

WE CARE FOR MADRAS

MADRAS

MUSINGS



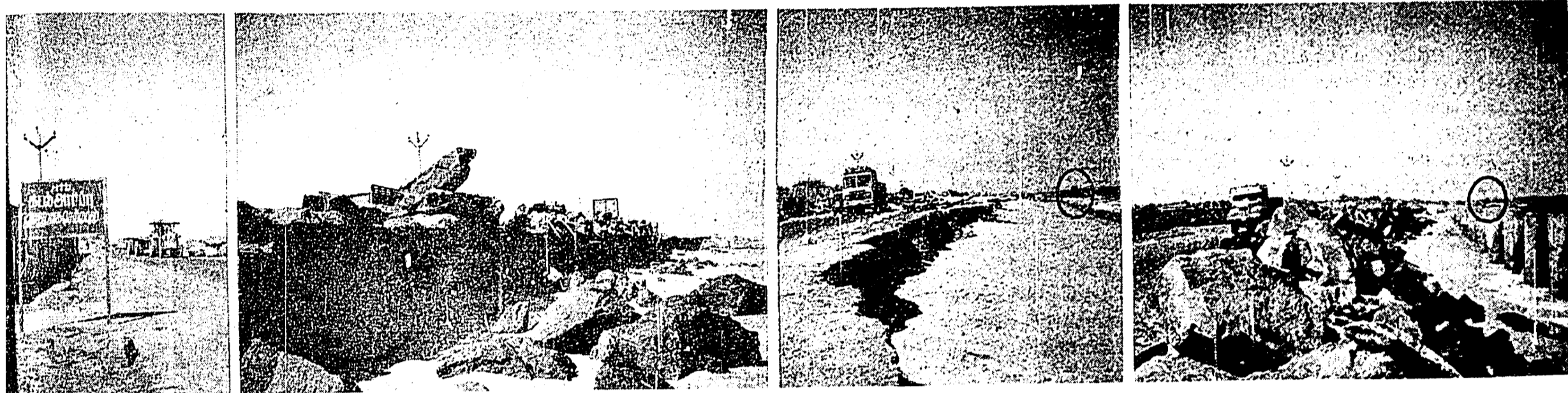
U-RENT

REAL ESTATE DIVISION
helps you buy and sell your property in a profitable manner
Call: 414222/411838
36, II Main Road,
Gandhi Nagar, Adyar,
Madras - 600 020.
also manage the properties of absentee landlords.

IV. No. 14

Nov. 1 — 15, 1994

Rs. 3 only



2100's threat to Tamil Nadu

(By Devendra Chauhan)

During the worst-case scenario of one-metre rise in the level of the sea caused by the greenhouse effect, more than 5700 sq km of India's coastal areas could be submerged by the year 2100. And Tamil Nadu could be the hardest hit State population-wise, with 1.62 million persons affected by the loss of land, according to a recent study.

The study, conducted by scientists at institutes such as Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi and the National Institute of Oceanography in Chennai, predicts that the greatest loss of land — as a percentage of a state's area — would be in Goa, which would lose 4.34 per cent of its area inundated, followed by West Bengal and

Gujarat losing 1.38 per cent and 0.92 per cent of their land, respectively. Unique ecosystems like the mangroves of the Sundarbans in West Bengal, Chilika Lake in Orissa and several wetlands on the coast could be wiped out. Though Tamil Nadu is predicted to lose only 0.52 per cent of its 129,439 sq km, population-wise it will be the worst hit State, the study states.

According to the study, the value of the land likely to be lost, calculated at current prices, is a staggering Rs. 152,740 crore — more than 35 per cent of the country's gross national product for 1988!

Virendra Asthana of JNU's School of Environmental Sciences, one of the principal investigators of the study,

points out that India's coastal area land-use and administration are grossly mismanaged and it is about time the Government set things in order. Though the predicted economic loss to the country is enormous, Asthana says, "the costs are in all probability an underestimate. The real value could be 25 per cent more!" He cautions that the results of the study are based on data and economic estimates that are

(Continued on P3)

About a year or so ago, it was announced in the Assembly that a Rs. 4.25 cr project would be soon implemented to put an end to sea erosion in Ennore. A Bombay team had surveyed the area and made recommendations to check what was described as "a challenge to the Government". The October 1994 photographs by RAJIND CHRISTY show a worsening situation — a prelude to the forecast made by the accompanying article — and that the Veeranam pipes (above), first featured in Madras Musings (Aug. 1, 1993), have not been as successful as hoped in their new avatar as wave-breakers. Meanwhile, the temple which was once on shore (circled in two pictures above) seems to be receding further from shore every day (below).



State	Population (in millions)		State Area (sq km)	
	Total	Coastal	Total	Coastal
Andhra Pradesh	67.5	1.61	88,697	1.38
Assam	31.5	0.55	1,55,565	0.31
Bihar	66.3	0.62	2,74,784	0.19
Chennai	55.6	1.62	1,29,439	0.52
Goa	29.1	0.46	38,763	0.30
Kerala	44.8	0.25	1,91,522	0.15
Madhya Pradesh	78.1	1.37	3,07,424	0.13
Madras	41.2	0.44	1,95,838	0.92
Orissa	1.17	0.08	3,696	4.34

Source: Virendra Asthana

THE LIFT IS A KILLER

(By A Staff Writer)

A 25-year old man who was using a lift to go to the 3rd floor in his apartment building found it stopping at a floor in between due to power failure. He opened the door, but as he was getting out, the lift started again and he lost his life. The body had to be removed by the people who had erected the lift but to whom the owner had not given the maintenance contract. Poor maintenance — with safety switches

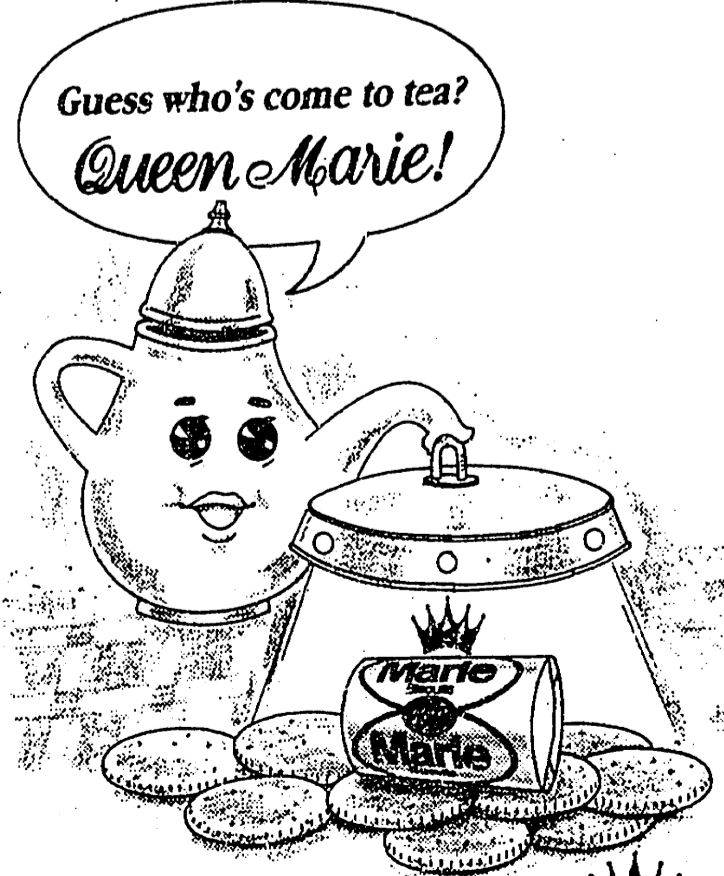
short-circuited — was found to be the cause of the tragedy.

A claim was made by the parents and the consumer court awarded compensation. But a life was lost in vain.

Dr. R. Natarajan, Joint Director, Industries & Commerce, has suggested that Government must enact and enforce provisions for the maintenance of lifts by a statutory body, with regular

inspection by the Inspector of Factories or the Chief Inspector of Government. This, he says, has become essential as the installation of a lift in any building with three floors and more has been made compulsory by the MMDA, and hundreds of such buildings are coming up.

A seminar is being held in this connection in Madras on November 19th and 20th.

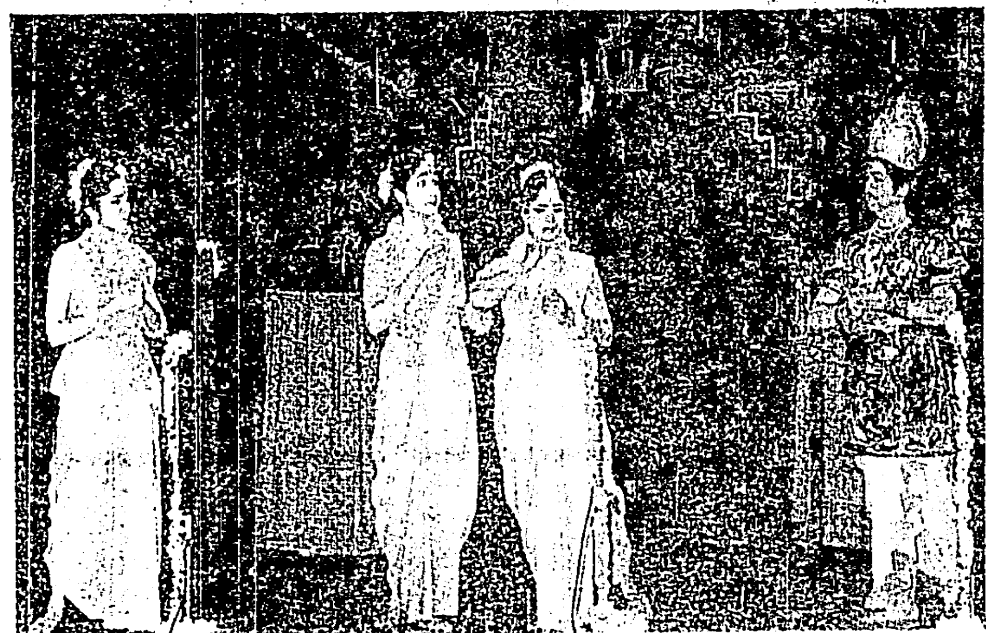


The Queen among Maries



Keeping Samskrit theatre going

Samskrita Ranga, a Madras-based organisation founded with the aim of promoting Samskrit; will stage Kalidasa's *Abhignan Shakuntalam* at the All-India Kalidas Festival to be held at Ujjain from November 13th-19th. This group has been staging Samskrit plays regularly and has also performed at the Kalidas Festival before. Back in 1961, the group's earlier production, *Shakuntalam*, was adjudged the best that year.



A scene from Samskrita Ranga's Abhignan Shakuntalam.

The Kalidas Festival, started in 1958, had its beginnings in the Kalidas Jayanti begun by Pandit Suryanarayan Vyas, some time in the third decade of this century. Soon, the festival became an important platform for the propagation of Samskrit. The popularity of the festival led to the formation of the Kalidas Academy in 1977-78. The focus of the Academy is, as its name indicates, on Kalidasa and his works and making them known to a wider audience. It is under the auspices of this Academy that the Samskrita Drama Festival is held.

The Samskrita Ranga has its origins in the Sanskrit Academy founded in Madras in 1927 "to promote and propagate the Sanskrit language among various levels of people". The Academy also encourages speaking in Sanskrit among both students of Sanskrit and those who

merely like the subject. The Samskrita Ranga was founded in 1958 by the late Dr. V. Raghavan, one of the greatest Samskrit scholars, to coincide with the start of the All-India Kalidas Festival at Ujjain. In fact, one of the aims of Dr. Raghavan while founding the Ranga, was to demonstrate that Samskrit is still a living language.

Samskrita Ranga has not only produced quite a large number of Samskrit plays in Madras, but it has also drawn full houses for all of them. The Ranga's activities are now in the hands of Dr. S.S. Janaki, a Samskrit scholar and student of Dr. Raghavan. She is assisted by Bharata Natyam dancers Nandini Raman, a daughter of Dr. Raghavan.

To the question "Do people understand enough Samskrit today to appreciate the plays?", Dr. Janaki answers, "There are three types of people in our audiences, those who know the play by heart, those who know the play but not in full and the general viewer. But the plays are produced in such a manner, with music, dance etc., that it is intelligible to everyone". Which may be one of the reasons why the Ranga's plays are so well received.

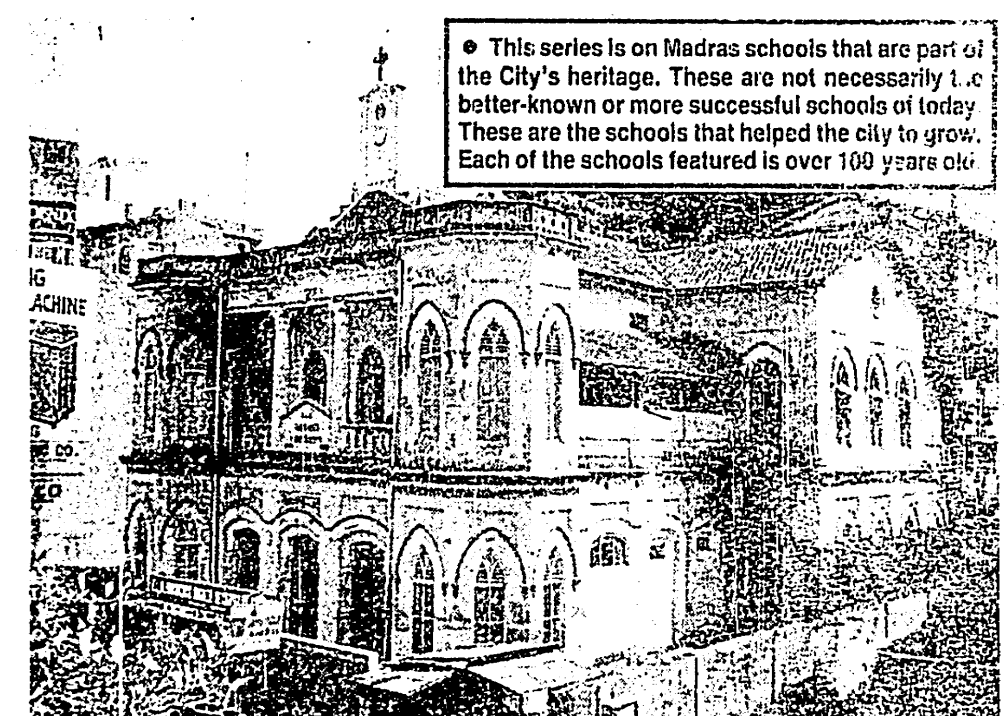
As Dr. Janaki says, drama is the easiest way to understand the language, as there are quite a few day-to-day situations in them. And again, a complete development of a *rasa* is possible only in a play, where there are

different people participating thus enhancing the understanding. There have been quite a few actors who have picked up the language after they began acting in the Ranga's plays.

The stage on which the plays are set is based on Bharata's *Natya Sastra*. The stage is called *Natya Sala* and has been prepared to suit the needs of the present day by Goverdhan Panchal, a specialist in Samskrit theatre architecture. In the plays, there are in-built stage directions, so that in this theatre of the imagination natural settings become unnecessary.

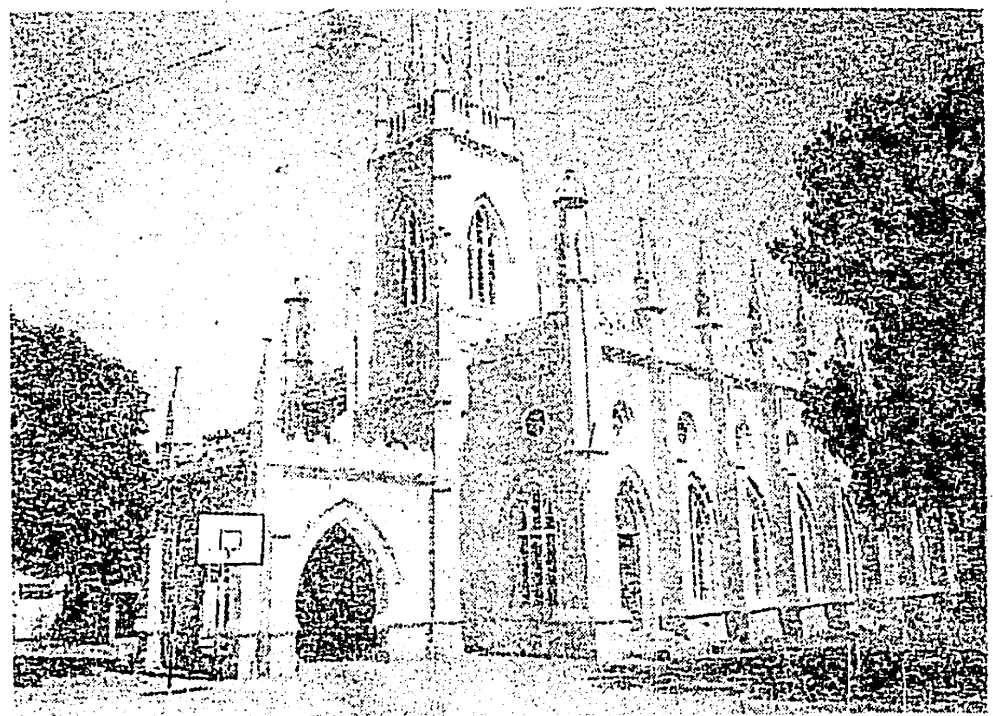
What has kept the Ranga's activities going is the actors' and organisers' love for the language and theatre, even though funding for the plays has been meagre and hard to come by. None of the actors get paid and the Ranga office-bearers also put in an honorary effort. "But we have managed all along and will continue to do so," Dr. Janaki earnestly declares, adding a Samskrit quotation in verse, "A play is like a *yagna* (sacrifice). All the devotion and sincerity in performing a *yagna* has to be present here too." All is well, it would appear, with Samskrit in this part of the country and could perhaps get better with some help.

R. JAISRI



The E.L.M. Fabricius School in Purasawalkam.

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. These are the schools that helped the city to grow. Each of the schools featured is over 100 years old.



St Matthias' Church, now with a new coat of paint, has long been associated with the School and the Vepery Mission.

REMEMBERING FABRICIUS

In 1849, the Rev. G.F. Grammar, now remembered in an auditorium, started an elementary school in Kandappa Mudali Street, Purasawalkam, within the compound of the Lutheran Church. When student numbers increased during the administration of Rev. Hanson, the school was shifted to a more convenient place in 1894 — at the present site at Purasawalkam High Road. The school was known as the Purasawalkam Lutheran Mission Middle School till 1898, when it came to be known as the E.L.M. Fabricius School, taking the name of the German missionary Fabricius.

Rev. John Phillip Fabricius had held office in St Paul's School, Vepery, from 1740 to 1746. He learnt Tamil rapidly and proficiently and translated *The Bible* into Tamil. When the French took Fort St George in 1746 they demolished the school and converted the chapel into a magazine. Fabricius fled to Pulicat with the schoolchildren. In 1749, the English, back in Madras, restored the building and transferred it

to Fabricius and the mission. To expand the school and other buildings of the mission, Fabricius turned to a local moneylender for help, but non-repayment of the debt put him in Debtors' Jail for a year-and-a-half.

Tipu's cavalry in later years raided the compound and made a bonfire of the furniture belonging to chapel and school. To make amends for his cavalry's misdeeds, Tipu contributed Rs. 300 towards the construction of St. Matthias' Church, Vepery.

It was Fabricius who solemnized the marriage of Robert Clive in St Mary's after the chaplain there had died. The first edition of his Tamil hymn book was printed in 1744 at the S.P.C.K. Press and it was popularly known as *Nenjurki Nool*. His Tamil version of *The Bible* is still known as the 'Golden Version' among Tamil Lutherans.

There are about 178 Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church-aided schools throughout Tamil Nadu. The Fabricius School is one of them and its less-than-

one-acre site is crammed with buildings. It has classes from Middle School to Higher Secondary School. There are about 2000 students and 71 teachers. The Principal is K Durairaj. The students are mostly Hindus from the backward communities. The school has a computer centre, a strong Parent-

Teachers' Association and good hockey and football teams. The school celebrates Fabricius Day on December 5th every year.

Text and photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY

(Continued from P4)

for 1994-95 we estimate an EPS of Rs. 5.25, which would support a price of Rs. 80. Buy.

Lanco Industries (CMP Rs. 26.25). Earlier known as Lanco Ferro Ltd., this company approached the public in May '94 with an equity issue aggregating Rs. 9 cr to part-finance its Rs. 54 cr project for the manufacture of foundry grade pig iron. The commercial production of the plant commenced on September 15, 1994 as against scheduled July '94. The company has already achieved a turnover of Rs. 2 cr in 15 days of operation and hopes to achieve a turnover of Rs. 50 cr for

1994-95. The EPS is expected to be Rs. 0.80. For 1995-96, if the company operates at 95% capacity, a turnover of Rs. 55 cr can be expected, which will yield an EPS of about Rs. 2.50 on a PAT of Rs. 5.70 cr. This will support a price of Rs. 50 for this share. It is a good long-term buy at current levels. The downside risk is also low, as the public stake is limited to 25.2% and it is a low-priced share in this high growth industry. Technically, the share is moving sideways. Buy with a stop loss at Rs. 20.

Integrated Enterprises (India) (CMP Rs. 42). The company announced good results for the 15-month period ended

Quizzing with Ramanan

(Quizzmaster V.V. RAMAN question are from the fortnight of October 1-16.)

1. The Government of India's highest award was instituted on October 2nd. Name it.
2. Who garnered India's only individual Nobel Prize in the recently held Asian Games?
3. Name the biography (and author) of CEC, T.N. Seshan, which alludes to Anna to the CIA and has evoked criticism in the State.
4. What unique feat did Britain's Campbell achieve on October 1st?
5. Name the trio who have won the Nobel Peace Prize.
6. Who is the new Commissioner of Corporation of Madras?
7. The Madras Flight Information Bureau (MFIR) hitherto named 'Madhavadas' (former minister), has been renamed. Name it.
8. October 15th was celebrated worldwide as...?
9. Name the Tamil Nadu president of the Hindu Munnani, whose murder in Madurai sparked off tension in the state.
10. Which book has won the Booker Prize for this year?
11. Meria City, the birthplace of Mahatma Natyam in its amazing fluidity and precision by Vyjayanthimala Bali Kalakshetra and a simple but very innovative discussion on folk music by Pushpavanam Kuppusswamy for the 12th. What was the transport? Name it.
12. The \$900 million spacecraft sent to Venus began its death dive on October 12th, after five years of useful service. Name the probe.
13. Name the Indian who has been awarded this year's Right Livelihood Prize (an alternative Nobel Prize) for his work in tribal welfare in Karnataka.
14. What incident sparked off nearly a century of violent unrest in Bangalore, known as the 'Bengaluru Bloodshed'?
15. Name the religious cult whose members (about 50) committed mass suicide in Switzerland on October 5th, 1978, shocking the world.
16. Name the controversial Tamil film directed by the Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, which has been permanently banned by Madras HC.
17. Why was Maj. James Hewitt in the eye in Britain recently?
18. Name the two new police posts created in the State with the rank of a Deputy Commissioner.
19. Name the latest class of 'professional' brought under a package of social measures by the Tamil Nadu Government on October 8th.
20. Name the Australian who became the third debutant, and the latest, to 'hat-trick' in Tests. It was against Pakistan recently.

(Answers on p. 7)



Vyjayanthimala's dance, a truly joyous experience

Very fulfilling and satisfying... with three very good programmes pleasing the senses and the mind: Arun Sayeeram's Carnatic singing for the Soundararaja Trust at the Srivasa Shastri Hall in Mylapore, Bharata Natyam in its amazing fluidity and precision by Vyjayanthimala Bali Kalakshetra and a simple but very innovative discussion on folk music by Pushpavanam Kuppusswamy for the 12th.

There were lecture-demonstrations on creativity in classical music, a demonstration of the Kathakali tradition, workshops on pottery, an arts and crafts sale and exhibition and several music and dance performances. Sadly, the response from the students was lukewarm. They were all busy applying to American universities! It is only when they go there that they will understand the need to know their India.

The lukewarm response, however, need not be a deterrent to prevent Bharath Utsav from becoming an annual feature. Go to it, Dr. Kolar!

V R DEVIKA

Anandabhairavi, Kurinji, Sindu Bhairavi — classical ragas in all their richness but with the raw earthiness of folk expression — were beautifully brought out by Kuppusswamy.

His rendering of *Oppari* was both hilarious and sorrowful. *Oppari* is a system developed in our village social system to give help to a family in mourning, to narrate the circumstances of the death and the attributes and other details of the dead person. It is also to announce the death to the neighbours. The melancholic refrain of the *Oppari* evokes deep pathos and allows full freedom to the grieving woman to lament on her condition and the discrimination and atrocities she faces. *Oppari* is a balm in times of crisis caused by death and is used to express about internal anguish

Lukewarm response

I.I.T. Madras celebrated its first India Festival, 'Bharath Utsav'. Dr Ajit Kumar Kolar, a Professor in Mechan-

ical Engineering and Advisor (Cultural), feels strongly about the fact that most I.I.T. students think they are in the U.S. the minute they enter I.I.T. and have little or no interest or feel for things Indian. He organised 'Bharath Utsav' to give them an opportunity to get to know some of the art traditions of their country.

There were lecture-demonstrations on creativity in classical music, a demonstration of the Kathakali tradition, workshops on pottery, an arts and crafts sale and exhibition and several music and dance performances. Sadly, the response from the students was lukewarm. They were all busy applying to American universities! It is only when they go there that they will understand the need to know their India.

The lukewarm response, however, need not be a deterrent to prevent Bharath Utsav from becoming an annual feature. Go to it, Dr. Kolar!

Our world, their world!

SATYAJIT Ray, Ritwik Ghatak, Mrinal Sen and Shyam Benegal have occupied high pedestals. But of late, a modicum of interest has been shown, worldwide, in India's so-called mainstream cinema because it has been living up to certain international standards.

However, it is too early to pat ourselves on the back, because we are still treated as low-caste cinema. The international attitude continues to be patently patronising. In fact, we are expected to move around in certain restricted areas.

In this context, I have been trying to explain — not as a defence mechanism — that the kind of films we produce are strictly for local consumption. Whatever other exposure we achieve is a fringe benefit; whatever we get by way of overseas sales is thanks to an audience comprising Indian settlers abroad. Our cinema is a purely ethnic cinema.

The framework of our films has emerged from our cultural conditions and background. Like mainstream theatre, our films hinge on music, songs and dances. Music is the main pillar of support as much in Hindi cinema as it is in Tamil cinema. Hence, India has a home market unlike that of any other country — it doesn't make any allowances for the tastes of foreign film viewers and critics. If they laugh into their palms while watching our films, we can afford to laugh right back. We have seen the vast amount of trash the international community produces.

We can even silence this sniggering audience if we want to: our film-makers are capable of meeting international requirements but, at present, they correctly feel that there is no need to. Why globe-trot when there's plenty to be done at home?....

In our own archives, we have films like *Mughale-e-Azam* and *Keagan Ke Phool* which could stand up to international scrutiny anywhere. There is no need to fashion our cinema like shoes to fit the international foot. They will have to make do with *chappals* which are designed to cope with the slush and grime of Bombay as well as the scorching heat of the Rajasthan sands.

Such thoughts have been provoked by a visit to the recent Toronto film festival. Two of my films, *Thevar Magan* and *Nayakan*, were shown there. *Nayakan* as part of the justly deserved retrospective of the films of

Articulate Tamil film star KAMAL HAASAN wrote this hard-hitting answer to critics after he returned from the Toronto Film Festival. The article first appeared in the Sunday Times of India.

Mani Ratnam. The retrospective was, indeed, a pleasant surprise.

However, Mani was asked some strange questions at the press conference. He was asked if *Roja* had been subsidised by the Government. They saw the film as blatant propaganda. Interestingly, it was only the whites who asked such questions. Mani had to tell them that the film wasn't sponsored in any way by the Government and that its content had been derived essentially from information gathered from the newspapers.

As for *Thevar Magan*, like Mani's retrospective, it was largely well received. The festival-goers did find the songs unsettling — I was asked why there had to be so much stress on music. They were confused because they also saw Anand Patwardhan's films, and cannot understand that our films are varied and eclectic. But a Britisher who came up to me said that he could understand the difficulties we have to contend with while catering to market forces....

On the other hand, the noted critic David Overby wrote in the festival brochure that *Nayakan* had a "loony charm". I wondered if he had misunderstood the film. Perhaps comparisons with *The Godfather* series prompted such a second-grade rating. But would he have made such a remark about Roman Polanski's *Macbeth* since Akira Kurosawa had made it earlier as *The Throne of Blood*?...

Shekhar Kapur's *Bandit Queen* was the star of the show. Phoolan Devi had inadvertently done great PR for the film by sending a letter to the festival director... It was a strongly worded letter which served just the opposite

purpose. *Bandit Queen* became a rarefied event....

Shekar Kapur made the film for Britain's Channel 4. So, he had more freedom than an Indian film-maker. Since nudity and expletives are forbidden by the censors, our scenes begin where the scenes in Western films end. For instance, a bedroom scene here starts only when the display of sexual intimacy is over. In addition, fathers cry differently and mothers embrace their daughters differently in our movies. The entire outlook is something else, thereby making *Bandit Queen* so different from the same director's *Masoom* and *Mr India*.

In home, if we remain comparatively backward technically, it is because we lack the crucial tools. It is a problem which goes back to the Government which doesn't encourage the import of updated cameras besides sound and editing hardware. We are the largest film-producing industry in the world. Surely, we should be treated on par with the knitting and export trades. The government needs to push our cinema in the international sphere like the Chinese authorities have, by tapping new sources for the sale of their films abroad....

At Toronto, I did meet some people who evinced an interest in an international project from India, a project which has all the right colours and ingredients. But I could sense that I can raise only about 40 per cent of the budget I have in mind for a film called *Madhanayakan*, revolving around one of the most daunting rebels against the British Raj. If I were to make it only for the Tamil market, there would be nothing left for the producer to take home even if I sacrificed my own remuneration, which is no way to make films. If the project was dubbed into Hindi, perhaps it would be commercially viable.

I have studied the pros and cons of launching a film for international viewers. *Marudhanayakan* has enough *girth* to work globally. Maybe it doesn't have to be Mani or me who will carry the message of India's mainstream cinema to the world. We are just among the first to make forays into a new frontier. Some day, perhaps, there will be no patronising and no reviews which will claim that our films have a "loony charm".

ANSWERS TO QUIZ



The award is a fitting recognition of Devika's dedication to Art and her determination to promote ALL art forms far and wide.

THE EDITOR

Excellence recognised

VR DEVIKA, who writes *Madras Musings'* popular Arts column, 'The View from the Wings' was recently presented the Rotary Club of Madras East's VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD. She received the award from Justice Ar. Lakshmanan at a Club Tea-meeting held at the Park Sheraton.

Devika, Director of the Madras Craft Foundation's Cultural Outreach programme, and Cultural Coordinator of INTACH, Tamil Nadu, has, for years, arranged shows for

Classical and Folk performing artists at home and abroad, taken various art forms to the schools and introduced children to them, and has brought Folk art to urban audiences and Classical art forms to the rural areas. She was instrumental in establishing 'Sittirangam', the little theatre in the Fair Grounds near Fort St George, and staged the two grand *Ayazas*, in which over a thousand children, privileged, underprivileged and handicapped, participated on each occasion.

Madras Musings wishes all its readers A VERY HAPPY DEEPAVALI

June '94. It reported a PAT of Rs. 1.82 on an equity of Rs. 6 cr for this period. The company's efforts on market development will yield results only in 1994-95. It has 57 branches out of which 20 branches were opened only in the last six months. It plans to add 12 more branches in December '94 and take the total to 73 by June '95. It has set a target of Rs. 800 cr for deposits for 1994-95. The company entered into funds mobilisation for the first time in a big way now. The EPS for 1994-95 is estimated at Rs. 8, which will support a price of Rs. 80 for this share. A good buy now.

He has collected hundreds of songs from very remote villages during his travels. Kuppusswamy narrated his experiences during those journeys in an amusingly humorous manner, which is also very moving. He related each of the songs to the classical ragas.

K. Gopalakrishna

THE (TAMIL NADU) HIT PARADE



Good Sport

Flamboyance is anathema to the southern businessman. And Narayana Sankar, with his muted, serious approach is no exception. This chemical engineer from the Illinois Institute of Technology is chairman of the Rs. 1000 crore Sanmar Group in Madras. Chemicals, thermoplastic resins, cement and electronics comprise Sankar's world. Chemicals and Plastics India Ltd (Chemplas) is the flagship company of his business house, which Sankar manages with his brothers.

So far it's been smooth going for Sankar in the peace and quiet of the South. Now he's looking for foreign alliances for his companies and it's all systems go at Sanmar.

Recognition and respect of peers came to Sankar early. Though forty-eight now, he's already been the president of Assocham and the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce. At present he's the president of the Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce and the honorary Consul-General for Denmark.

Sankar believes in playing by the rules and that's not surprising, considering his fanatical interest in sports — mainly tennis and cricket. Those who know him well say that he's not just a sportsman but a good sport too.

(Sketch by DHIR, text by NAAZHEEN KARMALI — From: THE HIT PARADE — Sketches of Indian Industry, Published by Banyan Books, New Delhi.)

We welcome the first steps to THE HERITAGE ACT

We look forward to its enactment and implementation

Space donated by TAMARAI MILLS

A credit policy in the interest of all

Deregulation is an indispensable upshot of the process of economic liberalisation and globalisation. So it is that the freeing of the lending rates, on all advances above Rs. 2 lakh in the busy season credit policy, has received a favourable response all round.

The main thrust of the current credit policy has been inflation management, ensuring corporate growth and improving competition among banks and ensuring their viability. In order to curtail inflation, the RBI has proposed active open market operation and introduced a CRR of 7.5 per cent on the FCNR deposits. The 'make or break' of the policy, i.e. guidelines relating to the lending rate as mentioned above, has broken new ground. The lending rate for advances between Rs. 20,000 and 2,00,000 has been reduced from 14-15% to 13.5%. These guidelines have summoned courage from the fact that a one per cent reduction in the lending rate last year not only did not lead to spiralling prices,

but also assisted companies in reaping better profits. No wonder corporate bodies are elated. The abolition of the MLR will allow them to meet their working capital requirements at lower rates. High-cost debt, either Indian or overseas, can be repaid now through cheaper borrowings. Top-rung

BULL'S EYE

companies can use their clout to drum up competitive rates out of the bank.

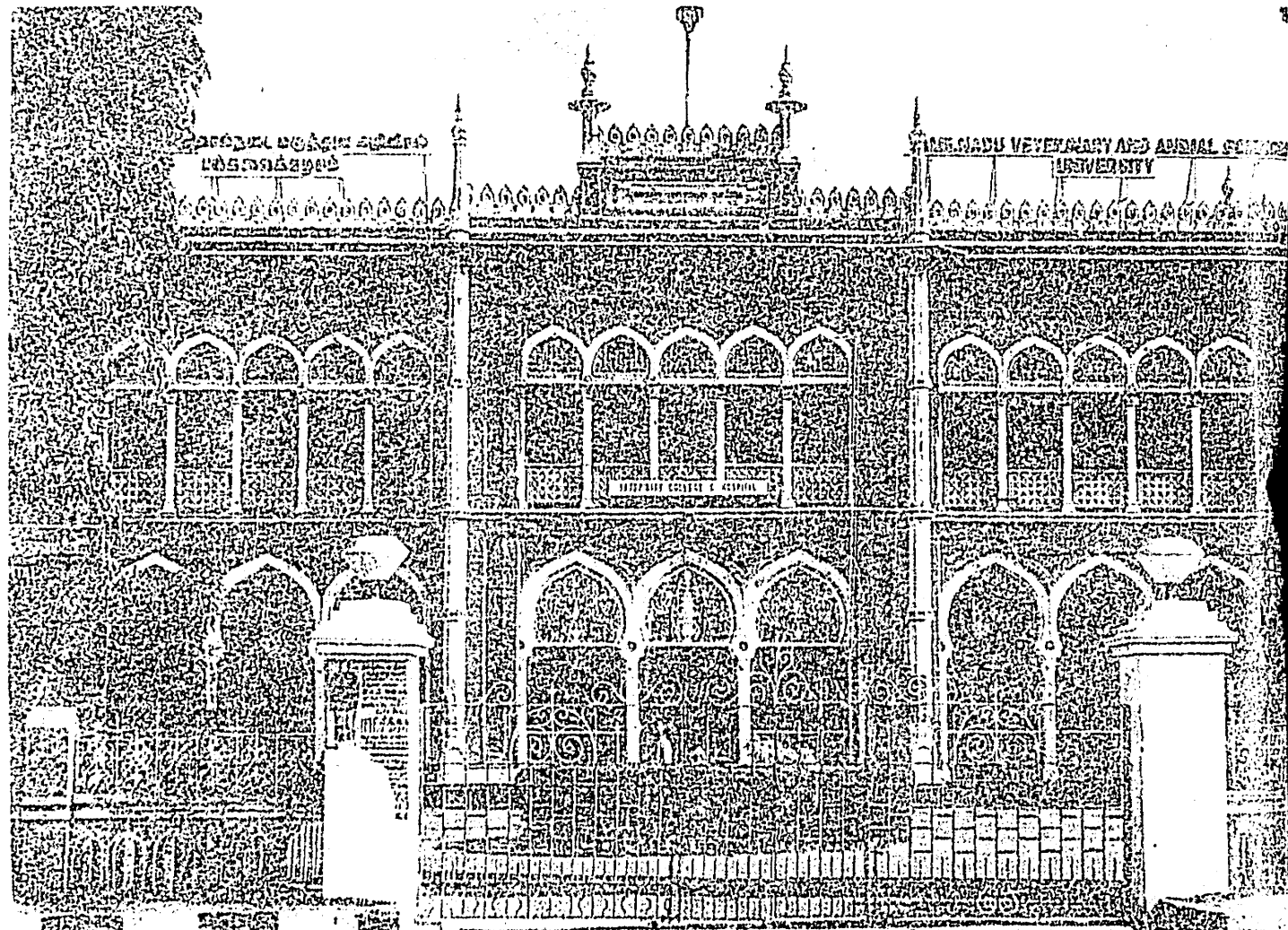
The credit policy subtly gives a rap on the knuckles of the commercial banks, asking them to spruce up. Given that the whole banking sector is characterised by a liquidity overhang and a falling credit deposit ratio and that the current cut in the SLR to 31.5% will leave them with more investible funds, there is no option for banks but to chase credit-worthy clients and elbow their way through the established players.

Even as the corporates seek the sources of funds and banks vie one another to woo clients, a debt-equity ratio ought to matter for the former. In this context, the bond market, which has been non-existent so far, is to start with the new credit policy as well.

A boon or bane to the corporate sector is a milk vendor, in the market, which goes to say that he has reacted favourably to the policy. True, the freeing of interest has come late. But better late than never.

Our three recommendations for fortnight are:

Premier Vinyl Flooring (Rs. 50). Manufacturer of 'Wood' brand of floor coverings, this company enjoys 60 per cent market share in segment. The company expands its coverings capacity to 1.50 cr sqm and will add to the turnover from 1993-94 to 1995-94, it reported an EPS of Rs. 1.50. (Continued on page 10)



Our pictures of the OLD and NEW this fortnight feature Government architecture of two ages nearly hundred years apart. The OLD, the Indo-Saracenic of the Veterinary College and Hospital, Vepery (now the quarters of the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Science University), reflects turn-of-the-20th Century governmental aims to build in imperial Mughal splendour, to dazzle the public with an architectural idiom the man-in-the-street was thought to be more familiar with. The College was started in 1903 in Lt Col Dobbin's home and, on the site of Dobbin Hall, was built the handsome Indo-Saracenic building in 1904 by Masitamonny Mudalhar.

THE OLD... ...& THE NEW

The NEW is the office of the Inspector General of Registration, Tamil Nadu. Certainly one of the best bits of Government architectural developments in recent times (PWD design), the pale green and white building with recessed sections is now a striking architectural feature in San Thome.

(Photographs — The Old by SUSHEELA NAIR and The New by V S RAGHAVAN)

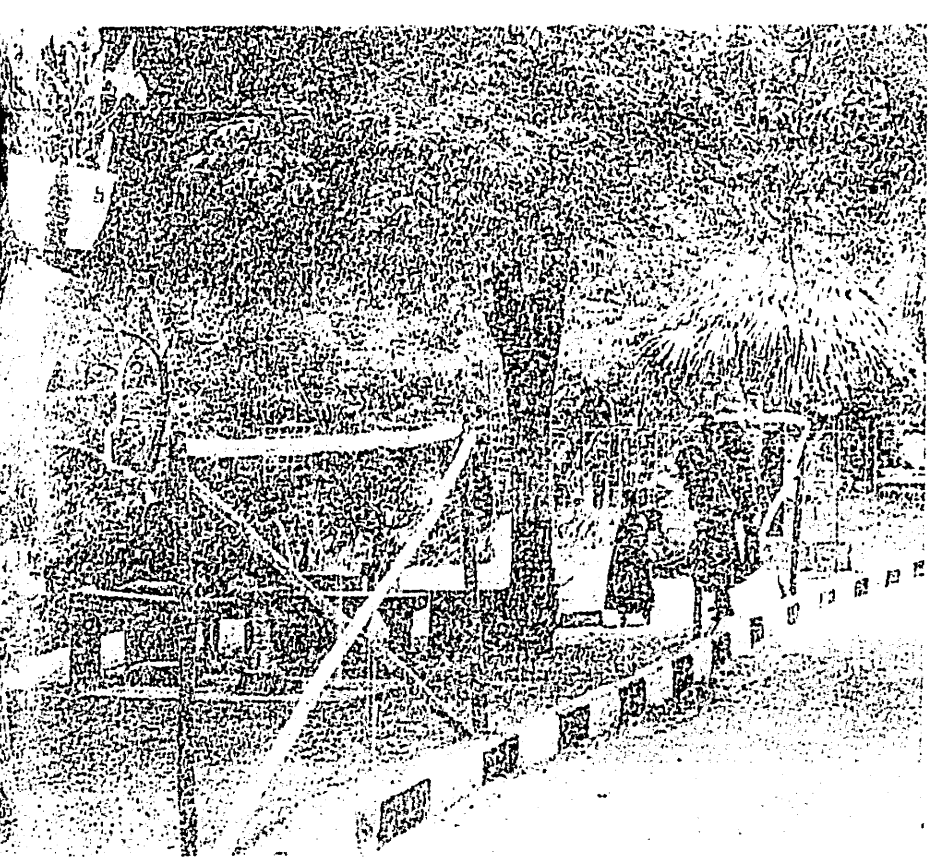


Who says a slum can't be kept clean? Who says ill-kept tenements can't be a model for a cleaner city? For such Doubting Thomases, Navalar Nagar is called for. Once it was called Lock Nagar and was a small slum behind the Buckingham University, on the bank of the Buckingham Canal. 'Lock' because of a now defunct lock which released water into the Cooum near the 'Iron Bridge'. The confluence of canal and river, both rich in untreated sewage,

WHAT A CONTRAST TO LAST FORTNIGHT'S FOCUS!



The canal side park and rock garden at Navalar Nagar was developed on the site of a cowshed which once housed fifty cows.



The Black Witness

This happened in Robert Clive's times. The East India Company had set up a local administrative body in Madras. An Englishman, well read in Humanities and Law, was deputed as the head of this unit. His duty was to function as a magistrate whenever any situation demanded it. This particularly concerned disputes involving white men which had to be heard only by another white man.

One day, two Englishmen were brought before the magistrate for disrupting peace in the area. They had got into a violent argument on the banks of a local river. Another Englishman, passing by, had nabbed them and brought them to court. Each man accused the other of starting the fight. The magistrate found it difficult to

decide. The passer-by, who nabbed them, was also not of much help in deciding the culpability. So the magistrate asked them if there had been any witness to their quarrel, when it

by ANAMIKA

started. Both answered that there was a solitary black man taking a bath in the river. But neither thought that the black man could have followed anything. The magistrate summoned the black man. An interpreter was also brought. The black man, when questioned, replied that he did not know a word of English but assured the magistrate that he could repeat

put the iron lock out of use for ever. The village, by now 'developed' with 'high-rise' tenements, then adopted the name Navalar Nagar, after Finance Minister 'Navalar' Neduchezhian.

As with most tenement complexes and slums there was a lack of civic sense here and hygiene was abysmal. That was until the younger residents of Navalar Nagar woke up to what a mess their environment was. They decided to tie up with a nearby Exnora group and there began the clean-up on a war-footing.

Seven months of hard work by a team led by Kannan, a milk vendor, and with help from Exnora turned all the ugliness around into something they had never dreamed of. The housing blocks were freshly repainted and the buildings were named Uzhappu, Anbu, Arivu, after the essential qualities required in Man. Rubbish heaps made way for small gardens, an open air cowshed was turned into a rock garden after the cows were disposed of, a miniature playground was created, and stone slab park benches were set up under the shade of the trees. A mobile library of Tamil books and journals was launched using a trolley and is very popular with the residents. A clock tower at the entrance to the village is being constructed and a vacant spot near the tower will be known as the 'Hagstail' area. All political parties competing in the colony will have to erect their party flags ONLY in this allotted spot and nowhere else within the colony!!

Kannan, who spearheaded Operation Clean-up and who was assisted by some 150 youths of the colony, says, "Exnora gave us the required motivation and now our attitude towards cleanliness and hygiene has changed so much towards the positive. Our children will be motivated to keep our neighbourhood clean and, in this way, we will sustain our efforts forever."

Navalar Nagar has shown the way to 'Vision 2000'. It has shown that it is up to the residents themselves to improve their environment. Will other slums and tenement complexes follow Navalar Nagar's lead?

Photographs and Text by V S RAGHAVAN



Navalar Nagar's 'Main Street' is being embellished with a new 'clock tower'. Note the parking lot on the left and the tree-shaded park on the right which borders the Buckingham Canal.



The streets in Navalar Nagar are constantly cleaned, ensuring spotless roads. Note the freshly painted residential blocks. The dove of peace is painted on the block called 'Saradhamani'. The garden is lush and on the left a cowshed was once rubbish heaps and animals.

I would like to read Musings regularly

Please mail me Madras Musings every fortnight. I enclose my subscription.

COUPON

M/s. Lokavani Hall Mark Press Pvt. Ltd. 62/63 Greames Road, Madras 600 006.

Dear Sirs, I would like to subscribe to Madras Musings, the journal that cares for Madras. I enclose my subscription for 24 issues of Madras Musings from the coming fortnight.

- Rs. 60 (India) *
 - Rs. 375 (Sri Lanka, Malaysia, the Gulf) *
 - Rs. 425 (Europe and U.S.A.) *
- (* All rates are inclusive of subscription, postage and handling charges.)

NAME
Address (in block letters)

PROFESSION
All cheques to be made out to Lokavani Hall Mark Press Pvt. Ltd. Cash subscriptions will be accepted at the reception desk at Lokavani Hall Mark Press Pvt Ltd. 62/63 Greames Road, Madras 600 006.

'Twas a celebration of oneness

It was the first Protestant church BUILT in India. As such, it was the church of the first Protestant congregation in Madras. It was the Governor's church, built as it was by a Governor, Streynsham Master, who felt his flock needed a church of their own, rather than Father Ephraim de Nevers' St Andrew's Church, a Roman Catholic shrine that was permitted in Anglican Fort St George. In time, it became the Presidency Church, the Garrison Church and then a protected monument and heritage building with a history of worship in it without a break for the past 314 years. *The Man From Madras Musings* has two favourite churches in and around Madras — and this is one; the other is the shrine atop St Thomas' Mount.

But in all the years *MMM* has been dropping in at St Mary's in the Fort, there's never been an occasion quite like the service on October 23rd, to celebrate United Nations Day and the Church's 314th birthday. In fact, *MMM* doubts whether any of the worshippers over the centuries would have seen any-

thing quite like this celebration with song and dance, poetry and prayer. Master, Yale, Pitt & Co, who were filled and drummed into the church — first to the front pews and, later, to the Governor's pew on high — to hear rich oratory, solemn organ music and the peal of the bells of St Mary's — could well have been wondering, somewhere up there, why life and worship were not quite as joyous in their times as this couple from Scotland, Issy and Arthur Sanderson, were making it in their attempts to rouse the church from its slumber and take it into the 21st Century.

There was that Australian team who are a part of the battle to clean up Madras, but on this occasion contributing guitar, mouth-organ and what looked like a pipe to accompany the choir, the St George's School organ and the congregation, causing a bit of sway, a bit of stomp and a bit of rhythm, particularly splendid in the Caribbean Lord's Prayer. There was dancing in costumes ranging from the Hellenic to the Cholan and the Japanese. There were rose petals strewn on the congregation by the dancers. There were banners on the U.N., the people of all nations and Peace, solemnly carried in and blessed like the colours of any regiment of old — but very unlike those flags, in the messages they expressed: International oneness and universal joy. There was the Prayer of St Francis of Assisi and a poem of that musing photographer Ramesh Gandhi recited in languages ranging from Japanese to Swahili — but sadly no Tamil. And there were prayers and sermons stressing the unity of man, all spread over 2½ hours. A bit too long, *MMM* felt, even in the cause of faith, peace and international oneness. But it made a congregation of all nations and all faiths happy — and a bit of joy in a troubled world is something to be welcomed.

Pastoral search

Midst all this happiness — and the fellowship that followed — *The Man From Madras Musings* couldn't help but feel that there was an undercurrent of disquiet among the small but committed permanent congregation. There was a rather-too-long sermon that repeated itself a couple of times too many on a problem facing the Church in India — the schisms in it on community lines. *MMM* had never heard this openly aired from a pulpit before, but here was India laid bare before an international audience. Then there was the case of the missing Rev Harry Daniel the congregation had been looking forward to — but, it was announced, the

request out of five. Service in shops was never quite as bad as this ever.

What a contrast it was in the most fabulous saree shop *MMM* has ever visited. It's called Remanika and is in Ernakulam. Not only was it a joy to look at but the hundreds of salesgirls it employed were also a joy to look at — not only were they well-endowed and colourfully-groomed, but every one of them sported a smile and seemed to be enjoying talking to customers — including the woman who, after half-an-hour searching, could only find one saree she wanted among the thousands available.

True, it was not 'The Season' and life was a little easier when *MMM* was taken to Remanika's to be shown it as one of the

request out of five. Service in shops was never quite as bad as this ever.

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

Bishop had something else for him to do at the last moment. And there were the low whispers about the need this flock felt for more permanent pastoral attention — and the lack of attention paid to it by the leaders of the flock.

The Man From Madras Musings is not one of the faithful. But, as he has said above, this is one of his two favourite churches — especially when it is empty and serene and a haven of peace. It saddens him, these disquieting murmurs and their underlying causes. Not only do they mar the serenity of St Mary's in the Fort but they also stir passions which should be better used to preserve and protect a part of the history of Madras and even of India. St Mary's in the Fort needs PERMANENT pastoral attention — not the occasional attention it receives from a visiting pastor — not so much for its flock but to preserve its history and traditions and keep burning a faith that has thrived here for 314 years. *MMM* hopes everyone concerned will bury the hatchet and that St Mary's in the Fort will get a permanent pastor committed to caring for it and its history, and that the congregation will welcome him.

request out of five. Service in shops was never quite as bad as this ever.

request out of five. Service in shops was never quite as bad as this ever.

request out of five. Service in shops was never quite as bad as this ever.

Festival crowds

Everyone grumbles about the cost of living and how expensive everything is, but there appears to be no shortage of funds to keep the stock market buoyant — and the saree and jewellery shops in the Panagal Park area overflowing with customers.

request out of five. Service in shops was never quite as bad as this ever.

request out of five. Service in shops was never quite as bad as this ever.

request out of five. Service in shops was never quite as bad as this ever.

request out of five. Service in shops was never quite as bad as this ever.

request out of five. Service in shops was never quite as bad as this ever.

Mail remembered

A brief history of *The Madras Mail* in the Old and New (MM Sept. 16) interesting. My father had told me that *Mail*, prior to moving to Mount Road, operating from North Beach Road. (The bank was in the northeast corner of Chetty Street and North Beach as the place where *The Mail* was. He had also told me that in those days the *Hindu* and *The Mail* took opposite sides of the political events that were taking place in India. A battle royal was going on between them. *The Hindu* addressed *The Mail* sarcastically as "Our North Beach" and it is pleased to voice his opinion as... *Mail* was equally acerbic by saying, "Our Vishnu of Mount Road has condescended to give his views as..." I asked my father that, if it was a battle, should he be a victor and vanquished, or should he be the battering? He said that *The Hindu* was always the victor and that his views in this matter were. He was added to *The Hindu* right in 1910 and believed that whatever *The Mail* stated was Gospel truth! He could sleep at night without reading the leader of *The Hindu*. (In those days, *The Hindu* was an evening paper.) Although I don't want to accept his verdict, I could agree to the issue with him as I would consider an upstart! So I allowed the *Mail* to stand at that.

Since the history of *The Mail* given in your reader can enlighten me if *The Mail* had been from North Beach Road and if so kind of its stay in that location.

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

EDITOR'S NOTE: Yes, *The Mail* moved from North Beach Road from 1910 and moved to its Mount Road office only in 1922. The old home of *Mail* was the site on which the National Bank building (now Hong Kong Building) came up in 1923. This is the place where Mooker Nallamuthu Street that Chetty Street.

They mean business?

Perhaps the days have dawned for banks to blaze new trails lest they beat the old path. Though lending against shares may not be new in their avenues, the velocity of giving loans and shares is picking up. Browse through *Economic Times* or the business pages of *The Hindu*. The chances of you not finding an ad by a commercial bank venturing against shares are slim. All you would be naive if you take them seriously. A Bangalore headquarter bank has, of late, been spending money in advertising in leading papers to promote business in this sector. Maybe the top echelons aim at lending business and target an increased return for their institutions. But the attitudes of banks at operational level are not the same as that of the planners, namely the management.

I tried my hand at two places — a branch of this bank in Habibullah Road

Cricketer on vacation!

(By A Staff Writer)

Renil Resorts of Madras, the newest player in Vacation Reshare opportunities, are offering the cricketer adjudged 'Best of the Series' in the current season a One-day International as a Renil Deluxe Vacation Reshare.

Renil Resorts, Ooty, situated overlooking the lake, is scheduled to commence operations in 1995 season. It will be the best of twenty such timeshare projects in key hill stations and beaches in India and Nepal.

Chris Renil, Renil's Managing Director, plans to launch Renil's 'International Management' programmes with that country.

OUR READERS WRITE

(H Branch) and the branch near Panagal Park of another bank (P Branch) also having its headquarters in Bangalore. When I first approached H Branch, I was directed to see the manager. The manager said only commercial branches of their bank do this sort of advances and not personal service branches like H Branch. When I contacted a commercial branch of theirs in Mount Road, I was told H Branch itself could make this advance and I was advised to meet the Chief Manager. I met the Chief Manager. He directed me to meet the Senior Manager. To do so, I had to pass by the manager whom I had met earlier. I didn't want to incur his wrath and, so, explained the whole story to him. He took me inside the SM's cabin. The SM told me that since the scheme is new it will take about one month's time for them to look into my request and asked me to come after a month. In this one month I saw their headquarters advertising countless times in the papers to promote this business. The advertisements also said we could approach the nearest branch. Believing that these branches would obey their headquarters religiously, I again approached H Branch after one month. This time the story was no different. The SM advised me that I should bring my pass-book when I approached him for any loan proposals.

Contrast this with what other banks having their origins in different countries achieve in this sector of business. Of course, their rate of interest and service charges may be slightly higher, but many prefer them. These banks all thrive on making better use of advertising. If our banks are not serious about this business, I wish that at least they'd save the cost on the advertising. After all, a rupee saved is a rupee earned, isn't it?

RM Subramanian
10 Vidyodaya I Cross
T. Nagar, Madras 600 018.

Manager's education

It is indeed heartening news to students pursuing management studies in private institutions that the quality of education imparted in these institutions will in future be closely monitored by the National Board of Accreditation, a statutory body under the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), to ensure that they adhere to the set norms.

Consequent to the liberalised approval policy, several institutions have mushroomed recently to offer M.B.A. and other management programmes, without a sound and stable academic base or infrastructural facilities. Instances where private institutions have obtained approval of the AICTE for the programme, by evolving makeshift arrangements when the inspecting team visits them, are not few. Often, a stage is set for the AICTE approving team. As soon as the inspection is completed and the team departs, the library books go back to the bookshops from where they were borrowed, the computers go back to the institutions from where they were brought, the teachers who came to present themselves before the inspecting AICTE team return. And the drama staged to obtain approval has a happy ending.

After obtaining the approval of the AICTE, the institutes advertise for admission and become commercial propositions. The students admitted suffer without qualified teachers and adequate facilities. The products of such institutes can be imagined. They aspire to become future managers without acquiring adequate skills and capabilities.

This is the result of commercialising education. In this context, the formation of a National Board of Accreditation under the AICTE to monitor and, thus, ensure quality education is indeed a welcome move. It is hoped that the monitoring would develop norms of excellence in management education and implement them in letter and spirit and thereby help to improve and maintain the standards expected of management education. This is essential to develop the future managers in India.

All is also not well with the Distance Education System offering management programmes with that country.

Photo triggers memories

Referring to the piece in *Madras Musings* February 1, 1994, N.W. Greig, 8 Kandappa Achari Street, Madras-600 007, writes as follows, after having followed it up all these months:

In the photograph the companion of Mr E Simpson looked very much like my elder brother - Mr E Greig. I passed on a photocopy to him and I have received his reply which I now enclose along with a photocopy of the security pass sent to me by my brother. Since many of the dates seem to match, there is a possibility that Mr Simpson would know my brother, although he does not seem to remember.

My brother was born and brought up in Madras and remembers a number of locations including his stay in Avadi. He left India in 1947, but has been in touch with the family in Madras. I have visited him on several occasions in England.

E E Greig's letter from Leamington Spa, Warwick, UK, to his brother in Madras reads:

Thanks for 'photo copy'. Yes I was stationed at Avadi during that period. I was a B.O.R. (British Other Rank) serving the Royal Corps of Signals, Jan. 1945 - Jan. 1947. Celebrated (V.L.) Day May 45 in MHOW.

Joined-up Fort St George, Madras. Posted to MHOW - Central India, and trained in telecommunications (S.T.C.B.) Signal Training Centre Base, MHOW. Jan-June '45 (6 months).

The threat in 2100

(Continued from P 1)

sketchy, at best. He says that better estimates can be made only by micro-level studies.

At present, about 416 million people live in the country's 53 coastal districts and Union Territories. The areas susceptible to submergence are home to about 7.1 million people. The

open university/correspondence course system, quality has been sacrificed.

Even after a decade of the open university system in India, the distance learner is still not adequately cared for. The student does not get the materials on time, assignments are unduly delayed; teachers' feedback on assignments are not provided on time. The multimedia approach is inadequate, the self-instructional materials are not adequately instructive and are seldom updated, and the glaring errors and mistakes in booklets and assignments and in the term end examination papers are not few. Besides this, the student is not heard — he does not get a response from the concerned authorities even to urgent queries.

The institutions offering distance education should operate like organisations marketing services. Unlike the traditional classroom type of education, the correspondence/open university system could be made commercially viable (with no subsidy) by adopting a marketing approach. The distance learner should be encouraged and motivated by understanding his background and meeting his needs on time. Otherwise, not only will the quality suffer, but the dropouts will also increase, defeating the very purpose of the distance education system. The Board of Accreditation should also cover the correspondence courses/open university systems, set norms and act as a watchdog of the total management education system in India.

H K Lakshman Rao
Kandappa Achari Street
Madras 600 007



A blow-up of a portion of the picture which had appeared in Madras Musings (Feb 1). Eric Simpson is on the left and the streak across the original makes his friend Bill almost unrecognisable. But a reader has certainly seen outlines of his brother, E.E. Greig, in it.

Returned to Fort St George, Madras, and worked in the Signal Office (S.E.A.C.) South East Asia Command.

We had a lot of communication transmitted and received from this radio frequency we called "Radio SEAC" (KYAG) — Kandy in Ceylon being the most active unit just after the collapse of the Japanese Army in the FAR EAST.

I was, after a time, transferred to outposts just outside Madras and one of these transfers was the Indian Base Ordnance Depot at Avadi (Sept. 1945) 1 month after V.J. (Aug. 45). I also had another commitment dealing with arms and ammunition in another base situated in a village called "PATTABRUM" (I think I spell this correct).

During my stay in these two areas in (1945/46) I had a lot of casual army friends from various regiments, but I cannot recall this (snapshot in question) scene. I am

enclosing a security pass which was issued to me during my stay at 206 (BCD) Avadi. This pass gave me the authority to enter the base at all times. I was billeted out and only used this during day time. I also had one for the other base but somewhere down the line it was mislaid after I left. Memories I recall over the past 47.5 years ago and beyond:

- Mount Road, Madras. Known to be the Hub of Madras city.
- I am surprised that Mr E Simpson did not mention the much talked about "Moore's Market". Nearly all visitors to Madras ended-up there. ●

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Somehow we don't think E E Greig is the second person in the photograph referred to. A note at the back of the original photograph reads: "The friend of mine looks grim but actually he is just the opposite in nature and we get along fine." This would appear to imply a close friendship, which E E Greig's letter does not indicate at all. The original is also signed "Edwin & Bill". Bill (short for William) would not also say the EE initials. But *Madras Musings* hopes that, whether they knew each other at Avadi or not, they will take this opportunity to meet in England and chat about Avadi days. We look forward to hearing from them about those reminiscences.



MADRAS MUSINGS

SMALLS CATERING

Chinese Food — Business Luncheon on Service delivered to your office — Hygienically prepared and packed in disposable containers. Contact 10.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Phone: 63551/634932.

HELP OFFERED

Do you need part-timers for baby-sitting, old people-caring, travel companions, salesmen? Contact K Rajeswari at Tel: 591027/565653.

FOR SALE

Contact Balaram, 24 MRC Nagar, Madras-28 for Whole World Collection Stamps and First Day Covers. Tel: 4939257, 4938613.

TRANSLATION

Translation: Indian/Foreign Languages: Tel: 569481.

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

Two-day seminar on

Use and Maintenance of Lifts in Flats and Offices

at Hotel Saveria, 69 Dr Radhakrishna Road, Mylapore, Madras 600 004.

November 19th 10.15 a.m. — 5.00 p.m. and

November 20th 10.00 a.m. — 5.00 p.m.

Exhibition Stalls : Rs. 3000 . . . Advertising: Rs. 500 — Rs. 2000

Delegate fee : Rs. 1000 (including course materials, tea and lunch.)

Organised by

TAMIL NADU ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

496, 4th Cross Street, Indira Nagar, Madras 600 020. Telephone No. 413523.

Co-sponsors: Institute of Engineers India, Institution of Valuers, Tamil Nadu Electrical Installation Engineers Association, Electrical Women's Contracts Association and others.

British Council Library, Madras

(Telephone: 8525002, 8525412-22-32)

Recent Additions

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Author | Title |
| DAVIES, R (ed.) | The Kenneth Williams diaries |
| DILLER, A | Z: An introduction to formal methods |
| ELVY, B H | How to become a consultant |
| FRY, S | Paperweight |
| FULCHER, A | Painting and decorating, 3rd ed. |
| HANDY, C | The empty rational |
| HAWES, D | Power on the back benches? |
| HERBERT, J | James Herbert's dark places |
| HUXLEV, A | The art of seeing |
| LEIGH, A | ACE teams: Creating star performance in business |
| McFARLE, C | The world in 2020 |
| O'BRIEN, C H | The great melody |
| PRENDERGAST, R (ed.) | Market forces and world development |
| SHAFFER, C B | Couture sewing techniques |
| STERNBERG, E | Just business |
| WARWICK, K (ed.) | Virtual reality in engineering |
| FICTION | |
| BURGESS, A | A clockwork orange |
| BURNS, C | In the houses of the West |
| CHADWICK, E | Children of destiny |
| WATKINS, P | Stand before your god |

Exploring the green lung in the heart of Madras

Encouraging the discovery of the flora and fauna of the Guindy National Park (GNP) is a programme INTACH has recently launched for children. Schoolchildren are taken on regular birdwatching expeditions, plant study tours and treks along nature trails in the park by V S Raghavan of the Madras Naturalists' Society, Preston Ahimar of the World Wide Fund and Sowmya of INTACH. The Wild Life Warden has supported the programme by helping INTACH to bring out a booklet on the common birds, animals, butterflies and plants found in the GNP.

When the Guindy Park was declared a Reserve Forest in

1910, it consisted of 504.80 hectares. Since then, allocation of land to Gandhi Mandapam (1954), the Indian Institute of Technology (1961), the Guru Nanak Educational Society (1970), the Rajaji Memorial (1974), the Kamaraj Memorial (1975) and the Cancer Institute (1977) has reduced the Reserve Forest to 207.57 hectares. It was declared a National Park in 1978. It is one of the only four existing natural reserves of its kind in Tamil Nadu, the other three being Point Calimere and the heronries at Vedanthangal and Pulicat Lake.

The GNP is the only green cover in the whole of Madras District and is one of the few



Hey! There's the bird! V S Raghavan of the Madras Naturalists' Society takes a group of children from the KFI School bird-watching in the Guindy National Park and points out a bird that's different.

places in Tamil Nadu where black buck live and breed. It is also important for the vegetation type it harbours, the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest. It has a rich population of bryophyte, fungi and algae. A number of aquatic plants occupy many of the water bodies in the park, notably the Appalam Kulam.

About 65 per cent of the plants in the GNP are of medicinal value and, if not used in allopathy, they at least find use

in Indian medicine. Medicinal plants like *Abutilon indicum* etc. and rare orchids, like *Herbanaria*, are also found.

"About 130 species of birds have been recorded in the park, though on a typical morning walk you may see 30 to 40. Each species has special habitat requirement, and the habitats found in GNP suit many species that you would rarely find elsewhere in Madras these days. GNP is an unusual urban wild area covered in scrub forest,

grassy, palm-studded clearing and secluded tanks. One can witness flights of waterbirds, sometimes cormorants, storks, herons, even terns, as they come and go from the nearby wetlands. The thick acacia scrub and banyans often keep the birds hidden, but with patience and keen eye one can see many birds calling around you. Birds like Jungle Prinia (wren-warbler), Yellow-throated sparrow and Black red start used to be seen in Guindy," according to Howard Youth, a young American who was a regular birdwatcher in the park during his three years in Madras.

A study of the soil, water and noise levels of various spots within the GNP reveal a fairly unpolluted state.

This enchanting forest in the middle of a city is the only true green lung of Madras. It must be preserved — and showing children its wonders is one way of ensuring that.

S SOWMYA

When do we stop being also-rans?

The Indian team that competed in the recent 12th Asian Games in Hiroshima returned the other day to a lukewarm reception at the Delhi international airport. Tennis star Leander Paes was not there. Naturally, the only other individual gold medallist in the big squad, shooter Jaspal Rana, stole the limelight.

The quiet reception was understandable, for the contingent's medal tally was not at all in keeping with its size or the pre-Games boast of two of its leading lights. If indeed a discreet veil is put over the exploits of Paes and Rana, both world class sportsmen, and considering the fact that Kabaddi is virtually unknown in most parts of Asia, India's tally of a beggarly four gold — two for tennis and one each for shooting and Kabaddi — is a shame to the world's second most populous country after China who, incidentally, topped the table with a massive 137 golds.

The 198-member Indian squad's tally is all the more humiliating because the 800-million nation tied in the gold medals table with none other than Qatar, a half-a-million nation! It was a slap in the face not only for the exceptionally big contingent but also for Indian sports officials, who insisted on the country's participation despite the rest of the world's sports standards.

It also raises the question whether in the foreseeable future Indian sports officials are knowledgeable and dedicated enough

to transform the image of Indian sport in the manner in which such inexperienced nations with small populations, like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Qatar, have boosted their standards almost from scratch. As a result they hit the headlines for the first time at Hiroshima, Kazakhstan with 25 golds and Uzbekistan with 10, miles ahead of India.

India's miserable record was in striking contrast to the stupid forecasts, for instance, by the women's hockey captain, Rajbeer Rai, and the rowing team manager, Col. P.K. Oberoi, who both took the media for a ride on the eve of the Games. Rajbeer Rai boasted her team "was capable of beating any team", and Oberoi struck an identical note by stating that "we will come out with flying colours". The captain and the manager have only joined the list of ignorant Indian officials.

Their vain boasts brought to mind the All-India Football Federation official's tirade against the Indian Olympic Association and its president for not sanctioning India's participation in the Hiroshima Asiad football tournament. The IOA stand was perhaps justified, for several conquerors of India in recent international tournaments fell by the wayside as Uzbekistan and China marched into the final of the 18-nation tournament, which Uzbekistan won. India's participation would have only added to the list of the country's also-rans.

JAICI

Looking back on Cricket at Chepauk

(By Our Cricket Correspondent)

Madras cricket fans will long remember the ITC-sponsored Wills limited-over 'World Series' inaugural match, which the TNCA conducted last month at historic Chepauk.

Every cricket fan is now familiar with the role Azharuddin, a genius beyond compare and the very personification of consistency, played in India having the last word in a fluctuating duel. But the match will be remembered not only for its ups and downs and thrilling finish but also for the crescendo of voices and indescribable excitement it produced in the overpopulated stands. The decades-old stadium was indeed never before so packed as it was for the one-dayer. No less than 50,000 fans were there, and they got back home with plenty to store in mind and talk about in the future.

They turned up on a hot and humid day, which made Madras cricket writers look rather small, for, after the rains of the previous two days, they all had predicted that the match was virtually in the hands of the weather gods. The sweltering sun indeed brought India a piece of luck.

With their rich vein of humour, a good many in the crowd had nicknamed Brian Lara 'Biryani' Lara. He was "biryani" all right until he became a mass of sweat. He could not bear it, and fell victim to it after he had dominated a third-wicket century stand

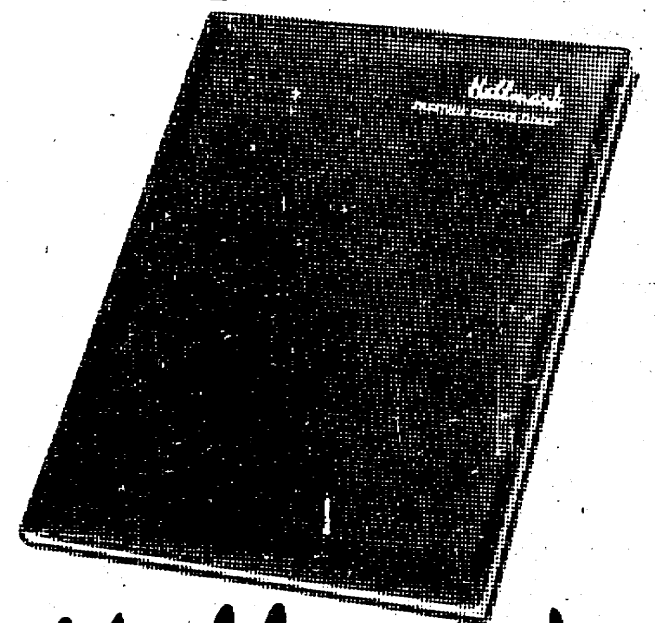
with Carl Hooper. The latter provided another rare sight and was hailed the 'Spitting Test Star' for it — invariably after every big hit, he spat on the turf!

Like the stands, the Press Box was overcrowded. The ever-growing number of Tamil and other vernacular writers left no doubt whatsoever that it was sorely in need of expansion and renovation. The phenomenal growth in the number of writers and their requirements perhaps prompted the

official who had for over a decade in charge of the Press to quit the post. Fortunately for the TNCA, his team successors, headed by R. Eswar, did a fine job, even if its new policy of pass for one paper came in for criticism.

Finally the one-dayer brought Chepauk its first-ever third umpire and TV, even if his debut was spoiled by his run-out decision of a West Indian which led to a debate on his usefulness.

The Hallmark of an Uncompromising Identity



Hallmark

DIARIES

Experience the pride of possessing a Hallmark Diary. Or gift one and be remembered day after day, for your thoughtful selection. Hallmark Diaries have been meticulously designed with fine quality papers, soft leather covering, rich and elegant colours, sturdy binding and a compelling identity that speaks volumes about its owner.

Set aside the ordinary. And reach over for a Hallmark.

HALLMARK PRINTERS PVT. LTD.

4, Nehru Nagar, Perungudi, Madras 600 096 Ph: 4926235 / 4926698 Admn. Office:

62/63, Greaves Road, Madras 600 006 Ph: 8278153 / 8277945 Fax: 044-82715

Published by ANU VARGHESE for and on behalf of Lokavani-Hall Mark Press Pvt. Ltd. 62/63, Greaves Road, Madras-600 006 and printed by T. J. GEORGE at Lokavani-Hall Mark Press Pvt. Ltd. 62/63, Greaves Road, Madras-600 006 Edited by S. MUTHIAH

Travel's fine... But what's it contributed to Madras women's hockey?

Indian women's hockey has to go a long way to reach international standards. This was clear from India's performance in the recent Hiroshima Asian Games tournament. The Indian girls never lived up to skipper Rajbeer Rai's pre-Games boast that her team was "capable of beating any team"

As in the rest of the country, women's hockey in Madras is of mediocre standard. Since the heyday of such stalwarts like Olga Frohlick, Shelagh Rodricks and Noreen Hughes, who all had helped it scale the heights, Madras women's hockey has taken a nosedive. The fact that Tamil Nadu has drawn blank in the National squads tells its own tale of the fall in standards in a

State that had, only a couple of decades ago, been one of the country's best.

The Tamil Nadu Women's Hockey Association, which is celebrating its golden jubilee, is fully aware of the need to give the game in the State a new look. With the knowledgeable and enthusiastic Chandrakala Ghatala as its President, the TNWHA aims to help the game in the State regain its former status and reputation.

The manner in which the TNWHA is celebrating its golden jubilee speaks for itself. As part of the celebrations, the TNWHA last year not only conducted the South Zone championship but also hosted a Malaysian team, which played matches not only in Madras but also

at Neyveli and Coonoor, and was later taken to Bangalore and Mysore on a sightseeing tour. The celebrations continued with an 18-member team, accompanied by nearly a dozen officials(!) going on a tour of Malaysia and Singapore recently.

After playing a series of matches in both States, the team returned to the city on October 7th. It is not the end of the celebrations. According to the President, the celebrations will conclude in January next year. None will grudge the TNWHA celebrating its golden jubilee in the manner in which it is doing. But more important than the celebrations is to find ways and means to raise the game's standards in the state.

AIA