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IV. No. 9

August 16 — 31, 1994

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Sustenance likely for
sustainability project?

by V. Jagannathan

United Nations Centre for
Human Settlements (UNCHS)-
funded, US \$ 655,600, country-
level Sustainable Cities Programme
to help plan the development

of Madras in a comprehensive manner,
is at last likely to get the go ahead any
day now. The two-year old proposal
had been pending with the Department
of Economic Affairs, New Delhi, for
several months now, despite initial

approval having been given and all
subsequent queries answered. With this
approval, Madras will become the first
city in South Asia to benefit from the
programme.

(Tunisia), and is likely to commence
soon in Accra (Ghana), Katowice
(Poland) and Ibadan (Nigeria). Will
work in Madras start before these?

The speciality of the SCP is its
holistic approach to city development
— right from the stage of planning a
city's requirements till its execution and
proper maintenance. The programme
is divided into three phases and the first
phase is the setting up of a Task Force
to identify problem areas. In fact, some
ground work has been done in this
respect in Madras. The second and
third phases involve discussing ways
and means to overcome problems and
the implementation of the action plans
drawn.

As far as Madras is concerned, the
priority areas would be rainwater
harvesting, inland aquaculture in
irrigation tanks (of which there are
around 200 in the MMDA area alone),
environment protection laws, seawater
intrusion, preparation of a geographical
information system and low cost
sanitation.

In addition to civic matters, the
Programme also plans to assess the
reasons for lack of employment oppor-
tunities in Madras and the slow growth
of industries in and around the city and
the infrastructural requirements for
industrial development in Madras.

"The programme is designed to
involve the local people at every stage
so that their involvement in the action
plan is total," says Achalla Shetty,
Information Officer, UNCHS. "The
other important aspect is the importance
given to maintenance of the facilities
created, something lacking in other
schemes," points out G. Dattatri,
Consultant, SCP, who adds, "Co-
operation from the public and private
and Government agencies is the key-
stone to a sustainable Madras."

The Tamil Nadu Government,
which will contribute Rs. 5 million to
the Programme, will benefit immensely
if the SCP works in tandem with the
Rs. 4,000 crore Madras Vision 2000
project. Together, they could make
Madras a sustainable city, Dattatri is
confident.

The SCP has already been success-
ful in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and
this is to be duplicated in eight other
cities in the same country. Work has
also begun in Ismailia (Egypt) and Tunis



(By A Staff Reporter) Photograph: Dina Malar.

The dress
maketh
the Sheriff

The Sheriff of Madras,
Dr. K. Chockalingam, is
determined to make everyone in
Madras aware of the Sheriff's
office and its role in civic affairs.
And to create that awareness he
wants the city's citizens to re-
cognise the Sheriff's official
dress. To start this process, he
turned up the other day, at the
inauguration of a book fair, in
official dress, complete with
sword! "I wanted the children to
get to know that the city has a
Sheriff and what he looks like in
official dress," Dr. Chocka-
lingam explained.

Dr. Chockalingam is as
amused as anyone else about the
lady-like lace stockings that go
with the dress, but is quick to in-
sist that "I will certainly wear
them, for the simple fact is that
they are part of the Sheriff's
dress". And the funny looks and
objections he gets, starting with
his own wife and children, are
not going to stop him, he says.

At the book fair, two chil-
dren were to garland the Sheriff
and the Minister of Education,
But both were so fascinated by
the Sheriff's dress that they insis-
ted on garlanding the Sheriff
only. The Minister didn't mind
and the children had their way!
It is such reaction that prompts
Dr. Chockalingam to say, "Left
to myself, I would even come on
a horse, like a 'real' Sheriff".
He'd be quite at home on a horse
too, as he has a passion for
horse-riding.

Preferring to out how
Sheriffs in recent times have not
been very keen on wearing the
Sheriff's dress, Dr. Chocka-

lingam talks of the time when
the Sheriff's costume was
stitched only by a particular
tailor in Hyderabad. The Sheriff
had to go there one day for a trial
and stay on for another day if
there were any alterations.
Dr. Chockalingam, however,
had it easy, as the Prince of
Arcot, who had worn his dress
just once, and was keen on
Dr. Chockalingam wearing it,
gifted it to him. "Quite
different," Dr. Chockalingam
laughs, "from an earlier time
when the relations between the
Prince of Arcot and the Sheriff
were so bad that the Sheriff was
rolled out of his palanquin by
the Nawab's men and was
beaten up".

The gift fitted him perfectly.
But Dr. Chockalingam was not
quite satisfied. "The buttons on
the coat are not according to the
specifications," he points out
and plans to remedy this
situation in due course.

The Sheriff's office came into
existence in 1727 by a King's
charter (and so the Sheriff
cannot be removed except by a
similar charter or legislation). He
was meant to be the voice of the
common man in the Court.

Not only is Dr. Chocka-
lingam taking the Sheriff's dress
seriously, but he is taking the
office — as the people's represen-
tative in Court — seriously too.
His interest in three Madras
Musings causes, the DGP's
office, a Heritage Act and
Victoria Public Hall, has resulted
in initial action getting under-
way. But he must now see so it
that the momentum does not
slow down.

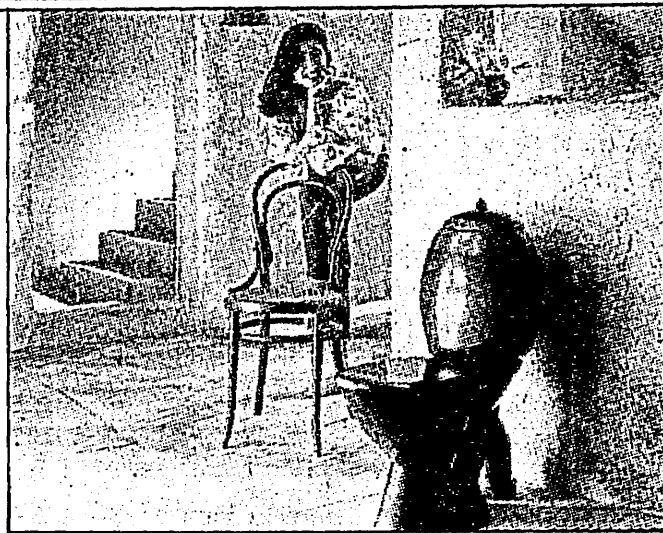
A new shepherd
for a 388-year-old
archdiocese

The 367,000 and more Roman Catholics of the Madras-Mylapore
archdiocese, and the 350 priests and 1,600 nuns who work with
in, welcomed a new shepherd, Archbishop Arul Das James, on
31st at the St Bede's School ground in San Thomé. The Pope's letter
appointment was read on the occasion and, in a symbolic gesture,
keys of San Thomé Cathedral, the new Archbishop's official church,
and crozier were handed over to him.

The geographical area of the archdiocese of Madras - Mylapore is
city of Madras and the district of Chengalpattu. It is one of the 19
archdioceses in India.

The diocese of Mylapore was established in 1606 by Pope Paul V.
jurisdiction extended to areas as far as Thanjavur, the Andamans
northwards to Bihar, Bengal and Burma. The diocese was
ministered by Portuguese or Goan bishops. There was another diocese
Madras, formed in 1832, which included the town of Vellore and
surby areas. In 1952, these two dioceses gave birth to two new dioceses
Madras to Vellore and Mylapore to Thanjavur. What remained became
the new Madras-Mylapore archdiocese.

The Most Rev. Arul Das James, the fourth Archbishop to assume
office since 1952, was born in Udhamandalam and, after being
ordained a priest in 1955, worked in the Ooty diocese in various
parishes. After higher studies in Belgium, he was appointed the first
Indian Rector of St Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore, where he
studied. He was appointed Bishop of his own home diocese Ooty
in December 1973 and ordained a Bishop in February 1974.



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Misplaced vision?

The limited role of cosmetics in enhancing beauty is well known. Exercise, good sleep, balanced diet etc. are far more important. Simple, effective and natural. Is the beautification of city any different from this? Beauty comes from within... mere tinkering and painting are not enough. When will we begin to look at the following.

● That 4-lane system on Anna Salai, where do you walk if you are a pedestrian? Try crossing a service lane to reach bus stops during peak hours! Two-wheelers are always in danger of being crushed from either side.

● We are accelerating towards a situation where we will have wells (or deep borewells), but no water, cars but no space on the road or for parking, air-conditioners or fans but no power. What should be done?

● On the water front, Metrowater had started educating the public about harvesting the rainwater. A simple formula could be followed: **Live with your rainwater!** Be it a house, flat, office or whatever, provide retaining walls and allow the water to seep down or create capacity to store in. No provision for so-called storm water drainage should be made. There are enough indications that confirm that, on the average, Madras gets sufficient rainwater to meet its requirements.

● Encourage public transport through visible incentives like premium space and accessibility (such as both ways movement on one-way stretches) on the roads, efficient and express services, special services for office-goers/specific target groups and multi-fare structure. Madras can well be served by its existing train and bus routes, with suitable augmentation in service, provided daily use of private vehicles, like cars, is brought down. This can be effectively achieved by imposing a levy on congested roads like Anna Salai and N.H Road. The fewer the passengers, the more the levy per vehicle. Such congested roads should also be restricted to one-way traffic for cars.

● Fare structures should be very stiff within 10 km radius of say Parrys/Egmore. Gradually it should be eased, to say 50 kms. Travelling for 10 or 50 km should cost the same. This would encourage people to stay away from the central areas, reducing congestion. Residents of central areas should be made to pay for better quality of life available through superior infrastructural facilities and better opportunities on the social, education and employment fronts.

● Multistorey buildings need to be banned. They cause congestion, pollution, extra pressure on basic amenities, create slums and are high energy guzzlers. Thalamuthu Natarajan Building promoted by the MMDA consumed 2,709,360 units of electricity during the calendar year 1992 and around one lakh litres of water every day while people of Madras were struggling for a few buckets! Such buildings also use large quantities of high energy-consuming raw materials like steel and cement during the construction stage itself.

● Satellite towns should get priority for facilities like telephones, hospitals, schools, transport etc. in an effort to decongest the city. The State Government should consider shifting some of its offices to satellite townships.

● Most important of all, efforts should be made to impart civic education to one and all.

The people of Madras are its greatest strength. They can contribute their mite by paying their dues/taxes in full and in time, keep their neighbourhood clean, plant a tree and act as watchdogs. And there should be people who will raise their voices in genuine protest rather than be one in a city full of sheep.

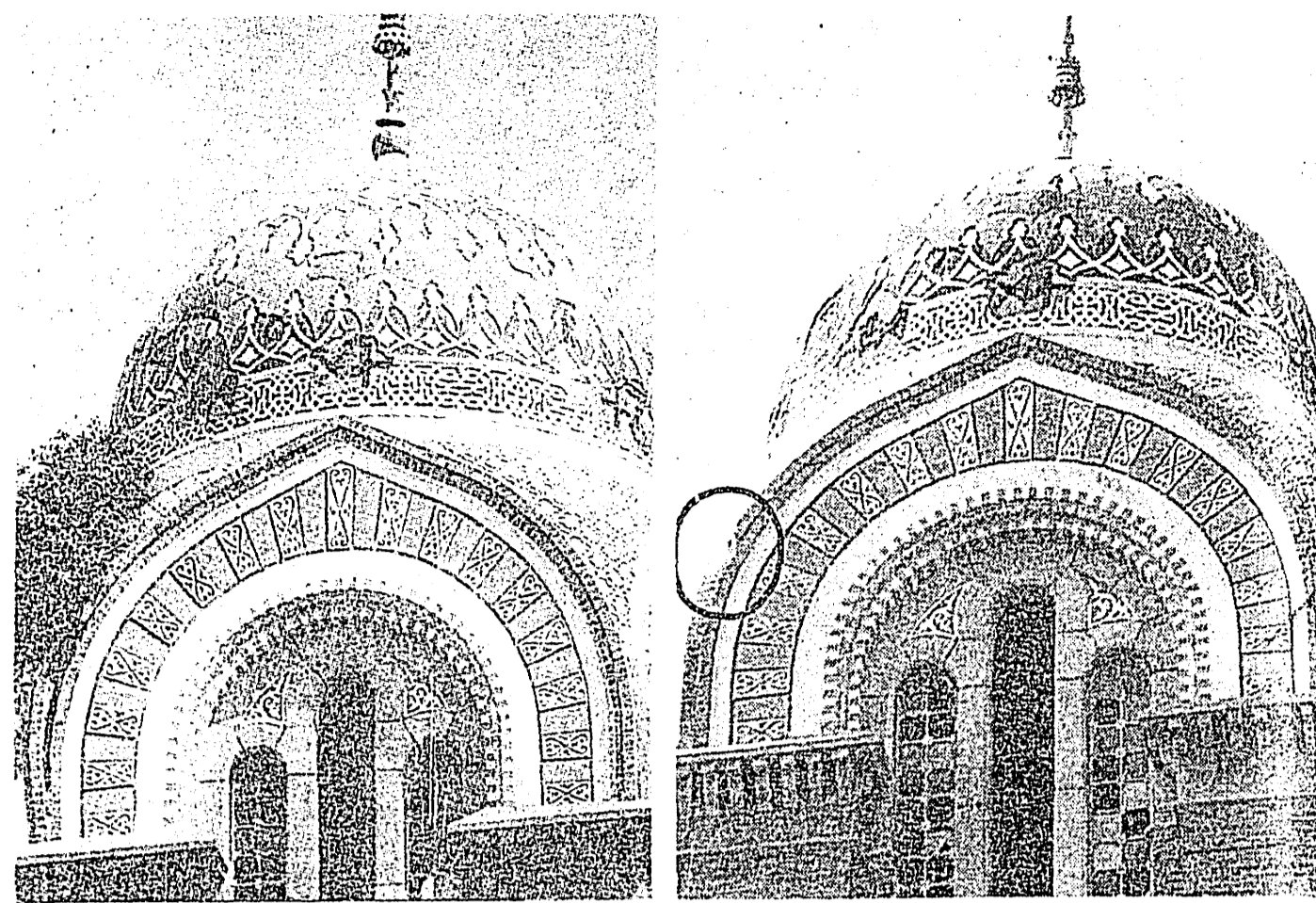
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Ever since Madras Musings saw the light of day it has campaigned for the restoration of Chisholm's House, considered by many as "the finest example of Indo-Saracenic architecture" in the country. Despite INT drawing up detailed plans for the restoration of this — the first home of Madras University, nothing really happened. Prof. Sathikk became Vice-Chancellor. He went on a fund-raising drive to save Senate House, though his measures did not increase his popularity. He did, however, collect a substantial bit of money from various business organisations and colleges...& THE OLD... and we are glad to find a bit of work to be done — and our NEW is the result. But look carefully at the encircled portion in the NEW — and you will see how wide the 'lips' have been parted by the roots of a tree before it was removed a few weeks ago. Several other plants sprouting from the building have also been removed. (Photographs: V S RAGHAVAN)

A Milch Cow

— The dairy industry

"The cow is of the bovine ilk; one end is moo, the other milk". For many, this comment by Ogden Nash might sound the nearest definition of the herbivore and its produce; but for others, it could well end up eliciting displeasure and disdain. For, the long and short of the 'cow' and its 'milk' is more, much more, it fact, enough to keep churning a dairy industry.

The Indian dairy industry has moved from dependence to progressive self-reliance, with a total milk production of 51.50 million tonnes in 1989-90. It is now the second largest producer of milk in the world, next to the USA. Thanks to 'Operation Flood', launched in 1970 with the over-riding objective of increasing milk production through integrated cattle-cum-dairy development, dairying has become a primary source of income rather than a supplementary activity, making possible a transition from chronic shortage to a surplus situation. While the organised sector has contributed to only about ten per cent of the total milk output, it has diversified into value-added products and the identification of new markets has proved a *sine qua non* for the industry. So, the Government promptly delicensed the industry in 1991.

Ever since, the scenario has undergone a marked change, from one of a few Indian, multinational and co-operative players, like Nestle, Lipton and Vadilal, dominating the scene, to more players eager to grab a market share. The first to dash into the deregulated environment was Amrut Industries. Now scrips of companies like Indiana Dairy, Roadmaster Foods and Ravileela are actively traded on the bourses.

In spite of 46 per cent of the milk consumption being in the liquid form, the industry has the peculiarity of five flush months (November to March) and four lean months (mid-May to mid-August), rendering necessary utilisation of surplus milk in the flush season by

conversion into value-added products. Thus, value-added products like butter and milk sweets have received a shot in the arm. Milk products, apart from sponging off milk surplus, also fetch higher price realisation. Though selling milk is low margin business, this disadvantage is offset by the huge volume market it offers, as can be seen from the example of Aavin, which holds pride of place in Madras. On the other hand, the contribution of milk products is only about 10 per cent of the total turnover of Rs 200 cr.

● BULL'S EYE

The prime objective of delicensing being to lend added thrust to exports, steps are being taken to tap the global market for ethnic food by exporting *gulabjamsuns* and *shrikand* for starters. It is suggested that India could be a leading player in the global scenario once GATT proposals are implemented, since countries like Europe and Australia and New Zealand, which now enjoy an edge due to their subsidised products, will cease to be subsidies. Already exciting prospects await India. Isolating prospects await India. Isolating prospects are emerging as a major industry. Extraction of lactic acid for production of infant milk food is another breakthrough. The Food and Agricultural Organization has predicted a rise of 100 per cent in India's production for 1994. With the co-operatives and the private sector in the fray, competition is heating up. Ultimately, however, it will all come down to their quality and brand name, apart from value added motion, from value added motion, from value added motion, kidding when he marvelled at "How can one ever govern a nation that has 240 different brands of cheese?"

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The keeper of the faith

every Sunday morning, the bells at the Armenian Church on Saint George Street in George Town ring like those in the other churches of Madras. But the similarity stops there. Huge panelled doors of the church are locked. Slowly, the peals die

and in the almost holy silence permeating the spacious churchyard shaded by scores of trees, a solitary figure by the church's belfry begins reciting a prayer in a strange tongue. For George Gregorian, the church's caretaker, this Sunday prayer has been a sacred ritual for the last thirty years. A prayer for Armenians across the world from the last Armenian in India.

The Armenian Church of Virgin Mary stands today a proud relic of the 340-year link with the merchant Armenian community, it is only due to the efforts of this one man, George Gregorian, a native of Madras. Nor did he have any previous links with it when he came to the city 30 years ago. His mission of love, born out of a heartfelt desire to preserve the traditions of his people. His a truly multifaceted one, has borne witness to his grit and determination to mention preserving a vital part of the city's past.

George Gregorian was born on December 28, 1913 in Persia (now Iran). His father worked in an oil company. He was the second in his family; he had an elder sister and younger brother. When World War I broke out, he was an exodus. His earliest childhood memories include one of a long and arduous camel trek made from Persia to Bombay!

His family stayed in Bombay for a while before moving to Calcutta where his father worked. His father left for Persia in 1924 afterwards and never returned; he died there in 1936. Gregorian's childhood wasn't an easy one. He was then transferred to the Armenian Episcopal and Philanthropic Academy to complete his education (and learn his strange tongue!). Here, his education

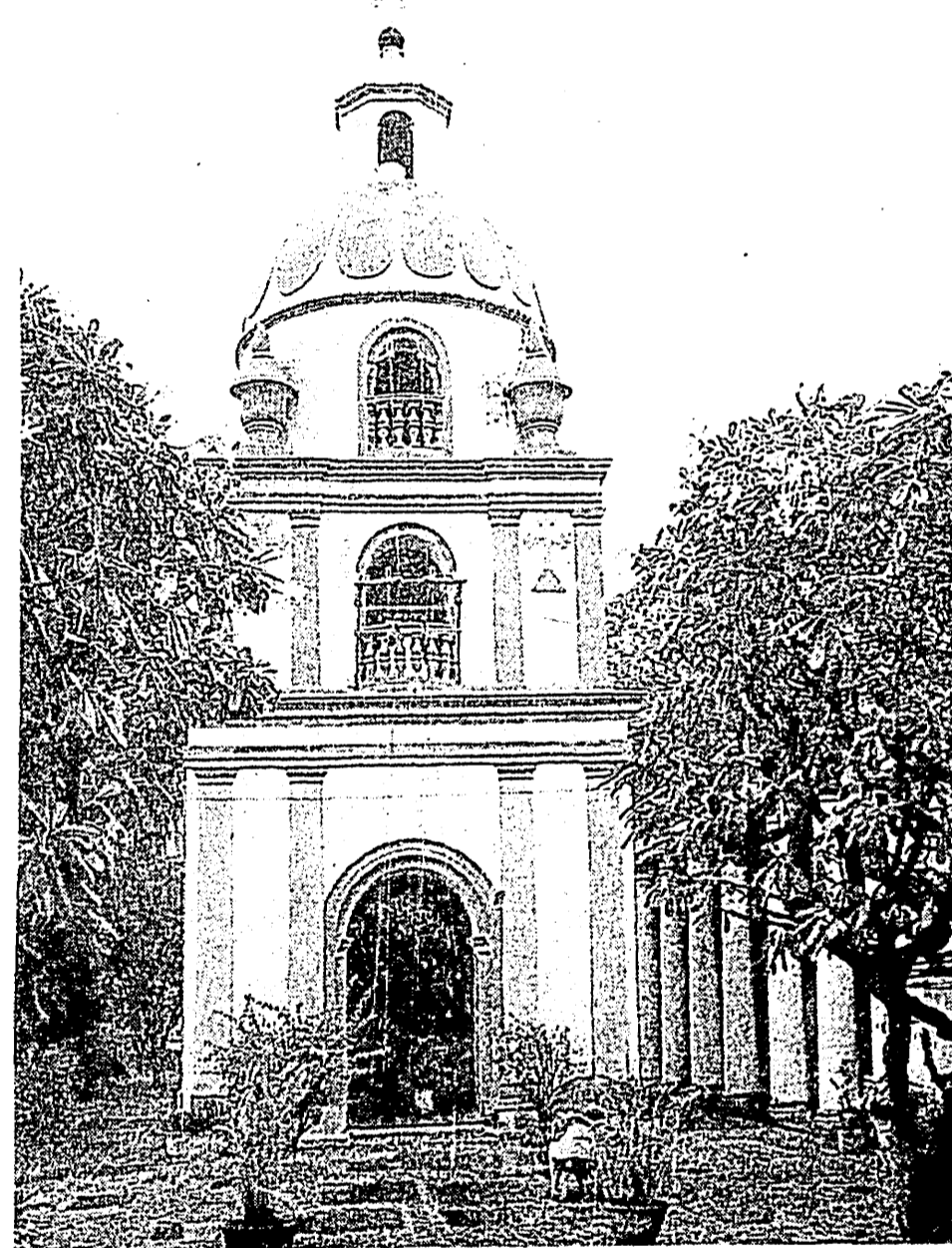
was ended abruptly when his uncle sent him to learn the ropes of the family cotton and jute business.

After a short stint in the business, he went to work as a cotton agent in a British firm in Chittagong. He was there till World War II broke out, when the company wound up. He then put in stints with the American Red Cross,

England with his family in 1955, but after spending half a decade there, he began to feel his homeland calling. "My roots are in India," says Gregorian with a touch of pride. So, having settled his children in Britain, he returned to India in the early Sixties.

The Armenian Association in Calcutta had, in December 1962, taken over the trusteeship of the Armenian Church in Madras from King and Partridge, the lawyers. Gregorian was at the time working in Calcutta. His uncle, Martin Martyrose, a member of the Armenian Association, suggested he go to Madras and take over the church as its caretaker. No mean task for one who was past his prime in life. "I had never been to Madras and had to begin a new life here — on Rs. 350 a month!"

He arrived in Madras on August 20, 1964, with his wife Joan. To his dismay, he found the entire place in



The Armenian Church bell tower in George Town.



Gregorian likes nothing more than ringing the bells of the Church.

shambles. The church was in a state of disrepair, the land was barren and the finances were in a deplorable state. There were long overdue rents, matured deposits and legal hassles to contend with. For George Gregorian, it was clearly going to be an uphill task. "When we came here, we made friends — and enemies," he recalls, with a wrinkle in his eye. "But we built this place up from scratch and restored it to its former glory!"

Today, the Armenian church is everything that Gregorian says it is and more. The church today stands tranquil and majestic, set in a well laid-out garden. The adjacent cemetery with its tombstones in the quaint Armenian script stands today a reminder of 300 and more years of Armenian history in Madras.

Buried in the cemetery is Hanuthian Shmavonian, the world's first Armenian journalist and editor of the first Armenian journal *Azadavar*. At the time of writing, the Department of Post has plans to release a postage stamp on Shmavonian. (This follows a report in *Madras Musings* on Shmavonian!)

Despite his advancing age, Gregorian carries on his work. Apart from being the Caretaker, Vestry Officer and Sexton of the church, he is also the Hony. Secretary of the Armenian Association. For the last three and a half years, he has been single handedly maintaining the church property. He

sweeps the churchyard and maintains the garden for want of proper help. "Hard work never killed a man or a woman!" he insists. And adds "Being happy with your work helps too".

A raconteur, Gregorian is always ready with quip or anecdote. All things Armenian are dear to him. His sketches of Armenians and Bible scenes hang all over the church annexe. He peppers his conversation with a curious mix of old world wisdom, wit and acerbity. A deeply religious man, Gregorian believes in the all-pervasive power of prayer: "It is the key to the day and the lock to the night!"

A big question mark, however, hangs over the future of the church. Gregorian hopes to visit Calcutta by the end of the year to find a successor. A worthy one at that. Having spent thirty years of his life in the service of the Armenian Church in Madras he is determined to see it live on as a part of the city's history.

One fact stands out very strongly about this man who has built his life around all things Armenian. He has never visited Armenia!

"That I intend doing some day, my friend," he tells me with a faraway look in his eyes.

Until then, he remains George Eliazar Gregorian, the Caretaker, the Custodian, the Last of the Madras Armenians. Above all, he remains very simply: The Keeper of The Faith.

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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 photoloin-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.)

Till August 19: 'Science for Health' exhibition in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the British Council publication *British Medical Bulletin*. This poster exhibition will feature some of the many medical advances achieved in the past fifty years. The exhibition will include a video show on Science for Health. To support the exhibition there will be public talks by Dr. Solomon Vidyut (Cardiology), Dr. Mohan Das (Orthopaedic Surgeon) and Dr. Kunthala Jayaraman (Biotechnology). (Br. Council, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily)

August 19 and 20: The Association of British Council Scholars and the Madras Theatre Club present Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* at the Museum Theatre at 7 p.m. on each day. The production is designed and directed by Milliran Devanesan and the cast includes Michael Muthu, Vinitha Nair, Mohamed Yusuf and George Deliganis.

August 20: Live 'Rock' concert by two city rock groups, 'Raakshas' (with singer Loga) and 'Roc Citi Crue' (with keyboardist Joseph Fernandez), in aid of 'chemical dependents' (drug addicts). At Anna Auditorium, opp. Doordarshan Kendra.

August 29: *Journey Through American Comedy*

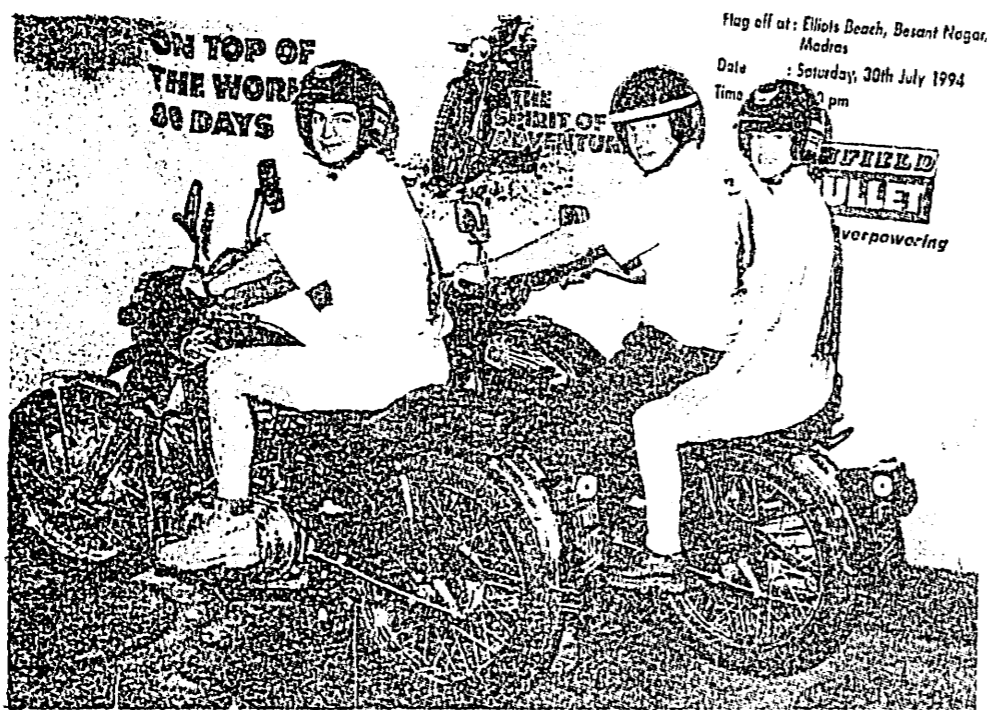
August 30: *Three Tall Women*. Both by the Artists Repertory Theatre, Portland, Oregon, a non-profit theatre company founded in 1982 and which produces innovative, high quality, socially conscious theatre. (At the Music Academy, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

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LIC Of India



The British bikers — from left to right, Douglas Luke, Chris Smith and Mandy Patchett — at the start of the Madras - Birmingham expedition.

Across Eurasia in 80 days

(By Venkatachari Jagannathan)

They're off to Birmingham, U.K. from Madras, three British adventurers on Madras-made motorbikes. The three bikers, Douglas Hansen-Luke (25), Mandy Patchett (27) and Chris Smith (28) recently cranked their Enfield 500cc Bullet on the Marina and set off to travel through 15 countries in 80 days to raise funds for Action Aid, U.K., a charitable organisation providing healthcare and

education facilities for children in developing countries.

A motorbike enthusiast, Luke, an Oxford graduate, decided on an adventure trip on a motorbike from India, after reading a fictional account of travel from Russia to U.K. on a camel. He also wanted to travel through North India, as he has his relatives in Jabalpur; his grandfather had

served in the Indian Army prior to Independence and left India only in the late Fifties. According to Luke, ever since his granduncle told him the story of being kidnapped at rifle point by a lone Pathan woman in the Khyber Pass and of remaining her hostage for one week, he had wanted to visit that area too.

After riding an Enfield Bullet, Luke decided to start his journey from Madras—the only place where the Bullet is now being produced—to reach Redditch, Birmingham, the birthplace of the Royal Enfields that are no longer in production there.

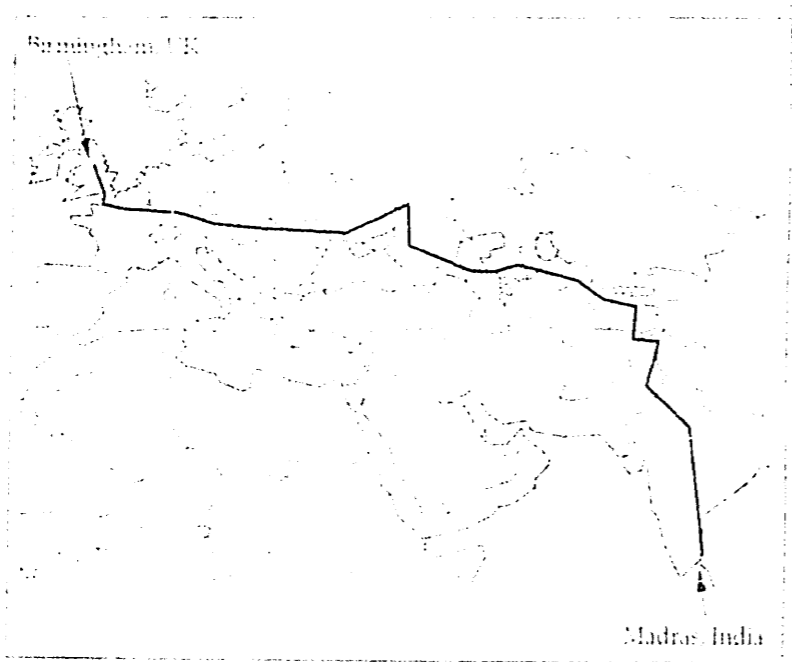
He convinced Mandy, who has travelled widely in the Far East and the USA, and Chris to form a team with

him. According to Chris, he agreed to the trip as he was feeling bored after leading a nomadic life travelling in Australia and Southeast Asia. When they wrote to Enfield India Ltd through Action Aid about their plans, the Madras company readily agreed to sponsor the trip as it was planning to reposition its bike in the market as an 'adventure vehicle' and go into production of 555 cc and 623 cc bikes.

The three riders were given training in the Madras factory to assemble the vehicle independently, so that the team would not be stranded midway anywhere if any vehicle developed trouble.

Mandy, the team's most outgoing personality, initially hesitated to make the trip, but became fully involved in the project after coming to India. By the time they set off, SHE was the strongest motivating force behind Douglas and Chris. In fact, she demonstrated her enthusiasm by racing at over 100 kmh and finishing ahead of the others when they raced to Mamallapuram on a warm-up trip!

The three will be joined by Adrian Quinn in Islamabad. Quinn, a journalist, will guide them through war-ravaged Afghanistan and record their experiences on the way to Birmingham.



The route of the expedition: Madras - Bombay - Delhi - Islamabad - Chitral - Osh - Tashkent - Samarkand - Ashkbad - Baku - Tbilisi - Rostov - Odessa - Budapest - Prague - Vienna - Munich - Paris - London - Birmingham

Women power Tamilnadu to second place

(By Sportswatch)

PA Gladies and C Chamundeswari did Tamil Nadu proud at the 12th

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. On the walls of the Ellaiyamman temple in Triplicane. 2. Muthukadu village; 3. Dorothy Hodgkin; 4. Mike Russell; 5. Shoemaker-Levy 9; 6. Jean Borotra of France; 7. Surinder Singh; 8. Michel Preud'homme of Belgium and Romario of Brazil; 9. The flagmast at Fort St. George; 10. They were spoken by Neil Armstrong of USA on becoming the first man to set foot on the Moon; 11. K. Kalimuthu; 12. A googly! No stamp is required; 13. Office of the Internal Oversight Services; 14. Jeffrey Archer; 15. It has decided to ban admission tests and interviews to pre-school children; 16. My Presidential Years by R. Venkataraman; 17. Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley, the daughter of Elvis Presley; 18. The world chess championship candidates' matches at Sanghi Nagar; 19. Adoor Gopalakrishnan's *Ellipathayam*; 20. Martina Navratilova.

National Women's Powerlifting Championships held in the city recently. They won gold in the 70 kg and 44 kg respectively.

Amongst the Tamil Nadu men, Bhagawathi won the gold in the 75 kg at the 20th National Championships. Xavier tied for first place in the 125 kg category with Ashok Kapoor of Chandigarh with a total lift of 775 kg (320-190-265). Xavier was, however, placed second because of his high body weight. Later, he set a new additional record in the squat with a lift of 325 kg.

Other notable performances from Tamil Nadu were K Valli, who won the bronze in the 52 kg, R Mohanakrishnan (silver-52 kg), N Murugan (Bronze - 56 kg), V Palanimuthu (Bronze-60 kg) and Senthilkumar (Bronze-67.5 kg).

More than 200 powerlifters from twenty states exhibited their prowess at

these championships, the first to be held in Tamil Nadu.

Unlike weightlifting, powerlifting is basically a sport to test the endurance power of the participant's thighs, chest and back. The event is divided into three parts-squat, bench press and dead lift. The total of the three lifts decides the winner. If there is a tie between two or more participants, the competitor weighing less is declared the winner.

Kerala won the inter-state women's title and the silver in the men's team and open national events and, in the process, claimed the overall championship with 61 points. Hosts Tamil Nadu finished second in the overall championships.

A non-Olympic event, it is only the Kerala Government in India that has recognised the sport and provides employment to participants. Almost all the Tamil Nadu lifters hoped the state government would follow the Kerala example.

Will CM win this race against time?

Only 16 months, including, unfortunately, two monsoons, remain to put up a Games Village of 500 flats to accommodate 2,000 visiting sports-persons, a multi-purpose indoor stadium, a tennis stadium of international standards and a swimming pool of Olympic dimensions, besides renovating the existing facilities like the Mayor Radhakrishnan hockey stadium, the University Union indoor stadium and the Police Commissioner's Office

by
JAIGI

shooting range, for the Rs. 25-crore South Asian Federation (SAF) Games to be held in Madras in December 1995.

It is a veritable race against time. But Chief Minister Jayalalitha, who confounded the prophets by getting the Rs. 40-crore Nehru Stadium ready in two years, has the resources to win it.

Unfortunately, it is not known when the foundation stones for the Games Village at Koyambedu and the indoor stadium in the Madras Zoo area will be laid. There is also no knowing whether the Government will set up an overall organising committee, or a committee for each discipline. And, it is anybody's guess, though not of immediate importance, what the Government proposes to do with the 500 flats after the curtain is brought down on the Games. The State Information Department's communication to the Press, too, does not throw any light

on these and other matters, like accommodation for foreign journalists and the media facilities in the country's first-ever multi-purpose indoor stadium.

Madras sports journalists, virtually kept in the dark, hope the Chief Minister will call them for a special briefing not only to enlighten them on all aspects of the Games but also to seek their advice. The organisers will need expert advice in practically every discipline, from athletics to wrestling. The hectic fortnight-long meet to have a smooth passage. This can be obtained only from experienced organisers and journalists, especially writers like S Thyagarajan and Nirmal Shekhar who have covered international championships at home and abroad. Their experience can help the Government in a big way.

The unlucky slogan

So Viswanathan Anand's attempt to capture the FIDE world chess title has come a cropper once again. But guess who predicted Kamsky's victory over the pre-match favourite. The sponsors of the Candidates quarter-finals, the Sanghi Group themselves! Their hoarding with the slogan 'get a ticket for Kamsky's match' was certainly prophetic. It was indeed Kamsky's match!

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