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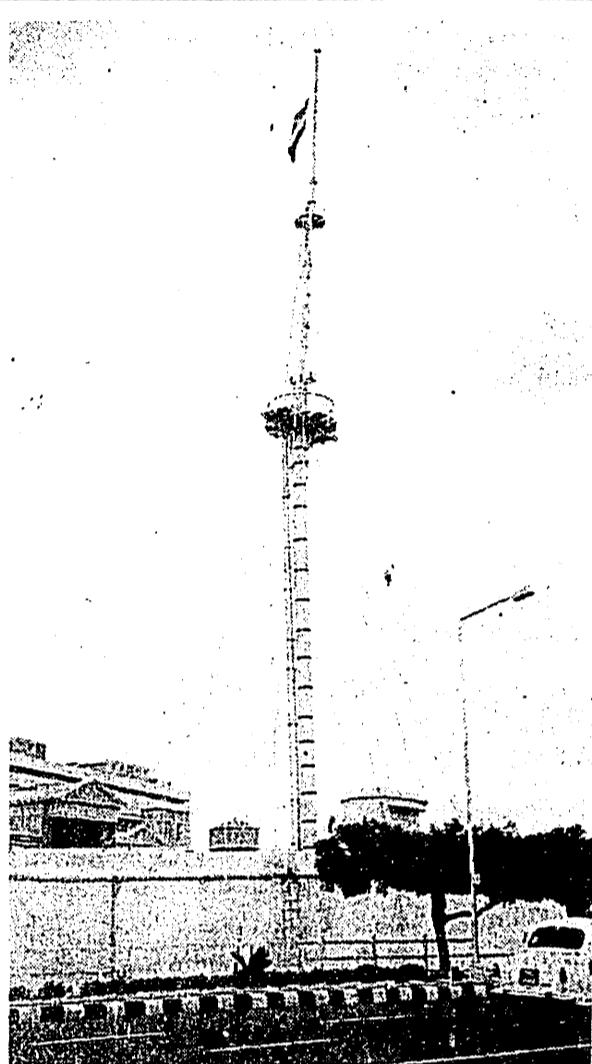
MUSINGS

IV. No. 8

August 1 — 15, 1994

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Will
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(By The Editor)

The last time the authorities wanted to pull down a condemned historic structure, it took them nearly two years! To pull down the 307-year-old, 150-foot tall teakwood flagpole opposite Fort St George will, presumably, not take as long, even if they take the axe to it. That's because someone's set a deadline to erect the new metal flagpole before August 15th - when, no doubt, a prayer will be said hoping that it too lasts at least 300 years.

The oldest and tallest flagstaff in the country was raised in 1687, when Elihu Yale was Governor. It was raised before the Sea Gate, where the flag remains, though that historic gate has long been blocked up. However, there was a brief period in the 1770s when the flagpole was moved to the northeast bastion, the Reserve Bank of India end. When they had the flagstaff raised, it was the Union Jack and not the East India Company flag he had hoisted on it, the first time the Union Jack of the United Kingdom fluttered over Indian soil.

As the flagpole comes down, with, we hope, due care for it, we wonder whether the U.S. Consul-General in Madras, Tim Hauser, might like to approach the authorities here and at Yale University (named after old Eli Yale) about finding a new home for this Yale link. We are sure that if Yale University found this historic flagstaff a home on its New Haven campus, it would last another 300 years at least. Over to you, Consul-General.

(Photograph: V S RAGHAVAN)

Bombay's Heritage Act

When do we follow?

(By The Editor)

Every time we meet a government official, we are asked whether we've had any success in preventing the pulling down of the DGP's office on the Marina or getting those concerned to change their minds on putting up multi-storey buildings in the middle of Government Estate. And while telling them that we still lived in hope, we've always added that, more important than piecemeal solutions, what was needed by Madras was a Heritage Act.

Then we'd tell them about Bombay's Heritage Act passed in 1991 and how successfully it was working not only in saving public buildings but many a private one too. And they'd ask for a copy of the Bombay Act, promising to do what they could to get official interest kindled. We've lost track of the number of copies we've had INTACH send them, but we haven't lost hope.

To remind them and inform others interested in the subject, we today publish below, excerpts from the Bombay Heritage Act:

SCHEDULE

Draft Regulations 67 and 68 proposed to be added to the Development Control Regulations for Greater Bombay, 1991.

After Regulation 66, the following new Regulations 67 and 68 shall be added, namely:-

"67. Conservation of listed buildings, conservation areas, artefacts, structures and precincts of historical, aesthetic, architectural and heritage significance:-
(1) Classification — The classification of listed buildings, conservation areas, artefacts, structures or
(Continued on P3)

A sampling of the protected

SCHEDULE LIST OF BUILDINGS, CONSERVATION AREAS

Sl. No.	Nature of monuments, bldgs, precincts etc.,	Special features .	Date
1.	Bombay Castle and other historical, aesthetically important buildings and features in I.N.S. ANGRE.	Military. The oldest surviving remains of Bombay's early history from original Portuguese and British Castle of Bombay, including battlements, doorways, sundial and other outstandingly important and valuable features.	16th, 17th, 18th Centuries
2.	Naval Dockyard (from Lion Gate to Old Customs House) with clocktower (Opp. Great Western Buildings) including...	Original dockyard constructed by Powji Wadia. The Dock's frontage on the S.B. Singh Road forms a "line of sight" which remains almost unchanged over the past 200 yrs. Early prints and engravings depict it as one of the main street fronts of early Bombay overlooking the street which led past the Scots Kirk and the old Great Western Hotel (formerly Admiralty House and the first High Court Building), both still standing, to the Apollo.	1798
587.	Shirley Rajan Village	Typical Bandra Village community complex, small shopping (Residential)	1800's
588.	Ferns Mansion	Vernacular style verandahs with wrought iron railings (Residential)	1900's
616.	Tehmi Terrace	Colonial style (Residential)	1918

NOTE: Also listed in the schedule are ownership and usage.

The criteria for conservation

Criteria (Classification) for Listing Buildings and Conservation Areas:

- Value for architectural, historical OR cultural reasons.
- The date and/or period for design and/or unique use of the building or artefact.
- Relevance to social or economic history.
- Association with well-known persons or events.

- Buildings or groups of buildings and/or areas of a distinct architectural design and/or style, historic period or way of life, having sociological interest and/or community value.
- The unique value of a building or architectural features or artefact and/or being part of a chain of architectural development that would be broken if it were lost.
- Value as a part of a group of buildings.

- Representing forms of technological development.
- Places of natural scenic beauty or interest, including water-front areas, distinctive and/or planned lines of sight...
- Open spaces sometimes integrally planned with their associated areas having a distinctive way of life and... which... have the potential to be areas of recreation.

Power

— Doing more than in one's power?

Technology in the areas of co-generation, higher value distillates from refining, oil and gas exploration, expanded coal utilisation and clean coal technologies in an environmentally favourable manner were promised during US Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary's recent visit to India to scout for greater cooperation between the countries in the areas of power, coal, oil, gas and environment. Even as the positive undertones of this visit have buoyed many a spirit, the difficulties under which our power sector currently labours flaunt themselves rather unflatteringly.

Let's face it. Currently, the odds are against us. For some years now, the

projects, a 16 per cent rate of return on assets and, above all, a counter-guarantee to them that it would step in if the SEBs failed to meet their payment obligations.

Guarantees for honouring of contractual obligations in the country, such as purchasing and pricing agreements, make sense, given the state of our SEBs. However, the last route to lure investments, i.e. counter-guarantees, is what is raising a lot of dust. Given that this could promote inefficiencies rather than productivity (as the MNCs could always jack up their cost of production), this subsidy to the foreign producers is a paradox, considering that inefficiency through subsidies is precisely the reason for the call to remove subsidies to consumers.

In this context, we could follow the footsteps of such Asian countries as Taiwan, Pakistan and China. Also in dire need of investments in this core sector, they too have assured a rate of return on capital, but none seems to have given counter-guarantees. All of them are not doing a bad job of attracting overseas power investors, proving that necessity need not always yield a bad bargain.

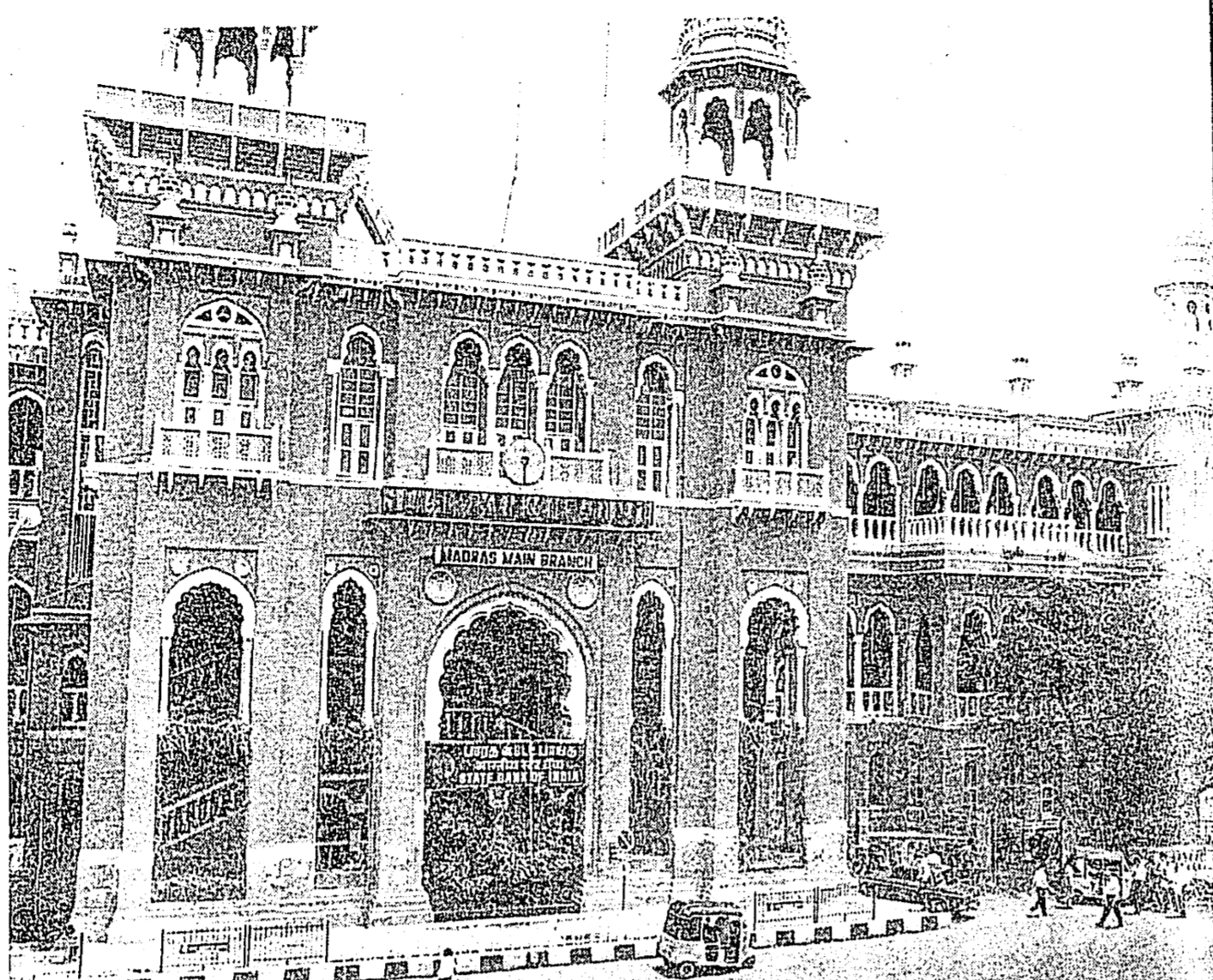
Here are three good lookers for this fortnight:

Indana Dairy (CMP Rs. 52): The Company has announced good results for 1993-4, a turnover of Rs. 10.60 cr and PAT of Rs. 2.30 cr resulting in an EPS of Rs. 7.66 on the old equity of Rs. 5 cr. It also declared a dividend of 21 per cent. It is setting up joint ventures in Nepal and Oman for producing milk products and will start manufacturing casein, a milk protein derivative used in pharma and food processing, by the end of this month. Sugar cones for icecreams will also be manufactured by a joint venture with an Italian firm. All these plans make us believe that the company will perform much better than its estimations for 1994-95. It has projected a turnover of Rs. 29.50 cr and PAT of Rs. 2.90 cr for 1994-95. We estimate Rs. 100 for this share by the results.

Lakshana Cotton Spinning (CMP Rs. 25.00): This Coimbatore-based company entered the capital market in May 1994 and the issue was oversubscribed 2.2 times. The recent issue was to finance an expansion to 22,000-plus spindles. This new Rs. 2.88 cr project is expected to go onstream by October 1994. For 1993-94 (9 months), the company has achieved a sales of Rs. 5.23 cr and a PAT of Rs. 0.57 cr. The company anticipates a sales of Rs. 10.25 cr and PAT of Rs. 0.75 cr for March 1995. The resultant EPS is Rs. 2.20 on an enhanced equity of Rs. 3.45 cr. These seem achievable owing to its past performance, industry averages and partial contribution from expansion. Long term prospects are encouraging. Hold. Also, buy on declines for long-term gains.

Apple Credit Corporation (CMP Rs. 90): ACCL is coming up with a rights-public issue of Rs. 20 cr at a premium to the increasing fund requirements. It is proposed to issue FIs 30 per cent of the revised equity capital. The working results for the half-year ended December 1993 have been spectacular. The company recorded a gross income of Rs. 12 cr, representing an increase of 9.64 per cent over the projected December 1993 figures, while the NP, after finance charges, depreciation etc, stood at Rs. 6.07 cr, 29.67 per cent more than that projected for the corresponding period. Prices, which made an all time high of Rs. 115, are currently reacting and unlikely to lose support at Rs. 80. Buy with a stoploss at Rs. 80 for a target of Rs. 125.

K Gopalakrishnan



The gracious Indo-Saracenic of the State Bank of India's Main Branch (above) on North Beach Road (Rajaji Salai) is quite a contrast to the sleek lines and stark lettering of the newest bank in the city, the ICICI Bank's first branch in the country (below).

The Old and The New of banking



Our OLD is the gracious Indo-Saracenic of the State Bank of India's Madras Main Branch, built in the 1890s for the Bank of Madras, the first modern bank to be established in India. That great builder Namburumal Chetty began the work in 1896 on a Henry Irwin adaptation of Col. Samuel Jacob's plans. The site had been bought from Government in 1895 and the contract for the building was valued at Rs. 3 lakhs.

The interior is certainly Irwin, echoing the Connemara Library's great reading hall. A marble-floored banking hall, a lofty vaulted ceiling, ornate woodwork, glass-panelled doors and over 1200 pieces of stained glass are all rather dimmed by the clutter of early 20th century banking, but cry for renovation.

Our NEW echoes today's banking better. Offering clean, sleek lines in its exterior embellishment and an almost antiseptic interior is the corner of the ICICI's building that is the city's newest bank branch, the first branch in all India of the ICICI Banking Corporation Ltd., the first private bank to open a branch in Madras under the liberalised regime and the third private bank to commence operations in the country.

Six more branches are scheduled to be opened this year, including one in Nungambakkam. The deposit target for the Madras branches in the first year has been fixed at Rs. 100 crore, and Rs. 500 crore for the bank as a whole. But isn't Rs. 71 crore a

branch too stiff a target to achieve in the first year of operations? Managing Director P V Maiya feels the target can even be exceeded by practising what he calls "partnership banking". He promises to treat all his clients — in big business, in small-scale industry and in the agriculture sector — as business partners, which is what every account holder of a bank expects. Sources in the banking industry, therefore, feel the deposit target of Rs. 500 crore for the first year and Rs. 1800 crore by the end of the fourth year is nothing much for the bank, as ICICI is backing it to the hilt. Strongly refuting the suggestion that there will be captive banking, Maiya says, "We will win the new clients by our service and decision-making". A professionally trained staff, a fully computerised operation and a relatively flat hierarchy are the bank's advantages, he points out. Speaking about his staff strength, Maiya says, "Our bank is a 'sangam' of young professionals from 12 different banks with an average age of 33".

The ICICI Bank expects to locate 45 branches in metro/large cities and 15 branches in semi-urban/rural areas before long, thereby satisfying its licence requirements of having 25 per cent of the total branches in semi-urban/rural areas. "Sixtyfive centres in the country provide 75 per cent of the banking business and this aspect is what we will keep in mind while selecting places to locate branches in," states Maiya.

The bank will herald an era of 'branchless banking' by linking corporate clients to its central computer, so banking transactions will be done without moving out. Further, it will open computer terminals at corporate client's premises, link to its central computer will be extended to high profile individual account-holders, and, later, to anyone who has a personal computer.

In order to be cost-effective, a minimum balance of Rs. 5000 will have to be maintained in SB accounts and Rs. 15,000 case of account holders using its facility.

For the purpose of collection of cheques and drawings of drafts, the ICICI Bank entered into an agreement with the Corporation Bank. "It's not piggyback riding," Maiya. "The relationship is based on mutuality of interest and will be beneficial to both in the long run." The Bank of California and Chase Manhattan will alter overseas transactions.

Apart from financing the working capital requirements of big industry, the Bank also finance the purchase of consumer durables and credit cards and offer against shares. Value-added services funds management will be offered in the premises Maiya, who spent his early working career till now in SBI's departments and who was instrumental in reforming and streamlining the appraisal procedures there. "But we will lend to the liquor industry," says Maiya.

(Text by V JAGANNATHAN Photographs by V S RAGHAVAN)

Wanted a 'Vismaya' At Madras Central

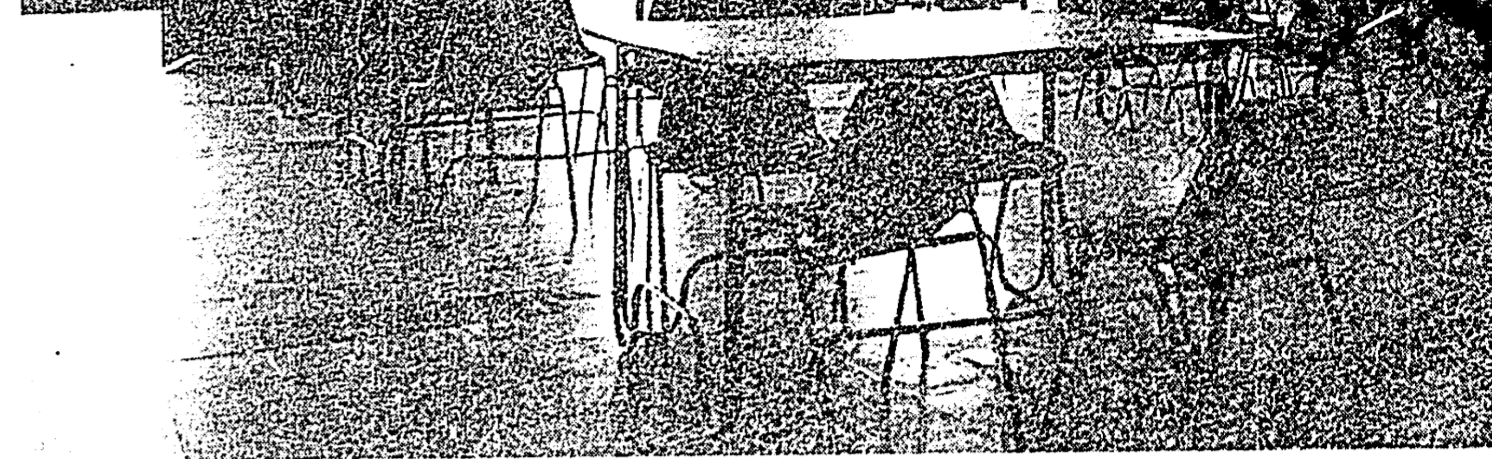
The other day, I had to kill two hours at Madras Central as I waited for my train. What better way to do it than have a cup of coffee and a vadaï to browse through a mag. So I made my way to the Vegetarian Refreshment room.

My nose voted against the place even before I peeped in, such was the stench emanating from it. One look inside, and my eyes followed suit. The cluttered stand-and-eat-on-me table-top hordes of flies landing and taking off, the place looked dingy, dark and grimy. So I hastily beat a retreat and made my way up the grand staircase to the Vegetarian Restaurant.

As I climbed up the colonial staircase, I had this *deja vu* feeling and then remembered. In the late Sixties, on my way to Delhi, we had spent a few hours in transit at Madras Central and I had gone up the same stairs to the dining rooms and restaurant upstairs. Vivid memories rushed in: the

restaurant had a real coffee house atmosphere then. I recalled; and we children had been thrilled because they gave us any amount of ketchup with the cutlets. Lost in such reverie, I followed the signboard and reached the Vegetarian Restaurant.

I was shocked at what I saw. It looked so dilapidated, more like an old warehouse. About six or eight people were there in the huge hall, just about three tables occupied, all others empty. I parked myself at one hoping some waiter would arrive. After about fifteen minutes, when no one cared to bestow so much as a glance, I sauntered up



The almost empty, ghostly restaurant on the first floor of busy Madras Central. (Photograph: V.S. RAGHAVAN)

posed to pick them up. "Ukkaarungo," he genially replied. So I sat again and cooled my heels. After what seemed

• by Hiramalini Seshadri

to the cash-desk. It was a "self-service place", he said and pointed to a lilliputian hoarding hiding under a calendar. So I got a bill for a coffee and vadaï and enquired where I was sup-

posed to pick them up. "Ukkaarungo," he genially replied. So I sat again and cooled my heels. After what seemed

The serious state at a reasonable time

(continued from last fortnight)

Meanwhile in Europe, the enlightenment was a reasonable time. Culture invented electricity and also wrote a book called *Candy*. Gravity was invented by Isaac Walton. It is really noticeable in the Autumn, when the apples are falling off the trees.

Bach was the most famous composer in the world, and so was Handel. Handel was half German, half Italian.

STUDENT BLOOPERS

and half English. He was very large. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.

France was in a very serious state. The French Revolution was accomplished before it happened. The Marseillaise was the theme song of the French Revolution, and it catapulted into Napoleon. During the Napoleonic Wars, the crowned heads of Europe were trembling in their shoes. Then the Spanish gorillas came down from the hills and nipped at Napoleon's flanks. Napoleon became ill with bladder problems and was very tense and unrestrained. He wanted an heir to inherit his power, but since Josephine was a baroness, she couldn't bear children.



The sun never set on the British Empire because the British Empire is in the East and the sun sets in the West. Queen Victoria was the longest queen. She sat on a thorn for 65 years. Her reclining years and finally the end of her life were exemplary of a great personality. Her death was the final event which ended her reign.

The nineteenth century was a time of many great inventions and thoughts. The invention of the steamboat caused a network of rivers to spring up. Cyrus McCormick invented the McCormick reaper, which did the work of a hundred men. Samuel Morse invented a code of telegraphy. Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabbits. Charles Darwin was a naturalist who wrote the *Origin of the Species*. Madman Curie discovered radium. And Karl Marx became one of the Marx brothers.

The First World War, caused by the assassination of the Arch Duke by a surfer, ushered in a new error in the annals of human history.

Richard Lederer (Concluded)

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Gemini Circle, Mount Road, Madras 600 006. Tel: 8273040.
NOTABLE BOOKS OF THE MONTH

- Bass, Thomas A. Re-inventing the Future: Conversations with the World's Leading Scientists. Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, c1994. (574.0922 BAS)
- Chappel, Tom. The Soul of a Business: Managing for Profit and the Common Good. Bantam Books, c1993. (658.314 CHA)
- Cotton, John L. Employee Involvement: Methods for Improving Performance and Work Attitudes. Sage Publications, c1993. (658.314 COT)
- Hardin, Garrett James. Living Within Limits: Ecology, Economics, and Population Taboos. Oxford University Press, c1993. (304.666 HAR)

- The Hollow Core: Private Interests in National Policy Making. Edited by John P. Heinz... (et al.) Harvard University Press, c1993. (324.4 HOL)
- Krueger, Arne O. Economic Policies at Cross-Purposes: The United States and Developing Countries. The Brookings Institution, c1993. (337 7301 KRU)
- Mueller, Keith J. Health Care Policy in the United States. University of Nebraska Press, c1993. (362.1 MUE)
- Toffer, Alvin. War and Anti-War: Survival at the Dawn of the 21st Century. Little, Brown and Company, c1993. (355.02 TOF)

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Quizzin' with Ramanan

Quizzmaster V.V. RAMANAN'S questions are from the fortnight July 1-15

1. 'Isaignani' Illayaraja was recently awarded an honorary doctorate by a U.S. university. Name the university.
2. According to the new bank rates introduced on July 15th, what is the service charge (hitherto free) for handling local cheques?
3. The legendary composing duo of Viswanathan-Ramamurthi are to make a comeback after 29 years. In which film?
4. Who is the first CEC of the newly set up State Election Commission in Tamil Nadu?
5. Which Indian has won the Magsaysay Award for 'government service' this year?
6. Who is sponsoring the TNCA senior division cricket league this season?
7. Name the Governor of Punjab who was killed with his family, in an air crash on July 9th.
8. Which world-famous landmark was acquired by Donald Trump, the real estate mogul?
9. The Group of Seven (G-7), comprising leading industrialised nations, became G-8 with the admission of a proto-member. Who is latest entrant?
10. The President and 'strong man' of North Korea since World War II passed away recently. Name him.
11. Who regained the 100 m athletics world record at Lausanne on July 6th with a time of 9.85 seconds?
12. Which Indian family is the second to enter Forbes list of billionaires, after the Birlas?
13. The 'Beyrout Sultan', a prolific Malayali novelist, died recently. How is he better known?
14. Why were Rahul Banerjee and Abhijit Das of *The Statesman* in the eye of controversy recently?
15. Name the Colombian footballer who was murdered for scoring a self-goal which led to his country's ouster from USA '94.
16. Which international prize, worth \$ 22,000, was won by K. Rajendra Prasad of Vijayawada?
17. After doctors on July 15th performed a cataract operation on the South African President, Dr. Nelson Mandela, they explained why the President had been unable to cry. What was the reason they gave?
18. Two players played their 21st games in the World Cup — a record for any individual. One was Diego Maradona. Who was the other?
19. According to the DGE, Tamil Nadu, what is the minimum grace marks that are to be added to the HSC marks of a participant in state level sports?
20. Who denied Martina Navratilova her record 10th Wimbledon singles crown and became the first Spaniard to lift the title?

(Answers on p. 7)

Guindy

— Its roots in surveying

Guindy Engineering College, a part of the history of Madras, had its roots in what may be described as the oldest technical institution outside Europe, the Survey School at Fort St. George. Founded by Michael Topping, astronomer and geographical and marine surveyor of the Presidency of Fort St. George, on May 17, 1794, the School began functioning from near the Observatory (now the Meteorological Department in Nungambakkam) with just eight boys.

The Survey School was started out of necessity. To meet the increasing surveying needs of the East India Company, there was a need for a regular supply of engineers (surveyors as they were called) to the Public Works Department. Engineers 'imported' from England found India too hot, fell sick often, were disloyal to their employers, and also proved costly. So it was decided to train Indians in surveying, building and repairing water tanks (reservoirs).

The first superintendent of the school was John Goldingham, who

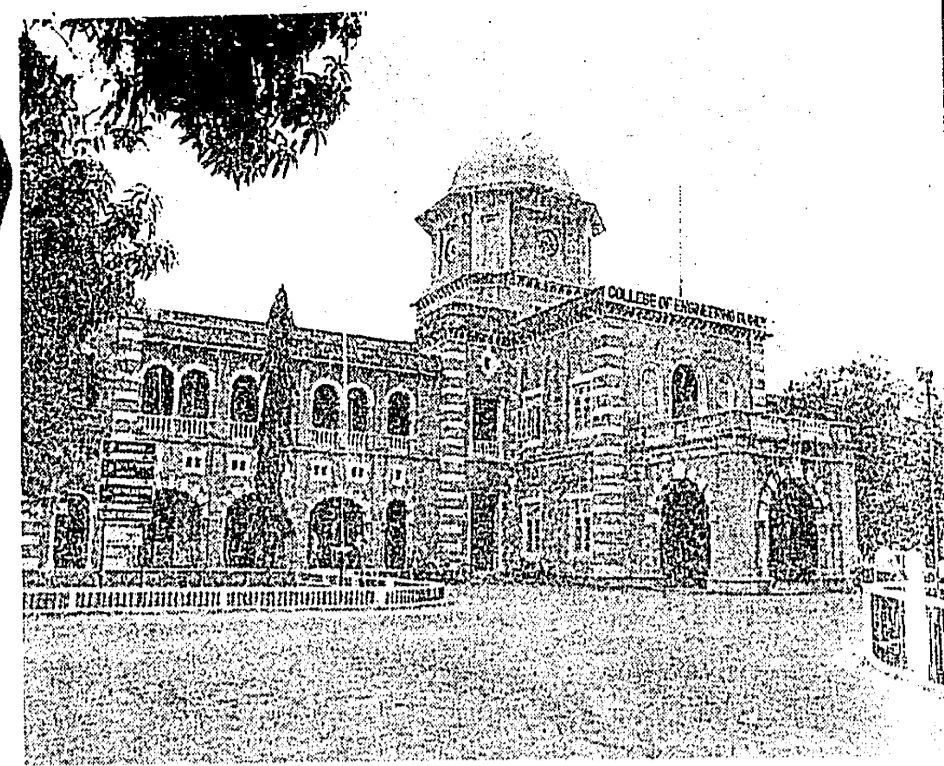
drew 50 pagodas a month as salary. The staff included a maths teacher on a salary of 35 pagodas, a draughtsman on a salary of 25 pagodas and a *munshi* on a salary of 8 pagodas (one pagoda = 3½ rupees). The superintendent was also given an annual allowance of 120 pagodas to provide

200 years of engineering in Madras

by R. JAISRI

for the boys' clothing and other basic needs. The first batch of apprentices came out in 1799 and were sent to survey places as far as Mysore, Malabar and even Persia.

Though the Survey School fulfilled an important need, it was not free from financial difficulties and had to close



down from 1810 to 1819. This, despite the fact that the school had been granted 2,500 star pagodas by Lord Clive in 1798 and the cost of running the school was 245 pagodas a month, with performance-based incentives for the staff.

The School reopened in 1819 on the advice of Major De Havilland, who also recommended that an entrance exam be introduced for admission, the subjects of test being the 3 R's and the vernaculars. Boys selected were to be between 12 and 14 years of age and the stipend of the boys was fixed at Rs. 50 per annum. Major Havilland headed the school which, in its 1½ year course, taught Algebra, Mensuration, Trigonometry, Building Construction, Surveying, Drawing, Estimate Making etc.

By 1842, the need for a college began to be felt and the Marquess Tweeddale, when he arrived Governor of Madras, stressed that college would be beneficial for the country as well as for public service. However, the powers-that-be cited lack of preparedness among the Indians and the general low standard of education and, so, the move was stalled. A proposal to start Engineering in the Medical Departments came up in 1843, but fell through for the same reasons. Classes in Chemistry were however, added. The same proposal was brought up again in 1847, when Roorkee College was set up by Thomson and the military establishment in U.P. that year. But only Engineering Department emerged. Uncertainty set in again in 1853, there being a perennial shortage of trained personnel to the P.W.D. At the closing down.

The Wood's Despatch of 1853 more or less gave the stamp of permanence to the Survey School when it cited the Roorkee Engineering College and said, "Similar practical instruction like the Roorkee College are important in a country where irrigation is essential not only to the prosperity of the country, but to the very existence of the people". Lord Dalhousie also endorsing the need for such an institution, a scheme for a College of Civil Engineering was submitted in 1855. That same year detailed report, with a proposal for scholarships instead of stipend, boarding facilities and other ideas for courses, to be approved by the Public Works Commissioner, was submitted to the Government. These were quickly approved by the Public Works Committee which urged the expansion of the school.

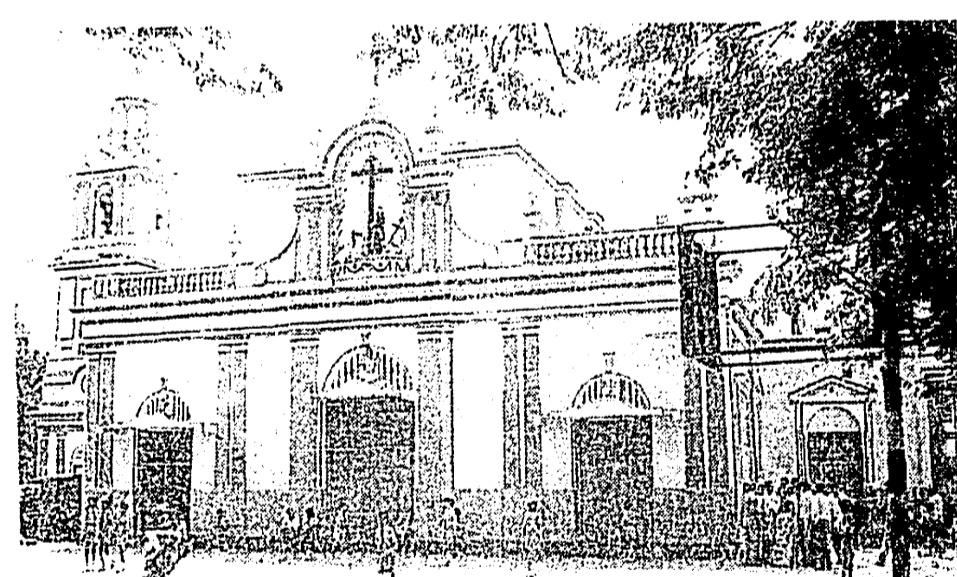
The Survey School became the Civil Engineering School in October 1859, with Capt. Winscom as principal and a fee of Rs. 3 being charged for each student.

As early as 1857, the evils of textbooks were mentioned by Lt. G. Williams, principal of the Civil Engineering College, to Capt. Winscom when he visited Calcutta to study college before starting the Madras college. But then, practical training, a good library were always a part of the school's set-up. In 1855, the palace of the late Nawab of Carnatic, Khalsa Mahal, was acquired by P.W.D. for use as Government office and the school moved in there in 1859, using portions of the main outer buildings. In the same year, school was renamed the Civil Engineering College. Students began increasing steadily, but the entrance exam remained the only way of entering the College. A practice that continued over the years.

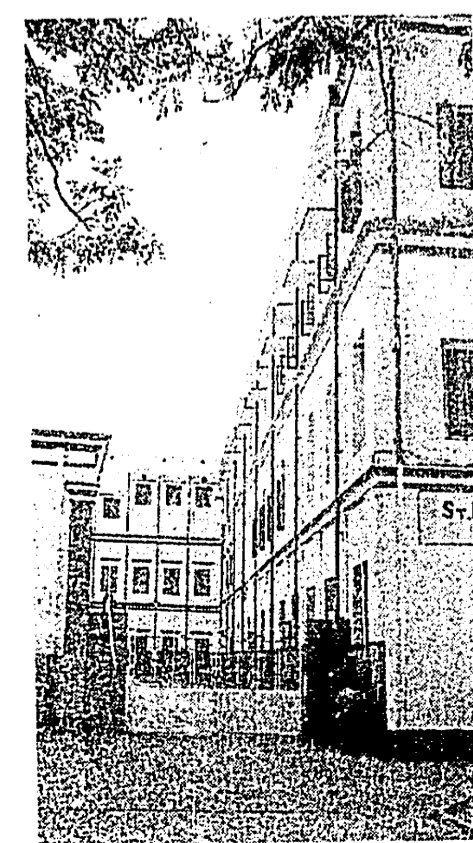
The school has now situated in Armenian Street, next to St. Mary's Co-cathedral. Its headmaster is Rev. Raphael John, and he is assisted by 38 teachers. There are about 1250 students in St. Mary's today. The academic performance of the school has been good and several students enter professional colleges every year. The school has a feeder school, St. Paul's.

The school has done exceptionally well in sport, turning out formidable teams in hockey, basketball, volleyball and athletics.

The school is now managed by the Salesian Fathers.



St. Mary's Co-cathedral in Armenian Street.



A view of St. Mary's School, adjoining the Co-cathedral.

Photographs and text by Rajind N Christy

(To be concluded next fortnight)

A lament that was joy!

As a pleasure watching Kalairani's re-woman show. *Song of Lowino* a lament of an African tribal chief's wife. She is lamenting the 'death' of her husband who, having been educated in English, is trying to ape the land and is ashamed of his tribal roots and culture. She rants, rolls in ash and wails of her agony in the simple words of an innocent tribal.

Kalairani enacted the piece in Tamil and translation by Natesh, her husband and it was directed by her who works in Goa. Kalairani was brought up again in 1847, when Roorkee College was set up by Thomson and the military establishment in U.P. that year. But only Engineering Department emerged. Uncertainty set in again in 1853, there being a perennial shortage of trained personnel to the P.W.D. At the closing down.

brought out all the earthiness of an African tribal woman.

Kalairani is an actress with the Koolhupattarai group. She has great class and deserves to be recognised wider. It is a pity we could not get a photograph of *Song of Lowino* to go with this piece. Kalairani's face taking on the awful ferocity of a woman wronged one moment and changing to an innocent's affection in seconds deserved to be recorded for all time. The way she uttered each word, with subtle nuances, created the correct mood, like a *raga* elaboration of different

The view from the wings by V.R. Devika

ent *Sangalis*. And her acting merged beautifully with the music. I saw *Song of Lowino* in Raja Annamalaiapuram, at Brihadhwani, the



Seen at Aayana '94 rehearsals. Above, a boy from Asan Memorial with a fish mask. Above right, girls from Avvai Home. And right, boys from the Ramakrishna Mission Boys' Home pull a 'ladder-boat' in which sits a girl from the ICCW School. (Photographs: C.P. SATYAJIT)



centre for research into the musics of the world. It was staged earlier at Cholamandal Artists' Village and at Siltrarangam. Brihadhwani is housed in the residence of Bhuvarahavan, the music, dance and art critic who now lives abroad. His house used to be visited by some of the greatest musicians, painters, sculptors and dancers and Bhuvarahavan had a great collection of books, works of art and music recordings which they enjoyed. All this he left to Brihadhwani. And Brihadhwani's director, Karaikudi S Subramaniam, has converted the place into a centre of music with great love and care. A small open air performing 'stage' has been created in the backyard of the house, with ingenious use of space. And that was where Kalairani staged her *Song of Lowino*.

More joy

Brihadhwani, Koolhupattarai and the Madras Craft Foundation are recipients of grants from the Ford Foundation and there is a camaraderie and interchange of ideas, facilities and talents among the three groups. Brihadhwani recorded the music for *Aayana '94*. Several theatre groups in the city with very different approaches to theatre also came together to work with the children on *Aayana '94*. The result was a colourful kaleidoscope of designs.

The thousand children who took part were delighted to be working with such creative people who were so kind and friendly, giving them an experience they will remember for a long time. The

schools participating also gave unstinting help and bent over backwards to cooperate, as did I.I.T.

There were the children of Asan Memorial helping handicapped children and bringing refreshments to them first. Ramakrishna Mission Boy's Home boys pulling without hesitation the little boats in which the handicapped children sat.

Some people had criticised the participation of the handicapped children in *Aayana '92*. But the Indian Council for Child Welfare, which runs the School for the Physically Handicapped, had assured us that the children enjoyed the last experience and were looking forward to this year's *Aayana*. We agreed to treat them as ordinary children, just like the others, and decided to include them this year too. In order to hide their disabilities, we decided to bring them in little boats, and Karthik, who made the masks and props for *Aayana '94*, came up with the brilliant idea of making the small boats with ladders.

At *Aayana '94* there was great joy and happiness throughout, and it was an experience that cannot be duplicated by all of us who worked on it. The production was, of course, not perfect, mainly due to the problems of logistics, as far as rehearsals went, and the deliberate focus on the joy of participation and discussions. Reactions

differed. Some said the chaotic and unrehearsed nature of the event was its delight, many schools had actually been worried about the way children were being given too much freedom, while others felt it was too regimented. It would be nice to know the reactions of some in the audience who saw *Aayana '94*.

Correction: In the issue of Madras Musings (July 15-30), the captions for the photographs published with V.R. Devika's article 'The drama of dance' were interchanged. The error is regretted.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- August: 'Artist of the Month': S. Elbin Sudhakar Paul, a graduate from the College of Arts and Crafts, Madras.
- August 18-22: People of Marina Beach — Seen Through German and Indian Eyes. A photo exhibition presented by MMB, and the Photographic Society of Madras. 'People of Marina' by Markus Bullik, an upcoming German photographer and photofilm-designer, has already been shown in Germany. And Raghavendra Rao, well-known Madras photographer who lives by the shore, teams with Bullik, to take you on a journey peopled with love, warmth and caring. The call of the coast and the people of the Marina, as seen through their eyes, cannot go unheeded, the MMB says. (At Sakshi Gallery, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

Bikinis draw the crowds

The three-day Charaminar Challenge Asian circuit beach volleyball championships, held at the Marina recently, certainly pulled in the crowds, but that was not because of the competition. Indians offered the best men's and women's teams on view. In fact, the two Indian women's teams cut a sorry figure, as they lacked both skills and stamina, while the men's teams were only a little better. Beach volleyball, played on a heavy sand surface, is a muscleman's woman's game. The average Indian's physical fitness being what it is, it is not easy for an Indian amateur to match the hitting, leaping, diving and staying power of the foreign professionals. It was not known who picked the teams, but the women's teams consisted of puny Tamil Nadu girls, a complete contrast to the tall, well-muscled Australian and New Zealand Amazons.

— Ajax

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ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. University of Arizona; 2. Rs. 10 per cheque; 3. *Enginthro Vanthan*; 4. K Malaisamy, the Home Secretary; 5. Kiran Bedi; 6. The MAC group of industries; 7. Surendranath; 8. The Empire State Building in New York; 9. Russia; 10. Kim Il Sung; 11. Leroy Burrell of the USA; 12. The Ambanis of the Reliance Group; 13. Vaikom Muhammed Basheer; 14. They were allegedly assaulted after a press meet by men who had accompanied the recently elected IIF president, K P S Gill; 15. Andres Escobar; 16. The International Quiz Contest on Nutrition held by the WHO; 17. The damage to his tear glands while breaking limestones in the Robben Island Penal Colony; 18. The German captain, Lothar Mathaeus; 19. Four (4) per cent of the aggregate marks in academic subjects; 20. Conchita Martinez.

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Climbing new heights

No cliché. that headline. A team from Madras, comprising mostly of members of the Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Aethenium Club, recently climbed a 6,504 metre (approximately 22,000 ft.) unscaled peak in the Himalaya and named it Mt. Rajiv.

The seeds for the expedition were sown in 1990, when, as students of Presidency College, they had planned to climb an unscaled peak and name

• by R. Jaisri

it Mt. Presidency, to coincide with the college's 150th birthday.

But they had to face more than the rugged mountains. When they approached the Indian Mountaineering Foundation for permission, they were flatly refused it, as they were only trekkers. With no help even after running from pillar to post, they approached Rajiv Gandhi, who intervened to get things moving and suddenly, people at the I.M.F. were oh-so-nice to them. Soon after, they 'booked' the peak, near Gangotri, in the Himalaya. "The river Ganges is very significant to Indians. So we chose this peak near Gangotri", explains team leader Gopi.

As the preparations got underway, in 1991, Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated. In his memory they formed the Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Aethenium

Club and carried on with their preparations but decided to name the peak after Rajiv who had got things moving for them.

Again with no one to push things, the mountaineers' plans slowed down. That's when P.R. Kumaramangalam came to their help. The I.M.F. became oh-so-nice again, providing them technical assistance, equipment, information about the peak, the surroundings, the weather etc. There was a small hassle over hiring the equipment, as the person in charge of the stores had retired and the keys were with God-knows-whom. But then, Mukul Wasnik, the Sports Minister got the equipment released and the expedition began the long trek from Sripurumbudur on May 21, this year.

The expedition accepted the help of Mount Suppose, Uttarkashi, and hired high altitude porters (HAI's) from there. The team also had a doctor and two experienced mountaineers from Delhi accompany them. When they reached the base camp, the weather had turned bad, quite unlike the usual climate at this time. "But it was good for us in a way", says deputy leader Suresh Kumar, "as we learnt to handle the ice by practising ice-walking, skating, using the ice axe (which is dug into the ice to arrest your motion when you slide on the ice) etc".

The climate on the mountain too proved fickle. One moment the

A view of Mt. Rajiv from the advance base camp.



Dham Singh, Gopi, Murugavel and Lakshman (from left) atop Mt. Rajiv.

temperature would be around 40°C and they would begin to stroll about in shorts and sunglasses and almost the next moment, it would begin to snow,

sending them scurrying for their sweaters, trousers and shoes. And they could climb only when the weather was good. "You can't climb when the



mountain is 'angry', Suresh laughs "or it will wipe you out"

The team members, in fact, consider themselves very lucky that the weather turned better and remained reasonably good when they got ready to make their final assault. Two other teams, one from Bengal and the other from Britain had made abortive attempts to scale the peak earlier. When the British team had to return to base as two of its members were killed in an avalanche, the Bengal team returned as it was unable to tackle the ice wall. One of the Madras team's members also showed signs of giving up when he declared as early as the base camp "Gopi, the mountain is not going away. But our life might. We will always climb it some other day. For that, we have to stay alive". The rest of the team refused to be overawed by the 'cold shoulder' reception from the mountain and decided to continue the climb, and Doubting Thomas too fell in step with them.

The greatest moment of anxiety was when three members of the team lost their way, mistaking the flag for another expedition to be their army team was climbing the K. Dome (exactly opposite Mt. Rajiv) their flag was red, while the Madras team's flag had white dots on it. What was worse, they didn't follow the red flag and went deep into a glacier area called the Kirti Glacier, literally a no man's land. To top it, the 'ham' set with the party at the advance base camp had a battery running low and could only receive signals. By sheer coincidence, they switched on their set exactly when the lost team members were trying to reach them, which enabled a rescue team to be sent to them.

There were climbers who fell into crevices, those who stepped on a patch of ice only to find it crumble under them sending them into the void below, those who got altitude sick, etc. But they climbed on, determined to reach the peak and 'finish it once and for all'. As Suresh puts it, "From that stage, I just wanted to end the adventure and come back home. I didn't even know if I was 'highly thrilled' at attempting the peak, the

The few moments the summit was spent on the peak were, however, compensation for their efforts. Now they don't want to give up mountaineering. They are already planning expeditions next year, besides wanting to promote the sport in Tamil Nadu. And we, whose knowledge of mountains and mountaineering is restricted to what we learnt from geography books, can only say, 'All the best'.

Whither Tamil Nadu cricket?

(By The Corner Flag)

As another Madras season gets underway, *The Corner Flag* wonders, Whither Tamil Nadu cricket? The question is posed as a consequence of last season's rather dismal performance. Is this year going to be any better? If it is, it will be despite some rather enthusiastic decisions sponsoring business houses have recently taken.

As everyone knows, all Madras First Division teams are either institutional XIs or teams sponsored by business houses. Traditional clubs like the Madras Cricket Club have no chance in this semi-professional league.

This year's major league teams and their sponsors are Globe Trotters (MRF), Sridhar CC (India Cements), Jolly Rovers (Chemplast), Kohinoor (also by Chemplast and a promoted team) Alwarpet (TVS Group), Rising Stars (Kunal Engineering), Appiah Chettiar MCC (Kumbhat's, promoted) India Pistons, SPIC, Indian Bank, IOB and Southern Railways.

Now, such sponsorship, as bracketed above or which is obvious, is welcome and it is what has enabled Tamil Nadu to produce several cricketers who are on the fringes of national selection.

But why haven't those players, with every benefit at home, gone further? Could it be that the sponsors are not asking more from them? Or could it be that there is something wrong with our first division format and that this needs rectification before players of promise fulfil that promise at higher levels? Or could it be that the local body is paying greater attention to encouraging the game widely in the city and the mofussil than to developing a team for national competition?

Hopefully, these questions will be debated in the months ahead. But for

now there's one decision by the sponsoring organisations to strengthen their teams that rather concerns *The Corner Flag*. That's the decision to 'import' players. Already, the MRF Pace Academy has introduced several players from elsewhere into Madras cricket. Several Kerala and Andhra players get their cricket in Madras. Now the following players from other states will represent various teams in the city, all of them receiving 'honorariums' in five or six figures:

Venkatesh Prasad (Karnataka-Globe Trotters), Rahul Dravid (Karnataka-Sridhar), M V Sridhar (Hyderabad-Kohinoor), Rajesh Puri (Haryana-Sridhar), Noel David (Hyderabad-Jolly Rovers), Sapan Chopra and Syed Rashid Mohsin (Services-India Pistons), K Shyamchandra Bhat and K Srinath (Karnataka-Indian Bank), Nagendra Prasad and Samarth Hegde (Karnataka-India Pistons) and Syed Miraj (Hyderabad-Sridhar). Then there are bound to be a few from the MRF Pace Academy under consideration. And there could be others, considering the figures being bandied about.

Not that all these players are going to be automatic choices for their teams, but several will be, being near-India class players. The consequence will inevitably be fewer places at the top for home-bred players. And if that trend continues, Tamil Nadu could well face a situation English cricket has been facing for some time now, with all those 'imports' playing for the counties. *The Corner Flag* feels there is no need to expand on this, except to say it is a development that causes him concern.

Will Riaz show Tamil Nadu hockey the way?

Madras hockey fans are looking forward to Mohammed Riaz of the Indian Bank, the lone Tamil Nadu player at the current Bangalore National camp, making the grade and donning the India shirt at the Hiroshima Asian Games, starting on October 2nd, and, later, at the World Cup championships in Sydney as well. The sticks game in Madras is, frankly, at a low ebb and Riaz can give it a new image, perhaps even paving the way for a transformation, if only he gets the selectors' nod.

The game's deteriorating standards and fall in popularity were clear during the Madras Cricket Club's recent 72nd annual tournament. Sponsored for the second successive year by Hindustan

Lever Ltd., the Lifebuoy-MCC tournament failed to pull the crowds, even though all the local sides were there, pitted against some top outstation teams. None of the city teams could even make the semi-finals!

by
JAICI

A silver lining was that, towards the end of the lacklustre tournament, the new Indian Hockey Federation's president, K P S Gill, who was on a short visit to Madras, announced the IHF's plans to rejuvenate Indian

hockey, and M Gopalakrishnan, the Indian Bank's Chairman and Managing Director, assured him of his support. Gill also called on M A M Ramaswamy, one of his most successful predecessors, during whose reign India had, for the first time, won the World Cup.

Gopalakrishnan was the chief guest at the Lifebuoy-MCC tournament final and distributed the awards at the unusually long prize-distribution function, which ended with the presentation of a memento to Rayan Amal Raj, who was sports editor of the *Indian Express* (Madras) for over a decade, until he retired recently. The MCC's gesture to a retired journalist was a fitting climax to a colourful function.