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MUSINGS

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FREE ISSUE

May 16 — 31, 1996

23 years after the muster roll scandal, may we hope for...

An elected Corporation?

(By A Special Correspondent)

With a new government in Fort St George, will it ensure civic government throughout the state once again? If it does not, a blot will continue on the fair name of the city and state which pioneered municipal government in India. Do the citizens of Madras deserve that blot which has been due to no fault of their own? Do the citizens of the state deserve to be deprived of their local vote because no government has wanted to hold elections to the Madras Corporation?

The genesis of this sad state of affairs has been in what is called the 'muster roll' scandal.

With the Supreme Court upholding the jail term of one to four years awarded to 71 persons in that infamous scandal, the curtain has been rung down on the sordid case that rocked the Corporation of Madras in the early 1970s.

The Corporation council was dissolved in 1973 following the outbreak of the Rs. 1.26 crore scandal. The then mayor, councillors and some corporation officials had prepared bogus muster rolls of casual labourers and siphoned off the money. A fallout of this unsavoury case was that no election could be held to this civic body for the past 23 years and the democratic functioning of the corporation came to an end. The administration of the corporation went into the hands of a Special Officer appointed by the government, usually for a three-year term.

In the past two decades, no election has been held for the Madras Corporation, thereby depriving the people of the metropolis of an effective forum to represent their grievances. No party that has ruled the state has been confident enough to hold elections to this civic body.

The reasons trotted out by successive governments for postponement of corporation elections have been ingenious. They include:

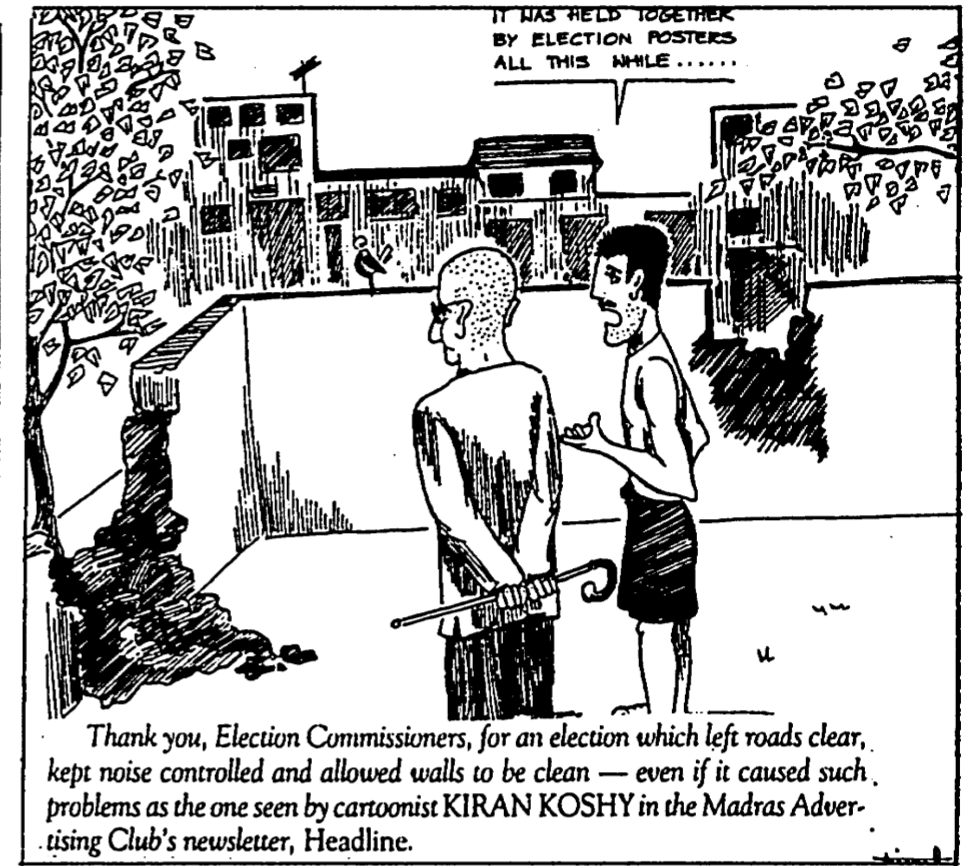
Printing of electoral rolls could not be completed owing to power cut; delimitation of wards needed to be done; printing of ballot papers with counterfoils; water shortage in the City; numbering of new houses constructed by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board; Lok Sabha elections; preparation of new electoral rolls; census; reservation of 30 per cent seats for SC/ST members; fresh enumeration; reduction of voting age from 21 to 18 years and need for photo identity cards.

Will Tamil Nadu's new government look at this issue any differently and hold local

elections soon? Or will civic bodies and those they represent have to continue waiting for Government largesse?



And so the axeman is busy again. This time he's chopping full-grown trees that had made a jungle of a private property in the upmarket residential area of Chittaranjan Road. The 56-ground plot being cleared belongs to Best & Crompton and was once earmarked for executives' homes. After the recent furore at Best & Crompton's AGM, where Chairman Vijay Mallayya faced a rough time, Madras Musings wonders whether this is further 'stripping' of the company's assets by selling off the property or are Best's going to develop the property? Whatever the reason for the axemen, was there any need to clear ALL the trees? Couldn't those by the encircling walls have been left as shade trees? Clearing 'wild growth' is one thing, giving shade trees a chance is another. (Photograph by V S RAGHAVAN)



Thank you, Election Commissioners, for an election which left roads clear, kept noise controlled and allowed walls to be clean — even if it caused such problems as the one seen by cartoonist KIRAN KOSHY in the Madras Advertising Club's newsletter, Headline.

A Madras spoke in union merger

(By A Staff Reporter)

In what may perhaps be the 'mother of all mergers' the socialist-supported Hindustan Mazdoor Sabha (HMS) and the CPI-backed All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), both national trade unions, have decided to unite with the objective of achieving a 'one-industry, one-union' norm in India. What is more, the new organisation, when it comes into being, will have no connections with political parties, governments or employers. And that will undoubtedly be a turning point in the history of trade unionism in the country.

The great merger is likely to begin in July 1996, exactly 50 years after the AITUC had split when Congress had with-

drawn its unions from the pre-eminent labour wing during the Freedom Struggle. Progress towards a happy merger may, however, be far from smooth if reactions of the branches of the two trade unions in Madras are anything to go by.

The Madras Harbour Employees Union (MHEU), an HMS affiliate, and the Madras Port Trust Railway Men's Union (MRTRMU), part of AITUC, are dead against the merger taking place. A lot of it has to do with the intense rivalry between the two Madras unions. According to the MHEU President, such a merger is "unimaginable". The MRTRMU appears slightly less bellicose, with a part of the leadership conceding that the rival factions could come to-

gether in course of time. That the MHEU may not mind defying its parent organisation only goes to show how bitter its rivalry is with the MRTRMU.

The idea of the different trade unions coming together was first mooted by the CPM-affiliated Centre for Trade Union Congress (CITU). However, the AITUC was opposed to the CITU's suggestions of forming a confederation of trade unions — after all, according to AITUC, the goal was to end up with one trade union. Later, at a joint meeting of the Working Committees of the AITUC and the HMS, a time-bound programme for a merger was finalised. The CITU is yet to relent on its stand.

Both the AITUC and the HMS claim membership of

more than three million each. Their merger, however, may draw three million more members — from bank, insurance, textiles, railways, airlines, transport and several other employee federations, making the new union the biggest in Asia. In fact, the AITUC has already requested the federations to be part of the 'new movement'. The merged union may introduce an open ballot system in union elections, providing an incentive to members of other unions to unite.

The difference in Madras may be sorted out by the to-be-appointed State Committee, which will have to work out the modalities to bring the MHEU and MRTRMU closer. The question is, what happens if the State Committee is unsuccessful?

The Case of the Missing Coal

Verily this is a case for Perry Mason, *The Man From Madras Musings* thinks, especially as it is already in court. Indeed it is a mystery worth recounting — and MMM eagerly awaits the resolution.

The case started with the import of coal from Indonesia to feed Madras's power stations. That the coal was substandard and that V Sundaram, I.A.S., condemned it and paid the price for his views, MMM and most readers know. But what is new to MMM is what is being now described as 'The Case of the Missing Coal'. That case is now in the Madras High Court — and that is the case MMM finds fascinating.

The story goes like this. When the first lot of coal imported from Indonesia by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board arrived in September 1993, all 18,304 tonnes of it was rejected on quality grounds as far as the matter had gone as far as the Madras High Court. That's when an Andhra Pradesh firm, Himani Exports, agreed to take the coal off the TNEB's hands and supply it to the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board. On March 27, 1995, Himani's paid Rs 1.43 crore to the TNEB by demand draft and were told they could take the 18,304 tonnes of coal, whenever they wanted, from the dockyard.

To Himani's shock, when they went for collection on March 30th, all they found available was 6180 tonnes of the promised coal! Several panicky telephone calls later, they were promised the rest of the coal "shortly". And so they shifted what was available to the Nellore Thermal Station. On June 21st, they took delivery of a further 3364 tonnes. And that was it! All further enquiries were met with the answer by the TNEB that the rest had disappeared "due to spontaneous combustion, wind, rain etc. as the coal was stored in an open stockyard".

The Guntur-based firm has now requested the Madras High Court to order the PWD and Power Ministers of Tamil Nadu, the PWD Secretary, the TNEB Chairman and the TNEB Chief Engineer responsible for coal to supply the 8760 tonnes of coal still due to Himani or pay up Rs 2.28 crore inclusive of interest.

While the Court's verdict is awaited, MMM is fascinated by the thought that even a Perry Mason appearing for the defence would be unlikely to answer the question of how 8760 tonnes of coal could vanish in THREE days — and for such reasons! But then let's wait to hear from the courts. Maybe we will find out how!

Democracy alive

The Man From Madras Musings' attitude to politics over the years has been "a pox on both your houses". And he's never been able to find a third house since holding hands with the Trotskyites. Which is one reason he has never taken much interest in politics since the Fifties. But that doesn't mean he hasn't taken an interest in democracy. And MMM is delighted to find democracy is alive, well and kicking in India.

It was the well-known American columnist William Safire who recently wrote, condemning American indifference to the Indian elections, that, "This week, with dignity, honest balloting and

SHORTLY 'N' SINAPIPIY

relatively little violence, 400 million of India's citizens, 65 per cent of eligible voters, higher than in the U.S., go to the polls to select candidates from 500 political parties. It is the most breathtaking example of government by the people in the history of the world...Whoever wins, it's a glorious week for the world's largest democracy".

And in that glorious week, the world's largest democracy has once again demonstrated people's power. The National Press tend to think that power has been demonstrated against corruption. *The Man From Madras Musings* is inclined to think that power has demonstrated that it is a vote against non-performance, more than anything else a vote by the have-nots against those in power who have ignored them these past five years. It has been a vote against arrogance. And that, perhaps most significantly of all, shows that grassroots democracy is alive and well in India — and particularly in Tamil Nadu. May new governments coming in be warned; five years from now they will have to face the same angry voters if they do not perform as a responsible government with greater respect for minions and masses alike.

The search begins

The search has begun* for a new Vice Chancellor for Anna University and *The Man From Madras Musings* only hopes that the person selected will be of a calibre to follow in the footsteps of Doctors V C Kulandaiswamy and M Anandakrishnan. Over the last ten years and more, those two eminent educationists brought back discipline to the campus and made Anna University live once more up to the name Guindy Engineering, the oldest engineering college east of Suez, had blazed in the pre-Independence and immediate post-Independence years.

During the past decade or so, as Anna University reached out for new emi-

nence, *The Man From Madras Musings* has watched with pleasure old courses being strengthened and new ones not only introduced but also made outstanding by several innovations that have reached out for public support. Biotechnology and Ceramics have received huge endowments from two of the City's largest industrial groups and are now run virtually by these business organisations. The students benefit from the latest equipment the labs are able to procure and from the constant interaction with industry. In turn, industry has a readymade talent pool for it as those they've helped train graduate.

The Institute of Remote Sensing and the Institute of Oceanology are doing enor-

mous work for the State Government and both have benefited through their constant interaction with the National Institutes, which are among the best in the world. Another pioneering course is the post-graduate diploma in Forensic Engineering that leading Forensic Scientist D K Chandrasekaran helped start in his retirement. The course is offered in only four other countries today — and the Anna University course is the only one in Asia. Pinpointing those at fault in engineering disasters is what this forensic quest is all about.

Then there's the pioneering degree course in Printing Technology. When Anna University was the first university to start the course in India about ten years ago, many in the Indian printing industry wondered where the graduates were going to find jobs. Today, the graduates are working from Hong Kong to West Asia and moving on to points West, even if India still doesn't find enough room for them.

Indeed, over the last decade, *The Man From Madras Musings* has watched as Kulandaiswamy and Anandakrishna wrought a miracle in Guindy — and on the one campus in Chromepet. They brought Anna University back into the lists as a strong challenger of the IITs for engineering academic excellence. MMM hopes the next incumbent will lead on from where they left off.

*MMM's NOTE: These lines were written a week before it was announced that R.M. Vasagam, a scientist from the Space Department, would be Anna University's next Vice-Chancellor. MMM wishes 'lim well and hopes he'll ensure what his two predecessors built on will be further strengthened.

In brief

★ And so there's another Madras-born getting into big-time politics in the US, *The Man From Madras Musings*

hears. It's a she this time, Nimi McConigley of Wyoming, and she is hoping to be elected to the U.S. Senate. If she succeeds, this first-term member of the Wyoming State House of Representatives will be the first person of Indian descent to be elected to the Senate; a Congressman of Indian descent was Dalip Singh Saund in the 1950s. Nimi, who studied in the Columbia School of Journalism, is 55 years old and is stated to have studied at Queen Mary's College. MMM will welcome more news about her from Old Queen Marians who might remember her in the late Fifties and thereafter.

★ Many a Madras and South Indian basketballer of the Sixties is sure to remember tall, bulky, awkward-moving Lt. Rohan Daluwatte who would have played against them in many a tournament on both sides of the Palk Strait, representing the Ceylon Army, Western Province and Sri Lanka, *The Man From Madras Musings* would think. That Lieutenant is now a Lieutenant-General and commander of the Sri Lankan Army, after his successful conduct of the northern operations. Daluwatte came into basketball because the Ceylon Armoured Corps, comparatively new at the time, had a Commanding Officer, Col Fernando — short, tubby, schoolmaster-looking and anything but military but very politically literate — who decided to start a basketball team as the Corps had little space for any other sport. And many a Madras basketballer should remember how well that team did, especially with Daluwatte's favourite Sergeant, Amarasena, fast mover and brilliant shooter.

Business briefs

★ Munich-based BMW, *The Man From Madras Musings* knows, has been looking at Madras for their Indian operations. Now, MMM hears, BMW have taken over the British Rover Company and are planning to build the company's Land Rover range — Discovery, Defender and Range Rover — in India for the Indian and Asian markets. BMW have been talking to Hero about its cars and no doubt will now talk about Land Rovers. But that should not prevent BMW looking at Madras as the best site, MMM suggests.

★ NEPC-Micon, the country's wind energy major, is hoping to set up a wind power operation in Sri Lanka, *The Man From Madras Musings* hears. Stage I will be for 1.2 MW and Stage II will be a 10 MW unit, MMM understands. And the location for these projects is expected to be Sri Lanka's backward Southern Province, near the salt pans of Hambantota and Bundala.

MMM

The missing mosquito

Everyone tells me that malaria is on the increase in Madras. Far be it from me to question the deliberations and judgements of the Mighty, but if malaria is on the increase why do I NEVER see a malaria mosquito? As everyone knows, malaria is spread by a genus of mosquitoes called the *Anopheles*, and everyone knows equally well — or so I should have thought — the *Anopheles* mosquito adopts a certain distinguishing posture when at rest: on a plane surface it invariably rests at an angle of 45 degrees (head down, bottom up, see illustration). Other mosquitoes when at rest are at the same plane as the surface they are on.

I have always described myself as an armchair naturalist. Not for me the hours of patient, silent, uncomfortable hours of waiting in a treetop *machan* for the colossal rogue elephant to emerge from dense undergrowth, or the tiger to leap on the unfortunate little buffalo tethered pitifully below. I like my wildlife to come to me, and — tigers and elephants excepted — have never found them in short

supply during the years I have lived in Madras. Well, yes, there was one exception: the first commission I ever received from the *National Geographic Magazine* concerned elephants in the former Mysore, on the river Kabini, now sadly flooded by the Kabini Dam. I often wonder what happened to those lovely wandering herds of elephants who occupied that now flooded, densely forested terrain.

One Man's Madras — HARRY MILLER'S

But apart from that, my activities, though not my interests, in animals have been confined to the less massive species, mammals like mongoose, civets, jungle cats (which are quite different from the common domestic cat); reptiles like snakes, lizards, turtles; and, of course, the ever-present insects — Mankind's only serious con-

tender for the dominance of life on this planet.

And so since I don't have to look for insects, they all too frequently come looking for me, and among them are those blood-thirsty mosquitoes (only the females, by the way: male mosquitoes eat nothing, some species don't even have mouth-parts, and exist merely to mate and die). So I find myself as attractive to the distasteful side of the mosquito family as the next person. And as often as possible, before the pestilent creatures bite, I take a close look.

That's easy enough if you find them at rest during the day on, say, a bathroom wall, not so easy when they sneak up on you for a quick snack after dark. Nevertheless, there are short, fine hairs on my forearm whose delicate vibrations often warn me that a mosquito, like the Eagle of lunar fame, has landed, so, preceding the inevitable swat, I take a quick look before the attacker can insert its slender proboscis, with its copious supply of anti-coagulant to prevent the blood clogging it. It's the anti-coagulant that

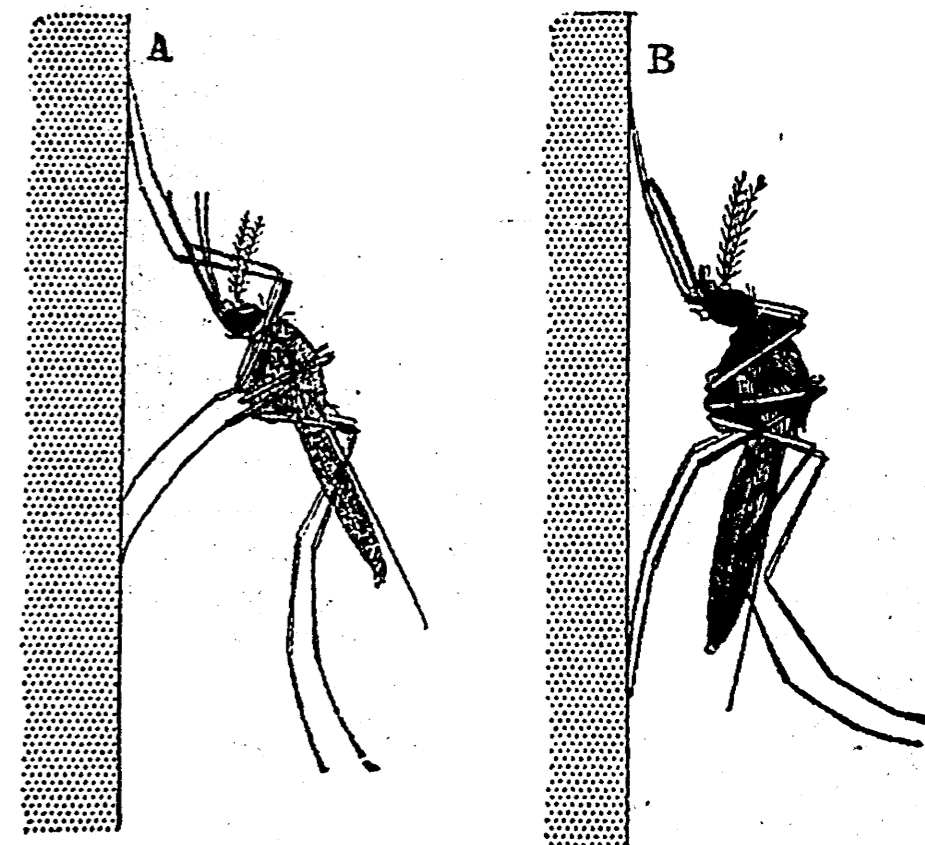


FIG. 465.—Resting attitudes of A, *Anopheles*, B, *Culex*. Reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.

carries into our blood the malarial and other unwelcome parasites.

Yet I am never able to identify the mosquito as *Anopheles*.

Can anyone explain this to me? Perhaps the *Anopheles* emerge only much later at night? But if so, why don't I ever see them at rest elsewhere, such as on those bathroom walls? Or could I have been misinformed all these years; or has the *Anopheles* changed its stance to deceive me personally; or have the doctors failed to make the mandatory microscopic blood examination before dubbing any and every high fever malarial?

But as I say, far be it from me to question the judgements of the Mighty. I'm only a humble, decrepit old journalist, after all, without a single academic qualification to my name. But I do still have this unquenchable thirst for improvement, so if any reader can enlighten me, whether they are physicians or entomologists, or anyone else for that matter, I'm sure the Editor will pass on their letters. I'm particularly interested at the moment since an invaluable and much revered employee is suffering acutely from — what might or might not be — malaria.



Vinod S Surana

Making International Law wider known

(By Venkatachari Jagannathan)

Twentytwo-year-old Vinod S. Surana, a final year student of Madras Law College, has been appointed as Executive Director, International Law Students Association (ILSA), which conducts the prestigious Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition annually. Son of leading lawyer parents, Vinod was interviewed for three hours in the US before becoming the youngest in the world and the first Indian to assume the post. As Executive Director, ILSA, he will look after its activities in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Maldives. And Madras will become an important centre for studies in international law not only in the region but also in the world.

Says Surana, "My job is to start independent, self-governing and self-sustaining ILSA chapters in the neighbouring countries where the awareness about the moot court competition and international law is not much". In addition, he will also be responsible for publishing ILSA's journals and books,

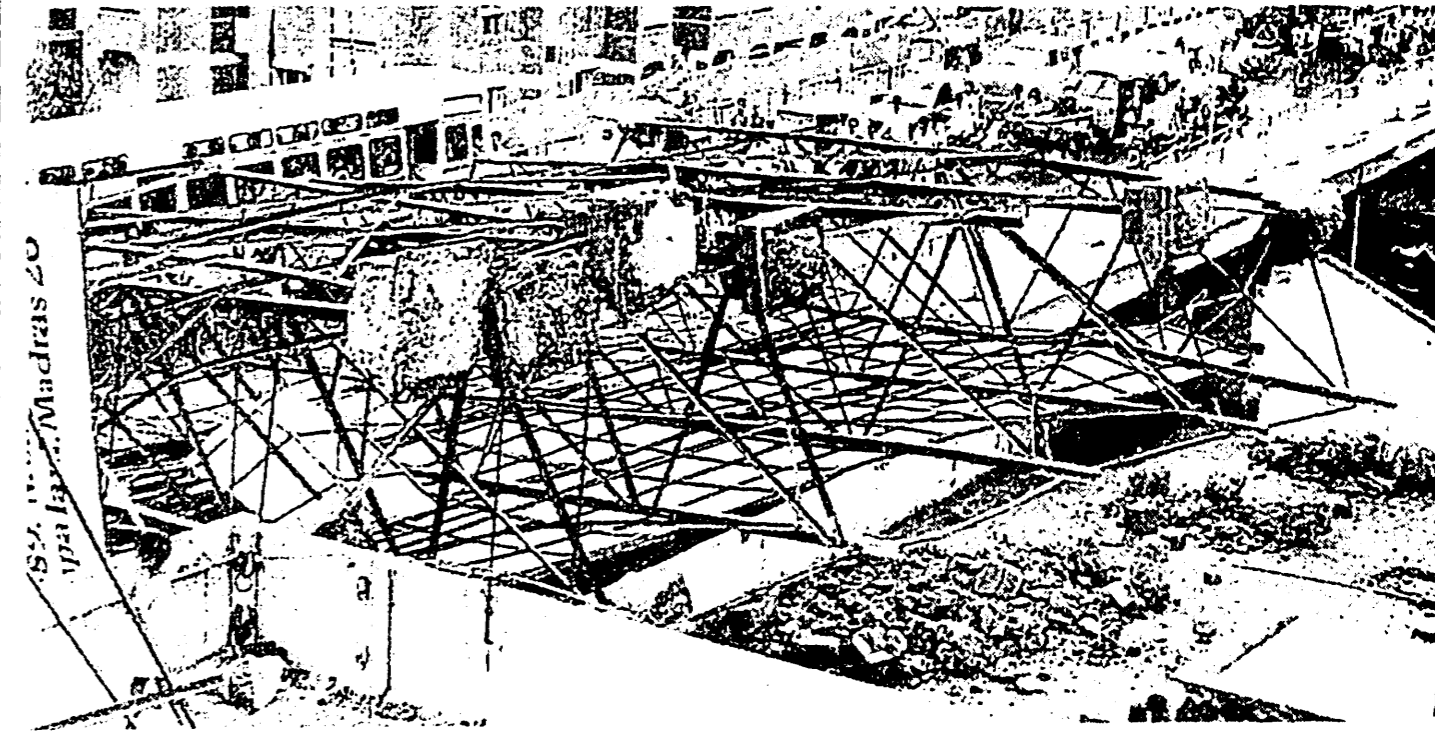
distributing them among members in these countries, and also organising seminars and conferences on topics of international law.

Initially, the American Society of International Law (ASIL) would underwrite the expenditure. The individual chapters would subsequently have to mobilise resources through membership fees and sale of publications.

According to Surana, awareness about moot court competition is lacking amongst the students of law in India. "While we have about 400 law colleges, only 30 teams participate in the National Rounds." A major reason he attributes for this is the absence of any journal or publication on international law in the various colleges in the country. Citing the Madras Law College he points out, "The latest we have is a 1965 publication". Delhi and Bombay, however, are exceptions to the general trend, he adds.

Surana, whose interest is in commercial and international law, led the two-member Ma-

(Continued on P7)



This splendid Indian Express photograph shows what a minor squall could do to a major hoarding erected atop a building by the Kodambakkam overbridge. This happened on the night of April 30th and in an article written a month earlier but which appeared in Madras Musings on May 1st, Harry Miller had prophetically warned about just such an occurrence. The 'roots' of the hoarding seen in the centre, left, of the picture and the negligible damage seen on the terrace of the building reveal the total inadequacy of the anchoring for this hoarding. And this is the same story everywhere in Madras where the Corporation — or its blind eye — has allowed hoardings to mushroom. Madras Musings calls on the Corporation to cry halt to ALL new hoardings and requests it to convene a public committee to decide on norms for hoardings and their locations. Will the Special Officer take courage in his hands and convene such a committee? — THE EDITOR

Noble-hearted gesture

We are glad our prayers are answered and noble-hearted persons have offered to sponsor MM.

It is our wish that MM continues to reach those interested readers who have been following it for the past five years.

N. Raju
162 (2nd Floor)
Thambu Chetty Street
Madras-600 001.

Editor's Note: One of many letters in this vein. Thank you all for your good wishes.

Prophetic words

My article 'Overwhelmed by Advertising' (MM, May 1st) was written a month before the

OUR

READERS

WRITE



happenings on the night of April 30th and which were prominently featured in *The Hindu* and *Indian Express* of May 2nd. Those pictures showed collapsed steel hoardings exactly as predicted in my piece, except for the fact that it was caused by a very minor localised squall. This was result of a mere puff of wind compared to what would happen if the city was struck by a major cyclone, with winds persisting for hours (or days) and gusting up to over 150 km!

And the craze continues — higher yet and higher, one behind the other. The cost (to the ultimate consumer) is fantastic. I wonder whether a giant forty by seventy feet steel structure advertising someone's brand of cement REALLY improves its sales? Those who buy cement are not among the vast crowds surging on the road beneath, scarcely giving a glance at what lies above them. Nor are they the people who are likely to buy cement in substantial quantities, if at all! The whole advertising business is just plumb crazy!

Harry Miller
3-A Satyanarayana Avenue
Boat Club Road
Madras-600 028.

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A journalist's duty

Does it come before a citizen's?

The sensational interview and videofilming of K.M. Veerappan, India's most wanted fugitive, by a Tamil journalist poses a question about media ethics that bristles with complexities. The question is: does a journalist's work place him above the law in certain situations?

The question is worth examining because the journalist and his cameramen interviewed and filmed Veerappan for six days in the forests of Karnataka. Veerappan spoke freely of his life of crime...

Consider a likely situation. If the Tamil Nadu and Karnataka police were to ask the reporter how and where he met Veerappan, what should the reporter have

pieces and packed them into sacks...I took out my gun and before he (a deputy conservator of forests) knew what was happening, I shot him. I then cut off his head and began hacking off his hands. I then kept his head as a souvenir...I aimed at his head (that of a superintendent of police) and hit it with a shot. It was shattered. He collapsed in a heap."

These words came from a man carrying a price of four million rupees on his head. The law holds an individual guilty of conniving with a criminal if he does not assist in the latter's capture. In that sense, the reporter and his film crew would be breaking the law if they refused to tell the police where they had met Veerappan.

● by Arvind Kala

done? Decline to help because giving such information would mean betraying the trust Veerappan had reposed in him? Does a reporter's duty as a citizen require him to assist in the capture of a dangerous outlaw?

Answering this question is difficult. Episodes such as these have to be answered on a case to case basis. A journalist would certainly put himself in the wrong if he learnt of a terrorist plot to plant a bomb on a plane and failed to inform the police. But if granted an interview by a wanted fugitive, he cannot betray that trust and help the police to capture him.

Each professional has to do his job. A journalist's job is to write and a policeman's job is to catch lawbreakers and they should stick to their vocations. If Veerappan were betrayed, wanted men would never trust journalists again. It would also deprive society of news about lawbreakers — be they terrorists or dacoits — who often air their views by arranging secret meetings with journalists.

Occasionally, society goes into a furore over wanted men using the press to glorify themselves or their cause. But the din dies down because democracies recognise the immense benefits that flow from a free, unimpeded dissemination of news.

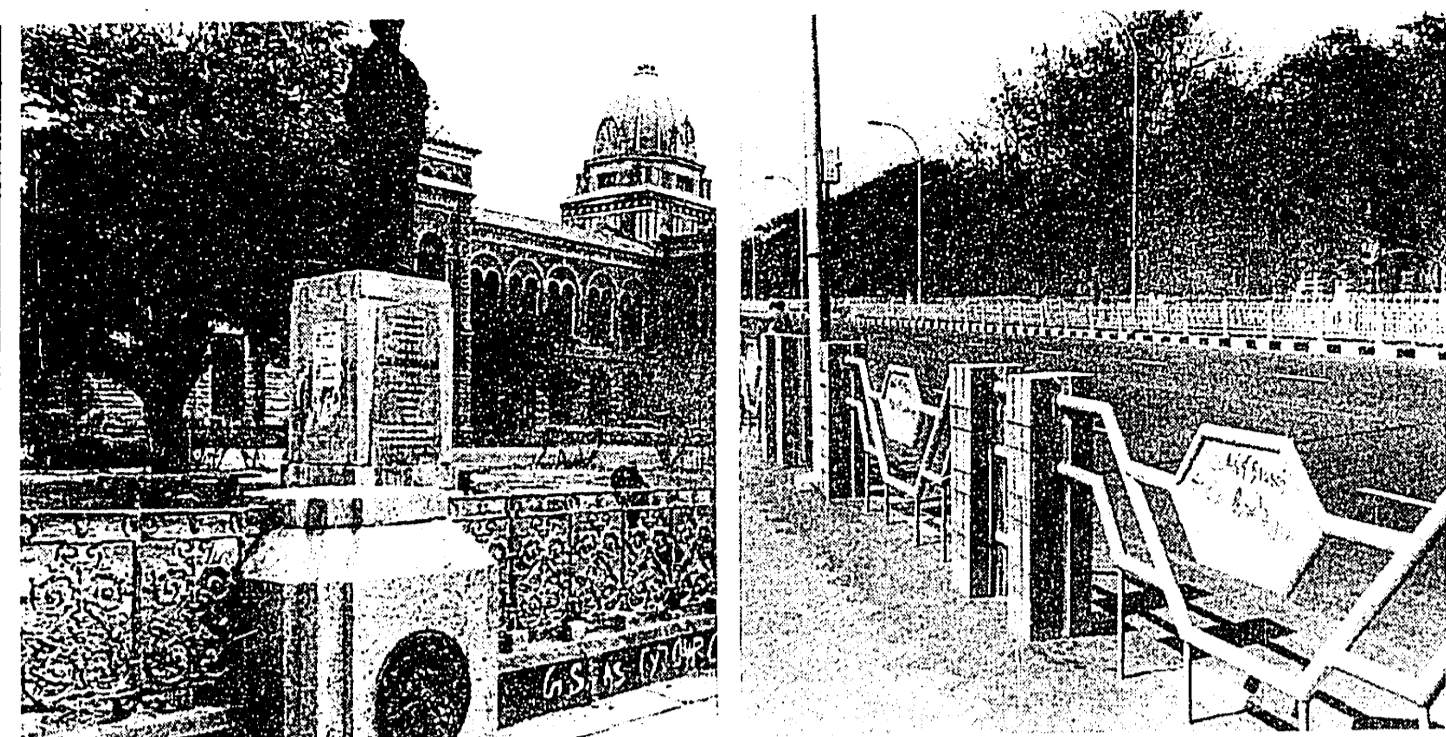
This was the second time Veerappan spoke to the press about his life of crime. In 1993 he gave an interview to the same journalist which was reproduced by *India Today*. Here are some of the statements he made then: "I hunted down elephants with abandon...I cut the bodies (of enemies) to

In situations like this the line between journalistic ethics and a citizen's duty can be very fuzzy indeed. In 1973, for instance, the Delhi police slapped a case of abetment to suicide against an Indian cameraman, Surendra Mohan Lal, and a French woman, Patricia Duregne, both employed by a United States television network. This was because Lal and Duregne had filmed an Ananda Marg monk soaking his saffron robes with kerosene and setting himself ablaze to attract the world's attention to the imprisonment of the Ananda Marg chief.

Should Lal and Duregne have tried to dissuade the monk from committing self-immolation instead of filming it? Many would say yes — morality requires a human being to restrain another from ending his life. However, a journalist is essentially an observer. If he plays the do-gooder on a professional assignment, he will not be able to do his work.

For instance, the photographer who clicked Rajiv Goswami in flames during the days of the anti-Mandal agitation recorded an event of interest not only to India but also to the world and to posterity. That picture would not have existed if the photographer, overwhelmed with concern, had rushed to douse the flames enveloping Goswami...

Journalists can sometimes be at risk. The journalist who interviewed Veerappan put his life as well as those of his film crew at risk. They could have been killed in a shootout if an armed police party had chanced upon Veerappan's hideout. — (Courtesy: *The Telegraph*, Calcutta.)

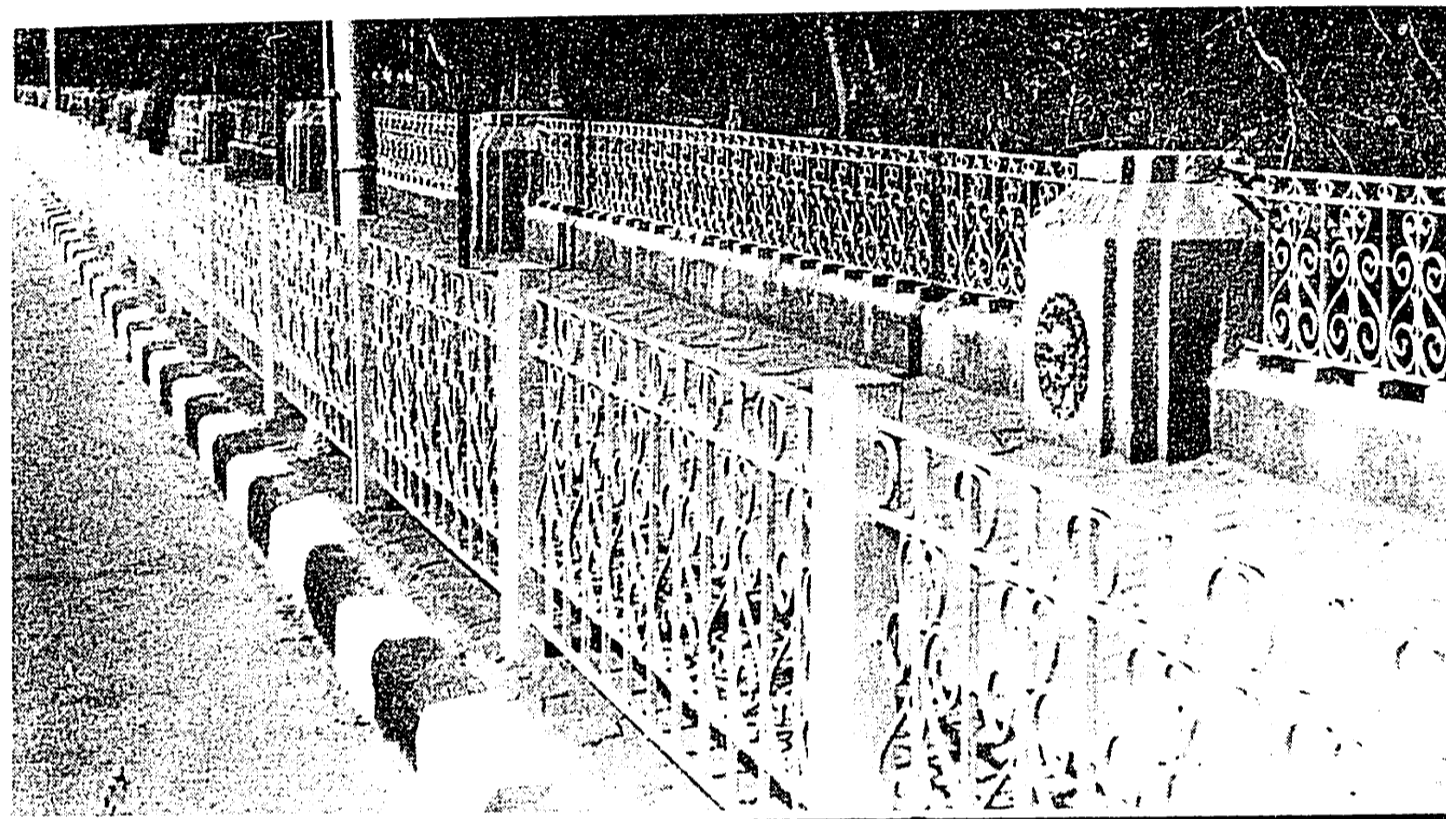


Our OLD shows the elegant old railings at Presidency College (above left) somewhat worse for wear and the terrible railings (specially designed on high) that came up about 18 months ago across the road from the College railings. These 'NEW' railings were installed all along the sea-side pavement of South Beach Road as part of 'Marina Vision 2000'.

Our NEW shows an elegant new turn 'Marina Vision 2000' has taken. Madras Musings had on April, 1995, featured the OLD Presidency College railings replaced with rather similar and elegant new railings. In our NEW, those wall railings have now been duplicated all along the outside edge of the pavement. And this has happened not only at Presidency College but all along the western edge of South Beach Road. Could it be that there is someone out there really paying heed to the written word occasionally?

Be that as it may, doesn't it look rather ludicrous to have the NEW a mark of elegance on the western side of the road and the 'NEW' a mark of 'modern' taste on the eastern side of the same road?

(Photographs by V S RAGHAVAN)



The changing face of Mutual Funds

When Morgan Stanley (MS), the world-famous Foreign Institutional Investor (FII), announced its entry into India with its first Mutual Fund (MF) scheme, the response from Indian investors was staggering. The targeted corpus of Rs 500 cr was exceeded within the first four days, at the end of which MS had collected well over Rs 900 cr. This was the first foreign MF Scheme and the second in the private sector to enter a field that had been monopolised by UTI for 25 years.

Analysts and observers were surprised at the overwhelming response. Though MS had announced a 'first come, first served' policy and though its fame had preceded the company, nobody, not even the scheme's managers themselves, had anticipated such a deluge of investors. But at that period (early '90s), the Primary Market had been doing extremely well and investors mistakenly equated an MF scheme with a public issue. Also, the stock markets had begun to boom and inves-

tors were literally running behind each new offer, anticipating huge profits.

Few investors stopped to think through the core concept behind MFs, that a Mutual Fund was a professional fund manager who handled the funds contributed by numerous investors whose individual risks were thus reduced and, similarly, whose buying power stood considerably enhanced. On the flip side is the



fact that because the risks have been reduced, so do profit levels. Consequently, the returns for each individual investor will be comparatively less than from shares handled directly by him.

But today the MF scenario has turned around 180 degrees. Though there is a market capitalisation of around Rs 70,000 cr and more than 24 players have set afloat over 200 schemes, investors display

more apathy towards, than interest in, Mutual Funds. The earlier craze has given way to a full-blown phobia.

Blame for this fall in favour must be apportioned equally between heedless investors and complacent Funds. Investors complain about unfriendly investor service, lack of disclosure norms, poor performance, lack of uniformity in NAV computation, and failure by Funds in keeping their promises etc. For their part, Mutual Funds have had to operate in a highly restrictive atmosphere with minimum floor requirement (Tax Planning Schemes exempted) for open and close-ended schemes, time limit for deployment of the entire corpus, and ceilings on exposures to particular industries and companies.

As part of its continuing efforts to streamline the various segments of the Capital Markets, SEBI has sought to provide more operational freedom to Fund managers and to address investor grievances in its recent 'Mutual Fund 2000

(Continued on P7)

Keeping cool in Old Madras

Now that we are on the threshold of another gruelling summer, most citizens of Madras would have started getting their AC plants and air-coolers serviced to beat the heat. But there was a time when these devices were unknown, yet the older generation tackled the problem effectively.

The revolving fan as we know it today is of compara-

In larger halls and offices, two or more of these *punkahs* were connected in tandem and worked by two cords, separately pulled by two men working in unison. Remnants of the rope holes and pulley fixtures can still be seen in the High Court buildings, especially in the portion which houses the lawyers' chambers.

Additional cooling was provided by window and door

● by M. SETHURAMAN

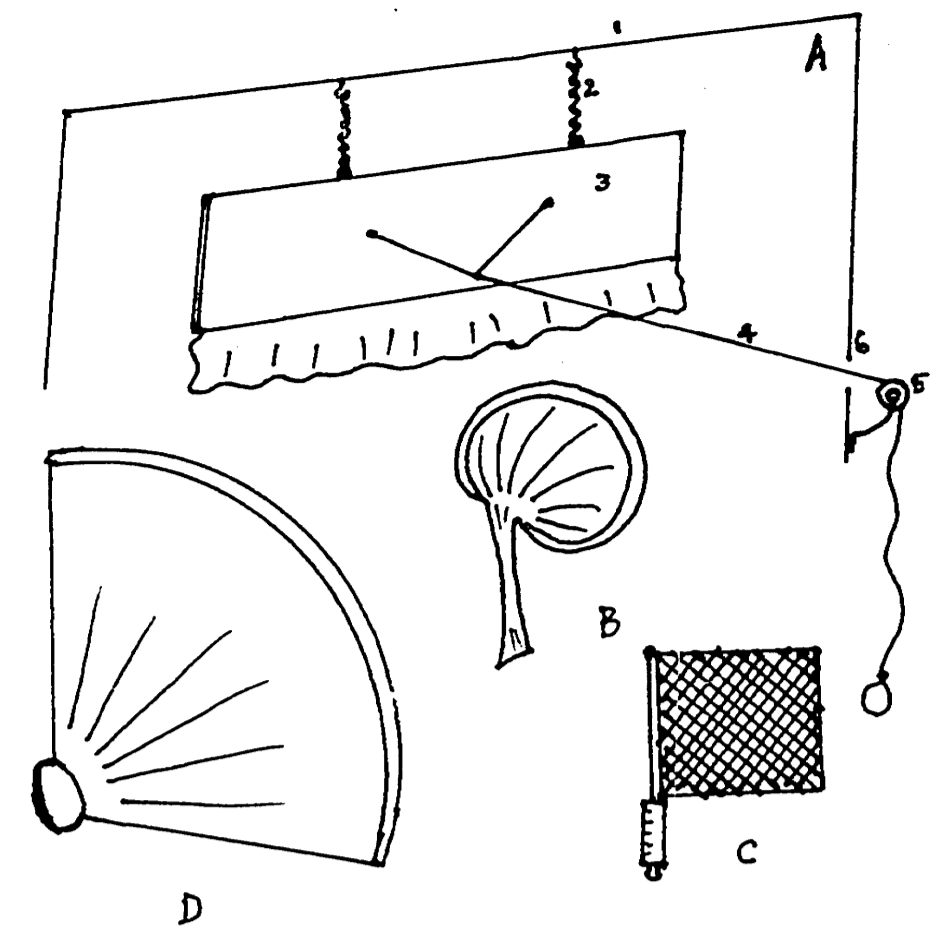
tively recent origin. Previous to it, it was the swinging *punkah* that created a movement of air to cool the persons below it. The *punkah* was a thin, light, long plank with a fringe of thick cloth at its lower edge. The top edge was secured to the ceiling by two chains which permitted it to swing freely, creating a draft of air. This contraption was moved by attaching a rope to the body of the plank and pulling it from outside the room. The rope was led out of the room through a hole in the wall and over a pulley. A *punkah* puller sat outside and pulled the rope ceaselessly throughout the day.

openings being covered with rollable *khus khus* thatties which were moistened with buckets of water. This kept the room cool and sweet-smelling. Where running water was available, conduit pipes with holes were laid over these thatties so that there was a regular sprinkling of water over them.

Such arrangements were all right for offices and large halls. At home, people used hand fans shaped out of a portion of palmyrah leaf and its stalk. Some fans were made of bamboo matting, with the handle stuck in a hollow cylindrical bamboo stem. By gently swinging this cylinder the fan

could be made to rotate, creating air circulation. A jumbo version of the palmyrah hand fan was also in use. A servant stood in a corner of a room and fanned the inmates of the room with it. In temporary halls and marriage *mandals*, these fan-wielders stood at different points, waving the fans for the comfort of the people assembled. Some of these fans were made of *khus khus* roots which could be sprinkled with water to add sweetness to the air. Some preferred fans made out of peacock plumage, as it was believed that the air stirred by these had medicinal properties.

Eatables and drinks were cooled by keeping them in insulated ice boxes or adding pieces of ice directly to the drinks. Ice cream was prepared by rotating a cylindrical vessel containing the cream mix in a tub of ice and salt. Till about the end of the 19th Century ice was imported from the US and stored at what is now *Vivekananda House* and which was formerly known as *Ice House*. I do not know why no attempt was made to get ice from the Himalaya. It would have been more cost-effective and less time-consuming. It may be re-



M. SETHURAMAN'S sketches of (A) The oscillating punkah [showing the ceiling (1), supporting chains (2), plank with cloth fringe (3), pulling rope (4) and hole in wall and pulley for leading out the rope (5 & 6)], (B) Palmyrah hand punkah, (C) Bamboo matting hand punkah, and (D) Jumbo punkah used in big halls.

membered that Himalayan ice was used to cool drinks in Delhi during the Mughal period.

At the beginning of this century, two ice factories began functioning in Madras. One was in Egmore, the other was Spencer's. Apart from manufacture of ice, Spencer's was the pioneer in the making and distribution of aerated soft drinks. Their Kola with ice was as popular as its modern cousin Coca Cola. Spencer's aerated drinks came in bottles with crimped metal caps. Cheaper varieties were sold in thick glass bottles with a small glass marble as stopper — *goli* soda. These bottles were kept in tubs of water in shops to cool them. However, for a small fee, a lump of ice could be bought and floated in the glass with the drink. Ice came cheap, at about an anna (6 paise) a pound (0.45kg).

On long-distance day trains, like the Bombay and Grand Trunk Expresses, a Spencer's ice vendor travelled in a reserved eight-seater 3rd class compartment, well stocked with aerated drinks and crates of ice. Upper class passengers could order a block of ice to cool the compartment. An open waterproof crate of ice would be kept on the floor of the compartment to counter the midday heat. In the evening, the vendor would collect the crate.

Men with push carts loaded with bottles of coloured liquid sold 'Kuchi ice' to children in front of primary schools. Here, a block of ice was scraped against a wood plane mounted upside down. The ice scrapings were collected and pressed on to a broom twig and sweetened by pouring on it a small quantity of coloured syrup of questionable quality. It cost a pie (half paise). For a quarter anna (one and a half paise) a child could get a bigger lump, called 'ice laddu', on the twig.

Spencer's improved on this idea and produced a sanitised version when they introduced 'Ice Fruit'. It came in three

flavours and colours — cherry, orange and cocoa. Each bar was triangular in shape and about 15 cm long.

It was encased in a blue and white chequered paper jacket so that it could be held without soiling the fingers. Each piece cost an anna (6 paise). They also introduced a stick of ice cream with a thin skin of chocolate, known as 'Snack', costing two annas (2 paise) each. Spencer's, with their then characteristic energy and efficiency, manufactured and distributed this product throughout Madras in ice boxes mounted on tricycles. Vendors in smart blue and white uniforms pedalled these vehicles to all parts of the city. The logo on the vehicle read, "STOP ME AND BUY ONE!". Everyone stopped these vehicles to buy one — right from the humblest rickshaw puller to the tycoon speeding in his limousine.

1935 (or was it 1936?) was the silver jubilee year of the reign of King George V. The Park Fair exhibition was held at the SIAA grounds (now the Southern Railway's broad gauge Suburban Terminal) as a part of the jubilee celebrations in April that year instead of, as usual, during the December-January season. Since it was the beginning of summer and schools had closed for summer vacation, the fete saw unprecedented crowds. Ice fruits sold in the millions each day. The Ice Fruit jackets formed a thick carpet all over the grounds and were removed at the end of each day in lorry loads. Indeed, Spencer's hit a gold mine when they started marketing this product.

But all good things must come to an end. World War II came and crippled production. Every bit of raw material for this product had to be imported, which became difficult. Added to this, the manufacturer had to turn his attention towards the war effort rather than satisfy civilian need. Hence, the era of 'Ice Fruit' came to an abrupt end.

A rupee-a-day service

(By A Staff Reporter)

Some of the ambulances belonging to the Trauma Care Consortium



A rupee-a-day subscription-based emergency medical service unit has been formed in Madras to make available on demand full-equipped ambulances to take road accident victims to hospitals, intimate emergency contact persons in the event of a road accident, assure timely accident relief and professional emergency medical aid, as well as promote safe, blood supply. This service is called the Trauma Care Consortium (TCC) and can be accessed on telephone number 823 0700 or through the Madras City Police Traffic Emergency Call on 103.

Annual membership to TCC services comes for a very affordable fee of Rs. 365, which translates to a rupee a day. The service is on call round the clock.

TCC has structured the city into six zones and at present owns eight Maruti Omni ambulances stationed at strategic points suggested by available road accident

statistics. This geographic dispersal of ambulances sharply reduces the response time for an ambulance to reach an accident spot when compared with a centralised system. The TCC ambulances are also linked through wireless systems to each other and to a central control in T'Nagar.

Every ambulance carries on board a trained paramedic who would provide emergency medical relief at the accident site and in transit to the hospital, as needed. Doctors trained in road accident trauma care, based at the TCC Central Control, would use the wireless system to provide any guidance needed by the onboard paramedical staff.

Since the TCC ambulances have no specific hospital affiliation, there is no loss of time in transporting a road accident victim to a hospital as might otherwise be the case if the victim were to be

transported to the specific hospital to which the ambulance belongs. TCC has networked with around 30 hospitals distributed over the city which cater to diverse requirements in terms of facilities available, pricing of hospital care and so forth. This reduces, the transit time between the accident site and access to hospital care.

TCC has also tied up with a leading insurance company to provide accident insurance cover to its members as part of its membership fee.

TCC appeals for Sponsor Support towards cost of capital items (such as ambulances, computers, wireless equipment etc.), and public awareness initiatives (such as billboards, stickers, posters etc.).

Contact: Ganesh, 1 Raman St., T'Nagar (8230701, 8230702, Fax: 8230702).

Quizzin' with Ramanan

(Quizmaster V.V. Ramanan's Questions 1-15 are from the fortnight April 16 to 30. Questions 16-20 are on Madras Past and Present.)

- Russia recently unveiled one of the most famous archaeological finds in history after nearly half a century, much to the anger of the Germans. What?
- The Governor of which State and former Union Minister of Urban Development was forced to resign after being implicated in a government housing scam in New Delhi?
- Who is the new president of CII?
- Which prominent world legal institution celebrated its Golden Jubilee on April 18th?
- Name the Chief Minister of Assam who passed away on April 22nd.
- Name the Chechen rebel leader who was killed in a rocket attack.
- Where was Operation Riviresa II (Sunshine II) launched on April 19th?
- Which prominent Pakistani has launched a new party called Tehreek-e-Insaf (Movement for Justice)?
- The extraordinary sale of the estate of which American icon totalled nearly \$ 34.5 million, nearly 750 per cent more than Sotheby's expectations?
- The 10th anniversary of the world's worst nuclear disaster was observed on April 26th. Where?
- April 24th was observed worldwide as...?
- Who recently broke B.S. Chandrasekhar's world record of 23 Test cricket zeroes, by scoring his 24th against the West Indies?
- On April 19th, Hindustan Lever Limited proposed a merger with another corporate giant, which would make it the country's largest consumer goods company. Name the other company.
- On April 30th what world organisation went 'bankrupt' as its cash budget coffers ran empty?
- The proposed closure of what national monument on Mondays has attracted both bouquets and brickbats?
- The Pallavaram gneiss, a rock found in the Pallavaram area, is also referred to by a name given to it in honour of the man who founded Calcutta. What and who?
- Which big township near Tambaram takes its name from a leather factory?
- What prominent edifice in Madras was built by the British residents of the city in 'thanksgiving...for being spared the horrors of the mutiny'?
- What first or distinction does the Corporation of Madras hold?
- There is a memorial commemorating the fact that Gandhiji was staying in the house on this site on Cathedral Road, when the infamous Rowlatt Act was announced. What modern day structure overlooks it?

(Answers on p.8)

An American Kattiakaran

Nathan Kumar Scott, who was passing through Madras recently, showed me the script for a solo performance of the *Kattiakaran* that he will be performing at the USIS auditorium on June 14th. Scott, who is researching into the *Kattiakaran*, promises an exciting performance.

Scott was in Madras two years ago on an 'Artists Across the Frontiers' grant from UNESCO and did a lot of story-telling in the different schools. He also held a shadow puppetry workshop for children at the Narada Gana Sabha. At the end of last year he came to Madras not as a story-teller but as a research scholar. He also helped the Madras Craft Foundation organise its international seminar on 'Masks in Ritual and Performances'. Like me, he places more importance on performance and the performers rather than on the researchers and scholar. His paper at the seminar amply demonstrated this.

After the seminar, Scott took off for Bangalore, where he worked with sculptor John Devaraj on a production for children which required him to walk on long stilts while working giant puppets.

Scott has been involved with large outdoor performances in the U.S., where he lives. These, he feels, have a more distinctive folk character and are more vibrant and dynamic than indoor stage shows. But he will be doing his *Kattiakaran* performance in the indoor auditorium of the USIS in Madras.

Kattiakaran has fascinated Scott. *Kattiakaran* is the narra-



The American *Kattiakaran* prances around with the children at Abacus School, who use some of the props made by him.

tor/joker/link in any traditional theatre performance in India. He is called *Sutradhar* in Sanskrit. They mean the same, 'the binder'. The *Kattiakaran* of the Tamil rural theatre has the freedom to dress as he pleases, travel between the period of the play and contemporary times, reinforce the



story by asking questions now and then, and also introduce every character before and after his or her appearance. The *Kattiakaran* also doubles up as the confidante of both the hero and the heroine, tells the story to the audience, brings in humour when the situation has become too tense and serious, and breaks the monotony. Scott has based his character on the many *Kattiakaran* and *Sutradhar* that he has seen and has added much humour of the day. One se-

cret: His script will have to change once we know who the new government will be. An interesting evening it'll be, I promise you.

Scott is an American who was born and raised in India. His missionary parents gave him his second name Kumar as a reminder of India. Scott studied anthropology and folklore in the US and was awarded the Watson Fellow-

A technological marvel stole my heart the other day. This is a CD Rom on Gandhi as an apostle of peace. It was a marvellous performance. Produced by the Madras-based Krea Technology, the programme is an interactive, multimedia, CD Rom depicting the life and work of Mahatma Gandhi in chronological sequence, with authentic photographs and film clips.

The CD Rom programme emphasises Gandhi's role not just as the liberator of India from British rule, a man of action concerned with the here and now, but also his systematic thinking as a philosopher.

The entire text, consisting of over 250 subtopics, is divided into three broad phases of Gandhi's life in 650 megabytes. There are 300 photographs, 45 minutes of video and graphics and also Gandhi's voice. The video clips contain footage from his non-cooperation movement for redressal of the Khilafat and the Punjab wrongs, the famous salt march, his trip to London to attend the second Round Table Congress as the sole representative of the Indian National Congress, the Quit India call, parleys with the British Cabinet mission, his lone Naokhali *yatra* for communal amity and his last fast in 1947. My hair stood on end when I heard his voice.

When CHANDRA PADMANABHAN began contributing recipes to *Madras Musings* five years ago, little did she realise she would go on to write a highly successful cookbook. But when she took

a break from *Madras Musings*, that's exactly what she did. *Dakshin*, first published by Rupa, went on to become an international bestseller published by Harper Collins (Australia). And now that

she's finished her second cookbook — to be published shortly — she's decided to take another break... by returning to the columns of *Madras Musings*.

BREAD PAKORAS

8 slices of bread
Oil for deep frying
For the filling
¼ cup mashed potatoes
1 green chilli, chopped fine
1 tsp cumin seeds, dry roasted and powdered fine
½ tsp amchoor
Salt to taste

For the batter
1 cup Bengalgram flour (*besan*)
2 medium-sized onions, chopped fine
2 green chillies, chopped fine
A small bunch coriander leaves, chopped fine
Salt to taste

Method
Mix all the ingredients for the filling. Mix well. Spread the filling evenly on one side of a bread slice. Make a sandwich. Cut the sandwich into triangles and set aside.

Mix all the ingredients for the batter, adding sufficient water to form a batter of thick pouring consistency.

Heat oil. Dip the sandwich in the batter and deep fry till golden. Serve hot.

BREAD UPPUMA

1 loaf of bread, appx. 16 slices
2 onions, chopped fine
1 tomato, chopped fine
3 or 4 green chillies, chopped fine
1 potato, boiled, peeled and chopped fine
2 tbs cooked peas
½ tsp ground ginger
6 tbs ghee
A small bunch coriander leaves, chopped fine
Salt to taste

Masala powder
1 tsp ghee
1 tsp poppy seeds
1 tsp Bengalgram
1 tsp cumin seeds
2 cloves
2 cardamoms
½ inch piece cinnamon stick
For tempering
2 tbs ghee

Cooking with Chandra

It's holiday time — which means that kids are hungry all the time. Use the ubiquitous bread and make crunchy, scrunchy snacks. Watch them disappear off the plate in a jiffy.

BREAD DOSAI

1 loaf of bread, appx. 16 slices
¼ cup Bengalgram flour (*besan*)
¼ cup rice flour
2 or 3 green chillies, chopped fine
½ tsp asafoetida powder
1 tsp cumin seeds
A few curry leaves
A small bunch coriander leaves, chopped fine
Salt to taste
Oil for shallow frying

Method
Mix all ingredients. Add sufficient water to form a thick batter of pouring consistency. Heat a *tawa*. Pour a ladleful of batter to make a thick *dosai*. Pour a teaspoon of oil all around the edges. Fry till golden.

Turn the *dosai* carefully and fry the other side till golden and crisp.

Serve hot with a coconut chutney.



K Subramaniam's three great social commentaries: *Balayogini*, which introduced 'Baby' Saroja, seen here with K R Chellam; *Seva Sadanam* which introduced M S Subbulakshmi; and *Thyaga*

Bhoomi, starring S D Subbulakshmi (seen here with Papanasam Sivan and 'Baby' Saroja) and K J Mahadevan and bankrolled by S S Vasam. (Photographs courtesy 'Filmnews' Anandan).

(Continued from last fortnight)

Having established a film footprint on the movie landscape, K Subramaniam set his sights on using the medium as a tool of social protest and to mirror to society its ills and callousness. During the short period 1937-39 he created three memorable movies which established him as a serious filmmaker of great merit. It is no exaggeration to say that such films of social content and protest have even to this day not been attempted in Tamil.

The first of these films was *Balayogini* (1937). In this memorable box-office success, Subramaniam dealt with issues like class and caste conflicts, craze for foreign goods, fashions and fads. The film had quite a few children in main roles, and the film-maker's cherubic and charming niece 'Baby' Saroja skyrocketed to overnight stardom and came to be called 'the Shirley Temple of South India'. Schoolbags, hand-mirrors and combs bore her picture, but when a Japan-made toilet soap was sought to be marketed with her picture on the wrapper, her father went to court and legally put an end to such materialistic misuse of the child. Interestingly, during this period, almost every other girl child in South India was named Saroja! Indeed, no child artiste in South India has created such an impact as Baby Saroja.

And then in 1939 came the film for which Subramaniam has never been forgotten, *Thyaga Bhoomi*. This classic took a brave new stance on an important social issue — the position of a Hindu wife in marriage and society. A film of angry social protest, the (British) Indian Government banned it — not for the social protest but its political protest.

International Law

(Continued from P3)

dras Law College team for the 1995 Moot Court Competition held in the US. "Before the competition, we had to go to Delhi twice and spent a fortune in photo-copying about 13,000 pages of 6-month-old material on international law, whereas the students abroad had updated case laws on their computer floppies," he narrates, describing the handicaps Indian students face in this prestigious competition.

The Madras Law College team lost in the quarter finals in the international competition and was placed seventh amongst the 65 teams from 45 countries. "Teams from other countries consisted of four members and one research scholar. While two would argue for the applicant country,

He mirrored society

The second film was *Seva Sadanam* (1938). In it, Subramaniam introduced a talented singer who was to become a living legend and international celebrity, M S Subbulakshmi. She was a popular classical singer at the time, so her appearance in movies made news. A social satire, the film highlighted the deplorable position of poor women in Indian society. Subramaniam attacked tradition, orthodoxy and custom which provoked the wrath of the Brahmin community of Thanjavur District. One group of angry Brahmins 'excommunicated' Subramaniam, who was only amused!

And then in 1939 came the film for which Subramaniam has never been forgotten, *Thyaga Bhoomi*. This classic took a brave new stance on an important social issue — the position of a Hindu wife in marriage and society. A film of angry social protest, the (British) Indian Government banned it — not for the social protest but its political protest.

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

the Gaiety Cinema and permitted people to watch the film free. Several continuous shows were held before the order was served on the exhibitor. When it was received, a show was in progress and police ordered it stopped at once. But the crowd would not agree. It resulted in clashes and the police resorted to a 'lathi'

charge, beating up people inside the auditorium. An unprecedented event in film history!

Thyaga Bhoomi had been written as a magazine serial by the famed writer 'Kalki' (R Krishnamurthi) and the film was bankrolled by another legend-in-the-making, S S Vasam, who had just entered

Changing face of Mutual Funds

(Continued from P4)

Report". A quick look at these recommendations indicates a bright future.

The main proposals are: **Removal or minimum corpus requirement**, thus enabling Funds to tailor their corpus size to suit their objectives and requirements, apart

from enabling investors to enjoy the benefits accruing from a small corpus. **Freedom to promise minimum returns** — though SEBI has detailed the strategy for dealing with any shortfall in the assured returns, the methodology to be followed when Funds make higher returns, has not been spelled out. **Relaxation of investment restrictions**, enabling Fund managers to revise the portfolio contents freely. **Borrowing for redemption**, though the repayment strategy has not been clarified. **Resale under open-ended schemes**, providing operational stability to the scheme. **Voting rights for investors**, which is a well-appreciated

anything like this was ever attempted in this part of the world.

Thyaga Bhoomi was the first Tamil film to explore several social issues, like eradication of untouchability, a wife fighting for equal rights and rejecting her husband when he comes back to her on bended knee, and her decision to join the Indian freedom movement. When the husband goes to court for restitution of conjugal rights, the wife rejects his claim and offers to pay him maintenance! In Indian cinema, even to this day, the husband is god and, however callous he might be, the wife kow-tows to him in the end. Subramaniam reversed the man-superior-woman-inferior-syndrome and had his heroine kick her husband out! Something unthinkable in Indian cinema nearly 60 years later!

As the 1940's rolled along, Subramaniam went back to mythologicals and entertainment-oriented films, playing it safe. He made films not only in Tamil, but also in Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam. And he became the first South Indian film-maker to produce a film in Hindi, *Prem Sagar*.

Simple and unassuming, with no airs normally associated with moviemakers, Subramaniam always exuded cheer and warmth. He was a rare, brave, pioneer, but he is little remembered today.

move. Qualitative disclosures, which would help in judging the volatility-risk a scheme carries. **Permission for specialised schemes**, which will open new vistas to MFs. **Listing made operational and re-issue allowed**, enabling Funds to maintain their corpus intact, thereby ensuring stability to the schemes. **Operational mechanisms ensured before launch**, which would assure investors that the MF in which they are going to invest is ready to deploy and monitor the entrusted money.

The above recommendations and proposals, if implemented, are bound to overhaul the existing structure of the Indian Mutual Fund industry thoroughly. And the benefits which would accrue to both investors and the AMC's are bound to revive the sector. **K. Gopalakrishnan**

Cricketer Ramesh to the fore

The latest addition to the Indian golf scene is the Champion's Cup meant exclusively for chief executives. It was held first in Delhi and followed soon after in Madras and Bangalore. The last of the tournaments this year will be in Calcutta. The Madras and Bangalore contests were sponsored by liquor giant Shaw Wallace.

Former Tamil Nadu opening batsman and member of the distinguished Buchi Babu family of cricketers and all-round sportsmen, left-handed P T Ramesh won the inaugural Royal Challenge Chairman's Invitation Cup held at the Cosmopolitan Club Golf annexe. Ramesh, one of the most talented cricketers of the State in the Seventies and who scored a century on debut versus Karnataka of Prasanna-Chandra fame, was the proud recipient of a trophy and a set of graphite-shafted Jack Nicklaus golf clubs worth over Rs 50,000. A R Ganj edged out Aryama Sundaram for the second place on a technicality after the two had tied on points. The other winners of the tournament included Urvashi Sethi, the Indian ladies amateur champion, and

Sonia Singh, another leading amateur, who finished second after Urvashi, K J Ramaswamy and B Gurunath.

There were 64 participants, all at the invitation of the sponsors. Prominent personalities who competed included Mohan of the Sterling group, M Ct Muthiah, S Lakshman and S Ramamurthy of the Enfield family, 'AVM' and Lalitha Balasubramaniam, Sumi Naniah and Naniah, president of Macneil & Magor, V J and Jaishri Bharath, Susie Kurien and Prabhat Kamal, and the Secretary of the Golf Club, Jaiganesh.

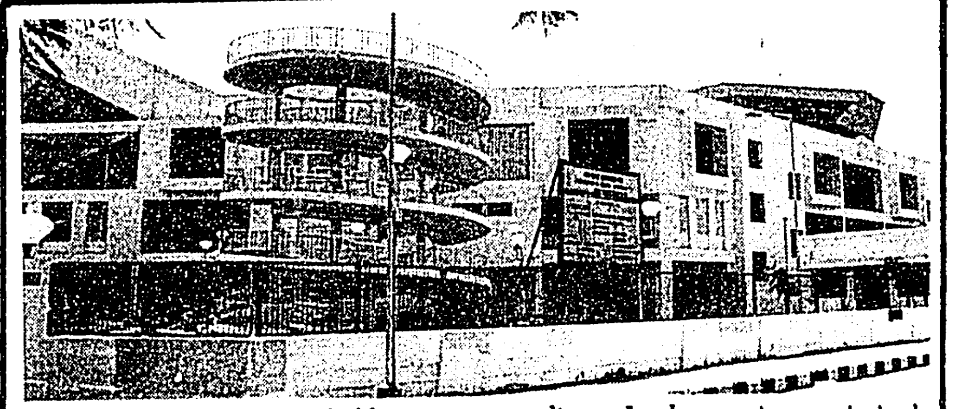
Madras has long had a golfing tradition. After the winding up of the Madras Club course in the Sixties, the Gymkhana and Cosmopolitan Club links have been the scene of much golfing action in the city. What used to be a senior businessman's pastime has changed character over the years, the average age of the golfer registering a distinct downward trend in the last five years or so. A considerable amount of business is reportedly still decided on the basis of exchanges on the fairway between wise and mature

heads, but those heads are no longer necessarily grey.

Nearly 400 new golfers have joined the fraternity of the sporting world's worst addicts in just under 18 months in Madras. Many of these new converts to the faith are in their later twenties or early thirties, thus catching up with worldwide trends. According to the secretary of the Golf Club, the talent exhibited by youth is "fantastic". Sandip Syal, Shiv Gupta, Gurunath, Pon Kumar and Nagaraj are among the teens and twenties brigade who have been making waves in Madras golf. Many of the city's leading cricketers of yesteryear have also taken avidly to the sport.

Golf continues to be an expensive sport, not just in terms of the cost of equipment. Almost all clubs have hiked their membership fees and the emerging new complexes of international standard are understandably the most expensive of all. Membership in *The Hindu's* golf resort at Mahabalipuram, Sterling's NOIDA facility and the ITC Classic Jack Nicklaus resort are all said to be upwards of Rs 2.75 lakh.

— V. Ramnarayan



The splendid Nungambakkam tennis stadium...In the tennis association's hands it could be a winner...and with year-round use and maintenance too! (Photograph by V S RAGHAVAN)

A stadium sought

One of the country's most dedicated controlling bodies is the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association. By a sad coincidence, it celebrated its annual day on the day India bit the dust of defeat in Calcutta against Sweden.

N Murali, the business wizard of *The Hindu* who is also the TNTA's president, took the opportunity to request S B Adityan, a fellow newspaper magnate and who, as President of the Indian Olympic Association, is the most influential Indian sports official, to use his influence and help the TNTA gain possession

of the modern tennis stadium at Nungambakkam that the Jayalalitha Government had constructed for the SAF Games.

Adityan promised he would do his best. The TNTA, indeed, could not have picked a better salesman than Adityan. And given its own record, it is a safe bet that before long the TNTA would have for its use India's most modern stadium. With men like Murali at the helm, the TNTA would surely transform the Nungambakkam stadium into India's Wimbledon.

— JAICI

ANSWERS TO QUIZ










1. The stunning trove of gold known as 'King Priam's treasure' from the ancient city of Troy; 2. Sheila Kaul of Himachal Pradesh; 3. Shekhar Datta; 4. The International Court of Justice at the Hague; 5. Hiteshwar Saikia; 6. Dzhokav Dudayev; 7. In Jaffna, Sri Lanka, to liberate the Tamils from the clutches of the LTTE; 8. Imran Khan; 9. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis; 10. Chernobyl; 11. Inter-

national Child Labour Day; 12. Danny Morrison of New Zealand; 13. Brooke Bond Lipton India Limited; 14. The United Nations; 15. The Taj Mahal;

* * *

16. Charnockite after Job Charnock; 17. Chromepet; 18. The Memorial Hall; 19. The oldest municipal organisation in India; 20. The Chola Sheraton Hotel.

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