kir,a Hindi play based on Kuo Pao Kun's (Chinese playwright from Singapore) The Coffin is too Big for

March 9: Rang Vidushak, Bhopal: Six short plays directed by their actors. March 10: Tai Cei, a street play by Koothu-p-pattarai, designed and developed for the population project of the Corporation of Madras. Script & Direction: N Muthuswamy

Solo performance (contemporary theatre) by Kalai Rani of Koothu-p-pattarai.

Language of War, video film by R V Ramani. Based on the bilingual play Gita - An Imagery, a collaborative production of Koothu-p-pattarai and Kalakshetra Manipur. March 11: Dance theatre by

Arangham Trust: Floor Play, conceived and directed by Anita Ratnam. March 12: Valga Maniviyam

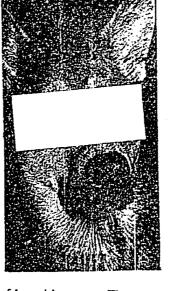
Kudumba Thalaivi, a street play by Koothu-p-pattarai, designed and created for Arivoli lyyakkam under the National Literacy Mission for propagating in slums the importance of functional literacy. Direction: Kumaravel. Aranya Kiran, Untitled, Anguish and

Knots, four contemporary dance theatre performances by Tripura Kasyap and Meenal Choudary March 11: Lecture on 'Role of

Commonwealth and Music for Peace and Integration' by Dr S A K Durga followed by 'Musical Encounter' by Abhinav Ensemble featuring Anil Srinivasan (Piano), Karthik Srinivasan (Flute), and Dr S A K Durga (Melody-voice) with accompaniment on the Tabla. To celebrate Commonwealth Day.

Dr. S A K Durga is a well-known ethnomusicologist and performer of Indian classical music. She is the founder and Director of the Centre for Ethnomusicology in Madras. (British Council, 7 pm)

March 12: Post Beijing Workshop on Information Sharing: A one-day workshop for NGOs working in Gender and Development. The workshop aims



One of Loesch's posters: This one is titled 'Sign of the Times 1987'

to strengthen the communication and information network among NGOs. (At British Council). March 20 and 21: The Three Sisters by

Anton Chekov (Translated by Stephen Muliner). Performed by 'Out of Joint', a British theatre company established in 1993, by Artistic Director Max Stafford Clark to enable new and classic plays to be produced under the best possible conditions. 'Out of Joint's' production of The Three Sisters has just completed a very successful tour of UK.

"Max Stafford-Clark's immensely sensitive direction balances tragedy and a painful comedy with unerring skill, said the Sunday Times, London. (2 pm and 7 pm at the Rani Seethai Hall Admission by tickets available from March 11, at the British Council. Sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.)

March 20 — 30: 'The Place, the Time and the Point' - Poster Exhibition by Uwe Loesch in cooperation with Lalit Kala Akademi, Madras. (11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.)

Uwe Loesch is one of Germany's most independent radical poster designers of our time. He stages a "picture in the mind". In the late 70's, Uwe Loesch was suddenly discovered as a poster designer and in no time had received nearly all the significant awards and prizes of the international poster biennials.

March 27: Dance performance by Pretty Ugly Dancecompany of Frankfurt Germany, directed by Amanda Miller Programme: The Previous Evening, 21 mins; Meidosems, 22 mins; and Pretty Ugly, 25 mins.

Since its founding in 1993, Pretty Ugly Dancecompany had generated extraordinary curiosity and praise in the international dance world. Its repertoire is composed of both the new and existing celebrated works of Amanda Miller. She has created more than twenty dances as a freelance choreographer, during her eight years as dancer and resident choreographer with William Forsythe's Frankfurt Ballet, and for PUDC. (MMB in cooperation with Indian Council for Cultural Relations, 6.30 p.m. at Kamaraj

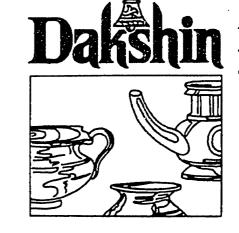
A restaurant that magnifies the elegance of understated opulence. Where the lavish cuisine of the North West Frontier, spreads itself on your table with service that's unobtrusive.



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风⑤

From Blueprints to landmarks

Ramanan 10. Why were Hussein Karnal Hassan and Saddam Kamal Hussein in the news? 11. Which film won the coveted Golden Bear at the Berlin Film festival? (Clue: Think 'sensibly') 12. Name the militant group which was responsible for a series of bomb attacks

- in Jerusalem recently. 13. Which country alleged that India and Malaysia 'fixed' their Olympic hockey qualifying match so that the accuser
- 14. An Indian professor of Biophysics a Harvard, V. Renugopalkrishnan, and his team have claimed a protein Amelogenin, can be used to mak computer chips that are 1000 times faster than the super chips of today From where is the protein derived
- (Clue: Click a mouse!!). 15. An audio album, 'Restday', release recently has the favourite Hindi track of the Indian cricket team. The songs have been rendered by a member o
- the team. Who? 16. Complete the troika, S.P. Bharucha S.C. Sen and
- 17. Where did VHP's much hyped 'jalabhishek' fail to materialise because of heavy security?



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to look inside them and study the wonder of the way these tiny insects arrange the air conditioning for their

Propagating biovillages

vermicomposting as an incomegenerating activity. The centre also provides information to the villagers on various integrated resource recycling models involving rabbitry, heifer rearing, apiculture, green manuring and biofertilisers.

To market vegetables produced in the village, a Vegetable Growers' Association has been formed. An understanding with the Pondicherry Agro Food Products and Civil Supplies Corporation (PAPSCO) for the production and marketing of vegetables has been made. Under this arrangement, the growers produce the kind of vegetables which could be marketed. And PAPSCO has opened a collection centre in the village for

A biocentre is proposed to be set up in Pillayarkuppam to provide centralised services for the decentralised production. The centre will be the focal point of technology-generation, training schemes and information dissemination. It will also offer facilities like spawn production, vegetable seed production, soil health laboratory, veterinary services and biocontrol lab. The biocentre will be managed and run by the biovillage society, an organisation to be formed by the participants engaged in various biovillage activities.

In **Kizhur**, landless women were given an insight into mushroom production by taking them to the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. After a training stint there, they are growing mushrooms in huts $2.5m \times 1.5m \times$ 2.0m as well as transferring their knowledge to other groups. Each hut

is built with locally available coconut fronds, palmyra leaves and dried sugarcane leaves and has in it a threetier rack made of casuarina poles. The vield is marketed Iresh as well as dried. This venture has enabled each participant to earn an additional Rs. 120-150 a month.

A Mushroom Growers' Association has been formed. The Association helps in distributing the spawn and marketing. Fresh mushrooms are marketed by the Pondicherry Agro Services and Industries Corporation (PASIC). A spawn lab for spawn production has been established and landless educated and uneducated unemployed youth are being trained in spawn production.

A 0.5 ha. pond has been taken on lease, cleaned and desilted. The pond was prepared by clearing predators and fertilising it with cow dung to encourage plankton growth. An aquaculture estate was formed, nine landless women undertaking to manage the pond and become fish farmers. They were trained in intensive carp culture and prawn culture. Catla, Rohu, Grass Carp, Common Carp, Silver Carp, and Mrigal are reared in the pond. The pond is also used for washing clothes and the detergent used makes the fish diseaseresistant, says the project assistant.

Only 3-6 hours work a day is needed at the pond and the participants spend the rest of their time in agriculture. The pond harvest earnings are equally divided among the nine participants and a tenth share is given to the temple. Income has been encouraging and loans are being paid

In Sivaranthakam, assetless women were trained in coir ropemaking by the District Industries Centre for six months. Tamaravalli and her family are involved in this. Apart from this, they rear goats and grow jasmine flowers for additional income. This provides the family with multiple sources of income.

lasmine and crossandra flowers,

which are in great demand in the market, are grown by several villagers here. The participants are trained in propagation in a locally designed mist chamber. To improve household nutrition, kitchen gardens have been encouraged in the backyards of houses and vegetables like brinjal, chilli, tomato and radish, and trees like lime, pomegranate and curry leaves have been planted. Training is given to participants in developing and maintaining kitchen gardens.

Simple model toilets for houses have been constructed, with consultancy from Sulabh International. These toilets has been built by the houses of several of the resource-poor in different parts of the village. Now, every household wants this facility. The ultimate mission of the

biovillage project is to improve the quality of human life through providing the resource-poor with technical support. Villagers with an additional income and villages with employment opportunities for their youth will certainly help the economic growth of all the villages.

- Rajind N Christy

Trends and refinements

At the start of the Wills World Cup, I had expressed the hope that it might be dominated by bowlers rather more than its predecessors. My hope has not exactly been fulfilled. The bat has so far maintained its sway over the ball and there have been some devastating innings of power and productivity.

The one encouraging aspect of the tournament from a bowling point of view has been the influence the spinners have exerted on the matches. Of the leg spinners, the ever-smiling Paul Strang of Zimbabwe has emerged as an exciting prospect with ability to turn the ball and bowl a very impressive googly. What is more. Strang has shown a refreshing willingness to toss the ball up, unafraid of being hit for a few, as happened at Kandy when the Sri Lankans went on a rampage. He came back from that mauling well enough to trouble opposing batsmen in the remaining matches.

Leg spin, in fact, has been prominent throughout this tournament India, Pakistan and Australia have used it as their trump card. Anil Kumble has come a close second to Strang at the end of the league stage in the number of wickets taken, while Mushtag has won at least two matches for Pakistan off the back of his hand. Even after South Africa and the English openers had shattered his bowling analysis, the Pakistani managed to bounce back with match-winning spells.

Kumble has been accurate on the whole except when Mark Taylor and Mark Waugh gave him stick. He has learnt to mix them up a bit, more than he used to in days past, and that has made him a harder nut to crack.

Increasingly, the leggies are coming on fairly early in the innings, sometimes in the first 15 overs. Shane Warne, though not exactly among the wickets, has commanded the greatest respect from every batsman, with his control and variety.

The increased use of spin for strategic advantage has not stopped with leg spin in this World Cup. Venkatapathy Raju has led the left arm spin brigade, in spite of being in and out of the team. He has succeeded in arresting the run rate as well as obtaining breakthroughs almost at will. as he did against the marauding Australians. Both Richard Illingworth and Aamir Sohail have proved economical (till the quarter-finals) and both have picked up a few wickets for England and Pakistan respectively. Asif Karim of Kenya returned some splendid figures and generally bowled in a beautiful arc that did him and Kenya proud. Among the off spinners, Aashish Kapoor did not disgrace himself on the solitary occasion he was tried, while Mark Waugh twice provided vital openings to win matches for his side.

With Manoj Prabhakar resorting to off spin, Sachin Tendulkar doing a more than useful job in that style and now Phil Defreitas switching to off breaks in the quarter final against Sri Lanka, there is a sudden explosion in readymade off spinners. The great Jim Laker must indeed be turning in his grave at this slight to his art, but this is a trend brought on by the flat nature of pitches in the subcontinent and the massacre of the quickies on them. In addition, almost every fast bowler of any merit has now added to his repertoire an off break as a slower ball.

Of course, another popular ploy in the tournament is now almost standard practice with many teams. Sri Lanka leads the way with two pinch hitters opening the innings. Sanath Jayasuriya and Romesh Kaluwitharana have blazed a trail of attacking batsmanship in this tournament which, for sheer audacity and entertainment, value can have few parallels in recent cricket history. Sachin Tendulkar has played so many electrifying innings at the top of the order that a more conventional approach by the Indians has now become virtually unthinkable.

The South Africans have been the most flexible in terms of strategy, and they have not hesitated to replace their 'agriculturist' opener Palframan with the more orthodox Andrew Hudson, who too has scored rapidly but in a more refined manner. They have studied their opponents very closely and adapted their game plan to suit each individual opposition team. Against Pakistan, for instance, they swept their way systematically to success, but adopted more orthodox tactics in other

World Cup Special by V Ramnarayan

encounters. They have kept Paul Adams largely a secret, perhaps the best kept one of this contest. By the time you read this, the value or otherwise of this particular tactic would have been there for all to see. If memory serves me right, no bowler of 'chinamen' and

left arm googlies has figured in a World Cup match before Paul Adams, proof in itself that the mega event has come a long way from its exciting but relatively unsophisticated beginnings in 1975.

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- T' Nagar, Madras-600 017 6. Name and address of individuals who: 1. Mr C O Verghese 20, East Abhiramapuram, III Street

Madras-600 004

2. Mr V Abraham Kurien 110 Velacherry Road, Madras-600 032

62/63 Greames Road, Madras-600 006

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- 3. Mrs Gracy Verghese 20, East Abhiramapuram, III Street Madras-600 004
- 4. Mrs Ammukutty George 3930 Anna Nagar, Madras-600 040
- 5. Mrs Mary Punnose ·
- 110 Velacherry Road, Madras-600 032
- 6. Ms. Susan Venglet 110 Velacherry Road, Madras-600 032
- I, Anu Verghese, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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The Thamizh Thyagaiah

(Continued from P7)

musical genius, learning music by sheer mental osmosis. He made a mark in later years as a successful film-maker, actor and, above all, as an internationally known veena maestro. His name? S Balachandar.

One line morning in 1933, a letter from Kolhapur arrived at the office of a struggling fine arts magazine in Madras, Sound and Shadow. It was from a famed Marathi and Hindi film production company, Prabhat, and sought help in making a Tamil film. later to be titled Sita Kalyanam. The magazine (today a collector's item) was being run by a creative trio, Muthuswami lyer, K Ramnoth and A K Sekhar, under the patronage of a Mylapore art lover, G K Seshagiri. Seshagiri approached Sundaram Iyer with the letter and, soon, a creative team, mostly of amateur actors, the lawyer's family, and the Sound and Shadow crew took train to Miraj en route to Kolhapur. Also travelling with them was Papanasam Sivan as the music composer. He was a total stranger to the world of cinema and it was a journey into the 'unknown'.

Sita Kalyanam, with Rajam as Rama, Jayalakshmi as Sita. Seshagiri as Ravana and with music composed by Papanasam Sivan, turned out to be a runaway success. (Interestingly, many took objection to Rajam and his sister playing husband and wife on screen! Such was the prudish state of society at the time!)

The songs composed by Papanasam Sivan proved popular. A

stranger to the new medium of cinema (movies began to talk and sing in Tamil in 1931 in H.M. Reddi's Kalidas), he had no idea about film music. But with his native genius he took the wellknown compositions of Thyagaraja and Purandaradasa and used them. substituting the original Telugu and Kannada words with Tamil. The flavour of classical Carnatic music in its pristine form entered film music, thanks to Papanasam Sivan, and it found widespread acceptance with the moviegoers of the era.

Back in Papanasam, Sivan had known another creative person, a lawyer by profession. He too joined the rnovie world to develop his talents and skills. He was Krishnaswami Subramaniam. One of the pioneers of Indian cinema, he gave up the legal profession and began working in silent films, learning the craft under one of the masters of the medium, Raja Sandow. When K Subramaniam got his break as a film-maker with Pavalakodi (1934), his automatic choice to compose music was his old friend Papanasam Sivan.

Pavalakodi, a box-office hit, had as many as tifty songs, a fact proudly advertised. Many of the songs were rendered by M K Thyagaraja Bhagavathar and S D Subbulakshmi, both making their debut in movies.

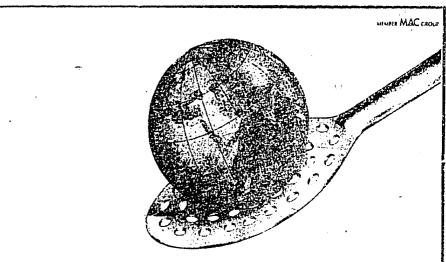
Papanasam Sivan found a kindred soul in Thyagaraja Bhagavathar, whose honey-dew voice made Papanasam Sivan's compositions an ethereal ecstasy. The Papanasam Sivan-Thyagaraja Bhagavathar duo became a permanent attraction in Tamil Cinema.

Bhagavathar went on to become a living legend, with super hits like Chinthamani (1937) and Ambikapathi (1937). One of the major reasons for the incredible success of the two films in a single year was Papanasam Sivan's soul-stirring music. Bhagavathar revered Papanasam Sivan and addressed him reverentially as 'Ayyah'. He would insist that his producers engage Papanasam Sivan first, with the first advance payment, and only then come to him to sign on the dotted line.

Despite entering the film world, Papanasam Sivan continued to compose kirthanas in classical Carnatic music, employing a wide variety of ragas. All of them were sung by votaries of Carnatic music, big and small, all over the land and even beyond. As a tribute to his musical genius and his contribution to classical music, especially to Thamizh Isai, he was hailed as 'Thamizh Thyagaiah'.

Ascetically lean, with an everhungry look, Papanasam Sivam seemed an ideal choice for Kuchela. the poor childhood companion of Lord Krishna. No wonder he was the automatic choice to play Kuchela on screen and he played the role in two fine Tamil films, Bhaktha Kuchela and Kubera Kuchela.

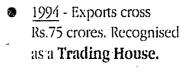
In memory of his greatness, a street has been named after him -Papanasamı Sivan Street — in San Thomé, near which lived many a film star of his day.



It's a small world... and we at MAC Industries. realise it too often.

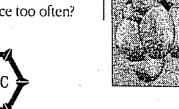


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