

MADRAS

MUSINGS

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INSIDE

- Was 'Summit' for us?
- Sun rises in West
- Pulicat's architecture
- Music in heritage landmark
- The champion veterans

A helmet law is essential

Bring it back, urge doctors

(By the Editor)

The National Motor Vehicles Act 1988 is crystal clear. Its Section 129 states, "Every person driving or riding on a motorcycle of any class or description shall, while in a public place, wear a protective headgear of such description as may be specified by rules made by the State Government." Unfortunately this law is observed more in the breach than in the implementation because of a small loophole through which many a State Government, including Tamil Nadu, has driven a giant-sized escape route for those who don't want to use helmets.

The proviso in the Central Act, namely, "provided further

that the State Government by such rules provide for such exceptions as it may think fit," has enabled governments like ours to frame rules that don't insist on helmets at all. *Madras Musings* joins its voice to all those who met in a seminar recently and resolved that the use of helmets by riders of motorised two-wheelers, including 'passengers', MUST be made mandatory by the Tamil Nadu Government.

Dr B Ramamurthy, leading neurosurgeon who is spearheading this campaign, pointed out that this is not a matter for public opinion to decide. In his usual acidic fashion he asked, "Do Governments seek public

opinion on whether there should be sales tax or income tax?" Good governance implies imposing what is good for the public good and if helmets are good because they save lives, then Government, and the implementers of its laws, must make sure helmets are worn, and not find cover under 'public opinion', speaker after speaker insisted. Akratic, not doing what you know to be right, that's what Government was being, charged N Ram, editor and social activist.

The lone dissenting voice — with the official presence missing — was that of a secondary

(Continued on Page 6)

The challenges before Minister Baalu

Once again we have a new Environment Minister, T.R. Baalu of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). Nobody knows how deep is his understanding of what needs to be done in this field. As past experience has repeatedly shown, unless the politician-at-helm, namely, the minister, provides a vision, everything can become extremely routine. Which would be really sad because every day lost means that problems will only continue to grow. Every rupee added to the economy will mean a 4-10 times increase in pollution and increased pressure on forests and water unless the Government ensures that the economy

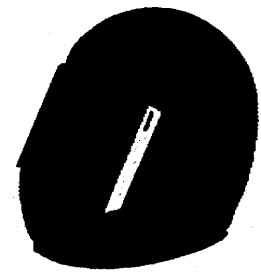
heads in the direction of sustainable development.

Even Atal Behari Vajpayee's grandiose dream of providing everyone with clean water will disappear with the growing pollution of our groundwater and rivers, an issue that has already become serious in urban India. The new Government has created a separate Department of Small-Scale Industry. This sector has proved to be the most difficult to control from the point of view of pollution. The technology is not available for small enterprises and solutions like common effluent treatment plants have proved to be ineffective because of the total

lack of interest amongst small-scale industrialists.

Therefore, while promotion of the small-scale sector may push industrialisation and dispersal of that industrialisation to different corners of India — all laudable objectives — it will also increase uncontrollable pollution. You can see this happening today in Jetpur in Gujarat, Ludhiana in Punjab, or Tiruppur in the minister's home state. Former Environment Minister Kamal Nath literally gave up trying to control pollution from small-scale industry and relieved them of

(Continued on page 6)



**Many of us have thick skulls.
But not thick enough.**

- ⇒ More than 80% of all reported two-wheeler crashes result in serious injury or death.
- ⇒ Two wheelers carry a mortality risk five times greater than drivers of other types of vehicles.
- ⇒ Helmets are 67% effective in preventing serious brain injuries.
- ⇒ According to a Ministry of Transport study (1997), motorcycle drivers are the third largest group among all road users.
- ⇒ Even in a disciplined nation like the United Kingdom, a two-wheeler driver is 30 times more likely to be killed than a car driver.

Two statements of outreach to non-wearers of helmets by REACH — the Resource Group for Education and Advocacy for Community Health.



Wearing of helmets



**Getting the protective
cover of the law.**

Helmet and the law

Motor Vehicles Act 1988 - Section 129, wearing of protective headgear.

"Every person driving or riding on a motorcycle of any class or description shall, while in a public place, wear a headgear of such description as may be specified by the rules made by the state government..."

Help implement the law by understanding just how helmets save lives:

- ⇒ When a major impact occurs, the entire force cannot be absorbed by the skull — no matter how thick it may be.
- ⇒ The impact, almost in its entirety, is transmitted to the underlying brain. Direct — and often irreversible injury occurs.
- ⇒ A helmet considerably reduces the impact by —
 1. Absorbing the first effect of the blow
 2. Reducing the intensity at any one point
 3. Spreading the impact over a wide area
 4. Delaying and therefore reducing the severity of the impact when it eventually reaches the brain

Was this 'Summit' really for us?

What with 'summits', 'national days' and seminars for the public good, *The Man From Madras Musings* had his plate more than full this past fortnight. The result was a threat of a literally empty plate. Not only did he miss out on lunches at these confabulations but they almost led him to miss lunch elsewhere; he turned up at one lunch to find his guest just getting ready to leave after a 45-minute wait and he turned up at another 24 hours late to find his guest still waiting! But while his guests may not have exactly been happy with this kind of punctuality and hospitality, this column certainly got its share of grist.

Starting with the happenings at the CII's 'Brand Summit '99'. Excellently organised and rich with international speakers and their Indian clones making slick and colourful presentations as only the dream-spinners can, it was certainly an event of the quality V Balaraman of Hindustan Lever had hoped it would turn out to be. But is branding only an American experience, do only Americans have brands, wondered MMM as the summit got off to a start that was American down to its music and voice content? Fortunately for MMM's interest, it ended in a down-to-earth Indian presentation made by valedictorian Venu Srinivasan of TVS Suzuki.

Brand, he said, was more than a name or a logo; "it represents a set of expectations from the customer" and those expectations were a promise of delivery, quality, affordable cost, reliable service and customer satisfaction. With many an Indian brand failing to deliver on one or the other of these counts, MMM was not surprised to look back on their failures. The intellectual Indian approach as against the "practical thinking" of the Japanese had a lot to do with this.

However, "practical thinking" was not always practised even by those schooled in the Japanese philosophy, and the brand as a name has been considered the selling point in several cases in India, MMM was inclined to think, drawing his cue from a significant Venu Srinivasan example. The lack of success of the medium-sized car in India till now has had not a little to do with the fact, Srinivasan pointed out, that the manufacturers did not look too hard at the Indian reality. Namely, that those who could afford such cars would always employ drivers and themselves be the passengers. The manufacturers, on the other hand, had concentrated on driver comfort - as abroad - and lost sight of the comfort standards passengers expected in India. And that, he said, accounted not a little for the slow take-off in this segment of the car market. Here was a case of brands not meeting such expectations, as few from abroad or even among the India audience present would have considered such a scenario. Brands, how-

ever, need to think of such practical concerns.

Urging helmets

A morning spent at a seminar urging the Tamil Nadu Government to re-introduce rules to make the wearing of helmets compulsory began with Dr. B. Ramamurthy telling his fellow-speakers and the audience that it was no use sending reports to governments; "we all know where they put them", he said and added, "What we need is ACTION!" But at the end of it all, *The Man From Madras Musings* wondered whether the resolution that was passed was on any better paper than a report!

It may not be, but at least it demonstrates that there are some in India still unifiedly hammering away at deserving causes even though it's often a losing battle. Amongst them is Dr. Ramamurthy who, for the last 20 years, has been trying to get the Hindu Marriages Act to make a change and not equate epilepsy with insanity when laying down the grounds for divorce. "I've been trying, but nothing happens," he angrily stated. But then he must realise, as Parliamentarian Jayanthi Natarajan later stated, these are not causes that capture the headlines, and that's what politicians want. MMM wonders whether the entire media should not take a vow that would result in "no headlines for politicians". Will the country collapse if that happened?

Perhaps not, but Dr. Ramamurthy's closing words did indicate his exasperation with those who do not listen — and act: "Perhaps we should be asking ourselves what is the use of protecting the brain when there are no brains to protect?"

The other cries

Dr K. Ganapathy of the Association of Neurosurgeons who is leading the campaign with Dr. Ramamurthy presented a horror story in pictures on the consequences of not wearing a helmet. Let's show this in every educational institution, was one suggestion. Would anyone react, mused *The Man From Madras Musings*. Certainly he was not convinced that the few non-helmet-wearing users of two-wheelers in the audience were frightened enough by the presentation to go out and buy helmets.

Another approach appeared to be that if compulsory use of helmets was re-introduced, penal punishment was necessary to ensure the young obeyed. "The fear of God should be put into offenders by rescinding their licences," felt Jayanthi Natarajan. Dr Arjun Rajagopalan, however, thought that a visit to a brain casualty ward or compulsory service in one should be the punishment. N Ram still has faith in the media — and felt a sustained campaign is necessary. Yet the media, MMM noted the next day, hardly paid attention to all that was said

at the seminar. Not even to Shriram Panchu's suggestion of Public Interest Litigation if only a group of interested persons armed with all the facts and figures — and Dr. Ganapathy said the Association of Neurosurgeons had them all — was willing to go to court.

MMM felt the most positive notes were struck by a Civilian, Sheila Rani Chankath, and a product design engineer, a Mrs Mani. Chankath, who deals with 13,000 Village Health Nurses, has introduced a rural scheme whereby the nurses get loans for two-wheelers — including the cost of helmets. The example they've set by using the helmets has been having a trickle down effect in all the areas they operate. Educate by example, was her advice. As for Mani, her response to articulate teenager Aditi Ravindranath's aggressive "I don't like to use a helmet" was to suggest redesigning the helmet

**SHORT
'N'
SNAPPY**

to make it 'cool' and more user-friendly. It however struck MMM that with helmets being used worldwide, why hadn't they been re-designed already?

Anyway, it was clear that the three Es are as essential as getting the rule — and the helmet — back in place. And they are Education, Engineering and Enforcement. Which was the suggestion of Saravanan of the Loss Prevention Agency.

Getting sidetracked

When National Press Day was recently celebrated by Paalam, an association of Mass Communication students of the University of Madras, the speakers on 'The Role of Media in Promoting a Civil Society' built a few bridges with the surprisingly large turnout of nearly 200 students from several city colleges offering mass communication as a subject. The usual platitudes, on the entertainment content increasing in the media, the media's advertising-driven nature, the lack of an agenda in a media that is adrift, that a political and not a people focus dominated the media, were dished out eloquently by eminent media veterans associated with the media and listened to carefully. But none of this really got around to what the media needed to do to ensure a more reasonable public.

In this context, *The Man From Madras Musings* thought a digression that one speaker made by beginning to look at the role education could play was warranted. Unfortunately, the speaker and a couple of others from the audience got sidetracked on to the subject of private colleges. And MMM was surprised that neither NGOs nor

those connected with the University of Madras, an institution that is certainly adrift, welcomed the increasing privatisation of education.

On the one hand, there was the NGO representative regretting the fact that private education was slipping into the hands of liquor barons and others whose sources of income were questionable, and on the other he was pointing out that state-run education offered ample opportunity to the underprivileged and the disadvantaged. Both were views supported by those employed by the State. Curiously they appeared to forget that some of the best universities in the world, many an American university, had been established by robber barons and that many local institutions privately established with questionable funds were proving to be centres of excellence while those run by the State were proving to be as uninspiring as their dilapidated buildings. As for the opportunities for the have-nots of the world, no one in that audience that day struck MMM as belonging to the poor of India. There are around 500 millions of the poor in India, MMM is told; perhaps both these speakers and the audience should follow the advice of Prof. Swaminathan of *The Hindu* who suggested more students should take to rural journalism and reach out to the heart of the country. The State-aided centres of excellence the NGO representative spoke about to justify continuance and expansion of State-aided education, the IITs, IIMs and JNU of India, hardly reach out to or serve the disadvantaged of India.

The Indian reality

Having sat through some of the Brand Summit as well as the mass communication students' meet, almost around the same time, *The Man From Madras Musings* couldn't help but think how very much they were like ships that passed each other in the night, each going its own way, ignoring the other. In the students' forum, much of the time was spent on decrying advertising-driven journalism that is beginning to dominate the India media scene. And at the Brand Summit speaker after speaker kept going on finding ways and means to create through advertising a brand-loyal consumerist society that would crave for coloured water with a fizz.

Are a more people-concerned media and the creation of consumerism compatible, MMM mused at the end of the fortnight. And there were no answers, except a strong gut feeling that the Brand Summit had little to do with the Indian reality and had a lot to do with the First World's need to move out of its saturated markets and develop ones in virgin territories. And in those territories, that

world's mission will be to make people who have needs begin to develop wants. Is that the media's role? That's the question, MMM tends to feel, the speakers and the audiences at both seminars should have been debating together.

In brief

★ In a curious coincidence, a young renunciate and an older devotee associated with an ashram in the Velliangiri foothills near Coimbatore called on *The Man From Madras Musings* on the day after the tragic riot in Chennai's Central Jail. This need never have happened, the renunciate earnestly told MMM. The programmes they have conducted in the Coimbatore Central Jail in 1992 and 1999 for life-term prisoners "has touched the very core of their being and helped them bloom into their natural state of love, freedom and joy... It has changed the way they feel and experience life. The prison administration has also benefitted from this programme in many ways," she told MMM. Does Chennai Central Jail want to try the Sahaja Stithi Yoga way?

★ Theatre In Education (TIE) is something the Association of British Scholars wants to get going in Chennai schools. But it struck *The Man From Madras Musings* that there has to be a lot more thinking going into the concept to find the right answers for us than mere acceptance of the British experience. A recent workshop suggested that teachers would provide the inputs and professional actors would stage playlets in classes that would explain difficult-to-understand concepts of learning. A demonstration by a group of children with teacher participation, however, seemed more lively. Perhaps what TIE needs to look at, MMM feels, is training for teachers in scripting and acting to get them to use these as tools for teaching through instructive cameo-plays with joint teacher-student participation. The repeated point made at the workshop, however, was whether, with teachers and students totally focussed on evaluation, which is what today's education system demands, would this method help ensure better grades, or would it only ensure better understanding?

★ *The Man From Madras Musings* was delighted to hear that ONGC have agreed to do up and maintain the gardens of the Police Headquarters, ensuring that they are fit for the first restoration landmark in the City. MMM hopes that the Police will take this opportunity to restore the evening 'Beating the Retreat' parade and ceremony, which once used to draw crowds here and did much to give the Force a good image with the public. MMM is also happy to see that the new extension work that has commenced here is following the same style as the early 20th Century additions to the main block and promises an even longer colonnaded verandah facing the sea. May additional buildings follow this example.

MMM

OUR READERS WRITE

5-star not for us

Being regulars on the 'Shatabdi Express' on the Chennai-Bangalore route, we are familiar with the not very clean compartments, torn seat pockets, rickety snack tables and bottles of mineral water rolling all over the place because there are no 'holders' for these bottles. Recently, we had the 'privilege' of travelling on the Delhi-Amritsar Shatabdi Express and, honestly, we had to pinch ourselves to check if it wasn't a dream. Clean compartments, large 'Pullman' type windows with pastel coloured curtains, attractive framed prints, individual reading lights, individual holders (which are actually designed for the large size mineral water bottles) and well-designed toilets.

This was a wonderful experience. The only question is when do we 'neglected Southies' get to enjoy these 5-star comforts? Do we dare hope, in the next millennium?

S.B. Jairaj
5/36, 13th Avenue
Harrington Road
Chetput
Chennai 600 031.

What's the law?

Ejji K. Umamahesh's remarks on organ gifting (M.M. October 16th) makes you sit up and think.

There are many people interested in body donation and/or organ donation. But organ donation is not as yet law in Tamil Nadu. I believe Maharashtra and Karnataka have legalised this. Will Tamil Nadu follow suit?

How are people in Tamil Nadu at present donating bodies or organs? If not legal, how is it many organisations and hospitals are asking people to donate their bodies or organs?

In U.S.A. there is what is called a 'living will' and Government has legalised this. Is it legally to do some such work to possibly donate your body in India? Will any lawyers who feel it is worth spending some time and energy over this issue come forward with suggestions?

I am sure no one who is magnanimous enough to donate the body or the organs would like to go through difficult legal procedures as in the case of Dr. P. Krishnan and Ejji K. Umamahesh.

I have registered with Sri Ramachandra Hospital for donation of my organs.

Janaki Krishnan
63, M.G.R. Road,
Kalakshetra Colony,
Besant Nagar,
Chennai 600 090.

Let 'inabilities' alone

Regarding MMM agreeing to change the acronym NGO, if a suitable alternate is suggested, I have a question for MMM. There are umpteen such paradoxes in the English language, is MMM going to decide on corrections for all such inabilities?

A few examples are:

- There is no ham in a *hamburger*.
- *Sweetmeats* are candies and there is no meat in them, while *sweetbreads* aren't sweet and are meat.
- *Boxing rings* are square and not circular.
- A *Guinea pig* is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.
- People have noses that run and feet that smell.
- One ships by truck or car and sends cargo by ship.

I can go on and on. We accept such paradoxes as they have been in vogue for a long time. Let's not waste our time trying to find logic in the language or changing what doesn't affect anyone. It is apt for politicians to indulge in such gimmicks — calling Bombay 'Mumbai' and Madras 'Chennai' — for they cannot or don't want to do something for the ailing millions. MMM and Madras should do better concentrate on doing something for the people.

S. Vikram
F5 38, By-Pass Road
Vijaya Nagar
Chennai 600 042.

Powerful influence

During a recent visit to Tirunelveli, I got to hear an interesting tale about T R Rajakumari who passed away recently and about whom much has been written in remembrance.

My dad's uncle (Aththai's husband), old Kooniyur Athimber, (for that was what he was always referred to, I have no idea what his real name was), who lived in Trichy, had, coming as he did, from a well to do Mirasi family, little to do. A harmless soul, he did nothing but play chess, eat and sleep.

But there came a time in the late Forties, when he set out every day at the same time and said that he was going off on some work. He would return late in the evening.

It later transpired that he was

Eng. Lit. and Madras

As one who has contributed articles to the *Milton Quarterly*, I was pleased to see Gordon Campbell's 'Milton in Madras' reprinted from that journal (published, incidentally, from the USA, not UK) in MM, October 16.

There is another Madras connection with Milton the poet. The first concordance to the poetical works of Milton, a pioneer venture in concordance-making in general, was compiled by Prendergast (I do not know if it is the same man after whose name a street in Secunderabad goes) and published in Madras in the 1840s. A monumental labour of love, it was Madras's contribution to solid English literary scholarship at a time when it was just about trying to find its feet.

On a different but not unrelated note, features of the school educa-

A raid not forgotten still

The aircraft that bombed Madras on October 12, 1943 (MM, October 1 and November 1), I am given to understand, was a PBYSA Catalina flying boat captured from RAF Coastal Command based in the Andaman Islands after it was overrun by the Japanese. It may also have been a Kawanishi Mavis 23 or Kawanishi Emily 22. A carrier-based fighter would have had a limited range and bombload. The Catalina mentioned had the range for a round trip from the Andamans.

M. Sethuraman is correct about the mini-airstrip in front of Fort St. George. The strip was visible from the train on the curve above the present subway today. Lightning P38s and Spitfires used this strip and later P61 Black Windows for night reconnaissance.

My aunt Mrs. Mary Clubwala's house, where I was staying, was covered with sand bags upto the first floor, and all glass windows were covered with strips of brown paper to prevent splinters. All windows were double-curtained and you hardly saw anybody on the streets. There was an anti-aircraft gun at the location of Valluvar Kottam which was unserviceable due to the flood. Our own bomb shelter was full of water also.

Aunt Mary used to drive an ambulance for St. John's and only moved to Vellore when Governor Sir Arthur Hope's wife insisted that she leave town.

Regarding the shelling of Madras by the Emden during World War I, I have a picture of a shell that went through the wall of the Yacht Club, Madras. Another story I was told was that Fregatten Kapitän Karl on Muller (its captain) anchored off Tellicherry, rowed across and had a drink at the club there, signed the Visitors' Book, then sailed around the cape and shelled Madras in October 1914. The Emden's main target was an oil storage depot in Madras.

Another interesting story of the times was one of a barber (nationality?) running a saloon on West Mada Church Street, Royapuram. This barber apparently was sending messages to the Japanese on shipping in the harbour. He was said to have been gunned down by troops in the saloon as he did not surrender.

R.K. Dastur
20, Wheatcroft Road
Nungambakkam
Chennai 600 034.

Three bombs

Capt. T.S. Parthasarathy, 201 Cross Street, West CIT Nagar, Chennai 600 035, who

was the Evacuation Officer for the MSSM Railways in the 1940s, has sent in xeroxes of two articles by P.V. Venkatachalam that appeared in the *Indian Express* of 12.8.95 to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Venkatachalam, who interviewed several persons in their 80s, including Capt. Parthasarathy, writes in one of the articles:

"October 11, 1943, was a very wet day. It had been raining all day long. And as night fell the City was as usual under total blackout. It was on this moonless night that a lone Japanese reconnaissance plane dived in from across the Bay over the City and dropped 'a few bombs', all falling harmlessly.

Mr. C.P. Seshadri, who was on night-shift, vividly remembers running to the balcony of his office, then located at 100, Mount Road, to see the marauding Japanese raider drop two bombs near the Fort along with other excited staffers shouting: 'Japankaran gundu podaram!'

In fact, the raider had dropped three bombs. One fell on the parcel office at Madras Beach station, and of the other two, one landed in the harbour area and another in the sea. (A fragment of one of the bombs is kept in the Fort Museum.)

PS: Have you visited Fort St George Complex recently? You will be shocked at its overall poor maintenance!

C A Reddi
57, Rundalls Road
Vepery
Chennai 600 007.

Fossilised memories

The pun on the name of Mr. S.M. Fossil by Punch is most appropriate (MM, October 16). Mr. Fossil spoke fluently but stood on the rostrum like a fossilised rock with minimum gesticulations. Not even the tassel of his fez fluttered. In many gatherings he usually shared the platform with T. Chengalvarayan. If Fossil sported *shervani* and fez, the staunch Gandhian that Chengalvarayan was sported a long coat topped by Gandhi cap. Fossil intoned in a sonorous voice, putting listeners in a stupor. Chengalvarayan's whip-crack voice made you sit up.

Venue of many of their meetings used to be the Y.M.C.A., Esplanade, or Gokhale Hall, Armenian Street. At Tilak Ghat, on the Beach, Satyamurthy thundered. He was usually accompanied by Andhra Kesari Prakasamgaru with his slow and measured tone of speech. Many of these meetings were graced by a charming T.T. Krishnamachari with his elegant speech. All of them spoke in chaste King's English — not Queen's English, mind you, as the present Queen of England was still a child at the time.

M. Sethuraman
'Sankrithi'
8, Second Cross Street
Mahalakshmi Nagar
Adambakkam
Chennai 600 088.

Heritage landmarks

The Tiruvallam Bridge over the Palar River (MM, November 16th) was built by M/s Tarapore & Loganathan in 1937 or so, when roads came under the jurisdiction of the District Board. The bridge was sanctioned by the then North Arcot District Board President, C. Perumalsami Reddi, and CR as Premier of Madras Presidency, opened it. Tarapore was a civil engineer and Loganathan his financial partner. Soon after the bridge was constructed, World War II broke out and M/s Tarapore & Loganathan Company undertook war contracts and became prosperous.

Regarding another landmark, Fort St. George, the Defence Ministry of the Government of India should ask the Tamil Nadu Government to shift all their offices from Fort St. George to Rajaji Government Estate and the Fort should be restored to serve as a Heritage Site that would attract visitors.

S. Viswanathan
(Retd. Professor of English,
University of Hyderabad & UGC
Emeritus Fellow)
No. 4, Sri Sai Nagar
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Sun plans to rise in the West

After consolidating its hold on the southern satellite channel market, the Rs.250 crore-plus Sun TV Network is now targeting South Indian language speakers settled in the USA.

According to Kalanithi Maran, Chairman and Managing Director, Sun TV group, "the transmission on direct-to-home (DTH) platform is all set to start in a couple of months."

The Sun channel which was available on ATN's platform is currently off air as the agreement between the two parties has been scrapped.

There are more than 18 lakh Indians in the USA, the

service in the US, he is looking at a 24-hour news channel, four specialised channels in the four southern languages and FM broadcasting licence.

Such business success has earned the 34-year old Kalanithi Maran the India Young Business Achiever Award, 1999, and the World Young Business Achiever Award, 1999, for creativity.

It was in 1992, as an ambitious young man with a modest media success behind him, that Kalanithi approached Zee TV with a business proposition: permission to use Zee TV's transponder time when the channel was off the air. "I was

tions is not my nature. I am proud to be born in this illustrious family, but, believe it or not, I have always wanted to stand on my feet. I used to work in a restaurant to meet my expenses while doing my MBA in the US", he states. Friends from his college days vouch that Kalanithi never threw his family weight around. As a matter of fact, Kalanithi used to commute to Loyola College by bus.

With Zee TV showing no interest, Kalanithi scanned the market and zeroed in on ATN channel. And was successful. On the Tamil New Year's day, in 1993, Sun TV rose in the southern horizon.

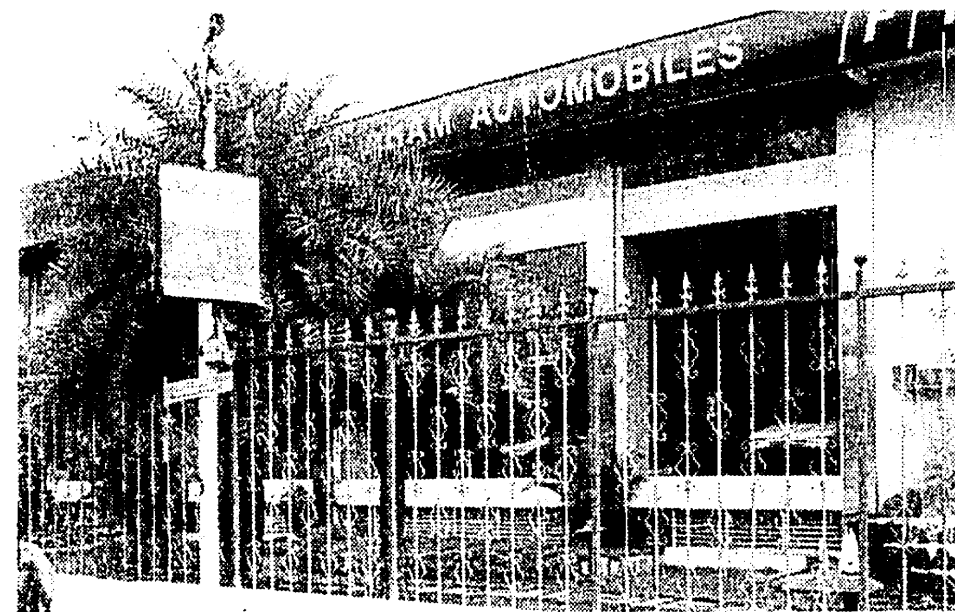
His first task was to build the basic infrastructure throughout the State where, in several places, people were not even aware about cable TV. Adding to his woes was ATN shuffling the channel amongst different transponders regularly and thereby affecting signal reception at the cable operator's level. With uplinking from Moscow, Kalanithi had to suffer the comedy of tapes getting mixed up and telecast. He also had to contend with snide remarks about the channel's objectivity, its economic viability etc.

Stabilising ground level operations, Kalanithi sorted out the satellite problems by going in for a relatively new satellite RIMSAT and, later, to Intelsat. From then onwards, there was no looking back.

He began the launch of the other Southern languages channels and covered the entire south. Today, the flagship channel, Sun TV, is the undisputed leader amongst all the Tamil channels, clocking impressive ad revenues and viewership.

Kalanithi's business acumen may be described by some as "great", but the secret of his success is ensuring the quality of the programmes telecast by his channel. "He has an unsatiable thirst to excel with his programmes and employ the latest technology", states an industry watcher. Says Radha Krishnaswamy, Abhinaya Creations, associated with Sun TV for the past four years, "for Kalanithi, programme quality and viewer response rank uppermost. He never minces words while giving his views about a programme".

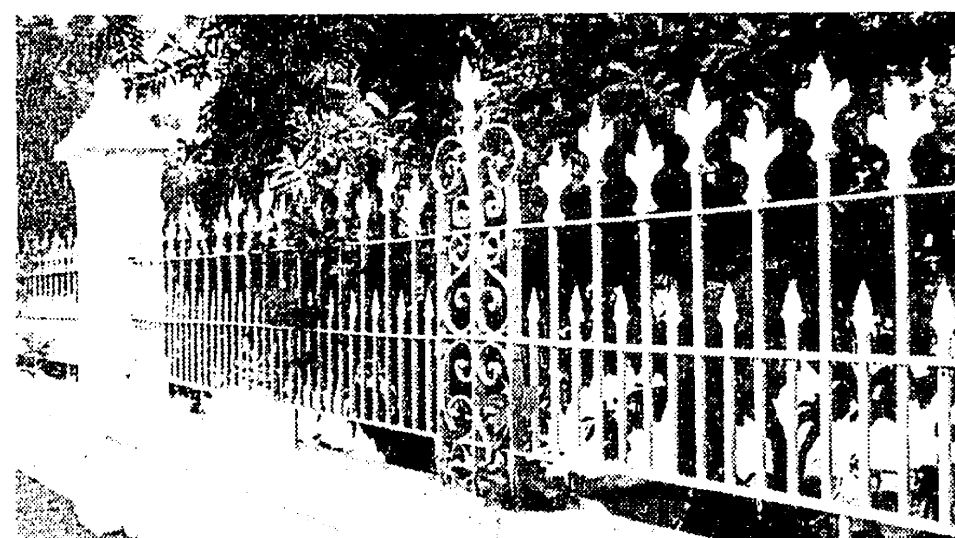
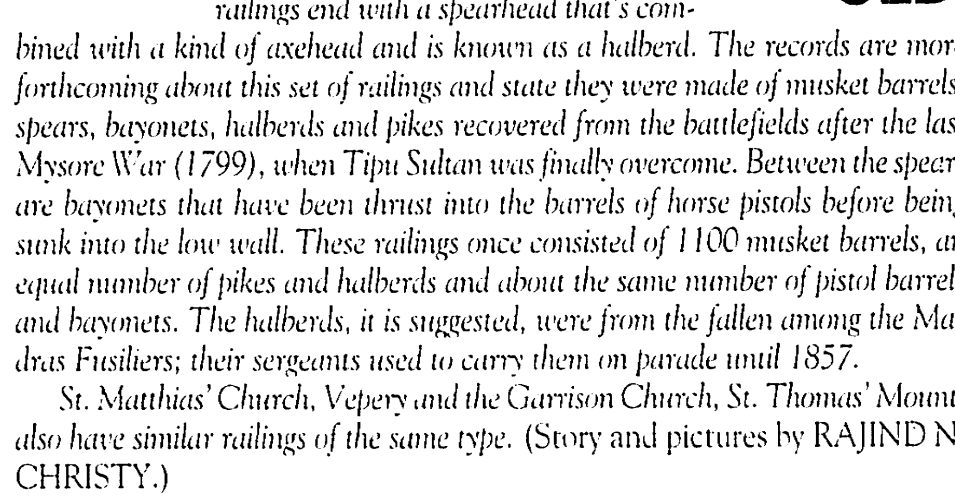
(Continued on Page 6)



Have you ever paused to stop and stare at the railings around buildings? They come in all shapes, sizes and designs and usually only the aesthetical aspects are noticed, as in the case of our NEW (above) which grace the Sundaram Automobiles showroom on Anna Salai and the OLD (below) which surround the Corporation's Ripon Building and date back to another age of aesthetics.

There are, however, many railings in Chennai which would have hundreds of stories to tell, if only they could speak. But just a quick look at them will tell you they have been made out of weaponry of another age and that THEIR stories may be available in the records. Below the picture of the Ripon Building railings is one of the spears that line St. Mary's Church in the Fort. Given the 300-year more history of the Church, they could well date back to early 18th Century battles. Below this picture is one of railings that surrounds the cemetery in St. George's Cathedral — artefacts not maintained in the best of condition as the picture shows. Curiously, several of these railings end with a spearhead that's combined with a kind of axehead and is known as a halberd. The records are more forthcoming about this set of railings and state they were made of musket barrels, spears, bayonets, halberds and pikes recovered from the battlefields after the last Mysore War (1799), when Tipu Sultan was finally overcome. Between the spears are bayonets that have been thrust into the barrels of horse pistols before being sunk into the low wall. These railings once consisted of 1100 musket barrels, an equal number of pikes and halberds and about the same number of pistol barrels and bayonets. The halberds, it is suggested, were from the fallen among the Madras Fusiliers; their sergeants used to carry them on parade until 1857.

St. Matthias' Church, Vepery and the Garrison Church, St. Thomas' Mount, also have similar railings of the same type. (Story and pictures by RAJIND N. CHRISTY.)



...& THE OLD

Pulicat's art and architecture

(Continued from last fortnight)

The Art and architecture of Pulicat belongs to four distinct periods:

- The Chola Period (till 13th Century)
- The Nayak Period (14-18th Century)
- Colonial Period (18th Century-1947)
- Post Independence Period

The Someswarar temple of Pulicat is said to have been built during the Chola period. The Adinarayana, Dharmaraja and Nattupillayar temples were built during the Nayak period and additions were made to the Siva temple. These temples have the typical street pattern seen in all temple towns.

When the Dutch came in, they built a fort on the northern side of Pulicat with fortifications all around the town. Around the fort, a number of Dutch residences came up. A new cemetery was built on the western side of the fort. The town grew in size toward the northern side. The fortifications combined with the natural boundary and determined the size and extent of the town.

Urban structure of Pulicat

Based on the settlement pattern, the urban structure of Pulicat can be classified as:

River-based settlement: A section of Pulicat with the backwaters all around, developed with the river as the base for all activities. Each of these settlements belongs to a particular community, complete with their social, economic and religious infrastructure.

Faith-based settlement: Pulicat also has settlements with temples and mosques as centres of activities. Each of these temples has its own Chinna Maada Veedhi and Periya Maada Veedhi around which the communities are organised. This is typical of any temple-based settlement.

Fort-based settlement: After the fort was built, the Dutch settled around it to support their trade and defense activities. The town gained new importance and even after the Dutch and the destruction of the fort, the area still remains the centre of focus by giving rise to new developments.

Infill and linkages: The newly-developed areas along the road network and the infill between the above settlement patterns can be classified under this category.

Pulicat is a rare town with its river, temple and fort settlement typologies, which when put together give a unique urban structure and character to the town.

Architectural heritage

The historical development of Pulicat from the Chola period to the Nayak, Dutch and the British periods has added many important structures of architectural importance to the town. Based on the building typology, the architectural heritage can be categorised into:

Religious architecture: Temples, churches, mosques, mandapams

Political architecture: Fort

Secular architecture: Institutions, commercial spaces, residential areas



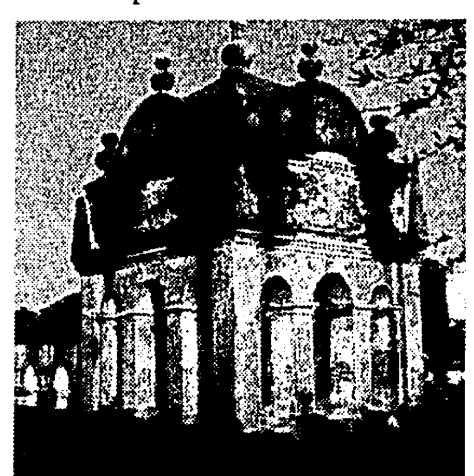
A typical street facade in Pulicat showing the rich variety of traditional architecture.

Chola architecture

At present the Chola temple is in a very dilapidated condition, with a growth of vegetation all over the gopuram and mandapams causing it to deteriorate further. The wooden vahanas which belong to the Nayak period, are in a bad state of decline because of termites and lack of maintenance.

Nayak architecture

Except for the Dharmaraja temple, which is in use, the Nayak temples are not in public use and are in a bad state of decline. Natural forces, vegetation, lack of maintenance and misuse have caused major damage to the physical structure of the temples.



The Dutch cemetery dating to the 17th Century.

Dutch architecture

The Dutch Fort Geldria built in 1610 with a moat around it and a connection to the river is a prototype of other Dutch forts in India. By the end of the 18th Century, the fort was completely destroyed. At present no remains are seen except a mud moat, which is used by the fisheries department for aquaculture. Apart from the moat, the rest of the area occupied by the fort is full of dense vegetation and inaccessible.

The Dutch cemetery at Pulicat is considered to be the best example of the architecture of the Dutch. It had its beginning around 1657 by the fort. The burial ground is marked with a distinct en-

condition as built by the Dutch in the 17th Century.

Periya Pallivasal: Located in the centre of Pulicat, this is the oldest mosque in the town and was built in the 17th century. The mosque is unique in terms of its architectural style. The planning is similar to a Hindu temple with a central aisle and colonnaded verandahs on either side. The columns, brackets and beams have typical Hindu temple details with engravings on it. The structure is built of stone and a few new additions have been made of brick.

The mosque is of great religious importance and people from as far away as Kanniyakumari come here even today to perform their rituals and rites. The building is well maintained, except for a few additions made to the original structure.

Chinna Pallivasal and Keela Pallivasal: There are other important mosques built around the 18th Century. **Keela Pallivasal** is considered to be the oldest of these (built around 1700 AD). These structures follow the usual Islamic style of mosque architecture. The Keela Pallivasal has a 'madrasa' attached to it, which is also dated to the same period. At present the original 'madrasa' is in a dilapidated condition. The other important feature of the **pallivasal** is the bronze sundial dating to around 1915. It indicates the time accurately for the worshippers.

Vernacular architecture

Apart from the temples and the public buildings, the traditional building stock is the one which gives a unique character to the town. Based on the community, occupation, economy and people's lifestyle, the built form varies from simple thatched houses to typical tiled and decorative art deco style houses.

All the houses follow traditional building rules in terms of

length, breadth, height, number of columns, location of rooms, courtyards use of materials etc. These principles give an overall order and character to the town.

The traditional commercial area of the town also follows typical principles and features similar to the traditional housing stock. All the shops have a *thimmai* with a canopy supported by steel brackets. Each commercial complex has a main entry followed by a central court and godowns all around. At present these commercial areas are not in use and are abandoned. They are in a state of disrepair. If suitable measures are not taken these structures may deteriorate further and sustain damage leading to complete loss of a specific building type.

There are areas within the town where traditional housing and commercial building stock are still intact. They are undergoing small changes in terms of repairs, addition of rooms, replacement of traditional building material etc. Lack of a sensitive approach toward heritage components, proper planning and raising funds for maintenance are the main reasons for this deterioration.

(Concluded)



St. Antony's Church, built by the Dutch in the 17th Century.

Quizzin' with Ram'nau

(Questions 1 to 9 are from the period October 16th to 31st. Questions 10 to 12 pertain to Chennai and Questions 13 to 20 are general questions pertaining to Tamil Nadu.)

- Who has been chosen 'Businessman of the Century' by the renowned magazine *Fortune*?
- Who is the new chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission?
- Name the video film of the July 23rd riots in Tirunelveli which has stirred up a controversy.
- In a major judgment, which U.S. company was ruled a 'monopoly' in one of the biggest anti-trust cases of the century?
- Name the legendary West Indies fast bowler who succumbed to colon cancer, at the age of 41, recently.
- What technological innovation, reportedly the first in world cricket, was introduced in the Hyderabad One-Day International recently?
- Who is the new Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh?
- Where was the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet held recently?
- Simple. Who is the new undisputed heavyweight boxing champion of the world?
- Which Chennai institution decided to become colourful on November 6th?
- Name the Chennai collegian who won the girls world under-18 chess crown in Spain recently.
- Name the former Mayor of the city and veteran freedom fighter who passed away on November 8th.

- Where is the Stanley Reservoir?
- Where would you come across attractions like Elk Falls, Kodanad Viewpoint, and Kanneri Mukku?
- What was the first film of Rajnikanth?
- In local cricket parlance, what is *oornal*?
- In which institution was the game of snooker reportedly invented?
- Name the town, approximately 10 km from Avanashi, that is known worldwide for its hosiery goods.
- Name the other rock close to Vivekananda Rock from where you can view Land's End.
- Who wrote the award winning opus *Silanerathil Silamanithargal*, later made into a critically acclaimed film?

(Answers on Page 8)

(Continued from Page 1)

submitting any environmental impact statement.

Challenges like these are innumerable. And unless some visionary approaches and good management systems are tried out, India will continue to head all the way towards the environmental precipice. The sad part is that reaching the environmental precipice does not mean that the Indian economy will disappear. If indeed that was the case, then our environmentally-errant industrialists would wake up in one shot. All that it will do is that many more millions will start dying unnecessarily, and many millions of poor and marginalised individuals, who do not get much media coverage in any case, will lose their livelihoods.

Shankar Prasad, an environmental health expert with the California Government, re-

Challenges before the Minister

cently said in Delhi that air pollution levels seem to be higher than during the London smog episode of the 1950s which killed numerous people within a few days and shocked the Western medical community. If that be the case, then why hasn't the Indian Government told us about it? If, indeed, any pollution control is taking place in India today, it is only because of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. Even with air pollution reaching emergency levels in the coun-

try, the Central Government as well as the State Governments have yet to launch city-by-city plans to control it.

So what should the minister do in such circumstances? My simple suggestion would be for the minister to take up just a few actions that may improve action across the board not just within the environmental bureaucracy but across the nation. The most important thing about environmental degradation is that it affects human be-

ings and, therefore, the civil society and local communities have a key role to play. If the minister is serious about doing something for the environment, he will not think of just being the boss of a few bureaucrats but a friend of the civil society and put in place mechanisms that open up the entire ministry to the citizens of the country.

A starting point would be to start doing better and detailed monitoring of the state of India's environment and ensuring that all data collected is made available regularly to the public. The resulting public pressure would improve environmental management programmes both at the central and state levels. If there is one country that teaches us the importance of this strategy, it is The Netherlands, whose official strategy to deal with the environment has been hailed as one of the best in the world.

The second action that will go a long way to improving environmental management will be the establishment of an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism. Environmental problems are not created by the Environment Ministry, they are created by the policies of other ministries.

The third action that is urgently needed is a mechanism to project the future environmental challenges so that preventive action can be taken now. Once poor investment has been made and jobs created in a polluting activity, then it is very difficult for politicians to put that activity into reverse gear. Which is why environmentalists now seek the support of judges more than ministers.

The ultimate challenge for the new minister is to become more important for the environment than the judges of the Supreme Court. Let us see if Baalu takes it up. — (CSE/Down To Earth Features)

V. Jagannathan

Anil Agarwal

Helmet law essential

(Continued from Page 1) school teenager who was not one bit cowed by the formidable battery of helmet votaries arrayed against her. Weight-induced headaches, reduced vision and hearing, problems with the hair, no safe storage space were all "practical" concerns of users — "none of whom you are", pointed out Aditi Ravindranath, stating the truth bluntly. Her concerns undoubtedly need to be addressed on a priority basis by all those on the panel, but public opinion on grounds of discomfort must NOT be used as a reason for NOT signing rules necessary for the greater public

good. The National Association of Neurosurgeons has long sought the wearing of helmets on the roads by two-wheeler users being made compulsory. Mr. Chief Minister, this is an appeal that you must act on immediately.

NOTE: The Act says "Every person driving or RIDING...." The emphasis is ours. The only rider permitted by Law is the pillion rider — and he or she too must compulsorily wear a helmet according to the Act. It was also emphasised at the seminar that any rider riding in any other position except on the pillion was flouting the

rules, which also did NOT permit more than two persons — of whatever age — on one vehicle. If you're expecting implementation of road rules it's sheer wishful thinking, said one of the speakers; after all, the implementing authority, the Police, have departmental rules that make the wearing of helmets compulsory, but which Police motorcycle rider or pillion rider wears a helmet in Tamil Nadu, the speaker rhetorically wondered aloud. What can then be expected from them?

(Also see Page 2)

SUN PLANS TO RISE IN WEST

(Continued from Page 4)

Kalanithi is a hands-on person and leads from the front, say those who work with him.

A stickler for time and a quick temper, that vanishes fast, are the other characteristics mentioned by those who work with him.

Why didn't he enter politics despite hitting the headlines in 1985 when he, along with other city college student leaders, led a massive students' rally demanding formation of a Madras University Students' Union. The procession, when on the Anna Flyover, was lathi-charged by the police, injuring many, including Kalanithi. "Politics is not my cup of tea. There are too many politicians in my family", he jokes in answer.

After his B.Com, he went to University of Scranton, US for his MBA studies. He was the

first person in the family to go abroad for higher studies.

Much against his father's wishes that he continued on to a doctorate, he returned home in 1987 to realise his dream of setting up his own venture. As a first step towards that, he joined the family publication *Kungumam*. "I started as a circulation clerk and apprenticed in all the departments before taking overall charge", he recalls.

Three years later when cable TV was picking up, he decided to start a video news magazine, 'Poomalai'. The magazine generated good revenues wherever there were the Tamil-speaking. "The overseas revenues subsidised domestic operations", he laughs. In the meantime, Kalanithi met Kaveri at a friend's place. They got married in 1991. Despite his busy schedule including

travelling a lot, Kalanithi makes it a point to spend the weekends with Kaveri and their daughter Kavya.

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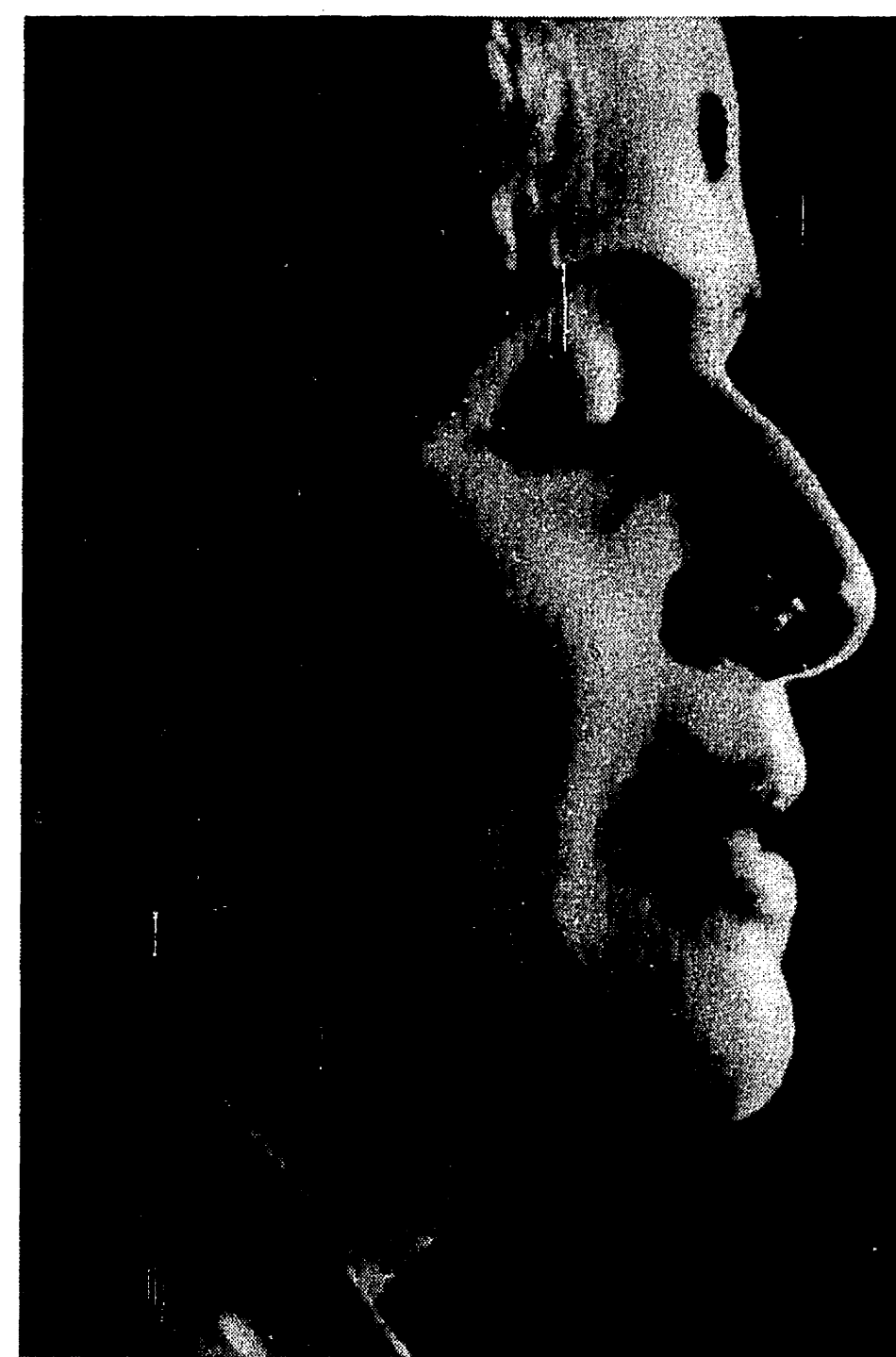
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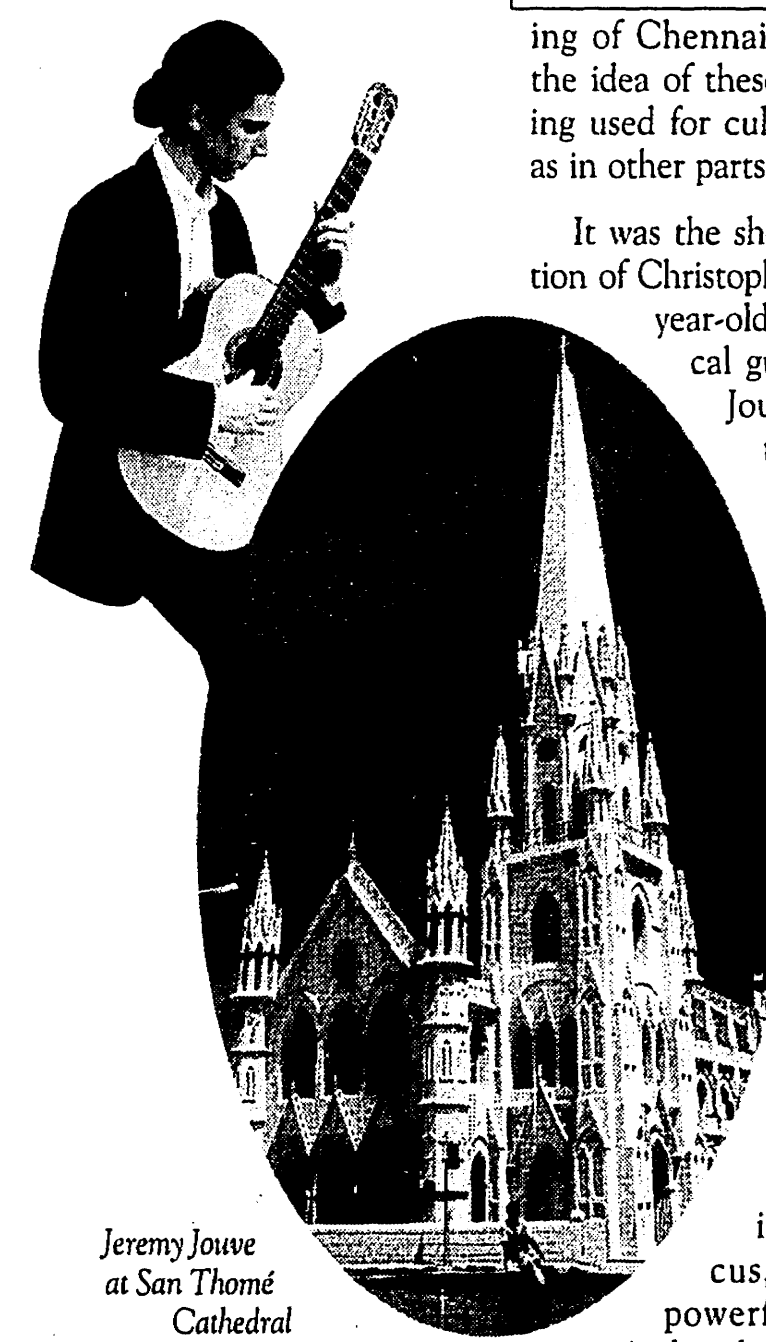


M.S. Subbulakshmi. One of the photographs at the 'Women/Goddess' exhibition.

Triumphing over noise

The relentless screech and roar of traffic on San Thomé High Road even at 8 in the evening penetrated the interior of the majestic San Thomé Basilica, set back from the road. How would it be possible to hold a classical music concert here, particularly solo guitar, I wondered. But held it was, even if there was no respite from the noise.

For Christophe De Lu. Director of the Alliance Francaise in Chennai, arranging a recital of classical music in the San Thomé Cathedral had a very special significance. It was the realisation of a long-cherished dream. Passionate, eyes glowing, he explained how as a young student in Paris he had been fascinated by the travelogues written over the centuries by European travellers to the East, to far off India and particularly to San Thomé on the Coromandel Coast where the apostle St. Thomas was buried and which was, thus, a place of pilgrimage. "For me", he said, "San Thomé was a very big place on my tiny map of India"! So, when posted to Chennai last year he was determined to honour the San Thomé Cathedral in some way and hence the decision to hold the guitar concert within its walls. "Besides," he said, "do you remember that shortly after I arrived in Chennai I ar-



Jeremy Jouve at San Thomé Cathedral

ranged for a travelling French piano duo to perform at the Senate House?"

I well remembered the occasion. It opened our eyes to all the possibilities of use for this beautiful building. And this was Christophe De Lu's second reason for choosing the Cathedral as venue to bring into prominence another heritage build-



- December 5-10: More from 'The Other Festival'.
 December 5: Theatre — *Chairs* by Atul Kumar, Mumbai
 December 6: Contemporary Dance — *Perspectives in motion* by Ann Moradian, USA and a performance by Navtej Johar, Delhi.
 December 7: Contemporary Music — Dhevadas Nair and Konarak Reddy, UK
 December 8: Chhau Dance — Ileana Citaristi, Bhubhaneswar
 December 9: Installation Art/Theatre — Sumant Jayakrishnan, Delhi
 December 10: Dance Theatre — Women in Motion by Ananya Chatterjee, USA

December 5: Carols and Solos, by young artists' choirs: Polyphonics (+Juniors) Sub-juniors conducted by Gita Menon (at the Max Mueller Bhavan Library, 6.00 pm).

December 7-18: Women/Goddess, An exhibition of photographs.

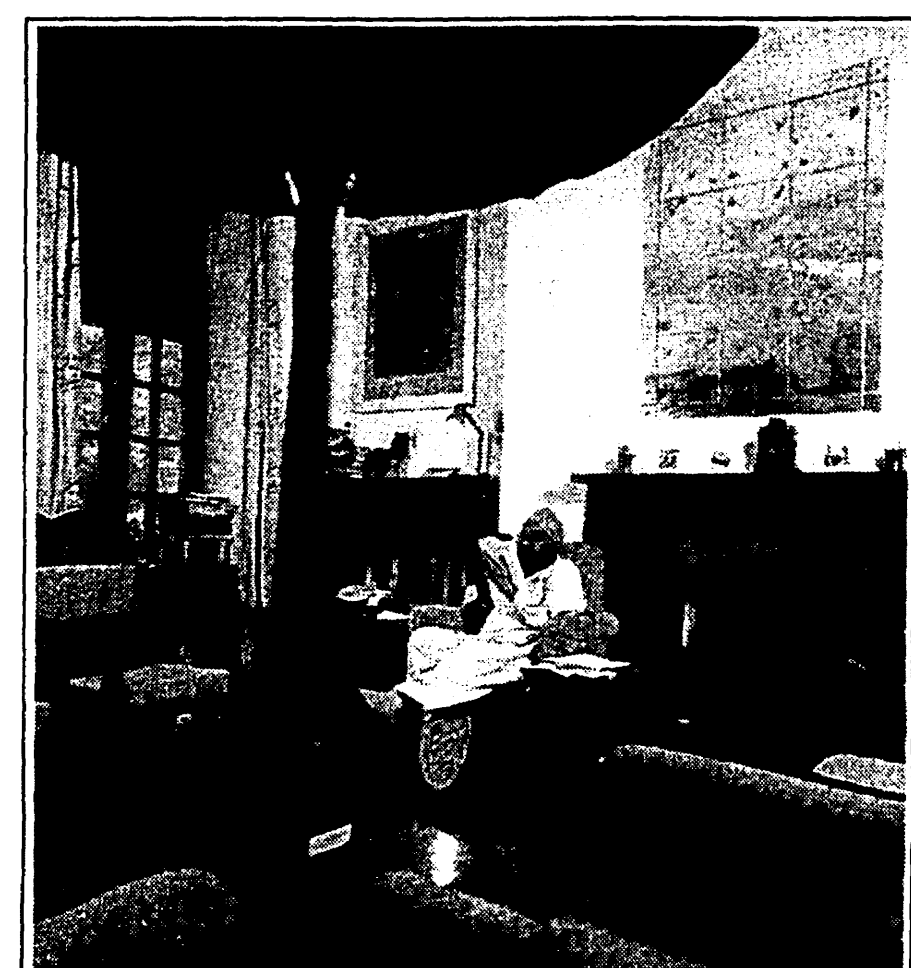
Since independence, one stream of modern Indian photography has been devoted to the subject of women. One aspect

ing of Chennai and promote the idea of these buildings being used for cultural purposes as in other parts of the world.

It was the sheer determination of Christophe and the 20-year-old French classical guitarist Jeremy Jouve that made the evening. It was like a miracle. I still wonder how the artiste mounted all the physical problems he had to face and was able to perform. With his artistic passion and intellectual focus, his was a powerful presence.

As he played, the noise volume around him seemed to fade away. It was a very varied and demanding programme, beautifully performed. It is a truth that real excellence is always recognised. The audience was completely absorbed. And, thus, the Jeremy Jouve concert was a success.

Anna Abraham



"Being an agnostic I don't waste my time on god or prayer. I just read and write from almost 4.30 in the morning till whisky time at 7.00 in the evening. The other day Shobha De was doing a television interview with me and asked how I managed to be so productive at my age and I said, no one has invented a condom for the pen yet."

One of the photographs at the 'Ageing in India' exhibition.

that strongly defines their status, their aspirations and their role models is the popular forms of goddess worship. In the exhibition through the work of 27 photographers that covers a time span of about five decades, different aspects of this subject are examined. (At the Lalit Kala Academi 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.)

Till December 12: 'Ageing in India' Photographic exhibition by Samar S Jodha and Vijay S Jodha. (At Art World, 12, Ganeshpuram, 3rd Street, Teynampet at 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.)

The images and text in the exhibition are from an on-going project involving 400 elderly persons all over India. Through research, interviews, photographs and films, this three-year old project seeks to bring together a series of engaging human interest stories in the voices of the elderly themselves. Each story represents one or more facets of ageing. Some of the subjects are more productive and well-known today than any time in their long careers, others are doing something quite extraordinary, often against great odds and usually away from the limelight, while some represent a larger, significant issue related to ageing.

December 8: Cross-gendered verse: An evening of poetry as performance with many 'voices' filtering through. A polyphony of history and culture in verse and song where genders cross over, the man-woman divide drops away and words get imbued with a new set of meanings and associations. From the poetry of Chaucer to that of Carol Ann Duffy, this rendition cuts across space and time to become a contemporary celebration of the ageless and genderless voices of the millennium. Presented by the Poetry Circle of the British Council. (At 7.00 p.m. at the Lalit Kala Academy).

December 10: Gunter Grass — a Lecture by Sadanand Menon followed by reading and discussion, to mark the award of the Nobel Prize for Literature to Grass on the same day in Stockholm.

During Grass' visit to MMB, Madras, in 1986, Menon had interviewed him. This lecture will be followed by a multilingual reading of Grass' texts. (At the Max Mueller Bhavan, 6.30 p.m.)

Till December 11: Paintings by Gayatri Aditya (at the Alliance Francaise).

December 13-15: Poster display: The British Council and UNICEF, in association with the Association of British Scholars — Tamil Nadu, are organising six workshops for select groups of underprivileged children in the age group of 10 to 16 in and around Chennai. Aimed at raising awareness among the target group, the workshops will, through talks and audio-visual presentations, enable participants to express their perceptions of child rights issues by making posters. A selection of the posters will be exhibited (at the British Council).

December 14: Exhibition by Ramesh (at Alliance Francaise)

December 17: Song of Lawino: A solo performance by S Kalairani based on a folk song by the North Ugandan poet, Okot P'Bitek. Lawino passionately opposes the influence of the Western world on the Acoli tribesmen while poignantly lamenting the passing away of an age-old tradition with a powerful dramatic intensity.

December 17-19: COINEX 99, the annual exhibition of the coin society. Open to the public from 17th to 19th December 1999. (10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Centenary Exhibition Hall, Government Museum.)

December 19: The Subbulakshmi-Sadasivam Music & Dance Resource Institute (SAMUDRI) has arranged for a dance historian from Montreal, Canada to make two illustrated presentations.

The dance historian is Vincent Warren, curator of la Bibliotheque de la Danse at the Ecole Supérieure de Danse du Quebec, Montreal, who teaches

(Continued on page 8)

RAJIND N CHRISTY reports:

A hockey team that is a mixture of the young and the old recently won the Chennai Hockey Association. Second Division league and has been promoted to the First Division league. The team is named 'Star of Mackay's' after Mackay's Garden, as many players reside in that Thousand Lights area.

Star of Mackay's draws its members from the Accountant General's office, State Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank. The oldest member of the team is M Kumaresan, a young 54-year-old, and the youngest is Edward Fredrick, son of Edward Thomas, manager of the team.

Speaking to Madras Musings, M Arockiadoss, coach-cum-player and now a Super League umpire, said the Club was formed in 1990 as a way to keep in touch with the game which got many of them employment and to train the young. The presence of the seniors would inspire the young

to take the game seriously, said Arockiadoss. Mackay members who have played for the State in the Senior and Junior Championships include Palani, Rajan Joseph, Venkatesh, Barnabas Rajkumar, Edward Fernandes, Charles, David Idayanath, the goalie of the team Manojkumar (a State football player), Randalin and Kenneth Thomas.

The veteran Kumaresan comes from a hockey-playing family. His father Mylesan, a goalkeeper, played for the Bharata Matha Club's sixes team in the 1940's. The club was later disbanded, recalls Kumaresan. He studied at the Nungumbakkam Corporation School which he and his junior, Arockiadoss, who later joined the Accountant General's office, represented. Kumaresan also played for a lo-



M Kumaresan of the championship winning 'Star of Mackays' hockey team. This veteran must be the oldest active hockey player in the City. (Photograph by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)

cal club called Grama Recreation Club, named after a street in Nugambakkam. Playing for this team, he was spotted by Era Sambantham's Sporting Brothers and gained wider exposure it playing for it at the All-India level. Whilst playing for Sport-

ing Brothers, Kumaresan was offered employment by the Pallavan Transport Corporation (PTC) where he played for the Corporation for five years during which time the PTC won the All India Basheer Ahmed Khan Tournament. This was a high point in the career. Playing in the famed Madras Cricket Club hockey tournament, he scored four goals for the PTC team against Madras Blues which included State players like Govinda, Monappa, goalkeeper Chitti Babu and Panneerselvam. After his stint with the PTC, he joined the Accountant General office and played for them for 18 years. The AG's team too won the Basheer Ahmed Khan All India Tournament.

His technical play and dribbling through a defence earned him the nickname 'chittukuruvi' and even today, he says with pride, spectators call him by this name. But he was never picked for the State. He has no regrets, as at the time, there were about five players competing for each position, he says, and there was little difference between them. He is however proud the

Chennai Hockey Fans' Association, established in 1998, honoured him for services he rendered to the game.

About 100 teams are registered with the Chennai Hockey Association. With the conversion of the game from grass and gravel to Astroturf, skills have also changed, says Kumaresan. Today, the ball is pushed and trapped with no dribbling necessary, whereas on grass and gravel dribbling is necessary.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Continued from page 7)

dance history there and at the Les Ateliers de Danse Moderne de Montreal. He has lectured at Concordia University, McGill University (continuing education), Ottawa University and L'Universite de Quebec a Montreal and throughout the province of Quebec.

Warren had been the lead dancer for Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, in 1961-79. He was a member of the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, New York, 1958-60, and was associated with le Theatre Francais de la Danse, Paris, in 1971.

The first presentations will be on *The Influence of Indian Dance on the West*. (at 10 a.m. at the Mini Hall of the Narada Gana Sabha). The second illustrated lecture will be on *Abhinaya in Western Ballet*. (At the Sri Krishna Gana Sabha on the morning of December 24.)

National Equestrian Championship in Chennai for first time

The prestigious National Equestrian Championship will be held in Chennai, and indeed in South India, for the first time from December 16th to 27th. The venue will be the Mohite Stadium in St. Thomas Mount.

The Chennai Equestrian Academy at Sholinganallur is conducting the competition and Major General Istani (Commandant, OTA), Sanjay Jayavartanavelu (LMW), Arun Alagappan (Murugappa group) and Kishore Futani (Managing Trustee, CEA) have been

working in organising this major event.

Among the top notch riders participating in the individual category (boys) will be Aditya Ahuja (gold medallist in Germany), Abishek Chopra (gold medallist in Hong Kong) and Rohan Kapoor (silver medallist at Hong Kong). The Chennai Equestrian Academy is strongly fancied to win the Tent Pegging event with its foursome of Kishore Futani, Dhruv Futani, Devi Singh and Sundaram. Other Chennai riders tipped to do well are Narayanan and

Aiyappa of the CEA in the open show jumping category.

The 40km event will have foreign and Indian bred horses such as Marwari, Manipuri and Kathiawari horses. These are bred in India so that they conform and retain the special characteristics of the breeds. In fact, the Indian Government does not permit export of these horses!

As many as ten foreign countries have entered for the championship and the Equestrian Federation of India plans to restrict the number of countries to five (excluding India).

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Henry Ford; 2. The former Chief Justice of India, Justice J.S. Verma; 3. R.R. Srinivasan's *Nathiyin Maranam*; 4. Microsoft; 5. Malcom Marshall; 6. Remote controlled sight-screen (where the batsmen themselves can adjust the position) called Pk200; 7. R.P. Gupta; 8. Durban in S. Africa; 9. Lennox Lewis.

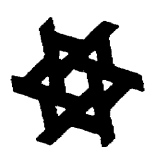
10. *The Hindu*; 11. Aarthie Ramaswamy; 12. T. Chengalvarayan.

* * *

13. Mettur; 14. Kotagiri; 15. *Aboorva Raagangal*; 16. A ball which refuses to rise and slithers across the pitch; 17. At the Ooty Club; 18. Tiruppur; 19. *Sripada Parai*; 20. Jayakanthan.

* * *

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