

WE CARE FOR MADRAS

This journal is supported by the following organisations as a public service

Amalgamations
Ashok Leyland Ltd
A V Thomas & Co
Bank of Madura
India Cements
The KCP Ltd.

MADRAS

This journal is supported by the following organisations as a public service

Murugappa Group
Ponds (India) Ltd.
Rane (Madras) Ltd
Sanmar Group
S.P.I.C.
Sundram Fasteners

MUSINGS

Vol. VI No. 4

FREE ISSUE

June 1 — 15, 1996

● *Mumbai's Action Group well-established*

When, a Madras ginger group?

(By The Editor)

When Greater Bombay got its Heritage Regulations and Heritage List, it was the industrial and commercial sector that was responsible for getting Government to sanction and gazette the Act. The members of the Bombay Environmental Action Group, which was the driving force, included Cyrus Guzder of Airfreight (DHL), Ashok Advani, Russi Karanjia, Kisan Mehra and Shyam Chainani. Since then, people like Sorab Godrej and Sharook Sabawala of TISCO have joined the team. And Bombay has begun to get not only heritage - but also environment-friendly.

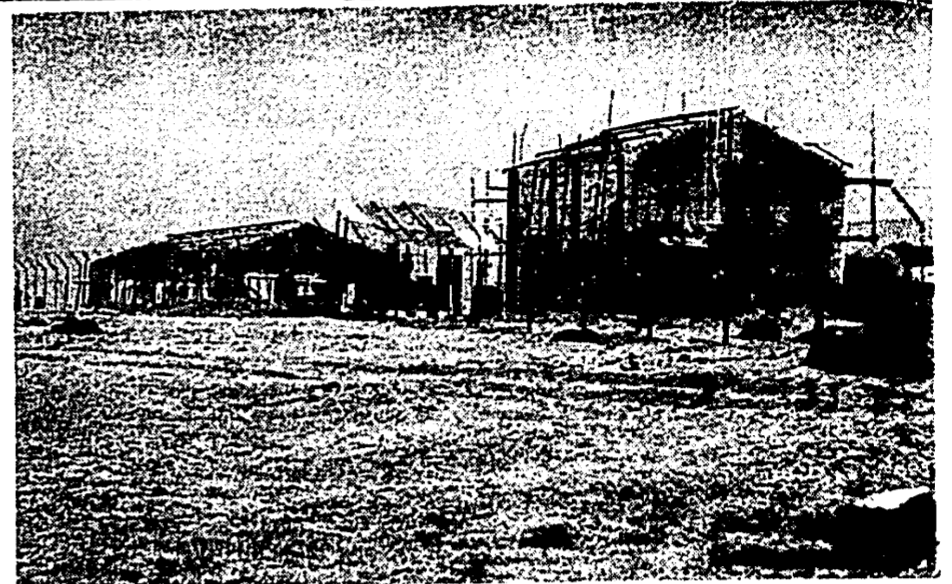
As Cyrus Guzder, the founder of the movement says, "The first phase of our struggle, to place the environment issue in top-of-the-mind consciousness of key people, particularly those in positions of power and authority, is well under way. Our approach is to sensitise and pressurise all the arms of government to do the jobs they

have been selected for and paid to do. Mass consciousness is what we will have to tackle next, but BEAG is too small to do this and needs greater support from those who can help."

What Guzder means he expresses as a regret. "My only regret is that more businessmen do not find the time, or appear to have the inclination, to concern themselves with these issues facing Mumbai. Everyone has a stake in a healthy environment around us and therefore has responsibilities in this regard. Mumbai is not a lost cause, provided more people are prepared to donate the time and effort to efforts like the BEAG."

While Mumbai at least has the Action Group, Madras doesn't have anything remotely like it, certainly not with the clout the BEAG has. It is time such an action group with clout develops in Madras. Would it be too much to hope that the support group which has seen *Madras Musings* through its crisis begins to look

at itself in even broader terms and concerns itself more with the development of a better Madras in the days to come? Would it be too much to expect the group to ask Government to implement, as a first step, the Heritage Act Government has been talking about these past 18 months? Will we see a new dawn with a new government?



A flying start

Has an MOU been signed with Hyundai, the giant car manufacturers from South Korea? If it has, it has been done with no publicity or fanfare...though there were plenty of rumours that Hyundai were following on the trail of Ford. But with or without publicity, Hyundai seem to be very much in Madras...and settling in fast.

Two miles past the Irungattukottai motor racing track, work is progressing apace on a huge vacant lot. Apparently the temporary offices (complete with generator, see above) of Hyundai are coming up on the site allotted to them. And once these offices are ready, work will start on the Hyundai plant, Madras Musings hears. Now that's getting off to a flying start. Madras Musings only hopes that no one will call it a 'false start'! (Photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)



Polluting tanneries the first crisis

(By a Staff Reporter)

One of the first crises the new Tamil Nadu Government will have to face is in the leather sector. The crisis has been caused by the Supreme Court's directive to close down something over 200 tanneries, including 64 major tanneries whose closure is being disputed. (This follows its earlier order to close down 219 of the state's 869 tanneries.)

The Court has prohibited the operation of tanneries in five districts until they construct 'common effluent treatment plants' (CETP) to the satisfaction of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board

(TNPCB), whose norms are stricter than elsewhere in the country.

Nearly one lakh direct and indirect employees in these tanneries have either been laid-off or rendered idle as a consequence of the Court's order, industry sources say. They anticipate a Rs 500 crore loss in turnover, even if the Court relaxes its stand in the next few weeks.

At the recently concluded Hong Kong fair, several exporters could not give firm commitments because of the uncertainty on the tanneries front back home, the sources

add. The reduction in leather exports from Tamil Nadu alone, in the last one month or so, has been estimated at between 25 to 40 per cent, these sources state.

Citing the findings of the report of the National Environmental Engineering and Research Institute (NEERI), which had inspected the CETPs in the districts of North Arcot-Armedkar, Periyar, Dindigul-Anna, Tiruchchirappalli and Chengalpattu-MGR, the Court has said that only seven CETPs were under operation in the State.

Though 10 CETPs are under construction and 13 others proposed, the Court has nevertheless expressed concern at the NEERI report, which found that water samples from dug wells near tannery clusters were unfit for drinking and the Palar river had become 'highly polluted'.

The Court also directed the closure of 30 other leather industries in various parts of Tamil Nadu which had not set up pollution control devices.

What the industry expects now is some sort of a 'rational decision' through Government intervention in this 'very seri-

ous situation' in the leather industry. The Council for Leather Exports is reported to have written to both the Tamil Nadu Government and the Commerce Ministry on the fallout of the SC's directive. Obtaining a favourable decision for the 64 major tanneries, many of which have gone some way towards meeting the Pollution Control Board's norms, should be the state government's first priority, say industry sources.

Apart from leather exports, 'chemical companies dealing in

(Continued on Page 8)

What's the future of the refugees?

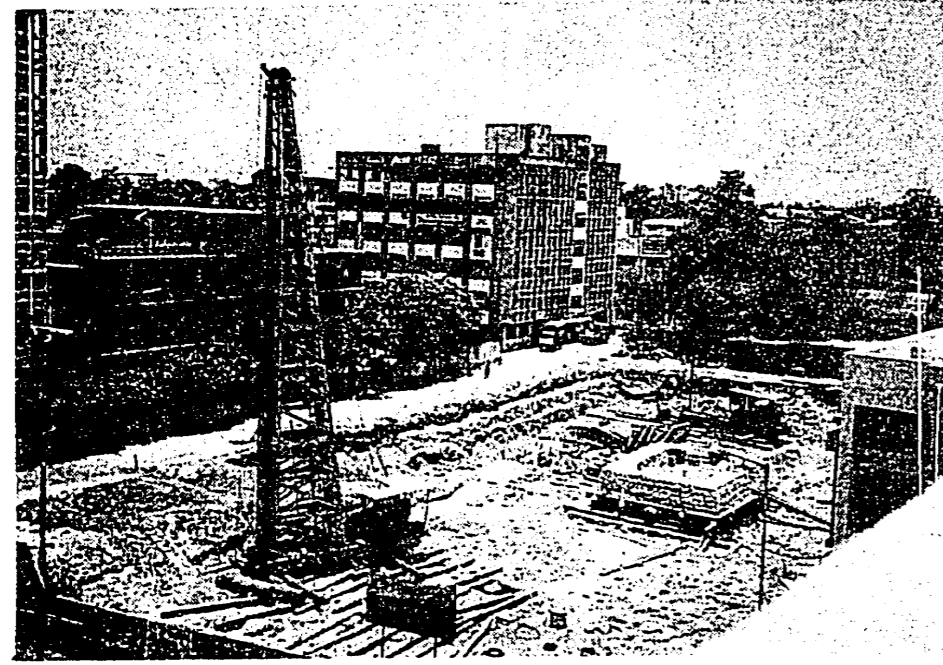
There are only about 57,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees left in the camps in Tamil Nadu, and they all seem eager to get back; in fact, about 10,000 want to be dropped back in the Jaffna Peninsula itself. *The Man From Madras Musings* was recently told. Those figures don't take into account the middle class and affluent refugees, who probably number around 10,000, and several thousands who, like the well-to-do category, have slipped into the mainstream of Tamil Nadu life. Together, these categories, MMM is inclined to believe, would number close to 50,000 and are unlikely to want to return to an island where they've lost everything.

A silver lining in the cloud is that the Government of India has accepted the presence in Tamil Nadu of officials from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and has given them free access to the camps and refugees. The equation of these officials with both Central and State Government officials has considerably improved since the early prickly days when the UNCHR sought a presence in South India, and India kept talking of the refugees as a bilateral, almost Tamil-Tamil, issue, MMM is glad to find. The UNCHR officials are not only now convinced that, by and large, no coercion was used to send thousands of refugees back to Trincomalee and Mannar, but they have also been able to get conditions improved in the camps in Tamil Nadu.

Once the process of checking who among the rest want to return to Sri Lanka is completed and plans are made for their sea trips after the Southwest Monsoon, there will still remain the 40 or 50,000 who have become part of everyday life in Tamil Nadu. What is going to happen to them, many of whom are of Indian origin? Does UNCHR have a role to play in this problem? MMM rather thinks its good offices, both in Madras and New Delhi, could help relieve several problems many of these families face.

One of the problems is higher education. The last Tamil Nadu Government suddenly one fine day took it upon itself to stop admission to colleges of students from refugee families. Will the DMK Government, a government more sympathetic to the refugees, make college admission easier once again?

But that's the least of the problems some of these families face. What about employment for those who passed out when they were eligible for college admission and for those who will pass out if they are admitted to colleges again? Many refugee youth are idle because of these constraints. And we all know what the Devil will find for idle hand to do. To prevent such mischief happening, this is an issue the UNCHR should consider a priority for discussion with both Centre and State.



Work begins on the Oberoi-Balaji Novotel on White's Road, at the back of the Sathyam theatre complex in the heart of Madras. (Photograph by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)

New priorities?

Well, the elections passed off reasonably peacefully in the State. There was little noise, fewer crowds and almost no defacement of private and public property. And the result in the State was a stunner — at least as far as the almost total rout of the party in power was concerned.

With the kind of majority it has, with a sympathetic 'Opposition', with a favourable Press, the new government has everything going for it. What is it going to do with it, wonders *The Man From Madras Musings*.

Renaming institutions, asking officials to play musical chairs, probing the past five years, acquiring a bit more comfort... these, MMM hopes, are NOT the priorities. MMM also hopes that the virtues of accessibility, low-key security and free-flow of traffic don't become considered achievements. What MMM would like to see sooner than later are promises being kept on municipal elections, improved infrastructure, a better public distribution system, greater encouragement to investment and an easier life for the citizens. MMM wonders whether as a token of this we could see the first regional benches of the Madras High Court sitting in Madurai — where the buildings are almost ready — by August. There is certainly a greater priority for this than changing ancient colleges into new universities.

Foreign alarms

A better law and order situation should also be a priority of the Government. And *The Man From Madras Musings* is not talking about putting an end to Veerappan's activities in the Western Ghats. What MMM is referring to is the increasing feeling of lack of personal safety on the city's roads, especially in residential areas and mainly due to a lack of regular police patrolling.

The need for this was brought home to MMM more forcibly recently by a young Swede who wanted to leave Madras as fast as possible. Eighteen months was enough for him and his family! "It's not for me I want to leave. Work-

ing here is nice," he apologetically said. "It's for my wife and baby."

Explaining the problem, he narrated how difficult mother and child were finding it sitting cooped up in a flat all day. But their real problems started when they went out for a stroll in the mornings and evenings. The lack of pavements for strolling with a pram, the traffic on the road that always seemed to veer towards the walker and the pram...all these were nightmarish enough. But what was worse, he said, was the way his wife was harassed ('eve-teased', if you wish) every day by street corner loungers, passing cyclists and autorickshawmen, and by some who decided to trail them. And all this in the perfectly respectable Nungambakkam area.

"What nonsense," MMM retorted. "Not in Madras!"

"Oh, yes, in Madras," insisted another foreigner who'd

SHORT 'N' SINAPIPIY

put in 15 years in the City. "It's a changing city, you know. And no white woman really feels safe on the roads these past ten years or so. All of them have any number of stories like our friend's to tell. It's a growing law and order problem. And it's a problem because you don't have regular police patrols as in cities elsewhere in the world."

Mulling it over, MMM wonders whether police patrols alone will do. Whether a social and cultural change is not necessary? But meanwhile, foreign wives will, sadly, continue to consider Madras not exactly their favourite destination for a three-year posting.

Hotel boom

There's a hotel boom in Madras to judge by much of the construction going on all over the city. But despite the impending competition, *The Man From Madras Musings* has been finding the standards going down in all the existing hostels. The "biggest and best buffet" in town is suffering from indifferent cooking, hotels known for their service no longer re-

member faces leave alone names of regular clients, staff found sleeping in empty rooms and creepy-crawlies infesting the rooms — and left lying dead on the corridors — are frequent complaints. And all this at prices that have no relevance to hotel-keeping.

Joining this competition for the booming business traffic and the growing tourist traffic — now virtually shut out of the North due to lack of hotel accommodation — are several new hotels MMM has noticed coming up — or been told about — in the past few weeks. Even as the Magunta Oberoi is coming up apace, work on the second Oberoi-Balaji property and third Oberoi property in Madras has started in the Gopalapuram area. And this will be the first of the Oberoi's four-star hotels emerging from its international Novotel link. Another 210-room Balaji-Oberoi Novotel is also coming up in Coimbatore. The Balaji Group, MMM hears, is investing Rs. 500 crore in hotels in the next three years.

Then the MAC Group are making their first foray into the hotel business, work on which is beginning near the Trident on the GST Road. This property, MMM hears, aims to bring back the Raj atmosphere in its club-like surroundings developed by an architect from the North with an international reputation in hotel-building. Will 'butler cuisine' make a comeback here, wonders MMM. This hotel is likely to tie up with the international Radisson chain.

Then at the Kathipara Junction, only the interiors

still have to be tackled at what will be the first Hilton in South India. Here the Dharani Group have switched from Holiday Inn to the Hilton's for management expertise. And nearby, the Empee Group, with several three-star and restaurant properties in Madras, are planning in a 4.5 acre holding their first five-star hotel, with a Marriott tie-up, MMM hears. 250 rooms by 1999 is the target.

And this is only the top-of-the-line list. MMM hears that at least 20 four- and three-star hotels are coming up (or have already come up) in the city in 1996-97.

In brief

★ When the Electricity Board is not chasing missing coal, it is busy insisting there's plenty of electricity for all in the State. Not many, particularly in the rural areas, will be convinced by such protestations. But leaving those doubts aside for a moment, what worries *The Man From Madras Musings* is the 'quality' of the electricity being received in homes and factories — when it is available. In areas like TNagar and

several other parts of the City, 60 watt bulbs glow like bulbs of less than 40 watts at any time of the day, and at moments seem to be almost 'night lights'. Fluorescent lights find difficulty in starting at most times of the day. And if more sophisticated household electricity items don't stop functioning, it is only because they are testimony to Indian engineering skills. This state of affairs has been going on for several years, but it has become particularly bad in the last six weeks, MMM has noticed. What is the MES going to do about it?

★ Gopal Gandhi, an old friend of *The Man From Madras Musings*, is a friend MMM does not meet too often. The reason is not hard to find — this Civilian of the Madras Cadre has spent most of his working career out of Tamil Nadu. He was seconded as Assistant Indian High Commissioner in Kandy, Sri Lanka, then he went to Delhi as President Venkatraman's Private Secretary, next he went to London as head of the India Cultural Centre. And as his five-year tenure there ends, many are going to miss him at the Centre, MMM hears, for he really put Indian Arts and Letters in the forefront of the London cultural scene while there. Now, is this grandson of Gandhiji and Rajagopalachari about to return to Madras? Not in the near future, MMM hears; he's heading for the Mahatma's second home, South Africa, as India's High Commissioner.

★ *The Man From Madras Musings* wishes five-star hotels are a bit more reasonable when they up prices for special international festivals. Chefs from abroad, raw materials from abroad, clothes from abroad and a band from abroad all cost money, but when you put down the names of half a dozen sponsors, what are THEY paying for? Not for you to up your prices, MMM is sure. That's a thought for the future. Looking back, MMM can only express surprise at a Sri Lankan food festival WITHOUT stringhoppers, hoppers, pittu, polos (green jack or bread-fruit), ambul thiyai (fish pickle), pol sambol and seemi sambol. And if the cook is a Sri Lankan Tamil, surely Jaifna koozh (curried bouillabaisse or fish mulligatawny, if you please) deserve to be on the menu. As it was, what a leading five-star hotel recently served as Sri Lankan food — at exorbitant prices — was a far cry from what is traditional on the island. Incidentally, something traditional in Sri Lankan cuisine is Maldivian fish, which all Sri Lankans consider a 'spice'. Beware, local restaurants catering to large numbers of vegetarians; Sri Lankan cooks find it almost impossible to cook without Maldivian fish! That's a tip from MMM for the next Sri Lankan food festival in Madras; it was too late for this one.

MMM

The nightmare of a call in Madras...

Even the small corner of South Madras where I have lived for more than twenty years has not escaped the frenzy of multiple flat building, to be seen in every nook and corner of this over-crowded city. Where only a short time ago there were pleasant bungalows with fairly spacious but by no means extravagant compounds around them, there are now either blocks of luxury flats or streets of small but elegant houses. Clearly these are all intended for the upper middle classes, 'the executive classes' as one industrialist described them to me, and be-

One Man's Madras — HARRY MILLER'S

cause of that their occupants will demand and will receive the facilities expected of their social rank. Telephones, for instance.

Those old bungalows would have had one telephone each: the blocks of flats will require dozens per block. But what of the infrastructure? Are the existing telephone exchanges capable of handling so many more connections? Knowing Government bureaucracy as I do, I very much doubt it. Making a phone call in Madras has always been an ordeal calculated to send a normal man hysterical with frustration. You ask your friend in the evening why his phone has been engaged all day, since you have been trying to get him on the phone at least twenty times, only to be told his phone hasn't been used at all during the period you were trying to get through. I know this is true because people have told me the same of my own phone, even when I have been at home beside it all morning and it never rang. People who understand these things tell me it's not the individual's phone that's been engaged all that time, but the exchange to which it is connected. After all, if you have an exchange designed to handle, say, ten thousand connections, what do you expect when you connect it with double that number?

(The same is true of road, sewage, water and electrical supply. Many of our 'executive' class neighbours enjoy the luxury of diesel generators, so they are scarcely ever aware of power cuts, and, of course, in

times of drought there is no shortage of water tankers to keep their domestic tanks brimming.)

Apart from that, making a telephone call in Madras has always been a nightmare, unless of course you are a company executive with an operator to do all the endless dialling and redialling for you. Even then, telephone calls don't always succeed as well as might be expected. The Mayor of Houston, Texas, would not have dreamt of what would follow the invention of the telephone by Alexander Bell when he boldly predicted that 'there will come a day when there will be a telephone in every American city!'

Fat lot of good that would be if they were all like those in every Madras home. More often than not my own attempts to make a telephone call end something like this (I use a fictitious name and my own phone number for obvious reasons):

First you get a chorus of 'hellos', all of which could have been avoided if only the guy at the other end had stated his number or identity clearly as soon as he picked up his phone. There was a time when every page of telephone directories was headed by a plea NOT to say 'hello' but to state your number, but those who tried so hard to get us to do that have long ago given up the challenge. These days, telephone directories tell us everything but that. Well, almost everything. I admit that looking for a number is often as difficult as solving mathematical quintic equations. But when, miracle of miracles, you get the ringing tone instead of the usual engaged, and at last you are actually speaking to someone at the other end of the number you've been trying to get, the conversation tends to go something like this. At least it does for me:

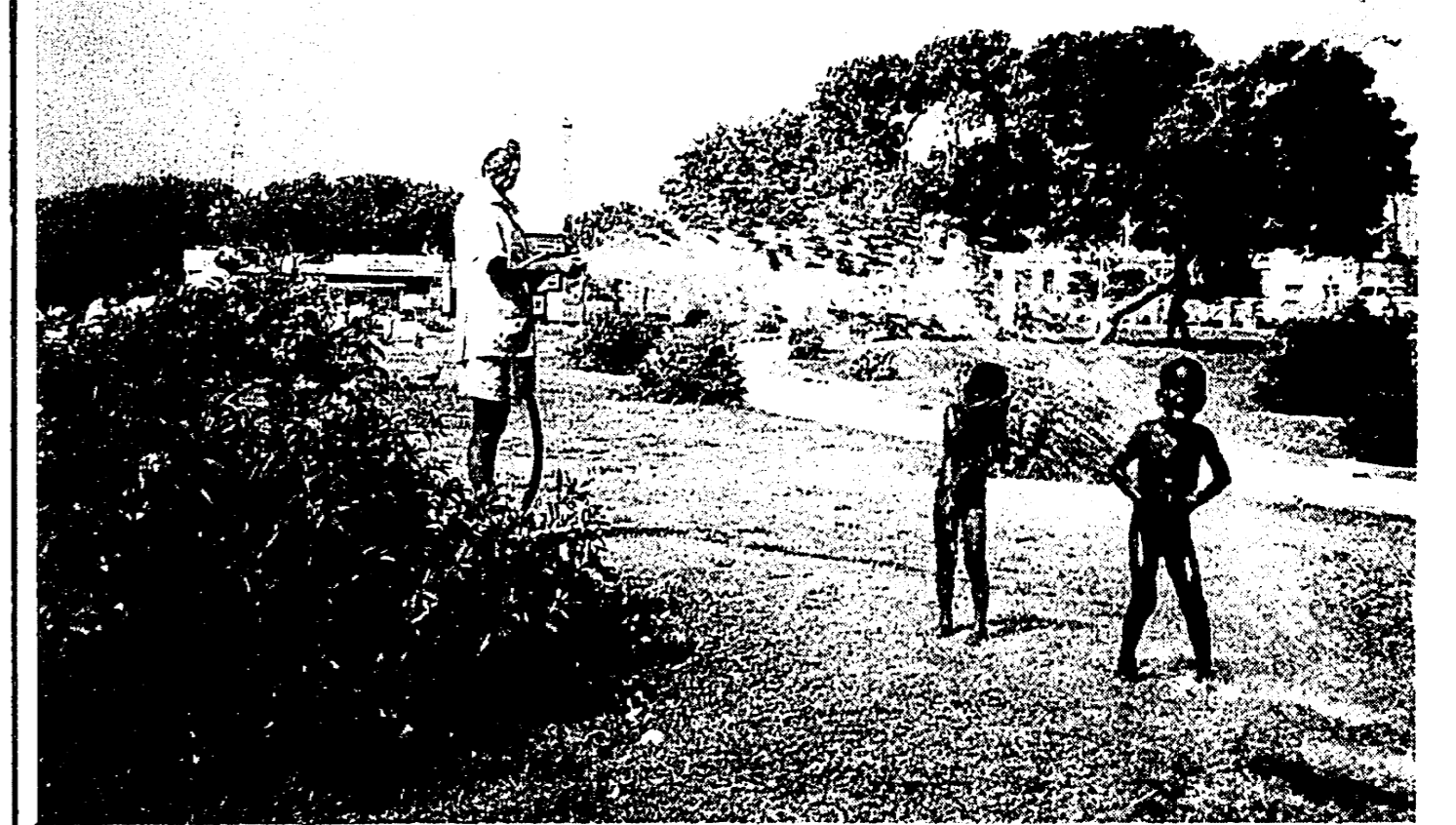
"Is that four five zero, five eight zero?" you say at last.

"Yes."

"Is Mr. Srinivasan there?"

"Yes!" And there follows a long silence broken when at last the pundit at the other end says, "Do you want to talk to him?"

That one always sends me up the wall. Why I should be asking for Mr. Srinivasan if I DIDN'T want to talk to him I can't imagine. But yes, I say, I do want to talk to Mr. Srinivasan, whereupon I am asked to identify myself. All this, by the way, comes only after you have dialled the number you want throughout a long dreary



Summer's here...though the worst of it has just passed us. And these two young boys seem to be having a whale of a time coping with it on the Marina lawns, as an obliging gardener is only too willing to cool them down, writes RAJIND N CHRISTY.

OUR READERS WRITE

Far-flung readership

While it is gratifying to note the express service of our postal authorities, we should feel proud that *Madras Musings* has been quite popular and its circulation seems to be far-flung. Witness the inland letter from Buxar (MM, April 16th).

Cdr. R. Ganapathi
116 Defence Colony
Madras-600 097.

Sad commentary

The corporate support is wonderful, but it has come only when *Madras Musings* announced its possible closure. It is ironic and sad that *Madras Musings* had to announce its death in order to survive. This speaks poorly for Madras — the educated, well-to-do so-called elite of Madras.

The corporate sponsorship will last a year. What happens after that? Will it be the same sad story again?

I am not criticising the hand that feeds the mouth. Far from it. The corporate benevolence is commendable and laudable. What they have done is good. Only, it could have been done earlier.

P.S: I do not see a Bihar address in the letter section. Unless the matter is of a personal nature, I am 'dying' to know what prompted a person from Buxar, Bihar, to write to *Madras Musings*.

B. Gautam
122 Walajah Road
Madras-600 002.

Editor's Note: The crux of the letter from Joy Koruthu of Buxar was that he was coming to Madras on a holiday and would like to meet the Editor to talk about the DGP building.

An inescapable fact

It was saddening to read in your Editorial in the March 16-31 issue of *Madras Musings* that, due to dwindling support, the publication is unlikely to continue. What happens after this last voice ceases to be heard in the rapidly expanding concrete jungle which once-lovely Madras has become? Thirty years after the phalistic re-modelling of many British towns and cities, there is much breast-beating over what was destroyed then. So it will be with India and elsewhere, but

that nobody learns from others' mistakes seems to be an inescapable fact of life.

John M Davies
4 Downsview Road,
Sevenoaks
Kent TN13 2JT
UK.

Editor's Note: Mercifully, Mr. Davies, we continue trying to make our voice heard thanks to a rescue act by a dozen industrial houses concerned with the same issues. There is still hope, it would seem.

Start a fund

Congratulations to you and your generous sponsors. May the publication continue to be issued for ever.

I must confess I was rather perturbed to read your offer of refunding the 'unused' subscription. This I feel is not necessary now.

My suggestion is that the amount available from all the subscribers should be utilised to build up a fund for the benefit of staff for festivals/bonus purposes.

T.G. Krishna
2-A Star Bridge Terrace
47 College Road
Madras-600 006.

Editor's Note: Wish we had a staff, Mr Krishna!

Happy recall

I was very happy to read that long response (MM, May 1) to my article 'Down San Thomé Way' by an eminent person like Mr Shenai who had bridged some of the gaps in my own memory of San Thomé. But what delighted me most is Mr Shenai's recollection, "...Among the residents on Palace Road was the legendary C I D Inspector, Michael, who in the 30s used to go about on a motor cycle combination and was held in great esteem..." I am delighted because the person whom Mr Shenai has written about so warmly, who later became Rao Sahib Michael and retired as an attaché in the Indian embassy in Singapore, is none other than my late father.

Mahema Devadoss
1, Kangayarpuram
Papanasam Sivan Salai,
Santhome
Madras-600 004.

Post-polls musings

Not bad at all — apolitical *Madras Musings* was right when it mused that Tamil Nadu was in for a change of leadership! (See Election Musings, MM, May 1). And the new C.M. has taken up at least two of the points put forth in our people's manifesto. Citizens, any citizen, can now fix an appointment and see the C.M.; and the roadblocks and lengthy petrol-guzzling ministerial cavalcades have been dispensed with. Two cheers! (The third 'cheer' will come when our Hon. C.M. constitutes the Eminent Citizens' Advisory Board to be consulted on all matters of civic importance and heritage issues.)

I hope the new C.M. will ban cut-outs. Many of us also hope that in consultation with

lowed to carry advertisements on their sides. That would not hurt anyone and the money so earned may help our transport corporations come out of the red.

It was heartening to hear Naidugaru of Andhra declare that Krishna waters would reach Madras by the end of 1996. All of us pray that his words will come true. This year's scorching summer reminds one of the summers of '91 and '92 and the awful drought of '93. The C.M. must use his good offices and personal rapport with his Andhra counterpart and get Madras the water due to her.

The past five years have seen wine shops mushroom all

• by Hiramalini Seshadri

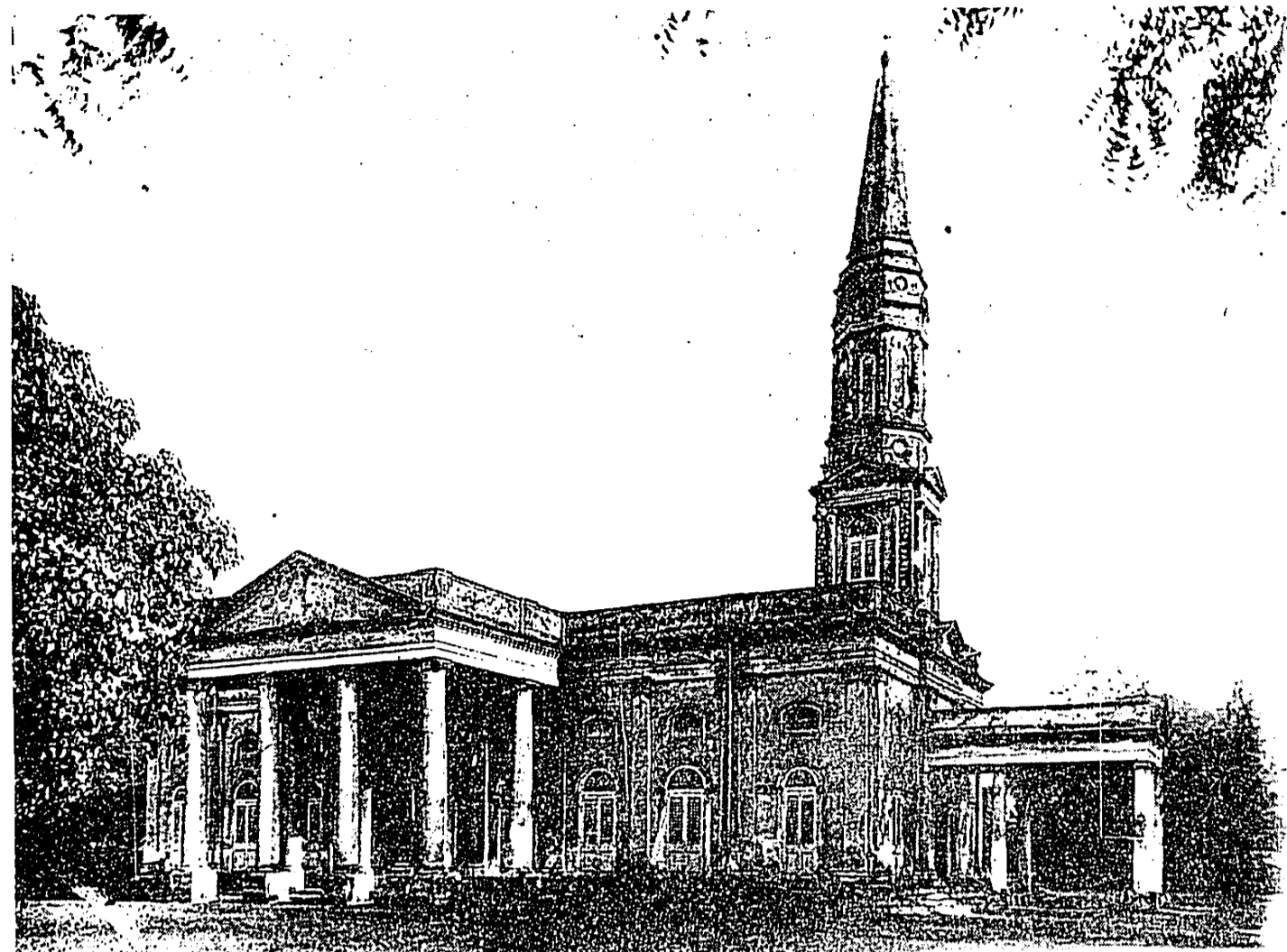
the Corporation, by legislation if needed, he will do something to curtail the gigantic advertising billboards that are ruining the Madras skyline, besides posing a threat to life and limb in our cyclone-and depression-prone city. Cut-outs of the former C.M. have all disappeared overnight as it were. Her larger-than-life portraits on billboards, painted by Alagu (his signature used to be on nearly all of them!), have all been whitewashed. But instead of something else coming up on them, I wish the billboards themselves would be dismantled. Advertising is necessary alright in a healthy, competitive free market, but not at the expense of the aesthetics of the city and the safety of her citizens.

On terra firma, as a rule of thumb, perhaps advertisers should be allowed to advertise only through landscaping. On payment of a fee, on a renewable contract basis, they may be allowed to raise small landscaped green patches on the sidewalks near bus-stands, milk-booths, post-boxes, pill-boxes, high voltage transmitters etc. Their messages may be displayed on boards at not higher than compound-wall heights behind the patch of green. The maintenance of these green patches should be the responsibility of the advertiser; improper maintenance will give the Corporation reason to remove them. Let advertisements be through such an aesthetic medium instead of messages blared down from uncouth billboards. Let Madras take the lead in encouraging green, environment-friendly advertising.

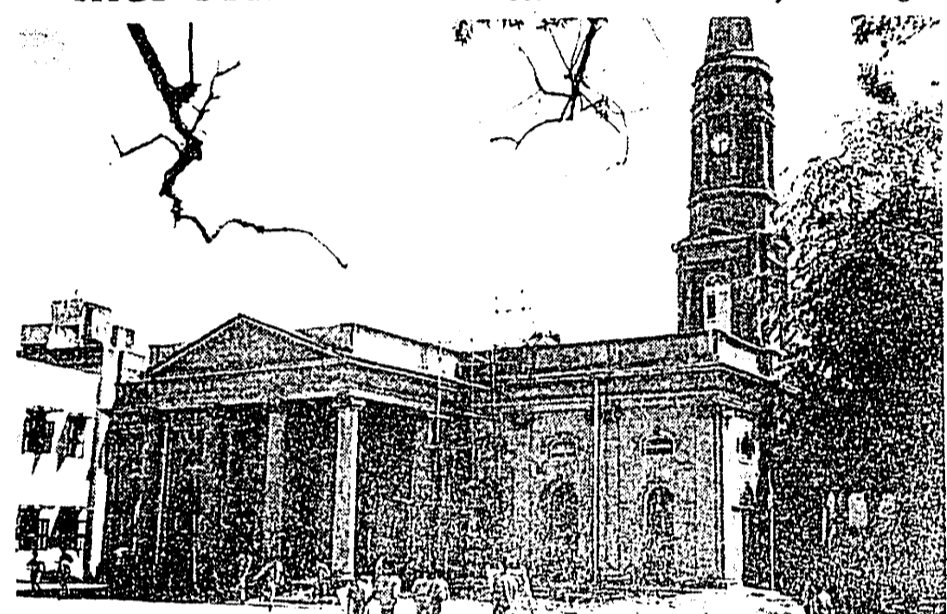
On payment of fee, ALL government buses may be al-

over Madras and the rest of the State. The hapless victims of drink have always been poor women; like my maid who sweeps the yard. She has to support her drunken husband and gets beaten up every now and again for her pains. Recently, she had a little respite when the chap was jailed for some petty offences. Dutifully she used to take him home-made lunch, as he could not bear to eat jail food! When I told her how Antony had brought in Prohibition in Kerala, her eyes were bedewed with tears of hope. "How nice! How I wish our *Muthal Amachar* would do the same here!" she sighed.

Will our Chief Minister listen?



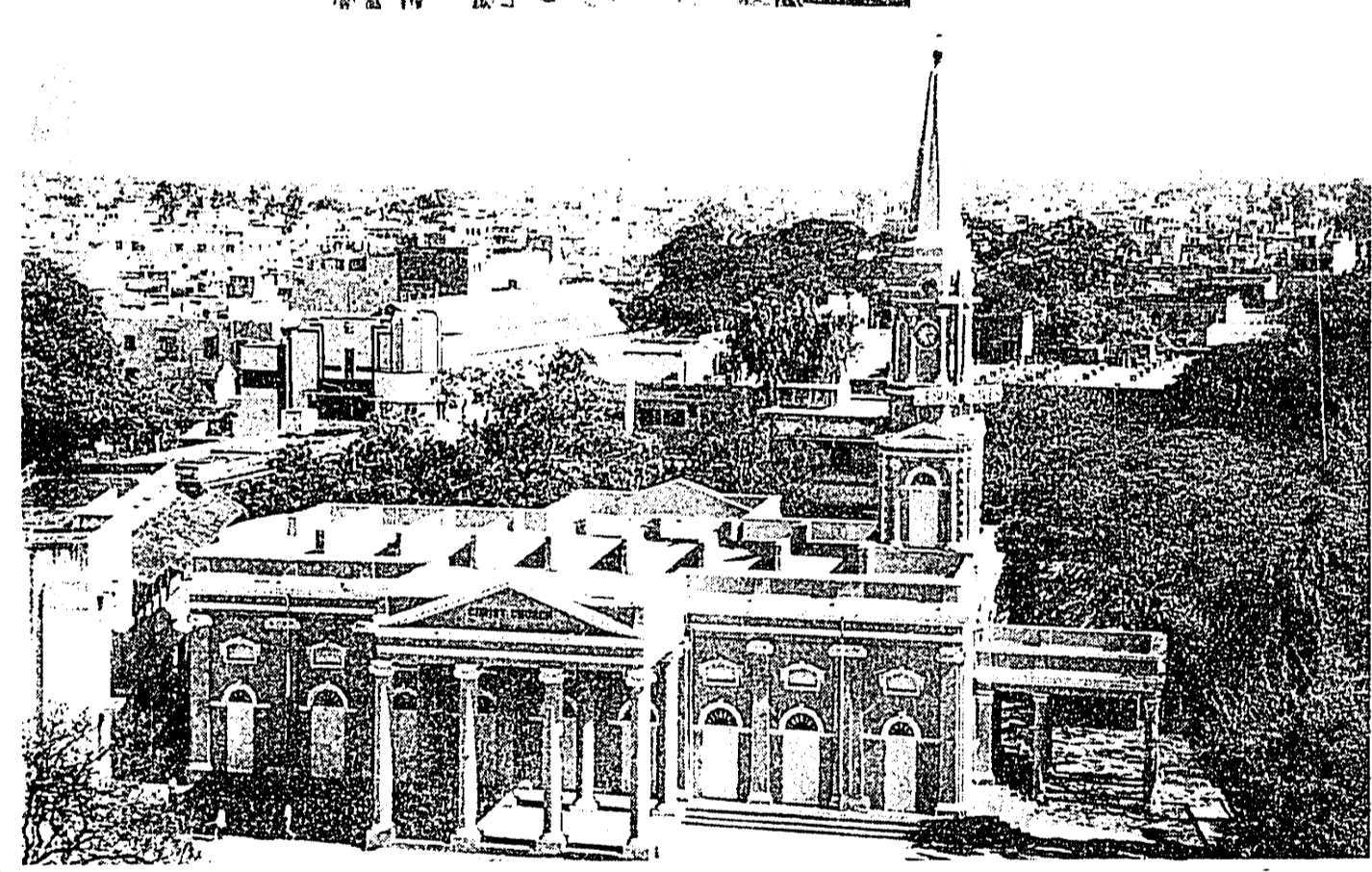
THE OLD... & THE NEW



Christ Church on Mount Road (next to the Cosmopolitan Club) echoes the architecture of St George's

Cathedral and St-Andrew's Kirk. Built in 1852, 36 years after St George's, it did not appear to have weathered well — or had not been cared for well — when the OLD was taken around 1900.

The NEW shows a handsome face-lift that's been given the Church after a scrapedown and a year and more's work. The restoration has spoilt none of the original...but has added two embellishments on the steeple and one on the pediment on the left. Are such loud proclamations of name and faith really necessary... especially when they mar a most tastefully done restoration? (The OLD from VINTAGE VIGNETTES collection; the NEW by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)



GAINS IN THE TV MARKETS ARE THE CUSTOMERS'

The first foreign TV majors to go it alone in the Indian market recently released the results of their first year of operations. The combined sales of Sony and Panasonic is just 1,15,000 TV sets of the total 1.72 million sold in India. But don't be deceived by this Lilliputian figure. What the MNCs have achieved in the year has been nothing less than a minor revolution in the Indian TV industry. And as they stand poised to move ahead in full force, the battle for the Indian market has been well and truly joined. 'Liberalisation' saw a number of tie-ups being struck by Indian companies for manufacturing TVs. Technical

collaborations, such as those of BPL-Sanyo, JVC-Onida and Videocon-Toshiba, resulted in the Indian partners capturing more than 85 per cent of the colour TV (CTV) and B & W markets. The rest of the spoils were shared by a host of regional manufacturers, who had, until recently, been the lords of a small pond.

The then Indian market was too small for the MNCs to set up profitable manufacturing units, and high import tariffs acted as a deterrent for selling imported sets.

The sector was flung open as limits for MNC equity participation were scrapped, even as import duties for compo-

nents were brought down to current levels. Suddenly the demand for TVs shot up too, propelled principally by the shift in the medium towards entertainment. The increasing number of satellite and cable channels as well as quality software spurred demand. And with people enjoying increasing incomes plus easy finance schemes, TVs, amidst other



products, came within purchasing reach. The estimated first-time buyer market itself is a mammoth 85 million sets and along with the replacement and upgradation markets India offers unbelievable opportunities.

Many foreign manufacturers, like Goldstar, Akai and Onida, stepped in to grab their slice of the India pie, in collaboration with local manufacturers. Others like Sony and Panasonic decided to go it alone, thus triggering a no-holds-barred confrontation between the local and foreign manufacturers. At stake is the survival of the local companies

(Continued on Page 7)

A model home for research

The sprawling M S Swaminathan Research Foundation's Centre for Research on Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development is one of the most striking buildings in Madras. Yet it is neither highrise, huge nor ornate. The three-storey building, which looks more like a large house than an office or laboratory block, is built on the very sensible principles of simplicity and accessibility.

Tucked away in a 1.5 acre plot on 3rd Cross Street in the Central Polytechnic's campus in Taramani, the building's internal ambience is a research scholar's dream. And over a hundred scientists, besides scores of auxiliary staff, find in it an ideal working atmosphere.

The classical view of the building with its ethnic red tile roofing is slightly distorted by a long greenhouse (covered with asbestos, and with air conditioners jutting out) positioned right in front, its two glasshouses on either side of the entrance. This, it seems, was deliberately positioned to give visitors, who walk through a 'tunnel' separating the two glasshouses to reach the adjoining foyer area, a feel of what the place is all about. To the left of you in the 'tunnel' are the endangered ornamental

plant species of Tamil Nadu, to the right are the medicinal herbal species of the State!

Once into the foyer area, ahead is the thoughtfully landscaped open central courtyard, the garden around which the structure revolves. The large, odd-shaped, thickly-turfed courtyard creates an image of space. For a minute you wonder whether your guide, Dr Balaji, is joking when he says that the entire built-up area is just 50,000 sq.ft. A cool pond with a traditional lamp is the central focus of the garden. Symbolically recreated around the pond are the classical land formations of the ancient Tamils, according to the *Tholkappiyam*. The five agro-ecological zones are: *Kunmji*: Hills and hilly environs, where hunting and gathering are the main occupations; *Mullai*: Forests and wooded lands associated with pastoral systems; *Mantham*: Cultivated lands of the plains and river courses where agriculture is dominant. *Neithal*: Coastal belts where fishing and a sea-based livelihood are found; and *Palai*: Desert lands resulting from degradation of *Mullai* and *Kunmji*. Truly does the garden-courtyard symbolise biodiversity.

Surrounding the ecogeographic courtyard is a red-

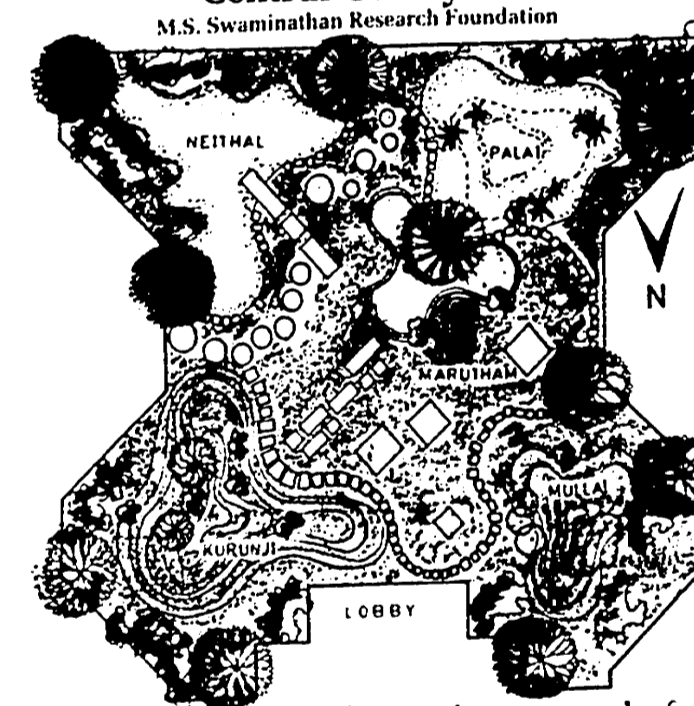


The M S Swaminathan Research Foundation's elegant building, with the double octagons (duplicated on the other side) clearly seen in front and the main building connected to it at the back.



The central garden seen from the lobby (left). The garden reflects the natural features of Tamil Nadu indicated in the sketch below.

Central Courtyard



tiled paththi, a cool, shaded corridor running alongside the walls of the rooms.

As Dr Swaminathan himself points out, walking along it to reach the various destinations is an exercise in itself. But more than exercise, it is a pleasurable experience, walking round that evergreen courtyard.

To the right of the foyer is the M K Narayanaswami and N Rajammal administrative hall and on the left is the M K Sambasivan and S Thangammal auditorium. As these two areas are likely to be most used by the public, they have been placed in front, in accordance with the principle of accessibility. Both are octagonal. This not only offers more space but permits an immense amount of natural brightness through the many windows. Cross-ventilation is another advantage. The fact that the building is largely

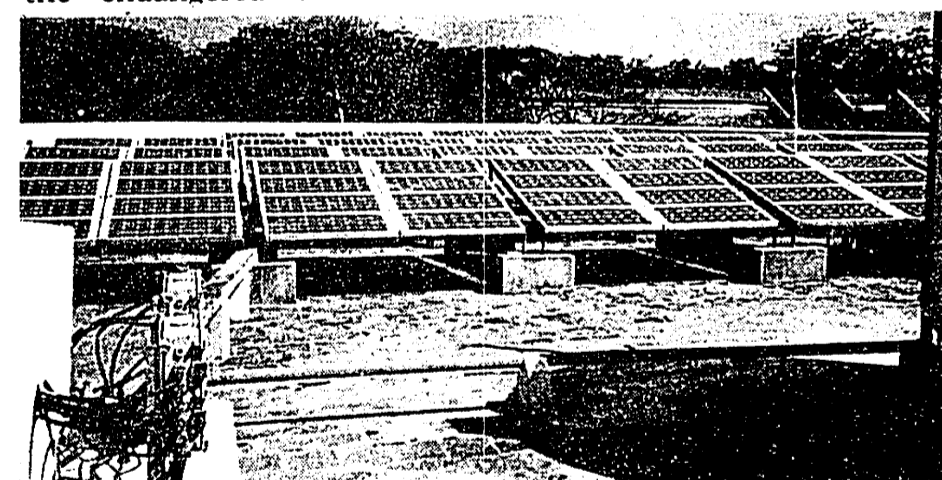
exposed to the west also facilitates the easy admission of sunlight.

The sound effects in the luxurious 125-seat auditorium are remarkable. The honey-combing used to support the

ceiling, instead of pillars, has the additional effect of breaking the echo.

The two octagons are connected by squares to another set of bigger octagons which

(Continued on Page 7)



The solar photovoltaic system on the roof of the main building.

The greenhouses on either side of the front entrance — on left, ornamental plants, on right, endangered medicinal plants of the South. (All photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)



Quizzin' with Ram'nan

(Quizmaster V.V. RAMANAN'S questions are from the fortnight May 1 to 15. Questions 16 to 20 pertain to Madras.)

1. Why was the DMK's Sugavanam the toast of his party cadres?
2. Fifteen Nepalese recently decided to make at least five trips to the summit of Mt. Everest for a particular reason. What?
3. On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day on May 3rd, who was named the 'worst enemy of the media'?
4. Who set a record of entering the Lok Sabha for the sixth time?
5. Name the controversial godman arrested by the CBI in Madras on May 2nd.
6. Who has been elected the consensus leader of the 'Third Force' (or the United Front)?
7. One of the world's biggest and best-known automakers is to be privatised by the French Government, by cutting down the Government's holding in it. Name the automaker.
8. Which tennis player recently set a record for being the world's top player for a record 332 weeks?
9. The Asian subsidiary of which American TV giant has entered into an agreement with DD?
10. Hemi Bawa has designed India's exhibit for the 'Olympic Salute to Folk Art' to be held at Atlanta during the Centennial Games in July. In what distinct shape has the sculpture been made?
11. The U.N. observed May 15th, for the third time, as...?
12. Recently a high profile case involving scientists was dismissed as "baseless and untrue", leaving a big blot on the reputation of the IB and Kerala Police. What case?
13. Name the documentary on 'mystic music' which has won the Swarna Kamal award in the non-feature film category of the 43rd National Film Festival.
14. Who recently won the men's world professional snooker crown for a record-equalling sixth time?
15. Which cricket team regained the Palayampatti Shield, the symbol of supremacy in the MAC-TNCA senior division league?

16. In 1886, Helena Blavatsky and Henry Olcott established the world headquarters of their spiritual movement at *Huddleston Gardens* in Adyar. What movement?
17. Which locality of Madras owes its name to a sacred lily pond that is believed to have existed there?
18. Down on Elliott's Beach in Besant Nagar is a poorly maintained memorial to a Danish sailor who died while saving an English girl from drowning. The edifice has featured in many films. Name it.
19. The first church built by the British east of Suez is in Madras. Where?
20. Two of the finest buildings in Madras, the University of Madras (especially its *Senate House*) and the Presidency College, are designed in a distinct form of architecture. Name it and the architect.

(Answers on p.8)

The forgotten knight

Many streets and roads in Madras city have been named after leaders of the Justice Party which held political sway in the Province during the 1920's and 30's. Panagal Park ... Dr. C. Natesan Road ... Theyagaraya Nagar ... Dr T M Nair Road ... T Sundararao Naidu Road ... and many more ... However, no road or street has been dedicated to the memory of one stalwart of the Party, Sir Kurma Venkata Reddi Naidu.

This long-time resident of Theyagaraya Nagar was born in Rajamahendravaram, a historic name which the British made Rajahmundry. He belonged to an affluent Kapu family of land-owners. Though the family was wealthy and could afford to sit back and relax on the rich returns of its fertile landholdings, its members felt that as men of worth and value they should work for a living and hold jobs to establish their individuality. So his father chose to be a police inspector. *Udyogam purusha lakshmanam!* (Work proclaims the man!) runs a Sanskrit adage and the Kurma family followed it to the hilt.

Venkata Reddi Naidu had his early education in his home town and studied at the United High School, then the well-known Government Arts College. Like most educated young men in the districts in those days, he made his way to the metropolis and joined Madras Christian College, then functioning in George Town opposite the Madras High Court. Venkata Reddi took his B.A. degree in Mathematics in 1894 and went back to Rajahmundry where he worked as a school-teacher and, later, as a college lecturer. Ambition to move ahead brought him back to Madras to study law. He then went back to Rajahmundry to set up practice.

Those were the days when lawyers invariably took an active part in public life, eager to contribute something back to society which gave them social stature, standing and respectability. It was also a period when politics was not a money-spinning business; indeed, many gave up their fortunes in the course of fighting for their causes. And so, Venkata Reddi Naidu entered public life and was elected to the Municipal Council of Rajahmundry. Soon he became its Chairman, then a member of the Godavari District Board and the President of the Polavaram Taluk Board.

and whenever he was free he practised at the Madras High Court, but not with much success.

When dyarchy was introduced as a consequence of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms and the Justice Party formed the Madras provincial government, Kurma Venkata Reddi Naidu was appointed Minister for Industries.

In spite of his education, background, talent and skills, he did not impress the then Governor of Madras, Lord Willingdon. Consequently, when the Justice Party formed the government again in 1923,

They made OUR Madras

A walk down Memory Lane with RANDOR GUY

Kurma Venkata Reddi Naidu also became a member of the Indian National Congress and during his 16 years with it attended several annual sessions of the Party. But as a Congressman he found that the Party was under the domination of members of the Brahmin community and people like him were being relegated to the back benches, if not thrown out. This provoked him to resign from Congress and join the Non-Brahmin Movement founded by Dr T M Nair, Dr C Natesan and Sir Pitti Theyagaraya Chetti. Soon, he made a mark in it by moving a resolution at its second annual conference seeking communal representation in government jobs. This Conference brought him into the limelight and when a delegation of Non-Brahmin leaders went to England to appear before the Joint Parliamentary Committee, he was in the team.

While in England he also qualified himself as a Barrister

he did not find a place in the cabinet. Obviously touched to the quick, he became one of the strong supporters of the No Confidence Motion brought against the government which was spearheaded by that educationist and intellectual giant of South India, Sir Cattamanchi Ramalinga Reddi, better known as CR Reddi.

However, in appreciation of his status and services, the British Indian government bestowed on him a knighthood, and Sir Kurma Venkata Reddi Naidu was appointed the Agent-General of the Indian Government in South Africa in 1929. It was a prestigious office in that era and was held by the likes of Rt. Hon'ble V S Srinivasa Sastri and Sir Mohammed Habibullah.

Back home from South Africa, Sir Kurma was appointed the Law Member of the Government of Madras. Under the dyarchy system, this important portfolio was under the control of the British and the office had



Sir Kurma Venkata Reddi Naidu... an acting Governor of Madras in British times. (Photograph courtesy RAGAMI)

earlier been held with great distinction and some controversy by Sir C P Ramasamy Iyer.

The crowning glory of his career came when he was appointed Acting Governor of Madras for a short period in 1940, an honour rarely conferred on an Indian in that age. Later, he was appointed the Vice-Chancellor of Annamalai University and while in office he passed away suddenly, due to a massive heart attack on September 1, 1942.

Sir Kurma was a well-built person and cut a fine figure in his expensive suits and laced turbans. He did not believe in writing his speeches, whatever the occasion, and spoke extempore with literary flourishes.

Westernised in his lifestyle, he loved to travel frequently with the members of his family in his own special saloon attached to a train. (In those days, the railways in India were privately-owned and it was possible for men of status and wealth to have their own saloons to travel.)

Sir Kurma lived in a palatial bungalow at the south end of Boag (pronounced Bo-ag) Road. This stately building was later acquired and remodelled by the Indian super star Sivaji Ganesan, who still lives in it. South Boag Road is now renamed Chevalier Sivaji Ganesan Road. Sir Kurma is forgotten.

(Note: Randor Guy is abroad. He will resume his articles on his return.)

Add the honey, grated coconut and raisins. Toss well. Serve garnished with walnuts. Serves 4.

PEANUT-MUNG SPROUT SALAD

1 cup boiled peanuts
1 cup mung sprouts
2 spring onions, chopped fine
¼ cup grated raw mango
1 green chilli, chopped fine
Salt and pepper to taste.

Method

Mix the peanuts, mung sprouts, raw mango and chopped spring onions. Add salt and pepper to taste. Toss well and serve. Serves 4.

CHICK PEAS SALAD

1 cup chick peas
1 tbs lemon juice

1 green chilli, chopped fine
¼ cup finely chopped spring onions
Salt and pepper to taste
1 tbs oil
A small bunch coriander leaves, chopped fine

Method

Soak chick peas in sufficient water for at least eight hours. Pressure cook and drain well.

Add lemon juice, chopped green chilli, chopped spring onions, oil, pepper and salt. Mix well.

Serve chilled, and garnished with coriander leaves.

CREAM CHEESE CURD POTATO SALAD

1 litre freshly-set thick curd
1 bunch fresh lettuce leaves
350 g baby potatoes, boiled and peeled
½ tsp chilli powder

¼ tsp asafoetida powder
1 tsp cumin seeds, dry roasted and powdered fine
2 tbs chopped coriander leaves
1 tbs mint leaves
Salt to taste

Method

Pour the fresh curd onto a clean muslin cloth and hang for 1½-2 hours till all the whey is drained.

Set aside the cream cheese. Arrange the boiled potatoes in a bowl. Add the salt, chilli powder, asafoetida powder and cumin seeds powder. Mix well. Add the cream cheese and mix well.

Arrange the potatoes on a bed of lettuce leaves in a salad bowl. Garnish with chopped mint and coriander leaves. Serve chilled. — Chandra Padmanabhan

Great reviver, or developer?

A controversy that is raging at present in the classical arts scene has to do with the role of Rukmini Devi Arundale as the saviour and reviver of Bharata Natyam. The focus of the debate is the dance-drama *The Banyan Tree*, produced by dancer Lakshmi Viswanathan and exalting Rukmini Devi as the Earth Mother and saviour of a dead dance form.

Dance historians like B M Sundaram and Pattabhiraman of *Srutii* argue that Rukmini Devi learnt dance only as a hobby and at a late age, because she was mesmerised by its beauty as presented by the *devadasis*. She learnt the art from the *devadasis* and *nattuvanar* and the fall-out of this was the setting up of the Kalakshetra School of Dance.

That Kalakshetra brought in a new aesthetics to dance, created a beautiful ambience for its study and de-criticised the dance is true, they say, but she did NOT revive a dead form. The dance was very much alive and kicking with the *devadasis*, who maintained high standards in the face of many problems, so there was nothing to revive, they argue.

Rukmini Devi Arundale only refined the form to present it to the urban elite and foreigners, the historians say. And in the process of refinement, the dance also lost a lot of its vitality, according to them. So history needs to be corrected and Rukmini Devi be given due credit for creating a new school of dance, but NOT for revival of a dance form.

When Muthulakshmi Reddy wanted a ban on the *devadasi* system, E Krishna Iyer argued that this would finish the dance and made great efforts to present two *devadasi* dancers on the Music Academy platform. So it was the *devadasis* who were responsible for the switch from the temple and salon to the stage.

"It is time to correct the misconception about Rukmini Devi's role in dance resurgence," says Pattabhiraman, the editor of *Srutii*. If you have an opinion on this, please do not hesitate to write to us. Every truth has two sides to it. Both need to see light and both need deliberation. Please join the debate.



K. Bhanumathi (Photograph by S. ANWAR. Courtesy *Srutii*)

Honouring the Isai Vellalar

Srutii has honoured K. Bhanumathi, belonging to the Isai Vellalar community, as a symbol of the community that saved Bharata Natyam by sustaining it in the face of extreme opposition. The award was to honour a community that was misunderstood by the British and which sustained a tradition that is unique to India.

— V.R.D.

Gains in the TV market

(Continued from Page 4)

and the prestige (plus further expansion) of the MNCs. The capacities of each side is clear. High technology, huge financial back-up and economies of scales aid the MNCs. An established brand image, efficient networks for marketing and after-sales service, and, above all, the advantage of cheaper Indian parts are the advantages of the Indian manufacturers.

It can no longer be doubted that the new arrivals have effected a sea-change in the marketing, pricing and quality of TVs in India. Profit margins for 1995-96 alone being over Rs 70 cr. Retail marketing has been given a further thrust with new concepts like BPL Gallery, Onida Arcade etc., and, above all, high quality TVs with a range of exotic features are now in the Indian market. Onida's CTV with G-Horn for better sound and pictures, BPL's Fuzzy Logic CTV and ECIL's CTV with direct reception from satellite channels are just starters to whet the Indian appetite for quality.

Well, whoever wins the race in the market, the Indian customer is sure to gain. Meanwhile, here are our recommendations for this fortnight: Oriental Bank of Commerce (CMP: Rs 87): Established in 1943, OBC was the first nationalised bank to go public, in October 1994, with a premium issue (Rs 10+50).

With over 675 branches, OBC has been accorded (P1+) rating for its Certificate of Deposits and FAAA rating by CRISIL for FDs. Its capital adequacy ratio had stood at 18.69 per cent at the end of March 1995.

For the half-year ended September 1995, it recorded a total income of Rs 510.77 cr, a PAT of Rs 127.90 cr and an annualised EPS of Rs 13.28. Deposits and advances stood at Rs 6673.46 cr and Rs 3528.88 cr respectively as on March 1995. For March 1996 we expect the Bank to achieve an EPS of around Rs 8.50, giving good scope for appreciation in the medium-term.

Alacrity Housing (CMP: Rs 26.00): Credited for high social and corporate ethics, this Madras-based construction major has once again outperformed earlier projections by registering good results for March 1996. Income for operations has grown by about 42 per cent and other income by nearly four times. The improved bottom line has helped EPS go up to Rs 4.44, from the previous Rs 3.93. However, due to increased total expenditure, OPM has come down from 21.91 per cent to 16.77 per cent and NPM from 12.93 per cent to 10.14 per cent.

Promoted by Amol Karnad and associates, Alacrity enjoys a good market share of the housing segment in South India. The scrip is close to its historic support level between Rs 25 and Rs 20 and may be picked up at current levels. The housing sector is witnessing a boom and the company's projects on hand, worth Rs 200 cr, could help it achieve a PAT of around Rs 4 cr and an EPS of around Rs 5 which would support a price of around Rs 35-40. A good investment proposition for the medium-to long-term.

— K. Gopalakrishnan



Rukmini Devi Arundale — the dancer who started a revival. (Photograph by, and courtesy of, C.T. NACHIAPPAN)

Young stars

We are just waking up to reality after that great show on TV; the slickest coverage of the democratic process in the largest democracy in the world, Pranroy Roy and friends keeping the seasoned politicians on tenterhooks and throwing up some heroes in the bargain. For the non-initiated in politics, it was amusing to watch BBC making a hash of the political debate on India and our own Madras channels coming up with their own versions of the show. They did a good job, but sticking to the present culture of Tamil Nadu, spoke more to people from the film industry. TV may be just an entertainment channel, but it can also help in speeding up the regionalisation of politics in India.

The heroes thrown up by the national media belong to the Left. I found it fun to find young girls going ga-ga over Prakash Karat and Sitaram Yelchuri. They were both very confident, spoke so well and stole young hearts. Imagine politicians, and that too those not in power and not belonging to the Nehru family, becoming heart-throbs!! The girls were particularly thrilled when told that both Karat and Yelchuri had studied in Madras, at MCC and Loyola!

This was also the first time I've heard young boys talking politics on the beach! At Elliot's Beach, it was all politics. Everyone, from a child to

old people, was discussing Jayalalitha and the unfortunate interview she gave Rasheeda Bhagat of the *Indian Express*; it managed to lose her any sympathy that there may have been left after her fate in this election!

Something different

TV is introducing a new culture, and a new awakening is taking place. But there is also boredom associated with all those dances from films in which fifty people behind the hero and heroine do the same kind of jig regardless of language. Maybe this is the time to start new kinds of programmes.

Even the classical Music Quiz programmes on Vijay TV and Raj TV are gaining popularity for their sheer difference. Vijay TV's *Annikam* is particularly popular, despite the very self-conscious presentation of this quiz. Its 50th programme had all the young stars, and R K Sriram Kumar, the young violinist, impressed with his immense knowledge of music trivia.

Among the children's programmes, the only one that is not only watchable but also very entertaining is *Asianet's Chiragugal*. The programme, which won the Onida award, is very innovative and makes use of the traditional performing arts and crafts.

— V R Devika

A MODEL HOME FOR RESEARCH

(Continued from Page 5)

the medium access areas, the S Boothalingam and B Mathuram library and the Norman Borlaug seminar hall. Plumbing operations are located in the square spaces.

At the end of the building is a two-storey rectangular block which is the research scientists' preserve. Admittance is restricted and, therefore, in keeping with the accessibility criteria, it is placed right at the back. This block is divided into three at the rear to form air shafts. The air shafts not only permit additional light but also movement of air from down, up. They were specially designed for the airconditioners.

On the ground floor of this block is the B R Barwala staff hall, the canteen, a herbarium and the Honda Informatics Centre. A black-slabbled

Cuddapah staircase leads to the laboratories of floor one. The labs are interconnected to allow flow of internal traffic. The second floor of the rectangular block is left free for expansion upto an area of 7,500 square feet.

Trunking has been used throughout, to assist the drawing of any new electric lines as and when requirements crop up. Solar power panels have been erected on the top of the medium access areas, the electricity thus generated being used for the laboratories, security lighting and airconditioning units, computer centre and greenhouses. The 10 KVA solar photovoltaic system was installed by Central Electronics Limited and was financed by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and Department of

Scientific and Industries Research.

A provision has been made for water harvesting too, which means all rainwater is collected and transferred to the next plot which will soon be developed for demonstration purposes.

Timber has been totally avoided for doors and windows throughout the building, in keeping with the ethos of conservation.

The shell is estimated to have cost Rs. 1.5 crore. The building has the inimitable stamp of the Venkat-Natraj style of architecture. But with Dr Swaminathan's inputs, it has also acquired a class all its own, standing out as a model to be followed elsewhere in the city.

— Lakshmi Nagappan and Rajind N Christy

● *The sole Madras representative*

Indian Bank in NFL

Indian soccer has always been synonymous with Calcutta football. The professional league of that city is not only the only one of its kind in the country, but the players there have always put club before anything else, even the honour of representing the country. The demands of club loyalties over the importance attached to national football has often been cited as one of the causes of the decline in Indian standards since the heady Fifties when India won the Merdeka tournament.

It is only in recent years that teams from other parts of the country have begun to challenge the supremacy of Calcutta clubs. The efforts of corporate promoters of the

game have, however, as yet failed to produce spectacular results, though the Football Academy of the Tatas in Jamshedpur has begun to yield dividends. In Madras, Indian Bank and ICF have been prominent in their support of the game. They have recruited some of the best southern talent and nurtured it

The advent of satellite television has meant that Indian sport is for the first time receiving the kind of coverage and patronage that only Western countries have enjoyed in the past. The most encouraging aspect of this development is that foreign television networks and sports promotion agencies are interested in sport other than the all-pervasive cricket. IMG, the company promoted by Mark McCormack, author of *What They Don't Teach You At Harvard* and who has revolutionised the way sportsmen's careers were managed, has decided to support Indian football and hockey in a big way. IMG also owns the television network TWI, the people who will

be responsible for transmitting Indian football throughout the year through Star TV.

IMG has also signed an agreement with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and Leisure Sports Management, a Calcutta-based agent of AIFF, to restructure the Indian football scene. A national league has been drawn up involving 12 top teams from all over the country, including Indian Bank, Madras. ICF whose name was first mentioned as one of the teams invited now seems out of it, though it might find a place in a second division league, if there is one. There is also talk of the number of teams being reduced to eight, talk of two divisions with promotions and relegations and so on. The league is planned to be held between December and March. According to IMG officials, there will be no clash of interests with the Calcutta league, though it is not clear how that will be avoided.

For Indian Bank, being selected as the lone Madras team to participate in the National

League, is a singular honour and a well-deserved one. A succession of chief executives interested in sport, including M G K Nair, M V Subba Rao and M Gopalakrishnan, have helped it to fly high in the arena of sport.

The football team, which had its beginnings in 1987-88, made history within a couple of years by winning the Vittal trophy while still in the third division. The role played by D V Sundar, the bank's Sports Secretary, in recruiting and maintaining teams in a number of disciplines cannot be ignored while assessing the contributions made by individuals to the Bank's enviable position in domestic sport. The Bank fields excellent teams in cricket, football, tennis, volleyball, hockey, table tennis, chess, basketball and carrom.

Coming to Indian Bank's successful record in soccer, much of the credit goes to its coach Albert Fernando, who coached the Sri Lankan team and trained in Brazil. The stars produced by the bank include Indian Captain V T Satyan, 'golden goal' scorer Sabir Basha, veteran Amal Raj, outstanding midfielder Hamilton Bobby, former junior stars Loganathan Balaji, Ashraff Hassan and S Ravi, India probable Felix Edward in goal and Tamil Nadu player Joseph.

While the precise financial implications of the national league are not known, a few problems remain unresolved. Indian Bank's players, like the

others in the new league, will obviously stand to gain monetarily and, therefore, will be eager to take part. They will also suffer from a surfeit of football, to go by local reports. The team has asked to be relieved of doing duty in the local league, which, already, impoverished in terms of talent and spectator appeal, can hardly afford to miss its best team. The Calcutta factor is yet another complication that cannot be wished away.

No one can deny, however, that the national football league is the best thing to have happened to soccer in India.

— V. Ramnarayan

CRISIS

(Continued from Page 1)

speciality chemicals for tanneries have also been 'badly hit'.

Editor's Note : Much as Madras Musings sympathises with the industry in its present plight, the fact remains that the industry owes an obligation to the pollution-affected citizens of the State. And what it is going to do about that obligation, the industry is not talking about!






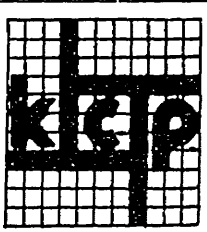




ANSWERS

1. He defeated the sitting Chief Minister, J. Jayalalitha, in the Bargur Assembly constituency; 2. To rid the peak of nearly 1500 kg of junk; 3. Abu Abdul Rehman, leader of Algeria's rebel armed Islamic group; 4. Nathu Ram Mirdha and Manoranjan Bhaktha, both of the INC; 5. Chandraswami; 6. H.D. Deve Gowda, the Chief Minister of Karnataka; 7. Renault; 8. Steffi Graf; 9. National Broadcasting Corporation; 10. The distinctly contoured Coca Cola bottle; 11. International Day of the Family; 12. The espionage case involving top ISRO scientists; 13. Tarana; 14. Stephen Hendry; 15. Globetrotters.

* * *

16. The Theosophical Movement; 17. Thiru-alli-keni or Thiruvallikeni (Triplicane); 18. K.A. Schmidt Memorial; 19. St. Mary's Church inside Fort St. George; 20. Indo-Saracenic by Robert Chisholm.

Madras Musings is supported as a public service by the following organisations:

<p>READY FOR THE EXPANDING HORIZONS OF THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY</p>  <p>Amalgamations Group In every vital area of national life</p>	 <p>Ashok Leyland GLOBAL STANDARDS. GLOBAL MARKETS</p>  <p>HINDUJA GROUP</p>	<p>A V Thomas & Co. Ltd.</p>  <p>PREMIUM TEA</p>	 <p>Bank of Madura Ltd. Banking by Design</p>
<p>INDIA CEMENTS LTD.</p> <p>Manufacturers of Sankar Cement and Coromandel Cement</p>	<p>The KCEP Group</p>  <p>Dr. P.V. Cherian Crescent Madras - 600 105 Tel: 8270687</p> <p>Manufacture of Heavy Industrial Machinery & Cement - Design, Manufacture, Supply & Erection of Complete Cement & Sugar Plants.</p>	<p>MEMBER</p>  <p>PARRYS CONFECTIONERY LIMITED</p>	 <p>No one treats your skin like Pond's</p>
 <p>32, Cathedral Road, Madras - 600 86.</p> <p>Steering gears - Manual & Power Steering linkages & Ball joints Brake Linings & Clutch products Engine Valves & Valve guides Camshafts & Tappets</p>	<p>THE SANMAR GROUP 8, Cathedral Road, Madras 86.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemicals • Thermoplastics • Engineering • Electronics • Shipping • Textiles • Property Development • Footwear & Exports • Financial Services 	<p>SPIC</p> <p>Group of Companies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agribusiness • Chemicals & Petrochemicals • Pharmaceuticals • Services <p>Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Limited, 97, Mount Road, Guindy, Madras - 600 032. Ph: 2350245; Telex: 041-8921 & 8908; Fax: 2352163</p>	 <p>Sundram Fasteners Limited</p>