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METAL CUTTING TOOLS

MUSINGS

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Govt. Estate endangered

Multi-storey construction planned

(By A Special Correspondent)

It was mentioned in 'The View From Fort St. George'. The Man from Madras Musings added to that. And still there's no clamour over the plans for Government Estate. Those plans call for the building of multistorey accommodation for MLAs and a shopping

complex smack in the middle of what was once the Governor's Park and, later, Chepauk Park.

Government Estate, for the record, is the sprawling parkland, with scattered buildings in it — including Government House and Rajaji Hall — that stretches from the Cooum to Chepauk Palace, from behind the University Campus to

Anna Salai-Wallajah Road, less encroachments like the TV Station, the Metro etc. There's still enough greenery and vestiges of parkland left here to warrant it being allowed to remain as a lung OR developed keeping that function in mind (see page 3). Certainly, multistorey development does NOT keep that objective in mind.

An echo of the plans mentioned in passing in the House is a rather more disturbing report that a Metropolitan Infrastructure Development Corporation is to be set up to implement a megacity development plan and that the State Government will hand over, to this Corporation, Government Estate and properties in Wallajah Road, Taramani and elsewhere in the city for use as equity base to raise funds from financial institutions. Now does that mean commercial development or not? The thought is frightening. In this context, Reader Gautham's views on page 3 should be commended for implementation in preference to highrise development in Government Estate.

(Also see page 3)



Jalal, state topper in Indian Music, on the triple congo

— Photo: V.S. RAGHAVAN

'Good' schools not so good

(By A Staff Reporter)

The showing of the city schools has not improved much compared to last year when many schools outside the city walked away with top ranks in the HSSLC. This year, the city has hardly managed half the total ranks (43 out of 87) as against 23 out of 69 last year. And among those ranks, the first ranks for the city have come in only 16 subjects out of 29 (the first rank in English is shared by a city and a mofussil school).

In 'elite' subjects like Physics, Chemistry, Zoology, Maths etc., mofussil schools have secured more ranks than the city schools. In Biology, Madras schools haven't got even a

single rank! So too in Foundation Science, Home Science and Political Science.

Madras's first ranks are in Hindi, Geography and Indian Music (the last mentioned from a new entrant to the higher secondary scene, St. Louis Institute of the Blind — see page 7) and a Corporation school has bagged all three ranks in philosophy as it did last year.

Noteworthy is the fact that, among the City toppers, there are only one or



two from schools at whose gates you have to live for a couple or more days; if you want to get even an L K G seat. The best, it would appear, do not necessarily come from the city schools, leave alone from these-called 'good' schools. The mofussil schools — and the less known city schools, many of them new ones — are beginning to prove that talent is not always to be found in the schools most sought after.

(Also see page 7)

Cure, at last, for common cold?

It is an accepted market truism that the company that patents the first cure for the common cold will hit one of the biggest jackpots in pharmaceutical history.

Now, Agouran Pharmaceuticals Inc, a California-based biotech concern, claims that it has discovered "a sure-fire remedy". Two and a half years of research has led to a "detailed framework" for the development of drugs to treat or prevent common upper-respiratory tract infections.

The stockmarket has reacted like a performing flea: Agouran's shares have jumped by as much as 53 per cent in two weeks, reports CSE/Down To Earth Features.

EDITOR'S NOTE: But when do we see this drug in India? With Agouran having no presence in this country, will a Madras-based pharmaceutical company take the plunge and tie-up with Agouran? Or will we, as usual, let Bombay and Delhi get in first?

C.B.I. ANSWER TO A FATHER'S PERSISTENCE

(By A Staff Reporter)

An 83-year-old father's petitions, satyagrahas and hunger strikes have at last got the Union Home Ministry to order a CBI enquiry into the death of an IAS Officer in Madras.

C T Sukumaran, an IAS Officer of the Kerala cadre and Chairman of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, died during an official visit to Madras in September 1992. The Madras Police said the death was due to Sukumaran falling from the top floor of the MPEDA guesthouse. It was suicide, they claimed, and closed the case.

Not Sukumaran's father M C Thevan who, together with the rest of the family, insisted Sukumaran had no reason to commit suicide. Thevan also cited post-mortem reports

in Madras and Ernakulam that indicated Sukumaran may have been beaten before his death. The body bore several injuries, and an eye, a kidney and several other internal organs were missing.

Thevan has also pointed out that Sukumaran's visit to Madras was due to a last-minute change of plans. He was due to go to Delhi but came to Madras instead to attend what two of his colleagues described as an urgent conference. There was also no sign of a tape recorder which Sukumaran always carried, his father claimed.

All these claims and his persistence have got Thevan his wish. But will a CBI enquiry shed any more light on Sukumaran's death?

A word to subscribers

Madras Musings today has nearly 3000 subscribers. About 2000 complimentary copies also go out to well-wishers, supporters, VIPs and potential advertisers.

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So please help us get the message of Madras Musings across; let's get others aware of Madras.

— THE PUBLISHER

Guess who's come to tea?
 Queen Marie!

Marie
 Biscuits

The Queen among Maries

FARRYS

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Resigning to help gold quest

(By A Sports Reporter)

Sreenivasan, P T Usha's husband, an officer with the Central Industrial Security Force in Madras, recently resigned from his job so as to be able to concentrate on coaching the 'golden girl' on her comeback trail. Usha, too, would like to opt out of the Railways — who have posted her in Madras — so that she can train on more familiar ground at home in Kerala. The Kerala Government has offered her a post of Officer on Special Duty at the Directorate of Sports in Thiruvananthapuram. Usha, now nearly 30 and the mother of a two-year-old son, Ujjwal, feels confident that with Sreenivasan's training she will soon hit gold again



after the long break due to marriage and childbirth. But now she's decided to concentrate on only a couple of events — her speciality, the 400 m, and the 800 m OR the 200 m, the latter only if she feels she has regained her speed. She's keeping her options open on the relays.

Usha's immediate goal is to qualify for the Commonwealth and Asian Games. After that? She would like to go on as long as her body permits. And spurring her on is the fact that with Sreenivasan's resignation, the three of them will be together wherever she trains — or runs.

History in bloopers

(Continued from P4)

of Athens was democratic because people took the law into their own hands. There were no wars in Greece, as the mountains were so high that they couldn't climb over to see what their neighbours were doing. When they fought with the Persians, the Greeks were outnumbered because the Persians had more men.

Eventually, the Romans conquered the Greeks. History calls people

Romans because they never stayed in one place for very long. At Roman banquets, the guests wore garics in their hair. Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March murdered him because they thought he was going to be made king. Nero was a cruel tyranny who would torture his poor subjects by playing the fiddle to them.

(To be continued next fortnight)

EUROISSUES

(Continued from P4)

by May end. On a Rs. 5.81 cr equity, the expected EPS for 1994-95 is above Rs. 4. Remi Metals Gujarat (CMP Rs. 9.00): Promoted by the multi-product, diversified Remi Group and Doshi Group, Kenya, in technical collaboration with INTERTECH GmbH, Germany, Remi Metals approached the public in Feb. 1994 to manufacture 70,000 tpa of carbon alloy steel seamless pipes/tubes. This first integrated

seamless tube project gives Remi a cost advantage of Rs. 3000 per tonne of raw material used. The company has projected a sales of Rs. 69.96 cr and a PAT of Rs. 3.61 cr for 1995. The EPS works out to Rs. 0.81. An excellent buy at the current price for an appreciation of over 100% in a year's time.

K. Gopalakrishnan

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The find of the Australian tour

(By The Corner Flag)

Once again the Madras Press has paid little attention to a city sportsman who has proven to be an outstanding success on the national and international scene. Madras Musings refers to Mohamed Riaz, the find of the

Australian tour. From all accounts, this halfback selected as an inside forward proved an outstanding centre-half in the last three tests.

Riaz and Prabhakaran, who were responsible for Tamil Nadu's fine performance in this year's hockey nationals, first

received recognition in Madras, for their performance in junior hockey, in Madras Musings. And Madras Musings predicted that it would not be long before they were in the running for India caps. Riaz has made it. Will Prabhakaran follow?

Soccer tourney still waiting

The Madras Football Association flag is flying low at the moment because the MFA has so far failed to honour its commitment to stage a unique tournament. The All-India Football Federation having assured it of its support and cooperation, the MFA had decided last March to stage the Dr. Jayalalitha Gold Cup international women's tournament in Madras in the

by
JAIGI

first fortnight of May as a token of its gratitude to the Jayalalitha government for having put up in the southern metropolis the Rs. 40-crore Nehru football-cum-athletics stadium. But it now seems to have been postponed indefinitely.

The MFA's decision to stage India's first-ever women's international tournament understandably received nationwide publicity. Unfortunately, for various reasons, including inadequate response from foreign countries, it could not be held in May, and was postponed to June. But with no improvement in the foreign response, it has been postponed again. No dates have been announced except that the MFA hopes to stage it after the forthcoming World Cup soccer championship in the USA.

How the World Cup men's competition can influence the dates of an inaugural women's tournament, perhaps only the MFA can tell. Indeed, it is now anybody's guess when the Jayalalitha Cup will see the light of day. It will see it all right, considering its nomenclature. But the indefinite postponement is a sad commentary on the salesmanship of the AIFF, which has assured the MFA of a sizeable entry of foreign teams. The Nehru Stadium, which has in its short career hosted international soccer and athletics championships, now has to wait, perhaps for months, for its next international competition.

With the MFA's senior division league championship in full swing on its well-maintained turf, the stadium, incidentally, is back to life after having been dormant for a couple of months.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. 'Tolerance'; 2. Mrinalini Sarabhai and Girish Kamad; 3. China with 90 million tonnes; 4. INS Shankul; 5. Channel V; 6. Fritz 3; 7. Puthukalpakam near Mahabalipuram; 8. Prof. J.K. Galbraith at Harvard University; 9. Imran Khan and his admission of ball tampering to gain advantage; 10. Tuticorin; 11. Jennifer Capriati; 12. Saurashtra; 13. Alexander Solzhenitsyn; 14. Plumeria, the 'queen of the hills'; 15. Columbia University, New York; 16. Indonesia; 17. Sushmita Sen, to become Miss Universe; 18. Video taping of the polling; 19. Prof. K. Swaminathan; 20. World ladies' snooker.

This is the first time it is hosting a full league championship. It may prove to be the first part of a hectic season, for the MFA and its parent body, the T.N.F.A., are going all out to obtain the AIFF's green signal to stage the next Santosh Trophy national championship at the Nehru stadium, as part of the TNFA's diamond jubilee celebrations.

To genuine soccer lovers, however, a more important task than staging the National championship is to find ways and means to improve our state's soccer standards, which remain as mediocre as in the past. The fact that for over a decade no T.N. player has donned the India shirt tells its own tale of the nosedive T.N. soccer has taken since the days, for instance, of Thangaraj and Kittu, two of its all-time greats. More important than staging the national championship, the crying need of the hour is to appoint a knowledgeable and experienced coach, preferably a foreigner, to spot talent and help promising youngsters develop their skills. This alone can lift T.N. soccer out of the

rut into which it has fallen. And this alone can avert another T.N. blank in the national squad.

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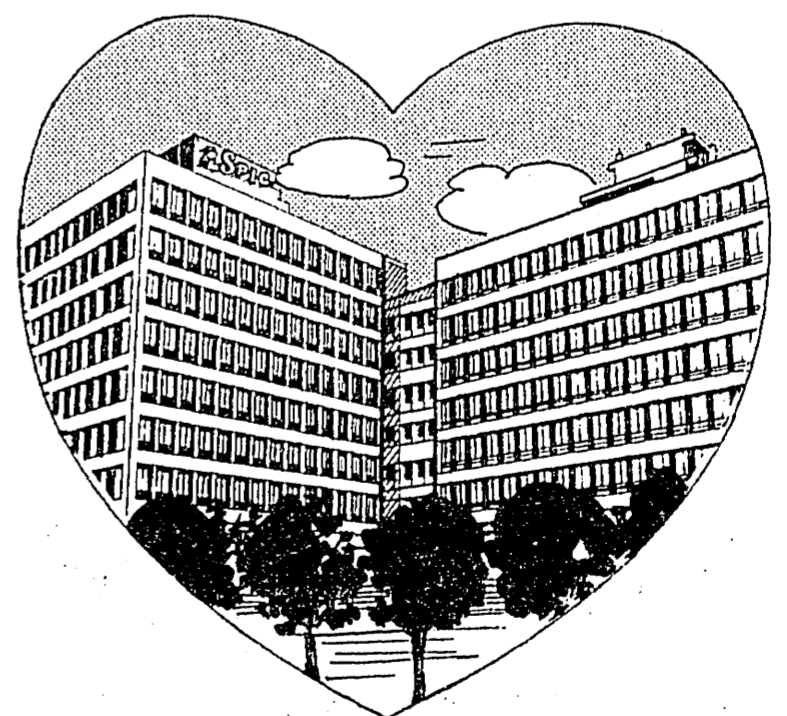
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— The Publisher

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