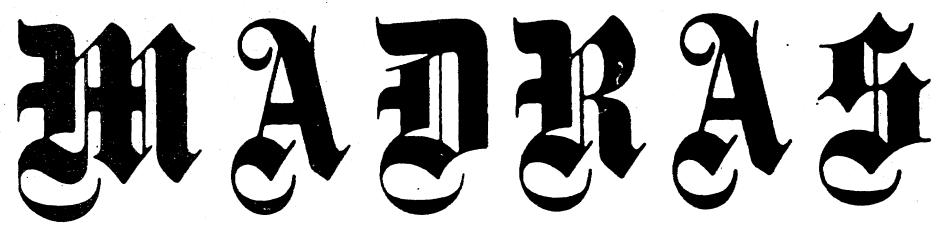
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Vol. II. No. 21

FREE ISSUE — EVERY FORTNIGHT

February 16 — 28, 1993

Tourism eyes Heritage 12

Emphasis on domestic traveller

Tamil Nadu plans to follow the British example of Stratford-on-Avon, Bath, Chester and York and establish Heritage Towns. An ambitious 108 are being thought of, but, for the present, 12 are being earmarked for development: Mamallapuram, Kanchipuram, Chidambaram, Kanniyakumari, Rameswaram, Tranquebar, Thanjavur, Kumbakonam, Srirangam, Tiruthani, Palani and Sriperumbudur.

With ten of these towns more likely to thrive on domestic tourist, and

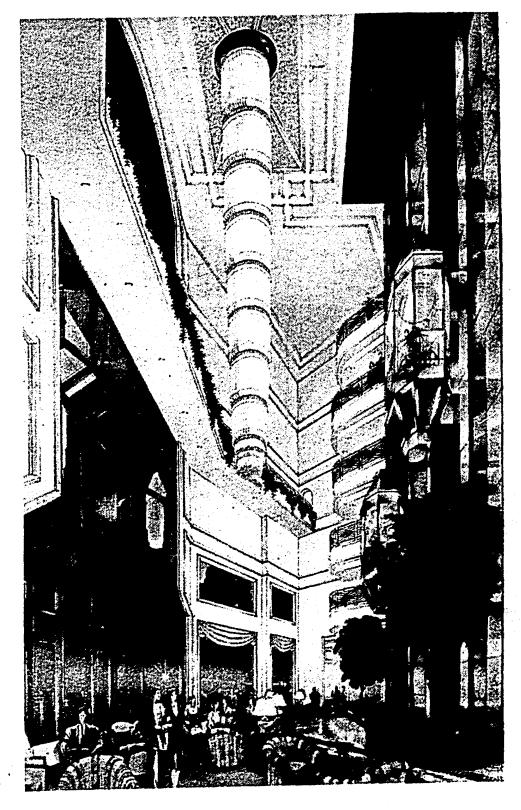
(By A Special Correspondent)

particularly pilgrim, traffic, Mamallapuram and Tranquebar, together with Kanchipuram, are being further upgraded as Special Tourism Areas. An INTACH plan for cleaning up and landscaping Mamallapuram is slowly getting underway, with a Rs. 1.3 crore grant already sanctioned. Some work has already begun in Tranquebar on restoring the fort and old buildings, with a volunteer group in Denmark, the Friends of Tranquebar, sending out a Danish architect to help resurrect the sleepy old town's finest hour, when it was a Danish bastion on the Coromandel Coast. And plans are being drawn up for Kanchipuram.

The Chief Minister's Temple Restoration Fund is likely to play a major role in Kanchipuram and the other Heritage Towns. As Heritage Towns, new buildings only in line with a Master Plan will be permitted in each of them and adequate infrastructure will be created to meet the demands of both domestic as well as foreign tourists. The temples, of course, will be renovated, presumably with less squalls than at Palani.

Other tourism plans call for the development of islands in the Gulf of Mannar for those seeking the sun, sand 'n' sea, National Marine Parks off Rameswaram and Mandapam, a pilgrim circuit that will take in Madurai (forgotten as a Heritage Town)-Rameswaram-Tiruchendur-and-Kanniya-kumari, a luxury boat trip along the Coromandel Coast, tent hotels for campers in Kodaikanal and Kuttralam and a Tea Festival in Cooncor.

It all sounds wonderful, but this correspondent has been hearing about all this for the last twenty years and is still waiting for it to happen. Of course, the age of miracles is still not over!



Season's Greetings from Park Sheraton Hotel & Towers' General Manager Pawan Verma came this year in the form of a printed transparent overlay attached to his card. The overlay featured the tallest chandelier in Madras, spectacularly occupying 60 feet of the 80-ft high space in the handsome atrium of the Towers which is now open for occupation even as the final touches are put to it. The two bubble lifts (right) are another striking feature of the atrium, which is overlooked by a railed balcony on each floor. This atrium, with its brass fittings, is the handsomest in the city's hotels.

Cultural Season sets records

The Madras Music Season just past, December 14, 1992 — January 5, 1993, had the largest number of cultural performances in the Season's history — 825 in all. If an extended Season is considered from November 1, 1992 — February 15, 1993, there were, for the first time, over 1000 performances:1137 in all.

During the extended Season, there were 614 vocal concerts (including a few musical discourses), 226 instrumental concerts, 15 recitals by music ensembles, 225 solo dance performances and 49 dance performances by groups.

Reporting these records, *Sruti*, the magazine devoted to Camatic music and Classical dance, stated that 37 organisations arranged the programmes, in which 12 musicians each had more than half a dozen recitals and two dancers had more than six dance performances each. Four organisations had two festivals during the Season each and Bharat Kalachar had three!

Attendance, however, was "patchy" at most venues, reported *Sruti*, with several venues almost empty most of the time. Only the Mylapore Fine Arts Club, reported the magazine, had fairly good attendance at every programme this past Season.

As economy grows, alliance creaks

Governors ceremoniously walked in and strode out smiling, after summoning into life the year's Legislative Assembly sessions. Nowadays, shoots of trouble sprout on the first day itself, followed in later days by walk-outs, hecklings, interruptions and rough houses, so much so the security personnel, for whom their duty days were once virtual holidays, have their hands full 'escorting' erring members out! The public's tolerance level for previously unacceptable behaviour inside these law-making houses has been considerably raised. They had felt outraged at first, followed, after a time, by curiosity, but what they feel now is infinite boredom.

On February 4, Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker Muthiah ordered eviction of MGR ADMK member and former Minister, S Thirunavukkarasu, following "a direction to me from the Governor to restore order in the House". Reading out statements by members before, during or after the Governor's Address, impinges rules. and this was what had happened before Governor Bishma Narain Singh delivered his customary Address. Pattali Makkal Katchi and CPI(M) members walked out after their leaders, PMK's S Ramachandran and CPI(M)'s V Thambuswamy, had read 'something' before leaving. These statements do not form part of the House proceedings and publication would invite breach of privilege.

The bonhomie between the ruling AIADMK and the Congress (I) is not in evidence as before, judged by the first salvo fired by TNCC(I) President Vazhapadi Ramamurthy who found

the Governor's Address 'disappointing' as, among other things, it would seem the AIADMK is now opposing the constitutional amendments, after being a party, in the Central Government's Select Committee, to implementing the

The view from Fort St George by R.K.K.

three-tier system and after voting in favour of the Panchayat Raj and Nagar Palika Bills. In his view, the ruling party is reluctant to face local body elections. There has, however, been a commitment at the meeting between Prime

Minister Narasimha Rao and Chief Minister Jayalalitha that the alliance would continue. It will, therefore, be a pleasure to watch the Chief Minister's dexterity in steering clear of the shoals, as she has to honour the commitment while at the same time keep on a leash her party members who have smelt blood.

The Governor urged the Centre's early consideration of the Chief Minister's proposal of a Southern Regional Industrial Development Bank with headquarters in Madras, which is emerging as an international financial centre. An early decision by the Centre is also needed in reviving the Kodambakkam Nuclear Thermal project. He also called for early action by the Centre on the project to bring natural gas from Bombay High to the southern states. The Chief Minister has even

suggested co-financing by these States to ensure that the project comes through.

The Governor congratulated Tamil Nadu farmers for bringing foodgrains production to a peak 100 lakh tonnes and more, surpassing the previous year's high of 90.70 lakh tonnes.

Pointing out that the Plan expenditure for 1992-93 would exceed the Rs. 1751 outlay, the Governor said that "Tamil Nadu has now moved into a proper growth trajectory" thanks to the Government. The State, he added, had secured new investments totalling over Rs. 20,000 crores in various industrial projects, more than half of it for power.

He had a special word of praise for the Tamil Nadu Police, who, he said, were functioning with a new vision, a new direction and a new purpose.

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Have you been down to Rom Whitaker's crocodile farm on the Mamallapuram road recently? On a visit a few weeks back The Man From Madras Musings found that the farm which Whitaker calls a Bank has over 10.000 crocodiles of all ages in stock and that many a pit is overcrowded with the

reptiles. The success of the Bank has been its breeding programme and the information on breeding it has passed on to a couple of other Banks set up in the country. It's failure has been that it has not been able to meet its objectives of stocking again the country's rivers and tanks where the crocodile has become extinct. Such stocking would help the fish-life in them immensely, as the crocodiles would prey on the large predator fish who now have a free run with the smaller

Instead, the crocodile population in Whitaker's Bank is growing to choking levels and the Law does not permit what Thailand's farms have made a thriving export industry.

edible varieties. But few are

prepared to hark to this gospel

according Romulus — and Harry

The Thai farms are permitted to cull and, as a result, crocodile leather for export as well as for local manufacture and crocodile meat for Thai as well as international restaurants have become big business. And despite such culling, Thailand's crocodile population is thriving because the farmers, like Whitaker, know how to rear them. In India, on the other hand, both Governments as well as Wild Life authorities prefer to turn a blind eye to crocodile breeding success. After all, the problem is not theirs.

Conservation ideas

The Man From Madras Musings was recently privileged to see a new type of house magazine. This one was in video - and was the third one in a quarterly cycle. Entitled ITC Video News - and with Rini Khanna presenting it — the film provided half an hour's entertaining and informative viewing of what's new in the ITC set-up.

One bit of newness that particularly struck The Man From Madras Musings as significant was not new at all; it was a conservation programme that had been going on for quite some time now in the Welcomgroup's Bay Island resort in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Besides greeting visitors to the islands with hoardings at the airport and along the main travel routes, all urging conservation of the fragile resources of the islands, the hotel has itself implemented a rigorous conservation programme on its premises which many another hotel in the country might like to take a look at. Perhaps some Madras hotels would like to follow the following conservation measures:

To conserve paper and prevent litter, picnic boxes are no longer of cardboard; they're the old-fashioned steel tiffin

• To further conserve paper, chefs don't use paper caps, substituting them with cloth caps, junk mail is converted into scribbling and memo pads and old newspapers and magazines are used to line cupboards and drawers instead of brown paper.

• A storage tank has been built to gather rainwater and this is used for the gardens.

 Sea water is used for toilet flushing, the water passing through plastic pipes which have now replaced the original metal

• Large notices in every bathroom indicate how much water can be saved by careful use of water in the bathrooms.

• Open areas in the garden that stand to suffer soil erosion are covered with coconut husks gathered from the roadsides in Port Blair.

All staff have to undergo special environment training classes; and

• There's a mini ecological museum and a collection of ecological videos in the library.

while, The Man From Madras Musings wonders whether spinoffs from the project might not benefit Bangalore more than Madras, given the former's proximity, even though the project site is in Tamil Nadu.

Metro delayed

If you'd hoped to travel by the Metro from Beach to Luz next year, you are in for another disappointment. Target date now is March 1995. And that too only if all the bottlenecks are cleared.

One of the major problems in the way of speedier completion is land acquisition. To build the Beach terminus - which will handle 400,000 passengers every day, 23,000 of them every few minutes during peak

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

By using such measures and several more, Welcomgroup Bay Island has succeeded in being as environment friendly as Charles Correa had conceived it several years ago.

Thalli revitalised

I what they aged to call the downs of Hoour and Thalli when the sehike had a Hunt there and followed on horse the houses chasing lackels. To many Indians from the entiwhile Madras Presidency, the invisorating climate there and the waters of the innumerable rivulets in the Dharmapuri District were aids to recuperating their health or to get jaded systems working again after a year's stultifying routine. In recent years, 'Little England' with its lack of facilities, had been virtually forgotten, until the Tamil Nadu Government decided to industrialise Hosur. But now someone has rediscovered Thalli, 45 km southeast of Bangalore, and plans are underway to combine the British and Indian views of Thalli in a large holiday complex being described as an "Indian heritage

The Rs. 30 crore project of the Tatia Group, who are looking at 'health farms' as a money-spinner, envisages a fivestar complex for an international membership in 200 acres of landscaped space. Besides a hundred rooms and a hundred cottages and the whole range of five star facilities, the village will provide yoga and meditation centres, ayurvedic healthcare and traditional massage facilities and a wide range of cultural instruction and entertainment. Sports facilities will include swimming pools, tennis and squash courts and an 18-hole

For all this and the luxury to go with it, a membership fee of US \$ 5000 has been fixed — and even at those rates the promoters feel that they'll have more than the targeted 7500 seeking membership, because Thalli has a lovely dry and cool climate the year-round to support the facilities promised. Already 400 professionals have got down to work on what is being described as "a body and scul rejuvenation commune" and they hope to have their luxury village ready by the end of next year. Meanto heed the notices, leave alone

quit entrenched positions. Matters are very much the same in Luz too. Here 450 huts have to be cleared by the Slum Clearance Board. A promise to hand over the site by November 1992 has been given a new lease of life and the fresh deadline is March 1993.

money. The Rs. 108 crores,

time - and provide a pedestrian overbridge which will ensure access to bus bays that will also have to be built, the shops in Burma Bazaar will have to be cleared. Of the 91 shops on this stretch, 64 have been served eviction notices and there is a notification that no outside structure should be built within 30 metres of the Railway boundaries. But no one seems willing

Rs. 88 crore has already been spent since work began in 1988 after sanction had been made in 1983. Last year, the Railways received an allocation of Rs. 19 crores, but in 1993-94 they are asking for Rs. 55 crores. That sounds like baying at the moon. But, no doubt, the Railways, like The Man From Madras Musings, lives in eternal hope. Meanwhile, of the five

8.64 km project has now es-

calated to Rs. 189 crore. Of this,

elevated stations on the Beach-Luz stretch, Chintadripet is completed, Chepauk will be ready in June and work has begun on Triplicane and Lloyd's Road, with a targeted completion by November 1994. That will leave only the termini to be completed. And, of course, the second and third stages of the project. It should, at this rate. take at least one GENERATION in all!

In brief

* The Philippines have been famous for their beautiful shirts made from pineapple fibre. Now the South Indian Textile Research Association, Coimbatore, suggests that India is in a position to get into this exotic manufacture too and that SITRA has the knowhow to offer would-be entrepreneurs. India, says SITRA, has 87,000 hectares under pineapple, which generate six lakh tonnes of leaf, most of which is at present going to waste. Not only can India bring in much more acreage under the fruit, but the pineapple leaf fibre could be used to make varn and the leftover refuse could be used to make paper, board and fuel briquettes. All that's now needed is some enterprising entrepreneur to make use of SITRA's pioneering research leaf to good use. MMM

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The ways AIDS spreads in T.N.

There have been, as reported (Madras Musings, January 16th), 2.100 cases of HIV infections in Tamil Nadu since 1986, when the very first case was detected. The state has the second largest number of such cases in India.

February 16-28, 1993

The surveillance for sero positivity for AIDS (screening tests for the Human Immuno Deficiency Virus which causes AIDS) has mostly been done in Tamil Nadu in the Madras Medical College, Madras, the Christian Medical College, Vellore and Medical College, Madurai. But other centres are now beginning to report HIV cases and these include Stanley Medical College, Apollo Hospital, the AIM Post Graduate Institute, the Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children, all in Madras, and the Medical College, Coimbatore.

In the early years of HIV detection in Tamil Nadu, the sero surveillance was mostly confined to the high risk groups, such as commercial sex workers and patients visiting the clinics for STD (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) treatment. But it was then decided to conduct studies among other vulnerable sections of the population. An 'Anony mous Unlinked' study conducted in Madras has now revealed that more than 1.25 per cent of the about 15.000 truck drivers who enter the city daily are HIV positive. This is expected to rise to about 30-50 per cent in the next five years, according to one report.

Another sentinel Surveillance Programme at the GH, Madras, also made an unlinked and anonymous study. In this survey, blood samples of patients visiting the outpatient departments of the hospital were collected. The results so far reveal that there are sero positive individuals among out-patients visiting ALL departments except surgery, indicating a dangerous trend — that the spread of AIDS is not confined to high risk groups like the known heterosexually

promiscuous individuals. For instance. there were a few cases among patients visiting ante-natal clinics, which meant that they were probably housewives. This suggested that they either had husbands who indulged in multi-partner relationships or that they themselves had multi-partner relationships. In the same study, 5 or 6 cases were identified among patients visiting TB out-patient clinics, about a dozen cases were detected in the medicine OP and so on.

by DHANYA GOPINATH

The AIDS Cell of the Madras Medical College has prepared cumulative data for the period 1-4-89 to 30-6-92. According to this, out of 48,155 voluntary blood donors, 0.17 per cent had tested HIV positive.

However, in the CMC Vellore, out of the 35,084 antenatal mothers screened, 14 (0.04%) were HIV positive and of the 836 antenatal mothers screened in Madurai there were 0.12%

prevalance of AIDS among the youth of Tamil Nadu. Among the voluntary blood donors tested at the MMC in 1992 for HIV, 9.2 per cent were sero positive. What is even more alarming is that a majority of these 153 donors were students aged less than 20. "These figures give us an idea of

HIV positive. Sero positivity determined

through Health Camps conducted by

the Government Mobile Survey Unit,

which tested population groups from

colleges, slums and villages, revealed

that out of 6872 persons screened, 26

Another important finding reveals

the shocking news that there is a high

were sero positive (0.3%).

the HIV spillover into the general population. Hence, AIDS Control Programmes among both high-risk groups and the general population groups are the need of the hour. (AIDS Profile in Tamil Nadu, 1992. produced by the Deepam Education Society for the Government of Tamil Nadu with the support of UNICEF.

HIV positive cases have definitely increased in Tamil Nadu since 1986. "There is a definite co-relation between the increase in the number of sero positive cases among the heterosexually promiscuous groups and the dispersal Spread of AIDS in India Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Mahipur have the highest number of HIV positive cases. While in Maharashtra for every 34 cases screened one has tested HIV positive, for Manipur similar figures are 6.9 for each positive test Sero Surveillance for HIV Infection (upto 31.10.92) Provisiona 1,202 40,998 9,164 3 Nogeland 699 6,498 4 Haryana 59,236 78 38,076 237 5,749 14 Monipur 10,599 33,827 1,10,620 237 11,335 1,000 1,55,445 12 4,616 72,359 39,953 -52 178 TOTAL 15,28,567 10,856 0000 Cases Screened 00 Western Positive Cases "Western Blot Test - the definite laboratory test to determine the presence of HIV infection

This AIDS map of India places Tamil Nadu squarely amongst the worst-affected states the country

of AIDS among other groups," says Dr Suniti Solomon of the AIDS Cell, Madras Medical College. Though the HIV virus can be spread by any one of such routes as infected blood and blood products, contaminated needles. intravenous drug usage or perinatally. 75 per cent of all reported HIV inlections in Tamil Nadu are through the

Source: WHO

heterosexual route. Hence the need for AIDS control programmes in Tamil Nadu with proven interventions.

Besides ensuring blood safety guarantee, these programmes should aim at changing the high-risk behaviour of the general population, particularly

Our Readers Write

The sannyasi & the sage

Our country is celebrating the centenary of Swami Vivekananda's triumphant our of the Western countries and his famous speech at the first Parliament of World Religions held in 1893 at Chicago. He was the true ambassador of new resurgent India. His was the voice which established for India a unique place in the comity of nations. It was the first milestone of modern Indian history and still reverberates in our hearts in many ways.

In that same year, a young man of twenty was already crossing the seas in the opposite direction back to his motherland with a new revolutionary determination to awaken the country to freedom. He had absorbed, but not converted to, the best of Western culture, ancient and modern, its intellectualism and its realism. He knew the ways of History and its turns and twists of movements. He had the shrewdness and worldly wisdom to meet the subterfuses of the political game the dominating powers were accustomed to play.

the country, he declared in a series of newspaper articles in 1893 that a country desiring freedom for itself and wanting to assert and express its native genius, cannot go about with a begging bowl to its imperial masters. On the contrary, it must declare its intentions of securing full self-determination in clear, unambiguous terms and go about organising itself towards this end. by means revolutionary and even violent if necessary, and by politically educating the people for the destined purpose.

He was the first leader of the times to openly declare the goal of complete independence for the country. Being himself absolutely certain of India's freedom, he declared prophetically in 1909, "Amidst

Vauhini studio and was the first since

lanuary. Several veterans, like

A V M Saravanan. Sivaji Ganesan,

R M Veerappan, K Balachandran,

D Ramanujam. Kamal Hassan and

At the meeting held in Salem of all

film distributors in Tamil Nadu, it had

been decided that no film launched

K Bhagyaraj were present.

Within a short period of his arrival in these revolutionary changes (coming all over the world). India will be free". Being assured from within that the work he had striven to initiate and give direction

and strength to would be led to its fulfilment by others, he left the political field for a single-minded pursuit of a more fundamental truth of life and of human existence. However, even in his self-imposed retirement, he had kept an eye on what was happening in India and the world. Concerned as he was about the future of India he asked in 1935, fearing the worst, "That (India's freedom) is all settled. The question is what is India going to do with her independence? ... Bolshevism? Goonda-raj? Things look ominous". Today we know where we stand after 45 years of political independence.

Both Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo, one a leonine sannyasi and the other an all-comprehending sage and seer, demand a full appreciation and understanding of their work and message and use of that understanding to give a new form and significance to the life of the nation. Jayantilal Parekh Sri Aurobindo Ashram

Incorrect understanding

Pondicherry.

Vour issue of November 17 carried an article 'Doon Woos The South'. This is just to say that your Correspondent seems to have incorrectly understood the objectives behind Mr Das's visit. The Doon School is indeed extremely difficult to get into and the only reason that the school considers it worthwhile to make an effort of this nature is to spread the message of 'being an Indian' among its students. This can only be done by having a truly cosmopolitan representation of cultures and regions at the school. The school is also prepared to subsidise worthy students upto a point. It has nothing to do with wanting bright children from the South, which implies that they are not available elsewhere. They are. Finally, if one were to cost it out, Rs. 22,700/- per year including full board, books, and all the sport and extra-curricular facilities imaginable is actually laughably low. Other comparable schools are at least 50 per cent more Ravi Katari

> 4 Pughs Road Madras 600 028.

Editor's Note: How condescending can we get!

Nagi Reddi, Rajinikant carry on, regardless

During the past few weeks, a storm has threatened to engulf the world of Tamil cinema. But will it fizzle out into the proverbial storm in the teacup?

During the past few years, film production costs have been skyrocketing, mainly because of the stars' fees, especially those of the male stars. In the past, fees to performers were minimal; in his heyday, that living legend and the first superstar of Tamil cinema, M K Thyagaraja Bhagavathar, was never paid more than a lakh of rupees and in 1935 that noted singer and stage star K B Sundarambal was paid an unheard-of one lakh for playing the 'male' role in M L Tandon's Nandanar! Of course, the purchasing power of money then was something different; a gallon of petrol (more than 5 litres) sold for a mere 37 paise! Today, times have changed and a rupee does not stretch very far. But do they warrant the fees being asked for?

Certain producers and distributors have of late been insisting that the stars

should voluntarily cut their fat salaries and, according to them, at least one star is alleged to have agreed in public that he was not opposed to such a move. But other superstars have refused to consider any reduction — with stars of all sizes and shapes even threatening to strike work. Producers and distributors came up with matching threats to boycott particular stars seeking unreasonable remuneration. Threats and counter-threats, charges and counter-charges were traded. And, at last, one emotionally charged superstar walked out of a conciliatory meeting

All the while, the apex body, the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce, kept clear of the goings on, prompting a leading actor to state that other film bodies had no locus standi to discuss the issue; only the SIFCC had. Meanwhile, theatre-owners came out with a statement that they would on their own buy the films of various stars. How and where they would get

especially when most cinemahouses are giving way to building complexes. TAILPIECE: Movie moghul B Nagi Reddi is making a film again after a long lapse of time. And this Tamil film, Uzhaipali, will star

Rajinikant. In true Nagi Reddi style, the doyen of the South Indian film industry by

Our Cinema

Correspondent

has demolished the old studio entrance and put up a new one to mark the occasion - and to welcome Mr. R.I Nagi Reddi has a passion for building, and as one of his close friends told this writer years ago, "Reddigaru cannot sleep unless he has the smell of cement in his nostrils!"

The muhurat for this Rajinikantstarrer was performed at the Vijaya-

after lanuary I would be accepted until a settlement was reached on reduction of film production costs, which included a cut in the remuneration of artistes. Consequently, no muhurat has been performed for any Tamil film this year till this one, though an average of 15 to 20 muharats are usually performed in the first month. The statement by superstar Rajini-

kant, exhorting film artistes and distributors to 'forgive and forget', does not seem to have soothed tempers but Nagi Reddi and Rajinikant appear least perturbed by these flourishes and are carrying on, regardless.

February 16-28, 1993

The OLD this fortnight shows all that's left of the

towers of the old Basin Bridge thermal power station.

Even in a state of collapse, as they are left to Nature

to take its course, they still dominate the skyline seen

by passengers coming into the City from the North.

do justice to the

City's newest thermal power station in Ennore Creek.

Located by what was called Clive Island, the dominant

feature of the facility is its towering smokestack. It may

not be as elegant as those of an earlier age, but its claim

to fame is its height; it's the tallest smokestack in South

THE

OLD...

India and, perhaps, in India.

two ...& THE

(Photographs: V S RAGHAVAN)

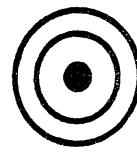
NEW

Advantage India!

It is a distinct signal of the changing times that the heads of two states have paid us a visit. The significance of the arrival of the British Prime Minister, John Major, and the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, go far beyond genial protocol. They have, in fact, sought to establish closer economic ties and international relations. Moreover, India's internal developments in the last two months have not escaped their sympathetic understanding, which should surely reassure an India in doubt.

The obvious impact of Major's visit, accompanied by a high-powered entourage of British businessman, has been that it has sustained international awareness and interest in India's liberalised economic regime.

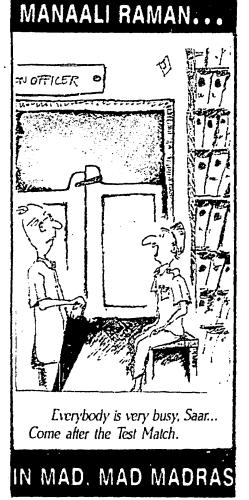
Major's affirmation that Indo-British ties have never been better and his "astonishment" at the pace of libe-



BULL'S EYE

ralisation are certainly encouraging. The signing of two pre-negotiated deals with British Aerospace and British Gas are only a taste of more to come. Given the popular Western perceptions that the UK is more familiar with what was once its prized jewel in the colonial crown, "Britain is ideally placed to act as India's gateway to the EC". Hence, for India. Britain could prove a window to Europe and a reasonable supporter in the Uruguay Round.

Yeltsin's visit, on the other hand, has been viewed with some consternation over the rupee-rouble exchange rate. But all said, it has nevertheless paved the way for a new foundation by ending the long-standing impasse. The assurances which Yeltsin has given about honouring the agreement relating to the transfer of technology for cryogenic engines as well as for defence equipment and spares indicate that India has paid a price in respect of the rupeerouble exchange, which now appears to be tipped to the advantage of Russia. However, viewed as a business quid pro quo, it is perhaps not as



undermining as it is sought to be made

First, consider Russia's unequivocal stand supporting India's position on Kashmir. Then there is the not-so-insignificant matter of Russia's status as a permanent member of the U N Security Council and as a formidable source of military and space equipment. Even though the current relationship lacks geopolitical significance and Russia is a bankrupt country today, it will still be to our advantage to cultivate a good relationship with such a country. Also not to be forgotten is the fact that Russia does have a substantial market that is likely to emerge as a force in another decade.

Even so, our strengths make fomore interesting evaluation. Simply put, Russia needs India. Russia needs to expand its sales of arms and rockets the only area where it is competitive - and India promises to be one of its largest potential clients. Moreover, Yeltsin's proposal for an European-style consultative mechanism for collective security in the Asia-Pacific region, with India playing a pivotal role, is indeed a recognition of its emerging geopolitical significance in recent times. And the UK's interest in India is better explained in the light of the deep recession in the UK and other industrialised nations, including Japan. Following which, India's gigantic market, with a promise of 4 per cent growth this year, is indeed, a delicious proposition. The British faith ought to be a green signal for the rest of the world, in that its investments are already 2 billion Pounds, making it one of the top five investors, with nearly 250 of its companies raking profits on Indian soil. This mutuality of interest is bound to lead us all to better times.

Meanwhile here are some recommendations for the fortnight:

UTI Mastershare (CMP Rs. 55.50): The share, after making a low of Rs. 43 in November 1992, has been consistently making higher bottoms, though the tops are not rising. Thus, it is forming a pattern called an 'ascending triangle'. The share will flare up to Rs. 69 once the resistance at Rs. 56 s conclusively crossed. Buy for short/

The Waterbase Ltd (CMP Rs. 40.25): The Waterbase Ltd, a member of the Thapar Group, entered the capital market in June 1992 to set up a Rs. 42.50 cr project, consisting of hatcheries, a grow-out farm, feed mill and process plant to make processed Shrimp and market animal feeds in the country and abroad. It (Continued on P7)

The State Bank of India and Life Informex '93, the career counselling exhibition held at Madras University's Senate House recently, was a dis-

There were display boards sans detailed information — or with the wrong information, like "the upper age limit for Civil Service exams is 26 years", when actually it is 28! The persons manning the stalls were content with handing out brochures, and queries were met with a stock reply, 'Please come to our office"

And instead of having project reports for reference, it would have been better if some brochures were printed about the opportunities in the small-scale industrial sector.

for persons with education ranging from a mere Xth standard certificate to a professional degree. This was done with the display boards providing information in a crisp manner. The CRPF, cooperate. If only these employed the blind, they'd 'see' the difference in the work output!

Another stall which attracted the attention of the public was that of the Welfare Foundation of the Blind. The Foundation provides secretarial training for 15 visually handicapped persons each year. K Ravindran, Secretary General of the Foundation, said "we are here to create awareness amongst the public about the capability of the visually handicapped. There are about 30 Post-Graduates and 15 M Phil degree holders who are still unemployed." He appealed to the Government to fill the jobs reserved for the blind and also hoped that the private sector would

Upgrading a National Highway

1. Left, Road-widening and strengthening just outside city limits, at

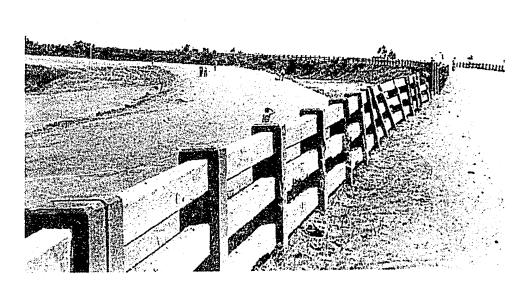
2. Right, The widened road at Chromepet awaits final clearing up

and road-topping operations.

St. Thomas' Mount.

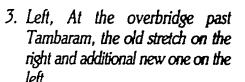












4. Right, Just by Standard Motors Perungulathur, all the shade trees have been brought down and the sun beats down mercilessly on a bare road awaiting completion.

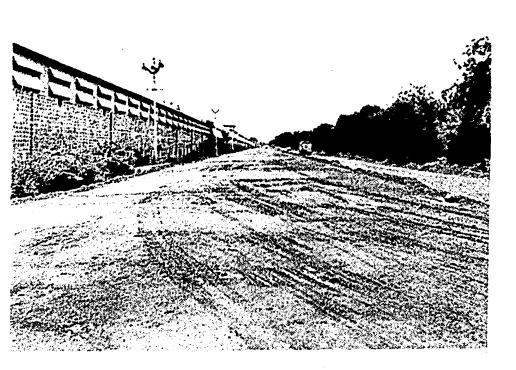
Mational Highway No. 45, the Great Southern Trunk Road, is a handsome road from Madras to Madurai, via Villupuram, Tiruchchirappalli and Dindigul. From Madurai, as NH 7, it stretches out to Land's End, Kanniya-

One of the busiest highways in the country, NH-45 is now undergoing major renovation to make it a four-lane highway, almost a motorway, throughout its length. The first stage, to Villupuram, is expected to be completed by year-end and the next two stages over the next couple of years.

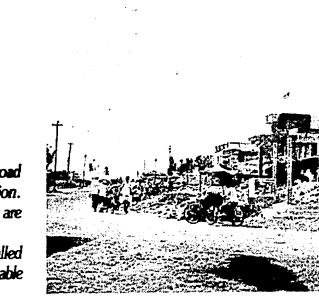
Photographer V S RAGHAVAN recently followed the highway out of Madras to Chengalpattu and these pictures reveal different aspects of the work in progress.

- 5. Left, Nearing Vandalur, the divided highway is clearly seen — as well as how work progresses on alternative halves.
- Right, A hillock before Chengalpattu has been gouged into, to widen the road and align it for a new by-pass road being built.











charges against him was that he had

made the company pay large bills for

trips made by him in luxury cars to

places of tourist interest, picnic spots etc.

- Left, The Chengalpattu by-pass road on the right is nearing completion. At least two other by-pass roads are being built before Tiruchi.
- 8. Right, Buildings have been pulled down at Singaperumalkoil to enable the road to be widened.



CV Narasimhan, who had a long and distinguished career as a police The slip that showed officer not only in his home state, Tamil Nadu, but also in Delhi, was once asked to investigate a charge of corruption against a senior officer of the During the investigation, the officer State Government. This officer was emphatically denied that he had ever alleged to have unduly favoured the made use of the hospitality of the owners of a Madras-based company for company. He told CVN that all the taxi many a favour in return. One of the trips were paid for by him, out of his

own pocket and personal earnings, and

that he was being accused out of sheer

professional envy. To prove his case

by Randor Guy

he produced a sheaf of vouchers showing that all the payments had been made by him to the taximen.

CVN examined the vouchers. which gave him the names and addressess of the taxi-drivers, vehicle owners and numbers of the vehicles. Never one to leave a stone unturned, the former DGP called in one of the taxi-drivers who produced his trip sheets, containing details of the officer's

and on the back of one of them, he found a long line of digits written in pencil. CVN instinctively felt they were a telephone number. On checking, he found it was the telephone number of the Madras-based company! The taximan thereupon made a statement that all his trips had been arranged and paid for by the company and not the official.

trips. CVN examined every trip sheet,

With this damaging evidence, the charges of corruption were proved and the guilty officer was punished according to law.

Services displayed opportunities best the career options in the defence forces

Insurance Corporation had stalls asking visitors to avail of their free tax counselling and insurance policies rather than focussing on career visas open in the banking and insurance sectors. A notable absentee in the service sector was the General Insurance Industry, which has varied career options (as Surveyors, Investigators, Recovery Agents etc.) for diploma holders and engineering graduates. There was also no information available about scholarships granted by the Central Government for Doctoral

and Post Doctoral studies abroad. However, there was a positive side, too. Especially at the stall highlighting forms, offered a verse: You are a 'Mahila' or a man There is no ban To be a policeman Join the CRPF Bandwagon.

The result of all this was that, on the penultimate day, more than 300 applications were received by the defence authorities for jobs in the armed

to attract women into starched uni-

and teachers. "Nothing but sweat,

glory of our career to be performing at

Kalakshetra on Rukmini Devi's birth

how the late Siddharth Buch had

drassed her to meet the ailing Rukmini

Devi in her last days and the warmth

shown to her by her guru. Rukmini

Devi had been hurt by their leaving

Kalakshetra. "It was a difficult decision

for me, but one I just had to take and

one I do not regret," says Dhanan-

iayan. The dance drama Shakuntalam

was being choreographed at the time

of his leaving in 1967 and Shantha

Shantha Dhananjayan remembers

anniversary.

The perils of being

It was an instant decision. The day her first grandchild was born. "My grands will call me Patti," she declared, most emphatically. "None of this Ammamma, Nainamma business. I love being just Patti." And so she is, to this day, to her dozen grandchildren.

Patti belongs to that breed of aristocracy, the breed that has seen English governesses who taught the kids propah English with the right British accent, rapping their knuckles if they burped loudly at the dining table or if they forgot to say 'please' or 'thank you'. Patti was the eldest of sixteen children, and obviously inherited the genes of a mother who didn't wilt or wither away due to the trauma of being in a state of constant abundancy while brats wailed in the background.

Patti, or Amma as she was called then, was the central iron pivot around which the whole household revolved. A strong dominant figure, who, in her own way, was devoted to her husband. Patti was the mainstay of life at Lakshmi Vilas, and had the pleasure of the last word in management of resources, doctoring domestic services. public relations, menu planning, interpersonal relationships and philosophical advice on how to weave the fabric of life with stoic courage and pragmatism. To her husband, a softspoken, easy-going man, Patti was a bulwark of strength in his lifetime.

Apart from an occasional wheeze when the weather 'came down', Patti was never one of those whimpering hypochondriacs and none in her family ever saw her relegated to bed except for a brief spell following a minor

A masala feast to spice up your everyday fare - Prawn. Cauliflower and Spinach Masalam, an excellent combination of seafood and

Eve's Touch

is the name of the women's fortnightly to be published from Madras shortly.

The prizewinners in the 'Name the Magazine Contest' are:

FIRST PRIZE: Rs. 1,000/-Eve's Touch Ms JULIANA PINTO, 'Pinto Villa'. 39 LDG Street, Little Mount, Madras-600 015.

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Ms KARTHIKA SRINIVASAN, SBK House, 17 Venkatapathi Street, Kilpauk, Madras-600 010.

Mr P S RAMESH KUMAR, 108 Bishop Heber Hall, Madras Christian College, Tambaram, Madras-600 059. (Each will receive Rs. 375) CONSOLATION PRIZE: Rs. 250/

Madhuri l Ms PAVITHRA, 5 V Main Road,

R A Puram, Madras-600 028.

Eve's Touch congratulates the prizewinners and thanks the hundreds who entered the competition.

If you are interested in receiving copy of Eve's Touch, OR if you wish to write for it

OR advertise in it, Write to: The Editor

EVE'S TOUCH

C/o. Nagaraj & Co. 153-A, Dr. Muthulakshmi Road | Madras-600 041.

Pātti

surgery. Patti had her own theory about her persistent good health. "It is all in the mind," she would say, tapping her forehead. When you reach higher planes — when you direct the prana to all the parts of your body and when you see the light — nothing can touch you. Her children attibuted her state of good health to her sense of detachment from cloying emotional ties, her zest for living and a will so strong that it hurt if you opposed it.

Twentyfive years ago, when her husband died, Patti was predictably shattered, but deemed herself free from the last vestiges of family bondage. She emerged as a buoyant, liberated character, doing her own thing, living her life as she thought it should be



"My foot, her strength is ebbing," shouted her son. "Did you notice the twinkle in her eye? Did you notice the comers of her mouth twitching? Didn't she smooth her hair and gaze at the

mirror as she spoke? It's just a trick,

the same old one she has tried on us

by Sabita Radhakrishna

Nobody would say she is pushing eighty. Plump and cuddly, her thick grey hair tied into a small knot at the nape of her neck, the babies of the house preferred Patti's lap and Patti's bosom to lean their heads on when they were tired and cranky, because both were so soft. "My days of baby sitting are long since done," she announced just as her daughter-in-law was leaving for office. "You'd better hire an ayah, my dear, for my strength is fast ebbing."

over and over again."

One day Patti decided to buy a car much against the advice of her children. "It is a good investment," she said airily! "Investment! So much good money down the drain," chorussed her sons. "You will want to borrow it one day," she remarked knowingly. And so they did. Patti made it clear they should put in the gas and also cough

IN THE panneer dish: Masala Peas. an easyto-make side-dish with fresh peas: and Vegetable Kababs (Oh, yes, you can make Kababs with vegetables!)

PRAWNS, CAULIFLOWER AND SPINACH MASALAM

vegetables; Malai Koftas, a crumbly

Ingredients

1 medium sized cauliflower, chopped into flowerets 1 bunch spinach, chopped line 1 cup cleaned prawns

2 large onions 2 large tomatoes _ small pieces

Garam masala

1" cinnamon powdered 3 cloves 2 cardamoms

1 small piece bay leaf (birinji leaf)

2 tsp chilli powder 2 isp dhaniya powder 14 tsp turmeric powder

1" piece ginger ground to 6-8 pods garlic_ 2 tbs oil

1 cup fresh coriander leaves, chopped

Salt to taste

Method

In a broad bottomed vessel, heat the oil. Add the garam masala and the onions and fry to a golden brown

Now add the jeera, ginger-garlic paste and fry for a minute. Add the cauliflower, spinach, prawns and tomatoes, the masala powders, one after the other. Keep on stirring till well

Add 1½ cups water and salt, and cook on slow fire till gravy is thick. Stironce or twice in between. Remove from fire, add the fresh coriander leaves. Cover and keep aside for 10 minutes.

Serve with plain rice or chappathis or idiappams.

Mrs P Raghupathy

up a moderate sum per day to cover "wear & tear." Six months later Patti decided to sell the car, but not before she got the car waxed and the upholstery polished till it shone.

Patti summoned the shrewdest of commission.'

The ad was inserted in the Sunday paper and there was a gleam in Patti's son's eyes as he drove the car away. Here was a chance to make easy money — at least 7000!! In a week's time the car was sold by a harrassed young man who was flooded with calls from prospective buyers who would

"I'll let you into a secret, my dear." she turned to me, her eyes twinkling. "I bought the car for only 30. My petrol expenses were covered by my children. I spent another 7000 by way of repairs, so I made a clean 2000 profit. And didn't even have the bother of haggling for a good price!"

lady's personality.

mushrooms. Finally sprinkle the garam

medium onion ground to a piece ginger

1 Isp sugar 2 tbs oil

Method

For the kofta 1 litre milk, curdled into fresh panneer

2 tsp com flour 1 tbs raisins tsp fresh ginger, scraped and grated

MALAI KOFTAS

Pinch of soda bicarbonate. 1/2 teaspoon kala jeera, powdered 1 green chilli, chopped fine

Oil for frying

For the gravy 1 onion ½ piece ginger ground 2 tsp. poppy seeds 2 or 3 red chillies 8-10 small mushrooms, chopped

1 bay leaf

1/2 Isp lurmeric powder 1/2 cup fresh curd (well mixed) 1 tsp garam masala

Salt to taste 2 tbs oil

Method

Boil milk, add juice of a lemon till whey separates. Tie in a muslin bag. Break up the panneer, add com flour, kala jeera, chopped green chillies, salt, shredded ginger, soda bicarbonale, knead well. Make balls placing a raisin

in the centre. Deep fry till golden. Set aside. Heat the two tablespoons oil. Sauté the mushrooms. Lift out and set aside.

In the same oil add the bay leaf. Fry the ground masala, adding haldi power till oil separates.

Add 1/2 cup of hot water, well mixed curd, salt and chopped ginger Simmer for a minute or two.

Add the koftas and simmer for a couple of minutes. Add the sautéd

her sons. "I just want 40 grand for the car, "she said. "It just covers what I paid for the car plus the reconditioning. Whatever extra you get is yours as

not budge further than 39000.

Reluctantly he handed over the money to his mother. A week's effort for nothing! Oh well, he was rid of the bother and his mother breathing down

I tried not to giggle, realising as I did that business acumen is just another of the facets of this 'young' old

masala. Serve hot.

MASALA PEAS 2 cups shelled peas

4-6 cloves garlic 1 tsp red chilli powder

Salt to taste

Heat oil. Add the paste and sugar Sauté for a minute or two.

Add the peas, chilli powder, salt and sufficient water.

Close with a lid and simmer till peas are tender.

Serve hot. VEGETABLE KABABS

2 large potatoes, boiled and mashed 1/4 cup bengal gram dal, boiled, drained

and mashed 2 carrots, peeled and chopped line 1 cup cauliflower flowerets

20-25 beans, chopped line 2 onions, chopped fine 6-8 green chillies, chopped fine 1 tsp cummin seeds powdered 2 cloves

1 small stick cinnamon 1 egg, beater 3 or 4 tbs oil 1 small bunch coriander leaves,

chopped fine Oil for shallow frying.

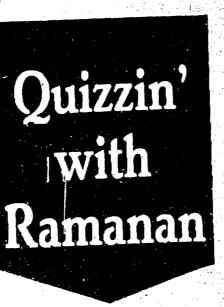
Method

Heat oil. Sauté the onions and green chillies. Add the chopped vegetables and salt. Sprinkle some water, close with a lid and simmer till vegetables are done and dry.

Add the mashed potato and bengal gram dhal. Add the powdered masala, chopped coriander and beaten egg. Mix

Shape into kababs and shallow fry in a tawa till golden. Serve hot.

these words? Chandra Padmanabhan (Answers on page 8)



February 16-28, 1993

(Quizmaster V.V. RAMANAN'S questions are all from the fortnight January 16-31st).

- 1. Can you name the LTTE ship, with Kittu on board, which was intercepted by the Indian Navy?
- 2. What first in DD's history did Salaam Bombay, telecast on January 21st, achieve?
- Who was the only player from Tamil Nadu to don India's colours at the Tenth Jawaharlal Nehru Gold Cup football tourney played in Madras?
- 4. Which head of state was the guest at this year's Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi?
- 5. 'My Fair Lady' who had a superb 'Roman Holiday' passed away recently. Who?
- 6. Name the battered Dutch oiltanker whose oil spill threatened Car Nicobar island recently?
- Who was the controversial choice Bill Clinton made for the AG's post and then had to withdraw her nomination at the last moment?
- 8. Why was Satish Chandra Pandey in the news?
- 9. Which trio of siblings created history at the Australian Open tennis championships by reaching the round of 16?
- The annual exhibition on career guidance for students and parents, organised by the University of Madras, is called...?
- 1. The 'Ashok Chakra', the nation's highest civilian award, has most recently been awarded posthumously to?
- 12. Where in Madras has a state-ofthe-art clock tower been set up by M/s Simpson & Co.?
- 13. Which Indian cricketer made his test 'debut' for the second time at Calcutta against the English team?
- Which part of Madras is covered by the Environmental Society's 'Mosquito Control' programme?
- 15. Who is the new president of the Czech Republic?
- 16. Can you name the DIG of A.P. police who was killed by Naxalites on January 27th?
- Name the two newspapers against which John Major, the British PM, has instituted libel suits? 18. By how much has the issue price
- Which noted Russian painter, and the husband of screen legend Devika Rani, passed away on lanuary 30th?

of PDS rice in Tamil Nadu been

20. "All I can say is that it has been one hell of a ride. There is a time to stay and a time to go and a time to fold." Who signed off with

A homecoming for the Dhananjayans

The return of the prodigal son? No, it is a homecoming, according to dancer Dhananiayan. Twentyfive years after leaving Kalakshetra in search of greener pastures, V P Dhananjayan and his wife Shantha have been invited to dance at the Kalakshetra auditorium on the birth anniversary of their mentor, Rukmini Devi Arundale.

"I had to leave Kalakshetra because I stood up for the rights of artists, but I have always remained loyal to the values taught there. I have not forgotten the way Rukmini Devi moulded me and Shantha and we have a fund of memories of her creative genius at work, while she choreographed her early dance dramas. We are proud to have belonged to Kalakshetra at a time when landmark developments were

walls bordering the lane with daubs,

strokes and throws of oil paint and

brush, diligently filling in charcoal

outlines with their artistic perception,

while the walls literally changed colour

and took on shades of art nouveau, art

eclectic, art traditional, impressionistic,

contemporary, spontaneous and art

tongue-in-cheek! It was a colourful and

creative dialogue between child artist

and wall, reflecting the gamut of a

child's experience from blossoming trees

and limpid ponds to the flights of birds

and animals, thrusting temple gopurams

and sleepy rural huis, and holding a

mirror to how a contemporary child

looks upon the goings-on in the world.

Flashes of humour too surfaced with

a pie-bald man mouthing, "I'm sure my

the Director of Max Mueller Bhavan

hit upon the idea of brightening up the

bare street walls leading to the Bhavan

by inviting the city children to cover

them with murals and paintings, give

vent to their creative impulses, provide

the Madras street scene a bright new

look as well as have themselves a ball!

Which is what young Vishnupriya,

spastic and slightly speech-impaired,

seemed to be doing while telling us all

about her eloquent mint-green tree-

scape. "My tree has birds, Miss, and

my birds have babies and the baby

birds have beaks and see, see, the beaks

have worms and...!" Close by, young

Dhanasekhar, also from the Spastic

Society of India, had created a para-

disical garden, brilliant with flowers,

while severely spastic Anantha-

spread slowly on the wall, with a little

help from his teacher. He was intent

It all began three years ago when

baldness is due to acid rain...

The view from the wings by V.R. Devika

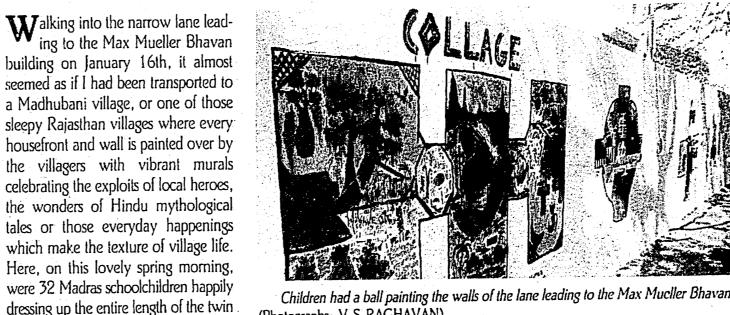
happening in the world of dance and are proud to have received the best of Kalakshetra training. Rukmini Devi's spirit has always inspired us whenever we work on our choreography," speak the Dhananjayans nostalgically in one

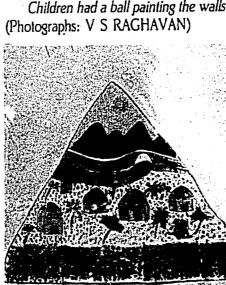
They have worked against all odds after leaving Kalakshetra and all their

hard work bore fruit when they became internationally recognised as performers was appropriately pregnant for the role

The flowers that

Walking into the narrow lane leading to the Max Mueller Bhavan building on January 16th, it almost





on his work, anxious, excited and bursting with the joy of creativity Oh, the agony and ecstacy of it all!

Do a child's concerns reveal the shape of things to come? If so, the composite wall collage, depicting environmental care, National Integration, communal harmony, love of nature, caring for animal, birds, flowers and forest, boded well for the future!

Love of the beauties of nature seemed the central theme of many paintings with a serious message to care for the environment. Ashmika Amar and Arati Jayaram had created a colourful collage about pollution, caring for animals and the oneness of all religions. Malcolm from Sherwood House had painted a springlime scenario and said that he loved to paint nature. Five-year-old Sylvio's creativity expressed itself in a big golden smudge on his nose and an equally bright sun shining on the wall. He told me that he loved ponds and fish as well, both which filled his mural space! krishnan's colourful labour of love... Aparajita Ramriath from DAV School was busily painting a lovely aquamarine pond filled with starfish and

goldfish, while Iris Rajanayakam was a little shy to tell me what the message of her painting was, but it featured the sea and lots of palmtrees and jagged hills and, she said, there was still more

Festivals beckoned with Janaki' joyful Pongal scene, Mrinalini Venkat's temple silhouette was compelling, while for Priyadma Venkatesh it had been Ganesha always. Her Ganesha was beautifully executed, the charcoal outline waiting to be fleshed out. But for Ramesh from PS Secondary School it was an abstract trip. His study was an interesting juxtaposition of a traditional deepam with impressionistic daubs and throws of painting, adding up to a rather dramatic half-finished mural. For those in need of expert advice and help, there was Vasudha Thozhur, artist-coordinator of the entire creative exercise.

As the day grew, so did the definite shape of the murals and paintings and the excitement and frenzy of the young artists. At 2 o'clock, when the last child packed his paints and brush, the walls stood bright and beckoning. Almost as though a fairy godmother had splashed around with all the dreams of a child. Had they enjoyed painting up the street walls? The chorus of "Yes!" was deafening!

Next year, around the same time, the walls would be whitewashed, and 32 more children would get an opport unity to express artistic talents, and thousand more flowers would bloom again in a liny portion of the city streetscape.



Dhananjayan and Shantha... back to beginnings (Photo courtesy: AVINASH PASRICHA) of Shakuntala. He let her finish the festivals. One by L Subramaniam and

the other conducted by the Fine Arts performance and then they left. Foundation on the Shiva theme. Editing Dhananjayan worked as a clerk at has unfortunately combined the two. TTK's in those days and used to rush The decor done by Ramani was for home to get ready for his evening the dance lestival on the Shiva theme classes and rehearsals. Two and a half organised by the Fine Arts Foundation decades later, a highly successful (India) at the Mylapore Fine Arts Club Dhananjayan and Shantha, along with and **NOT** for L Subramaniam's talented second son Satyajit; dedicate Lakshminarayana art festival held at the their dance programme to Rukmini Music Academy. Devi Arundale on February 28th. On Editor's Note: The error is the 27th, there will be a Camatic vocal concert by Chellam lyengar and on regretted. March 1st there will be the dance Dates tor drama Gita Govindam choreographed by Rukmini Devi. The three programmes for the Rukmini Devi birth

6.30 p.m. each day.

Petty politicking

Cholamandal Artists' Village, a

K C S Panikar, is said to be the only

one of its kind in the world where

contemporary artists live and work

together and share gallery and work-

shop facilities. It now seems to be

The Max Mueller Bhavan, which

has supported the artists and the village

for over two decades with various

shows, programmes, workshops,

fellowships and hadeven built it a guest

house, had to choose a venue just

outside Cholamandal when petty poli-

ticking made it impossible for it to hold

Director Schindler of the Max

Mueller Bhavan explained that the

German and Indian artists. was an idea

mooted by artist S G Vasudev three

years ago. It was to have been a part

of the Festival of Germany in India

which has been postponed. When the

Artists' Village committee wanted a say

participating in the camp. Max Mueller

Bhavan decided to have the camp at

Parinam, a place owned by manage-

ment consultant and theatre person

NS Yamuna. Cholamandal's loss is

and did up the venue for the camp with

a newly-built platform for an inaugural

dance programme by Alarmel Valli on

February 7th. The soft breeze from the

sea: the starlit sky and the explosive

energy of Alarmel Valli seemed an

idyllic combination, what with a Full

Moon in the sky. The evening

promised great things, but the

fluctuating power disturbed not only the

sound system but Valli as well and she

Yamuna is a hard-working hostess

Yamuna's gain.

programme.

an artists' camp there.

undergoing an identity crisis.

unique experiment founded by

Your Diary anniversary celebrations (she was born on February 29, 1904) will be held at the Kalakshetra auditorium in

February: 'Artist of the Month', Anita Chakraborty from Calcutta, exhibits her Thiruvanmiyur and will begin at prints at MMB.

Feb. 16 to 20: The Beatles, an exhibition of Beatles' posters, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the release of their first single 'Love Me Do'. The exhibition will include a Beatles video and, on Fridaye Feb. 19 at 7 pm a musical tribute to the Beatles by Nemesis Avenue, the popular Rock Band. All are welcome to visit the exhibition but admission to the concert will be by invitation, from Reception

Feb. 22: Concert by the Arcis Quintet (German Wind Quintet) at the Museum Theatre, 7.00 p.m. (Passes ICCR and

Desk. (10 am to 7 pm daily at B.C.)

(A.F. — Alliance Française; B.C. — British Council: M.M.B. — Max Mueller Bhavan: M.A. - Music Academy.

BULL'S EYE

entered into a technical collaboration with Luke Enterprises, Taiwan, which is engaged in the production of aquatic feed. Apart from artists' camp, The Faces of Man, with supplying the technology to farmers, the company has set up its own plant. TWL will consume 58 per cent of the total production in house and the balance will be sold to either individual farmers or companies. The company has installed the latest technology in its processing plants, which will enable it to acquire the No. 1 in the selection of the Indian artists position in this field. In addition to the conventional plate freezing line, the plant also includes an IQF (Individual Quick Freezing) facility. This project should have commenced production by now. The share. which opened at Rs. 55, has steadily declined to current levels. It can be picked up as soon as the sentiment improves. With the business experience of the Thapars. success is almost a certainty - hence we recommend buying of this share for long-

> Mac Industries Ltd (CMP Rs. 62.00): This M A Chillambaram group company which went public in October '92. to part-finance its aquaculture and warehouse project, seems to be ever on an expansion spree. The company plans to market SPIC fertilisers and extend warehousing facilities to processed frozen shrimp. fruit and vegetables. It is also putting up an integrated aquafarm in Tuticorin with feedmills and hatcheries. Under the chemicals division, it intends to develop and market enzymes which find use in the detergent industry. An integrated palm oil project is also being implemented. The company i likely to acquire another aquafarm in Nellore for undertaking shrimp culture. With such ambitious plans, the future of the company appears to be bright. The tumover is envisaged to cross the Rs. 300 cr. mark within four years' time. At an estimated EPS of Rs. 7, the financials support a price of Rs. 85 for March '93.

decided to finish with a Tillanna after the invocation. Gentle persuasion made her agree to do an Abhinaya also. Valli. who regained her lost mood and thereafter gave her usual spirited performance, said later that it must have been the fact that she left home at Rahukalam that disturbed the

Correction Devika writes: In the MM issue of February - Pushpa Chari I I had written about two different

(Continued from P4)



To practice in Madras, a High Jump champion has to set up the equipment herself or himself — and cope with an apology for a sand pit!

A few more days for

an answer to the question:

Whither the T.N. turf?

With the validity of the former Tamil Nadu Government's takeover of the Madras Race Club coming up before the Supreme Court on February 24th there is considerable speculation on what is in store for the Tamil Nadu turf.

If the court decides that the takeover was wrong, well and good. The Madras Race Club, the country's oldest turf club, will return to life and will, it is hoped, lift horse-racing in the State out of the dumps into which it has fallen. Any other decision will be an occasion for the DMK to celebrate, for it was the first Karunanidhi government that had abolished racing. What will Chief Minister Jayalalitha then do?

From all accounts, the Jayalalitha government is keen on giving back racing to the M.R.C., which had conducted it for over two centuries. For the State government has sustained heavy losses since it took over the M.R.C. and organised racing at both Guindy and Ooty.

As all the racing world knows, since the Tamil Nadu Government took over the M.R.C. over a decade ago, the Tamil Nadu turf had more than once been hanged — and resurrected. The sport is now being run under a stay order granted by the Supreme Court. The court constituted a management committee of equal numbers of members of the State government and the M.R.C. to take charge of the conduct of racing. It also ordered the appointment of a Custodian to supervise the running of the sport.

Mainly responsible for the resurrection of the sport, taking the matter to the Supreme Court, was the former

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. m.v. Ahat; 2. It has sub-titles in seven languages: 3. Syed Sabir Pasha: 4. The British PM. John Major: 5. Audrey Hepburn: 6. Maersk Navigator: 7. Ms Zoe Baird: 8. He tried to hijack a New Delhi-Lucknow Indian Airlines flight; 9. The Maleeva sisters - Manuela, Katerina and Magdalena; 10. INFORMEX; 11. Second Lieutenant Rakesh Singh: 12. At the junction of Radhakrishnan Salai and Kamrajar Salai: 13. S. Venkatraghavan; 14. The area between Boat Club and YMCA in South Madras; 15. Vaclav Havel; 16. K.S. Vyas: 17. New Statesman and Society and Scallywag: 18.75 paise: 19. Svetoslav Roerich; 20. George Bush.

M.R.C. Chairman, M.A.M. Ramaswamy. On the opening day of the season that followed the Supreme Court ruling. Guindy presented an unforgettable scene. Huge cutouts of Ramaswamy, and banners hailing the return of the sport to its ancient headquarters, filled the arena. Sweets were distributed by both the M.R.C. employees and the public.

Unfortunately, the Tamil Nadu Government's Department of Racing has failed to maintain the sport's popularity. There has been a steady fall in both attendance and investment, and hence, in the D.O.R.'s takings as well.



Even the enhancement of the betting tax to 30 per cent, the highest in the country, has not brought the D.O.R. any worthwhile relief. The fact that the jackpot pool this season hit its lowestever total, and its average size has seldom exceeded the Rs. 20,000 mark as compared to the Rs. one lakh-plus quantums of the not too distant past, tells its own tale of the nosedive the Guindy turf has taken. Nothing indeed illustrates the decline of the Madras turf more emphatically than the irrefutable fact that while a Guindy jackpot pool lingers round the Rs. 20,000/- mark, the off-course pool on a Bombay, Bangalore or Hyderabad jackpot invariably touches the Rs. 1 lakh mark.

If any more proof was needed about the Tamil Nadu turf's decline, it was provided by the annual bloodstock sale held at Guindy last month. It was numerically and qualitatively the poorest ever held in Madras. Until recently, nearly all the country's leading stud farms used to be represented. As a result, the number of two-year-olds that not only came under the auctioneer's hammer but also changed hands in private deals used to touch the double century mark. The fact that their number did not cross the halfcentury mark at the 1993 sale was a sad commentary on the local turf's deteriorating status. It is no wonder that the government is stated to be keen on giving racing back to the M.R.C.

The next few days will decide the future of the Tamil Nadu turf.

The loneliness of a high jumper

A splendid performance was turned in by a 15-year-old girl at the 1987 National Games in Trivandrum. With seven smooth strides and a slight 'kick up', the slip of a girl sailed over the high jump crossbar perched at 1.72 m. And a new National record was set. A few weeks ago, she was six years older and a little better built, but she was still setting national records. This time she cleared 1.77 m. The progress has been slow, but N Angela Lincy Vasantha-kumari, from Nazareth in Tirunvelveli-Kattabomman District, is surely one of South Asia's best high jumpers.

Ever since 1987. Angela Lincy has been rewriting the record books. Till date, she had set six National records and six National meet records. It is not rare for Indian women to set new marks regularly on the track or in the pool. But it is rare for an Indian girl to excel for so long in a field sport like high jump. And that is why Angela Lincy is exceptional.

The first time she came on the National scene was as a 12-year-old - and she immediately caught the eye. She finished second in the 1984 Inter-State Meet. At 14, she was second in the 1986 Nationals at Chandigarh. The next year, at the Schools' National Games in Assam, she set a meet record, clearing 1.62 m. and, later the same year, set a new national schools record in Trivandrum. That was also the year she won the South Asian Federation Games title with a record jump of 1.68 m. In the 1991 SAF Games, she was stricken with a food problem and had to be content with the silver. At the Asian Track and Field Meet in 1989 she was fifth (1.70 m) and in the '91 Games she was sixth, with a identical jump. A notable feature of

Angela's athletics career is that not once has she participated in a junior event in India! All her achievements have been in the senior category!!

Angela's parents, both teachers, have encouraged her from the time she was a child. Her father, Nelson Durai Pandian, dreamed of making one of his children an outstanding sportsperson. Spotting Angela's talent, he started coaching her. Later, J Shahju took over as her coach. And Angela's mother spurred her on.

Like most Indian high jumpers, Angela started and stayed with the traditional 'straddle' style of jumping. Though her performance graph showed a tremendous increase during the initial years, it began to stagnate at around 1.75 m during the last three years. That was when Angela decided to switch to the 'Fosbury Flop' style. She was a couple of years late in effecting the change: it was also not possible to master the basic techniques overnight. While practising the Flop, she was even injured. But it has at last paid off.

Angela would like to practise this technique more under the watchful eye of her only coach, Shahju. But he is in Tirunelveli. And she is employed as an officer in the Indian Bank in Madras. A transfer would help. But no one's smiled on her wishes favourably.

Unlike track events, where excellence depends on stamina and alertness at the starting blocks, technique plays a vital role in the high jump. The way the athlete strides to the crossbar, then the 'kick up', stretching the legs over the bar and landing are each important in the high jump. No amount of practice will help unless there is a coach to pinpoint the flaws in the techniques. But official indifference to these needs has reflected in Angela's slow progress.

"At times I feel like ending my sports career. I would have improved so much working with Shahju," sadly sighs Angela.

The Tamil Nadu Amateur Athletic Association has also not helped. The official apathy to the high jump is reflected by the fact that there is not even a single bed for the high jumpers to land on safely. With sand landing pits, high jumpers have to think about landing safe even before striding towards the bar. That naturally impedes the athlete's will to soar higher. Further, it is not safe to attempt the Fosbury Flop in a sand pit.

Nevertheless, Angela keeps going. It is a sad sight to see Angela carrying the high jump poles to the sand pit herself whenever she practises at the Rajarathinam Stadium. There's no one to help her, guide her. "Yes. I thought of saying goodbye to the high jump. But then I said I must prove myself in the international arena and started practising again," says the indomitable Angela Lincy, as she begins her daily, lonely practice schedule that includes hurdles, running and weights.

Apart from high jumping, Angela's hobby is... Music? Cinema? Books? A big NO to all these! Softspoken Angela laughs aloud when she says, "My hobby is my doll collection" and hastens to add, "My father frowns on it"

Her determination to win a medal at the next Asian Track and Field Meet is what keeps her going, preventing her from even finding the time to write her B.A. History (Correspondence) exams. "But there's time for that after I get that medal," says the 'angel' who won't give up. — V. Jagannathan



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