

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MADRAS MUSINGS

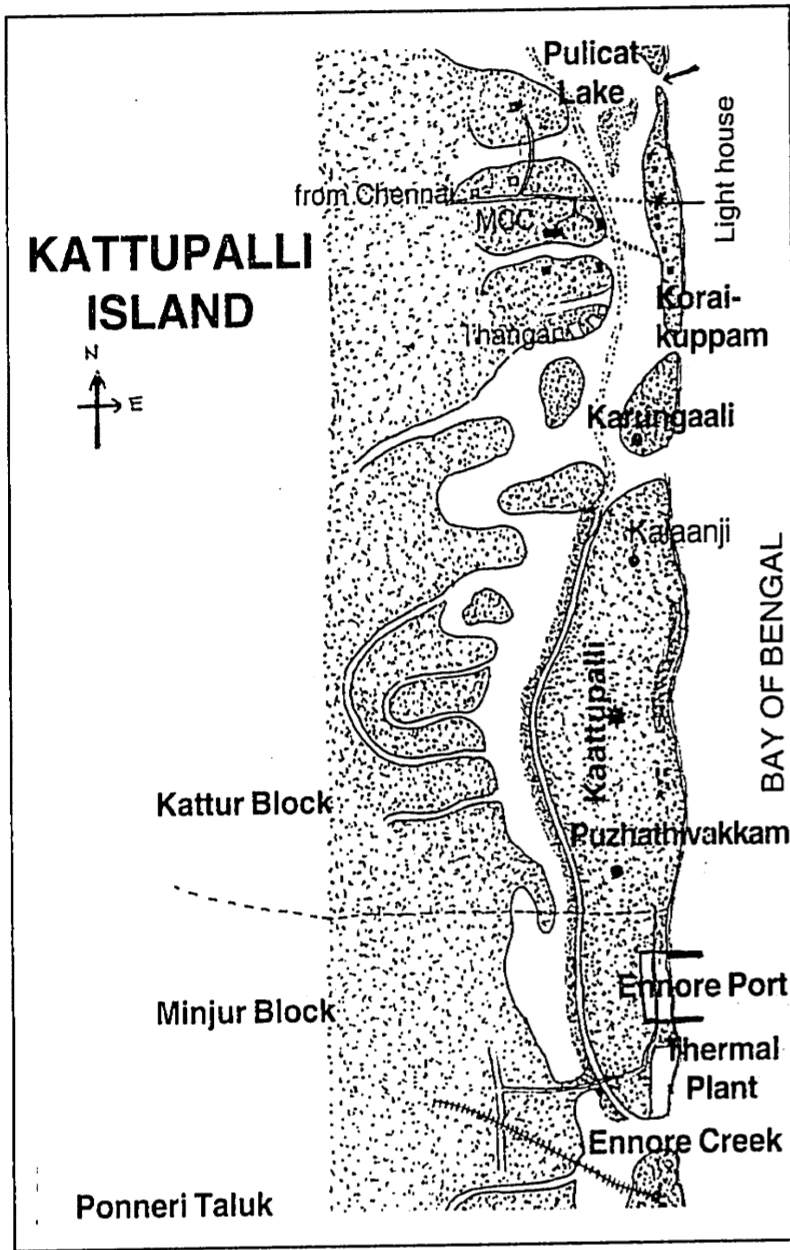
INSIDE

- The Americans come South
- Senate House seeks help
- Powered by garbage
- Chennai artistes honoured
- Champs look forward

Vol. VIII No. 20

FREE ISSUE

February 1-15, 1999



The slow boat (above) is the only way to scenic Korai-kuppam by way of the Buckingham Canal. Korai-kuppam, seen on right, is a fishing village. Its temple may just be seen above the extreme left in the picture. X on the right marks where heavy erosion is taking place.

Threatened islands

The Ennore satellite port, the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal to be set up by

Siemen's for a 2000 MW power generation facility, and a petroproduct park on the Ennore 'Island' are, together, likely to end the peaceful existence of the resource-full Pulicat Lake. The narrow sandy strip at Korai-kuppam, south of the lake, has already begun to feel the brunt of erosion.

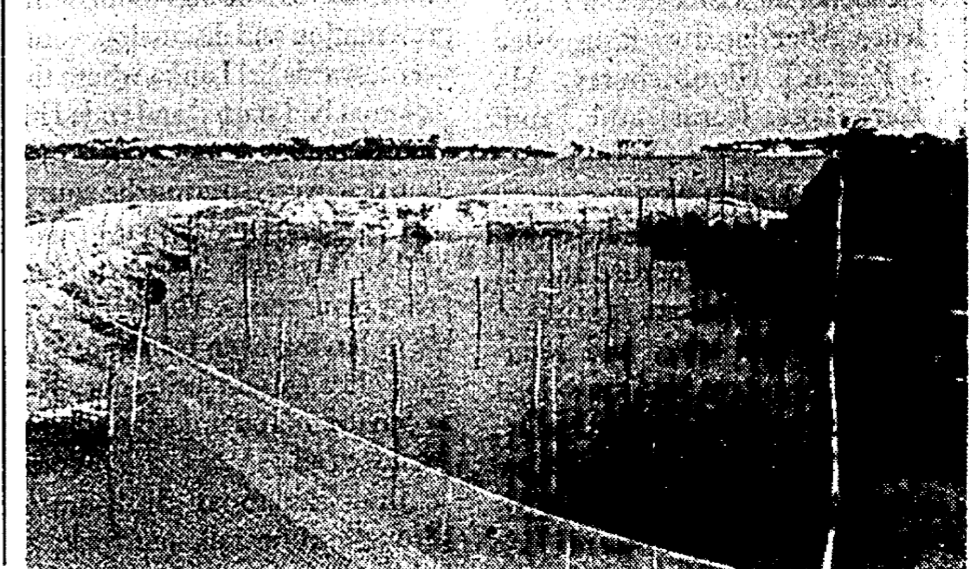
well see the sea engulfing the Lake, endangering the rich brackishwater fauna. With this very likely, the conservation of Pulicat Lake and the future livelihood of fisherfolk living around the Lake are threatened, he feels. The fisherfolk themselves live under constant fear of being relocated. He calls on the beneficiaries of the projects coming up to come up with plans to conserve Pulicat Lake not only for sustainable development but also as a developmental model for other such lagoons in the country and elsewhere.

Man-made Madras Harbour and the fisheries harbour led to the consequent erosion of land along the Tiruvottriyur coastal road in the north and the blocking of the mouth of the Cooum in the south. The Ennore 'Island' projects are likely to affect Pulicat Lake in a somewhat similar fashion.

Pulicat Lake, the second largest lagoon in the country, is a shallow 461-sq.km lake whose maximum width is about 19 km. The lake, partly in Tamil Nadu and partly in Andhra Pradesh, hosts 52

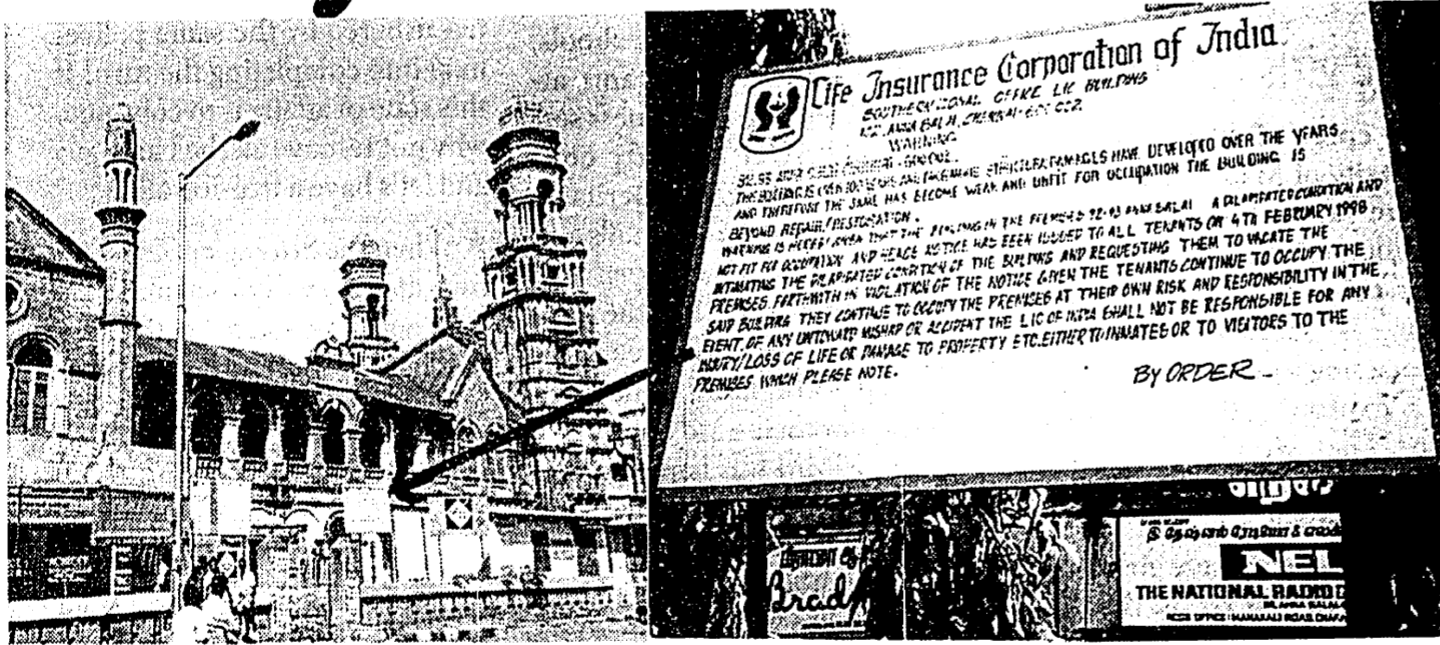
Speaking to *Madras Musings*, Prof. PJ Sanjeeva Raj, Centre for Research on New International Economic Order, says that erosion of the sandy strips across Pulicat Lake could

(Continued on Page 6)



Crab farming in Pulicat Lake. (Pictures by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)

A cry for restoration



Bharat Insurance Building, known as Kardyl Building when it was the cynosure of all eyes on Mount Road, is now under threat. The building still draws attention but most persons would have missed all the notices that have been recently repeated around the building by the present owners, the Life Insurance Corporation. The notice reads: This building is over 100 years and enormous structural damages have developed over the years and therefore the same has become weak and unfit for occupation. The building is beyond repair/restoration.

Warning is hereby given that the building in the premises 92-93 Anna Salai is in a dilapidated condition and not fit for occupation and hence notice has been issued to all tenants on 4th February 1998 intimating the dilapidated condition of the building and requesting them to vacate the premises forthwith. In violation of the notice given the tenants continue to occupy the said building. They continue to occupy the premises at their own risk and responsibility. In the event of any untoward mishap or accident the LIC of India shall not be responsible for any injury/loss of life or damage to property etc. either to inmates or to visitors to the premises which please note. (May we suggest that LIC, as a role model, discusses the future of this heritage building with INTACH? — THE EDITOR.)

The LIC's Bharat Insurance Building, once known as Kardyl Building and described as "conspicuous among the many fine buildings.... erected" (on Mount Road), is either to be restored or pulled down if

the notice that has gone up in it (see pictures above) is a pointer to some kind of action ahead. We hope restoration awaits it; the LIC certainly has the money for it. But the LIC's record on restoration has not

been of the best. Will INTACH act now?

This once-magnificent building where Indo-Saracenic had run riot is as full of tree-

(Continued on Page 5)

The Americans come South — to the Gateway

It was a great two-days when the Americans came calling at the Gateway to the South. For two days, the city was Madras again. And the one voice with which the South spoke made it almost seem as if we were back in the Madras Presidency with Rajaji at the helm. Oh yes, the five Chief Ministers were being competitive but *The Man From Madras Musings* was delighted to hear such sentiments as, "The South will soon become India's main engine of growth", "the South is where all the action is", and "the South is the future hope of India". No wonder External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh was forced into making the discovery that "India does not live in Delhi alone!"

The occasion was the 'US Investment Summit' on 'The Dynamic South' organised splendidly by the Indo-US Joint Business Council and the US-India Business Council in Chennai, which now seems quite willing to be called Madras, to judge by Murali Maran's recent pronouncements about the world knowing us as Madras, so what's in a name. It had pleased MMM to hear him on another occasion hope that the University of Madras would retain its name, a greatly respected one worldwide.

At the Summit he saw the South "spearheading the growth of the Indian economy". And leading in that attempt was Tamil Nadu, which had ousted Gujarat from second place and now trailed Maharashtra by only a few crore: Rs 1,39,147 crore to Rs. 1,39,463 crore! A couple of new projects before March and we'll be No. 1, crowed Tamil Nadu Industries Secretary MS Srinivasan.

The best part of the Summit was the one voice with which the Chief Ministers spoke on the areas they wanted investment in. Infrastructure topped the list, followed by Information Technology and Tourism. On the industrial front, petrochemicals, agro-and leather-based industries and engineering were the preferred choices.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, seen by the Americans as the symbol of the dynamic south, appeared determined to take the lead in working out "a common economic agenda for the South". But Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Karunanidhi seemed to do a better and more eloquent job of marketing the region. Both can be best done, MMM thinks, by discussing and adopting a proposal made five years ago by Chennai's Academy for Management Excellence. After due study it suggested a PAKKT (Pondicherry, AP, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu) region in which the member-States would remain separate, but work as one on investment, infrastructure and industrial development. It's time to resurrect that study and determine how soon and how best PAKKT could be made a reality. Achieving that reality alone would make the Summit proceedings and the flood of words at it meaningful, MMM feels.

At first glance

Impressed as they are with the South's well-established industrial base, the maturity and experience of those who have made it work in the most difficult times, the higher standards of literacy than elsewhere in the country, the availability of good-quality trained manpower, a better knowledge of English than elsewhere, and a friendly bureaucracy, Americans and other expatriates nevertheless do not see everything as being quite rosy. Chennai, particularly, has been a bit of a disappointment to several expats *The Man From Madras Musings* has met in the last couple of years.

While liking much of what the City has to offer, particularly its laidback, friendly nature, its promise of a comfortable life and its fascinating cultural experience that's easy to participate in, most expats still wonder whether the hassles of life here are worth the effort. Tolerating it would be fine if an attempt was being made to improve the quality of life in the City. But little attempt is visible, they complain, and add that it won't take much to improve things, only an instilling of greater discipline. That lack of discipline is what puts off many an expat.

Defecation and urination in the open, streets that are filthy, traffic

intellectually inclined, erstwhile police officer rather candidly informed the audience that "the whole world knows that China is our enemy". Apparently, a member of the faculty of the University's Department of Defence Studies was also aware of this, for he kept repeating that India was making no attempt to become friends with China and China in turn was snubbing us at every opportunity. Now the whole world and the professor and the policeman might know that China is our greatest enemy and that The Bomb was to warn the Chinese that India was no longer the pushover of Nehru's times, but MMM must candidly confess that he did not know that China was an enemy, or even Pakistan, for that matter. Enemy, to MMM, is a rather frightening word to use in conversation or discussion.

To MMM, an enemy wants to do you harm, undermine your lifestyle, hurt your economy, perhaps even conquer you or, at worst, destroy you. Is our great enemy China trying to do any of those things to us? We seem to be doing a couple of those things to ourselves without any further contribution being needed from China or Pakistan. As for the rest, don't conquest or destruction seem rather far-fetched? Which leaves us with that delightful

there are young men like 19-year-old Larson, from the Palayamkottai-Tirunelveli area. He may be studying Engineering, but most of his time is dedicated to researching areas of heritage and trying to do something about conserving them.

His Research Club has a membership of about 25, most of them college students and the rest elders interested in the past. They not only meet regularly to discuss the heritage of the district, but they also go on trips to explore heritage sites and, best of all, they produce a journal in English and Tamil, *Research Record*, which records in words and pictures much of the work they have done.

This is the first youthful effort in the field of heritage that MMM has heard of in this part of the country. May there be many more Larsons to head similar groups in the future.

Generating interest

To create awareness about the City's heritage in its schools and colleges and to learn what might be an advisable syllabus if its suggestion to Government on Heritage being taught as a subject in schools is accepted, INTACH's Tamil Nadu chapter has organised a competitive exhibi-

tion for February. *The Man From Madras Musings* was glad to hear that over a hundred schools and colleges and several institutions (such as Enviro Clubs) and individuals had entered by the end of January.

The girls have it...

Reports of the recent University of Madras Convocation were rather revealing. The top students were all girls. Among nine persons mentioned for winning 5-7 medals each, there was not a single male.

Explaining this phenomenon to *The Man From Madras Musings*, a Professor said that, in the Humanities, over 70 per cent of the students were girls and the figure was not far off that in the sciences. Boys, it would appear, seek admission only to courses in engineering, medicine, business and computer sciences. And even there the number of girls is fast increasing. Also, the girls, whatever courses they take, work harder, study more diligently and attend class more regularly. The results clearly show that — the University of Madras passing out more girls than boys!

At this rate, where are we headed? Towards a world where there'll be no males to appreciate the arts, history, heritage? Woe be it!

...And a boy or two

Mercifully, *The Man From Madras Musings*, is happy to find,

In brief

★ Three years in the building has been another major Chennai medical facility and when it opens on February 12th it will be one of the finest in the country not only in looks but in trauma care. The MIOT Hospital promoted by Dr PVA Mohandas and German institutions will offer not only a "new dimension to orthopaedic care" but will also specialise in handling accident victims. With six state-of-the-art theatres, the Hospital will offer neurosurgery, ophthalmic surgery, abdominal surgery, pelvic surgery and plastic surgery among several surgical procedures. There will also be a fully-equipped department of cardiology always on stand-by. The Hospital, in Manapakkam, about 1 1/2 km from the Kathipara Junction on the Bangalore Road, will be, *The Man From Madras Musings* was told, the first medical facility in the country "to process cadaveric bones and joints for use as transplant material".

And so Chennai gets one more speciality medical institution to justify its description of being the 'Medicare Capital of India'.

★ More and more signs forbidding or permitting U-turas are to be found on the arterial roads of Chennai nowadays. And more and more are the ban signs being ignored. At a ban sign near *The Man From Madras Musings'* house, the bulk of the transgressors are not autos or cyclists but cars, either self-driven or with master or mistresses in the rear seat, and two-wheelers. Indeed, more rules appear to be broken on the roads of Chennai by the educated than by the less educated. Yet it is the latter who incur the wrath of policemen on duty lurking by. The educated are often ushered by the same policeman into completing the turn! If this state of affairs is to continue, why not remove all the ban signs and let's have a free-for-all!

★ When the Srirangam Temple's *rajagopuram* was raised a decade or so ago, it was stated at the time that hoary belief had it that if ever "the benevolent gaze" of the south-facing icon was ever blocked, there would be considerable strife in areas to the south of the temple. Since then, the worsening of ethnic strife in Sri Lanka and the communal outbreaks in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu have been attributed to this celestial view-blocking construction. *The Man From Madras Musings* is now delighted to hear that replicas of the Srirangam icons have been sculpted in Srirangam and been sent to Colombo to be installed in a Sri Ranganathaswami Temple being built in Muthrajawela on the southern outskirts of the City. MMM hopes the replicated icons will face north and bring peace to the civil war-scarred country. Replicated icons are also being sent to Pomona, California, where another Sri Ranganathaswami Temple is to rise on five acres of land.

— MMM

OUR READERS WRITE

Who knows 'Chennai'?

In the course of my several trips to different countries after Madras officially became Chennai, I discovered that practically no one refers to the city as Chennai. Most foreigners do not know where Chennai is, but all of them know where Madras is. Even in Singapore, where Tamils are in a large number, Madras is used for all references.

For that matter, even within the country, I have come across people still referring to the city as Madras. Sometimes, they look at us mockingly if we say 'Chennai'!

Does this send any message to those who changed the name?

— P.S. Sundar
"Skandam"
Reilly Compound
Coonoor 643 101, Nilgiris

Suggestions from U.K.

I have read with great interest the articles about the preservation of some of the historic buildings of Chennai city and the possibility of a Heritage Act. There is in our nearest city, Gloucester, the Gloucester Civic Trust, a voluntary organisation which has the preservation and use of old buildings at its heart. No doubt you know that especially interesting buildings are listed Grade I, Grade II and other areas can be made Conservation areas, which means no alteration to the style of windows or frontages. The Civic Trust looks at all planning applications for such buildings and if necessary, registers objections or suggestions with the local City Council Planning Committee. They also train City Guides who take visitors round some of the architecturally interesting places which the general tourist wouldn't find. We hope Madras has something like this soon.

Here, in the Forest of Dean (where our long-standing friend Harry Miller spent two weeks with us last summer) we have a History Society which meets monthly for talks or outings, and also carries out research projects for publication. We have done archaeological digs, written up the history of the Toll Cottages on the turnpike roads, recorded names from crumbling tombstones and submitted articles about leading local characters of the past.

Our local Dean Heritage Museum has a Society of Friends, who assist with fundraising, cataloguing, stewarding on busy weekends and generally helping the salaried staff where possible. Schoolchildren have interviewed older Foresters and thus preserved their memories for posterity.

Perhaps, the people in Madras could form a Heritage Society and combine some of these roles? Both residents and visitors would enjoy learning more about the great city and there must be many hidden corners which even now could not be photographed and older residents who could be tape-recorded before it is too late. There must be all sorts of fascinating stories to be unearthed in the city archives about some of the residents of all nationalities who have contributed to the building of the city that we know today. Some of the schools and colleges might like to join in particular projects.

My family lived in Madras in the 1960s, while working for Wilson and Co., and our first son was born in the Kalyani Hospital, which makes Madras a very special place for us. If such a society exists, or one is formed, please may we join?

Josephine Felton
Littledean House Hotel
Littledean, Cinderford
Gloucestershire, GL143JT
U.K.

Help save Senate House!

Professor P.T. Manoharan, Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras, writes:

"We have put on the Internet an appeal for funds for the renovation of historic *Senate House* at the University of Madras's Chepauk Campus. We also appeal to local well wishers."

His appeal reads: "The University of Madras, one of the three oldest universities in India, was established in 1857. On its Chepauk campus is situated historic *Senate House*, built in 1869, adding beauty and grandeur to the Marina. It has been described as an architectural masterpiece. Once the entire University was housed in this building. Many old alumni will recall with pride the solemn and grand convocations that used to be held in this massive hall.

Due to the ravages of time, damage caused by birds, extremes of climatic conditions and human

neglect, *Senate House* has slowly but inexorably become dilapidated, causing concern to lovers of architecture, students and teachers who demand immediate action to renovate this monumental building.

A detailed study by an expert technical team has revealed that renovation work would cost around Rs.4 crore and another Rs.50 lakh would be needed for a corpus to ensure maintenance.

To mobilise the necessary resources for this, a High Level Committee has been formed with prominent citizens of Chennai. The Committee is of the view that *Senate House* symbolises the very essence and spirit of the University of Madras, its academic values and the tradition and culture it has built over the centuries. The Committee fervently appeals to the alumni of the University in India and abroad, philanthropists, lovers of art and



Claybrook no longer looks like what it used to be in the days Binny's executives occupied it. Now the main building of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Rajaji School, it has seen quite a bit of alteration in recent years and is as shown in the picture.

Kilpauk nostalgia

We have been living at 2 Second Street, Ormes Road, since 1971. Ours was the only house on this dead-end street then. To the south of the house was a small pond with red and white lilies. Waterfowls nested and hatched their little ones on its banks. Grey herons were frequent visitors. The area which was the pond now houses the residence of the Bishop of the Evangelical Church of India.

To the west was the sprawling Parlaikimedi palace typically Andhra in style surrounded by hundreds of trees which were a haven for a variety of birds — koels, spotted dove, mynahs, seven sisters, woodpecker, kingfisher, wagtails, the coppersmith bird and blue pigeons not to mention bats. Butterflies of all hues and colours fluttered merrily in the sunlight. During the rains, the chorus of the innumerable frogs reverberated in the night air. Snails with rounded and conical shells, black leech-like creatures, black snake-like crawlers, centipedes and millipedes came out of nowhere. The shrill cooing of the koels by 4 a.m. helped awaken the early risers.

The Parlaikimedi house with all its trees has vanished to make room for about seventy flats — a concrete jungle facing the Manikeswari Road. Not a drop of water from this area goes underground to replenish the sub-soil water.

To the north of our house is an enclosed plot — a mini jungle (it is still there) — a hiding place for snakes, mongooses and bandicoots (whose nocturnal visits leave our garden dug up all over). This mini-jungle is now the dumping ground for the refuse of the residents all around.

The old CSM school of the fifties, with its wire fencing and numerous woodapple trees, has given place to the Bains School. To the east, an old building with a porch has disappeared to accommodate the

sprawling Bible Society School where students from all over the country come to be trained.

Can we ever hope to get back the sounds and sights of the birds and the frogs and butterflies, the mongoose and the bandicoots or the smell of the wet earth when the new rains come? Can we ever get rid of the horror of four Kilpauk being the most polluted area in the once-beautiful city of Madras that is now Chennai?

A few lines about the history of 485, Kilpauk Garden Road which now houses the Rajaji Vidyashram.

Claybrook, as this bungalow was known, was named after a muddy stream which ran along the northern boundary of this five-acre plot. Along the outer fringes were groves of coconut, tamarind and mango.

K. Sreekumara Menon, I.P.S.
Addl. Inspector-General of Police (Retd.)

* * *

The property belonged to K. Venkatarama Iyer for over six decades. Binny and Co., who allotted the bungalow to their successive top executives, were his tenants over a long period.

The bungalow was not an imposing one, but the British tenants made up for it by furnishing the interior with exquisite taste and maintained a fabulous garden and two tennis courts.

In the late thirties, top-ranking Government officials and company directors, both British and Indian, started shifting to Nungambakkam with its elegant bungalows and spacious gardens on wide, tree-lined, clean roads like College Road, Haddow's Road and Nungambakkam High Road.

Due to this trend, *Claybrook* fell vacant and the Newton Studio was born on the premises. Under the able stewardship of Dinshaw Tehrani and Ellis R. Dungan a film world was created on the vast grounds with artificial settings and arbours for the love scenes. A number of excellent and successful films, like *Rishyasingar*, were shot here, including several directed by the late Bhim Singh.

With the advent of modern and better equipped studios — Gemini and A.V.M. — the decline of Newton started, until it was finally closed down.

In the early Seventies, V. Pattabhiraman (the advocate son of K. Venkatarama Iyer), well-known in cricketing and sporting circles, gifted the property to the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan to be put to use as a school. From small beginnings, the Rajaji Vidyashram has grown into an excellent Higher Secondary School.

— Another Octogenarian

The unforgiving

Regarding the photograph published on page 5 of *Madras Musings*, January 1, no Chennai music lover will forgive you for captioning the instrument being played by Sundaresam as the *mrindangam* instead of *ghatam*, which it really is. (And that too, at the fag-end of the music festival!)

K.P. Mahalingam
6-B, The Peninsula
778, Poonamallee High Road
Chennai 600 010.

An ambassador

Herr Pesch's Passion for Carnatic Music by V.R. Devika is a tribute to the silent, unostentatious Pesch whose *bhakti* to his guru is unparalleled and whose passion for Carnatic music may soon earn him the sobriquet 'vidwan'. Has he not earned it already? The amiable flautist cum musicologist who is crossing the 43rd *melakarta* to the 44th *melakarta* in age, would soon be in the delectable 45th *Subhapanuvarali* and I would expect him to soar high.

K.V. Ramanathan
South Mada Street
Mylapore
Chennai 600 004

Towering over landmark

Recently, a microwave tower has come up very near the Kapaleeswarar Temple. It is not only higher than the temple tower, but also spoils the age-old beauty of the temple which is visited by thousands of people from all over the world. The authorities should take the necessary steps to relocate the tower to preserve the age-old landmark of the city.

Musicians like Ludwig Pesch should strive to narrow the gap between the Indian and the Western highlighting common features and be one of the accredited ambassadors of Carnatic music abroad, a role Pesch is already playing.

N. Rajagopalan IAS (RTD.)
3, 24th Cross Street
Indira Nagar
Chennai 600 020

Powered by garbage

Most burgeoning are cursed with piles of rotting garbage and endless hours without electricity. But now, Western-Paques (India) Limited, a subsidiary of the Rs. 1,000 crore Western India group, is offering a solution to both problems, using one to address the other.

The company has developed a technology to produce electricity from city garbage. Says Western-Paques chairperson and managing director Nandan Gadgil, "The Rs 100 crore investment in a plant which can process 1,000 tonnes of garbage a day and generate eight megawatts of electricity is well worth it to all concerned. The company has entered into agreements with several municipal corporations, including those of Calcutta, Aurangabad and Thiruvananthapuram.

Developed in collaboration with a Dutch company, Paques B V, the technology, claim company experts, is ideal for Indian garbage. Unlike garbage produced in the West, which is high in combustible material like paper, Indian city garbage has high concentration of biodegradable matter and water.

This garbage burns poorly, and the company executive believe that it should be used to produce methane instead, which can be used to generate electricity.

The firm has already set up a pilot plant in Pune which can generate 5KW of power. The garbage is first sorted out. Metal is removed using a powerful magnet, whilst the sand, paper, plastic and glass in the garbage removed using a pneumatic separator.

The garbage is then mixed with water and bacteria species specifically cultured for producing methane. The bacteria thrive on the waste and produce methane as they digest the refuse.

Anjani Khanna

This process, called biomethanation, is similar to that of a biogas digester. As the bacteria feed, they grow heavier and settle at the bottom of the reactor and are separated as sludge. This sludge is extremely high in degraded organic matter and makes excellent manure, claims Western-Paques.

The bacteria convert the garbage into methane in 24 hours. The temperature in the reactor, which is a double reinforced cement concrete structure, is usually maintained at 15°C.

The company claims that the process converts about 65 per cent of the garbage to methane and what is left can be used as manure. The methane produced is then fed into a gas fuelled internal combustion engine to generate power.

"From municipal solid waste alone, India can generate 500 MW of power," claims Chandrakant Laxman Kale of Western-Paques. Taking both solid municipal waste and industrial effluents into account, Kale reckons that as much as 2,000 MW of power can be generated in India.

Company executives are extremely upbeat about this technology and its prospects. Because the government is offering several incentives to companies involved in power generation, including a 100 per cent depreciation on power projects based on non-conventional energy sources, and a five-year tax holiday, Western-Paques is willing to establish the plant and run it, at its expense, in any city, provided the authorities guarantee them a regular supply of garbage and land to locate the plant. — (CSE/Down To Earth Features)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

● Requests for copies of *Madras Musings* and all intimations about changes of address should be addressed to the Circulation Dept., *Madras Musings*, c/o M/s. Lokavani Hall-Mark Press Pvt Ltd, 62/63 Greames Road, MADRAS-600 006.

Want to muse with MUSINGS?

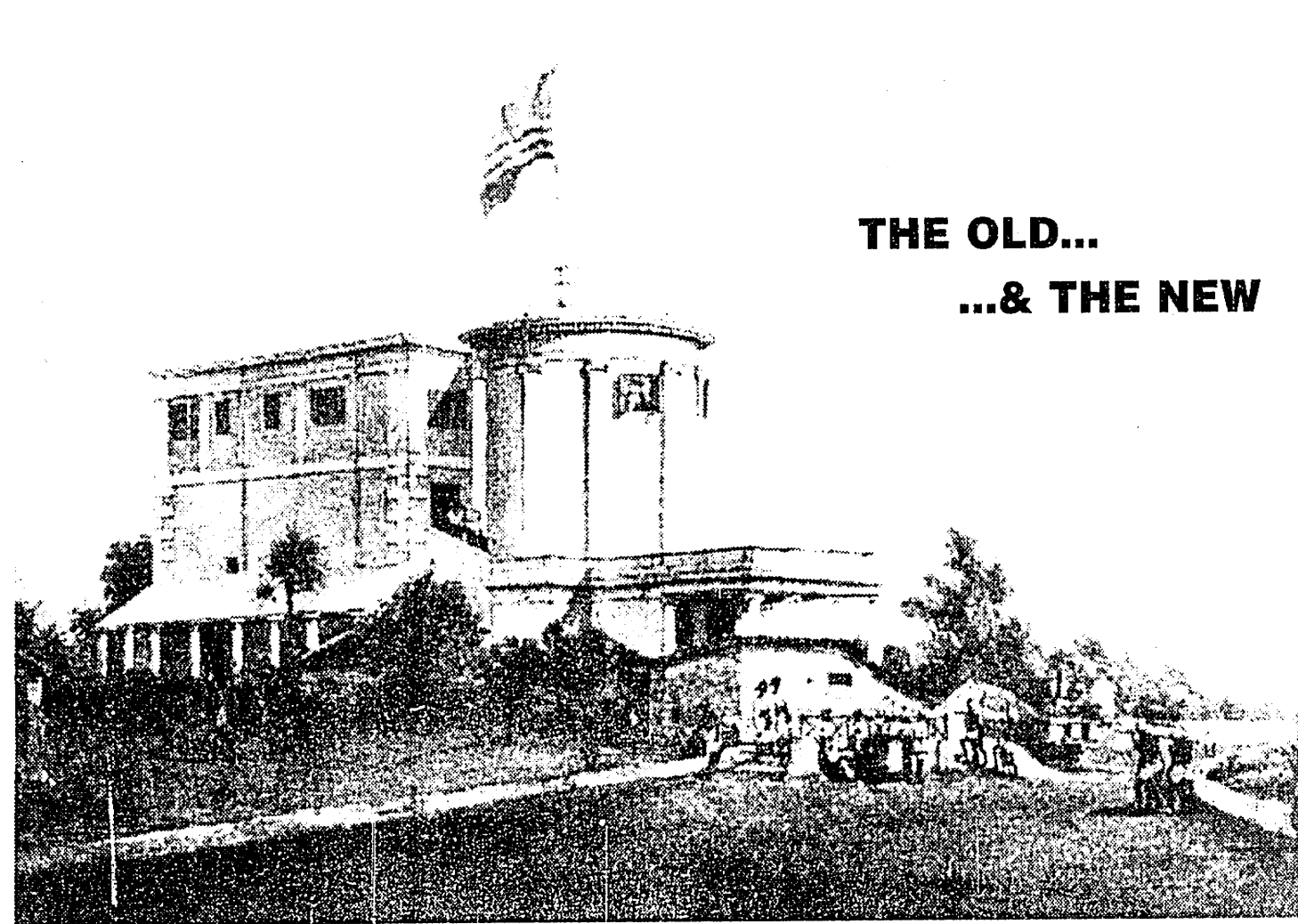
If you would like to be put on *Madras Musings*' mailing list, just fill in the form below (use block letters/type) and post it to M/s. Lokavani Hall-Mark Press Pvt Ltd, 62/63 Greames Road, MADRAS-600 006.

Name

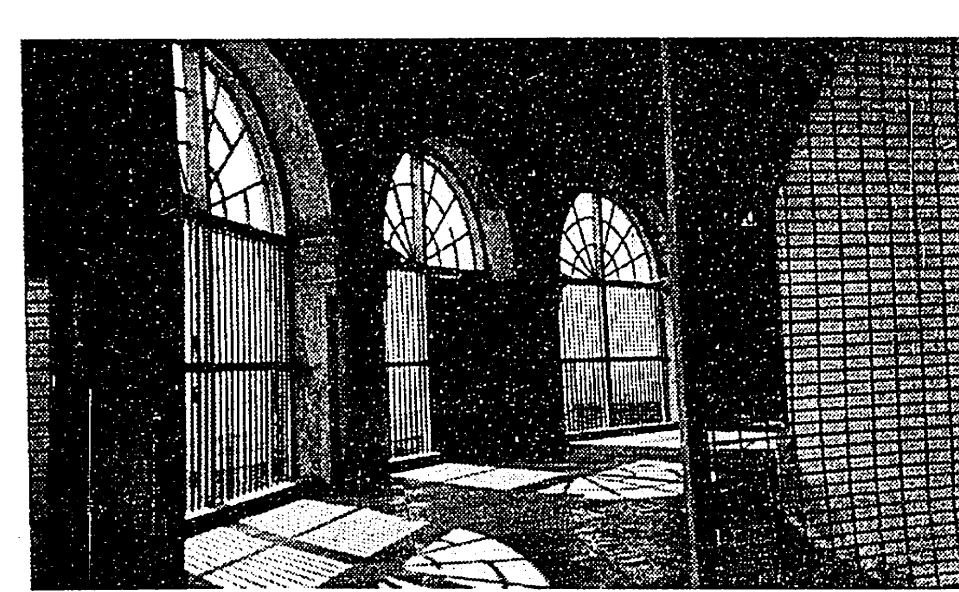
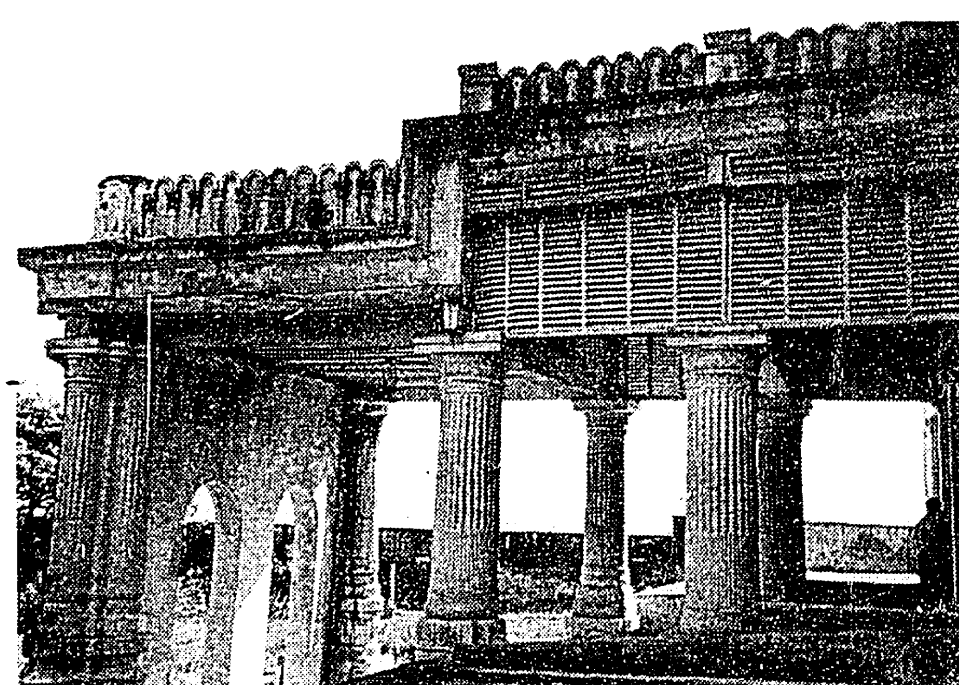
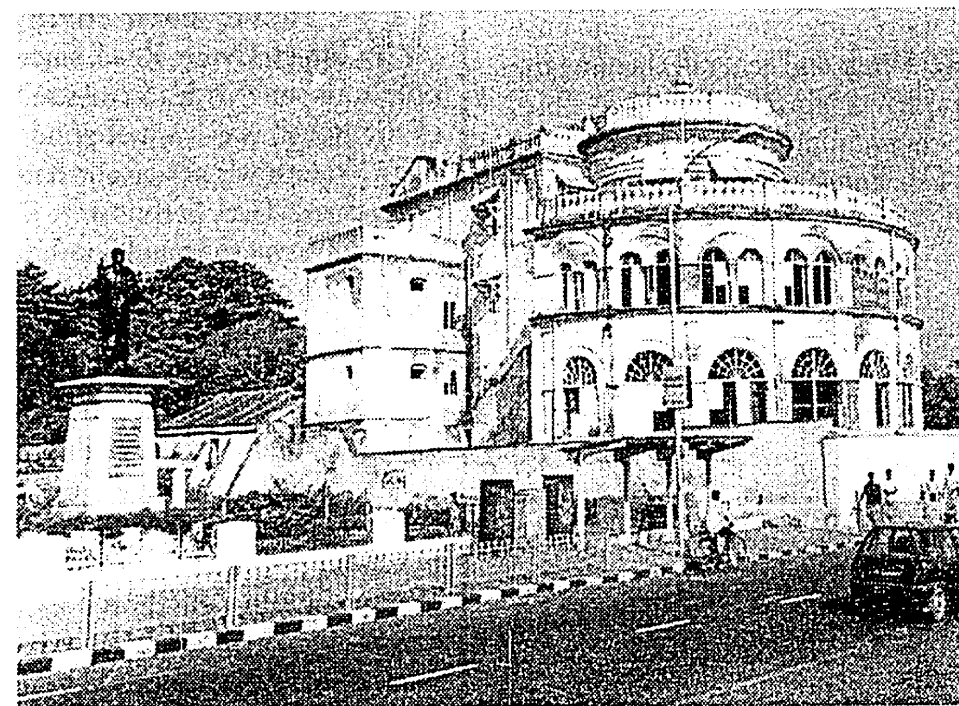
Address

Note: Overseas postage extra. Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Gulf: Rs. 375/year. US & Europe: Rs 425/year. Cheques payable to M/s. Lokavani Hall-Mark Press.

Madras Musings is now also on the web at www.lokavani-hallmark.com



THE OLD...
...& THE NEW



The first iceship sent out from Boston to India by Frederic Tudor was in 1833. The successful landing of 180 tons of ice in Calcutta led to Tudor and his skipper William Rogers establishing the Tudor Ice Company there. Within the next decade the Company had established branches in Madras and Bombay.

The picture above, our OLD, is of Ice House in the days when ice was stored in it by the Tudor Ice Company's Madras branch. The blocks of ice — stored in sawdust and salt — used to be landed on what is now Marina beach from the masula boats that brought them ashore from the Yankee clippers anchored out at sea in Madras Roads. The blocks of ice would then be carried in slings (clearly visible in the original of the OLD but, sadly, not visible in the poor copy we were able to lay our hands on) and stored in Ice House. Who built it is not known, nor when, but it was built on Government land and was in situ as far back as 1875, according to a guidebook of the time.

Our NEW, taken from the same angle, shows considerable changes. A multi-windowed 'bustle' has been built around the old tower and of entrance portico there is no sign. That portico has been shifted to the right, as is seen in the picture below it, and, as seen in the next picture, has been made quite an ornate one. When this reconstruction took place is not known, but it is very likely to have occurred during the occupancy of the advocate Bilagiri Iyengar, who bought the property in the 1880s and named it Castle Kernan after acting Chief Justice Kernan of the Madras High Court (1885).

Bilagiri Iyengar had let the building to the Ramakrishna Mission and it was here that Swami Vivekanda stayed for nine days on his triumphal return from the Chicago Congress of Religions in 1897. In 1907, a bankrupt Bilagiri Iyengar had to have the building auctioned. A couple of other owners followed before it was bought by Government in 1930 and became a Widows' Home, then a hostel for women students at neighbouring Lady Willingdon Teachers' Training College. The present Government has gifted the property to the Ramakrishna Mission who are waiting to restore it as soon as some loose ends in Government's munificence are knotted.

Our final picture shows the splendidly lit corridor that forms the semi-circular passage around the main tower (still visible in the NEW) where the rooms are. (All pictures of the NEW by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)

Law and disorder

Though India has any number of rules and regulations to protect the environment, they have not achieved their purpose. The growth of environmental laws is a reflection of the speed with which environmentalism has established itself as a potent political force. But many of the laws are either trivial or short-lived and vulnerable to political pressure.

It is not so much that politicians violate laws, but that they modify laws to suit vested interests. Environment regulations may thus be modified to tap the tourist potential of an area or to set up some other industry. There have been many instances where laws have been changed to accommodate commercialisation in hill areas.

The Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, gives wildlife warden the power to protect animals in wildlife parks and sanctuaries. But we also find that these wardens exercise their

● by Kanwaljit Kaur

power on traditional entertainers like *bhaloo* (bear) and *bandar* (monkey) *wallahs*, confiscate the animals and put them behind bars. At the same time, the state earns money by putting wild animals on exhibition in zoological parks and permits circus companies to train animals for entertainment to earn profit.

Environmental values are difficult to integrate into Indian law. "Civilisation", as we use the term, is not just cities, industrial development, miles of highways and enormous airfields. By destroying the environment for civilisation we are just negating the meaning of the word. Does progress require polluted rivers and lakes, choking air, birds dying of pesticides and young people having heart attacks?

In the words of Steward Udall, "Man is a part of vast web of life and cannot escape the natural consequence of his actions. The sheer power of population and technological revolutions may make man himself an endangered species in many parts of the world."

Though regulatory controls have become more strict, the state of the environment has not improved because of paucity of finances, absence of basic infrastructure, reliance on litigation, not having a comprehensive industrial location policy, and lack of relevant technology.

In India, several legislations have been passed to check pollution, such as the Air (Prevention of Pollution) Act, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, Environment (Protection) Act. The legislation on air has some loopholes since it does not provide for the prevention of inter-state air pollution. It deals with the control of noxious emissions from specified industrial processes, automobiles and noise pollution. Smoke and other non-noxious emissions are not covered under this Act.

In 1988, Section 49 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act was modified to allow citizens to bring actions under its domain. Now a State Board must make relevant reports available to citizens, unless the Board determines that the disclosures would harm "public interest". However, no definition of "public interest" is provided.

Under Section 20 and 21 of the Act, only officials of Board are empowered to obtain information and take samples from polluting enterprises. The citizen's suit provision requires the Boards to release relevant information, but does not require them to undertake investigations of alleged water pollution.

These laws are also silent with respect to civil liability. Had a law for compensation to victims of industrial environment disaster been passed by Parliament, the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy would not have suffered as much as they did getting their due. Thousands of people died in Bhopal, but Union Carbide and its officials got away with petty compensation and no criminal liability.

In India, judicial activism is gaining momentum, with eminent lawyers like M C Mehta and Kuldeep Singh campaigning for environment protection. But a lot needs to be done. In the words of A Dan Tarlock, "...The fundamental problems environmental law will face in the future stems from the fact that the subject has become more and more divorced from the actual protection of the biosphere from serious degradation. Too much of current environmental law is only good for lawyers and those of us who love teaching it, not for the planet."

There has to be transparency in the judicial system. The



Bradma occupy a palatial portion of the Bharat Insurance Building and keep it in reasonably good shape. One skylight still retains its original stained glass (below) but the other has ordinary glass where stained glass once used to be. This room has a magnificent, semi-vaunted wooden ceiling. (Pictures here and on page 1 by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)

A cry for restoration

(Continued from Page 1)

growth as it has occupants, offices, telephone booths, automobile shops, a sports shop, a book shop and a dental clinic. Its interior has been 'remodelled' to suit each individual requirement. In the Bradma office alone are the palatial embellishments of the past visible. Here there is magnificent stained glass and an ornamental ceiling. Much of the wooden staircase and the wrought iron work also remain. A wooden staircase leads to one of the domes of the building from where you can get a bird's-eye view of the city.

This unique building was raised by W E Smith & Co and opened its doors on July 14, 1897. The firm was founded by W E Smith in 1878. He had apprenticed with M S Flynn and Co, Chemists, Madras, and gone on to open a dispensary at Charing Cross in Ootacamund. When business proved a success, he moved back to Madras and established branches at Esplanade and Vepery. The Vepery branch was pulled down recently and Madharsha on Hunter's Road has risen on its site. The Esplanade branch building still survives, occupied by lawyers, a textile shop, and a 'cool home'.

Kardyl Building was designed by J H Stephens and the foundation stone of the building was laid by the Maharaja of Vizianagaram on March 16, 1894. When the building was opened, an imported weighing machine was the first service customers saw. They could dis-

cover their weight at a modest fee of 2 annas each, all proceeds going to the Friends-in-Need Society.

The firm received government recognition in 1913 and was authorised to style itself, "Pharmaceutical Chemists and Druggists and Aerated Water Manufacturers in ordinary to H E Governor of Madras". The Company was taken over by Spencer and Company in 1925 and the branch at Vepery became a Spencer's branch. The building was bought by the Bharat Insurance Company in 1934. When insurance was nationalised in 1957, this heritage building passed into the hands of the Life Insurance Corporation who built an unattractive triangular building in the garden space of *Kardyl Building*.



public has the right to know what is going on. The judiciary has to think before passing judgements. Without thinking of alternatives such as rehabilitation, these verdicts will just continue to push up the cost of illegal management.

In the vehicular pollution cases, the court should ask the government to explain as to why there is no adequate public transport system, and why roads and flyovers have no cycle tracks. If the court passes an order, it should not just close the file, but ask for reports indicating compliance.

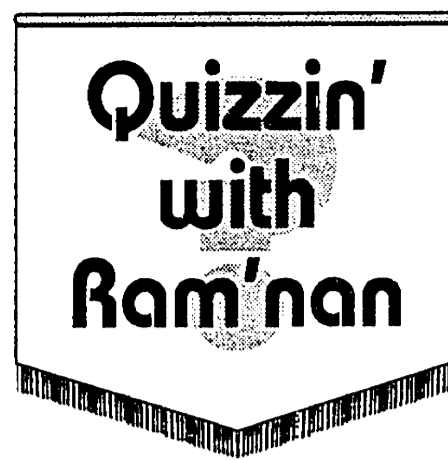
It looks more like some grand public edifice than a place intended for commercial purposes."

(CSE/Down To Earth Features)

the toilet". It was fitted up in the most luxurious manner... "in a style heretofore known unknown in Madras". The furniture of the room was made of "ebonised teak, picked out with gold designs... and suited the ornamentation of the room itself."

The other rooms of the building were occupied by the pharmacy, laboratory and photographic departments. Upstairs, along General Patter's Road, were suites for the resident assistants, while suites along the Mount Road were fitted for the Optical Department and doctors' offices. At the rear of the building was the aerated water factory.

The firm received government recognition in 1913 and was authorised to style itself, "Pharmaceutical Chemists and Druggists and Aerated Water Manufacturers in ordinary to H E Governor of Madras". The Company was taken over by Spencer and Company in 1925 and the branch at Vepery became a Spencer's branch. The building was bought by the Bharat Insurance Company in 1934. When insurance was nationalised in 1957, this heritage building passed into the hands of the Life Insurance Corporation who built an unattractive triangular building in the garden space of *Kardyl Building*. What is LIC going to do next? Rajind N Christy



(Quizmaster V.V.RAMA-NAN'S questions are from the fortnight January 1 to 15. Questions 16 to 20 pertain to Chennai.)

1. What new major economic innovation was instituted in Europe on January 1st?
2. What lunar phenomenon occurred in January after 83 years?
3. According to a worldwide BBC Radio listeners' poll, who has been chosen as the Man of the Millennium?
4. Which Englishman became the latest bowler to take a hat-trick in Tests?
5. According to Prof. Amartya Sen, what are the five different types of 'freedom'?
6. In celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Indianisation, the Army has named 1999 as...?
7. Prof. V.K. Gurtu, a mathematician from Nagpur, has claimed to have found a simple proof to which 361-year-old problem?
8. Why was Sophie Rhys-Jones the star of the British media recently?
9. Which thespian inaugurated the 39th International Film Festival of India in Hyderabad?
10. According to the official probe into the Diana tragedy, which living person has been blamed?
11. What major housing statute was repealed by an ordinance on January 11th?
12. What experimental aircraft crashed near Arakkonam, killing eight people?
13. The briefest (1/15th of a second) glimpse of a nude woman has forced Disney to recall 3.4 million video tapes of which hit animated film?
14. According to a poll conducted by the International Federation for Football History and Statistics, who have been chosen Europe's and South America's best players of the century?
15. Which famous Bull, considered the greatest ever player in his sport, retired on January 13th?

16. Chennai Police has declared 1999 as the...?
17. One of the city's foremost citizens and chairman of the Murugappa Group of companies passed away on January 1st. His name?
18. Who assumed charge as acting Chief Justice of Madras HC on January 4th?
19. Where in Chennai was the prestigious 86th session of the Indian Science Congress recently held?
20. Which Nobel Laureate, credited with the discovery of the structure of DNA, was in the city recently?

(Answers on Page 8)

Honours for Chennai artistes

Five artists with close Chennai links were among those presented with the 1997 awards of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the premier national body for music, dance and drama, in New Delhi, in December, by the President of India.

T. Rukmini (C-Violin): Born in 1936 in Shimoga, Karnataka, Tiruvengadam Rukmini was trained in Carnatic music by R.R. Kesavamurthy and Lalgudi G. Jayaraman. She also received training in vocal music from Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer. Rukmini has performed extensively as violin accompanist to many leading musicians, in-

formed for dancers like the late Rukmini Devi Arundale, Kamala and Krishnaveni Lakshmanan. The Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram conferred the title Kalaimamani on her in 1975.

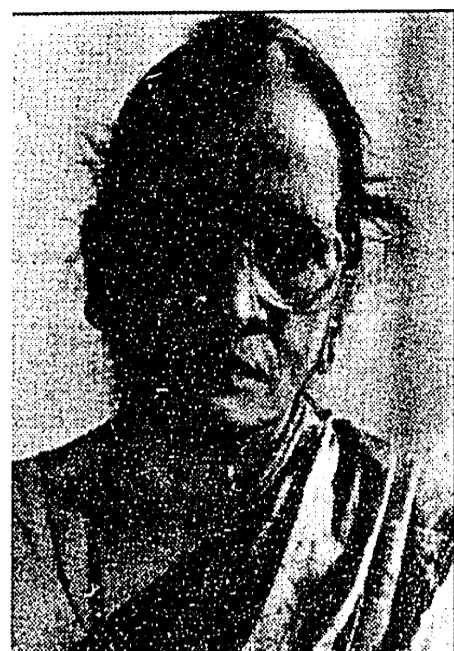
Kanaka Srinivasan (Bharata Natyam): Born in 1947 in Chennai, Kanaka Srinivasan was trained in Bharata Natyam by the renowned Vazhuvoor Ramaiah Pillai. She also received lessons in Kathak from Vishnu Vaichalkar and in Mohini Attam from Kalamandalam Gopalakrishnan. Kanaka is widely known today as an outstanding representative of the Vazhuvoor bani of Bharata Natyam. She has been

• A Sruti Report

cluding M.L. Vasanthakumari, D.K. Pattammal and N. Ramani. She is an accomplished vocalist as well and has several original compositions to her credit. Among other honours, she received in 1992 the title Kalaimamani from the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram.

N. Kesi (C-flute): Born in 1919 in Chennai, Narayanaswamy Kesi was trained in flute-playing by P. Swaminatha Iyer and T.R. Mahalingam. She was also trained in vocal music by T. Brinda. An able soloist and accompanist, Kesi has per-

claimed as much for her *nritta* as for her sensitive *abhinaya*. Along with Sanskrit and Tamil scholars, she has worked on ancient texts to create new dances in the Bharata Natyam style and has choreographed dance-dramas based on the works of Kalidasa. She is also highly regarded as a teacher of dance and has trained many young dancers at her institution in Delhi. Among other honours, Kanaka has received the title of Nriyachoodamani from the Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Chennai and the MGR Award for best



N. Kesi



T. Rukmini



P.R. Thilagam



Kanaka Srinivasan

guru from the Music Academy, Chennai. The Parishad Samman of the Sahitya Kala Parishad, Delhi, was conferred on her in 1996.

Pithukuli Murugadas (Bhajan): Born in 1920 in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, Pithukuli Murugadas received his training in music from Brahmananda Paradesi.

A phenomenal success as a *bhajan*-singer all over the country, Murugadas has also earned great popularity among Tamil audiences abroad. He is recognised today as one of India's leading exponents of devotional music.

Among other honours, Murugadas received the title of Kalaimamani from the Tamil

Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram in 1984.

P.R. Thilagam (Kuravanji): Born in 1926 in Tiruvarur, Tamil Nadu, Thilagam received her training in music from Madurai Srirangam Iyengar. She was trained in dance by Ganesa Pillai and her grandmother Tiruvarur Kamalambal in accordance with her family tradition, the *Kondi paramparai*.

A versatile musician and dancer, Thilagam is known for her study and performance of Indian writing in English in this country. Even the currently accepted expression, 'Indian Writing in English' (which sounds a lot better than 'Indian English Writing', or 'Indo-English Literature'), applied to

expanding it, he brought it out under a new title, *The Indian Contribution to English Literature*, three years later. A comprehensive survey of the subject, with substantial additions, had, however, to wait till 1962, when his monumental work, *Indian Writing in English* saw the light of day.

He saw the bright side of books

The critic as a scholar, who is also a creative artist, or feels with him, is a rare commodity in this country. One of the very few who measure up to this description is Professor K.R. Srinivasa Iyengar, who believes in seeing the brighter side of a book and the better side of an author that come under his critical notice.

For the last sixty years and more, Professor Srinivasa Iyengar has been busy, teaching literature or writing about it, or doing both. If his range is remarkably wide — covering English and continental literatures, Indian and Commonwealth literatures, as also American, African and other literatures — his understanding is equally deep, going back to the first principles, from the East as well as the West.

Iyengar's output has been steady and copious, by now reaching a formidable total of almost fifty titles. These include volumes of biography, general, political and literary; poetic composition; translations of the classics; besides literary history and criticism.

Iyengar can, without any fear of the charge of exaggeration, be described as the father of the academic discipline of Indian writing in English in this country. Even the currently accepted expression, 'Indian Writing in English' (which sounds a lot better than 'Indian English Writing', or 'Indo-English Literature'), applied to

writing in the English language by Indian authors, owes its origin to Prof. Iyengar.

It may not be out of place here to recall the fact that Iyengar himself first referred to it as 'Indo-Anglian Literature' as distinct from 'Anglo-Indian Writing', meant to cover writing on India by English writers. Ever since he wrote the handy booklet on 'Indo-Anglian Literature' for the PEN series in 1943, the professor never looked back. Revising it and

● Excerpts from the second of two chapters from *Author as Artist: Essays in Appreciation* (Emerald Publishers) by D. ANJANEYULU being published in our pages as a tribute to the author. Excerpts from the first chapter were published last fortnight. D. Anjaneyulu, one of Madras journalism's old-time stalwarts, died a few weeks ago.

Recalling an earlier period, when English writing by Indians was apt to be a handy butt of ridicule ("Matthew Arnold in a sari", and so on), Prof. Iyengar gave a realistic picture of the situation, when he wrote: "Condemned thus to negotiate an uneasy passage

between these two complexes, Indo-Anglian literature has had an understandably chequered history"...

Prof. Iyengar wrote in 1962: "My pronounced undergraduate admiration for Lytton Strachey as a critic was later qualified by my acquaintance with the critical work of Virginia Woolf, Middleton Murray, Lascelles Abercrombie, Herbert Read, T.S. Eliot, F.R. Leavis, Allen Tate and Yver Winters. During the last 20 years, however, the major influence on my life and critical writing has been Sri Aurobindo..." It would be hard to think of sounder canons of criticism in dealing with comparative literature than these evolved under the inspiration of world classics from Aristotle to Sri Aurobindo.

In his volume of critical essays, aptly titled *The Adventure of Criticism*, dealing with creation and criticism, literature and life, among other things, Prof. Iyengar casts his net wide. He recalls the remark of Gerard Manley Hopkins that the best critic, the only just critic, is Jesus Christ. In view of the non-availability of Jesus at this point of time and in this country, we have to discover or

evolve our own critics, with the requisite qualifications. "The ideal critic of free India" wrote Prof. Iyengar in 1947, "will be neither a mere fault-finder nor a mere eulogiser. He will be as widely read as was a Saintsbury, but he will carry his learning lightly; he will be not only learned, but also wise, and he will be an upright judge, without ceasing to be a gentleman at the same time. He will, besides, be somewhat of the philosopher, with his own point of view, though he will avoid being a mere bookish theorist. He will have the capacity for seizing and absorbing facts, for digesting ideas and responding to diverse emotional situations; and he will have the capacity for articulating his responses clearly, interestingly, enjoyably, perhaps even memorably..."

After achieving so much in the field of literary criticism, involving enormous study, Prof. Iyengar turned his atten-



One of Gerd Rohling's 'Made in India' representations being featured at the exhibition of his work at the Max Mueller Bhavan.



Till February 15: *Variations: Everything and Nothing* by Gerd Rohling, an artist from Berlin, who worked in Bombay for many weeks in 1997. He improvises his exhibits from refuse and presents a totally original exhibition. This year he plans to continue this work, drawing inspiration from findings in Chennai. (At MMB, 10 am-6 pm.)

February: 'Artist of the Month': K Ravishankaran. A well known photographer, he displays his photos of dancers and musicians; the photos form part of a major exhibition on the same theme being planned by him. (Max Mueller Bhavan.)

February 8-12: A photo-exhibition by Inge Rambow. The title of the exhibition, *Wüstungen* (Desertions, also destroyed or desert-like landscape) establishes a topographical allusion to the giant mounds of waste left behind by energy generation in East Germany. The geographical location for the creation of the pictures is a metaphor for universal and symbolic questions that connects the local with the global. (At the IC & SR, IIT, Chennai, 9 am to 4 pm.)

February 9-10: Three plays of Bertolt Brecht by 'Masquerade', directed by S Krishnakumar: *The Measures Taken* (in English); *He who says Yes/He who says No* (in English); *The Catch* (in Tamil).

The *Measures Taken* deals with a young Communist revolutionary in China who breaks party discipline and then asks to be liquidated so that the struggle he endangered can be continued. This play (1930) is considered one of Brecht's masterpieces. He who says Yes/He who says No (1930) are two dramas that belong together. They take up the topic of complete willingness to sacrifice oneself and accept death for a political idea. The subject was adapted from a Japanese No play. *The Catch* is a one-acter. (At Max Mueller Bhavan, 7 p.m.)

February 12-19: *Kritische Grafik der Weimarer Zeit* (Critical Graphics of the Weimar period). The exhibition depicts the contradictory nature of a period that lasted only 14 years but still became a legend. The "Golden Twenties" were characterised by a rapid change in attitudes and unyielding opposition in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres, as extreme standpoints led to conflicts in which people took irreconcilable positions. This critical approach to contemporary society is particularly evident in the graphics of this period. The graphics are like documents of the mood of their time. (At the Lalit Kala Akademi.)

He did an English rendering of the *Sundarakanda* of the (Continued on Page 8)

THREATENED ISLANDS

(Continued from Page 1)

fishing villages around it and on islands in it. Studies show that the lake was about 3.8 metres deep before the Dutch arrived in 1610 and made Pulicat their chief East Coast settlement. The lake has been silting up at a rate of about 1 metre per century, and what is left now is 0.8 metres. According to present projections, the lake will turn into a salt marsh within 50-60 years and die an ecological death if action is not taken to reduce the rate of siltation.

The Pulicat Lake for decades has been a major fishing centre. The lakeside fishing *kuppams* are disturbed over the present developments and fear their traditional craft will become a thing of the past. The number of mud crabs, threadfin fish, white *bhakti*, and once

famous tiger prawn are dwindling. The export-oriented prawn farms in the area are another big concern. These farms regularly discharge untreated effluents into the lake and even pump out water during the summer.

The Pulicat Lake Bio-diversity Conservation Network, constituting 16 NGOs who receive technical inputs from Dr Sanjeeva Raj, has embarked on a few conservation programmes with local participation to tackle this danger. One of the programmes is mangrove afforestation in a sustainable way to prevent silting of the lake. An eco-restoration programme in the Pulicat Lake, monitored by Dr Sanjeeva Raj and funded by the WWF India, is being attempted to revive the biodiversity of the lake.

Prof. Sanjeeva Raj's studies indicate that a better Water-

shed Management Plan can reduce the siltation. The digging of riverbeds, overgrazing and top soil erosion along the rivers Swarnamuki, Kalangi and Arni that flow into the lake, have resulted in a large amount of silt and the formation of marshes and mud flats. The silt brought in by the rivers has done the greatest damage, burying the aqua flora and fauna and hindering transportation. The road bridge constructed at the north end of Pulicat Lake, linking Sullurpet with Sriharikota, obstructs the free flow of tidal water in this region, forming mud flats. Some of the locals have taken advantage of this and carry on agricultural practices, discharging chemical pesticides in the process into the lake.

This being a vital feeding point for the thousands of birds visiting the Nelapatta and

Pulicat sanctuaries, conservationists fear that increasing pollution may decrease visiting bird population. This is a haven for the flamingoes, egrets, pelicans, grey heron, night heron, open bill and painted storks, pintail ducks, cormorants and spoonbills. This bird sanctuary comes under Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ-1) in the coastal zone management plan of India.

The lake is also ideal for promotion of environmental friendly aquatic sports, like surfing, rowing, yachting, birdwatching and fishing. Promoting these and collecting fees for usage is being suggested as one means to raise funds for the eco-restoration of the lake and to save this natural heritage of ours.

Rajind N Christy

The Scholar-Critic

Srinivasa Iyengar is largely a self-made man, who came up the hard way.

Born in 1908, at Sattur in Ramnad District, Srinivasa Iyengar took his B.A. in Mathematics and started his teaching career in a high school in Ceylon. His over-riding passion was, however, the study of literature. When he was 21 or 22, he wrote a lengthy article on Ibsen in a local daily and contributed a whole series on the subject to the *Calcutta Review*.

After taking his M.A. in English Language and Literature, by private study, in 1932, Iyengar switched to teaching in colleges. For nearly a decade-and-a-half from 1933, he worked in the Bombay University area. During this period, he registered himself for research in Madras University and was awarded the D.Litt. degree in 1938, for his work on Lytton Strachey. His book, *Lytton Strachey: A Critical Study*, based on his doctoral thesis, remains a standard work on the subject.

In 1947, Iyengar became Professor and Head of the Department of English in Andhra University. In 1966, he was chosen Vice-Chancellor of the Uni-

versity, but gave it up in 1968, before completing his term, being fed up with the quiet campus atmosphere and political interference, not conducive to academic life. In 1969, Prof. Iyengar became Vice-President of the Sahitya Akademi. He served as its President for over a year from 1977.

For the last 20 to 25 years he can be described as a full-time writer and a whole-time man of letters. He is a fast and meticulous writer, who can easily dash off his 1000 or 2000 words on his well-worn typewriter (since replaced by an electric or electronic one). A learned, lengthy article and a couple of reviews are but child's play for his working day...

As a scholar, Prof. Iyengar's intellectual quest is unending. As a critic, he is liberal and constructive in his approach. "The good critic," he wrote, "while being fully aware of the laws and rules, will nevertheless bear in mind, when he is trying to apply them to a particular work of literature, that it is, in the final reckoning, a child of the human spirit, a bundle of imponderables, a power in its own right. A projection of life and light is *sui generis*." — D.A.

Asiad champs look at next step

Chennai's Mohammed Riaz overcame tense moments at the climax of the men's hockey final against South Korea in the recent Asiad at Bangkok. He put India ahead in the tie-breaker after goal-keeper Aashish Ballal saved Korea's second attempt. From there, India never looked back and won its first gold since the 1966 Asiad, also at Bangkok.

The reinstated coach of the Indian hockey team, V. Baskaran, feels Riaz, being a specialist in shoot-outs, should not have felt any pressure generated by the occasion. But Riaz reveals, "Ballal's save was a morale-booster for the rest of us and gave us greater confidence".

The eventual gold-winners outplayed all the opponents, including defending champions Korea, in the league. Riaz said that beating Korea in the league (2-1) gave India the confidence it needed and the entire team believed that it could win the gold. "Once we beat Korea in the league, we were sure we could do it again," Riaz recalls.

In his first Asiad, in 1994 at Hiroshima, India overcame South Korea in the league, but

lost to it in the final. "We did not want that to happen again," Riaz remembers the team discussion. He also pointed out that too often had luck deserted India in the finals. India had ended with silver medals in 1958, '62, '70 to '82, '90 and '94, each time losing to Pakistan except in 1994. In 1986, India finished third behind Korea and Pakistan.

Riaz said, "The hard work we did with Coach Kaushik in the months before the Games bore fruit." Before the Games the Indian team had undergone a long camp at Bangalore where the emphasis was on understanding each other better, rectifying their mistakes and improving physical fitness.

A veteran with over 150 international appearances in the last seven years, Riaz feels the traditional Asian style played by India needs to adapt the advanced ideas of the Europeans for India to do better on the world stage. "Their penalty corner conversion is excellent, and this is one area where we lag behind," he points out.

The 27-year-old Assistant Manager, Indian Airlines, Chennai, hopes more and more of the young will take to the

sport after India's achievement at Bangkok. Meanwhile, he dreams of the team repeating its performance at next year's Sydney Olympics. "India is a top contender there after the gold medal at Bangkok," he says.

Making his debut at the Asiad was another Chennai player, Thirumalvalavan, on the defence line. He missed the semi-final and final after being elbowed on the nose by a Chinese in the league encounter. In earlier matches he started in the half-line but did not catch the eye too often. But he felt the experience had done him a world of good. Former Olympics hockey captain and now recalled as coach after being axed following India's dismal show at the Utrecht World Cup tournament last year, V. Baskaran pointed that India should build on its gold medal triumph and start preparing for the Olympics from now. "Having directly qualified, this is our best chance for an Olympic medal. Earlier, we had to qualify through several tournaments. Time and money were wasted in them. There was no time to prepare. Now we have ten months to train and that's an advantage," he stresses.

Looking at the Asiad performance, he feels India ought to have won in regular time rather than having to go through the golden goal period and the tie-breaker.

Baskaran feels India must adopt European methods of training. "Why blame the players for not winning consistently abroad when the mistake lies with the administration? The IHF is not changing its ideas.



Mohammed Riaz... gets ready to play a major role in Olympics 2000.

The Government is not changing ideas. There needs to be a proper hockey calendar for the year. Without programmes for the under-12 and under-14, how will Indian hockey improve?" he wonders. He then stresses, "We need to be humble in victory and learn from mistakes. We must not sit on our laurels. That is the difference between Europeans and us."

The Senior Personnel Officer (Sports), Southern Railway, considers the Chennai players in the Indian squad for the Asiad, Riaz, Thiru and L. Prabhakaran very flexible players, enabling them to fit into

any role easily. He sees Thiru as an anchorman, who can destroy the opposition. Prabhakaran he feels needs to increase his speed and must be more consistent in delivering the ball to his fellow forwards. Riaz he rates high, pointing out the strength he has in technique.

He pointed out the minus points of the 'Chennai trio' saying they needed to improve on self training as there weren't many tournaments outside Chennai. "They should plan their career," he stated.

He feels Riaz will definitely have a greater role to perform in the Olympics, while Thiru and Prabhakaran can't take their places for granted. "The two need to work much hard."

Baskaran, the only Indian to qualify as a Federation of International Hockey (FIH) coach by attending coaching courses in Europe, is laying out a long-term programme for the Indian hockey team. He hopes his recall as coach will extend to at least the Olympics and that he will not be judged by a tournament or two.

BRIGHT SIDE OF BOOKS

(Continued from Page 7)

Ramayana of Valmiki, comprising nearly three thousand slokas. The result is *The Epic Beautiful*, which is faithful as well as beautiful, reliable as well as readable.

This was followed with an even more ambitious project... "a fresh recital of the *Ramayana* story, but slanted as *Sitayana*, *Sitayah Charitam Mahat*, *Sita's Saga* sublime... With something like a reckless presumption, I wished to retell the *Ramayana* as *Sitayana* in about a fourth of the length of Valmiki's massive and magnificent poetic recordation."

Divided into seven Books, *Sitayana...* presents the psychic-integral, feminine world

view, as explained in the opening quatrain of the 'Prologue':

*"Of woman, I write of
the travail and glory of
motherhood; Of prakriti
and her infinite modes and
unceasing variety."*

Sita emerges here as a figure of power in repose, full of quiet courage, infinite patience and endless forbearance, pure as crystal, shining as a flame — the archetypal wife of the Indian tradition.

This was followed by another book on the great women of Hindu mythology... No one can fail to be impressed by this record of achievement — wide in range, varied in subjects.

— D. Anjaneyalu

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. The Euro currency; 2. A 'Blue Moon', i.e. a full moon in the opening month; 3. William Shakespeare; 4. Darren Gough; 5. Economic, Enabling, Political, Transparency and Protection; 6. 'Year of the Jawan'; 7. Fermat's 'Last Theorem'; 8. She is to marry Prince Edward, the last son of Queen Elizabeth; 9. Dev Anand; 10. No one!!; 11. The Land Ceiling Act; 12. Airborne Surveillance Platform, the Indian answer to the

AWACS; 13. *The Rescuers*; 14. Johan Cruyff and Pele; 15. Michael Jordan.

* * *

16. Road Safety Year; 17. A.M.M. Arunachalam; 18. Justice Shivraj Patil; 19. Anna University; 20. Dr. James Watson.

Correction: The Answer to Question 3 in last fortnight's Quiz was Andrew Johnson and NOT Richard Nixon as mentioned.



Amalgamations Group

APCOM
Apcom Computers Ltd.

HongkongBank
The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited
Member HSBC Group



Sundaram Finance
Limited



Ashok Leyland

INDIA
CEMENTS
LTD.



Spencer &
Co. Ltd



A V Thomas
& Co. Ltd.

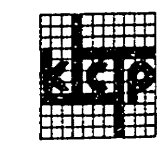
KASTURI &
SONS
LTD.



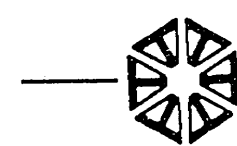
Sundram Fasteners
Limited



Bank of Madura Ltd.



The KCP
Group



The Taj Group
of Hotels



Murugappa
Group



Pond's



Rane Group



Thiru Arooran
Sugars Ltd

TVS-SUZUKI

TVS Suzuki
Ltd.



WELCOMGROUP
Chola Sheraton

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

EIH ASSOCIATED
HOTELS LTD.

HDFC

Housing Development
Finance Corp. Ltd.

SANMAR

The Sanmar Group