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June 16 — 30, 1994

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

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

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

Science.

Vol. IV. No. 5

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

that the company that patents

the first cure for the common

cold will hit one of the biggest

jackpots in pharmaceutical

cals 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 develop-

ment of drugs to treat or prevent

Now, Agouran Pharmaceuti-

history.

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 Coouri to Chepauk Palace, from behind the University Campus to

like a performing flea: Agouran's

shares have jumped by as much

as 53 per cent in two weeks,

reports CSE/Down To Earth

do we see this drug in India?

With Agouran having no pre-

sence 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

EDITOR'S NOTE: But when

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)



the triple congo

- Photo: V.S. RAGHAVÁN 'Good' schools not so goo

(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

two from schools at whose gates you have to live for a couple or more day: 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 theso-called 'good' schools. The mofussil schools — and the less known city schools, many of them newones_are beginning to prove that talent is not always to be found

(Also see page 7)

in the schools most sought after.

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. Theyan 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

Theyan 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 wellwishers, 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

- THE PUBLISHER



Cure, at last, for

common cold?

It is an accepted market truism

The stockmarket has reacted

Features.

A recent reiteration by the State Tourism Department stated that the following 18 destinations had been identified for tourism development: Mamallapuram, Muttukadu (see this column last fortnight), Kanchipuram, Chidambaram, Thanjavur, Tiruchchirappalli, Madurai, Udhagamandalam, Kodaikanal, Rameswaram, Kanniyakumari, Poompuhar (Kaverippatinam), Nagapattinam, Courtallam, Kumbakonam, Srivilliputhur, Tiruvannamalai and Tarangam-

While The Man From Madras Musings does not agree with the view that ALL these are tourist destinations - pilgrim centres and holiday resorts should not be confused with tourist centres - he notices at least a couple of major omissions. One is Karaikkudi, Sivaganga or Pudukkottai, which could be used to explore the grand old mansions of Chettinad and a vanishing lifestyle (a la the manner the Government of India has put the havelis of Shekarwat on the international tourist map). The other is Mandapam, with its adjacent Marine National Park, and several islands in the Palk Bay and the Gulf of Mannar, just off the

Mandapam was always in MMM's tourism thoughts, but the islands struck him after a recent visit to the Maldives. And there he found island tourism, offering ONLY the sun, sea'n' sand, enjoying a tremendous boom without in any way influencing or endangering local lifestyles. The Arabian Sea islands are a model of how to make dollars from barren islands without affecting the culture and traditions of the inhabited

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Of the thousand or so islands in the Maldives, only 200 are inhabited. And these are the protected islands. To promote tourism, the Maldives have identified around 70 UNIN-HABITED islands in three or four atolls near Malé and its airport, which occupies the whole of Hulule island and has aircraft wings nearly touch the waves as the craft take-off and land. There are plans to develop other uninhabited islands in further locations, once airstrips are built near these destinations to handle charter aircraft or aircraft carrying large groups but always uninhabited islands, like the ones near Mandapam in the Gulf of Mannar or off the Point Calimere coast in the Palk Bay that MMM is thinking of.

for tourists only

Lach of the islands developed for tourists in the Maldives is completely occupied by the resort — each resort a beautifully landscaped Eden with first-rate chalets, cottages, cabanas, what have you, and all the facilities that go with them. If you like sun, sand and becalmed seas, if you enjoy exploring undersea, if you like court games, if you like dancing and singing every night, if you like tuna cooked by chefs from several parts of the globe, in other words, if you like a tourist in line. relaxed, away-from-it-all break in the sun and are not fussy about food, these island resorts are the places to go. And they attract tourists by the thousands

There are millions of European and Japanese tourists who are quite happy with such holidays. And the Maldives has found the way to give them what they want, without the resorts having any hassles and without the visitors endangering local lifestyles. It's the kind of tourism, MMM feels, the Tamil Nadu Government should start thinking about, putting to use those islands near the Mandapam Marine National Park and elsewhere off the coast. There's more to this state than temples

and hill stations!

The hotel boom

Speaking of tourism, The Man From Madras Musings finds

the Indian hotel industry gearing

itself for a big boom in Madras.

Work is proceeding apace at

Abbotsbury, where a great big

ditch has been dug for the

foundation of the hotel Subba-

rama Reddy's Balaji Group and

the Oberois are building.

Intended to be the city's biggest,

the five-star deluxe 300-room

hotel is expected to cost Rs. 130

crores and is likely to be ready

Hoping to open by early

1995 at Kathipara Junction —

where sculptor Mani Nagappa

has turned out another hand-

raised statue, this time Nehru

pointing south — is another

5-star deluxe hotel, a Holiday

Inn with that chain's most

prestigious imprimatur, Crowne

Plaza. The Rs. 75" crore,

200-room hotel is being set up

by the American medico-turned-

Tamil Nadu businessman, Dr.

Palani G. Periasamy, who now

heads the Dharani Group. Dr.

Periasamy, who had made MGR

comfortable during his medical

treatment in the US, had, in

those days, planned to build a

for the 1996-97 season.

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all the good life in island resorts

mainly manned by Sri Lankans

and Bangladeshis, with just a

worth remembering you live a

TRANSLATION

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Maldivians on each, it is

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pretty restricted life — and that's how the Maldivians want it, keeping the foreigners away from the locals.

Boats to and from the resort islands to airport or Malé leave at fixed times far between. If you miss a boat, well, that's it. A boat for special use can be a costly affair. A friend of MMM's who had to get to Malé for a suddenly organised meeting paid \$ 150 for a 15-minute speedboat ride and back! But then, who wants to go to Malé! It has so little to offer — even in the shops, dutyfree or otherwise.

in People's Park. But environmentalism put paid to that and he moved to the St Thomas' Mount area where some work has been going on desultorily on construction. But the tie-up with Holiday Inn has meant full speed ahead. Holiday Inn, for its part, says this will be one of the 70 hotels it plans to get involved in in India over the next ten years, with equity of about 25 per cent in each. Such a big chain would indicate one of the world's major groups foreseeing a great future for Indian tourism, MMM would

major hotel near the Lily Pond

AS:MEMMEMISME

High pricing is one of the Elsewhere, there's the Railways offering its new "Luxury subtle controls the Maldives on Wheels' for private entreexerts. Paranoic about liquor, drugs and pornography, Customs preneurship. Two southern circuits are scheduled to follow search every single passenger's bags for this contraband, which, these routes: 1) Madras-Pondiif found, is impounded till the cherry — Nagore — Karaikal — Velankanni - Madurai passenger leaves and can take it back. But since resorts can't Rameswaram - Tiruchi survive without liquor, controll-Thanjavur - Madras and 2) Bangalore — Mysore — Kodaiing the drinking of it — to ensure quiet nights — is done by pricing. kanal - Kanniyakumari -A bottle of Scotch at \$ 85, single Thiruvananthapuram — Kochi - Mettupalayam (Ooty) drinks at prices higher than that Bangalore. Who's going to bid and cans of beer at around \$ 4 dollars keep even the European for those two trains?

Tikki Oberoi, Vice-Chairman of the Oberoi Group, however, feels "the future is in mediumpriced hotels". So do many others. And a Travelodge, that is the name of a moderate hostelry chain run by an East Asian group with upmarket standards, will very likely be the next hotel of international standards to open in Madras. Several more of this ilk, but tied -up with other chains, are likely to follow. One could well be a Shaw Wallace hotel, seeing that that group is moving into hoteliering with international collaboration.

> And last but not least, the Taj Group, who are moving into take overs of 'luxury' small' properties all over the South and developing them into top rack rates, are refurbishing the Pudukkottai palace in Kodaikanal. They are also considering a different approach to the accommodation business. Sensing an opportunity in economic liberalisation which will bring in large numbers of Western businessmen and experts planning to stay in the city for a few months at a time, the Taj is planning to develop, 'a club' in Kotturpuram, behind Guindy Engineering, which will have quite substantial accommodation of the 'apartment' type for medium-term visitors. Several others in Madras are also thinking of 'short-term' apartments with full service facilities — for foreign business men and

> technicians. Indeed, MMM thinks Francis Day's city is getting ready to welcome many more 'Europeans' than in the heyday of the Raj. Only, the newcomers are not likely to get within even viewing distance of a 'garden house'.

In brief

* The Veeranam Project, to supply Madras 55 millions gallons of drinking water a day, is slowly getting underway. The first tenders have been floated

for the Rs. 750-crore World Bank-aided Project. But even as the tender notices make their appearance, there's negativism. The Metro Water Assistant Engineers Association says the scheme is "unworkable". The reasons given are too technical for The Man From Madras Musings, but what says the World Bank to all these reasons put forward by the Association for its pessimism?

June 16-30, 1994

* For a while there, it seemed as though Madras would wilt under power-cuts in May, at the height of Summer. Coal from Orissa for Tamil Nadu's thermal plants had got held up for some reason or other. But the latest is that the coal carriers have begun to arrive in Madras, with the harbour receiving a daily supply towards the 7 million tonnes it expects to handle this year — up 1.25 million tonnes from last year. The growing burden of handling coal in Madras harbour makes it all the more necessary to speed up work on developing

the satellite port of Ennore.

Business briefs

★ Official Singapore interest in the Madras-Singapore Corridor (MM 16.11.92 and MM 1.3.94) may have waned, with the Singapore Government showing greatest interest in Bangalore's hi-tech atmosphere, but Chief Minister Jayalalitha is determined that the Corridor becomes a reality. And she's counting on the private sector for that. The Man From Madras Musings understands that a Singapore consortium is being wooed for this purpose, and at the other end is likely to be the SPIC group or Videocon, with TIDCO holding a balancing 10 per cent of the equity. The SPIC group, MMM hears, appears to be so confident of its chances that it has begun to scout around for a Chief Executive for the project. The Indian end of the project will be responsible for establishing the infrastructure at, very likely, Sholinganallur on the Old Mahabalipuram Road, while the Singapore consortium will bring in owners for the sheds which will manufacture strictly for export via Singapore.

* May I have a 'Wills'? Or a 'Classic'? Or a 'Gold Flake'? Ask that question later this year and you might NOT get a cigarette. What you might wind up with is a pint of low-alcohol content beer! Yes, ITC are going into the beer business, capitalising on their cigarette business and brand names that will not only assure advertising two for the price of one but also a way of getting around advertising restrictions, in case they are not changed. ITC are teaming with famed Heineken in this business, which will offer only low alcohol beer in pint-size bottles - something no one else is doing at present, much to the chagrin of the occasional beer-sipper like MMM - priced at Rs. 12-15. ITC appear to have a winner if their marketing plans succeed. But then, ITC has long had a reputation for marketing

-MMM

Heritage buidings

- What are they?

(By The Editor)

The other day, your Editor was huttonholed by one of the 190-odd architects who had submitted an entry in the competition for a design of a multistorey building to rise on the debris of the present Police Headquarters on the Marina, and asked a whole series of searching questions. A few of those questions and answers might just help save that building and get Tamil Nadu — and Madras in particular — a Heritage Act as well.

What is a heritage building? We should think, any building over 100 years old, provided it has

- historical or cultural significance, - been occupied by a figure who has historical or cultural importance,

- architectural or environmental features that could be considered

exemplary. Buildings like the DGP's office, Government House, the Secretariat and other constructions in the Fort, Brodie Castle (Thenral) are some examples of such buildings.

⑤ In these terms, what's special about the DGP's office?

— It has been police headquarters ever since Madras got a modern police force and every police chief has sat there. It is a living monument to the Madras Police.

— It is also a monument to the Masonic movement in Madras, being built as the first Masonic Lodge in the city.

- It is an example of the Classical style of architecture that was favoured for important 18th Century Madras buildings and which is now enjoying a revival (see page 4). Why pull down the genuine and create throughout the city the imitative?

Apart from all this, a first by way of a multistorey building on the Marina would only open the floodgates for such construction on this stretch, ruining the environment of the Marina and affecting all behind

Could buildings less than 100 years old be declared heritage

s? Sertainly, and on the same grounds as those mentioned for the older buildings. Buildings like Banqueting Hall (Rajaji Hall), Victoria Public Hall etc. closer in age to the older one would them. But so would the so where Subramania Bharathi lived Walluvar Kottam, where an attempt al reviving ancient Tamil architectural form in a modern idiom deserves to be appreciated.

• What would a Heritage Act

 It would empanel a committee, comprising qualified Government officials, historians, architects, tourism and cultural affairs experts, conseron oriented NGOs etc., whose to would be to list heritage buildings to be brought under the

 It would forbid the destruction of the buildings listed (and which might be added to from time to time) and guarantee their preservation.

- It would empower the Committee to recommend how such protected heritage buildings could be restored and out to daily use, especially in a manner to attract visitors.

• What alternatives are there for the DGP's office, especially in the light of competition? There are three options in the case

of Police Headquarters.

- Renovate on a permanent basis the present building and use it for what it is meant, as DGP's office and offices for the few who need to be around him. OR use it as a police and transport museum.

- Integrate the main building and the rear colonnade in a sprawling threestorey complex no higher than the University buildings and continue to use it as police headquarters.

- Pull the building down, build · according to the winner's plans and (Continued on P7)

Tread a small news item some time ago

planning to construct offices and even

Government Estate. What a waste! Is

this the best possible way to make use

I suggest the use of Government

Estate for locating the permanent trade

fair site we are looking for. It has these

- is owned entirely by the State

has infrastructure like roads,

- has historic buildings like Rajaji Hall,

In case Government Estate is not

favoured for a trade fair site, other uses

may be considered. A park could be

developed similar to Central Park, New

York, with a jogging trail. OR a huge

sports complex could be constructed

with facilities for all games except those

that require a large area, i.e. cricket,

hockey, football. Government Estate is

big enough to accommodate ten courts

each of tennis, volleyball, basketball

etc. An indoor complex can house table

tennis, badminton, basketball on a

wooden floor etc. The focus is on a

facility that is used every day for

practice and development by as many

people as possible. I am not suggesting

a stadium with a huge seating capacity

that is used once in two years for some

megaevent and remains locked up and

I wonder whether the State

Government (the owner of the Estate)

unused the rest of the time.

electricity connection, etc.,

will be served by light rail,

of such an invaluable place?

Government.

- offers a large area,

is centrally located,

Government House.

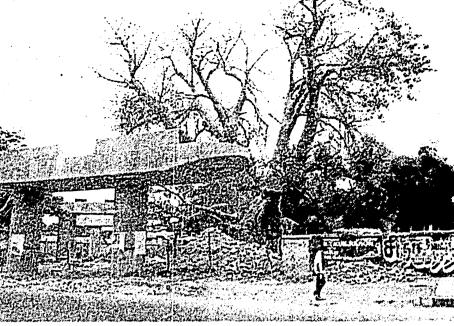
- has numerous trees.

— is an excellent campus.

that the State Government was menal potential of the place.

residential quarters (presumably flats) in will realise how poorly and inefficiently

place?



The century-old giant baobab in the grounds of the Chepauk Stadium that may be endangered when the Metro is commissioned. – Photo: V.S. RAGHAVAN

OUR **READERS** WRITE

'Costly' tree!

Among my favourite COSTLY trees of Madras, (i.e. Century Old Still Living Young Trees) one is threatened by the MRTS at Chepauk Stadium It is a very big

LET'S TRANSFORM

GOVT. ESTATE

Make it the Trade Fair site

has realised the tremendous and pheno-

Walk through the campus. You

the Estate is being utilised. You will see

(housing numerous State Government

offices, like the Tamil Nadu Public

Service Commission), sheds and even

living quarters (who lives there?). You

will even see a repair shed where buses

of the Tamil Nadu Tourist Develop-

ment Corporation are overhauled. Is

this the best way to make use of the

exhibition area, It needs auditoria, and

Children's Theatre, Rajaji Hall, even

the University Centenary Auditorium

can be included as part of the complex,

and all modernised. An old building

Government House, is being given a

new lease of life. What a splendid

headquarters for the complex it will

another building could be the new State

The odd and assorted buildings and

A trade fair complex requires a large

number of "assorted" buildings

Ct. Vairavan 10 Jagadambal Colony Changing face

Thave an idea which I would like to share with you and other readers who love Madras. It is a proposal to change the face of Usman Road.

If we could make a huge parking lot, like the Palika underground parking in Delhi, at the place where Panagal Park is, we can totally cut out traffic on Usman Road, i.e. the kind that comes for shopping. Those who want to make it to the station by vehicle have to approach it thro' the bus terminus side. The whole stretch from the 'round tana' to Panagal Park should be paved for use by pedestrians alone. Only a lew licensed rickshawwalas should be allowed to ply for the paatis and thathas who cannot make the stretch on foot. Not only

are elements of a larger plan, they can

be aesthetically and harmoniously

designed to constitute a "single whole"

without in any way compromising the

A few trees may have to be cut.

Although regrettable, I feel this is a small

price to pay. The installation of light

rail makes the Government Estate,

which is centrally located, an even

more attractive proposition. With a little

imagination and creativity, an excellent

complex can be developed.

functionality of each building.

In an article in Dec. '93, it is mentioned

Portuguese roots

that people in Jassna use cusinee (or the like, I did not note down the spelling) for

would the road be free from congestion, the whole family can go shopping without

Buses plying south and north could use

Venkataranayana Road and meet up at the terminus. Local shopkeepers would welcome

this step as more shoppers would come if there was less noise and smoke. Indeed, Connaught Circus in Delhi is an example of this kind of total bandh of traffic. It is a success story. I hope someone in Madras

can improve on this idea and really make

shopping at Ramanathan Street and Usman

Road a joy — an outing! I am sure where

Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110 002

V Meenakshi

D1/11, Satya Marg

there is a will there will be a way!

setting worried about vehicles.

Similarly, in parts of Notai-Kattabomman and V O C Districts, rural people use the same sounding word for 'kitchen' I wrongly believed that it had ancient Tamil

But on seeing your article it struck me that, after all, it might have been borrowed from a European language. The Oxford English Dictionary mentions the following

"Cuisine — (kuizin) — French — cuisine-Kitchen — Port. cozina, It. cusina. Lat coguina, cocina, coquero — to cook - kitchen, culinary department or establishment, manner or style of cooking, kitchen arrangements.'

The parts of districts I mentioned and Ceylon had lots of contacts (by way of business etc.) for centuries. In both these parts and in Ceylon the Portuguese were the first Europeans to set foot (in the modern era). Therefore we may take it that this word cusinee is a loan word borrowed from them.

The word might have come into currency in parts of Tamil Nadu through their contacts with Ceylon or it might have come directly from Portuguese who had done missionary activities along the coast of VOC Dist in the 16th Century (St. Francis Xavier among them, though he was from

D J Bhaskar Clo. D S Duraraj G1 Rajan Aparts 104 Tara Street Madras 600 007

Hazy memory

Re my article in MM, May 16, I had given the founding of MET as 1903-4. I have now found the company came into existence in 1893 and the cars started running on Madras roads from 1895.

The error was due to the haziness of

M Sethuraman

B Gautham 122 Wallajah Road Madras 600 002.

Madras 600 088

SIMPSONS 9433 Features of \$455 diesels # Direct injection engine for improved fuel efficiency Mechanical governor, for efficient control of engine. Speed, at different load levels. Power-take off-for driving hydraulic jump and compress prefinished main bearings. # Ltb seal on cramishaft feat en Simplon HoLid

Tough Times. Tougher Diesels...

sheds can be demolished. So also, the living quarters. The entire stretch of buildings, including State Guest House, abutting Wallajah Road may be demolished. The old buildings may be replaced with a series of adjacent multistoriey buildings with similar

architecture and facade. One of these buildings could be an office complex for all the "demolished" offices

presently located in the Estate. (Couldn't some or all of them be relocated elsewhere?) Another building could be allotted as flats/quarters for the

people currently living in the Estate. Yet Guest House. One building could house a five-star hotel and another a

three-star hotel. Since all the buildings SIMPSONS - the engine you can trust

The world according to student bloopers...

Strictly speaking, this is not about Madras. But over 50 per cent of us in the city would have studied History at some time or another. So the subject of this four-part series does concern us.

You've heard of 'THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GARP'. Now read all about the history of that place according to some "Student Bloopers'' that RICHARD LEDERER, a teacher at St. Paul's School in the U.S., has pieced together as they appeared, original sentence by sentence, in student answers. History, you'll discover, has never been such fun!

One of the fringe benefits of being an English or History teacher is receiving the occasional jewel of a student blooper in an essay. I have pasted together the following "history" of the world from certifiably genuine student bloopers collected by teachers throughout the United States, from eighth grade through college level. Read carefully, and you will learn a lot. - Richard Lederer

The inhabitants of ancient Egypt were called mummies. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and traveled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere. so certain areas of the dessert are cultivated by irritation. The Egyptians built the Pyramids in the shape of a

huge triangular cube. The Bible is full of interesting caricatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guinesses, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children, Cain, once asked, "Am I my

brother's son?" God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Montezuma, Jacob, son of Isaac, stole his brother's birth mark. Jacob was a patriarch who brought up his twelve sons to be patriarchs, but they did not take to it. One of Jacob's sons, Joseph, gave refuse to the Israelites.

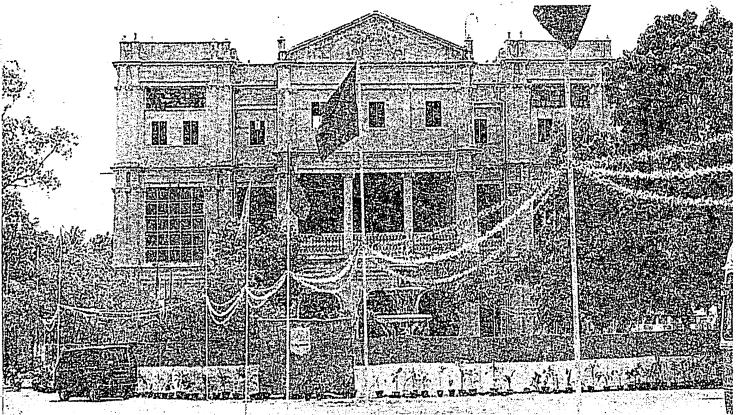
Pharaoh forced the Hebrew slaves to make bread without straw. Moses led them to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Philatelists, a race of people who lived in Biblical times. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 500 wives and 500 porcupines.

Without the Greeks we wouldn't have history. The Greeks invented three kinds of columns — Corinthian Doric and Ironic. They also had myths. A myth is a female moth. One myth says that the mother of Achilles dipped him in the River Stynx until he became intollerable. Achilles appears in The Iliad, by Homer. Homer also wrote The Oddity, in which Penelope was the last hardship the Ulysses endured on his journey. Actually, Homer was not written by Homer but by another man of that name.

Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock.

In the Olympic Games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits, and threw the java. The reward to the victor was a coral wreath. The government

(Continued on P8);

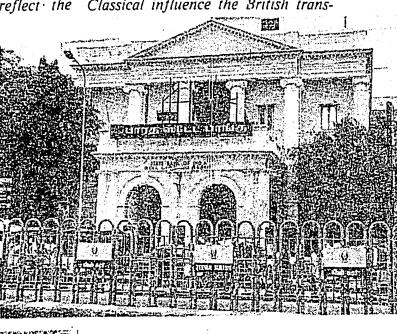


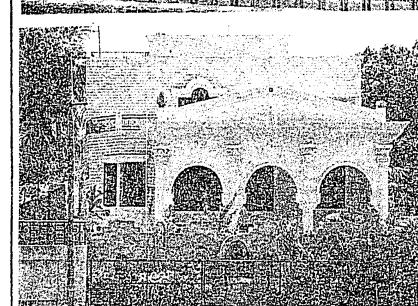
The Old...and The New

(Photographs by V S RAGHAVAN)

Our OLD have appeared before — and we're glad to see them still standing, though still sorely in need of restoration. The State Bank of India, who own two of the finest buildings in Madras, from the point of view of the city's architectural heritage, could surely do better. But that's another story. We should be grateful for small mercies and glad that its Classical building on Mount Road (below) still stands, pediments, pillars, scrolled Ionic capitals and all. Khushaldas Gardens (above) has much the same features, including plain columns and Ionic capitals, but having once been the Travancore Palace, that kingdom's coat-of-arms elaborates the pediment.

Both these buildings of the 19th-early 20th Century period reflect the Classical influence the British trans-

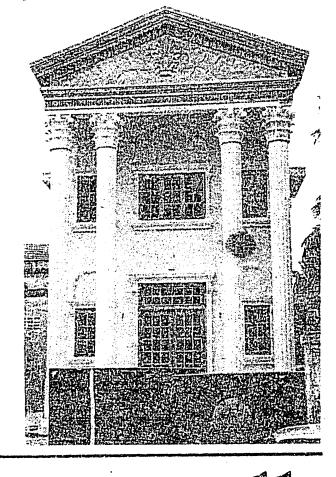




planted in India, first for public, later for private buildings when the Raj blessed the Indo-Saracenic school for public constructions. It is these Classical buildings that have been threatened these past few years — the latest of which is the DGP's office. Yet, it is the Classical that is enjoying a revival in

Two examples of this Neo-Madras Classical are this portico (left, below), an addition to a house in Raia Annamalaipuram. Its fluted half-pillars combine the Ionic scrolls with variations of the Acanthus leaves of the Corinthian. Even more Classical is this building on Sullivan's Gardens Road, next to Nilgiris (below). In the final stages of completion, it is said to be for a private hospital. The narrowness of the buildings and the excessive height rather detract from the Classical styling, but for all that, the building stands out, with its fluted columns and the variation of the Corinthian capitals.

The pictures speak for themselves. All we need to add is to ask whether we really need to pull down the old Classicals to make way for new pseudo-Classicals?



There is much to be said about failure. It is more interesting than success. Going by the coverage given to the withdrawal of the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited's Euroissue, and Euroissues, in general, subsequently, I cannot but agree.

It seems like yesterday when the Government, in 1992, opened the doors for Euroissues by Indian companies, paying heed to the latter's woes of high domestic interest rates, its own lack of resources to fund infrastructure and the country's dismal credit rating worldwide.

Euroissue instruments are of two types - Global Depository Receipts (GDRs) and Euro-Convertible Bonds (ECBs). GDRs are instruments which can be converted, at the holder's option, into a specific number of shares, after a specific period of time. They do not carry interest but are eligible for dividends. Before conversion, GDRs will be listed and traded on the exchanges abroad and, after conversion, in the domestic exchange. GDRs do not carry voting rights except

dividends are paid in rupees. ECBs are bonds, carrying a fixed interest rate and convertible into a given number of shares at a pre-determined price. (They are like FCDs and carry interest in foreign exchange). The bonds are listed and traded abroad and till conversion. interest is paid in dollars. If the conversion option is not exercised, the

redemption will also be in dollars.

1994, about 16 companies made a

venture into the European market and

while a majority of the companies

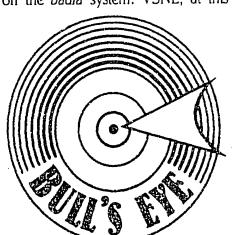
which came before these are quoted at

a premium, these quote below their

offer prices.

Euroissues are preferred by Indian companies, since the amount that can be garnered is equity without an interest commitment in foreign exchange. Reliance Industries was the first to set the ball rolling in May 1992 with its GDRs, and was soon followed by Grasim. 1993 saw 11 companies, like Hindalco, Essar Gujarat and ITC, coming out with Euroissues. But come

The reasons aren't difficult to figure - flooding the overseas market with Euroissues, overseas investors reshuffling their portfolio in the wake of hike in interest rates by the Federal Reserve Board of the US, Asian markets dipping by 20-25%, and the BSE itself at its lowest ebb after the ban on the badla system. VSNL, at this



precise moment, chose to launch its \$ 1 billion Euroissue, only to retract on realising that it could not gamer the envisaged Rs. 1400 per share. While the blame can easily be put on despondency in the global markets, the main bunglers have been VSNL, the

Government and their skirmishes, their being ambiguous on how the proceeds of the issue will be used and sending mixed signals across the globe.

Anyway, the goof-up electrified the Government into action. It has now put a cap on Euroissues. No company can come out with more than one Euroissue per year and no group more than two. Stipulations, as to how the proceeds of an Euroissue are to be utilised, have also been announced. While all these administrative restraints augur well for a market driven system, only time can tell. Perhaps, the current regulations will prove regressive.

Meanwhile, even as speculation is rife over the VSNL Euroissue, Tube Investments has launched its \$50 million Euroissue successfully, endorsing the fact that, when you have a clean chit, your future plans are crystal clear and you are fundamentally robust, there is no stopping the investors, either overseas or domestic, from investing in your venture. The oversubscription to this issue is testimony to the fact that the golden days of Indian Euroissues

Below are our counsels for the fortnight:

Tamilnadu Telecommunications (CMP Rs 28.00): This Madras based company is heading for a turnaround if the second half results of 1993-94 are in indication — a PAT of Rs. 1.07-cron turnover of Rs. 19.28 cr against the previous year's Rs. 14.16 cr turnover and Rs 1.57 cr loss at net level. For March 1994, total income was Rs. 31.57 cr, a 36 per cent growth over 1992-93 and PAT of Rs. 0.35 cr against a loss of Rs. 3.26 cr in the previous year. We expect at least Rs. 30 for 1994-95 results. Technically also, it appears to be bottoming out. Buy as the

Kakatiya Textile (CMP Rs. 15.00):_ Kakatiya Textiles' public issue, to expan capacity to 15,380 spindles in March 1993 just scraped through. The company has been spinning profits ever since its first expansion in 1989-90. Currently, due to a delay in the expansion programme and rise in cotton prices, a PAT of about Rs. 75 lakh is estimated for 1993-94. For 1994-95, it is hopeful of a PAT of Rs. 2.5 cr, as its dyeing plant is expected to commence production (Continued on P8) London update And the Changing of the Guard outside the palace goes on like clockwork every

The author and her children with the Royal Family — at Madame Tussaud's!

ondon has changed. For the better.

'Tube'. Earlier, the London Under-

ground used to resemble one huge

of the past. We hardly encountered any

of those menacing, single-earringed,

hair shaven in part, spiked in part,

black-clothed, confused youngsters

wearing chains and spitting venom.

• by Hiramalini

Sestacin

And dosas have 'arrived' in the

When we stayed in Southhall, I

U.K. Any 'Indian' restaurant worth its

name has dosa on its menu, and, my,

had to pinch myself to believe that I

was in England. I mean one heard Lata

Mangeshkar in the shops and a Sardani

sat at the cash-counter and burqua-ed

Muslim women queued up at the bus-

stand to be picked up by a Bangladeshi

London Transport driver. The only

'native' Englishman was a vendor of

fruits. In Southall, Englishmen are as

rare as Red Indians in Washington

The pigeons at Trafalgar Square are just

as friendly as ever. The Bobby outside

Westminster continues to graciously

pose for photographs with tourists.

London cabbies are as polite as ever.

The guards outside Buckingham Palace

continue to stand like frozen statues.

But some things just do not change.

how people love it!

Long live the Queen for that!

Skinheads and punks seem a thing

underground chimney.

There is no smoking on the

Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum is a treat for all. The Benazir Bhutto on display in green salwar-khameez and dupatta is really stunning. Clinton looks good too. Perhaps they are improving on the technique; the newer wax models look absolutely lifelike. The very first wax-model, that of the Sleeping Beauty (and she breathes as well!) continues to be a crowd-puller. We had 'snaps' taken with the Royal Family. Liz Taylor has been put into a room where entry is banned; possibly too many people were getting photograhed with her in positions that were too close for comfort! And that wasn't doing the statue any good. Ah! the price of popularity — even for statues! The piece de resistance is the 'taxi-ride' through tunnels where lifélike depictions of the Great Plague and Great Fire of London etc come alive in light and

Tamil is a popular language in was going on when we reached; tetra-London now thanks to the thousands of Sri Lankan Tamils who have sought refuge there. The Wimbledon Ganesh temple is a focal point of South Indian. particularly Tamil, cultural activities. The archakas are all Tamils, mostly of Sri Lankan origin; the Ganesh idol is imposing — a bold warriorlike Ganesh; and it was quaint to hear the priest chant 'Wimbledon Ganapathi Swami Preethi Artham'... etc. as he performed

packs of milk flowed down like rivulets into neatly constructed drains. The Aanjaneva idol had a beautiful vadamaalai on it: Muruga was resplendent with flowers. It was a totally South Indian Madrasi experience. Adjoining the Ganesh Kovil. in the

same building, is the Sai mandir. Large pictures of Shirdi Sai and Sathya Sai adorn the altar. An interesting feature

is that over the past two years a polrait of Shirdi Sai has been fonning by itself, on a Sathya Sai picture! How? No one knows. We could clearly see the turban, eyes and nose of Sainath. The mandir draws Asians and Westerners alike. The Sai movement is strong in the U.K. Cheshire Homes, geriatric wards, homes for the handicapped and so on are 'adopted' by Sai workers. Through Sai Seva, the Asian community has earned a lot of respect and goodwill from the local authorities. We visited one such Cheshire Home. It was a touching experience.

Shopping was mainly of the window variety, what with the pound converting at 47 rupees! But we Indians do have a nose for bargains: some of our friends picked up automatic umbrellas for 69 pence a piece - cheap even by Indian standards.!

The nicest thing about London was that you felt "at home". The saree and bindi do not invite curious glances any more: they are accepted wear now! The most notable signs of acceptance were the mannequins. Shop windows - both British and Asian - had brown mannequins as well, with dark hair. sporting Asian and native costumes. The Asian community is a respected one now: their economic muscle is acknowledged. With the coming of age of the Ugandan — Kenyan Asians, the aimort cleaner-sweeper-millhand image has changed. Asians are viewed more as business people who mean business.

Asians have also learnt the art of self-help. Twentyfour hour Asian entertainment is available over Sunrise Radio. Reminiscent of the Radio Cevlon of yesteryears, it is the most popular entertainment medium for Asians. Cable TV brings the Asian programmes as well.

Happily for us, Soorya Bhagwan was part of our group — we had sunshine and warm weather wherever we went for ALL of the two weeks that we were there! Our host families considered that something of a record And in cold England, nothing lifts your spirits like sunny weather does. They pleaded with us not to leave as we seemed to be their weather-mascots. And, believe it or not, as we boarded the flight back, it began to drizzle!

But it's good to be back: back to the heat and dust: and vadu maanga and thairu-saadam; and toilets with mugs and running water!



a friendly Bobby

the archana. Abhishekam for Ambaal

police escort for Harry's

What a pity it is that the old custom of keeping daily diaries has vanished altogether. These days there are no Samuel Pepys or William Hickeys around to record the minutiae of the everyday life of our times, Future generations will just have to guess what we were like, I suppose, and let us hope they do not identify us too closely with the 'art' we produce; with our movies, our pornography, our videos and books. It reminds me of one of Arthur C.

images in it can be made to move if

projected one after the other in rapid

succession. Unfortunately, they base

Clarke's tales, set millions of years ordinary happened. ahead, when the only intelligent forms of life on earth are reptiles, and though they are much more intelligent than us they have no idea of what we must have looked like. At last, they open a flat circular can which contains something utterly baffling to them, but which any child today would instantly recognise as a spool of cinema film. After a great deal of examination and experimentation, they discover how the

their assumption on what we humans must have looked like on that film. which ends with the words 'A Walt Disney Production'!

I was thinking of this the other day when I found another 'lost' diary, this time written — in patches at least in 1961. I was for ever beginning New Years with the resolution that I would keep a Samuel Pepys-style diary, but after a few weeks, a month or so at most, there come pages and pages completely blank... except for now and then, when something quite out of the

Thus, today's readers will scarcely believe a 1949 diary of mine in which have solemnly recorded, here in Madras, 'Today I visited the bank and took out Rs. 100'; a hundred rupees was considered so large a sum in those days that it was worth an entry in a

The 1961 diary contains a story I had quite forgotten, and which associates of mine flatly refuse to believe. I had no settled, paid job in those days, but had been 'discovered' by a

Bombay advertising agency who were regularly sending for me to produce what might, with only very mild hyperbole, be described as 'creative' photography

Despite the many altractions of Bombay (and I don't mean only the girls: there are plenty of them here in Madras, if you'd only look around

One Man's Madras — **HARRY** MILLER'S

you), in spite of the prospect of making quite a bit of money, whereas back in Tamil Nadu I had, up to then, no job at all. Bombay life was not for me, and I was much happier tucked away in my crazy little house called The Frogs in Thirumullaivayal, a village that lies half-way between Ambattur and Avadi.

In those days, when a hundred rupees was a large amount, anything going into four figures just had to be a fortune; so when one day a parcel, found later to contain photographs from Bombay, arrived at the Avadi Post Office insured for something like Rs. 1,500 there was consternation bordering on downright panic. Avadi is quite a town now, but in those days it was no more than an overgrown village. Believe it or not, when mail arrived there for me, the Avadi postman had to walk the three or four miles up the road to The Frogs . Many times I urged him to insist on being provided with a cycle, but they always refused him. And on the day of the arrival of that insured parcel, he walked from Avadi to The Frogs escorted by two police constables! Little wonder people won't believe me now. I'd forgotten myself until I recently stumbled on that diary, otherwise the story would certainly have gone into that recent Penguin book A Frog in my Soup".

Quizzin' with Ramanan

(Quizmaster V.V. RAMANAN'S estions are from the fortnight May

- . What is the theme for the national contest for best children's book published in 1991 & 1992?
- . Who are the two artists selected for Sangeet Natak Akademi's Fellowships for the year 1993?
- . If India is the second largest producer of vegetables, with 66 million tonnes, which country tops the list?
- Name the last of the indigenously built SSK type submarines commissioned by the P.M. on May 28th.
- 5. Star TV's latest music channel is
- 6. Name the computer which tied with Garry Kasparov and beat V. Anand in the recently concluded Intel World Chess Express Challenge at Munich.
- India's first oceanarium is proposed to be set up near Madras shortly. Where?
- Who made the now famous comment about Narasimha Rao during his visit to the US: 'I greet you as a leader of a younger generation?
- . Ivo Tennant's biography of a famous sporting personality has created a furore. Identify the personality and the controversy dossing him.
- Where was Tamil Nadu's latest AIR station inaugurated on May 30th?
- . Which popular tennis star was arrested in Florida on May 16th on charges of drug possession? . The first time a Dravidian language
- scripture was translated into an Aryan language was when the Thirukkural was translated by the late Sanguram. Name the Aryan language.
- Name the famous Russian Nobel Laureate who returned to his homeland after 20 years of exile.
- 4. Identify the species of plant chosen to be planted on the Marina for beautifying the beach promenade under the 'Madras Vision 2000' project.
- 5. In which prestigious US varsity is a centre for Indic research to be
- 6. Who are the new Thomas and Uber
- Cup holders in badminton? 7. Who beat Carolina Gomez and Minorka Mercado to achieve an Indian
- 8. What innovation was seen at the recent by-elections in West Bengal?
- 9. The Madras-based chief editor of the 'Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi' and an eminent educationist passed away on May 19th. Name the person.
- 20. Allison Fisher was crowned world champion for a record seventh time in a sport in New Delhi recently. Name the sport.
 (Answers p. 8)



English teachers. In 1872, the Presi-

dency Government transferred the two

higher classes of the school to Presi-

dency College along with Joyce, who

became the Professor of Oriental

College, the present Quaid-e-Millath

Government Arts College for Women,

was started on this campus in 1918.

C W M Moses, headmaster of the

school, became the first principal of the

The school became a higher secon-

dary school in 1978, and now caters

for a linguistic minority, particularly the

Urdu-speaking. The present headmaster

is Munir Ahmed Basha and he is assist-

ed by 36 teachers. The madrasa has

a strength of about 900: And it offers

them Urdu, Arabic, Persian, Hindi or

The school has a good hockey and

cricket record. It annually hosts the

Basheer Ahamed Khan tournament, a

major all-India hockey competition,

named after a former Physical

the old boys' association, both include

several influential and wealthy old boys

on whom the school can always count.

There is a poor boys' fund which assists

the poor and needy with monetary

care of the PWD, who need to do

more to ensure that the historic main

building is preserved in a state of good

Photographs and text by

RAJIND N CHRISTY

The 15-acre campus is under the

The parent-teachers' association and

Education teacher in the school.

Tamil as first language.

The Government Muhammadan

Languages there.

How much longer can we live with it?

In the grounds of Church Park School, the child labourers celebrate International Child Labour Day. By painting vividly-hued posters and fashioning their dreams in clay. Bright-eyed and cheerful on their day off from the drudgery of work, some of them clamour around me to be interviewed: "I am Santosh, 8 years old, I am a shoeshine. I am Kader, 9 years old, I am a car-cleaner... Madam, look at me. I am Sukumar, 10 years, Madam, working in steel factory. I am 11, welder. Amma, J am Lakshmi, 13, I am a sweeper... And so the introductions poured out from these tiny emaciated child labourers, vicariously enjoying their brief spotlight on April

What about these little child labourers themselves, whose very future is blighted in childhood and who never experience the carefree wonder of exploring their minds and intellect in schoolroom, playground or extracurricular activity? What is the Government of India and the State Government doing to give them back

their childhood by eliminating child

labour? India is a signatory to the

convention on the Rights of Child

which was unanimously adopted by

the UN General Assembly in 1989

The Convention, among other rights,

recognises the right of the child to

education, the right to be protected

from economical and sexual exploi-

tation and prohibits the employment of

children in hazardous labour, such as

in fireworks, match and bidi factories,

as well as in carpet weaving and dyeing

the Tamil Nadu Government aims at

the elimination of child labour in a

phased manner. Voluntary agencies

and NGOs in the city are doing a

commendable job in the areas of

nonformal education, evening schools,

healthcare of the child labourers,

vocational training etc.

As part of its 15-point programme,

O. by Pushpa Chari

29th. It was Public Awareness Day for The Elimination Of Child Labour, a day when they were briefly away from their "places of work" - tanneries, brick kilns, match, fireworks and bidi factories, metal and stainless steel factories, stone quarries, clothing, dyeing and garment manufacturing units, construction sites, restaurants, mechanic shops and "domestic work", not to mention the vast unending fields of India. Here the children work for a pittance and in conditions of such dire deprivation, overcrowding, pollution, bad ventilation and dangerous exposure to harmful chemicals that the grim Dickensian factory of Victorian novels would pale by comparison. How ironic that in a country which has a staggering 40 million child labourers employed in very visible sectors, functions have to be held to the make us aware of child labour and its elimination! Do the elite of India wear convenient blinkers as many foreign observers accuse us of? Or do we not see child labour with its inherent cruelty and inhumanity as "a

blot on our national conscience"?

Some do. The heartening part of the Child Labour Awareness Programme was the number of organisations taking part — the Indian Council of Child Welfare (Tamil Nadu), Arunodaya, Centre for Development and Women's Studies, CRY, AITUC, UNICEF and many more, numbering 19 in all. The ultimate aim of the various organisations is the elimination of child labour whose strength is 40 million India-wide, of whom 14 per cent are in Tamil Nadu. Mostly employed in quarries, tanneries, fireworks and bidi factories or stainless steel factories, or 'self-employed', as shoeshines etc., or as domestic help, these children are exposed to metal dust, harmful chemicals, lung and skin infection, deafness due to ear-piercing sounds and for 10-14 hours work per day they earn Rs. 30 as daily wage. Child after child I spoke to confided wistfully that he'd rather be in school studying, playing games, painting and dancing, that dire poverty was what had driven them to work, that their

employers sometimes beat them. Their ultimate ambition? To study further, to study so that they could become "big" doctors and teachers or, at least, have their own tea business or shop or whatever. And, oh, yes, to see that their mothers did not suffer in life any more than they already had ...

These are the schools that helped the city to grow. Each of the schools featured is over 100 years old. The Government Madrasa-I-Azamhad its beginnings in a school started in 1761 for the education of the members of the Royal Family of the Carnatic by the Nawab Wallajah Mohammed Ali Khan. Nawab Umdat-

ul-Umara widened its scope and admitted the sons of the noblemen and officers of the Carnatic. In the early 19th Century, Nawab Ghulam Mohamed Ghouse Khan removed all restrictions on admission. And it was after his poetic name 'Azam' that the madrasa came to be known. In 1849. It was taken over by the Government of Madras and became the Government Madrasa-I-Azam.

panoramic view of the Madrasa-l-Azam

Madrasa-I-Azam:

Begum Sahiba, wife of Azam-ud-

Doula, in Chepauk. At that time, the

extensive present site of the school and

its stately main building were called

Umda Bagh. It was the palace of

Khairunnisa Begum, the widow of

Nawab Azam. The property was taken

over by the Government of Madras for

the Madrasa-I-Azam'and' its'vast grounds

became the playgrounds of the school.

the learned Moulana Bahurul Uloom

of Ferengi Mahal, Lucknow. One of

the early teachers was Lala Makhan

Ram, a Hindu and a great Persian and

Arabic scholar and poet. An English

headmaster was appointed by the

Government after it took the school

The first principal of the school was

Of Nawabi lineage

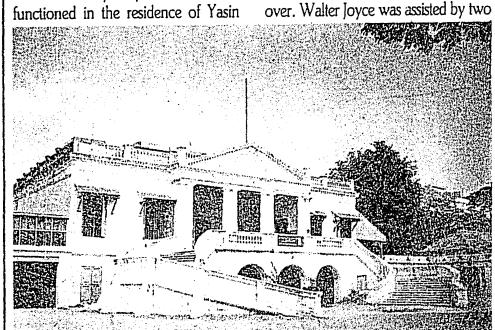
In its early days, the madrasa functioned in the residence of Yasin

Feena Petro Products, who have been

in the gas business in an indirect way

through the manufacture of cylinders,

expected to be around Rs. 1'55/-, while



The main building of the Madrasa-I-Azam built in the 19th Century

This series is on Madras schools that are part of

the City's heritage. These are not necessarily the

better-known or more successful schools of today.

Activist Virgil D Sami of Arunodaya who works in their Centre for Street Children, said that the main thrust of their Centre was on education, identifying motivated children for higher studies and vocational training. Mina Swaminathan of ACCESS emphasised the need for more créches so that the eldest child of a working woman could attend school. Advocate Chandru spoke of the woeful lack of implementation of the existing laws banning child labour, at least in hazardous industries

of child labour in our country.

are the first to enter the private LPG market in Tamil Nadu. While the Government should In the first phase, empty cylinders tighten its stand on child labour laws, are to be sent by Feena to Dubai and Fernandez, spokesperson for the activist Singapore to be brought back filled and groups, promised that all the 19 organilabelled 'Feena Gas'. In the second sations would hold the Tamil Nadu Government accountable for the implephase, gas will be brought into the mentation of the child labour elimicountry in "bullets", stored and used for 'Feena Gas' when required. The nation clause of its 15-point probottling will be done at plants Feena gramme. Also, he exhorted every will put up. LPG spheres will be built employer to employ adults and not in the third phase for storage and supply children in the workplace, whatever it be. For, to misquote a famous ad line, Feena has tied up with British "Elimination Of Child Labour Begins Petroleum, Singapore, for continuous With Me". It's time we did our little supply of LPG. The cost of acylinder'is bit in wiping out the massive scourge

There's promise of hope for the around Rs. 2450/-, including cylinder, 11.5 lakh people waiting for LPG regulator and tube. connections in Tamil Nadu. 400,000 of them in Madras, with the entry of Feena hopes to begin supply of private companies in the LPG market.

cylinders in a few weeks. The bottling arrangement will go on stream later in

and distribution has become possible

due to the reduction in import duty of LPG from 85% to 15%, for private entrepreneurs. Nevertheless, private LPG is costlier, at 15 Rs/kg, as against the government LPG at 7 Rs/kg. As port and transport facilities improve, Feena hopes to make the prices more attractive. In fact, there's talk of Cuddalore being developed with private Privatisation of LPG production entrepreneurship to handle LPG among other imports.

Heard at Feena launch...

nd reported in the Press tool "There are eight crore registrations for LPG in Tamil Nadu, of which half are in Madras alone."

Eight CRORES is 80 million or 800 lakhs. Four CRORES is 40 million or 400 lakhs. Tamil Nadu's population is around 55

million or 550 lakhs, while Madras's population is 4.5 million or 45 lakhs.

Was that claim, made by a VIP speaker at the launch, true or false? Was it just hyperbole or was it making crores out of lakhs?

— A Staff Reporter

Another side of Ayodhya

66 Ham Sab Ayudhya'', an exhibition on Ayodhya that toured the southern states, was brought to Madras by the Safdar Hasmi Memorial

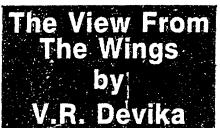
June 16-30, 1994

"Ayudhya" means unconquerable and the exhibition showed the city of Ayodhya in its historic perspective of not just being the place where Rama is said to have been born but also as the place said to have been visited by Mahaveera Jaina, the Buddha, Fa Hsein from China in 410 A.D., Huen Tsang in the 7th Century and Guru Nanak in the 16th century.

Ayodhya, say the organisers, has become an occasion to denigrate the concept of a modern nation, of a civil society based inevitably on secular culture. Any art practice we conceive of in relation to Ayodhya involves placing ourselves and our practice in opposition to a false consciousness about the nation in which, gratuitously, Ayodhya has become a symbol. Many wellknown artists from Madras and elsewhere had gone to Ayodhya during the Independence Day week last year to pledge their support for secularism, when an exhibition was organised. Despite controversies regarding the content of the exhibition, what we saw at

the Kerala Samajam in Madras was a scientifically designed show. At the show there were audio and video cassettes of the Sahmat artists

against communalism, with poems, folk songs classical music and narratives. Recorded as they were at live public shows, the audio was poor, but the mood was right and they did move



you. There were also low-priced picture postcards of photographs taken by village kids in creativity workshops. An

interesting show it was. The shows were coordinated in Madras by Tamilnadu Progressive Writers Association, PCPoo Ulagin Nanbargal, Kerala Samajam, Sammatam and India Samuha Vignana Kalagam. Members of Chennai Kalai Kuzhu and Pralayan their coordinator who helped in the coordination of the Sahmat show are now busy helping Aayana '94. Koothupattarai, Palagala Arangam, Ambika Kameswar, Pravin,

Heritage buildings

(Continued from P3)

hope it will not stick out like a sore thumb any more than the tower block in the Fort.

In the first two instances, the winner's building, which is not location

the vast acres of police property in

When our architect friend left, he was heard promising your Editor to think about it all. Perhaps he'll even exchange views with the 500-odd who specific, could be built as it is, or had wanted to take part in the competismaller, at any other location, such as tion without considersing other factors.

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Hans Kaushik and others are also busy working on Aayana '94, the production involving 1000 children of Madras. It will be held at the I.I.T. open air theatre on July 14th and 15th. Students of St. Michael's Academy, Avvai Home, Olcott Memorial School. A.M.M. School. Children's Garden. Ramakrishna Mutt, Asan Memorial, Mary Clubwala Jadhav, T.I. School and the School for the Orthopaedically Handicapped run by of the Indian Council for Child Welfare will take part in the production. The theme is about landscapes and a celebration of nature. The emphasis will be on craft, with puppets, g masks etc. The directors are looking for donations of scrap, like old newspapers, plain - coloured cloth or sarees, wood, glue, bamboo, metal, thermacole etc. Anyone with something to spare can contact the Madras Craft Foundation — Tel. 4918943.

Krishna from Madras rises Calcutta

(By a Staff Reporter)

A 60-foot tall granite statue of Krishna, after weeks of travel on a special railway flatbed from Madras, is to be raised on the lawns of Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Calcutta. The gigantic statue was chiseled out of a single piece of rock over the past six years by a team over 40-strong led by M Muthiah Sthapthi. They worked on the statue in Cholamandal Artists

The statue, made with the monolith of Gomateswara at Sravanabelagola in mind, is in the traditional Chola style. It is 45 feet tall, stands on a 15-foot pedestal and is 12 feet wide. As much as it is huge, the statue is also elaborately carved, though its size overwhelms the viewer's view of the sculptor's art.

Carving the huge statue itself was not the end of the job. The statue had to be transported all the way to Calcutta. As the slightest damage to it would have ruined it totally, the thought of transporting it by road was given up, given the condition of the roads en route. And so the railways undertook the stopstart-stop assignment that took weeks of huffing and puffing at cost over Rs. 1 crore.

Basant Kumar and Sarala Birla's five-stories tall gift to Calcutta follows the gift of a 60-foot tall Shiva statue to Delhi. The Director of the Birla Academy sees the Krishna statue not as an idol for worship but as "a great work of art that should be venerated".

Singing his way

A Muslim boy from a Christian School getting first rank in what is 'essentially 'Hindu' music is indeed a splendid symbol of Indian integration. But what is even more significant is that this little-noticed topper in this year's Higher Secondary exam is from St. Louis Institute for the Blind in Adyar.

lalal Ali. who secured first rank in Indian Music, has maintained the record of the first batch from St.Louis to sit for the Higher Secondary last year; the first two ranks in Indian Music were won by the school then.

Jalal's rank is a culmination of nearly eight years of training in music. He was first encouraged by Sister Stella of the Little Flower School for the Blind to take up music. That was in Std. IV.

At the St. Louis Institute, music is a compulsory subject for all students from Std. VI. When they finish Std. X, those interested in music go on to advanced music and follow the State Board syllabus which includes 15 krithis a varnam, five geethams, a swarajathi and a jathiswaram apart from theory lessons in the structure of Indian music, the difference between Indian and Western music systems, raga lakshanas, structure of such musical instruments as the veena, tambura etc. The students are also encouraged to take part in various competitions. And the school has a light music troupe which gives performances in and outside the city. Jalal himself has won many prizes and is also a member of the orchestra playing the triple congo.

For all this, none in lalal's family is interested in music. His father is a photographer and owns a studio. "At home". Ialal says, "If some Carnatic music programme comes over the radio or TV they would just switch it off". lalal's interest in music is entirely his own, kindled by the school he's been to. Now he's keen to pursue music as a career. "But whatever I do connected

guidance of my master," says Jalal. 'Master' is R Subramaniam, a disciple of M.D. Ramanathan, who has been with the school for the past thirty years and shares a wonderful rapport with the students. He was instrumental in getting the school to offer Indian Music for the Higher Secondary.

by R. Jaisri

"He's a boy with tremendous grasping power and a fine auditory sense", says Subramaniam 'master' discussing Jalal's musical ability. Indeed, lalal has more than an academic interest in music. For example, he memorised the 72 melakartha ragas though it is not part of the syllabus. And he sings without fuss. Singing full-throatedly. with a deep voice, Jalal demonstrated his mastery over both classical, and light music by singing the classical Thaye Yasoda and songs from the movies Sankarabarnam and His Highness Abdullah, at ease in the different languages.

Jalal is equally at home with light music as he is with the classical. Ialal keen to evolve a style of his own, wants to use light music to introduce an element of creativity in classical music. For all this, lalal isno noncomformist. He is an ardent fan of Yesudoss, Balamuralikrishna, Maharaiapuram Santhanam, and Neiveli Santhanagopalan among others and spends hours listening to their cassettes when nct in class or practising singing his daily two hours.

As for his future plans, Jalal first wants to go for the Thyagaraja aradhana. "Master has promised to take me there next year", he enthusiatically announces. And a music career seems in the offing as Yesudoss has offered to take two students from the schoolunder his wing every year. And Jalal, we feel will certainly be one. Thereafter? lalal thinks he'd like to become "a professor", but as Brother Patrick, the Director of the Institute says, "the sky is the limit for this boy". And adds "He is brilliant; he has so much talent". Obviously he is referring to Jalal faring well in oratorical competitions and writing poetry. But for Jalal, competition and accomplishment, overcoming every handicap, is a way of life.



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Till June 30: Works on Paper by Josen Chowdhury, F.N. Souza and K.G. Sub-

ramanyan at Sakshi Gallery, 11 am-6 pm daily except Sundays.

Resigning to help gold quest

(By A Sports Reporter)

Sreenivasan, PT 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.

mother of a two-year-old son. Uiiwal. 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

Usha's immediate goal is to qualify for the Commonwealth and Asian

Usha, now nearly 30 and the

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 garlies 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.

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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 sportsmar 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. Musings Madras 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



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 riow 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 Karnad; 3. China with 90 million tonnes; 4. INS Shankul; 5. Channel V; 6. Fritz 3: 7. Puthukalpakkam 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. Saurashtran: 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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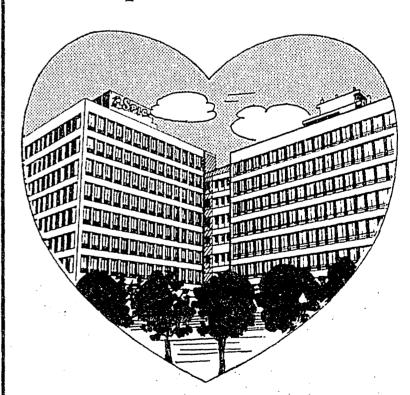
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Published by ANU VARGHESE for and on behalf of Lokavani-Hall Mark Press Pvt. Ltd., 62/63 Greames Road, Madras-600 006 and printed by T J GEORGE at Lokavani-Hall Mark Press Pvt. Ltd., 62/63 Greames Road, Madras-600 006. Edited by S MUTHIAH.