

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS MUSINGS

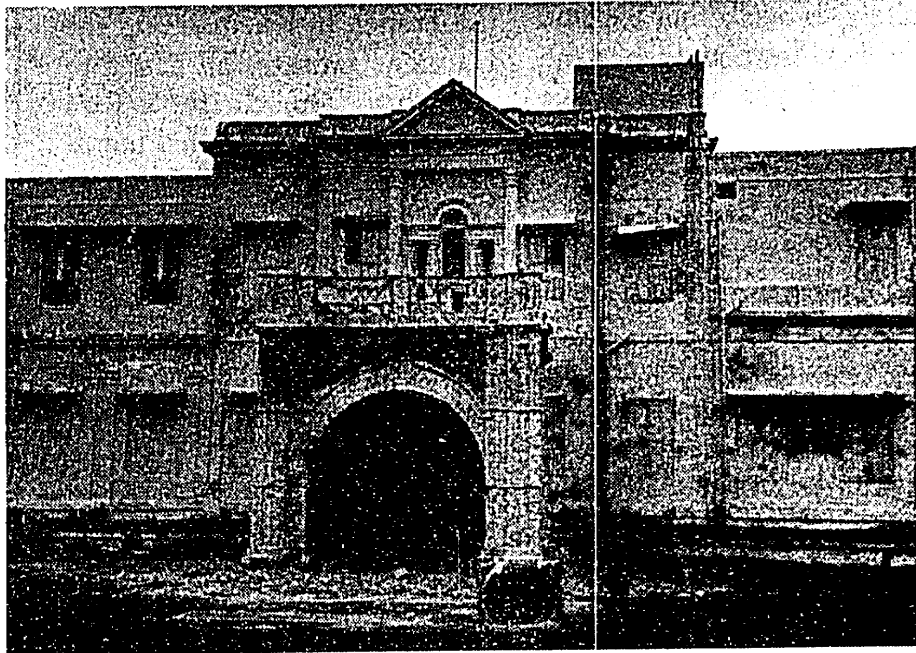
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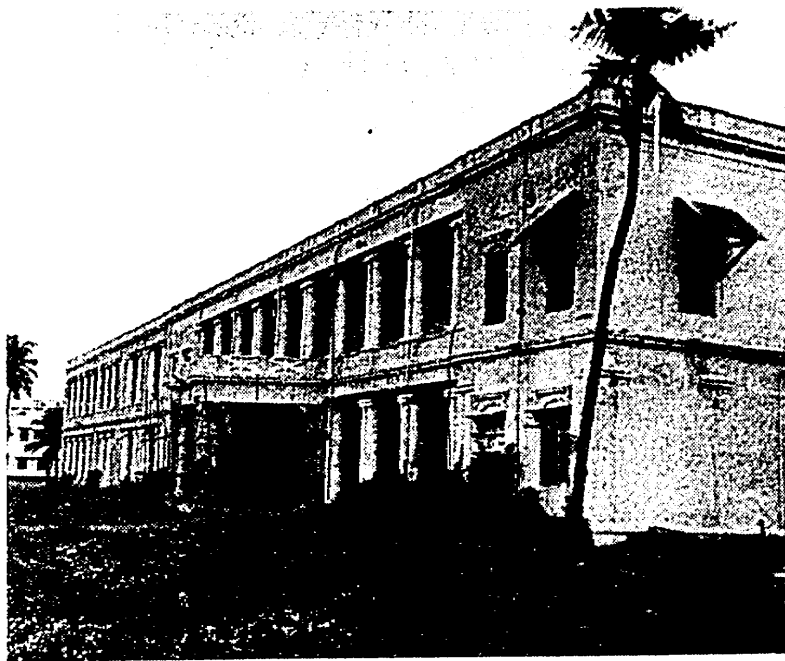
Vol. VII No. 8

FREE ISSUE

August 1-15, 1997



Chipping away at the front portico at the DGP Building ...



... and the portico facing the Marina ... (All photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY)



... and the walls along the long corridor in the rear building, as restoration work gets underway.

Restoration at last

(By Rajind N Christy)

Work has at last begun on restoring the Director General of Police's office, whose preservation *Madras Musings* has long sought. Detailed plans for the restoration of this historic building have been drawn up and the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation has started work on the porticos and the outer walls of the building. The work will be continued by the Tamil Nadu State Con-

struction Corporation and is expected to be completed by the end of this financial year at a cost of Rs. 1.35 crore.

The Madras terrace building, with steel beams, wooden flooring, staircases and long corridors, will undergo extensive replastering. Dr M S Mathews, Professor & Head, Department of Building Technology and Construction, IIT, Chennai, who has been consulted, says that the building is in a stable condition. The tradi-

tional lime and mortar with which the main building is plastered could be redone with the same composition, but if the authorities decide otherwise the entire walls will have to be chipped off and replastered with cement mortar. A couple of major cracks in the building can be plugged with concrete. The roof of the building will be made leak-proof during this renovation. A suggestion has

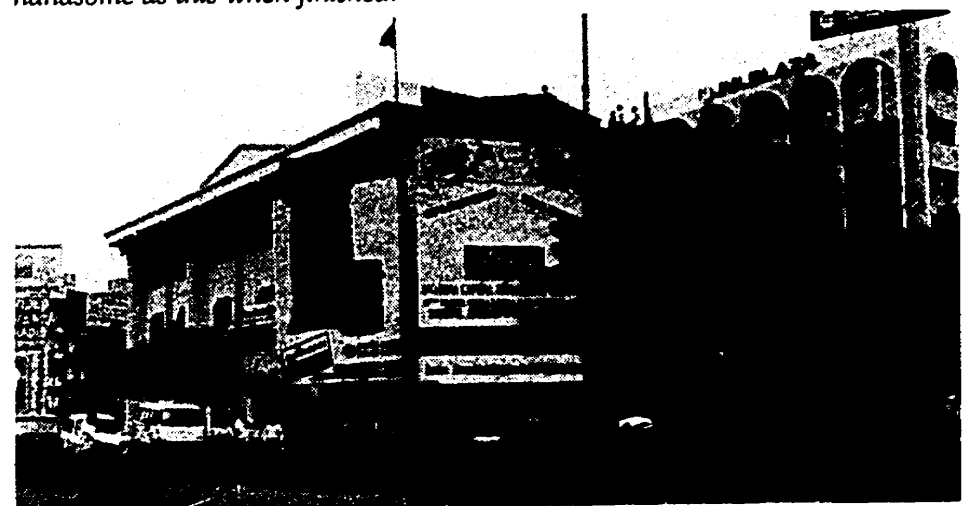
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THE OLD...

...& THE NEW



An old building, Balmer Lawrie's on Mount Road, Teynampet, renovated in Regency style... and then hidden by hoardings. Will the DGP Building look as handsome as this when finished?



Ranjani Sampath

(By V Jagannathan)

While Princess Diana and the USA's First Lady, Hillary Clinton, called for a global ban on the production and laying of landmines, there was one voice from Chennai joining the global celebrities on the subject.

Ranjani Sampath, who has an M.Phil in Defence Studies, is the Chairperson of the Indian Campaign To Ban Landmines

A Chennai voice against landmines

(ICABL), an NGO. She was recently in Maputo, Mozambique, to participate in the Fourth International NGO Conference on Landmines. And she will be representing the country at the Regional Colloquium to Ban Landmines to be held next month in Sydney, Australia.

According to her, the campaign against landmines in general, and more particularly against anti-personnel (AP) landmines, is gaining momentum the world over, ever since the United Nations published a protocol titled 'Ban on Landmines' as a result of the havoc these silent killers have created

in countries like Rwanda, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Croatia, Ethiopia and Sri Lanka. In fact, South Africa has imposed a total ban on AP landmines and the UK's Labour Party announced seeking a ban on such mines as one of its poll promises. Globally, the International Committee of the Red Cross is leading the campaign, enlisting in the process the support of several NGOs in various countries.

Says Ranjani Sampath, "According to UN projections, even if the use of mines is stopped now, it would take about 1,100 years to clear the already laid

mines and it would cost a whopping US \$33 billion!" But why should landmines be banned, thereby risking a nation's security? Sampath argues, "The weapon was originally designed to target armoured tanks and, later the enemy out. But while an anti-tank mine is activated at a pressure of 100 kg, the anti-personnel mines can be triggered by even a child, for the pressure required is just 5 kg." Further, she says, a landmine is more likely to kill/maim civilians AFTER a war, since its lifetime is anywhere between 70 and 100 years. In fact, this dumb weapon has inflicted

more deaths/injuries in the last 50 years than all other weapons put together. Clearing a mined area is a hazardous exercise, she points out. "It is also a costly affair; a mine costs just US\$3, but to clear it costs between \$200 and \$1000, because of the time it can take, with the detector beeping everytime it senses a minute metal piece."

India has adopted a clear stance that it will not use landmines even against terrorists. Unlike in the West, the weapon does not find its way to militants in India from the ordnance factories. But crude (Continued on Page)

High - and low - notes on conservation

It was sad that the recent jubilee celebration of the first meeting of the first State Legislature could not be held where it was first convened, the University's Senate House. That it had to be held in the neighbouring Centenary Auditorium of the University was even sadder, for that soul-less building is, in the view of *The Man From Madras Musings*, one of the first blows struck against the conservation of the historical, being built in such a style as to totally mar a campus of buildings built over the years to integrate.

Senate House could easily have been got ready for this celebration, if only the celebration had been thought of early enough and work on Senate House had begun as it should have, a couple of years ago. One thing or another has held up that work for years now, but the good news that gladdens MMM's heart is that, at last, work has begun with four specialist teams getting their inputs underway. One thing and another, particularly bureaucracy, is ensuring that progress is not at the fastest of speeds, but it is heartening that work HAS begun. Could we look forward to a gleaming 'new' Senate House in a year's time? And maybe the building can then be 'inaugurated' with a meeting of the Legislature?

MMM takes this opportunity to commend two suggestions to those at work on Senate House. They might do well to discuss with the Taj Group of Hotels' engineers the restoration of the domes; that Group's engineers have had long years of experience 'saving' several palatial domes around the country. The Taj Group, some time ago, offered, through the columns of *Madras Musings*, the services of its engineers for ANY conservation project and the Senate House restorers should not look a gift horse in the mouth. The other suggestion pertains to the building's stained glass. There is a British team at present working on the stained glass of the University of Bombay and it would not be impossible to get this team down to Chennai, with the help of the British Council, for a week-long workshop at which it could offer the latest inputs in the field to restorers of stained glass in Chennai.

Looking at heritage

Happy as *The Man From Madras Musings* is with the work that has begun on Senate House, he wonders whether any thought has been given to the future of the restored building. MMM hopes no one is going to say 'Museum'; if someone does, forget its future. Given our culture, it'll never get maintained.

We could, however, well take a page out of the DGP Building book. The Chief Minister's promise being kept, not only has work on restoration got underway here, but, once restored, it will once again be police headquarters, home to

the DGP's office and the offices of the CID. Can we look forward to the restored Senate House hosting the Vice Chancellor's and Registrar's offices? Perhaps some thought should be given to this future even as restoration begins.

With the restoration of the DGP Building as promised, with the commemoration of the first meeting of the first elected State Legislature, with the restoration of the names of districts and the public transport corporations to more 'secular' ones, with the continuing welcome being given to investment in the State, the Chief Minister has been doing a lot of the things *Madras Musings* and its readers believe in. MMM wishes he'd continue in this strain, showing greater concern for the State and its heritage, rather than unnecessarily getting involved in the ugly games of politics being played elsewhere in the country.

Books & bookmen

Back in Madras is Timeri Murari after the successful

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

launch of his *Daayra* (The Square Circle) in the UK and US, a whole sheaf of reviews attesting to the appreciation the film has received. Sadly, however, it still has no takers in India; *The Man From Madras Musings* just can't understand why small theatres screening English films don't screen copies of the sub-titled version and give serious film buffs a chance to see what certainly is a good, brilliantly acted film.

Talking the other day to someone long connected with films, books and writing, a person who has not received the encouragement that is his due, MMM heard him say with regret that "It's all a matter of luck; the stars have to be right". And MMM, a non-believer in the stars, might yet get around to believing in them in the matter of luck if he hears more stories like these.

Take Murari's case. He's been writing for publishers abroad for well over two decades, a lot longer than the present crop of Indian successes. He's written ten novels, four books of non-fiction and half a dozen plays and screenplays. They've all been received well in Europe and the U.S. and been moderate successes. But ask anyone on the Indian literary scene about Tim Murari and you're more likely to be met with a "Tim Who?"

MMM was pondering on this question the other day after reading Tim's latest, *Steps from Paradise*, a novel set in Madras. A good, well-written read, it tells as many tales out of the family closet as Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*. Murari tells his tale more lucidly and in a

more straightforward language; Roy is 'cleverer' with words and may be is what is called 'literary' in style. Is it a clear, well-narrated story that sells or is it 'literary language' that sells? Or is it all a matter of luck? wonders MMM.

Lost history

The Man From Madras Musings' thoughts strayed to writing and luck for this column after listening to Abraham Eraly (remember the father of *Aside?*) talk the other day about his first book, the first part of a three-volume look at life in India from Vedic times to 1857. The volume that's just come out, *The Last Spring*, narrates the lives of the Great Mughals, till the death of Aurangzeb. And the first review it received was in *India Today*, where an academic spoke of its 'deconstructive' nature and lack of analysis. MMM can't understand why anyone should worry about either when all that's wanted is a good read. And in this case, from dipping into it over the years of its cre-

fields of Mammon, the more likely we'll wind up with a Frankenstein's monster that will only help us collapse as ignobly as the Mughals. The portents are beginning to be seen in several parts of the country, aren't they?

Flying on time

It was the 8 p.m. flight from Delhi that *The Man From Madras Musings* was to catch recently. Checking in at 7 p.m., MMM was told that his flight, the Airbus Flight 940, was indefinitely delayed, that a plane had broken down and when the substitute flight would arrive could not be stated with any certainty. Then, most helpfully, it was suggested that 940A was leaving at 9 p.m., and would he like to leave on it, even though it was a Boeing.

MMM jumped at the chance and strolled into the boarding lounge by 8 p.m. And there, at 8.40 p.m. he heard that Flight 940, NOT 940A, was boarding. A few minutes later, he watched P Chidambaram and his entourage stroll through and board

the flight. Flight 940A boarded 15 minutes later.

We should be thankful for small mercies, like politeness and just 15-minute delays on promises, but MMM wonders whether someone was playing games with this flight. Was the Airbus flight being deliberately held up for Chidambaram, whose arrival time could not possibly have been predicted? And what about the loss of comfort J Class passengers suffered from 940 to the Boeing flight on the basis of what amounts to false information? Is there a case for the Consumer?

The only thing good about all this was that the Boeing landed in Chennai ten minutes before the Airbus and MMM lost only five minutes on the delayed ETD announced. But then, he wonders whether the Airbus was just not idling in Delhi, waiting for the Minister, thereby depriving MMM of the chance of leaving at 8 p.m. When is Indian Airlines ever going to think of its passengers and not of its Ministers? And when are Ministers going to learn they'll have to take their chances with flights like any other passenger? So long as Ministers continue to think of themselves as special, that much closer are we to the fate that befell the Mughals.

In brief

★ What an unexpected success the Citizens' Run was. If they got 2000 to run, the Trustees thought they'd be lucky. And what a lot of work Eric Auzoux of the Alliance Francaise and a couple of his friends put in towards ensuring that the Run, even

But on the eve of the Run, even

they were sceptical about the numbers. What a joy in the end it was to see 3000 turn up. And almost all of them did not stop with running one of the six stages, but in fact ran the whole 8 km distance!

At the end of it all, there was around Rs.8 lakh in the kitty against a targeted Rs.12 lakh for specific projects of six small NGOs and the work of the Gandhi Peace Foundation. *The Hindu* generously contributed a substantial part of it, and Ford, MRF, Carborundum Universal, the French in Chennai and the Garment Industry all added to the kitty. The Citizen's Run Trust, *The Man From Madras Musings* is told, hopes the remaining money towards their target will come in before accounts are settled at the end of August; having seen the fabulous response to the run, other industrial organisations are certain to respond, the Trustees confidently tell MMM.

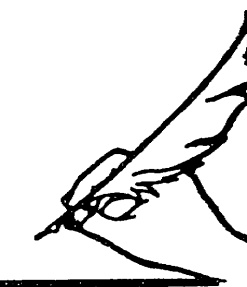
★ A stamp featuring one of the old Madras Province's leading women freedom fighters, Rukmini Lakshminipathi, will be released on August 6th. A little-remembered figure today, the fact that she was the FIRST woman who became a political prisoner during the freedom struggle has been totally forgotten by the public. Representing India in the Women's Suffrage Conference in Paris in 1926, advocating family planning from the 1930s, participating in the Vedaranyam march in 1931, elected to the first Madras Legislative Assembly in 1937, a Minister in the Prakasam Ministry, she was a woman out of the ordinary. *The Man From Madras Musings* only wishes her thoughts on a casteless society, women's rights and education were spread wider. It's time, MMM thinks, that Government took the stories and the views of the women leaders of this period to the masses of the State who have never heard of them.

★ Why must hotels, clubs and other institutions have British nights and American nights and what have you? But if such nights must be organised during what some consider the new East India Company age, *The Man From Madras Musings* wonders whether there is any necessity for the American national anthem or any other nation's anthem to be played at such PRIVATE functions. Especially when Indians rendering theirs have a struggle with the words and melody when reciprocating. When are we going to act like, for instance, the East Asians. As, for example, in this story making the rounds in Chennai:

At a Chennai golf course recently a Westerner was ready to swing his club, when an East Asian walked across. Irritated by the distraction, the westerner yelled, "Where the #@*^ did you come from?" The Asian bowed and replied soothingly, "From Saitama Prefecture". Now that's being cool about things, and not bending over!

MMM

OUR READERS WRITE



Learned speaker

I read with interest your reference to C.L. Ramakrishnan in MM July 1st.

He has been the President of Devotees Seva Trust for many years. This organisation has been celebrating the Jayanthi of Kanchi Paramacharya by organising a series of discourses lasting about 45 days or so without a break.

Ramakrishnan is usually one of the speakers, or *upanyasakars* on a few days. He is very learned in the *Upanishads*, *Bhagavad Gita* and other scriptures. He quotes these scriptures with care in his talks. Listeners pick up much new information from his lectures which are very interesting and insightful.

B. Gautham
122 Wallajah Road
Chennai 600 002

A national treasure

During the Swarajaya Puraskaram function conferring the Award this year on M.S. Subbulakshmi, rich and handsome tributes were paid to the legend that is M.S. To quote from the citation, hers is "a voice with which a mortal is blessed once in a millenium" and "she is a devout and modest person, yet vibrant with the joys of life — particularly the joy of giving!" Her benefit performances for worthy causes started as early as in 1944 when she sang to raise money for the Kasturba Memorial Fund!

The concert that evening was an enthralling experience. Carefully selecting melodious pieces of great composers for the early part of the concert, M.S. set the atmosphere for the rest of the programme — devotional songs in several Indian languages sung with full-throated ease. The entire hall was immersed in an aura of *bhakti*! Age has made no dent on her singing powers. At 82, she seemed to go from strength to strength "as if her song would have no ending".

Like the nightingale's notes that the poet carried in his heart long after the bird had flown, Subbulakshmi's *sangeetam* was still ringing in my ears long after the concert had ended! May God keep her with us for many many years more!

It is fitting that I wax eloquent about M.S. in your columns, since *Madras Musings* has made it its business to ceaselessly create an awakening amongst us in identifying, protecting and maintaining our national treasures.

Cdr. R. Ganapathi
IN (RETD)
116 Defence Colony
Chennai 600 032

Cremation grounds

Cremation grounds are kept like 'parks,' in the north, whereas they are mostly public latrines in the South! What a disgrace! I suggest the Chennai First Trust can call for public donations (with IT relief) for installing electric crematoria in two/three central places for this sacred purpose. Many like this

writer will be ready to contribute liberally.

K.S. Pattabhi Raman
16th Cross Road, New Colony,
Chrompet, Chennai 44

Corrected and clarified

I refer to your article 'GM's Supplier of the Year' in *Madras Musings*, July 16, 1997.

A company by name Kasjaj Engineering Ancillaries Private Limited (and not Karfax), incorporated in 1962, was taken over by TVS and renamed Sundram Fasteners Private Limited in 1965.

Re. labour problems stalling our unit in Ramanathapuram, we have never faced any labour problems at any plant at any time. Expansion at Padi has occurred over the years as a result of natural growth. As you have stated elsewhere in the article, we have not lost even a single day of production or faced any labour dissonance at any of our units, since inception.

As for joint ventures, Suresh Krishna is not against joint ventures *per se*. He only stresses the need to have a clear agenda and understanding among the joint venture partners so that such a venture can be successful. He strongly feels that only truly Indian companies can become Indian multinationals.

SFL has only entered into a technical collaboration with Dura Automotive Systems Inc., USA, for the manufacture of parking brake systems, gear shift systems etc. This venture is proposed to be undertaken as a division of Sundram Fasteners. Hence the question of SFL taking 51% equity stake in the venture does not arise at all.

V G Jaganathan
President (Finance) and Secretary
Sundram Fasteners Limited
Chennai 600 004.

Plant more trees

It was good to hear that Mayor Stalin has initiated an extensive tree-planting programme in the city to both beautify it and improve the quality of its environment. It is clear, however, that a green Madras will not be a reality unless much greater public awareness is created.

Coming to live in a new locality five years ago, I started by planting three avenue saplings on the pavement alongside my compound wall, with protective tree guards. I soon discovered that these were the only avenue trees in a large area and as such were the target of the neighbouring slum children for flowers — surely one would not object to flowers being plucked for temple offerings? — and the adults, who started to systematically destroy the trees by lopping off branches for firewood and for foliage to feed their goats.

Egmore memories

The Article 'Egmore of Yore' was not only enjoyable but stirred old memories. Veda Vilas,

He contributed much to aviation & animal care

Capt. V. Sundaram, a pioneer in Indian Aviation and Founder of the Blue Cross of India, passed away recently.

His contribution to both deserves to be remembered.

Capt. Sundaram obtained his flying licence in 1935 and had advanced training at the Karachi Flying Club and at Air Service Training, Hamble, England. When War broke out on September 3, 1939, Capt. Sundaram returned to India and started his own airline 'South-east Airways' with a single aircraft. However, in 1940, the Government requisitioned the aircraft for the war effort and Capt. Sundaram began to train British and American Air Force pilots.

In 1945, Capt. Sundaram joined Tata Airways (now known as Air India). At the request of the Government of Mysore, Capt. Sundaram joined the Mysore Government as the personal pilot to H.H. the Maharaja of Mysore in 1946. During the next four years, Capt. Sundaram, with his wife Usha as his co-pilot, flew many V.I.P.s, including the Resident Sir Walter Campbell and Sir Archibald Nye, Governor of Madras Presidency, Sir Shanmugam Chetty, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Pandit Nehru. In 1948, Capt. V. Sundaram took

which was opposite the Egmore Police Station was very famous for its music performances (chamber music) by the great Veena Dhanammal, Ariyakudi Ramanuja Aiyengar and others. The bungalow has now been demolished and converted into a flat complex.

Sri Jagannada Bhakta Sabha,

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Anna Abraham
14 B Ganapathy Colony
Chennai 600 018

another branch of the Egmore Dramatic Society, was running the Egmore Music School in the Corporation School in Veeraswamy Pillai St., where vocal, violin,

on the additional assignment of Director of Civil Aviation in Mysore and conceived and built the Government Flying Training School at Jakkur, near Bangalore.

In 1949, the Sundarams were requested by Omandur Ramaswamy Reddiar, Premier of the Madras Presidency, to fly down a specially furnished De Havilland Dove from England. This was flown down to Madras in a flying time of less than 27 hours, a record for piston-engined aircraft that remains unbroken till today.

In 1959, Capt. Sundaram joined Indian Airlines and moved to Madras. Since there was no ambulance for small animals in Madras, he converted his personal car into an ambulance and his home was soon filled with rescued animals. It was in the same year that Capt. V. Sundaram became the Honorary Commissioner of the Madras SPCA and, along with his wife, other family members and Daivasigamani, started a group known as the Animal Aid Association. This group grew to become the Blue Cross of India, which was registered as a charitable society in 1964.

Capt. Sundaram's substantial contribution to Animal Welfare was recognised in 1964

when the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, England, awarded him the Queen Victoria Medal for "outstanding work on behalf of animals in India". Numerous other awards and recognition came his way, but special mention must be made of the award by the Watumull Foundation of Hawaii, USA, in 1987, on the 40th Anniversary of India's Independence, for Capt. Sundaram's contribution to animal welfare. In April this year, the Government of India chose Capt. Sundaram for the Prani Mitra Award, the highest award in Animal Welfare. It was to be formally presented by the President of India in November 1997.

Even after his retirement in 1972 from Indian Airlines, flying continued to be a passion for Capt. Sundaram and he was actively pursuing his twin loves of helping animals and flying until his death at the age of 81. In his passing away the animal welfare movement has lost a great fighter. — (Courtesy Blue Cross Newsletter)

Here, in Chennai, we have the beautiful Marina, but can you show me a single seat worth its name? After those clean pavements put up during the AIADMK regime, nothing concrete has been done. The area next to the pavement is ill-maintained. The slums nearby use that place for washing and drying clothes. The old cement benches put up in pre-Independence days are in bad shape.

Marina can still be Chennai's pride if some neat flowering trees are planted, and colourful seats are put up for the old and tired to sit on and relax. Our beach can be the best; it only needs a little imagination, courage, and a bit of co-operation from the public to achieve this. Will someone do something fast?

T.M. Sundararaman
19 Nallappan Street,
Mylapore,
Chennai 600 004.

NOTE: 'The Octogenarian Egmore' requests to be excused for the two errors that crept into the second instalment of the article 'Egmore of Yore' (MM, July 16).

Mr. T.M.S. Nani should be Mr. T.M.S. Mani and the founder principal of Minerva Tutorial College was Mr. Parasuraman and not Mr. Parameswaran as inadvertently stated.

Beautiful Marina

I visited Jakarta the capital of Indonesia last year, and was impressed by the way both banks of the major river running through the main metropolis were maintained. Beautiful trees had been planted, pavements laid and seats placed for people to sit.

29.7.97, 8:00 AM

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M. Fazal
Flat No. 1,
Seaview Apartments,
16, Leith Castle Road,
San Thomé,
Chennai-600 028.

Here's the address

The address of the Chennai Film Society, which does not have a full-time coordinator or office, is: Chennai Film Society c/o Mr. Naidu c/o Bank of India 4th Floor, Tarapore Towers, 826/7 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002.

V.R. Devika
Chennai 600 090.

Remembering the seeds of freedom

In a short span of less than 30 years, from 1919, Gandhiji secured India's freedom. There were previous attempts to get rid of alien rule. The Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 was on religious and sentimental grounds, an attempted coup by an armed junta that lacked mass support. Earlier there were attempts by petty monarchs, like Kattabomman, Jai Singh Raja, Tippu, the Nizam, et al. But these were to preserve their monarchical supremacy over their respective subjects and not for the people's welfare. These were not Freedom Fighters and to dub them *tyagis* will be to degrade the Gandhian movement.



by
R.R. Dalavai

good character, good and true with community spirit, without hatred, unselfish, moral courage, self-confidence, prepared to renounce ease and personal pleasure, and with an ideal dictum 'he that is greatest among you, let him be your servant' to join the Congress.

Dr Annie Besant and Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak roused the educated classes. In 1918 Tilak, along with Bipinchandra Pal, visited Madras and addressed a public meeting together with Dr. Besant in Triplicane. Later in the evening, they addressed huge crowds gathered under the Banyan Tree in Adyar

* * *

When the amendments to the Rowlatt Act proved inadequate, Gandhi called on the masses to protest. Gandhiji was camping in Madras at the time as the guest of Kasturi Ranga Iyengar, founder of *The Hindu*, in his guest house (where the Chola Sheraton now is) on Cathedral Road. Rajaji had come from Salem to practise in the Madras High Court. He was a tenant of Mr Iyengar at Mowbray's Road. Gandhiji conferred with Iyengar and Rajaji and planned an All-India hartal to protest and convey public opposition to the Rowlatt Bill. He fixed April 6, 1919, for the hartal, giving his followers hardly ten days to organise it.

There was no Radio or TV and of the 17 daily newspapers, only *The Hindu*, *Swadesamitran* and *Amrita Bazar Patrika* were owned by Indians. Yet the call spread fast. The hartal was peaceful. No arrests were reported. It was all due to Gandhiji's specific instructions to the people to stay indoors and pray for saner counsel to prevail on the Government.

I was then about seven or

eight, and joined the *Bhavana Goshti* of K Sadagopan (later Secretary of the T.N.C.C. under Kamaraj). I was given a *hundi* to collect funds. In the evening, my brother, father and I attended the beach meeting. There were seven platforms, from Iron Bridge to the present Gandhi beach. Singaravelu Chettiar, D Kolandai, Chakkara Chettiar, E L Iyer and others spoke.

Dr. Annie Besant, President of the Theosophical Society, entered the Indian political arena in 1917. She formed the Indian

In 1921, Gandhiji launched his national programme to inculcate the Swadeshi spirit among

ONE MAN'S INDEPENDENCE

Since 1961 I have been closely associated with the *Indian Express*. Friends and readers are often surprised to learn that my first and earliest association with India was not through the *Express* at all but *The Hindu*.

In 1946, as a cub-reporter on my home-town evening newspaper in Swansea, in the U.K., I was deeply interested in the question of Indian Independence, still a similar political subject at the time. Just as Viet Nam, The Bomb and similar political subjects were the concerns of generations to follow, Indian Independence was the burning issue of my youth, and I was deeply committed to it, like so many of my generation. Tiring of provincial journalism in the U.K. and wanting to be more intimately concerned with India and the Independence cause, I wrote to every Indian newspaper that had an office in London asking for a job. I received a reply from only one of those newspapers, *The Hindu*. To my surprise and pleasure, *The Hindu's* Editor in Madras wrote to his London representative, Leonard Matters, saying, in effect, "by all means take on Mr. Miller".

And so, just like that, I came to devote the rest of my working life to India, in India. Within a week or two I had left Swansea with its acres of war-bombed derelict shopping centres, and had taken a tiny, chilly bed-sitting room in a boarding house in Millbank, overlooking the river Thames in London.

What happened thereafter is too long a story to tell in *Madras Musings*: suffice it to say that though I had never been to India

Home Rule League with the object of securing Dominion Status for India. Earlier, she was interested in imparting National Education to Indian Youth. She inaugurated a Parliament in the Madras YMIA to train young men in parliamentary practices. Haja Sharif, RV, AG Venkatachari, ARV Achar were some of its products.

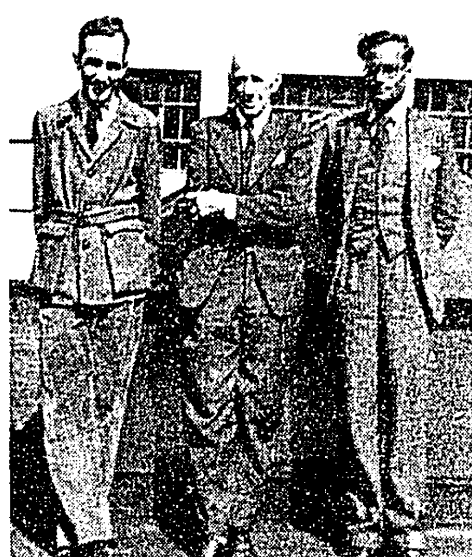
There were several Congress Presidents from Madras Province. P Anandachari presided over the All India Congress sessions at Nagpur. Annie Besant presided over its Calcutta sessions in 1917. She chose C P Ramaswamy Iyer as the Secretary of the Congress. C Vijayaraghavachari of Salem presided over the Nagpur sessions in 1920. S Srinivasa Iyengar presided over the sessions at Calcutta in 1926.

the masses. He re-introduced the spinning wheel. Foreign clothes were to be burnt and land tax was not to be paid. Support to the Khilafat movement, singing *Vande Mataram* and wearing Gandhi caps were ordained as part of the movement. S Srinivasa Iyengar and others relinquished their titles. Iyengar resigned his office of Advocate-General. K Santhanam, N S Varadachari, N Srinivasa Iyer and others, just enrolled as Advocates, left practice. They responded to the call Gandhiji made at the entrance to Broadway.

Rajaji, Satagopan, Mana Kona, Chidambara Bharati, Col. Sastri and a host of others were arrested and convicted. Rajaji narrates how at night they were put in blocks with their legs chained together. To urinate they had to pass a *chatti* up and down the line.

(To be concluded next fortnight)

TRAVELLING HOME



The author; Leonard Matters, head of *The Hindu's* office in London, and an Australian; and Dr. K.S. Shelvankar, who wrote for *The Hindu* from London.

would make the chefs of even the finest five-star hotels bow their heads in humility. I still possess the menu for the six-course dinner on the evening of the last day at sea before arriving next morning in Bombay. Ninety pounds for my three-week steamship voyage to India would now be just about enough to buy one person a single meal of the kind displayed on that ship's menu.

My fellow passengers are worth mentioning. Many of them were Christian priests of some level or other who were visiting South India to take part in the inauguration of the Church of Southern India, whereby all the many Protestant churches united (which they've never been able to do back home in the U.K.), the only exception being the Catholics, who steadfastly refused to modify their strict dogma in the slightest way, as

they still do. Other passengers were tea-planters and some were, what I later learned were called 'box-wallahs', a derogatory term for British people in India engaged in commerce, such as Spencer's or other business enterprises, and were looked down on by the snooty classes who comprised the military and the civil service. How different conditions are today!

Some of those passengers were curious as to why a young man like me was going out to India (remember I was only 24) and I recall one planter type calling out derisively to his friends, "Do you hear that? Here's a young fellow going out to work for Indians and he hasn't even got a contract."

Well, he was right. *The Hindu* never offered me a contract nor did it occur to me to ask for one, nor, as it turned out, was there ever any need of one. *The Hindu's* treatment of me was always exemplary, to the point of generosity.

* * *

In Bombay accommodation had been booked for me at the Taj, but this time there was no single room for myself. I spent a most uncomfortable night in some sort of dormitory and had very little sleep, not only on account of the unfamiliar surroundings — I slept, for the first time in my life, beneath a ceiling fan, a thing I'd never even seen before — but my fellow bed-mates, noisy and unabashed,

and Patel said yes to the Plan ...

... On May 16 and 17 the Viceroy presented his plan formally to Nehru, Patel, Jinnah, Liaquat and Baldev Singh and asked for immediate replies. Nehru wrote on behalf of Congress, accepting. So did Baldev Singh for the Sikhs. Jinnah would not write. But verbally he indicated acceptance. Mountbatten flew with the Plan to London, where the cabinet, surprised by its suddenness and simplicity, agreed to it...

... The reaction of C.R. to the Plan was as wholehearted as Patel's. It was also less bitter and more gracious:

"We offered this to Mr Jinnah three years ago. We have not agreed to anything which Gandhiji had not freely offered to Mr Jinnah then.

sorry to say that Spencer's railway food was — to me at least — completely unpalatable. The first dinner I was served was so bad — I don't remember why — that I abandoned all attempts to swallow it. After poking about at the dish for a minute or two I scraped the lot out of the window through the horizontal bars you find on all windows of Indian trains.

The train was stationary at the time, and it was then that I caught my first glimpse of genuine poverty. On the railway line outside my window I heard scuffings and, peering out into the darkness, I saw three or four small children on the ground below fighting each other to get at the food I had thrown away. The lucky ones were shovelling into their mouths as fast as they could whatever bits they could retrieve, mixed with sand and dirt.

Next morning the train pulled into Central Station, Madras, where I was met by a small crowd of my new colleagues from *The Hindu's* offices on Mount Road.

(To be concluded next fortnight)

Harry Miller

Mr. H.C. Miller

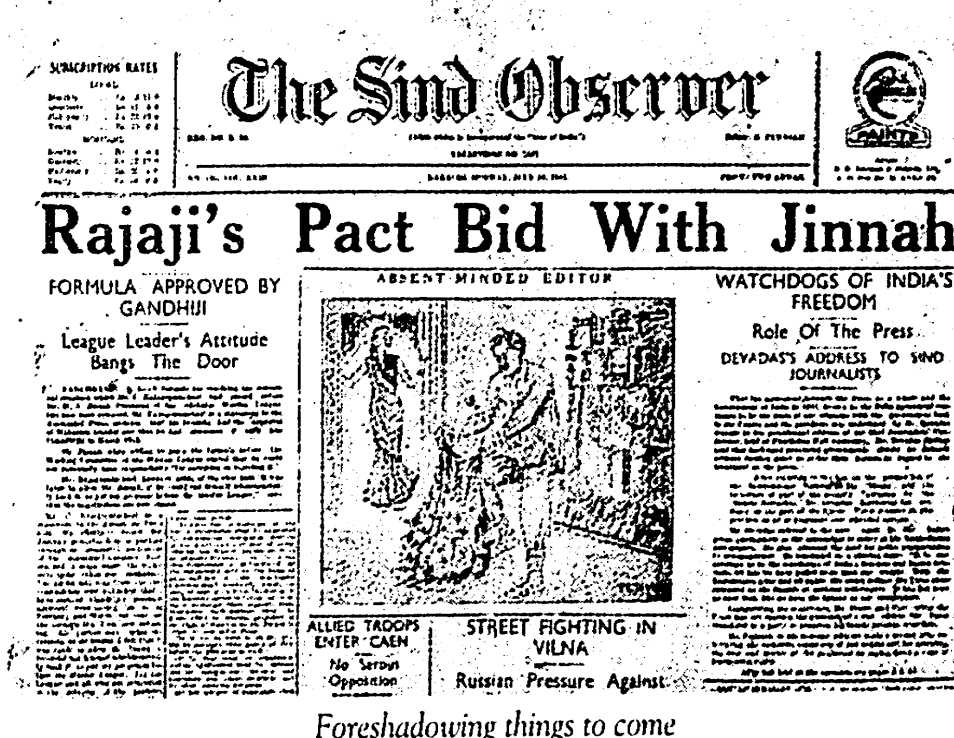
"The Hindu" OF MADRAS
INDIA'S LEADING DAILY

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CENTRAL 7800

Compared to the exquisite cuisine of the *m.v. Cilicia*, I'm

Harry Miller of *The Hindu*



'Why then has Mr Jinnah agreed?' some ask. Must we assume that Mr Jinnah could never be reasonable? Let us drop all this analysis and get along with our good luck. There is no other part of the world where four hundred million are furnished with a single democratic State."

But was the Mountbatten Plan merely another name for the Rajaji formula? Though both schemes gave Pakistan an identical territory, the Viceroy's Plan envisaged no formal bonds between the two nations. Even so, some future Pakistanis would ask

why the Rajaji Formula was turned down, if in Khali-quzzaman's words, 'It was the intention of Mr Jinnah to agree to a truncated Pakistan'.

More than territory needed division. Civil servants, institutes, records and a variety of assets and liabilities had to be shared. Questions relating to citizenship and diplomatic relations had arisen and needed solution. It was a prodigious task, largely accomplished by officials, Indian and British, but the politicians too played a responsible part. Along with Patel and Prasad, CR was a member of the Partition Council formed for the purpose; Jinnah, Liaquat and Nishtar sat opposite.

Nehru and Patel were now Congress's chief actors on the stage of history. Rajaji and Azad played significant but lesser roles. Gandhi was in the wings, though ready, if called upon, to mediate or lend his influence.

* * *

The war of succession demanding the attention of Nehru, Patel and CR, their work as ministers inevitably suffered... But (C.R.) was not slow to emphasise the administrative standards a free India would require. Scientists working for the government and civil servants, he said, "should not subordinate themselves to the whims and fancies of politicians, however illustrious they may be. They should owe allegiance only to science and truth."

How, as a young official at this time, he was treated by CR has been recalled by Dharma Vira, later Governor of West Bengal and Karnataka:

"With his pleasant, paternalistic manners he put me at ease. (Interviews with CR) were exhilarating but also educative. He encouraged his officers to express their views fearlessly and if he did not agree with them he did not try to coerce or browbeat them but convinced them through discussion and reasoning."

Most Britons in the Indian administration were now leaving. CR tried without success to convince a few that "there would still be a career" for them in India. The answer given to CR by one of them, WG Lamarque, a district officer in Madras during the Rajaji ministry and now a

deputy secretary in New Delhi (later Deputy High Commissioner for the UK in Nigeria), is of interest. Recalls Lamarque:

"I had a long talk with my minister C Rajagopalachari, wisest and kindest of Indian statesmen. He strongly advised me to stay... I replied with complete honesty that if it was just a question of continuing to work for him I would readily stay, but that one day there would arise a new king, which knew not Joseph, and then my future would be uncertain."

Education was in CR's care for not much more than two months: there was no scope for innovation. He hoped that schools might "introduce song and dance" into children's lives, felt that university education in Indian languages was quite feasible and acknowledged that despite her "great culture and great literature" India had "shown deplorable neglect in the field of writing history and in preserving historical records". To his Clive Road neighbour, B K Nehru, then a civil servant and later Governor of the Northeast and of Kashmir, who had pleaded for high-quality schools for talented children, CR said: "You want, young man, a new Brahminism. This country will not take it. It wants equality, not excellence".

* * *

Money was sanctioned for six national laboratories. The Indian Standards Institute was launched, and a Board of Atomic Research was formed, with Dr Homi Bhabha as Chairman. Any suspicion that India would try to make an atomic bomb was, however, sought to be dispelled:

"It would be quixotic to imagine that we could just scoop thorium sand out of the Travancore beaches and put it in a bag to go out and destroy our enemies... The main aim is to harness atomic energy for peace. In every atom of matter rides Rudra, the god of destruction, and so when the atom is broken up, out comes the primordial energy. We seek to domesticate this power. We seek to make Siva slave for us! We may succeed if indeed that be Siva's pleasure!"

* * *

The opening signature in the Book of Members of the Constituent Assembly is that of CR. The Madras names were the first to be called when the body met for its inaugural session. But CR's role in the body's plenary deliberations was insubstantial. The ministerial offices he held and the positions he occupied later prevented him from making a larger contribution. He was involved, nonetheless, in the process, carried out in committee, of thrashing out the crucial thrust of the Constitution. The induction of Dr B R Ambedkar, the long-standing opponent of

(Continued on Page 7)

Quizzin' with Ram'n'an

Quizmaster V.V. RAMANAN's questions are from the period July 1st to 15th. Questions 16 to 20 pertain to Chennai.

- Which noted Indian academic has been appointed the head of the prestigious institution, Trinity College, Cambridge?
- Name the veteran director, the maker of the first war film made in India, *Haqeeqat*, and the brother of a thespian, who passed away recently.
- Why was Ramabai Colony in Ghatkopar, Mumbai, in the national news on July 11th?
- Name the new political party launched by Laloo Prasad Yadav on July 5th.
- Which Indian cartoonist/writer has bagged the prestigious Alexander Onassis Foundation's annual award?
- What honour has the noted 'green' lawyer M.C. Mehta been accorded?
- The recipient of this year's Dadasaheb Phalke Award is...?
- According to Forbes, the richest individual in the world is Bill Gates. What is his net worth?
- The platinum jubilee of what institution was celebrated in Chennai on July 14th?
- July 11th was observed round the world as.....?
- Which Southeast Asian country's second Prime Minister ousted the first to take control of the nation?
- Apart from the cartoon characters, who or what are Yogi, Casper and Barnacle Bill?
- Which three former Soviet Bloc countries have been invited to join NATO?
- Which Indian bagged a title at this year's Wimbledon tennis tourney?
- Which former Indian Prime Minister celebrated his 100th birthday on July 4th?

* * *

- Who is the new Chief Justice of the Madras High Court?
- Where is an elite Police Academy proposed to be set up in the city?
- What were the terminal points of the Citizens' Run held in the city on July 13th to raise funds for social organisations?
- Which city hospital has launched a 'round the clock' head surgery service?
- Which area of Chennai saw an outbreak of cholera recently, leading to about 180 people falling ill?

(Answers on Page 7)

Charming audiences at 3-nation festival

Alarmel Valli has just had a fabulous tour. She was the one dancer from South India in the three-nation (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) 50th anniversary celebrations got up by Asia House at the Royal Albert Hall in London recently.

She danced solo after the great Sabri brothers of Pakistan who were accompanied by a large group of singers. Valli's Bharata Natyam group had only the soft-voiced Savita (Ravikiran's disciple), a violin and a mridangam. After the Sabri brothers, the Bharata Natyam could have been quite an anticlimax. But Valli charmed her audience, including the Prince of Wales.

Valli also danced and answered questions at the inauguration of the Goethe House in Munich. A director of the Max Mueller Bhavan, Georg Lechner, was there to facilitate the discussions. There were many long debates on the sanctity of the dance form as performed in the 20th Century and Valli is said to have made a significant contribution.

Early season

Chennai is gearing itself for a busy Season that is beginning earlier and earlier as the years go by.

August will see many exciting performances in memory of E Krishna Iyer, who donned a female costume to prove to the Music Academy that dance need not be thrown out along with the *devadasi* system. Many veteran dancers are taking part in the festival at the Music Academy to commemorate the birth centenary of Krishna Iyer, the man who fought to preserve Bharata Natyam for posterity.

Visual imagery

S G Vasudev is back in Chennai, this time with a tribute to A-K Ramanujan through a series of drawings evoked by his poems. One of the founding members of the Artist's Village, Vasu played a big part in organising interactions amongst poets, artists, dramatists, dancers and singers at the Cholamandal open air theatre. Living by the sea had its impact on his paintings, which have a distinct light playing through them. Vasu has now moved to Bangalore, where he interacts with many activists in the fields of literacy and women's issues, whom he meets through his wife, journalist Ammu Joseph.

Vasu, whose drawings were shown at the British Council, had begun work on them five years ago, when Ramanujan

was alive. It was intended for Ramanujan himself to read the poems at the exhibition of the drawings. But, sadly, the poet passed away in 1993, in Chicago.

At the British Council reading, a recording of Ramanujan reading the Alwar poems dedi-



cated to the Thiruvidadai Nityakalanaswami was played. The Thiruvidadai temple is 2 km south of Kovalam village, on the New Mamallapuram Road. Ramanujan, who translated the lyrics of the Tamil *pasurams*, recorded them for Shanta and S. Guhan, at their charming weekend home near the temple.

Members of the Madras Players, P C Ramakrishna, Anuradha Rao, Bhageerathi Narayanan and Mithran Devanesen, read some of Ramanujan's poems in English, while V R Anil Kumar read the Kannada poems and Ambirajan read the *pasurams* in Tamil in the traditional sing-song way.

Sthala for creativity

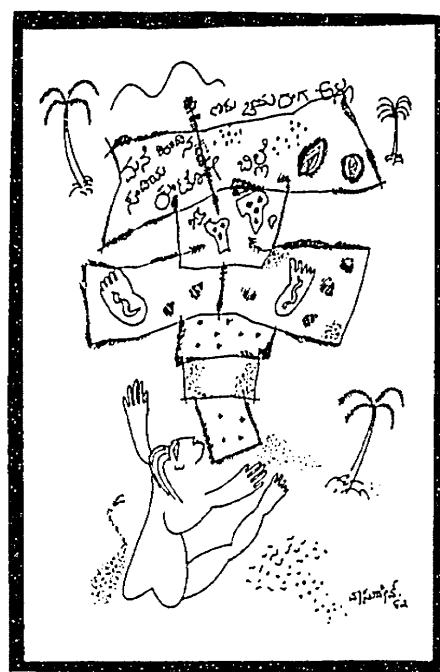
Chennai is getting multimedia in the arts too.

There are not only more and more classy handicrafts shops and galleries coming up, but there are also more and more intimate spaces being created for dialogues and interactions between the different artforms. One such new place being planned is 'Manasthala', by designer Kalyani Pramod.

Kalyani has been designing for textiles and sarees and has had a successful stuffed toys shop on Kotturpuram Main Road. Manasthala is on Bharathidasan Road, near SIET College. According to Kalyani, it is envisaged as a place (*sthala*) where creative minds can interact, work together, and spread the joy of the creative spirit. To be able to experience the creative spirit with all the senses."

The *sthala* hopes to bring together musicians, artists, sculptors, designers, craftsmen, teachers and children through workshops, commissions and the pure joy of the spirit. From such a confluence of energy, Kalyani hopes, the creative spirit will be rekindled and bring forth a lasting source of expression, individually and collectively.

Kalyani's father, T S Nagarajan, is a respected photographer with a passion for photographing turn-of-the-century homes lived in for decades. He



'Hopscootch' — by S G Vasudev. (Ink on paper.)

has travelled all over India on this project and has a fascinating collection of pictures which he hopes to bring out as a book soon. His show in Chennai last year was a great success. Architect husband Pramod Balakrishnan lends a hand and with the two of them working together, Manasthala should become a meeting place for creative people in Chennai.

A CHENNAI VOICE

(Continued from Page 1)

versions of the landmine are being manufactured by several militant groups, including some in the South. Sampath feels a campaign should be launched to create awareness about the nature of this weapon, to get the terrorists/naxalites to stop using it. This she intends to do as the Chairperson of ICBAL.

Restoration at last

(Continued from Page 1)

been made to use membrane-based polymeric materials to arrest water seepage. The major advantage of using this building material is that it could be easily removed when an advanced material is found to replace it. The damaged windows and doors and the wooden flooring and staircase would also be restored.

The restored building would have new electrification, upgraded sanitary facilities and partitioned office space for the Intelligence Wing and the DGP and airconditioned space for a Conference Hall, visitors and the reception area.

All this renovation will not alter the architecture one bit — in fact, it will be a model of heritage preservation, says the Chairman of the Police Housing Corporation, F C Sharma, whose view is endorsed by the Chief Engineer, A Mani. A high-level Committee has been formed to monitor the work, with the IG (Administration) as its chairman.

A new building will be built behind the restored building to house the other Police offices. The new structure would integrate with the old architecture and enhance the appearance of this heritage building, *Madras Musings* was told.

The main building (facing Queen Mary's College) was built as a Masonic Temple in 1839, at a cost of Rs. 25,000. Additions to the building were done and it was leased to the Police as its Headquarters from July 18, 1865, on a rent of Rs. 90 a month. Its first occupant was W Robinson of the Madras Civil Service, the Presidency's first IGP. He was appointed in 1858, when the force was formalised, and served in this position till 1867.

The building was acquired by the Government in June 1874 for Rs. 20,000 and a further Rs. 10,000 was spent on additions and repairing the original building. Extensions and alterations — the long, pillared building that stretches behind the main building and which faces the Marina were

made in 1909 to house the CID, which was formed in 1906.

Editor's Note: *Madras Musings*, while thanking the Government for saving and restoring the DGP's Office, hopes that this will be the first step to a Heritage Act. It also hopes that, in the restoration, some architects and engineers with even a modicum of experience in the field will be consulted and their advice sought to make this a model restoration — for instance, the Taj Group team helping out at Ice House, or some on the INTACH team. *Madras Musings* also hopes that the restored building will look as striking as another old building which was recently given a new look, the Balmer Lawrie (a Government of India undertaking) building near the SIET College—Mount Road junction. In renovating a soul-less block, Balmer Lawrie have gone back to the now-popular-in-Chennai Regency style, with fluted 'Corinthian' pillars, pediments and other decorative features. Unfortunately, a couple of hoardings spoil all the good work.

A man of many parts

How did you get interested in film studies?

Well, I studied history in college, and was very keen to pursue it academically. I saw that Western scholars were already working in the field of South Indian studies in the early 70s and had excellent resources, making it practically impossible for people like me to create any kind of impact. Tamil cinema and the role of other popular forms of entertainment, like theatre, however, offered great and almost exclusive scope. And then there was this group of Cambridge historians led by Anil Seal who claimed that the Madras Province did not get involved in the freedom struggle; and that even the little involvement was restricted to the middle class. It roused me to prove otherwise, that Madras was not 'the benighted province' they had labelled it. And, of course, as a young boy growing up in Dharapuram, films were part of my childhood. I wrote my first article in 1965 on how Tamil cinema contributed to the Tamil Renaissance. In 1974, I received this fellowship from the Tamil Nadu Council of Historical Research. I collected material, conducted interviews; my posting in Shillong provided the right atmosphere and time to put them together. *Message Bearers* was born.

Do you see *The Eye* as a natural corollary to *Message Bearers*?

No, no, it is not any kind of sequel to *Message Bearers*. Some chapters do overlap, it is true; but that is inevitable.

What kind of readership did you have in mind for *The Eye*: the film studies student or the interested layman?

I intend it to strike a balance between being as simple as possible and at the same time, pass on at least the basic concepts of

● Sundararaj Theodore Baskaran, Chief Postmaster-General of Tamil Nadu, was recently awarded the 1996 Swarna Kamal award for the Best Book on Cinema, his *The Eye of the Serpent: An Introduction to Tamil Cinema*, published by EastWest Books. A multifaceted personality, Baskaran is a leading authority in fields as varied as Tamil cinema, history, murals, wildlife and conservation. He has presented papers on media and popular culture at international conferences and lectured in many universities in Great Britain, Australia and the United States. His first book, *The Message Bearers: The Nationalist Politics and the Entertainment Media in South India, 1880-1945*, published in 1981 by Cre-A, was a revelation in its landmark study of the relationship between politics and cultural revivalism in Tamil Nadu, focusing as it did on the largely ignored role of popular forms of entertainment and communication. His second book, *The Eye of the Serpent*, is an original introduction to Tamil Cinema, outlining its growth and evolution in the almost eight decades of its existence.

In this candid and animated discussion, Baskaran offers insights into his passionate love for Tamil Cinema and the creative forces that drive him.

cinema. On the whole I expect it to be more welcome in academic circles; a reference book providing baseline data on the film-makers of the 30s and 50s.

Your admiration for filmmakers like A.Narayanan, K.Ramnath and others comes through quite strongly in your book. Did you intend this to be a kind of tribute to their tal-

ents and achievements, now largely forgotten?

I wouldn't go so far as say tribute, but, yes, I do think their achievements have been forgotten. I would like to think of *The Eye* more as a documentary highlighting their talents. Most studies on Tamil cinema tend to concentrate on the big names, like Chandralakha or Avvaiyar. I think there are many more important films which should be brought to public notice.

A couple of reviews have implied that there is no central argument that weaves the chapters of the book. Would you care to comment on that?

Perhaps it is true. But then, *The Eye* is merely an introduction; it does not argue for or against a particular point of view. Many reviewers have talked about what is not written in the book. I haven't claimed *The Eye* to be exhaustive, only introductory.

You have rued the fact that film studies is not treated as an important aspect of media studies but merely from a literary point of view. Is this phenomenon peculiar to Tamil Nadu?

Yes, I most definitely think so. I don't see this happening in Kerala, Karnataka or West Bengal. Here, in Tamil Nadu, film literacy is very low. Cinema is even today classified as plebeian entertainment. The cinematic experience is so intensely visual, yet the little film study that goes on here is conducted under the name of literature, with little or no reference to the visual content. If schools and colleges could give a little more space to film studies, as they do for music and dance, matters would improve considerably. At the Princeton seminar I attended last year, Tamil cinema was viewed with more critical appreciation and knowledge than I have seen here in India.

Would it make more sense if *The Eye* came out in Tamil?

No, most definitely not. It's not merely because my intellectual medium is English; I do write in Tamil. My hunch is that people would not buy it in Tamil, at least not more than the odd 200. Not many are interested in looking at cinema seriously.

Would you like to comment on others working in the area of film studies?



Theodore Baskaran receives the Swarna Kamal Award (for the best book on the film medium) from President Shankar Dayal Sharma. Watching is Information Minister Jaipal Reddy. EastWest Press, Madras, publishers of the book, also received the same award.

Oh, yes. The way I see it, there are two main groups. Dr. M.S.S. Pandian has done excellent work on the historical and social aspects of film studies, while K. Hariharan writes mainly on film theory. Both of them write in English. And then of course there is Dr. C.S. Lakshmi. Those who write in Tamil cater to a comparatively small readership, but I would particularly like to mention Amshan Kumar and Yamuna Rajendran. There has recently been a spurt of Tamil magazines devoted to serious film study, chiefly *Agavizhi* published from Tirunelveli, *Kanavu* from Tiruppur and, of course, *Kalachuvadu* from Nagercoil.

What was your reaction on knowing that you had received the Swarna Kamal?

Happiness. I had expected it for *Message Bearers* and was deeply disappointed when I didn't receive it. This time, being the centenary year, there were so many good efforts that I didn't really expect it, but I dreamed of it. Writing a book on cinema is so fraught with problems. For one thing, there is this tremendous dearth of material; and secondly much of the data is so unreliable that one has to be doubly sure about facts.

What about your next book? Is it going to be on films?

No, not another book on films. But I do plan to bring out a collection of my articles on wildlife. However, I am also collecting material on Chandra-

babu. If anyone could offer me any kind of information on him, it would be a great help. (Courtesy: EastWest Book News)



Till August 9th: Between the Lines, an exhibition of line drawings by K M Adimoolam.

Values Art Foundation is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence with the Golden Jubilee Exhibition of Indian Contemporary Art, an on-going Exhibition during August and September 1997. As part of this Exhibition series, it presents the black and white drawings of K M Adimoolam, one of our foremost artists. This is a collection of works of the past 30 years. The College of Arts and Crafts Chennai, the oldest college for the arts in India, has a long tradition in the discipline of draftsmanship. Adimoolam, a graduate of the College, is a disciple of this rigorous draftsmanship, as is to be seen in his drawings. (At the Values Art Foundation, off TTK Road.)

Till August 12th: A special exhibition of landscape paintings titled *Destinations...*. Exhibits include Dikole, Ram Kumar, Ganesh Halol, Paramjeet Singh, Laxma Goud, Manu Parekh, Madhukar Mehtani, Satis Naik, Suman Roy, Ramesh Nanwani, Yashwant Shirwadkar, John Douglas, Bruce Peak and Shankar. (At The Gallery.)

Waiting for freedom

(Continued from Page 5)

Congress, as Law Minister, from which emanated Ambedkar's role as the pilot of the Constitutional Bill, was his idea; and he took an active part in the Assembly's discussions on the allocation of subjects between the Union and the States.

In the Central Assembly, which he faced as a minister, he was helped by his clear voice ('Mr Rajagopalachari has the

best microphone voice on the Government benches,' observed the *Hindustan Times*) and by his wit ('he particularly shines in answering supplementary questions,' the newspaper added). — (Excerpted from *The Rajaji Story 1937-1972* by Rajmohan Gandhi and published by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay).

(To be concluded next fortnight)

Answers to Quiz

- Prof. Amartya Sen; 2. Chetan Anand, brother of Dev Anand; 3. The desecration of an Ambedkar statue, leading to violence which left ten people dead; 4. Rashtriya Janata Dal; 5. Manjula Padmanabhan for a play, *Harvest*; 6. The Ramon Magsaysay award for Public Service; 7. 'Sivaji' V.C. Ganesan; 8. \$ 36.4 billion; 9. The first elected Tamil Nadu legislator; 10. World Population Day; 11. Hun Sen of Cambodia; 12. They are rocks analysed by the Rover, sent aboard Pathfinder, on Mars; 13. Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic; 14. Ramesh Krishnan, partnering Jeremy Bates, took the over-35 men's doubles crown; 15. Gulzari Lal Nanda.

* * *

- Justice Manmohan Singh Liberhan; 17. On the Vandalur - Kelambakkam Road in south Chennai; 18. Gandhi Mandapam to Gandhi Statue (7.7 kms); 19. Apollo Neuro Hospital; 20. Korukkupet.



What a success the Citizens' Run was! The young and the old, the hale and the not so hearty, men and women, those on crutches and those in wheelchairs... almost 3000-strong in all, they turned out for the 8 km run from Gandhi Mandapam to Gandhi statue recently — and every one of them enjoyed himself. In these pic-

tures, top row, Olympian Eric Prabhakar and the two tennis stars, the Krishnans, father and son, get ready to flag off the run which was led by the cadets of the Officers Training Academy (some of them seen in the picture); a section of the American contingent; runners of all ages, running with a smile; and the cadets trying to

get an unexpected participant on the right track. Row below, V. Gopalakrishnan, the well-known actor, starts off some of the French runners; two running for a cause, with handicaps no problem; and here's one way of shortening the distance between two points. (All photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)



A school for champions

Is this the right way to develop sports talent in India? By running a school that does not plan to turn out doctors, engineers or administrators? K Srish Kumar, an economist and financial analyst with the World Bank, is confident that the school he has started in Bangalore, to integrate sport with education, is the way to go.

India has a long way to go to catch up with international sports achievements, but that is because there are few opportunities and still less sports systems for the considerable talent available, he feels. But as only one-tenth of one per cent of a country's children can become professional sportsmen, Kumar's school will not sacrifice

academic education, while it concentrates on making better sportspersons of its students.

Kumar, whose home is Bangalore, is a tennis player and sports enthusiast. He has a foundation in Maryland which sponsors children from India under its tennis programmes. His academy now hosts 75 children, mostly of Indian origin, who are ranked fairly high in the U.S. Now he has turned his attention to India.

His new academy, on a 3.5 acre plot in Bangalore, adopts a daily curriculum which includes fitness programmes, proper nutrition and scientific training in a major sport of its choice when the child is 9 or 10, after it has been exposed to physical coor-

dination skills and sports fundamentals from the ages of five and six. Special Saturday classes are planned to teach yoga, music, communication skills, mental ability and personality development.

Tennis, golf and basketball are to be academy's sports. The school has three tennis courts to start with and will add four more. A golf course, a swimming pool and basketball courts will be added as new classes are added.

The school has started with five classes (upto Class IV) and will add a class every year till Class XII. Children will be entered in competitions from the time they are 11 and will have the option before them of academic or sport when they graduate.

Kumar is confident he'll be turning out educated champions before long. Do we have any one in Chennai to follow his way?

N.S.

Nostalgia

When Madras hockey matched the best

It was interesting to read F.V. Arul's account of the hockey match in which Madras beat the 1952 Olympic team (MM, June 1). I wonder if he, or any of your readers, can throw light on an almost similar encounter between the Olympic team of 1936 and a Madras eleven. In the absence of any record, I'm not sure whether Madras won, but what I know for sure is that the manager of the team Pankaj Gupta got a scare and implored the IHF authorities to strengthen the team, which was later reinforced by the winger Dara.

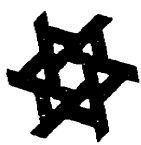
It is unfortunate that M.J. Gopalan, who was among those invited to play in the Berlin Olympics chose to tour England with Vizzy's team, for he got little opportunities in that ill-starred summer.

Madras produced hockey players of calibre, many of them Anglo-Indians from the Customs, Police, Railways and P&T Department. I was lucky to see Eric Blankley, then past his best, play in the MUC Gold Cup final. His net-splitting goal still remains in memory. In the same match, the great Dhyhan Chand also displayed his artistry.

In those days, Nainakannu, M.J. Gopalan, and C.R. Rangachari lent lustre to Madras hockey — all of which reminds me that few of our present-day cricketers play hockey or for that matter any other game. In my time Jaisimha (badminton, tennis and squash), Pataudi Jr. (hockey and rugby) and Chuni Goswami (cricket) were gifted all-rounders.

K.N. Prabhu

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