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METAL CUTTING TOOLS

Vol. II. No. 24

FREE ISSUE — EVERY FORTNIGHT

April 1 — 15, 1993

Building for the future. Vision Future: 2000

(By A Staff Reporter)

The State's Public Works Department once again proclaimed with full-page advertising its excellence, the presentation implying that it was all due to the Chief Minister's blessings. Thus, "one of the oldest government departments in Tamil Nadu.... has been the prime mover of a variety of services to the people of Tamil Nadu... since 1865. Today, it's a gigantic department with myriad functions designed for the State's upliftment":

Unfortunately, these functions do not include any in the city, unless it is hired as a contractor. Those functions in the city are the prerogative of the Corporation or the Madras Metropolitan Development Authority. And

All's well with Madras printing

(By A Staff Reporter)

All's well with South Indian, and particularly Madras, print quality again, to judge by the exhibits from the region selected to be shown at the recent International Print Congress held in New Delhi. In recent years, printers from Delhi and Bombay had tended to dominate Indian print competitions and exhibitions, with erstwhile leaders Madras and Calcutta having little to show for their pains. But now the South, and particularly Madras were very much in the public eye again at this exhibition.

Four printers from Madras were among the award winners, against twelve each from Bombay and Delhi and five from Calcutta. Other parts of the South were also well represented, there being six award winners from Bangalore, one each from Hyderabad, Sivakasi and Manipal and two from Tiruppur.

Leading the Madras prize-winners were Lokavani-Hall Mark (publishers of Madras Musings) and sister company Southern Offset. Together they had eight entries selected for exhibition. From your Editor's point of view, Madras Musings was, sadly, not among them. Perhaps next time?

they have scheduled the following:

★ Widening of Binny Bridge, next to the Connemara, to accommodate four-lane traffic. The work on this 1825 bridge was scheduled to start 18 months ago, but has just got underway and will finish before the end of the year. There will be a 23 m carriageway instead of the present 8.3 m one. Cost, Rs. 1.5 crores.

★ Subway at Harrington Road, beneath the level crossing.Cost,Rs.3cr

★ Other subways, on Bazaar Road, Saidapet, near Korukkupet railway station, and on Monegar Choultry Road in Royapuram.

★ The Madley Road subway in T'Nagar is to be completed by September this year.

★ Bridge on Red Hills Road, over the railway line, near the Villivakkam Railway Station.

In all, it is reported, the Corporation intends to spend Rs. 30 crores on road and traffic improvement projects this year. It could do with a bit of that blessed help from the PWD and its Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation, if only that institution could spare time from monument construction. At present, it doesn't appear to have even the time to save the University's Senate House from the trees growing from its walls.

Be that as it may, these undoubtedly are tiny steps towards Madras Vision 2000. And any step towards that end in this little-cared-for city must be welcome.

More lignite found in T.N.

(By A Staff Reporter)

There's good news for all those power plants being planned for Tamil Nadu with crores of investment from home and abroad. More lignite has been found in Tamil Nadu, making it almost as rich as Bihar in coal.

The finds have been near Lalpettai, in coastal South Arcot District, and the lignite layer has been assessed as being 5 metres thick. Geological Survey of India scientists also feel these deposits are a pointer to the possibility of there being lignite reserves all along the east coast, down to Rameswaram.

Are there happy days ahead for power-short Tamil Nadu?



The cover of the overseas edition of Dakshin by Chandra Padmanabhan (above) and (below) the new picture spreads that will feature in it. All the dishes for the photographs were made by two Indian chels in Sydney, Australia, where the book is under editorial preparation.









Dakshin grabs attention abroad

(By A Staff Reporter)

Who says Vikram Seth is the only Indian to hog the international bookshelves? The word is out that a part-time housewife, part-time accountant and part-time magazine publisher from Madras is also going to grab some of that shelf space over the next few weeks. And Madras Musings couldn't be happier, for it was in its pages that Chandra Padmanabhan first began writing a regular cookery columns.

That cookery column developed into Dakshin, a well-received cookbook on South Indian vegetarian cooking that Rupa and HarperCollins teamed together to produce in India a little over six months ago. The book, now into its third edition, was spotted on the Delhi bookshelves (a few weeks ago) by a Harper-Collins executive from America holidaying in India and he thought there'd be an American market for this step-by-step approach to making South Indian cooking easy. HarperCollins Australia, which was planning to introduces a series on Regional Cuisines, pounced on his interest and grabbed Dakshin to launch its series.

Dakshin, now in an entirely new coffee-table format, will shortly hit the stands in the US, Canada, the UK and Australia with 15,000 copies priced at around US \$25 each. The new Dakshin is being launched after every one of its nearly 150 recipes were tested by two Indian chefs in Sydney and over 100 of them were simultaneously photographed to make this the most lavishly illustrated Indian cookbook ever. If Rupa's Rajan Mehra proves persuasive enough, a few of these copies may find their way to India. And who knows, K S and Gautam Padmanabhan of Affiliated East-West, Madras, Chandra Padmanabhan's husband and son respectively, and Rupa's southern distributors, may even get a chance to put the international success on Madras and other southern bookshelves.

The successful sale of the title to the international market also got notice in Pritish Nandy's Zee TV programme 'Fiscal Fitness'. Discussing with Indian publishers the way Indian publishing would go in the next couple of years, Nandy found a beaming Mehra produce the international cover of Dakshin (see picture) and say this was the way it would go, with the sale of Indian titles to the international book market.

Terry Kitson, Chairman, HarperCollins, UK, who was recently in Madras with some of the lay-outs done in Australia (see pictures alongside), said that the new Dakshin was being printed in Hong Kong and its quality would "match the best in the world". It certainly will look prettier than A Suitable Boy won't it, Chandra Padmanabhan?

TAILPIECE: Chandra Padmanabhan, who monitors the AEW accounts, is the determined publisher of Indian Review Of Books, a unique review journal focussing on books available in Indian bookshops. In between all this, she's started work on Dakshin II, paying more attention to the non-Brahmin vegetarian cuisine of the South. Who'll now do Dakshin, nonvegetarian?

Dhaya Gopinath's series on

AIDS in Madras Musings over

the past few months has

prompted ANAMIKA to send in

this bit of verse.

Right from day one I wed,:

No affair or illicit lover,

In total ignorance,

I took the stance

Will have to face

This four-letter menace,

Sitting in my Ivory Tower.

That only Junkies and Gays,

So why worry about AIDS?

Till after a routine blood test.

The mail said that I had HIV

I have shed some of my lears.

l am glad that my husband died

And is no longer by my side,

Now washed ashore

As I count the score.

To share this indignity.

In anguish and agony,

Why poor innocent ME?

By my own tears,

Smugly I thought, "Why should I?

Stunned, I cry and wonder why!

I stayed true to my nuptial bed,

Is this reasonable?

In your issue of March 1-15, you invited suggestions on how Madras could be run without increases in tax. It is not possible to make any useful suggestions as no details

of the Corporation Budget or heads of

expenses are known. However, I suggest

that the Corporation would get easier and

more 'cheerful' compliance, and avoid court

action, if it stuck to its assurance through

the Press that reassessments would be

the following to be "reasonable" increase?

I am the Trustee of a Charitable Trust

property at 154/155 Village Road and its

tax has been re-assessed at 13 times the

present rate! I am the Secretary of the Guru

Nanak School and the Guru Nanak College,

Velachery Road, the property taxes of which

have been re-assessed at 8 times and 30

times the present rates respectively!

MMWSSB taxes, of course, increase cor-

Lt Gen I S Gill

Madras 600 028.

31 South Bank Road

respondingly. Is this "reasonable"?

The correct times

the present assessments" etc.

"reasonable", "equitable," "possibly double

Would you and your readers consider

World-Marg poll not only astounded The Man From Madras Musings, but also clearly demonstrated once again that, as far as the rest of India is concerned, the South is altogether a different country. The poll was conducted to find out how senior private and public sector executives rated the leaders of INDIAN corporate organisations. And of the final 14, the only one from the South was Vijay Mallya and he finished 13th.

What intrigued MMM wasthat the survey had, preliminary to the main poll, rated the KNOWLEDGE those polled had of a select list of 22 CEOs — and they appeared to have the least knowledge about Venu Srinivasan, A C Muthiah, Suresh Krishna and A M M Arunachalam. These four, the only ones from the South in the list, apart from Mallya, apparently "brought up the tail". And as for A Sivasailam, it would appear that not even the pollsters had heard of him; he didn't figure even in the preliminary list. That, of course, would please him no end; his cloak of invisibility would appear to have been perfectly tailored.

With the South out of the business leadership picture, the top slot was filled by Ratan Tata

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IN MEMORIAM

BOOKS

heading a group with lower profits in almost all its units). Then follow K L Chugh, D Ambani (who should have been an easy winner if he hadn't rated low in the public perceptions of his honesty and integrity, his ability to attract and retain talent and his industrial relations policy), S M Datta, A Birla, R Bajaj, D Seth, A B Godrej, Illrani, L M Thapar, H V Goenka, Nusli Wadia, Vijay Mallya and M R Chabbria. How many of them do YOU have any 'knowledge' of?

A think-tank in Delhi has been busy assessing the secularity of various institutions in the country and their policies. Amongst those assessed has been the Press. And in that assessment, The Statesman, Calcutta, and The Hindu, our very own, have been judged, according to one commentator, "The finest standardbearers of secularism among the English language

Apparently the saffron brigade has not been taking these assessments with equanimity. It commissioned its own survey and, says one report of those

itself The Muslim'! And, adds the writer, "As for the Calcutta daily, which also has a Delhi edition,there is no doubt it will be tickled pink (or as Rambhakts would say, green) with the accolade".

The Diarist of a daily that didn't quite make either list, but who reported the above gleefully, pontificates in conclusion: "...the best thing for a newspaper is to receive no praise from either side. Then it can be sure it is doing a balanced job of it. The truth, rather than this or that 'ism', must prevail." Now how's that for the height of

ACME's slow start

The Man From Madras Musings remembers that when MM started just two

Management Excellence (ACME),

and that it would be set up in the

progress since then under

Chairman of the Governing

Council, N Vaghul of ICICI, and

Director Ramu Iyer who once

headed IIM, Calcutta And earlier

this year ACME was inaugurated

with a colloquium on 'Globali-

sation — The Management Res-

ponse'. Now a short-term course

- or would it be better to call it

a workshop? — is being planned

and will be organised by the

faculty that has already been

recruited. Such courses, work-

shops and seminars will be held

at the !CICI conference rooms

and other such centres till ACME

expected to start later this year,

a substantial amount of the

funding having already been

received. Once the buildings are

up, there will be offered a one-

year accelerated MBA course to

begin with and then — and as an

alternative — the regular two-

year course. At that time, the

aim of ACME will be to become

"one of the best business schools

in the world," Vaghul stated

happen in course of time and

while wishing ACME well, The

Man From Madras Musings only

wishes that progress was a little

faster. Speed is of the essence in

modern international manage-

ment — and speed is something

that is generally foreign to us in

India. MMM wishes ACME had

shown that here was at last an

organisation in India thinking in

Vetanother Indian trade team

(which is how President Prema-

dasa would like his country's

name to be spelt) and returned

brimming full of hope. The team

had been warmly received at the

third meeting of the revived

Indo-Shri Lanka Joint Business

Council. There was much the

recently visited Shri Lanka

faster terms than the rest.

Getting closer

While certain that will

recently.

Work on that campus is

gets its own campus.

There's been slow but steady

Taramani area.

traveller from Tirupati to Rameswaram by way of Madras the view expressed at the (Mamallapuram), Chidambaram, meeting. A trade, commerce and Pondicherry, Tiruchi and industry protocol — drawn up by Madurai (Kodaikanal). an ex-diplomat settled in Madras - was discussed and, from all reports, the South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement

 Which major industrial group with initials far-removed from its roots is trying to revive those early initials with an exportoriented unit whose activities range from shipping a couple of containers full of cashew from Panruti to pappadams, tea and snacks?

• The old 'red ladies', edged with a buff border, are back in town. But The Man From Madras Musings is going to miss Pallavan Transport's buses in two shades of soft green. Those shades lent a touch of sophistication to Madras roads, but will soon vanish as those buses are phased out. The new ones are being painted a deep crimson admittedly an improvement on the scarlet of yore — which tends to be not only a trifle loud but also jarring. But whatever the colour of its buses, Pallavan Transport has an enviable reputation to live up to — the best bus service in India, at least in terms of reach. And new colours won't hide any old failings.

• Did you know that much of Miss Beatty's Children, which opened the recent International film festival in Delhi, had a lot of Tamil Nadu connections? Much of it was shot in the Nagercoil area, Emma Sanderson, daughter of the British Council's

The NFDC-funded film was

its second after Richard Atten-

borough's Gandhi but doesn't

promise to be anywhere near as

successful. It was made by

Pamela Rooks who was a Juneja

from Delhi born in Calcutta and

who had married film-maker

Conrad Rooks. It was while that

American film-maker was

making Siddharth that Juneja,

then a reporter for Dateline

Delhi, met him when she went

to interview him. They married,

Does confidential mean anonymity? Representative in South India, Arthur Sanderson, had a cameo role in it which involved driving Not knowing what to say, a vintage car, and his wife, Izzy I try to keep at bay, Sanderson — well-known in The advent of the evil day. Madras for her pantomimes ask the Almighty, did the costuming.

— Anamika

Fighting bad laws

OUR READERS WRITE

Trefer to your front page write-up titled How do we run Madras? (MM, March 1). People do not generally resist taxes unless they are felt to be harsh and are wrongly levied. The present protests against the professional tax and property tax by various sections of the tax payers are only

It is unfortunate that such lopsided writing has been indulged in, assuming protesters to be tax dodgers who shirk their social obligations. A good citizen is one who not only abides by the good laws of the state, but also fights the bad ones.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This still begs the question. How do we run Madras?' Would Mr Rajagopal, a Chartered Accountant, like to do some arithmetic — besides making a comparison with the other metros. We feel certain that the figures will speak louder than

Will it be open?

be fair is indeed gratifying, but contradicts an earlier declaration that it will be based on area. Now it is the rental value which is spiralling up each day! Will it be too much to expect the Corporation to openly declare the methods by which it proposes to arrive at the 'fair' tax and the assessment method and also that the tax so determined will, amongst other factors, take into consideration location, age and type of building (house or flat), owner occupied or tenanted etc.? This would allay the fear of many tax payers regarding the secretiveness of the tax assessment process so far in vogue and leading to disparity of tax rates obtaining amongst identical flats in the same building as well as identical flats in co-operative building societies' flats or Housing Board flats! Further, the indifference show by the so-called appellate authority to the genuine grievances of owners when gross disparities are brought to its notice is a matter of concern for well-meaning citizens. The currently prevailing malpractices in tax assessment are entirely due to the secretive-

Dr V Narasimhan B10/3, 16th Cross Street Madras 600 090.

on such grounds.

A V Rajagopal

75 Mowbrays Road Madras 600 018

ness of the process now in vogue.

Make 'em and break 'em

Hiramalini Seshadri's delightful verse and cartoon are supported by this photograph by GOPI. It's nice to know that Anna Salai-Mount Road will shortly be getting more powerful street lights. But didn't the authorities know it before? Did they have to wait for the road median to be built and the divider erected before digging up various stretches of the median again? Some days after this picture was taken, the poles planted and the debris filled in or removed, trenching was going on all along the median presumably to lay the wires. More digging — and more litter.

The road-roller's song

Tar. bits of granite and fireworks — They're everywhere — I found; Anna Nagar, Adayar, Nungambaaks, Name it — they're all over town!

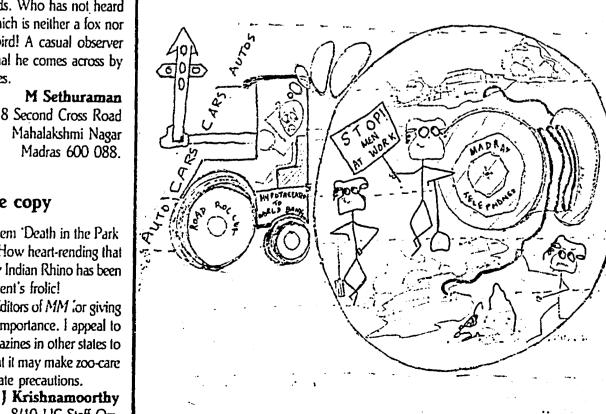
At Vadapalani they've done a great job. That road's a beauty now. Mount Road style, they've marked the lanes; Four lanes plus one for the cows.

But I get this feelin' of bein' pursued. By those telephone cable folk. Am sure they're just waitin' for me to quit, To start their diggin' around.

Creation-destruction so hand in hand. So says our Vedic heart. Lay roads first and then dig 'em up. We've made that into a fine art.

To save our roads. I have a plan. Let's GIVE that World Bank a loan Of cable-layers and road-diggers And our Department of Telephones!

- Hiramalini Seshadri



two countries could do together. to these studies, should rename ousting Russi Mody and for besides joint tea marketing, was

The secular Hindu dailies''.

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years ago, one of its early varieties, but even mangoes 'scoops' was the news that a guavas and oranges would be local equivalent of an Indian likely to so in. So would a whole heap of 'English vegetables', like Institute of Management was being set up in Madras with the cauliflowers, peas, capsicums help of local industry (Rs. 12-20 and mushrooms. And perhaps crores) — prodded by the Madras traditional Indian exports, like Management Association — and Bombay onions and potatoes and chillies, will start going in again ICICI (Rs. 6 crores), that it would in greater quantities. be called the Academy for

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

The only possible snag is that with the trade balance between the two countries being heavily balanced in India's favour, what are we planning to import in bulk? How much cloves, cinnamon, pepper, natural rubber and scrap metal can we import?

(SAPTA) was likely to be

accepted by both countries,

making business dealing

between both much easier in the

future. The need for a SAARC

Chamber of Commerce was also

Premadasa, The Man From

Madras Musings hears, is

readying to jump the gun,

opening the doors in the island

for the import of vegetables and

fruits from India WITHOUT

quarantine. Not only will Indian

apples and grapes then get a

chance to steal a march over

more expensive Australian

Meanwhile, President

stressed at the meeting.

In Brief

• Sunday Express columnist Coomi Kapoor reports that an Honorary Consul in Madras and his Ambassador recently called on Chief Minister Javalalitha and presented her a large box of chocolates, saying they were the most famous manufacture of the country they represented. Smiling her thanks, Madam Jayalalitha, Kapoor reports, sweetly retorted, "But I thought it was watches." What could she have meant by that, wonders Kapoor. And The Man From Madras Musings wonders what country it was that was involved in these pleasantries. No prizes for guessing.

By the time you read this column next, Tamil Nadu would have inaugurated its 23rd district. Do you know what it is going to be called? For that matter, do you know the other 22 and their headquarters? No prizes for answering, but it might not be a bad idea getting to know your state by learning them. To get you started, The Man From Madras Musings provides the information on the district to be inaugurated on April 14th: The VILLUPURAM-VALLALAR DISTRICT, with headquarters at Villupuram.

Tamil Nadu can't hope for a get such a train, possibly linking Hyderabad, Bangalore and Thiruvananthapuram. Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation is trying to persuade the Railways to organise a 'Holiday on again, starting on Tamil New

• With few palaces to offer, 'Palace on Wheels', though the South lives in hope that it will Wheels' train for it - possibly, Year's Day. The eight-day

separated and Pamela Rooks became a maker of documentaries, a TV narrator and wrote a novel: Miss Beatty's Children, about the missionary experience during the heyday of the Raj and which focusses on the unwanted girl-child in Madras State, which now Chief Minister Jayalalitha is trying to tackle with cradles at Collectorates and a roof provided by S.O.S. Will the film help the Chief Minister's cause in any • A heartening bit of news The

Man From Madras Musings came across was that the State Bank of India's branch looking after small-scale industry (Siruthozhizh) was also doing its bit to ensure the greening of Madras. All industrial units banking with it, as well as those from the Ambatthur, Guindy and Gummidipoondi industrial estates, were being offered saplings by the branch in a drive to control industrial pollution and make a greener Madras. But what MMM hasn't heard is how many have availed of this imaginative gesture.

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AGENTS WANTED ALL OVER INDIA TO PROMOTE THE ABOVE MAGAZINE

The article "Some thoughts on Rahu kalam" by Mr Sethuram (MM. March 1) was interesting. There are people who believe Rahukalam is an inauspicious time and there are others who do not mind The news that 'Property tax rates will it at all. It is only a question of faith.

In Kerala, Rahukalam is not at all observed (by Keralites; Tamilians settled in Kerala observe it). Inno other part of the country is so much importance (or is it fear) attached to Rahukalam. Tamilians everywhere observe Rahukalam. One thing these Tamilians lorget is that the period of 11/2 hours during which Rahukalam lasts is on days when the Sun rises at 6 a.m. (There is no Rahukalam after sunset). This note is given in all the almanacs. The time of Sunrise in Madras varies from 5.45 a.m to 6.40 a.m. in a calendar year. For instance, on May 26th the Sun

rises usually at 5.45 a.m., while it is 6.40 a.m. on January 16th. The duration of Rahukalam should also therefore be either earlier or later than the time given in the formula published in Madras Musings. So if it is a Monday on May 26th, the period of Rahukalam will NOT be from 7.30 a.m. to 9 a.m. but from 7.15 a.m. to 8.45 a.m. (15 minutes earlier). Similarly, if January 16th happens to be a Sunday, the duration of Rahukalam will NOT be from 4.30 p.m. to 6 p.m. but from 5.10 p.m. to 6.40 p.m. (In January, the sunset will be much earlier and the Rahukalam will end with sunset.)

As stated earlier, the above is only for those who believe that Rahukalam is inauspicious to enable them observe it properly.

S Sarathy E-36, IX Floor PA Towers. 33 Halls Road Madras 600 008

Animal, insect & bird

Harry Miller's dig (MM 16-31 Jan. '93) at the lay public for not knowing the nuances of zoological classification of animals is uncharitable. For the uninitiated, anything that walks on four legs is an animal. Any creature that is small and crawls or buzzes about is an insect (poochi in Tamil). Those that fly are just birds. Who has not heard of the flying fox which is neither a fox nor does it fly like a bird! A casual observer names a new animal he comes across by its looks or activities.

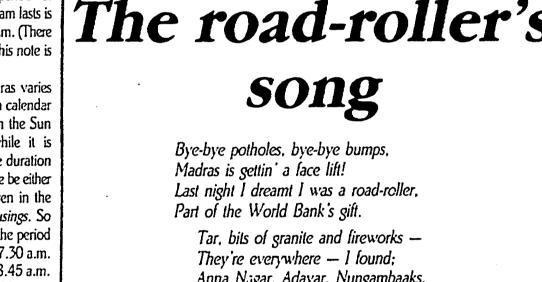
> M Sethuraman 8 Second Cross Road Mahalakshmi Nagar Madras 600 088.

Others please copy

Re. Your news item 'Death in the Park (MM Mar. 1). How heart-rending that the life of the solitary Indian Rhino has been ended by an innocent's frolic!

Thanks to the Editors of MM for giving this news item top importance. I appeal to periodicals and magazines in other states to reproduce this so that it may make zoo-care persons take adequate precautions.

> 8/10 LIC Staff Qrs. Madras 600 078



long runners-up in the 'Nationals', the

Madras Quiz Foundation team has at

last emerged winners of the national

'North Star' quizzing title, the blue

riband in the Indian Quizzing calendar.

This was the first time a Madras team

had annexed the title since the event

in its ranks three layakumars

Saranya, a legend in quizzing circles,

and her two sons Navin and Srikanth

- and Gautham Padmanabhan.

Dr Navin Jayakumar was Madras

Musings' first quizmaster and Gautham

Padmanabhan used to do this journal's

book column, till they both began to

Anna Nagar home recently, Saranya

the 'North Star' title. Trailing fancied

From Day One of the budget session

of the Tamil Nadu Assembly

(March 12), the Congress (1) and the

ruling AIADMK scraped the barrel in

search of accusations to hurl at each

other. This was expected, considering

the political and psychological turmoil

in which both parties are. But it hurts,

judged from comment outside. For

Assembly time is people's time, hardly

the occasion to settle scores - a fact

politely referred to by Finance Minister

V R Nedunchezhing more than once.

The result: "There's a deficit in the time

available to me for reply." It was a

Rs. 556 crore deficit budget for the

Political tempers were high, and,

according to Nedunchezhian, himself,

most of the members spoke about

extraneous matters over which the

House did not have any control. Only

27 members participated in the debate,

against 63 in 1991 and 71 the follow-

Accusations and counter-accu-

sations have touched raw nerves on

both sides. The alliance between the

AIADMK and the Congress (I) seems

to be over, but it has caused depression

in some circles; there are those who

fear that the parting of ways, only

because of "a conflict between giant

egos", might in the long run imperil the

very fabric of democracy and good

with the expulsion of four Congress (1)

members following the party's insis-

tence on raising a privilege motion on

the first day itself, before presentation

of the Budget, over the alleged assault

earlier on a colleague, Peter Alphonse,

at the MLA's Hostel. The Marshal was

The session began on a sour note

government in the country.

The 'Quiz Foundation' team had

went national in 1982.

professions.

Madras, the first fully literate Indian metropolis in the near future. Sounds like a far-fetched, impossible pipe dream. Not if Sheela Rani Chunkath and Oudsia Gandhi, two IAS officers, handle the Total Literacy Programme of Madras with the same overwhelming dedication with which they transformed the backward. poverty-stricken districts of Pasumpon and Pudukottai into Tamil Nadu's first fully literate districts.

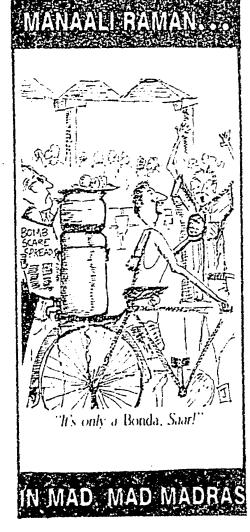
It was the dawn of a brave new world made possible by the untiring efforts of 40.000 volunteer teachers and some 160,000 learners involved in the mammoth exercise of learning the 3 R's in schools as variegated as open fields. garages, street corners, tin sheds, balwadis, verandahs and porches of bungalows — and under the spreading banyan tree. And at the apex of it. spearheading a veritable blitz of motivation which included songs. speeches, dances, street plays. processions and posters, were the two women Collectors who have now become part of the Arivoli approach legend and lore. Cajoling, advising, personally teaching the primers after office hours, shouting slogans and singing the Arivoli songs. Chunkath and Gandhi performed as though driven. as indeed they were — to make their

I met the two Collectors at the Park Sheraton Hotel, at a function to honour them as Women Of The Year', an National Literacy Mission, viz., literacy, award instituted by the International Women's Association, a leading women's cultural organisation in Madras. At a simple and moving function, the awards were handed over to Qudsia Gandhi and Sheela Rani Chunkath by M S Subbulakshmi. herself a 'Woman Of The Year' award winner, and Janaki Venkataraman.

districts totally literate.

How did these committed, modest. modern-day heroines of a contemporary India-on-the-move, see themselves, the tremendous work they had accomplished in eradicating illiteracy, and the award itself?

Said Gandhi, "My role was none. Lam overwhelmed by this honour... conferred not just on me but as



Literacy Programme volunteers and the dedication with which it was launched and completed by them in my district."

Sheela Rani Chunkath had this to say: "No one person could achieve this. It was the work of thousands of volunteers. When Pudukottai was declared fully literate on August 11. 1992, 50,000 neo-literates participated in the function — it is their pride, joy and accomplishment which I share.

The Total Literacy Programme was kicked off to a start by Chunkath and Gandhi in their respective districts, Pudukottai and Pasumpon, in 1991. It achieved its mission of total literacy in the incredibly short period of seven months. The human flesh and blood face of the governmental programme was provided by the thousands of volunteer teachers who could be anything from doctors, engineers and scientists to housewives, students and unemployed youth who reached out to teach anyone willing to learn — from 80-year-old women to beggars, flowersellers and road-sweepers as well as other backward and disadvantaged societal groups.

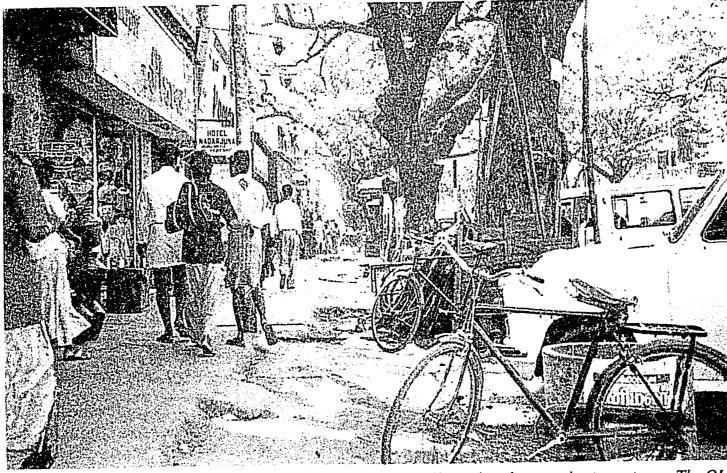
Apart from their official clout. Chunkath and Gandhi physically moved, vociferously and visibly, with the volunteer teachers and learners till the U.N. target of an 85 per cent literate population was finally achieved. To the 4-point programme of the

numeracy, functionality and social awareness, both the Collectors added their own special skills. Chunkath's mobility factor applied exclusively to women, who were taught cycling so that they could become mobile, independent and aware of their physical environment. Gandhi taught the women learners of her district Karate. both for physical fitness and selfprotection. As the triumphant progress of the Total Literacy Programme unfolded. Gandhi refused flower garlands in favour of letter-garlands. each letter being the literary effort of . a neo-learner! And, finally, all the passionate dedication and commitment paid off when, on August 11, 1992. Pasumpon and Pudukottai were declared fully literate and volunteers and successful students stood tall and

And, none, I might add, prouder than my 60-year-old cook Chellamma. who has been 'born again' as a 'ncoliterate' during her six-months-long sabbatical in Pasumpon. She now strikes terror amongst the household staff by keeping meticulous Hisaab of every paisa spent and is prone to greeting her adversary - the Milkman - with an occasional Karate chop, but this, as Kipling would have said, is another story!

What of Madras? "It's high time. says Oudsia Gandhi, "that the Total Literacy Mission was started in Madras. I request all of you to join in the movement when we launch it here... Hopefully, the committed Madras citizens will take up the challenge and add the brightest feather in their fair city's cap — that of Total Literacy

— PUSHPA CHARI



This fortnight's OLD and NEW are not only something different but they are also topsy-turvy. The OLD is a stretch of the Pondy Bazaar pavements as you've seldom seen them. This picture taken on a busy day a couple of weeks ago shows how neat and inviting the stretch looks without the hawkers. It remained like this for only a couple of days and then the NEW was shot. The hawkers — as predicted by them to their regular customers — were back, having got a stay order from the courts — and the street was back to looking like its

everyday self (as seen in our second picture, taken a few days after the first). Curiously, only a few days earlier, a High Court judge had ruled that ...& THE THE hawkers could be moved from their 'beat' in the public interest - and NEW The Man From Madras Musings had commented that that bit of wisdom

was probably valid only during the period of the Nehru Cup Football Tournament. It would seem so - not only from these pictures but also from how sure the hawkers were that their 'move' was only temporary and (Photographs: V S RAGHAVAN). that they'd be back on their 'beat' in a matter of DAYS!



Elliot Wave says upswins

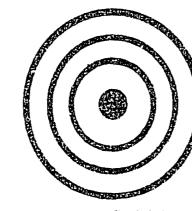
Elliot Wave Theory is an advanced discipline under technical analysis. Technical analysis has, of late, been gaining popularity in our country and is now being used by professional analysts to predict the markets. So far. we had been mainly using fundamental analysis to predict the markets. Technical analysis involves study of price movements on charts in order to assess what the market does to a share. rather than studying the share itself as in fundamental analysis.

The Elliot Wave Theory was discovered in the early Thirties by R N Elliot and was subsequently named after him. The theory shot into prominence in the late Seventies, when two of the stalwarts of the theory. Prechter and Frost, predicted a bull run in the US markets when the majority of the financial analysts feared a crash based on the 'Kondratieff' wave. Their prediction of the 1987 crash was also as indicated by them, at almost the same level of the DIIA (Dow Jones Industrial Average — a popular share index in the USA). The theory has at present, the most consistent track record of correctly predicting the market turn,

The Elliot Wave Theory is complex and not easy to master. In simple terms

compared to any other predicting tool

the theory states that the price movements are basically of two kinds impulse and corrective. The impulse move or wave breaks down into five smaller waves named 1.2.3.4 and 5 and this is followed by a corrective move which breaks down into three waves, a, b and c. It would be interesting to find out what this theory has in store for our markets.



BULL'S EYE

The Elliot Wave, when applied to the BSE Sensex, appears to reveal that we are now in the last stages of the 4th wave. We could therefore anticipate a 5th wave, which has the potential to move the index upward and take it beyond the 4500 mark! The theory also states that the present 4th wave is unlikely to go below the 1700 level in any case. Finally, the 5th wave is expected to last for eight months after it commences. The theory further

reveals, that this would be followed by sharp corrective waves a, b and c.

The Elliot Wave Theory has, of late, gained credibility with the advent a new science called Fractal Geometry. Fractal Geometry attempts to find Fractals (basic building units) that explain the apparent random shapes, such as those of mountain ranges elc. Fractal can now be used to describe the random behaviour of stock markets and Elliot Waves are an approach to this solution. The theory works well in all free markets. Whether it would work in our markets is a moot question, which only time can answer.

In any event, we believe that it is a good time to buy the undernoted three names:

Andhra Sugars (CMP: Rs. 100 MSE): This is a multiproduct company engaged in the manufacture of sugar. alcohol-based chemicals, sunflower and cotton seed oil extraction etc. It will benefit from the new sugar policy, which provides for an increase in the levy-free quota available to mills for their sale, and for an increase in the price of sugar. The likely decontrol of molasses will also help its profitability. The projected EPS for March 1993 results is Rs. 10 and this should support a price of Rs. 150. Technically, the scrip is on the uptrend in spite of the recent

(Continued on P5)

whose evidence is admissible in US They've done it at last. For long South Indian champions, and for as courts?', 'In Aussie slang, who is a 'Cowboy'? and 'Why is a dolphin born The questions reflect what open

Quizzing's

quizzing is all about. In such quizzes, as distinguished from General Knowledge tests, quizzards are expected not only to be aware of basic facts but also trivial appendages connected to such facts. In fact, quizzing nowadays seems to include more questions on trivia than

• by V.V. Ramanan

on simple fact. But whatever the form of quizzing, it does not stop the

Saranya Jayakumar, a post-

graduate in English Literature from concentrate on their respective Presidency College, was a quizzard even in her college days; she won the When I met the Jayakumars at their University Student's Union quiz competition and the Johnson's Cup. lavakumar recounted the team's last Marriage and children followed, but she round burst which helped it to annex still found time to read voraciously on a wide range of subjects. The Jayateams like Dalhousie Institute and The kumars moved to Calcutta, the Statesman of Calcutta, they judiciously country's quizzing capital in 1968, the played their 'jackpot' (where points are year after the advent of open quizzing. doubled) and romped home with the Saranya Jayakumar began participating maple-leaf shaped trophy by answering in the 'North Star' quizzes when they questions like 'Which is the only animal

A DEFICIT IN

TIME!

called in to remove them for squatting

in the aisles, even after being named.

Subsequently, the entire Opposition

There was more shouting and dis-

order on the day the privilege issue over

the assault came up, and Alphonse

spoke of a threat to his life and of some

persons trying to dissuade him from

raising the issue of irregularities in flood

relief work. The Chief Minister inter-

vened to say that the three persons

involved in the assault had been

arrested, and removed from the party.

Responding to his reported statement

the day before, that she knew nothing

The view from

Fort St George

R.K.K.

but dancing and that she should explain

how she had Rs. Six crores, she taunted

that, according to information received,

Alphonse himself had stage-managed

But in this none too brief

encounter, the AIADMK had the last

laugh, with the Deputy Leader of the

Congress (1), Daniel Raj, describing the

State as "a garden of peace". The idea

was echoed by the AlADMK's

V I Chinnasarny, who referred to

unsettled conditions in other States.

Excitement on the Ayodhya issue

started in an innocuous way, when the

AIADMK's Ammamuthu Pillai spoke

the assault incident!

walked out.

began in 1978. She was a member of 'Motley Crew', a team of two men and two women (including Partha Basu, the author of Quizz Mountain) with diverse interests and specialisations. Her own specialisations include Art, Literature, History and 'Indian stuff'. The team took on seasoned quizzing heavyweights like Neil O'Brien (the grand moghul of Indian quizzing), Sadhan Banerjee (the popular ex-host of 'North Star') and swept all the top honours in 1980, including the 'North Star', the first of three triumphs, the others being in 1982 and '84. They also annexed the All India Round Table Quiz titles for the Bankura Horse in 1980 and '82. Incidentally, the Madras Gymkhana Club had hosted the finals in 1980-81. 'Motley Crew' disbanded in the mid-Eighties when the Jaya-

kumars returned to Madras. Inspired by his mother, Navin had started participating in quizzing during his second year at Madras Medical. He first participated in the 'North Star' in 1982, with a team of fellow medicos who quaintly named themselves 'Tetracycline'. The next year, they won the regional round. Ever since then, Navin has been in the regional champions team, which became 'Memory Bank'

of the Centre's lethargy leading to the

masjid's demolition. Interruptions and

interventions followed, during which

the Chief Minister queried the Centre's

inaction for five hours while the masjic

was being pulled down. The Law

Minister was even more blunt: "You

planned and cooperated in the

demolition of the masjid." Kumari

Anandan's remark about the U

Government preventing use of the

Army brought the Chief Minister to he

feet: you did not wait for this

Government's consent to send the

Army here, she scathingly retorted. A

this stage, Speaker Muthiah wanted

Ammamuthu Pillai to resume his

speech, and put an end to an aimless

discussion. The Congress (1) objected

On the last day of the budget

discussion, the Ayodhya issue cropped

up again, with UCPI's SV Shan-

mugham raising it. A lengthy debate

followed, during which the Chiel

Minister denied having walked out

of the National Integration Council

meeting in November last, asserted

that her stand on the issue had always

been consistent and pooh-poohed

Congress (1) propaganda that she was

in favour of a Ram Temple even if it

meant demolition of the masjid. She

also said categorically that no discussion

had taken place between the AIADMK

and the BJP on any alliance. Her stand

vis a vis the BJP drew appreciative

comment from the CPI(M), to which

the Chiel Minister remarked, "We've

only discarded extra luggage" (the

The importance of the Budget

seemed to have receded into the

background midst all this smoke.

Congress 1).

and walked out in protest.

first family The first Madras team to win the All India North Star Quiz. The Quiz Foundation team, which won the title at the 'play-offs' in Calcutta last February, is seen in action Indian quizzing, Calcutta. (when his mother joined him) and is now 'Ouiz Foundation'. Specialisation

there, in our picture. From left to right are Srikanth, Saranya and Naveen Jayakumar and Gautam Padmanabhan, all quizzards who first learnt the 'game' in the home of

in Ophthalmology saw Navin cut down his quizzing, but not before winning all the major inter-collegiate guizzes and making a transition to osting quizzes.

Endowed with a wide knowledge. with special interests in Art, Music (he plays the piano). Mythology etc., a genial nature, a nice sense of humour and, above all, a flair for showmanship. Navin has successfully hosted three Madras Book Fair quizzes, an audiovisual quiz and, the grandest of them all. 'The Madras 350 Quiz'. held in 1990 as part of the city's 350th birthday celebration. The four-day quiz was to have climaxed on TV, but due to DD's peculiarities the show could entertain only the large audience in the Narada Gana Sabha Hall.

Navin remembers how much fun it was, running around Madras, collecting facts about the city. But it was also. "exhausting", which is perhaps why he now in finds it more interesting to DO guizzes than participate in them in any way. Navin compiled the Madras Ouiz questions into a book and has also teamed with Gautam on a film quiz book. Mrs Jayakumar is the author of a quiz book on religion.

The Jayakumars attribute their quizzing success to their all-round knowledge, experience and, above all, to the sheer joy of quizzing. They reiterate that quizzing should be for quizzing's sake only, to broaden your mind and to enjoy the participation.

Asked about the standard of Madras quizzing, both endorse the view that the city has very good talent, but lack of quizzing opportunities, publicity and sponsorship has kept many a quizzing

whiz from achieving recognition and popularity. In Calcutta and Bangalore, quizzes sponsored by business houses are regular. They feel Madras corporate bodies could do a lot to make this national pastime very popular in the city. As a case in point, they mention that one of the major reasons for the success of the Madras Quiz was the fact that Parry's sponsored it and launched a massive publicity campaign to promote the momentous event. To promote quizzing in the city, the

Jayakumars have been instrumental in founding the Quiz Foundation, which meets regularly and holds quizzes amongst its members. The Jayakumars would like more and more older people to join the Foundation; quizzing is not only for the young, they say. Saranya layakumar, variously dubbed 'The Grand Diva' and 'The First Lady of Indian Quizzing', is modest about such descriptions but feels that more and more women's and girls teams should participate in quizzing. When asked whether quizzing was a criteria for selecting the brides in the family, both mother and Navin maintain that Navin's and Niranian's (another quizzing sibling of the Jayakumars) wives were keenly interested in quizzing before they got married. And now Navin looks forward to his son being a quizzard when he grows up. Sister Vaishnavi Jayakumar is also very much part of the Jayakumar quizzing team - in which only Papa layakumar is the odd man out. But then, he's their most ardent fan!

 The answers to the three crucial questions in this year's 'North Star' Ouiz were: The bloodhound; a milkman; and, the dolphin, a mammal, is born tailfirst so that it will not drown or sulfocate.

Wave shows upswing Continued from P4)

Mid East India (CMP: Rs. 135 MSE): This company is engaged in the manufacture and export of leather garments, leather shoes and pharmaceuticals. This year's budget, which has stressed exports and announced a reduction in import duty on apital goods and lending rates for export credit, should help the company. The milication of exchange rates will also enhance earnings. For March 1993 results, the projected FPS is Rs. 22, justifying a price of Rs. 220. The scrip is moving between a wide band of 100 and 170, with a mockst

Carborundum Universal (CMP Rs. 122.00 MSE): This leading manufacturer of abrasives should witness an improvement in performance with the revival of the fortunes of the auto and engineering industry. Moreover, the expansion and diversification programmes implemented now will add to its turnover and profits of 1993-94. Hence we expect an EPS of Rs. 11.75 to support a price of Rs. 190. Technically, the prices are consolidating between Rs. 115 and

K. Gopalakrishnan

Max Mueller Bhavan Presents

A dance-theatre event on 7th April at 7 pm at the Kalakshetra Theatre

Bhinna Pravaha

Chandralekha

Choreography & Direction

You are invited

It is only in recent years that the eat-out trend has caught on in Madras. In the city's colourful past, the menu, which was almost always rattled off at top speed by a nonchalant waiter with a none-too-clean towel thrown over his shoulder (even typewritten bills of fare were unknown in those days), would feature two inevitables — "meals and tiffin". The former would be served on vaazhai elai (the banana leaf), with the waiter solicitously hovering by your shoulder, serving you faster than you could eat.

"Meals" have come a long way since then - an enduring constant in the world of culinary variables, with only the banana leaf being replaced by the thali. And the takers for the thali haven't changed all that much either. Lunch time in Madras still sees all the bachelor boys with the occasional family thrown in - heading for the thalis to get a taste of sorely missed home-cooking.

WOODLANDS (Dr Radhakrishnan Salai), one of the oldest restaurant names in the city, has

IN THE

answer to the buffet. And at Rs. 27.50 at that! The heavy outsize plate comes with a number of katoris that make even the most dedicated gourmand quail. The poori-bhaji entrée is followed by rice and

FOODS & FADS

dhal - and you suddenly under-

stand the raison d'étre of the

famous Kalyana samaiyal

saadam song sequence in the old hit Maya Bazaar. Morkozhambu, paruppu podi, sambar, rasam, kootu, curry, appalam, pickles and curd - and heavenly sheel - are all part of this thali. The mithai varies from day to day, and the only concession to changing tastes in an otherwise unchanged thali is the ice cream.

The number of maamis tucking in is, of course, the ultimate accolade.

Subtly different

In contrast, the thali at ■GITANIALI (1st Main Road, Kodambakkam) has spicier food

at cheaper prices - Rs. 15 per head. The menu is subtly different - the usual sambar and rasam apart, there's a thick creamy raitha, two kinds of porival and vegetables. The version of the milk sweet that's offered makes a sorry dessert and the appalams cost extra surprising in a thali meal.

The Gitaniali Mithai shop in the same complex has better desserts to offer. The Sohan Halwa is melt-in-the-mouth and so is the Biscuit Mixture.

Summer tashions

Summer has come around again — and with a vengeance. What with the heat and water problems, you would expect Madrasis to abandon sartorial elegance in favour of weather-sensible apparel. But no, say the devotees of the designers, let us be fashionable or perish — predictably in a Hell where our mutual friend of the horns and tail (I am not talking of the Onida guy) will have to pay very little towards turning on the proverbial heat, since the sun is being obliging enough.

The ruling decree — casual is in, but don't overdo the casual bit. So, haul out your versatile (oldest) pair of jeans, and a nice crumpled T-shirt - and offset the junkie image with a bolero patterned in sober shades on a black background. Never mind the thickness of the jeans (denims descended or evolved from tent-canvas - remember Levi and his brainstorm?), forget the T-shirt stifling in a satin lined vest, and the mercury - concentrate on looking cool. Tall

orders, by any standards, hey?! There's worse in store salwars with vests, ensembles with old-fashioned waistcoats, or plain austere jackets, and with admirable composure, the youngsters go the kamikaze way.

Bhavana Kav

Quizzin with Kamanan

(Quizmaster V.V. RAMANAN'S questions are all from the fortnight March 1st-15th)

- 1. As per the new power tariff from 1/3/93, what is the minimum rate per unit for domestic consumers in the state?
- 2. Who are the new state champions in Table Tennis?
- 3. Name the developer of polio vaccine who expired on March
- Which two Madras social organisations have received a grant from Japan under its Small Scale Grant Assistance scheme (SSGA)?
- 5. Which two former lady Collectors of Tamil Nadu, were presented 'Women of the Year' awards by the International Women's Association recently?
- 6. Who is the new PM of strife-torn Afghanistan?
- 7. Which cricketing legend was the beneficiary of the fifth one-dayer between India and England at Gwalior?

8. To help which company overcome its problems did the Madras High Court direct the Tamil Nadu government to arrange a loan of Rs. 50 lakhs for it?

- 9. Where was a 3000 line digital electronic telephone exchange commissioned in Madras on March
- 0. Which famous author's works were censored and made politically correct in the USA recently?
- Who won the overall trophy at the inaugural MRF Motocross held in the city recently?
- 12. Which became the first revenue district in the country to have 100 STD stations?
- 13. To what ghastly incident was Kavuru village in AP witness recently?
- 14. Into what three catogeries have the ITDC owned 'Ashok' hotels been divided?
- 15. Accordings to the Tamil Nadu budget, what is the minimum HRA payable to government employees?
- 6. Can you the name the controversial film about AIDS, made by a director who succumbed to it, that won 4 top Cesars (the French equivalent of the Oscars) on March 8th?
- 17. What was March 15th celebrated as round the world?
- 18. B. Arumugham and C. Amudha of Tamil Nadu are the new ...?
- 19. Which Madras-based magazine completed 25 years recently?
- 20. Who is the new Government of India Finance Secretary?

(Answers on Page 7)

1/2 coconut, chopped into small pieces ½ coconut 3 tsp cummin seeds 11/2 tsp red chilli powder 1 tsp turmeric powder

I Inusual accompaniments to rice. especially since young green jak is in season.

MOCHCHAI KOTTAI. NETHILI KARA KOLAMBU Ingredients

- 1 cup mochchai kottai (dry Rangoon
- 1 cup dry nethili (anchovy) 2 large tomatoes

2 medium onions 8-10 garlic cloves

One lemon-sized tamarind

- 1 tbs red chilli powder
- 1 tbs dhaniya powder 1/2 tsp turmeric powder 1/2 tsp fenugreek seeds
- 1/2 tsp cummin seeds
- 1 sprig curry leaves

2 or 3 tbs gingelly oil Salt to taste

Method Soak the dried beans for 8-10 hours. Pressure cook. Drain the excess water and set aside.

Clean and wash the nethili and set aside. Soak tamarind in water and extract three cups of tamarind juice. Add the masala powder to the juice. Set aside.

Heat oil in a thick-bottomed vessel (or a mud chatti for better taste). Add the mustard, fenugreek and cummin seeds. When they splutter, add the chopped onions. Fry till golden. Add the chopped garlic, tomatoes and curry leaves.

Add the nethili and fry till well. blended.

Add the cooked beans, tamarind juice and salt. Simmer till it comes to a sauce consistency

Remove from the heat and serve hot with rice.

Mrs. P. Raghupathy INCHORER DALNA

½ kg tender young green jak 2 potatoes, peeled and chopped to 1/2 inch pieces

Lground to a

3 tsp garam masala 1 tsp cummin seeds

2 bay leaves 4 tbs oil

4 ibs shee

Oil for deep frying 1 tsp sugar

Salt to taste

Peel the green jak and chop into ½-inch square pieces. Boil in water till tender, drain and set aside.

Heat oil for deep frying. Deep fry the jak pieces and potatoes till golden Set aside. Deep fry the coconut pieces till

golden. Set aside.

Heat the four tablespoons oil. Add one teaspoon sugar and cummin seeds Fry till brown. Add the bay leaves, add the turmeric powder, chilli powder, ground coconut paste and fry till the oil separates.

Add the fried jak, potato and coconut pieces. Add salt and one cup of water. Simmer till well blended.

Heat the ghee, add the garam masala to it and add to the dalna. Serve hot with rice.

BHINDI DO PIAZA

½ kg bhindi

4 onions, sliced thinly 1" piece ginger, scraped and chopped

3 or 4 green chillies, slit sideways

1/2 tsp turmeric powder 1 Isp amchur

3 tbs oil 1 tsp cummin seeds

Salt to taste

Chop bhindi into 1/2-inch pieces. Heat oil. Add the cummin seeds. When they splutter, add the sliced onions, chopped ginger and green chillies. Sauté for a minute. Add the chopped bhindi and turmeric powder.

Fry the bhindi till they are cooked. Add salt and amchur. Mix well. Serve

Chandra Padmanabhan

Sorry about this. We really didn't expect a newspaper's mouth to water.

But don't blame the poor thing. Mom's assortment of delicacies do have that kind of effect on... well, we always thought, people. And who can blame them!!

After all, it isn't easy to resist an

assault from Chocolate Chip ▶ Cookies, American Brownies, Jam Tarts and mmmm... pastries of almost every sort you can possibly imagine...

Hey! Stop wetting this newspaper, will you??



24, Greams Lane, Greams Road, Madras 600 006. Tel: 471164.

charmer who came back

Meher Jessia

whole thing for a while that set many

spiracies against the laity. The anointed

speakers fortify their elite status by

creating a vocabulary that is almost

beyond comprehension. It prevents

people from understanding what is

happening and why. I appreciate

mumbo jumbo as much as anyone else.

But the speakers should have no

objections if someone were to express

The View From

The Wings

by

V.R. Devika

At the seminar, Mahesh Elkuncha-

war, the blue-eyed playwright of 'New'

Marathi theatre, very subtly and

sophisticatedly put down all other

approaches to theatre while talking

about his own work. He said he writes

plays about human beings, their

relationships and alienations in city life.

He does not write plays with folk

dead and are not Indian reality any

more. He borrows a few ideas from

Western traditions and styles, because

colonial rule in India was a reality and

English-speaking Indians are a part of

the mosaic of Indian life. Hence, urban

a different view.

Most seminars seem to be con-

thinking.

(Photo: S. ANWAR)

Charming Meher Jessia, one of the country's top models, was not expected in Madras for Ritu Kumar's 'Tree of Life' audio visual and fashion show at the Trident. But she suddenly turned up and not only was everyone pleasantly surprised but they were bowled over by her relaxed, friendly allitude.

April 1-15, 1993

All courtesy, she made it very easy for her helper backstage, quite unlike an equally well-known model who uninhibitedly put her bad temper on show and made her backstage helper a nervous wreck.

What was Meher Jessia doing in Madras? Was she not supposed to be in London working for the famous 'Model I'? Well, she threw it all up and came back to India for its familiar smells, familiar noises and familiar, well-loved people. Applause! After all, there is nothing like home.

Her 'I Believe' in the March issue of Savvy magazine reveals a sensitive, composed person. In Madras, she exuded charm, simplicity and elegance during rehearsals backstage, after the show and even while simply walking about in the hotel. She says she realised in London that success, money, fame, all mean nothing if you are not with your family and the people you love. She says she had decided to guit being a professional model; she will, instead, help other young models and set up an international modelling agency.

Madras certainly felt happy about her doing Ritu's show here. Madras's glitterati had turned up to watch the show. And a photographer was heard remarking that all he needed to do was take pictures of some in the audience, and his assignment would have been traditions in mind, because they are over.

Talking of theatre

Seminars on any subject always turn out to be a bit too much at the end of the day and the seminar on theatre organised by the Max Mueller Bhavan and the Madras Players was no exception. But there was a freshness to the

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April: 'Artist of the Month': K Balasubramaniam, who has participated in all major exhibitions in India, including the National Exhibition of Art. (MMB). April 7: The Union of Ganga and Jamuna with Claudia Lichitblau, Illiana Chitaristi and Shangita. Choreographed by Chandralekha. At Kalakshetra 7 pm. Till April 20: Exhibition of oil paintings by Achutan Kudallur at Sakshi Gallery. Every day 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Fifty-five paise; 2. S. Raman and N. Arul Selvi; 3. Albert Sabin; 4. The Spastics Society and SOS Children's village: 5. Qudsia Gandhi and Sheela Rani Chunkath; 6. Gulbuddin Hekmatayar; 7. Gundappa Viswanath; 8. Metal Box; 9. Flower Bazar (Code: 534); 10. Hans Christian Anderson; 11. Shyam Kothari; 12. Dakshin Kannada District, Karnataka; 13. The burning of 15 bus passengers by miscreants; 14. Elite, Classic and Comfort; 15. Rs. 125 (from Rs. 65); 16. Les Nuits Fauves; 17. World Consumer Rights Day; 18. National Triathlon Champions; 19. Industrial Economist; 20. Montek Singh

enjoy both wordy proscenium plays and vibrant wordless theatre inspired by traditional forms.

Mahesh Elkunchwar's play Reflections was read by Yamuna, P C Ramakrishna. Ramachander and Sushma Ahuja. The reading was done well, but the play left nothing to the imagination and overstated its ideas. And the ideas were all familiar ones.

The play is about a young man who cannot see his reflection in the mirror, bringing to mind the folk tale about the young man who had lost his shadow. Each idea in the play seems to have been taken from another story or play. Reflections sounded like a radio play, too wordy, and took the audience to be ignorant and dumb.

Speaking out loud

Prasanna from Karnataka impressed on the same occasion with his honesty. Completely sure of himself, he spoke of his work with street theatre and the kalajathas with such objectivity that it set many people thinking.

The National School of Drama asked him to do a play and he came up with a story in which a group of third year students of drama think aloud about how they are trained to lie and to indulge in make-believe, and this made them set interested in Truth. Since Gandhi had done some experiments with Truth, they were interested in Gandhi. The play goes back and forth in time, looking at the political and social ethos and the people who shaped it. Their immediate point of reference is Ayodhya and its aftermath. Naturally, the play has angered the BJP and some Hindu fundamentalists.

and Western ideas presented in Indian writing depict an Indian reality. While Mahesh put forth his ideas very well, his arguments against form vis a vis content did not go down very

Prasanna is right now in the middle of a controversy over his latest play. Gandhi. It has raised a lot of dust in New Delhi. Prasanna explained that he had stopped being a political activist theatre person, that something happened to him on December 6th and it was only his hero Gandhi that he could think of.

Prasanna refused to talk more about the play as it was too close to him emotionally. Prasanna's presence at the theatre seminar was an event in itself and the way he presented his view was certainly powerful.



over (By A Staff Reporter)

Happy over Doordarshan's neglect of Tamil, what claims to be the "the world's first international Tamil satellite television" network is hoping to beam its progammes to much of Afro-Asia from Tamil New Year's Day. Anchored in Madras, Sun TV will telecast daily through an exclusive linkup with the Asian Television Network. which will use the Russian satellite 'Gorizont'

Sun TV, "a pure entertainment channel", is the brainchild of Kalanidhi Maran, the American-educated son of Murasoli Maran. Young Maran has already been making (air waves) with his video news magazine 'Poomalai'. the first in Tamil. The TV programme is to be called 'Tamil Malai' and will be aimed at viewers from Lagos to Manila. "It will speak directly to Tamilspeaking households in 84 countries." say the producers. And you won't even need an additional dish antenna, they add: "only the angle of the existing one need be adjusted"

Scheduled to be broadcast from 6 to 9 p.m. (IST) daily, 'Tamil Malai' promises three movies (Wednesday, Saturdays and Sundays) and three serials a week. Its other programmes include "Interview and Rememberance of Old Movie Stars", "Round up of Studio's and Movie World" "Cooking", "Fasion Show", "Song Sequences from Released Movies with Viewers Request", "Medical Report" "Talk Show", "Clips from best & block busters Movies", "Comedy sequences from Movies". "Feed back from viewers letter", "Song Sequences from new/unreleased movies" and "Record breaker's and record breaking events in Tamil Nadu" (sic), besides several other half-hour programmes.

Would former movie star Jayalalitha's films and dance sequences feature in appropriate slots in the programme? "Why not?" appears to be the view, "IF the public wants them." Many, no doubt, will be watching out to see if that really happens — on what claims to be a purely commercial and entertainment channel with no political hang-ups. Il it really proves to be that, it could become a very successful commercial venture with a Tamil viewing audience of well over 30 million in Tamil Nadu and the targeted countries.

Save the Earth from your home

Throw away that packet of potato crunchies. Have a plate of finely chopped carrots and a cup of sukku coffee instead. Keep away from junk food and artificial flavouring. Turn in your bottles of antidandruff shampoo, aftershave and perfumes for a packet of shikakai, ritha, dal powder, hibiscus leaves and kadukkai. Share your car with your neighbour, switch off your lights and fans when you don't need them, don't make paper rockets of this issue of Madras Musings and welcome to the environment

friendly life. Living the 'green life' seems a tough proposition. In fact, it looks like it might mean giving up living as we know it! But when you realise that the bigger garbage dumps in our city, that could pollute our groundwater, and the dirty waterways that spread disease, all originate from the waste that we generate in our homes, then it's time to start thinking.

Madras generates 2260 tonnes of garbage every day, up from 1700t day ten years ago and the authorities are increasingly short on options of where to unload this massive quantity of waste. Buying in bulk, choosing reusable containers, avoiding throwaway plastic cups and composting kitchen waste are all ways of helping fight this problem.

It would help to remember

that the ozone hole isn't just an abomination lurking over the South Pole, thousands of miles away. According to recent studies, there is a virtual ozone hole over South India, which means that we receive as much ultraviolet radiation during summer as does Antarctica during the polar spring in September when the ozone hole is at its most transparent. Excess UV radiation is known to cause skin cancer and damage to the human immune response system and the retina.

Everyone can be an environmental activist. If you make a concious decision not to buy VCR cleaning sprays and fire extinguishers that contain CFCs, that helps. If you write torefrigerator manufacturers demanding a safer product that does not use CFCs, that helps even more. The recent exhibition on

'Environment Friendly Living' organised by the Environment Society, Madras, laid out the tough choices for everyone to see. The exhibition was small and neatly laid out. Panels espousing the way to the earthfriendly life were everywhere. On display were three watersaving designs of flush tanks and closets, one of which claimed to flush six times on a single tank load. With the hot, dry summer months around the corner, that's definitely a claim worth looking

Prof Ismail of New College was at his station with his

demonstration of a vermiculture pit. Vermiculture is a quick and inexpensive method of converting household organic waste into rich fertilizer, with a little help from 50 earthworms. The Civic Exporas have been quick to recognise the potential of this process to handle the large quantities of organic waste that they collect. In fact, the first vemiculture pits are already functioning in Exnora units in Indira Nagar and Mylapore.

The whole affair may have been pedantic, yet it was engaging. And it drove home a very simple truth. The truth that the most crucial battles in the war to protect the earth aren't fought only in Silent Valleys, the Amazon forests and Earth Summits, they're fought in our homes as well.

> - Ramanan Laximinarayan

The champ which ended to the sames which ended

(Continued from last fortnight)

Speaking of the Indian team's performance at the Manila Olympiad last year. World No. 3 Viswanathan Anand, on holiday in Madras recently. expressed his satisfaction with its 21st place! Though the team slumped from the 10th place it secured at the Novi Sad Olympiad, he pointed out that the single USSR team of that period was 12 teams in Manila - and India met one of the toughest of them. Ukraine, in the last round. If India had met any team but a 'Russian' one in that match, it might have again finished 10th. Did the absence of experienced players, like Raja Ravisekar and Murugan, hamper the chances of a higher finish? The Indian Captain felt it was all the luck of the tough draw. "Without one or two flip results, we might have finished higher, even in those circumstances." he thinks.

However, Anand wonders why so many Indian players are stagnating after showing excellent promise during their early years. Many of them got their International Master's title around the same time he did, but it's been slow progress since them. Are the increasing number of agreed draws in National A and B tournaments affecting their game, he wonders. "In the tournaments I play now, the players fight it out till the last move. In the Reggio Emilia tournament, more than

50 per cent of the games which ended in draws after 25 moves were due to perpetual checks or theoretical novelties."

Looking back on the Nationals between 1980 and 1984, Anand remembers, "They were really hard fought; we never agreed for short draws—at least. I never did". However, on the whole, Anand sees tremendous improvement in the Indian game, with one more Grandmaster in the country and a number of International Masters and rated players. "But it will be much better if all those IMs become GMs, don't you think?" he asked.

Sponsored by the Madras-based Ramco Industries, Viswanathan Anand is one of the few sportsmen in India whose earnings put him in the top individual income bracket in the country. "Besides increasing prize money, players also earn appearance money too these days," he explains. But his expenditure is also high, he points out.

It is sad that the Chess Federation of India did not utilise the services of the champion when he was in Madras on vacation for three months recently. They could have arranged some exhibition matches or lectures for the benefit of the upcoming players. "But no one asked... I would have been happy to oblige," says Anand.

Anand, who relaxes with a little yoga or a walk, reads a lot of maga-

zines on current affairs. "The basic idea is to take my mind off the chess and the tension," he says. And now he's into something new as well.

He has just completed editing the Marshall Attack of the Ruy Lopez for the Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings, published by Chess Informant. But since Chess Informant will publish each section individually, is Anand an author? "You can call me editor, contributor, author, proof-reader — it's just playing with words." But he has no plans to do any serious writing. "Writing a book takes a lot of time, and time spent on writing on my favourite opening is time taken away from other openings. And I will have to cover a whole gamut of games and openings and even topics which might not be useful to me. Hence, I don't have such plans in the near future."

Speaking of openings, Anand says that in 300 odd games he's played in the last three years, "I have played almost all the openings. Now I have added Caro Kann, French and Pirc defences to my favourite Sicilian defence".

And what about computers which play chess? "I don't play against computers," says Anand. "Computers which play chess are just developing and are not strong. My computer is just like an electronic library where the information is stored in discs, so that I have easy access to the information I need. It's an aid, not a trainer like Grandmaster Hellers," explains the young champion, who is looking forward to the next Candidate's round, getting it across Karpov along the way, and a possible tilt at the world title. If that happens, it couldn't happen to a nicer, more modest young man. India should be proud of this champion who literary stands tall. But, as usual, India has little time for champions.

(Concluded)

— V Jagannathan

Classics blank in a record season

Never before in the history of the centuries-old Indian turf has there been a season like the 1992-93 Madras one, which concluded on March 28th. Such was its domination by M A M Ramaswamy's mighty establishment, India's biggest to carry an individual owner's colours, that it was by far the most one-sided season the ancient centre of Guindy has ever had.

Complete statistics are not available as I write, but the fact that MAM, as Ramaswamy is known throughout the Indian racing world, Foley and the latter's first jockey, Robin Corner, headed their respective lists for the umpteenth time with better figures than ever before. tells its own tale of what had virtually been one-way traffic. Ever since his gold, brown belt jersey and brown cap entered the fray two decades ago, the top spot in the Guindy owners' list has become MAM's monopoly. But he smashed all his previous records during the season just ended.

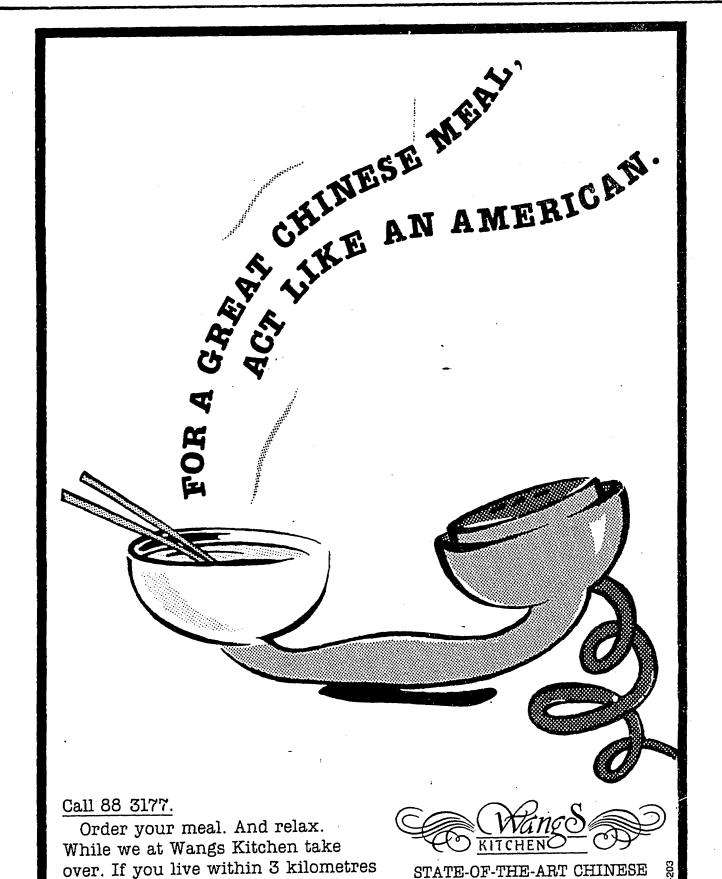
In keeping with MAM's massive winnings was Foley's achievement. Three seasons ago, the youthful English professional, whose father, Jim Foley, looks after MAM's Bangalore establishment, set an Indian record by topping the century mark. He bettered it last season, and eclipsed his 1992 mark during the latest season with as many as six meetings left. The exceptionally wide gap between him and the second-placed professional was proof of the unchallenged run he had.

Record winnings apart, the country's leading owner-trainer combination had the rare distinction of making a clean sweep on more than one occasion.

In the prestigious Queen Elizabeth Commemoration Cup for three-year-olds, four of the runners hailed from Foley's stable, and they had little difficulty in bagging the first four places! The clean sweep, an Indian record, came a week after MAM's colours had made a family affair of the prestigious Guindy Grand Prix, also for three-year-olds, to emphasise, if emphasis were needed at all, the bloodline of his juveniles. Only three accepted, and with all three running in MAM's colours, their presence obviously scared away other entries for one of the

richest prizes of the Madras turf. Well as MAM and Foley scaled the heights as never before, they had their poorest run in the Classics this year. Only Robertino, winner of the St. Leger, helped them avert their first-ever blank as the other Classics were taken to Bangalore by challengers from Rashid Byramji's stable. Further proof of the Classics drought MAM's establishment passed through was provided by the ITCsponsored Indian Turf Invitation Cup field at Hyderabad, in which MAM's colours were, perhaps for the first time in the history of the 30-year-old Classics, conspicuous by their absence.

The Invitation Cup result, incidentally, emphasised the emergence of the Bangalore liquor baron, Vijay Mallya, as a formidable challenger to MAM's status as India's most successful owner, whose world Classics tally now stands at a record 173. Adler helped Mallya and trainer Byramii complete the first-ever Invitation Cup hat-trick, after Delage and Bugs Bunny had won for them in the last two years. Mallya's emergence will certainly lead to a keen rivalry between his Kunigal Stud Farm and MAM's Chettinad Stud Farm, a rivalry that is certain to improve the quality of the Indian throughbred and also make Indian racing more competitive than ever before. AJAX



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