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THE THE MUSINGS



H. IV. No. 22

Mar. 1 — 15, 1995

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Madras is now fifth-rate!

work in? Certainly not Madras, work in? Certainly not Madras, ording to a recent survey of execus and their families. It's Bangalore a mile, with Madras a poor fifth and batore tenth.

Bombay, Delhi and Pune rank ween Bangalore and Madras in the siness Today-sponsored survey by arketing and Business Associates (BA), the Indian affiliate of the Gallup reganisation of the US. The survey wered 820 respondents in 26 cities coss four categories — CEOs, manas, spouses and business school dents. The parameters examined uded cost of living, housing, law order, healthcare, cleanliness and eer growth opportunities.

Law and order still remains a major is point for Madras. But comparative yer costs — of living, housing, althcare, real estate, education and anpower — were just not enough to so the city into the top-three bracket. That being in that bracket has to with industrial climate, there is no libt. And Madras, with its tradially low-profile, conservative mess houses, just does not provide incient attraction. Another perceived wback is that Madras is considered the least cosmopolitan of the cities weyed.

The CEOs rank Madras as the third city to work in, after Bangalore Bombay (Delhi is seventh). They sider the city the second best in

(By A special correspondent)

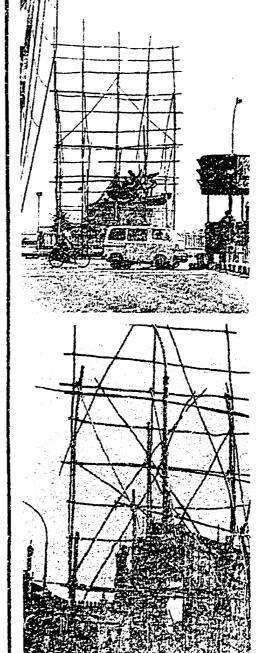
terms of cost of living (Calcutta comes first) and rank it third for educational facilities (after Bombay and Delhi), housing (after Bangalore and Pune), and less congestion and relative ease in commuting (after Bombay and Bangalore). In terms of cleanliness and low pollution levels, healthcare (a big surprise!), law and order and efficient public utilities, the CEOs place Madras behind Bombay, Bangalore and Delhi.

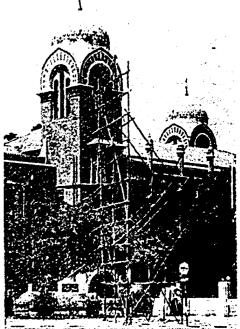
Madras is a poor sixth in the Managers' estimate of the best places to work in - Delhi is third (after Bangalore and Bombay) and is followed by Pune and Chandigarh. Madras, however, is favoured as the city having the lowest cost of living. Managers consider the city ideal for housing (second after Bangalore, of course) and third in law and order, efficient utilities and healthcare (Bombay and Bangalore share the honours here). For educational facilities and career growth opportunities, Bombay, Delhi, Bangalore and even Pune offer much better prospects than Madras, according to the Managers. But they rate Madras third behind Bombay and Delhi for efficient public utilities and healthcare. For cleanliness and greenery, Madras is not the Managers' choice (Bangalore, the garden city, heads the list, followed by smaller cities like Chandigarh, Mysore, Pune, Coimbatore and Bhubaneshwar).

The wives seem to feel about the same way as their husbands do. They

place Madras fifth, way behind (in terms of points) Bangalore, Bombay and Delhi, with Pune edging into fourth spot. In their assessment, Madras is the best city as far as accommodation and cost and availability of real estate are concerned, pipping Bangalore to the post on both counts. Housewives consider it the second most peaceloving city, after Bangalore, and, again, rank it second for the quality and cost of its manpower (Coimbatore is sixth here). The Bangalore-Bombay-Delhi combine edges out Madras on infrastructural support, State Government assistance and education facilities. As for cosmopolitanism, Madras takes a drubbing and is at the bottom here, as in all lists.

The southern metropolis does not figure too well in the evaluation of B-school students, who don't place Madras in their top five and rate even Pune and Hyderabad higher. It's Bangalore and Bombay all the way, except on the cost of living criterion, where Madras comes a close second to Calcutta. They rate Madras third for housing and fourth for law and order, Bangalore and Pune the first two on both counts. (Continued on P5)





The eyesore of scaffolding

There was a Court stay on road arches some time ago and many at the time felt that cut-outs too came under the purview of the ruling. Whether the stay has been vacated or not, arches and cut-outs continue to be a part of Madras life. But while accepting that we will have to live with these temporary phenomena, does it also mean that we will hereafter have to live with permanent scaffolding hiding some of the city's most beautiful buildings and statues? This is an unhappy recent trend. Hitherto, scalfolding came down with the cut-outs after the occasion passed, but now it would seem that those who put up cut-outs have decided to take permanent possession of certain vantage points - here they are in front of the Statue of Labour, Senate House and Chepauk Palace. Would someone be good enough to do something about these eyesores?

(Photographs by V S RAGHAVAN)

Seminar has no answers to the car dream

(By A Special Correspondent)





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he Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (August 1991 to October 1994) draws a grim industrial development scenario for Tamil Nadu, despite the opening up of the economy. According to it, the industrial investment proposed in the State is Rs. 17,792 crore, whereas it is Rs. 64,766 and Rs. 65,201 crore for Maharashtra and Gujarat respectively.

Alarmed by this disparity, the Tamil Nadu Government is scouting around for greater private investment in the State. The one sector which it considers its strength and expects fresh investment in is the automobile sector.

It is learnt that the State Industrial Guidance Bureau has recently had talks with executives of the Ford Motor Company. The Government has also invited automobile majors like Maruti Udyog, Tata and Volkswagen to locate their proposed plants in the State. What can Tamil Nadu offer new investment in the auto industry? Not much of an attempt was made to answer the question at the seminar on 'Prospects.

Nadu' held at the recent Autovision '95 exhibition. But there were some note-

worthy points made. In his inaugural address, Suresh Krishna, Chairman and Managing Director, Sundaram Fasteners, recalled how the State had pioneered the auto industry as far back as 1920. "Of the Rs. 5200 crore turnover achieved by the auto industry in the country, the share of the units in the State is Rs. 1705 crore, with exports worth Rs. 112 crore," he pointed out. Stressing the fact that 14 automobile units in the State had attained the ISO 9000 standards, he said "the focus should be on core competencies that exist in the State"

Disagreeing with the school of thought that ancillary uni's should be located near OEM plants, Krishna stressed the need to develop an efficient warehousing network to deliver on time and at competitive rates. He cited his own company as an example. He also said the future is for suppliers of auto aggregates — assembly and sub-

components and asked local manufacturers to shift their focus towards that, as is being done the world over. Further, he said, the emphasis should be on the export market and added that capacity should chase orders and not vice-versa. According to him, the cheap labour available here would be advantageous initially, but, in the long run, it would only be productivity and innovation that would succeed in meeting competition.

M Raman, Director, Tamil Nadu Industrial Guidance and Export Promotion Bureau, spoke of the infrastructure the State offered and said, "Even the remotest parts of the State are linked to Madras by good roads and plans are being implemented to build more bypasses to decongest the highways." More money was being invested in road improvement, he said, and added that the State Government intended to allow private sector investment in developing infrastructural facilities. The power capacity of the

(Continued on P5)

national highways toll roads for

ALL traffic. And while doing

this, why don't the authorities

erect permanent toll booths that

provide the toll-collectors pro-

tection from the elements? If

MMM remembers right, there

used to be such a fixture on the

Madras-Bangalore road once, but

it seems to have vanished., The

way the apology-for-a toll-station

functions on NH-45 at present is

a menace to the life and limb of

scurrying tax-collectors and a

threat to vehicles on account of

Three talks The Man From

Madras Musings dropped in

at this part fortnight provided

some startling contrasts. And

heard in a long time was Wayne

Flynt of Auburn University. But

The best speaker MMM has

all the barriers erected.

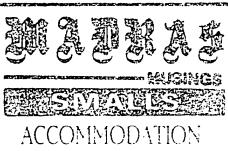
Listening in

some surprises.

I t's been some time now since The Man From Madras Musings travelled south on NH-45 and what a pleasure it's become for much of the way. The four-lane highway from Tambaram to Chengalpattu is almost complete and is a real beauty. The Chengalpattu Bypass is now open and, together with the Madurantakam Bypasi, makes the drive to Villupurain a very comfortable experience. And from there to Tiruchchirappalli is not a bad drive at all, despite not much work having been done on improvements.

In the City, the four-lane highway from Kathipara Junction to the airport is an excellent drive, marred only by a bottleneck through Meenambakkam village. But from Pallavaram to Tambaram, the highway needs much improvement, with Tambaram particularly a nightmare. Something will have to be done about the Tambaram checkpost if this stretch is to improve even marginally. When all this work is complete - and this must include better lighting and improved signposting on the completed stretches — NH-45 will be one of the best drives in the country.

The only complaint that MMM heard on the trip was from the priests — and some of the faithful — that the Chengalpattu Bypass had also bypassed the Pillaivar Temple south of Chengalpattu, where hundreds every day used to stop and seek the Lord's blessings for safe travel or to thank Him for letting them complete their journeys in safety. Apparently very few now stop there and many of them have to make a detour to stop at the shrine, thereby missing half the advantage of the bypass. The Man From Madras Musings



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MSTRONG, M

wonders whether a new shrine will now rise on the bypass to meet the needs of the faithful to say 'Thank You, Lord'.

Poyus in Karaikkudi

Further South, The Man

From Madras Musings ran into Governor Channa Reddi clogging the already crowded roads of Karaikkudi when he arrived to preside over the 10th anniversary celebrations of Alagappa University. Karaikkudi, now listed as a Heritage Town by the Tamil Nadu Government, is badly in need of attention, its phenomenal growth making its narrow streets a traveller's nightmare. Some attention also nceds to be paid to Alagappa University, where the college which started it all nearly 50 years ago, Alagappa Arts College, is not part of the University but is affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University. Imagine a University without an Arts and Science College! And without a Medical

Karaikkudi, which is spreading fast, is developing a plethora of 'Nagars'. One particular 'colony' fascinated MMM; 'Poyus Garden', it was named in Tamil! Which had MMM wondering about its namesake in Madras: Is it Poe's Garden or is it Powys' Garden?

Willing payment

A very heartening sight on NH-45 was a toll-collection point between the Madurantakam Bypass and a new bridge some way to the south of it. Batches of vaguely uniformed young men raced up and down the road, collecting tolls from vehicles slowed down by speedbreakers and blocks of rock. The Man From Madras Musings was heartened to see payment being willingly made and change being quickly given to speed travellers on their way. Indeed, it was quite a different scene from the Tiruchi Bypass toll effort a few years ago when certain types of transport refused to pay the toll and the entire exercise was ignominously abandoned.

In the present case, too, MMM noticed that buses and lorries seemed to be immune from toll, judging by the way they speeded past. Now, may be they are paying a monthly - or annual — toll MMM is not aware of, but if that is not the case, he must wonder why some road-

users rate preferential treatment. In this connection, The Man From Madras Musings wonders why we don't, as in most countries abroad, make all major

No ships again

At the University, the Society for Indian Ocean Studies had Prof B Arunachalam of Bombay University talking on the maritime traditions of Tamil Nadu. He and others are working on a three-part project that will cover different aspects of the seafaring traditions of India. Two things struck The Man From Madras Musings. One was that we haven't got any further in discovering pictures, sculptures etc of ancient Indian, particularly Chola, Pallava and Kalinga, ships, a mystery to which attention has been drawn in the columns of Madras Musings in the past. The other striking feature of Dr Arunachalam's presentation was the reliance on oral traditions and the records of the last couple of hundred years. That only confirms that right

SHORING STARRAGE

that was no surprise once it was announced he had started life as a preacher. A preacher in America's Bible Belt is worth going a long way to listen to and Flynt was no exception, whether or not you agreed with his view on poverty in America

and India. Flynt, son of an illiterate white Alabama sharecropper, may be the classic American. story of progress from tarpaper shacks to ivory towers, but he reflected the curious ambivalence of Americans everywhere to worldwide poverty, continuing to stress that a more liberal economy would ensure a trickle down effect that would free the poor from the mire. Yet he could impassionedly point out that on March 6th, the leaders of scores of countries would be meeting in Copenhagen to discuss the fate of the world's one billion poor, of whom 15 or so million would die every year because of poverty. The leaders discussing social development would focus on poverty and population, but what are the answers they'll come up with, Flynt wondered. How would they find ways to prevent the denuding of resourc-

es to meet the needs of growing populations, he asked. Certainly not by considering the case of America's 36 million poor, The Man From Madras Musings was tempted to answer. Those poor, Flyat pointed out, were those who had a total annual income of less than \$14,673 for a family of four. That's Rs. 41/2 lakh if you work it out right - and that's a sight more than what is earned by almost every one of the Indian audience who listened to him. But then, he pointed out, they did not live in Madras, paid half their incomes for housing, had no medicare or insurance. With many an Indian in that audience having lived in America on a sight less than that and not felt poor, with America in the enviable position of doing something more for its 'poor' than most other countries of the world, surely the Indian poor must be looked at differently than by comparing them with these American poor. The answers to

both cases of poverty HAVE to

knowledge of navigation that does not require sophisticated instruments. But where else does that take us?

round the coast of India there are

Musings was also intrigued by Dr Arunachalam's references to kayar seamen and Muslim the Arab — and there is little doubt that the Arabs were sailing past maritime activity?

Sue Cokyll of the BBC was back to talk of the 'Beeb's' English language teaching programme and to tell us that the success of Tiger's Eye has been followed by the introduction of A Twist in the Tail. Her video clippings, however, made The Man From Madras Musings feel that TV might be a better way of teaching English than through radio. A new twist the BBC has introduced is an English Literature series. Surely Shakespeare is dead and buried as the world moves on to reach out for the communication English of today?! Who is the audience for the BBC's Looking at Literature programmes, MMM couldn't help wondering. Might not Cockyll's years with Mills and Boon be a better approach to getting English across than through literature, he mused. But that's heresy, MMM!

Neighbourhood beauty

papers, neighbourhood beauty contests are becoming common in the city, The Man From Madras Musings finds. First there was the Miss Anna Nagar contest, more recently

mariners who have a traditional

The Man From Madras Kachcchi seamen, the Maraknames. Such namedropping would tend to indicate an Indian maritime tradition derived from from West Asia to India and beyond long before the age of Islam. In this connection, might not there be more answers to seafaring Indian traditions in Arab libraries than in ours? Certainly one suggestion made by Dr Arunachalam is worth exploring: Do the families of Kilakkarai, an area rich in maritime traditions from the days of the Arabs, have any records of And at the British Council,

ike neighbourhood news-

The Miss T'Nagar competition, MMM hears, attracted 91 entries, many of them schoolgirls. More than beauty, poise, very now and then those mighty clothes etc., what shone bright-

and ugliest questions. since he won't be marrying me filigent, bountiful, busy little hearts. for my beauty but for my character". Many in the crowd, however, thought it was an insensieducation, health and wealth in along our roads, chewing up the old, their order of importance. From, pot-holed surface, melting it answered 'Mahatma Gandhi' when asked to choose whom they would like to be if they were to be born a man.

At the end of it all, Taruna, a second year student from Ethiraj College, was crowned Miss T'Nagar, with Sweetha Executive Assistant, American Express Bank, was the second runner-up.

In briet

* The Man From Madras Musings was early one recent morning suddenly informed that a funeral he was to attend had been 'preponed' (a word, incidentally, now finding favour in the Shorter Oxford). The reason, he was later told, was that all roads to Tiruvottriyur would be later blocked as the Chief Minister was due to grace a ceremonial function in Ennore. Well, she did do the honours at (By Gunvanthi Balaram coptered the 20 kilometres after driving 10 km to Meenambakkam, the road to which was also closed to traffic! Apart from the fact that the public was considerably inconvenienced by ; officials paranoic about security on two roads — and on one in vain — could the reason for the short chartered flight have also been due to the fact that other officials did not want her to see the horrible state of the road to Ennore, MMM wonders.

Business briefs ★ The Man From Madras Musings wonders why the Tamil Nadu Government has been fighting shy of inviting highpower American delegations to the State. Without an invitation from Tamil Nadu, Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, Energy Secretary Hazel O' Leary, Governor Weld of Massachusetts and others have preferred to go to Bangalore where 115 American companies have located businesses. The fall-out of this is that the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (Southern Region) is now likely to be shifted from Madras to Bangalore. MMM wonders what's going wrong.

* The Rs.1300 cr Sanmar Group is now moving into shipping, The Man From Madras Musings hears. Its Sanmar Shipping Corporation has just bought a 41,000-DWT bulk vessel from Japan and named it Sanmar Pioneer. A second vessel this month.

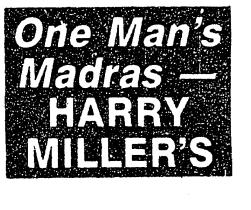
— and ridding them of water

bureaucrats in Ripon Building who contestants to even the silliest ordain such matters inform us citizens at, in their exalted benevolence, they When one judge asked a girl have condescended to spend several whom she would like to marry dores of our money - which, of from a blind man, a deaf one and burse, they fondly suppose to be their's a dumb one, she brightly ans- on re-laying our neglected roads. wered in a jiffy, "The blind man, And, indeed, they do, bless their Some years ago, they even went the extent of spending even more tive question. A better question grores on colossal imported machines was the request to list beauty, that were supposed to move slowly Amongst the five finalists, two flown and relaying it again, all in one niraculous operation within the bowels these titanic monsters. It worked, but only, it seems, for a month two. Perhaps such prodigious techlogy overwhelmed those designated operate it; perhaps those formidable eviathans lie rusting and mouldering Jaishanker, a Plus Two student, way in some lost, forgotten Corpothe first runner-up. Loretta Rose, along with those 470 Miss Madras 1989 and an tatle heads (as reported in a recent se of The Hindu).

Whatever the reason, we long ago urned to the far more reliable and Impler method of boiling tar in ageing achines thick with the stuff, while orkmen mix it with other materials d spread it over older surfaces where firmly rolled into place by road ers. I nearly erred in writing 'steam-

rollers', venerable citizen that I am, forgetting of course that we long ago did away with such technological anachronisms in favour of diesel-driven rollers, though admittedly diesel exhausts are known to be the worst of all metropolitan, carcinogenic pollutants.

But never mind about pollution for the time being. It's those roads that distress me here. What fine, unble-



mished surfaces we are ultimately presented with, but what a pity it is that our Municipality cannot go a little further and provide the roads with gutters to drain them when it rains, rare though those occasions may be. And what a pity there seems to be such a dearth of those skilful young men you see in other places who stare through tripod-mounted instruments at other

young men some distance away holding vertical wooden poles barred with black and white, an activity which I understand, is intended to ensure that surfaces are level and straight, where that is the intention. And then again the roads of other cities I have seen are bevelled, that is to say they are gently curved towards the edges so that rainwater drains into the gutters. But then again, I forgot I only just mentioned we don't have any gutters.

All these forgettings may, to charitable souls at least, be excused the elderly, a category in which I must now sorrowfully include myself. But when they occur among those to whom we liberally pay our hard-earned taxes, and who, in return, rarely emerge from their spacious Ripon Building rooms to see how those taxes are being spent, I find excuses hard to find.

Meanwhile, in the absence of level ling, cambering, gutters and other drainage, those who can afford to rid the approaches to their homes of deep stagnant, mosquito-breeding pools of stinking water must perforce employ squads of women to simply brush i away to lower places, where it may annoy others or simply await our dependable sunshine to eventually evaporate it.

But never mind, think of all tha money of ours they have spent TRYING!



Typical post-rain scene in Madras. This one happens to be in the affluent Adyar Club Gate area, but could be duplicated anywhere in this grossly neglected city. (Photo by H.M.)

OUR READERS WRITE

Citizen's Walk

adras is almost ready to be called 'City' of Garbage'. When are our mounds of garbage going to be routinely cleared? Who cares? Liberalisation has made the rich richer and more able to insulate themselves on the road and, by distance from the compound wall, in their homes. A new entrepreneur middle class has emerged which promises to behave in just the same way when they have "made it". The poor are even more poor, their salary hikes only a fraction of the increase in cost of living for them. Their expectations have risen, their facilities worse than ever. They turn to satellite TV for consolation.

Madras used to be a garden city — a walking city. Now it is a city full of potholes and indescribable filth. An example of what can be done if the problem affects the powerful and the weak alike was when the plague scare was on. The city was almost spotless overnight. Alas! not for long. What is the honest tax-paying citizen to do? How do we demand our civic rights with the state of affairs prevailing?

A suggestion to beautify our city, other than by putting up cement elephants and the like. Develop broad, protected, fenced off pavement walks along certain roads which could lead to the beach. The pavements should be protected and kept clean 24 hours, with a watchman-cum-sweeper every 200 metres. The walks could be named after politicians if it helps - but just Citizen's Walk sounds good!

Anna Abraham 14-B Ganapathy Colony Madras 600 018.

ighting up heritage

of The Times of India)

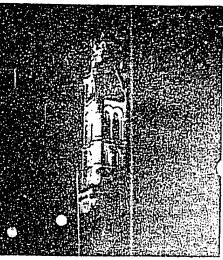
I hen Amitabh Bachchan pressed a button at St Xavier's College he night in January, the grand old alilding was seen, as it were, in a new it. Its elaborate window patterns one out of the dark Kurla stone cade while the Gothic arches were litlined in gold, the large cross atop xediment swathed in a metallic white w. The 103-year-old structure was e 13th heritage building to be illumiled in Bombay.

As the elite gathering applauded armly and the Jesuit fathers of the 25-year-old educational institution amed with pride, the Crompton eaves lighting team that had worked several weeks on the project heaved igh of relief. They are looking ahead

w to the illumination of the GPO... "It wasn't easy to illuminate ivier's because of all the trees in the mpound, but we hope it meets with e people's approval," says the team designed and installed the lights low sodium vapour lamps to outline arches, metal halide lamps to highit the cross perched high on the oftop, and mercury vapour lamps to row a bluish light on the towers at side.

Local urban conservationists, how-

er, point out that the illumination that been undertaken in the city leaves ot to be desired. Either a structure portions of it) is flooded with light, ndering the details invisible, or imporit portions of the building are not hlighted. Often, the illumination fails bring out the warmth and texture is likely to join it by the end of the stone... "a pity, considering that mbay has so many heritage monu-



Bombay's Rajabai Tower by night: one of Bombay's 13 heritage buildings that have been illuminated.

Lapses occur mainly because the

work is carried out by electrical engineers and lighting contractors without the advice of architects and conservationists, unlike in the developed countries where a lighting team comprises all three, with the local planning authority or heritage committee being actively involved in illumination projects. For instance, in Edinburgh which, like Bombay, has wonderful old sandstone structures, there is a legal policy for architectural illumination: all heritage buildings have to be lit in yellow (at the base) and white (at the top — spires, turrets and towers) after first being structurally

"Here, alas, it is only a case of performing cosmetic surgery even as the organs within are allowed to rot," says a local historian caustically, pointing out that VT is in dire need of restoration. The government should draw up a comprehensive policy and an adequate budget for the upkeep and illumination of heritage buildings, he feels. In the absence of such a policy, however, what we have is a series of hits and

While the illumination of VT (by Philips) and the Western Railway headquarters is commendable, creating effective silhouettes, the lighting of other landmarks like the Wilson College, the old Secretariat, the Gateway of India and the Rajabai Tower is far from ideal.

"It would be really nice if the illumination of these landmarks was improved," says Dilawari, who is collaborating with Philips on the illumination of an urban heritage award-winning building, the Byramji leejeebhov Parsi Charitable Institution on Chami Road.

"Sponsors of illumination projects should subsidise repairs too," chips in a student of the JJ College of Architecture. "That would be utonia." sigh local lighting engineers, pointing out that there's usually neither much money to play with (and high-tech luminaires are expensive) nor much time to conduct leisurely experiments.

"Sponsors would probably shell out more money if the government gave them tax cuts for spending on such works," observes Shirin Bharucha of the Oval Maidan Residents Association Local conservationists have long been lobbying for such incentives, but without success. "Perhaps the government will give us a new year gift," they

While the government keeps them hoping, the Central Railway has gladdened their hearts by deciding togive VT a much-required scrubdown. The scaffoldings are up, and the sprawling building will soon be washed with detergent and water, after which its splendid dome "will be given a protective coat of polymetacrylyte mixed with one per cent of pouline solution, says a railway spokesman:



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WESTERN ZONAL OFFICE

CORRIGENDUM TO EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Applications for the posts of Assistant/ Typist/ Stenographer were invited from Other Backward Classes vide our Employment Notice in various Newspapers in the State of Maharashtra during last week. The following clarification is issued.

"Only those OBC candidates will be considered who belong to the Castes/Communities which have been recognised as a Backward Class under the common list for Maharashtra as specified under Government of India, Ministry of Welfare Resolution No. 12011/68/93BCC (C) dated 10th September, 1993 published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part I Section I dated 13-09-93. Further the certificate must clearly indicate that the candidate concerned does not belong to creamy layer."

ZONAL MANAGER

It's Robert de Penning again! This time he sent in the above clipping with the note: "Nothing like clarifying issues!" Both clip and comment seemed most appropriate, as we received them at the time there were a series of workshops and lectures in Madras on Plain English.

I would like to read Musings regularly

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)* Tick whichever is applicable. (* Ail rates are inclusive of subscription, postage and handling charges.)

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Life at

It is immaterial what the 'plus' signifies or how far it goes. One changes radically at 80. Until you reach the 364th day past 79 you are Mr So-and-So, but on the 365th day you enter a new janma. Old age sets in with the precision of a planet in orbit and the insidious moving belt takes you down a sentle slope, unnoticed, until you see others at home proceeding towards the telephone while you are blissfully unaware of the ringing.

Let a fellow octogenarian correct me if I generalise that the left ear drum is the first to be switched off. You don't notice it until you find that others around mumble a great deal and utter unclear sentences. Faculties are switched off one by one, beginning at the top.

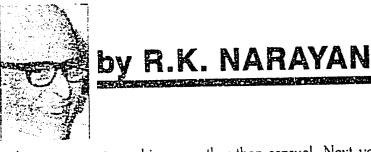
Absent-mindedness is the first symptom. Your hands act independently, just misplacing and hiding papers, documents and keys so that

Now Igivedue respect to Nature's authority by mending my conduct: I never rise abruptly from my seat or the bed, never venture to walk without a four-pronged walker in hand and also a human support to clutch — a precaution for survival.

Past 80, one becomes dependent on so many helping hands. Travel becomes impossible, unthinkable. Every little moment assumes the dimensions of a manoeuvre — to be deeply thought out and managed.

But old age is not all a suffering. There are certain benefits too. For one thing, you find everyone considerate in a hundred ways. Age brings on certain unasked privileges. People avoid hurting your feelings and are ever cautious and considerate and treat you as if old age were an achievement.

Your own interests change. First and foremost, women look worshipful



your waking hours are spent searching for something or other. A Caliban seems to be at the your elbow plaguing you, enjoying the torments he inflicts.

Next you forget names and faces. Familiar face, but who is he? Or the name is all right, we were classmates of course, but I can't remember what he looks like. We even had photographs, but they are lost. General forgetfulness starts thus, a blessing. Forgetfulness is a boon to be cherished: remembrance could be a torture sometimes.

Travelling downward from the top. senility starts. The apparatus called the human body begins to demand constant attention. while hermits advise: "Learn to forget your body. Ignore it and you will attain divine peace." Impossible at this stage.

Every moment one corner of the system or another clamours for attention, major or minor - may be a scratch or an ache or something serious. Whatever it may be, it rings an alarm bell.

Ultimately, a dozen different specialists have to monitor your system from time to time to reassure you that you will continue to be alive, with dos and don'ts. Your medical schedule becomes overwhelming.

When I think of Gibbon, I admire his genius in naming his Roman history, Decline and Fall, for they are a natural sequence. It applies to Eighty Plus: with decline one has to dread a fall too, which seems built-in. My doctor always cautions, "Don't fall." I respect his advice, no doubt, but gravity is ruthless.

Tumbling down is inevitable in old age. I have suffered two falls in three years. On both occasions I realised how totally helpless one feels — when you start falling, no power on earth can arrest your fall.

The pull of gravity is inexorable; if it could also tunnel through the core of the earth, it would perhaps not rest till your found yourself at the Antinodes Tuckily I was not broken or

rather than sensual. Next you realise the unimportance of possessions. acquisitions, and enjoy the pleasure of dispossessing yourself of everything and watching others enjoy life.

Fewer irritations in life are felt because of your defective hearing. You don't fret any more at the idiocies presented on TV. You can always operate the God-given shutters, one's eyelids, which — properly used — can shut off any spectacle.

So, also, if you don't wish to hear. the simplest method is to plug your ears with the little fingers in your hand, which seem to be made to measure. Thus, you have natural facilities to see no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil, if you resist the temptation to discuss the newspaper headlines with others.

At Eighty Plus, you learn to attain peace of mind by these measures. I takes time and practice to understand your potentialities and exert your inner strength. You must reach a minimum of 80 years to mellow and realise your

Memory is one factor that must be curbed rigorously. Memory and hope are two elements that are inborn. Hope is potent in earlier life, its area diminishes unnoticed in later life, and more mental space is usurped by memory, which is pleasant and sustaining up to a stage. I say "up to a stage", which is to be determined by the nature of one's experience.

Music when soft voices die, Vibrates in the memory —

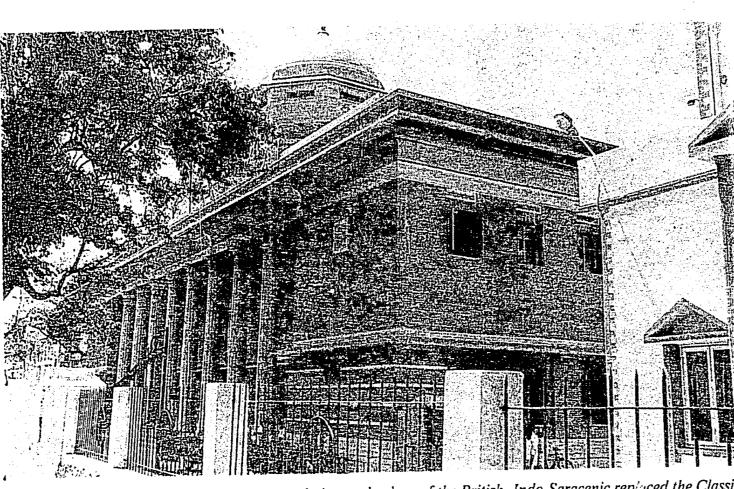
So said Shelley. It may not always be 'music' — if you go on to consider another aspect of memory When to the sessions of sweet silent

thought. l summon up remembrance of things past

I sigh the lack of many a thing

And with old woes new wail my dear times' waste.

This has to be avoided, unless you



In modern Indian architectural history dating to the days of the British, Indo-Saracenic replaced the Classical in public buildings when the Raj felt that Indians would be happier with public architecture closer to the Asia in idiom than the 'foreign' Classical with its overtones of Western imperialism. And see what we've got here, imily were the makers of the famous our NEW and OLD this fortnight!

part of University building activities in the 1930s (work on this building " With boat designing not offering THE started in 1935) when the new buildings were built to harmonise with the OLD... Indo-Saracenic of Chepauk Palace, the PWD Building, Presidency College

and Senate House. When the University added its centenary building in the 1960s, it still remained faithful unding to an advertisement calling for the Indo-Saracenic style. How did it then permit the latest monstrosity to be constructed right next to the beautifuple to join a "Company based in 1930s annexe? Not only have we got a hybrid Classical, but its raucous colour scheme, so in contrast to anoth India", he heard from the other building on the Marina, is a blot on the cityscape. Here is one more bit of tastelessness that should he inpany that one of its directors, a to hasten the process of declaring the Marina a heritage zone.

(Photographs by V S RAGHAVA and mould interview him



Ups & downs of the market

the indices of various exchanges and

markets, such as commodities, currency

Technical Analysis has been domi-

nated by a few stalwarts like Elliott and

Gann. They have proved themselves

in the markets, thus emphasising the

fact that the subject is not restricted to

academe only. The former's contri-

bution especially is momentous. His

Elliott Wave theory has done a lot in

helping us understand previous patterns

Forecasting is what the investor

and, thus, forecast.

In stock market analysis, the study of technicals is slowly gaining prominence. However, it is still restricted to academicians and professional analysts. Which is a pity, for the common investor can gain deep insights by understanding and following Technical Analysis.

What is Technical Analysis? It is the study of the movement of the index. The various levels the index reaches can be linked to form patterns that are rendered graphically for easy interpretation. A person can also study

Shakespare seems to achieve as he concludes his sonnet: But if the while I think on thee,

dear friend. All losses are restor'd and sorrows

But it is not given to all to enjoy this revival. For most of us, recollection is painful — a past moment or a face brings on an overwhelming mood ol

sadness. is most concerned with. While the To forget the past and live in the subject may have diverse interests for present, relishing the quality of every the analyst, it is only by predicting moment as it comes and letting it also accurately that he can help people pass without regret, realising the make profits on the markets, this being buy. inevitability of External Flux, is the the final aim of any investor. practical way to exist in peace.

be used with devastating precision judge what is going to happen in coming days.

A close study of the pattern be continued from P 1) formed now reveals a startling facture, which is 6158 MW, will be closely resembles what had be bubled by 2003 AD, he pointed out. formed in 1993. That is to say. This was echoed by N Narayanan, present decline matches, almost exaction ance Secretary, who said the that which happened two years 200 MW North Madras Thermal Plant What is of practical use is the fact the projects in Cuddalore, Tuticorin the index of both years has followed Jayamkondan would secure the the rules mentioned by Elliott. The wer position of the State for the next the natural assumption is that when years. The 250 MW lignite-based first half of the theory has been prount at Neyveli is also awaiting right, the second half is also sure arance by the Centre. He assured the come true. According to the theory, uninar that budget provisions would index should start climbing again a made for the maintenance of roads touching a low of 3312 by a minima industrial estates.

of 500 points to a maximum of Terming Madras as the Detroit of points. In the long run, the index willia, Viji Santhanam, Joint Managing again decline to touch 2950. Mector, Brakes (India) Ltd, pointed out current pattern will most likely # Tamil Nadu accounts for one-third around October, i.e. eight months the production of auto components he country. He said the focus should

So, knowing this, how can on an improved distribution network investor profit? The trading straind greater exports. R Seshasayee, Dy. suggested is that s/he can buy activanaging Director, Ashok Leyland, now, anticipating the 500-800-peed that component suppliers he rise. For long-term purchat wed as an extended arm of manu-September/October is the ideal timeturers nowadays, as advanced mmunication networks made

A beginner or novice can best sical proximity unnecessary

From P.Orr's Garrard's Bossotto's Hotel (now occupied by

They also had to wear their life jackets

the monsoon was at its peak and had

his first taste of Indian life and Indian

Davies arrived in Bombay when

throughout the journey.

Davies, who retired as Deputy naging Director of Garrard's the wn jewellers, decided to make India launching pad for his career. And nr & Sons is where that career an, he recalled during a recent iday in Madras.

March 1-15, 1995 arch 1-15, 1995

A draughtsman by training, Davies ed the Navy during World War II helped in designing motor torpedo ts. His inclination towards design s, in a way, a family first. His father associated with the coal mines in r native Wales and his mother's brona' brand of soft drinks.

e Even as R JAISRI was learning about Garrard's of London from JOHN DAVIES, a former Director an to explore new avenues. Reof the famed Crown jewellers who was holidaying in Madras, there came news of Garrard's being broken into in London. One of the Wood, would be coming to pieces stolen was a diamond and pearl tiara of re. Interview over, Davies was asked Queen Sonja of Norway. It oin after getting a release from the was in Garrard's for repairs he was in. This was not much of and Davies remembered problem, but getting a 'passage to handling it many years ia' was. It meant making many trips ago, when it had on that ndia House, which issued 'passages' occasion too come in for hose immediate post-War days to repairs, "Now doesn't that se wanting to go to India. Passage make a handy peg for your ormation would be given only two story?" he laughed when s in advance, which meant that he telephoned Jaisri to say re was hardly any time to get ready. Goodbye'. Davies' case, his departure got

food. Looking back, he recalls how he was stunned at the rich spread that was The trip to India by boat took him ven days (incidentally that was one ne fastest trips of the time), with a only at Suez. As troops were still Ing carried to different locations. ilians had to huddle on the upper ks of the vessel, that was divided

poned three times. He finally left

available, a contrast to the rations he was used to in England, where, for instance, a person got just two ounces of butter a week. When he arrived in Madras, he

was met by Wood and lodged at

least one new vehicle manufacturing

plant. Are the points made sufficient to

attract Volkswagen — which is studying

eight centres in the country to locate

Maruti or Ford to Tamil Nadu?

the world of pipedreams?

on Mount Road). Bossotto's was where most expatriates arriving for employment were lodged, as it was not only in an important business locality but also because it was from there that they could get a feel of the city. In his case, there was also the fact that P.Orr & Sons was just round the corner. P.Orr & Sons at the time dealt

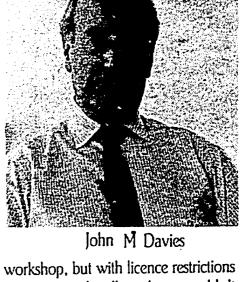
Bata and Godrei near the Anna statue

mainly with jewellery and clocks. Jewellery and precious stones purchased from P.Orr's were taken to be the best available and the firm was patronised by the civilian elite of Madras as well as by the Rajahs and Nawabs of the time. P Orr's had a branch in Rangoon from where it got the best of jades and rubies which were set in jewellery by the craftsmen in the Madras head office. P.Orr's also had a branch in Ooty to cater to local royalty holidaying in the hill station. Davies remembers the tea parties there hosted by families like those of Pithapuram, Baroda, Pudukkottai etc. The huge silver plates, candelabra etc. used on such occasions were all made by P.Orr & Sons.

P.Orr's also had a presence in the North. Two of its representatives were always on tour throughout the country, canvassing orders, bringing jewellery for repair and so on. It was through such a network that P.Orr's became established as a major name in the Indian iewellery business. Apart from serving the cream of society, P.Orr's also supplied clocks to the P.W.D. "Even today you will find P.Orr clocks in many offices in India," Davies proudly points out.

An important landmark in the history of P.Orr's was its appointment as agents in India for the Rolex brand of watches. P.Orr's had been assembling watches earlier in their Madras

MANAALI RAMAN...



proving a hurdle, they couldn't continue as they had done before. They had come up with their own brand too — the Orr Lion. But being appointed agents for Rolex was a matter of greater prestige.

By 1949, P.Orr's had been in the business for a hundred years and the centenary was celebrated in a grand

manner. A lunch was given to the employees and each one of them was presented a towel, considered a great honour at the time. The salary at P.Orr's was good by

the standards of the time. But on five hundred rupees a month, Davies could not afford a luxurious life. He lived at Chesney Hall in Egmore, where every expatriate staying had to have a bearer to look after him. Food, rent and the bearer's salary took away a major portion of the money and Davies went to office by bicycle. He recalls how he used to take an extra set of clothes to change into once he got into office, as he would be sweating profusely by the time he reached there. It was an unwritten uniform code at P.Orr's that all employees wear starched white clothes and a tie.

(To be continued next fortnight)

Fifth-rate Madras

(Continued from P 1)

From the MBA study it is clear that for Madras to attract the best managerial talent, it will have to necessarily shed its conservative image and move with the changing times. For a start, the city's infrastructure has to improve — roads, transport, communication, water supply, power etc — providing the right incentives to industry, NRIs and foreign companies to come in and invest in the State. The business houses here, which have for far too long not felt the need to take on the country's northern and western industrial giants, will now have to shed all inhibitions and look at specifics — more sales, faster growth

and higher profits. Madras Vision-2000 has to be made a reality.

A lesson can be learnt from Calcutta, a city that, not many years ago, was the country's commerical capital. It has slid to a shocking 19th on the MBA list, and in spite of adequate power supply now and the Vidyasagar Sethu, it still remains a businessman's bete noire. So much so that there are few takers for the West Bengal Government's gallant efforts to bring the State back into the reckoning. Madras has to wake from its slumber and look more sharply at the future if it does not want to follow Calcutta's example.

Analysis through the book, A Primer on Technical Analysis, which is widely available in Madras.

Our recommendations for this fortnight are:

Seshasayee Paper (CMP: Rs 90.00): This South-based integrated pulp and paper manufacturing company has announced excellent results for the first half of the current year, thanks to the completion of the first phase of the modernisation plan by March 1994 as scheduled. The net profit is up by 71% due to improved productivity, better realisation and reduced manufacturing costs. The second half is expected to be even better as paper prices have witnessed a steep rise. It is now implementing a Rs 5 cr plan to conserve energy which will improve its bottomline. Also, it plans to enhance its capacity. We estimate a turnover of about Rs 125 cr and a PAT of around Rs 10 cr. An EPS of Rs 9 would support over Rs 130. Currently, prices, after reacting to Rs 87.50, are showing signs of resuming their uptrend. Buy with a stop loss at Rs 85.

Dharani Sugars (CMP: Rs 50.00): This 'Dharani' group company with one of the most modern sugar mills in the country has announced good results for the first half of the current year. Sales amounted to Rs 14.74 cr as against Rs 11.05 cr in the previous year's corresponding period while

PAT rose to Rs 3.40 cr from a mere Rs 0.17 cr. The company expects to crush around 7.25 lakh tonnes of cane during the 1994-95 season. We estimate an EPS of Rs 9, which supports Rs 75 by the 1994-95 results. The company might come out with a rights/public issue to part-finance its expansion plan, which includes setting up two sugar plants at a cost of Rs 130 cr. Buy with a stop loss at Rs 45.

Pan Clothing (CMP: Rs 27.00): Pan Clothing and Consolidated (PCCL), marketing the 'Cassidy's' brand, has declared impressive results for the half-year ended December 1994. It has notched up a sales of Rs 12.22 cr and PAT of Rs 1.05 cr. This Madras-based company, already manufacturing ready-made garments, entered the capital market in August 1994 only to get oversubscribed around 35 times. The garments are marketed through its own local retail outlets as well as exported. Sales to such countries as the USA, Canada, Belgium and Germany account for almost 37% of total turnover. It has also entered into a buyback arrangement with Kingtex, Dubai, for marketing 50 per cent of its production. PCCL has declared an interim dividend of 6 per cent. Its performance is in line with its projections for 1994-95. Prices are moving sideways between a narrow band of Rs 25-31. Buy with a stop loss at Rs 25.

K. Gopalakrishnan

AMERICAN CENTER LIBRARY

Gemini Circle, Mount Road, Madas 600 006. Tel: 8273040.

NOTABLE BOOKS OF THE MONTH

American Feminist Thought at Century's End: A Reader Edited by Linda S. Kauffman.

Blackwell, c1993. (305.42 AME) Hartmann, Frederick H. America's Foreign Policy in a Changing World Harper Collins College Publishers, c1994. (327.73 HAR)

The Internet Companion: A Beginner's Guide to Global Networking Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, c1994. (384.33 LAO)

Framebreak: The Radical Redesign of American Business Jossey-Bass Publishers, c1994 (658 MIT) O'Hara-Devereaux, Mary

Globalwork: Bridging Distance, Culture & Time Jossey-Bass Publishers, c1994 (658.049 OHA)

Reciprocity, U.S. Trade Policy, and the GATT Regime Cornell University Press, c1993 (382.30973 RHO) Teaching Global Development: A Curriculum Guide

"Film scholarship ahead?"

its new plant to manufacture the Volkswagen and Audi range of cars — **TAILPIECE:** Curiously, nothing was stated at the seminar about the fate of the one car plant in the State -Standard Motors Ltd. Wouldn't reviving a plant in hand be worth two in IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

lanuary every year. This year, there

were, as usual, good, bad and indiffe-

rent performances. But there were some

surprises too. Most performances reflected good training and little else.

One performance that came through as entirely sincere and with no

frills was the Odissi performance of

Shankar Behera. He danced with

untiring energy and deep commitment

in a charming mixture of Odissi styles

- the earthy, tankrik style of Debi-

prasaad Das and the sophisticated style

of Kelucharan Mahapatra were blended

into an an explosion of energy. This

was more evident when seen at closer

quarters at a chamber performance at

the Dhananjayans' Bharatha Kalanjali.

of Odissi with poetical lyricism by his

guru. Kelucharan Mahapatra, who

performed spontaneously. Dheera

Sameere ... the Ashtapadi, acquired

new meaning in his performance.

A bonus was the refined exposition

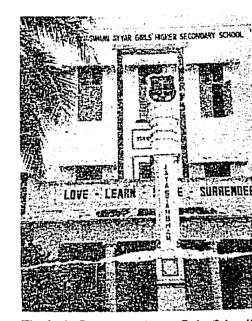
This series is on Madras schools that are part of the City's heritage. These are not necessarily the better-known or more successful schools of today. These are the schools that helped the city to grow. Each of the schools featured is over 100 years old.

Overcoming all deterrents to girls' education

At a point in the 19th Century, when formal education for girls was not thought of, Sri Sri Sri Maharaja Pasapathi Vijayarama Gajapathi Maharai III. the Maharaja of Vizianagaram. not only founded schools for them in Vizianagaram, but also in Madras. In 1869, he opened a school for girls in Mylapore.

The Vizianagaram Maharaja's Hindu Girls' School started in a rented building in Mylapore, where the Indian Bank now is. It had just three classes and remained 3-primary school till -1919. The stigma attached to girls going to school, as well as the custom of child marriage, were deterrents to girls' education and the school was little patronised. Its problems increased when the Maharaja died in 1879. His son, Sri Ananda Gajapathi Maharaja, was unable to personally supervise the functioning of the school and he handed over its management to the National Indian Association in 1890, but continued to give financial assistance. When Ananda Gajapathi Maharaja died in 1897, he left behind a minor son. The Court of Wards appointed to manage the affairs of the young prince withdrew the royal support to the school and the manage-

9



The Lady Sivaswami Ayyar Girls School's new building and the jayasthambam crected in front of it to commemorate the school's centenary in 1968. Vijayarama Gajapathi Raj, the great grandson of the

founder, inaugurated the pillar. ment fell squarely on the shoulders of the NIA. In 1904, faced with financial crisis, the NIA planned to close the school and the girls of Mylapore were faced with the prospect of having no school in the area.

At this juncture, V Krishnaswami Ayyar and V Bashyam Aiyangar, who were liberal-minded enough to understand the need for girls' education, came forward to run the school. Their committee, formed in 1904, continued till 1918. In 1904 it renamed the school the Mylapore Girls' School. In 1906, the school moved to a building at the junction of North and East Mada Streets. And in February 1908, Lady Lawley laid the foundation for a new school building in a plot on East Mada Street. The new building, known for long as the 'Red Building', was declared open in 1910 and the school was renamed the Vizianagaram Rani's Girls' School, commemorating the help the daughter of the founder gave this

When Krishnaswami Ayyar and Bashyam Aiyangar passed away, Annie Besant took the school under her wing in 1918 and transferred the management to the Theosophical Education Trust. Sarojini Naidu was invited to deliver the address at a meeting held to mark the takeover and the school was renamed the National Girls' High

Hindu Theological School, was invited The school was upgraded to a by Sivaswami Ayyar to join the Managmiddle school in 1919 and, in 1924 ing Committee. He stepped up the became a high school. A batch of four academic proficiency of the school and students were sent up for the S.S.L.C also introduced a legion of co-curricular examination in March 1926. In 1930, and extra-curricular activities. When when Annie Besant became more and Sivaswami Ayyar died in 1946, the more involved in the Home Rule school was renamed Lady Sivaswami Aiyar Girls' High School, commemorating the sacrifices he and his wife

Iwas silver, not gold, made for it. Today, the school, one of the leading schools in Madras; has 1800 students and 60 teachers. It is situated on about 12 grounds. A new C.B.S.E.

Quizzin'

with

Ramanan

(Quizmaster V V RAMANAN's

questions are from the fortnight

1. What is the new name of the popular

2. The Tamil Nadu Government Order

Rt 29 dated 13.1.95 for the acquisition

of nearly 50 acres of land has

snowballed into a controversy. How?

computer passed away recently. Who?

Wimbledon men's singles crown, a

former world TT champion, passed

Corporation (the first local body to do

5. What sanitary first has the Tiruchi

6. Who is the recipient of the 1994

'Woman of the Year' award given by

the International Women's Association

What rare global sporting honour will

the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, j. Jaya-

lalitha, receive some time later this

8: The only civilian Prime Minister Burma

4. The last British player to win the

3. The 'father' of the modern digital

'Palace on Wheels'?

away recently. Who?

so) introduced recently?

Feb. 1-16).

Sudharma after Sir Sivaswami's palatien one person jealous of her was a Ramaswami Aiyar. One of the home. Sudharma is a co-education pressing fact.

Sir Sivaswami Kalalaya:.. in Sudharma, once Sir Sivaswami's home.

movement, she handed over the school

to a committee headed by Sir, C P

committee was Sir P S Sivaswami

to the school that when its coffers were

empty, he sold his palatial residence

Sudharma and donated the proceeds

to the school. When Helen Veale, the

headmistress, retired in 1940, she

recommended Sir PS Sivaswami Ayyar

be appointed the headmaster of the

school. He was the first Indian to head

the school and S Chellemmal, who

joined the school in 1935, became the

assistant head. Nearly sixty years later,

'Mathaji' Chellammal has still not

swami Aiyangar, retired headmaster of

school!

severed her connections with the

In 1944, Mahakulapathi K Ranga-

So committed was Sivaswami Ayyar

Sivaswami School is its many extr curricular activities. The school's Dee Bandhu Sangam gives nourishing for to orphans and poor children. school also runs a 'Sick Room', Seethalakshmi Ammal Free Dispenca: to promote the health of the physical weak. Many students have benefit and the school has even borne expenses of Open Heart Surger conducted on a few of its students. The school has Earn-While-You-Lea Needlework and Tailoring projects the economically backward student Project work and Handicrafts compulsory for all classess. The school has a Mothers' Union which me three times a year. The Kaly SivaswamiAyyar Best Teacher awa is given on February 7th every year the birth anniversary of Sivaswa

teacher.

9. In what unique shape would the animals of Tamil Nadu on the occas 10. Name the Archbishop of Canterbary, money and affection over so

who visited the city recently.

its diamond jubilee recently?

13. Name the former Chief Secretary stand out always. She has been the UN Population Commission.

censured by the Chief Minister hinting at an alliance with the Cong without her permission? 15. A new sort of vending machine

14. Which Tamil Nadu minister

first of its kind in the city, is b installed at the AVM Rajeshy Theatre. What does it vend? 16. Name the premier Telugu satellite

launched from the city on Febru

17. Apart from Madras, where else the Santosh Trophy football mate

played this year? 18. The week of February 4-11 man the golden jubilee of what wo

famous tripartile conference? 19. Name the players who set a v record Test partnership betw brothers, 269 runs, against Pakis

Which city school was given grounds in Mylapore, belonging to Kapaleeswarar Temple, for use a playground; by the Chief Min

An award for commitment

the cover of the local woman's gazine Eves Touch, there was a er to the editor. It was from a person did not like the little attention she got for her untiring work as a craft rist. The letter surprised me a great eal, as Gita is one person I know who lotally without ego problems, avari-Juness about credits etc. She is comschool, the Sir Sivaswami Kalalay tely committed and works with no was started in 1989 and is name excitation of rewards. That there was

But Gita was vindicated when she A special feature of the Lans given the 'Woman of the Year'

The view from the wings by V.R. Devika

d by the International Women's ociation. IWA has been presenting prestigious award every year to men who are outstanding in their ial fields of service to humanity. others who have been honoured ne past are Dr Sharada Menon, Subbulakshmi, Qudsia Gandhi, a Rani Chunkath and Sarojini

Gita, characteristically, talked about craftsmen and not herself when Rs. 10,000 and a citation. A pane epting the award. She made the Ayyar. This award carries a purse set up by the school to select the battest of speeches and appealed to The school is managed by Talk object, that their's are the fingers National Boys' and Girls' Education have made the object, that it takes Very long time before the skills to ake the object can be learned and that Text and photographs of them has a family to support ough those skills. A craft object is RAJIND N CHRISTING by an entire family's effort, she Ited out. She then showed a series water tanks to be provided for the for ides of craftsmen working and this her tribute to the craftsmen for of the Chief Ministers' birthday. Hom she has devoted so much time.

11. What is the State's new agricult Cita Ram never makes people feel comes from an affluent family (she 12. What popular board game celebra married to S Ram of the TVS gup). It is her compassion and class Tamil Nadu and a votary of far secretary of the Crafts Council of planning nominated as a member Deputy Vice-President of the rld Crafts Council and is a Director of Poompuhar and Secretary of Madras Craft Foundation.



Gita Ram (Photo by S Anwar)

When Jagannathan, a young stone sculptor from Mamallapuram, got married recently, he printed the name of Gita Ram on the invitation. He said he could not think of anyone else he venerated, anyone who never failed to help others without ever expecting gratitude. That is a true description of Gita's role in the world of handicrafts and a tribute to the person that she is.

Charming Odissi

A major dance event was recently travelling artists.

IDA, Madras, gets artists of different schools together to celebrate International Dance Week, which falls in



Kelucharan Mahapatra, the Udis

organised in Madras by the International Dance Alliance, Madras. IDA, Madras, is associated with IDA, New York, which was founded to help



maestro (Photo by S Anwar)

We welcome the first steps to THE HERITAGE ACT

We look forward to its enactment and implementation

> Space donated by TAMARAI MILLS

Naturalists' Corner



A splendid gaur (or Indian bison) poses for E R C Davidar's camera. (Photo courtesy Madras Naturalists' Society)

GLOBAL FUSION

Music with an identity of its own

But he warns, "Simply to take music

and harmonise it is vulgar. Hindi film

music is the worst example. There is

a huge difference between putting a

mixture into a pot and boiling it and

the organic process of distillation which

The presence of dynamic British

Asian and Black populations is accele-

rating the fusion of Western, Indian,

African and Carribbean musical tradi-

tions. Shakti, a group formed by the

Yorkshire-born guitarist John

McLaughlin, and India's exceptionally-

talented tabla player Zakir Hussian, has

stood out among them. Other band

members included Subramanium's

younger brother, L Shankar, a violinist.

requires genius."

AMIT ROY, writing from London for The Telegraph, Calcutta, recently wrote of Madras's own L Subramanium as follows:

A historic 'East West fusion concert (was) held at the Royal Albert Hall in London (recently) in which L Subramanium, the brilliant South Indian classical violinist, performed with Stephane Grappelli, the Western world's best known jazz violinist. ..

The event ... a landmark in fusion music, which is achieved by mixing sounds from different cultural traditions . revealed how far fusion music has come since the 1960s when the Beatles teamed with Ravi Shankar on the

Subramanium says, "With East-West fusion, people think of Eastern and Western musicians playing together. But global fusion, a concept I have been developing, goes beyond

Subramanium, 46, was born in Madras and now lives in Los Angeles About 10 years ago he met Grappelli, 40 years older. But they hit it off. They have played a little together. "I took Grappelli to India," Subramanium says.

"Musically there are only seven notes. But because of the ornamentation and the style of playing, a Beethoven concert on the violin is totally different from an Indian raga on the violin," he explains.

When attempting global fusion, Subramanium writes a piece for the accompanying orchestra but deliberately makes the solo part variable. "It can be played on different instruments by soloists from different countries. This has never been done before." he emphasises. Grappelli, who has been called "one of the monuments of music," says: "Music is one world. I am excited at the prospect of doing something new." He enjoyed his tour of India with Subramanium, saying,

and Trilok Gurtu, an Indian Lord Menuhin, who has found percussionist. playing with Grappelli, Subramanium A good example of contemporary and Ravi Shankar "thrilling experiences", is enthusiastic about fusion.

groups is Shiva Nova, whose members play violins in Western and South Indian styles, the cello and sitar, the santoor and African Kora. Priti Paintal, a 35-year-old Indian

woman, who founded Shiva Nova in 1988, prefers the term 'crossover' to 'fusion'. "It's like two people getting married and having a baby. The baby is not fusion — it has an identity of its

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(Continued from last fortnight) The year 1878 started off peacefully enough along Cherry Creek Denver's oldtimers nodded wisely as they read that precious metal of great richness had been found at a gone-toseed gold camp named Oro City, near Mount Elbert, the highest peak in the

away. The metal was silver, not gold. Leadville was the greatest silver camp the world had ever known Marshall Field, a Chicago merchant, had gambled on a prospect hole, the Iron Silver, and was shipping his second million dollars back to Chicago. A Philadelphia silk importer, Meyer Guggenheim, was taking a thousand dollars a day out of his Minnie Mine, later the basis of the Guggenheim financial empire. One railroad, the Denver and Rio Grande, arrived at Leadville in 1880. Another line was on its way there.

Leadville's torrential wealth flowed down and engulfed Denver. The silver camp was more than 3,000 metres above sea level. No one stayed up there gasping for breath any longer than he had to. Denver, accustomed to growing slowly, could not begin to keep up with all the demands. Between 1880 and 1890, the population tripled to 110,000, and so did the dollar investment in smelters, foundries, banks, mining machinery and stores.

Rockies, only some 160 kilometres

in Leadville! underlying character can be traced back to habits formed during the 15 years of the Leadville boom — habits of good nature, respect for pioneer families, a reverence for anything European, love of comfort and gaiety, admiration for wealth and ostentation even while striving for culture and spiritual values, and a healthy ability to laugh at one's own foibles. Silver barons, cattle kings and bankers vied in the magnificence

of their homes on Capitol Hill. And then, during the summer of 1893, the terrible blow fell. First, the U.S. Government went on the gold standard and removed Leadville's silver from its currency. India, a big silver buyer, followed suit. As the price of silver fell to half its former value. practically all of Colorado's silver mines were shut down, unable to pay wages to their miners. The nationwide panic of 1893 ensued. Denver had more than its share of bankruptcies, bank failures, bread lines and millionaires

stripped of their last dime. For some weeks the community was stunned. But a few leaders began to take stock of the town's assets something they had been too busy to do during the plush Leadville era. They saw the vitality of the many thriving businesses that had nothing to do with mining - stockyards, ironworks, fireclay and brick plants, green houses and others. Mining itself was merely in the doldrums. It was far from dead and

the city. Some 80 trains daily brought passengers into town. In summer, most of the passengers were tourists who came from everywhere to see the scenic beauties of the Continental Divide that had plagued Denver so in its early years. When they figured it out, the leaders discovered that the 1893 tourist business was bringing in almost as much income as mining before the

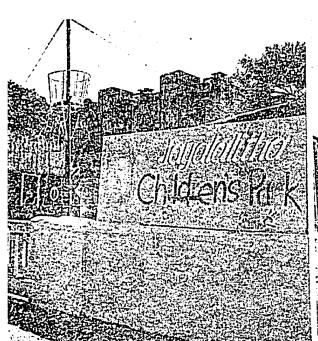
Something else had been changing Divide more than 160 kilometres

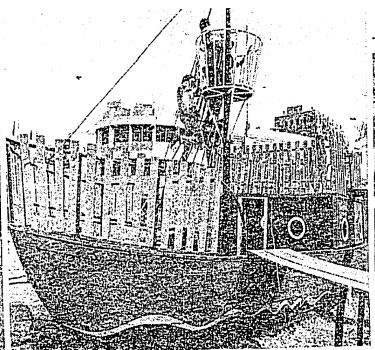
attracted new money and adventurous souls. Denver, resuming its growth in area, population and wealth, steadily strengthened the position it had claimed from gold rush days as 'Queen City of the Rockies'. And it remains so today. (From the Anniversary Special of the Indo-American Association.)

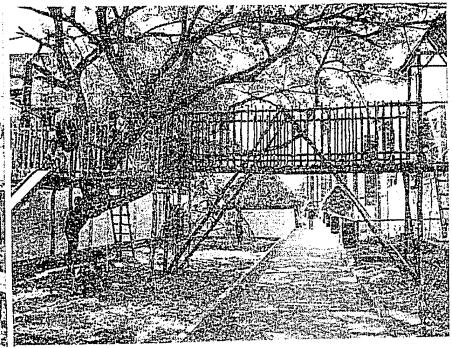
too. The city's annual rainfall was still only 50 centimetres. But the huge amounts of water that piled up in the deep snows of the Continental Divide and which had formerly flowed to the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf of Califormia during the spring run-off, were being converted to use. The pure snow water that one drinks from any Denver tap today arrives in town by pipeline and tunnel from dozens of reservoirs high up on both sides of the Continental

Having taken stock, those leaders 1893 restored confidence, and

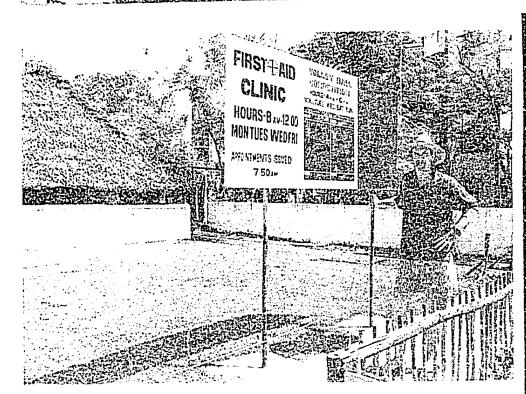
MARSHAL SPRAGUE











A bit of sunshine in drab lives

As the great swarms of traffic spill into Teynampet junction from Thyagaraya Road, you will find, if you can pause to stop and stare, a sign saying 'Vision 2000 Park'. On the other side of the road is what looks like a children's playground. One day, not so long ago, when the Chief Minister went down Thyagaraya Road in massive procession it sported a sign, 'Chief Minister I Jayalalitha playground'. That sign is now round the corner, at the entrance to the playground.

Both park and playground are the handiwork of Craig Hendry and his 'Vision 2000' team of volunteers from Australia. They first successfully established a total hygiene system on the northern side of the Thyagaraya Road bridge, covering the Mambalam drainage canal and developing on it a dispensary, clean toilet facilities, a volleyball court, a lawn and their own living quarters (MM. Aug. 16, '94). Work then began on the southern side of the bridge. Months of hard work followed -- from dredging the sewer to laying the concrete slabs in place to support the structures. And then a fully furnished play centre was developed, the like of which no child in these slums had ever seen before.

The play centre houses a tree hut, a play mine shaft, a wooden ship complete with a crow's nest, and a winch called the 'flying fox'. During the day, the deprived children learn the 3Rs in an audio-visual room equipped with educational video tapes and all the picture story books they need.

The Austrialian volunteer project ran into serious problems during the construction of the play centre. First, the Corporation delayed the necessary permits for the project. Then local politicians got into the act, and the Australian team was threatened. Hendry alleges the delays were engineered by vested interests who wanted the slum to remain a slum; they did not want 'operation cleanup' simply because parents in the area, conscious of improved hygiene in their day-to-day lives and aware of the benefits of the entertainment and education offered their

The rough weather seems to have passed somewhat now, mainly because the children in the area have grown to like both aspects of the 'Vision 2000' project. And the parents of the children have been very supportive, especially as the dispensary treats around 4000 people every month. The fact that the southern side of the park has been named after the Chief Minister has also undoubtedly helped.

Hendry and his team plan to press on with incir good work, regardless. But they are, without doubt, disillusioned after the setbacks. When complete, they hope to hand over the project to a social service organisation to maintain. To find another organisation that can manage the 'Vision 2000' project with equal dedication, and sustain it forever, is likely to prove a major poser in the future.

Pictures and text V S RAGHAVAN



A golden girl in the making

T Usha, Asia's golden girl, ran the 400 metres in under 54 seconds for the first time when she was 19. Kannan Solaimathi, from Karuthapulianpatti village 30 km from Madurai, has done just that as a 17-year-old. Not only did she clock 53.99 secs in the inter-state meet, but she was also the golden girl of the meet — winning three other golds and a silver (in a relay).

Solaimathi has all the signs of becoming another 'golden girl' for India. At 17, she has clocked 11.9 sec, 24.2 sec and 53.99 secs in the 100 m, 200 m and 400 m respectively. P T Usha's records at her peak were 11.3 sec, 23.4 secs and 51.6 secs for the same distances.

A tenth standard student at Kakaipadiniyar school, Madurai, Solamathi is the shy daughter of a mill worker. She started her athletic career when she was 15, winning at local inter-school meets. It was then that she caught the eye of Alagumalai, the District Coach, who thought she would shine if she joined the OCPM Sports School in Madurai.

She didn't belie expectations. Training under the watchful eye of T V Patrick, a Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority coach, Solaimathi has grown from strength to strength since the Rural Nationals held in Haryana in 1992. She first looked a champion at the 1994 Senior Open State Amateur Athletic Meet, where she outpaced International Alphonsa Rayan to win the 400 m gold, clocking 57.4 secs. She beat another international, P V Leena, in the 200 m, to take the gold in 25.4 secs. In the 100 m she had to be content with a bronze

Representing India at the Asian Junior Track and Field Meet, Jakarta, she finished seventh and fifth in the 100 m and 200 m. Speaking about the performance, where she achieved her best timings till then, Solaimathi says, "I would have clocked better times had it not been for a heel injury owing to suddenly shifting to a synthetic track after practising only on natural ground." But this is not a run-of-the-mill excuse; the fact is Solaimathi had run her races till then barefoot and on hard ground and the change to an unfamiliar track had its effect on her legs.

A look at the timings clocked by Solaimathi in the last two years shows that she is improving well. Says Patrick, "In 1993, she timed 12.6 secs, 26 secs. and 61 secs in the 100 m, 200 m and 400 m. Look at her timings



Solaimathi

training her. As a matter of fact, it is he who foots some of her bills. The new bicycle which she pedals from the YWCA hostel to the Armed Police Grounds in Madurai for training daily was presented by him. And when Solaimathi went to Ludhiana and Patiala for the Asian Games trials, Patrick also went with her, spending

from his pocket in order to provide the psychological support she needed. "That enabled me to qualify for the Asian Junior Track and Field Meet," Solaimathi acknowledges.

Solaimathi's training schedule of four hours daily includes hurdling, running, jumping, rope climbing and physical exercises. Speaking about her running Patrick says, "She has the necessary speed, agility and explosiveness to make it to the top by the time she is 21. Her mental make-up is strong and she does not get nervous even at crucial moments". Solaimathi initially used to run the first 300 m at full pace and faced problems in the closing stages. But now, with experience, she evenly paces her speed in the 400 m event, Patrick says.

Though Solaimathi has been competing in three events, her concentration will be on the 400 m in the future. "For her style of running and mental strength, the 400 m is ideal. Further, at the international level, Indians have a good chance only in that event," Patrick feels.

Solaimathi's most unforgettable memory is not any of her mdeal-winning performances but her cash-starved Jakarta trip. Borrowing Rs. 8000, she made the trip and while other team members were stuffing their

money just sufficient for her da expenses. She returned to Delhi w just Rs. 200 and Patrick, who h stayed there till her arrival, had ju Rs. 100. "He borrowed money fro some of his friends in Delhi for o return tickets to Madras," she recal And when they landed at Madr Central, both had only Rs. 60 between them, not enough for even o person's fare to Madurai. "Fortunate the Sports Development Authority h sanctioned Solaimathi a Rs. 5 scholarship, which she got as advance, enabling us to return Madurai," Patrick remembers.

Apart from running, Solaimath hobbies include reading and watchi other sports. Though the Souther Railway has sent her an appointment order, she wants to finish her scholinal before joining anyone. She not gets a scholarship from Valli Steen Nagercoil. But Solaimathi's immediate requirement is a pair of good fore 'spikes', which will cost a fortune. The are only a dream at the moment, she has at least managed to get Indian-made pair.

Whom does she want to emula P T Usha or Shiny Wilson? "I do have any athletic idols. I just want do my best," she smiles. If presindications are anything to go by, best will take her far — provided sets the sponsorship she so obvious needs for equipment and to train better tracks.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. The Royal Orient Express; 2. land belonging to Anna University has b acquired for the J. Jayalalitha Film City this has sparked off a debate amount academicians; 3. George Stibitz; 4. I Perry: 5. It has put up a small and comm incinerator for scientific disposal of hospital waste; 6. Mrs. Gita Ram; 7. The hono membership of FIFA, world footb governing body; 8. U Nu; 9. In the sh of her initials, JJ; 10. The most Rev. Rt. Hon. George Carey; 11. 'Mahar Agri Vision 2000'; 12. Monopo 13. T.V. Antony: 14. The Indus Minister, M. Chinnaswamy; 15. Conde 16. Gemini TV; 17. Udhagamandal 18. The Yalta Conference; 19. Andy Grant Flower of Zimbabwe; 20. Lady swami Girls' HSS.

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