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Family welfare a success

Tamil Nadu catches up with Kerala

Tamil Nadu is fast catching up with Kerala in the successful implementation of its family welfare programmes, reports **Anita Katyal** of *Times of India* from New Delhi. The family welfare programme has succeeded in reaching women in Tamil Nadu irrespective of their residence, education, caste or religion, she reports.

Quoting the latest report of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), she says that the current level of fertility in Tamil Nadu is 2.5 per woman, lower than of all the major states except Kerala. In fact, according to the survey, the total fertility rate (TFR) of the state is about 27 per cent lower than the national average. Katyal goes on to write:

"This survey has once again shown that a single policy for the entire country does not work, as different strategies need to be applied in different states for maximum results," explained a senior official. "And in Tamil Nadu, the success is essentially because of the State's intervention at various levels," he added.

According to the survey, marriages below the age of 15 years have been virtually eliminated in Tamil Nadu and the acceptance level of family planning among married women is fairly high.

Overall, 82 per cent of women want to either postpone their next child or stop having children altogether. Knowledge of family planning was found to be universal, as 99 per cent of married women knew of at least one contraceptive method and 98 per cent knew where they could go to obtain them. More than half of the currently-married women in Tamil Nadu are using family planning; with female sterilisation being the most popular contraceptive method, as in almost all other states.

The survey, covering nearly 4000 women in the age group of 13 to 49 years in Tamil Nadu, reveals that the difference in the fertility rates between the urban and rural areas (2.4 and 2.5 children per woman, respectively) is small, showing that the family welfare programme has been equally successful in both rural and urban areas.

Similarly, fertility rates on the basis of religion are almost the same, while the variation on the basis of literacy of women is only marginal. Early childbearing is relatively rare in Tamil Nadu, as only 12 per cent of women in the 15-19 age group have ever had a child.

Officials in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare attribute this success to the political commitment to the programme and a responsive

Interestingly, the differential in contraceptive use by background characteristics tend to be small. For instance, the figures for urban and rural Tamil Nadu at 51 and 49 per cent are only marginal. Similarly, the difference on the basis of education in Tamil Nadu is also not substantial; current contraceptive use ranges from 48 per cent for illiterate women to 52 per cent for women with at least high school education.



The village in the jungle

Are these pictures of a village in the jungle? Don't the hut-dwellers in this jungle look like tribals?

But this jungle is in the heart of Madras! In fact, it is just adjacent to the homes of Ministers on Greenways Road! From the road, all you see is thick scrub jungle. But look carefully and you will spot the huts.

Living in these huts are the Jawri Mudi Uri Kar Nayakar, neo-literates whose trade is making jawri mudi and kambli kayar for cattle. Every member of a family, whether young or old, is involved in the business. Each family buys hair from hairdressing salons and their work begins after separating the hair from other impurities.

There are 42 families in this 'colony' and they have been living here for about two decades, after migrating from Usilampatti. The property belongs to the Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore.

Their homes are low-roofed, thatched huts. And they live amidst pigs, dogs and the domestic animals they own.

What they need is EXNORA help to develop a model village in the jungle in the heart of the metropolis. That'll be something!

Text and pictures by **RAJIND N CHRISTY**



An US medical editor with Madras links

Recently in Madras, to visit with his parents, was Dr Ajit P Varki, the first foreign-born, foreign-trained doctor to edit the prestigious American medical publication *Journal of Clinical Investigation* (JCI). In the United States since 1975, 43-year-old Varki went there after his medical studies at Christian Medical College (CMC) in Vellore. His wife, Nissi, also trained at CMC. They have an 11-year-old daughter, Sarah. Varki, a specialist in hematology and oncology, teaches medicine at the University of California in San Diego.

He has published many papers relating to his cancer research and has been the recipient of numerous awards.

His job as editor of JCI entails choosing articles from among approximately 2500 submissions a year. He works with a staff of 13 associate editors. Under Varki's leadership, they make a special effort to be fair to contributors from outside the United States, who often face disadvantages of time and distance in discussing the status of their manuscripts with editors. "By policy, we try to publish only well-

documented and non-speculative work, selected from contributions received from around the world. This is one of the reasons JCI is greatly respected in academic circles." The journal has about 6,000 subscribers worldwide.

Varki has done extensive original work in cancer research. His work occasionally brings him to India, which, he says, gives him great personal satisfaction — and the chance to see his parents in Madras. — (SPAN)

JAIBOY JOSEPH

ANAALI RAMAN...

from ABC Market Research Bureau, "Sir... would you mind answering a few questions, please?"

AD, MAD MADRAS

Guess who's come to tea?
Queen Marie!

Marie
Biscuits

PARRYS

The Queen among Marie's

Tough going on Indian roads

Last fortnight and this, this journal has been collating the news from the automobile industry — and a car boom appears to be on the way. Now, that's good news for manufacturers — and especially for the giant components industry which is centred in Madras and which has given the city the rather fanciful sobriquet 'Detroit of India'.

While *The Man From Madras Musings* is delighted by this news and wishes everyone connected with the boom well, he wonders how many of them have thought about the consequences of that boom to our cities and certain much-travelled highways.

MMM has repeated several times that the bridges of Madras, built in the early part of the 19th Century, were spacious enough for our traffic till Rajiv Gandhi ushered in the two-wheeler and Maruti boom as part of his consumer-friendly policies. Liberalisation and an easier money market have seen that traffic grow to the point where bridges that have been widened in the city in the last five years are beginning to find it difficult to cope with the traffic at peak hours. If the car boom now being encouraged by Government really materialises, those bridges and the woefully inadequate roads of the city are unlikely to be able to cope. And this will be the case in every city in India. It'll be a nightmare by 2000 AD, predicts MMM, if car sales are not matched by equal development of urban bridges and roads and national highways!

What strikes MMM as curious is that there is much less talked of the latter than the former. And if those are our priorities, an urban traffic disaster is looming ahead.

The muscleman

Travelling may be tough on Indian roads and it is undoubtedly going to become tougher, but that's exactly why tough tyres are needed for this and that's what MRF have been geared to making from the first, laughed Chairman Mammen Mappillai recently, explaining MRF's muscleman symbol. The occasion was the presentation to him of the MMA Business Leadership Award 1994, after which he made a stirring and moving half an hour of the 12th Anantharamkrishnan Memorial Lecture.

On the occasion of the first time the Award has been made to a Madras industrialist in its 25-year-old history, *The Man From Madras Musings* joins with felicitation V Krishnamurthy, who made a success of public sector entrepreneurship, in wondering why it took so long for the doyen of Madras industry to be so honoured. As Krishnamurthy said, southern hospitality always tends to consider other pastures greener and more successful.

The symbolism of the muscleman featured much at the presentation morning. Mammen Mappillai himself had yet another explanation for it. The muscleman, he said, reflected the need for toughness to compete in a world dominated by multinationals — and that was the world MRF first entered in the Fifties with rubber retreads and with tyres in the Sixties. Toughness was what was needed to overcome some of the most ruthless price wars waged in India, Mammen Mappillai remembered. But we overcame, he remembered, and stirringly told the audience we must overcome again with Indian ingenuity and enterprise.

After hearing Mammen Mappillai, N Srikanth in his vote of thanks had another explanation for the MRF muscleman. Why, he's Mammen Mappillai himself, he announced and the cheers all but brought the house down. In fact, it was perhaps the largest audience to attend an MMA Business Leadership Award presentation, MMM felt — and that was only to be expected, for not only was a Madras industrialist being honoured but there could be no more popular one than this gentle, ever-smiling, retiring head of MRF who would have been only too glad to have sat down after saying 'Thank You' for the Award.

It was also perhaps in the fitness of things that Mrs Mammen Mappillai was invited

on stage when her husband was presented the Award, MMM thought. For it was she who was his first co-worker when Mammen Mappillai began his industrial life in the backyard of his house manufacturing balloons in 1946. The family's estate business was still to grow, its *Malayala Manorama*, founded in 1888 and the first joint stock company in Travancore State, had been closed down by the powers-that-be in 1938 and was not to reopen till 1947. It was a harrowing time for the young rubber technician. But from balloons in 1946, he and his wife moved into rubber toys and rubber industrial accessories in 1947. And they've never looked

MMM rather felt there was a bit too much of the exotic and not enough of the down-to-earth information necessary for settling in. Local history and politics (the latter given the go-by), information on the infrastructure and its problems, culture with particular emphasis on where to see when (the Music Season was dismissed in a sentence and the *sabhas* did not exist, it would have seemed), the textiles of the South and what could be done with them, eating out and the different cuisines available, a rather detailed session on healthcare, a more detailed session on custom (Anita Ratnam's brief introduction was one of the better 'tastes' offered),

Sensing, benefiting from ISRO's programme, was now able to provide considerable information to various departments of the Government of Tamil Nadu to help them with the planning and execution of various schemes. There is almost no Government department in the State which does not use the services of the Institute of Remote Sensing, Dr M Anandakrishnan, Vice-Chancellor, Anna University, proudly announced.

★ How's this for gobbledygook? With the State authorities bent on going ahead with once again hiding Chepauk Palace, this time with new construction in place of wild growth and jerrybuilding, *The Hindu* asked the Chief Engineer (Buildings) what the PWD's plans were and that worthy answered: "The plan is to build several storeys at present but the buildings will have only two storeys, to ensure that the stately 225-year-old Chepauk Palace next to it will not be hidden from view". The Palace is considerably hidden from view by *Ezhilagam* at present, and whatever the view that has fortuitously been presented to the public these past few months, by the clearing work that has been done, will surely get lost when you build several storeys equal to two storeys, *The Man From Madras Musings* would think!

SHORT N' SNAPPY

back. It was, indeed, time Madras recognised them and, in them, one of its own.

TAILPIECE: Speaking of MRF's commitment to training, Mammen Mappillai quipped, "We produce fast bowlers and slow drivers." He was referring to the MRF Pace Academy and MRF's school for heavy-duty drivers.

Global adjusting

Ranjini Manian, who is in the travel business and does Japanese interpreting, and Joanne Grady (Huskey), out of Harvard and a diplomat's wife, have cottoned to a good idea. Appreciating that with liberalisation there's bound to be a host of 'settlers' from abroad trying to sink temporary roots in Madras and that most of them will not have the inputs of a consulate which helps to settle in their new staff, they've promoted Global Adjustments. And Global Adjustments hopes it'll help make settling in, in Madras, that much easier.

To test the waters, so to speak, Global Adjustments recently ran "a short orientation to life in Madras" over most of one day and must certainly have been pleased with the response. *The Man From Madras Musings* reckoned there were nearly forty persons in the hall at the Chola Sheraton and they came from a dozen countries, ranging from Denmark to Australia and including Japan and such surprises as Peru and Brazil and Argentina. They all seemed to respond well to 'A Taste of Madras' they got in the short bites offered, but MMM wonders whether what was offered was exactly the recipe needed.

Hinduism and Bharatha Natyam and sculpture might all be very well for the specialist, but are they as important as golf and yachting and knowing that having used the right hand to eat it is not advisable to serve yourself with the same hand? Similarly, a single boutique's stock — put on display in a friendly fashion show — and home-made accessories to brighten up a home, no matter how colourful they all are, are no substitute for more fundamental shopping information about the textiles the South is famed for and what can be done with the riches of Kanchi and

and one on household staff and services (like the dhobi) might have all been a little more useful than the smorgasbord served up. MMM did not stay to hear what the 'Travel Options' were, but he hopes places like Tranquebar figured (a Danish lady MMM met was not quite sure what Tranquebar was all about) and that 'hill stations' — a term quite casually mentioned in an earlier presentation — was explained to an audience, most of whom are unlikely to have come across this bit of Indian English.

All that said, Ranjini and Joanne have a splendid idea going for them. But they just might need to talk it over a bit more with those who think of Madras as home and not as an exotic destination.

In brief

★ Listening to the dialogue in *Bhaji on the Beach*, a rather well-made British film by Gurinder Chadha about Indian women who take a day off at the beach as a way of getting away from their day-to-day problems, *The Man From Madras Musings* found England had got to the lot and accents were as far removed from the Indian scene as they were from the BBC. With the USIS's sound system also not offering maximum clarity, catching the dialogue was hard on the ear. But Chadha's directions of the visual said it all — and that was a little more than some could stomach too, especially when it came to a male strip club where the 'sailors' insisted on a bit more audience participation than usual.

★ Space is rather beyond *The Man From Madras Musings* understanding and when senior Air Force officers with an obvious engineering bent decided to seek further clarification about what ISRO Chairman Dr K. Kasturirangan had had to say in his talk at Anna University to the Air Force Association, MMM was well and truly lost. But before getting flummoxed by the whys and wherefores of technology, MMM was delighted to hear how much India's space programme was helping in agricultural forecasting, wasteland and forest mapping, assessing groundwater potential and providing disaster warnings. Particularly pleasing was the fact that Anna Univer-

sity, benefiting from ISRO's programme, was now able to provide considerable information to various departments of the Government of Tamil Nadu to help them with the planning and execution of various schemes. There is almost no Government department in the State which does not use the services of the Institute of Remote Sensing, Dr M Anandakrishnan, Vice-Chancellor, Anna University, proudly announced.

Business briefs

★ What's likely to be the next international airline to fly into Meeambakkam? Tower Air of New York is likely to fly Madras-New York via Amsterdam before long, *The Man From Madras Musings* understands.

★ Iggi Highway Motels Ltd., launched by Iggi Resorts, plans to open the first of its 15 motels in Tamil Nadu by June this year. These motels will be approximately 100 km apart on the State's 2000 km of highway. *The Man From Madras Musings* understands that the motels will be to a standard design developed by architect P T Krishnan but will be supervised during construction by local architects. Each motel will have five rooms, public rest rooms, AC and non-AC restaurants, a service station, a store and communication facilities. Each standardised motel will be on approximately two acres of land and will cost about Rs. 5 lakhs to build, MMM learns.

★ The Balaji Group, who are involved in developing the 333-room Magunta Oberoi in Madras, is also teaming with the Oberois to establish Accor France's 'Novotels' in Madras and Coimbatore. These three-star hotels will have 150 rooms each and will cost Rs. 70 crore. Other Balaji-Oberoi Novotels, in Bangalore, Pune and Vishakhapatnam, are expected to follow. Meanwhile, the Magunta Oberoi hopes to realise Rs. 80 crore from the sale of space in its shopping arcade being developed to international standards.

★ Take-over tycoon Rajaratnam's Bank of Benares will open the first of its two Madras branches before the year-end. Branches are also to be opened in Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Pollachi, Karur, Mettupalayam and Neelambur.

Leyland to join car boom

(By A Staff Reporter)

The Rs. 450 crore that DCM Daewoo collected in three days for bookings opened for its proposed Motors and Volkswagen AG, Solar

Car	Makers	Price	Features
E220 Mercedes	Mercedes-Benz-Telco	Rs 12-15 lakh	5 speed gear, power steering, electric injection & ignition
Peugeot	Peugeot Premier	Rs 10-14 lakh	4-cylinder, 55 litre, 1360 cc engine
Opel Astra	GM-Hind Motors	Rs 5-7 lakh	Split folding rear seat
Rover Montego	Rover/Sipani	Rs 9-10 lakh	NA
Volkswagen GL	Volkswagen-Elcher	Rs 3.5-5 lakh	NA
Audi-46	Volkswagen-Elcher	Rs 8-12 lakh	Anti-lock braking electric remote control fully galvanised body
Solar Baby	Peerless-Frazier Nash	Rs 1.5 lakh	4-seater, electric battery/solar power, stylish mini-car/ auto-rickshaw
Cielo	DCM Daewoo	Rs 4.59 lakh	Child safety, warning lights for open doors

Drivers studying the Indian market are Daihatsu, Mitsubishi, Proton (Malaysia) and Chrysler.

Levy car, Cielo (Rs. 4.59 lakh), has other Indian car manufacturers rushing to firm up their plans. But, repeating a question raised last fortnight in these columns, do those plans take in Madras, Tamil Nadu? *Madras Musings* hears that Ashok Leyland is considering a tie-up with Renault. The French company's range model is believed to be the choice for the project, likely to be set up at Hosur (Tamil Nadu) where Ashok Leyland makes heavy commercial vehicles. Renault are looking at around 20,000 cars annually. Also awaiting entry are Mercedes Benz's E220 model, to be manufac-

Calcutta trams to stay

(By Barun Ghose of *The Telegraph*, Calcutta)

Trams will continue to trundle across Calcutta as the state government, bowing to popular demand, has decided to drop the earlier move to design the 'old ladies' to history and to keep them up in the junk-heap at the Annapurna tramways workshop.

Not only will there be a fresh lease of life for the ageing fleet, but younger Chakraborty, first sparked off the debate (when he) thought of easing out the trams in a phased manner. And to boost the CTC's morale and economy, the company, founded by the British in the days of the horse-drawn trams, were gifted a fleet of buses. The tram company went off the track, literally.

The present decision follows a nod from Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, who has apparently been moved by a plea lodged by more than 100 NRI professionals residing in London. Their rationale is that since trams do justice to the environment, the government should not do any injustice to them.

Moreover, some adamant city intellectuals and insecure staff members of the CPI-dominated Tramways Workers' Union have been keeping up the pressure against the move to sidetrack the old ladies. Their efforts, too, have finally paid off.

expected to be on the Indian roads by June, are now talking of rescheduling their capacity expansion plans from 62,000 cars a year to 150,000!

That rethinking is a reflection of the current Indian automobile scene. The Indian car market, currently estimated to be worth about Rs. 5,500 crore annually, is expected to grow almost five-fold in value terms to Rs. 25,000 crore and fourfold in volume terms to one million cars. Hence, the mad rush for Indian roads.

Most of these car-makers are targeting the upper middle, rich and super-rich consumers with prices ranging from Rs. 4 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh. But Telco and India's biggest car manufacturer, Maruti, feel that it is the budget

HARRY MILLER writes from Somewhere in Southern India



What HARRY MILLER saw 'Somewhere in Southern India' in the Sixties.

It was the middle of May, the hottest month of the year for us, as we all know, and for reasons that have nothing to do with this story I was driving alone through a small town. And no, I'm not going to tell you the name of the small town, for that would, as you will see presently, spoil everything. Let us therefore adopt the custom of reporters when a war breaks out (and overnight they are transformed from reporters into 'War Correspondents') and just say that the small town was 'Somewhere in Southern India'.

I must have been down to my last few millilitres of petrol, for the gauge hovered perilously near zero, when, at the end of the town's main street, I saw beneath an archway deliverance in the form of a petrol bunk. I drove through the arch, stopped thankfully at the petrol bunk, and watched, sweating somewhat with both heat and relief, as the mechanic hosed the petrol into my barren tank. And as he was doing so he swung his head up towards the archway I've mentioned and said, "Like it do you? We've just spent three thousand rupees re-painting it!"

bunk, but as soon as I saw what the mechanic was drawing my attention to I had my Hasselblad out in a hurry and took the picture you see here today.

Mark Tully, the BBC's former correspondent in India, mentioned me recently in his article on Madras published in *Luthansa's* in-flight magazine and referred to me as one of the few Englishmen who had 'stayed on' in India; to which I retorted that I'd done nothing of the sort since I was never here before, meaning before Independence, of course. In fact, though I came to Madras for just a month in September 1947, I did not settle here until 1957 — and that's nearly forty years ago. Still, I certainly wasn't here at the time of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, which was even earlier — a lot earlier.

Queen Victoria was the longest reigning of all British monarchs. She was crowned in 1837 and managed to live to see the new millennium, dying only in 1901, her reign therefore spanning an incredible 65 years. She was proclaimed Empress of India (though she never came here, poor old

Candid Camera

SANWAR writes: "When M Gopalakrishnan recently got another extension as Chairman and Managing Director of the Indian Bank, I was reminded of a picture I had taken soon after his first extension. At a function he attended, one of the speakers welcoming him said that there was no invitation to a function that Gopalakrishnan ever refused. Whereupon fellow guest M Karunanidhi quipped, 'And there is no TV news bulletin without Gopalakrishnan's smiling face in it!' Which is perhaps why Gopalakrishnan chose to hide both as I clicked my camera!"

OUR READERS WRITE

Dog Menace

The areas abutting Chinmaya Nagar Bus Terminus, like Main Road leading to Sayee Nagar, First Main Road of Sri Ayyappa Nagar etc., are full of stray dogs chasing one another and posing a great menace to school children and adults alike from early morning to late at night.

It is high time the civic authorities/SPCA/ Blue Cross took drastic steps to round up these dogs and put an end to this grave menace, enabling residents to live in peace and without panic.

J. Krishnamurthy
76, First Main Road
Sri Ayyappa Nagar
Madras 600 111.

husband Albert, her Prince Consort, died of typhoid, and she is said to have powerfully disliked one of Britain's most celebrated Prime Ministers, Gladstone, because, she said, he addressed her as though she was a public meeting.

The old Queen celebrated her first Jubilee in 1887 and her second, the Diamond Jubilee, immortalised in this glowing South Indian Archway, in the year 1897, sixty years before **My Coming**.

I must have stared long and hard in profound disbelief at that exuberant archway, freshly painted nearly a quarter of a century AFTER Independence, when I heard the mechanic cough and turned to find him handing me my bill. "Tell me," I asked, "do you happen to know the name of that lady seen at the top of the arch?"

"Oh, her," said my petrol-gushing friend, "No, can't say I do. Never went to school, so I can't read English letters, you see. Some sort of god or other, I suppose. Anyway, it's always brought us good luck, so we like to look after it."

I hope it's still there, I hope it's still freshly painted and I hope it still brings good luck to the good citizens of that little town 'Somewhere in Southern India'. But I'm sure I don't have to spell out the reasons for not telling you exactly where it is.

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Who are the slum-dwellers?

(By Stephen Thankappa)

Slum dwellers are migrants from rural areas, who come to cities with high hopes and many expectations. After reaching the cities, their ambitions do not get fulfilled — insufficient money to rent a house and no suitable employment, as they are not qualified, are the reasons. This situation results in their encroaching on vacant government lands near busy areas in the city. They

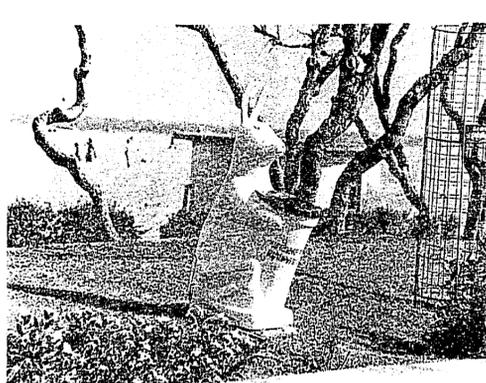
put up thatched huts and occupy the land. Sanitation facilities are totally absent in these 'new developments'. More than 70 per cent of the people in slums are above 40, cannot read and write. The majority of the teenagers are dropouts from schools. The average education is between Standard VIII and X. Very few children go to the higher secondary level. Many

children are forced by their parents to work in factories.

Most of the men work as auto rickshaw drivers, rickshaw pullers, manual labourers, construction workers etc. A number work in government as well as private establishments as helpers and earn monthly salaries. Even a rickpicker gets Rs. 60-Rs. 70 a day. But 90 per cent of the people spend most of their earnings on alcohol, gambling, cinema, illegal contact with women etc. As a result, their families suffer for food, clothing and other basic necessities of life. **Poverty in slums is man-made.**

The unhygienic environment of the slum is the cause of the spread of many diseases. Tuberculosis, malaria, typhoid, jaundice and heart diseases are common in slums.

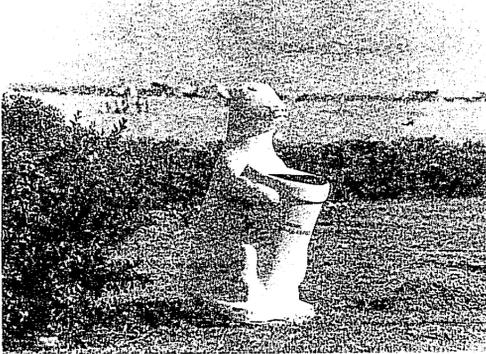
Politicians and cine heroes are not only their leaders but also their deities. The political parties and their leaders are behind the creation of new slums in the cities. Whenever a new party comes to power, there arise new slums with the name of the party's leader. And the slum dwellers are encouraged to develop hatred, bitterness and jealousy not only of the affluent but also of those with other political persuasions. (From *Inside Madras*)



This is an OLD and NEW certainly with a difference. In fact, it might even be better titled BEFORE and AFTER. When the bunny in the OLD, or BEFORE, if you will, and many others of its kind were placed at strategic points on the lawns of the Marina as part of Vision 2000, they all sported handsome ears as in V S RAGHAVAN'S picture. But there's hardly any of these refuse containers with bunny's ears intact now, as RAGHAVAN'S

THE OLD... & THE NEW

picture of the NEW, or AFTER, shows. In fact, the bunny has been made to almost look like a pig, but that's another story. The present story is that with such vandalism flourishing in the City, what price Vision 2000?!



The Times of India, in a recent *Third Leader*, delighted its readers with this piece:

Coromandel Haiku

Poetry-lovers the world over will be delighted that the Japanese haiku has established a beachhead on the Coromandel coast within the Tamil fortress, and charmed both popular magazines and elite literary journals into featuring the tiny, 17-syllable verse-form in its Madras incarnation. The eighth international Tamil conference recently organised in the city of Thanjavur, held a special panel discussion on the genre as it doffed its *sanuraj* dress and *kimono* and donned the workaday tropical habiliments of *lungi* and *conjeevaram*. Much else in the state is being named after the *Puratchi Thalaivi*, but there is no truth in the rumour that the Japanese verse form is now to be called "Jayaku". Brevity is the soul of wit, as it is of the haiku where the 17 syllable are the quintessence of dramatic insight into some aspect of life. Tamil haikus, translating for example as "Freedom came at midnight. But is yet to dawn," have made the verse richer and more puissant, and hear. In embattled Tamil Nadu, perhaps poetry and politeness might provide just the proper palliative in the running feuds between the minister and the governor, Dr Chenna Reddy; the ruling AIADMK and the opposition DMK; and not least between Congressmen spurned by the electorate. We commend to Tamil leaders the example of the Japanese mission in Washington D.C. at the height of "Japan-bashing" some years ago. The diplomatic corps praised the initiative and ingenuity of the Japanese mission, which sent select haiku poems pinned alongside press clippings which revealed the large area of agreement between Japan and the U.S. Some 900 U.S. opinion-makers responded with haikus of their own, revealing their gratitude for the Japanese gift of cherry blossoms which flower in spring in Washington D.C. Hitting an olive branch to a haiku (preferably in Tamil) may help, even when other things don't, when patching up gubernatorial ego clashes and papering over political cracks. If the inspiration of the haiku is said to be Zen Buddhism, its Tamil incarnation might draw its stimulus from the *Kural* and *Ramanujam*. Wags could do worse than the verse: "Tamil troubles/acts of God and/not Reddy-made". Or "Jayalalitha/must make up with/Karunanidhi," or yet another philosophical, 17-syllable doggerel: "Madras Congressmen/find Chenna a bit rough/always Reddy".

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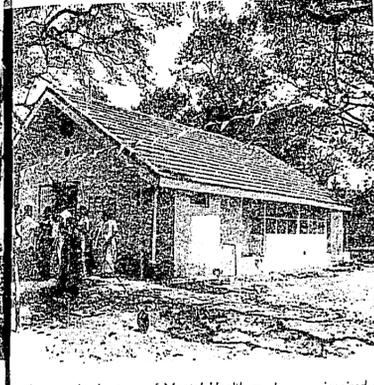
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block at the Institute of Mental Health made new, inspired and pushed through by Issy Sanderson (on right).

Issy shows the self-help way

then Kalavathy, the ever-smiling recreation therapist in the women's of the Institute of Mental Health, first Sanderson three years ago, she was ill in Ghana when they were posted and had also been involved with the camps of Hitler's Europe in the post-war. Now she was only too glad to see she could help at the IMH.

no one at the IMH had met anyone like Issy Sanderson, a veritable human no. From the first day she met Director Nyam and his team, she was determined to demonstrate to all of them that all the shortage of funds and facilities, possible to bring a little sunshine into the lives of those sadly confined in IMH.

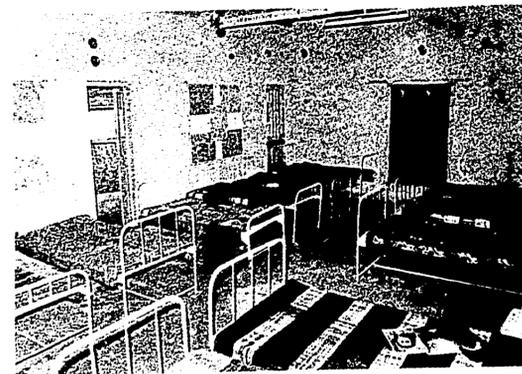
And I'll make it a permanent bit of sunshine too, she told herself.

And so it started. Issy Sanderson's Self Help Project, with Issy showing the way by doing much of it herself. First it was patchwork bedspreads, curtains and pictures — with waste she collected from textile factories. Then it was making puppets and getting the less ill to stage puppet shows. And then came the 'big effort': "it may be small, but it's beautiful," remarked Issy as she unveiled the plaque inaugurating the new Rehabilitation Ward that will henceforth be home for 12 of the patients beginning to catch up with the world again.

She raised funds from a Period Ball and her last pantomime production *Cinderella*, she shanghaied thirty of the crew of H.M.S. Liverpool into offering a day's work, she unceasingly drove her fellow trustees of the Self Help Project Trust and the staff of the

IMH, and she showed the way by doing things herself, like taking old iron beds being thrown away as scrap, repairing them and making them look like new — saving a few thousands in the process. The result of all this effort was the opening by Mina Swaminathan, on March 8th, International Women's Day, of an old ward that sparkled like new and which is meant for the "highly improved". And what a moving inauguration it was, from the invocation by a patient to patients, volunteers, doctors and staff singing, 'I could do it' to an audience-sung national anthem.

Then, as the cheers died down, Issy said her farewells, for the Sandersons move on to pastures new by the end of April. And Rita Saldanha will take over as Managing Trustee, teaming with Geetha Johnson, Zubeida Asgar Ali and Mariam Habeeb. They'd all helped Issy renovate the girls' ward, the girls' and boys' schoolrooms and



Patchwork quilts by the dozen brighten up the newly refurbished women's rehabilitation ward at the IMH, where Issy Sanderson and therapist Kalavathy (leaning on far bed) join inmates, doctors and nursing aides for a photograph. (Photographs: V S RAGHAVAN)



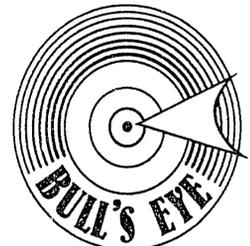
provide educational and recreational equipment for them. The Rehabilitation Ward is their most shining work. But there are seven other women's wards on the campus and they look like this one once did, as though they are out of the Dark Ages or, at least, the 200-year-old beginnings of the IMH. They are a major challenge that lie ahead of them... but Issy has shown them the way. — Staff Reporter

The Southern Pioneers

South India has always been ridiculed for its lack of enterprise, its dead-beat spirit and its passivity. Confronting this notion recently have been a few diehard individuals whose courage, perseverance and pioneering deeds have brought the peninsula to the forefront. These individuals have been crowned with success twice in their voyage of enterprise — once while breaking new ground and gaining public acceptance and again while successfully tapping public funds. For the likes of Pralap C Reddy (Chairman, Apollo Hospitals), P N Mohan (Director, Sterling Resorts), Dr C K Rajkumar (MD, Velvete International), Ravi Prakash Khemka (Chairman, NEPC) and Shyam Kothari (ITI Pioneer), success has been like a second skin.

rent, with most of the public not having a clue as to which industry marine products came under. Convincing the public of the concept wasn't a cakewalk either. With five-star hotels refusing to even consider his product, Rajkumar, an ophthalmologist, had to cycle and sell his sachets to retail shops.

All of them believe in providing enduring service and delivering what they promise. This long-term commit-



ment to customers has taken Sterling right to the top. Time-sharing as well as teak farming are hot concepts now. ITI Pioneer is cautious about its deployment of funds and runs both open-ended and close-ended schemes.

Another noteworthy feature is that none of these companies have let their guard down against competition. Neither do any of them believe in resting on their oars. The NEPC group, apart from setting up a Rs. 100 cr wind farm, has established its 'Trupthi' brand in wheat and flour. Apollo has tied up with an American medical institution and established specialised units on cancer management. Velvete is to come out with its memory chocolates.

Anticipation of public needs, catering to them through sheer innovation and professionalism, and a long-term perspective bind these companies together, allowing their clients and shareholders also to reap benefits.

to be so in the years to come. One of the consequences of this enterprise, NEPC Textiles, is among our recommendations for this fortnight. They are:

National Engineering (CMP: Rs. 34.00): This Tulsyan group company came out with a public issue to part-finance its modernisation-cum-expansion project, which increased the capacity of its rolled steel products from 21,750 tpa to 48,000 tpa. Results for the first half of 1994 were excellent, with the turnover and PAT at Rs. 16.68 cr and Rs. 0.75 cr. It is backward integrating into steel ingots and billets, the first phase of which has already been commissioned. It is also implementing a windmill project, to be commissioned in March 1995. An EPS of Rs. 5.75 for 1994-95 will support Rs. 60. The share is underpriced at current levels. Buy with a stop loss at Rs. 50.

Amrut Industries (CMP: Rs. 80.00) The company announced spectacular results for September 1994, with turnover at Rs. 73.21 cr and PAT at Rs. 18.08 cr. ALL established a brand equity through its brand 'Pure-N-Healthee' in Bombay and Hyderabad. It expanded marketing under the brand name 'Amrit' in Kolhapur, Goa etc. It is doubling the capacity of its Talaja plant to 3,60 lakh litres a day and that of the Hyderabad and Kolhapur plants to 1 lakh LPO. For September 1995 we expect a turnover and PAT of Rs. 110 cr and Rs. 25 cr. The share has good support between Rs. 60-70. Buy.

NEPC Textiles (CMP: Rs. 45): When its maiden public issue in September 1994 was oversubscribed almost 7.5 times, the market proved that the NEPC group continues to hold sway over it. Situated in Coimbatore District, NEPC Textiles has an installed capacity of 24,584 spindles and produces cotton hosiery yarn (mainly 40s). The yarn, under the brand name 'Trupthi', will be marketed in and around Coimbatore, and will also be supplied to a few buyers in Calcutta. It aims to achieve a turnover of Rs. 35 cr for 1995-96, with a PAT of Rs. 7.38 cr. The share is witnessing hectic

From jewellery to antique silver



• R. JAISRI continues the reminiscences of JOHN DAVIES of P.Orr's and Garrard's of London...

continued from last fortnight)

John Davies of Garrard's, the crown jewellers, spent twelve years in India with P.Orr, during which time his interest was jewellery and jewel designs. After Independence, as jewellers entered the market and the collapse of local royalty, P.Orr's jewellery business began to wane. When the firm began to concentrate on the watch business, P.Orr's began to lose interest.

Meantime, a Bombay-based company, Mapin and Webb, was set to wind down its business for the reasons as P.Orr's. However, it was bought by a British business tycoon Sir Charles Claw, who had become rich by buying properties that

were going for peanuts during the War if there was a high risk factor about them. Davies joined the London branch of the firm, but only as Chief Salesman. While he was working there, the firm was taken over by Garrard's and Sir Charles introduced Davies to Garrard's, where he was to remain till he retired in 1988.

It was while he was in Madras that Davies met his wife, the daughter of Ramsay Unger, a well-known Madras personality. The South India Ice Factory in Egmore was owned by the family and, even now, there is a bungalow of theirs which is still with them and is one of the reasons why the Davies' visit India often. Davies recalls how the wedding reception was a grand affair and how, for their



Mrs John Davies on holiday. (Photograph: V S RAGHAVAN)

honeymoon, they travelled by boat from near Lattice Bridge to Fisherman's Cove; "boats used the Buckingham Canal, you know," he reminded me.

When Davies started his London innings, he had a few disadvantages. People there thought he had led a prince's life in India, with all the money

in the world and a dozen servants to attend to his needs! They also thought he would never be able to get on in England where things were not as freely available as they thought they were in India. But he proved them wrong, stayed with the job and his long experience in India was a plus point later. Because, Garrard's, in course of time, discovered that it could not be sustained by the Crown alone.

It saw the need to expand, looking at the new markets in the U.S. where antique items were getting popular. Similarly, West Asia was emerging as a promising market. It was in Garrard's antique silver business that Davies specialised. "Small gift items, snuff boxes and the like were popular among collectors," recalls Davies, and Garrard's

used to maintain a list of people who were interested in collecting such items. As and when it came across an item it thought would be of interest to these clients, it would get in touch with them. It was in all the travelling that Davies' experience in India stood him in good stead.

The market in West Asia was different. Silverware for the lavish parties of the sheikhs and gifts for the visiting dignitaries — candelabra, sideboards, vases and the like — were supplied by Garrard's and Davies and his assistants looked after this business. More recently, Garrard's opened a branch in Tokyo and Davies was responsible for the spade-work.

In this context, Davies mentions that the Japanese never buy anything costly in public. For instance, at the Garrard's exhibition in Tokyo, hardly anything was sold and London was very disappointed. But after a week, Garrard's began getting calls from Japanese customers specifying certain pieces and requesting that they be delivered at their homes. Soon, Garrard's was to discover that the exhibition was indeed a success. The boutique of Garrard's in Tokyo now has the same facade as that of the showroom in London.

Talking of business in London, Davies says diamonds are not as popular in European countries as they are in India because they don't go very well with pale complexions. What are popular are stones like emeralds, rubies etc., which set off European complexions. Moreover, most modern girls in London, who prefer trousers, hardly wear any jewellery and, unlike in India,

The treasures of the Archives

The Tamil Nadu Archives, housed in a massive Gothic building in Egmore, is a veritable treasure trove of antiquities. During the recent Archives Week' it exhibited some of its treasures. These included:

- The dedication of St. Mary's Church in the Fort.
- The announcement of the death of Napoleon by the Madras Government.
- The report of the mutiny at Poonamallee.
- Copy of Gandhiji's letter to Hitler relating to Civil Disobedience.
- Map of the Town of Madras and its Limits, 1822.
- A Prospect of Fort St. George and plan of the city of Madras in 1698.
- Copy of Colonel Clive's Autograph Letter to Lord Pigot.
- Tippu Sultan's letter to Nawab Wallajah in connection with his son's marriage.
- The Madras Lottery Scheme 1795, published in *Madras Courier*, the first newspaper published in Madras.
- Mathematics genius S Ramanujam's letter dated 19.6.1918 to his friend Ramalingam.

• Greetings from Great Britain, France and Ireland to the Nawab of Arcot on the occasion of the 23rd year of his reign.

These were just a sampling of the British and Indian material that the Archives have dating back to 1670. Records in Dutch, Danish and Persian are also housed in the Archives. There are, in all, 48,85,739 files, 7,47,431 volumes, and 2,613 bundles! The documents of the Land Mortgage Banks, Cooperative Societies, Bonds and Agreements are preserved under lock and key. The electoral rolls from 1962 onwards are also preserved here.

It was in 1930 that Research Scholars were first allowed to consult the records. In that year, three scholars were given permission. Last year, 320 Research Scholars, from all over India and from several foreign countries, examined the records! Only records older than 30 years are open for research.

The Archives library was constituted in 1923 with 15,000 books. It is now in possession of nearly 2.5 lakh books, of which 70 per cent are catalogued. The library is only a consulting library.

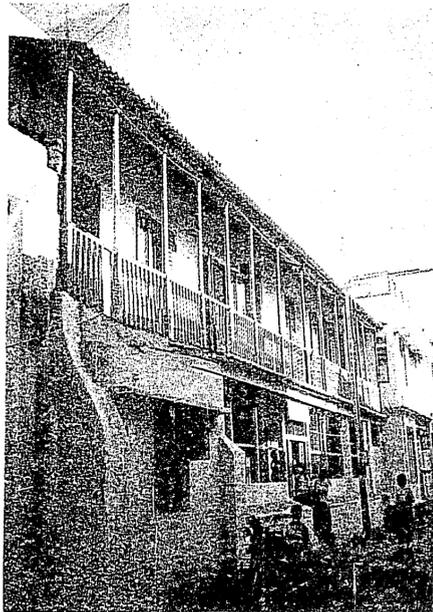
RAJIND N CHRISTY

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.

The schools of the man Anderson inspired

The name of John Anderson is an unforgettable one in the history of Education in Madras. He had no easy time of it, but his zeal and courage never failed the man who planted the seed of missionary education in the soil of Madras.

Rajagopal was inducted as Pastor of the Free Church Native Congregation in Madras. Rev. Rajagopal, thereafter, started three schools in different parts of the city. The first was known as the Chetty School and was started in April 1870. The second was



The Anderson Mint Middle School, Mint (on left), and the Anderson Rajagopal H.S., Thambu Chetty Street, on right.

gopal Chetty School for Girls and was later called the Anderson Girls' Day High School Rajagopal Chetty branch - school.

The school has grown and is growing amidst the dust and din of Thambu Chetty Street. It has about 600 girls and boys and 19 teachers. Mrs E I Dhinakaran is the twelfth Headmistress of the school. The school caters for the children of backward communities in the area.

The school is in a building which has much beautiful woodwork. There are plans to demolish the present building, construct a bigger building and upgrade the school into a higher secondary school in the near future.

Even as attempts were being made to establish the Chetty School, the Rev. Rajagopal succeeded in establishing in 1869 a primary school in East Kalamandapam Road, Royapuram. The school became a Middle School in 1924 and a High School in 1981. This

school was known as the Etty School, after a missionary-physician. The Rainey Hospital Dispensary had once functioned in a part of the campus.

The school has a strength of 1200 now and provides instruction in both English and Tamil mediums. George Nelson is the headmaster and he has 27 teachers to help him.

The school's Past Pupils' Association has formed an association called the Friends' Social Welfare Association to help the poorest of the poor. The Parents-Teachers' Association is also a strong unit and has played a vital role in the school's development. Future plans are to upgrade the school into a higher secondary school and build a modern laboratory and a library.

The third school Rajagopal established was for upper class Chetty girls in Kondithope. The school was founded in 1880 when there were few facilities for good education in Mint. The school later came to be known as

the CSI Rajagopal Mint Middle School. Recognition for the school was given in 1902.

The school has the rare distinction of giving education to families of generations and parents in the area like to admit their wards in the school for their elementary education.

The school is in a house-structure and has over 600 students and 16 teachers. The present headmistress is Mrs Dina Winfred.

The school has been a middle school for a long time and is now trying to become a high school.

The schools started by Rev. Rajagopal are a monument to a man who was a great humanitarian and a friend of the poor. He died at the age of 61 in New York once, I had been and was laid to rest in Purasawalk

Text and pictures by RAJIND N CHRISTY

Quizzin' with Ramanan

(Quizmaster V V RAMANAN's questions are from the fortnight February 16-28.)

- Which veteran parliamentarian and former PM celebrated his 100th birthday on February 28th (he was actually born on February 29th)?
- Who annexed the men's title at the recently concluded national hard-court tennis tournament?
- Which 'infamous' inmate of Tihar Jail is to write the biography of the most 'famous' IG of Prisons?
- Which Madras-based sportsman was paid an out-of-court settlement of Rs.19 lakh, as compensation by a city hospital, after a long legal battle over a medical mishap?
- How did the author of the book *Muslim Law and Constitution*, a high-ranking public official, land in controversy, leading to his resignation?
- Name the legendary, four-time Olympic diving gold medalist who announced that he had AIDS.
- What famous Mafia tradition has been 'outlawed' by the Sicilian organisation?
- D.R. Mehta is the new chief of...?
- What first did Vandalar Zoo achieve on February 20th, in the ongoing national programme to conserve the pure Asiatic Lion?

- Name the two musical greats made National Professors in recognition of their outstanding contributions to music.
- Which two upcoming Pakistani cricketers quit international cricket in the wake of the recent bribery allegations brought against the national side?
- As regards bank lendings, what is the 'Salem Model'?
- One of the world's leading merchant banks was brought to ruin by a 28-year-old employee, whose actions in Japanese future trading ran up a \$800 million loss. Name this British institution and the banker.
- Which city temple hosted a dance festival, akin to the Chidambaram festival, for the first time?
- According to a new decision by the BCCI, the fees payable to a player for a match and a One-day international are...
- Why were Balan, Balavandam, Mery Pralap, Vigneswar, Satish, Shunmugam Rajkumar and Vignitaja in the news recently?
- Who has been awarded the Management Association's prestigious 'Business Leadership Award' for 1994?
- Who became the first Indian (and second overseas player ever) to win the prestigious UK Professional Billiards Championship on February 26th?
- What new rule has the Anna International Airport implemented to ease congestion?

(Answers on p. 8)

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Chevalier Nirupama

Honoured by France for dance and drama



Chevalier Nirupama in Paris. (Photograph: YVES-GUIBEAUD)

delighted to hear* that Nirupama yanandan, whom we had in this column in one of the issues of *Madras Musings*, has awarded the title of 'Chevalier des Arts et Lettres'; by the Government of France's Department of Culture. At the age of 32 she would be the youngest ever to have received this award. She may be the only Indian woman to have been so honoured. With this honour, she joins Shivaji Ganesan and Satyajit Ray who are two other Chevaliers of France.

Nirupama is a full-time actress with the Mouchkine's Paris theatre 'Theatre du Soleil' in France. Her papers have acclaimed her as a great actress.

Her human quality is best exemplified by a story told by the French dancer Elizabeth Petit who had recently come to Madras. Elizabeth has a big project on her hands, of choreographing a dance for a major dance festival. She approached Nirupama to be the main dancer. Nirupama was dying to do something with dance. But she refused to quit her theatre group at a critical stage, when it was undergoing problems; she wanted to stand by Ariane Mouchkine. That was typical of Nirupama Nityanandan. The award of Chevalier could not have gone to a more deserving person.

Nirupama and I have discussed the role of Draupadi at length over the years. It was against that background I watched Sonal Mansingh perform her famous solo theatre dance production *Draupadi* at Kalakshetra recently, on the occasion of the Rukmini Devi birthday memorial dance festival. Sonal's controversial production, as performed in Madras, was a great disappointment.

Her first answer is 'No'. She has pursued and persuaded to accept. She accepts, she gives it her all. I have known Nirupama from the time she was a child, studying dancing at the Dhananjayans. She has retained a beautiful film on the actress Revu Hebbum which was being used on TV Channel 13 to raise funds for the film moved me and I myself dialling Nirupama's number in Minnesota, and telling her I had been thinking of her throughout my life. She noted the comparison with my 'No, No, No's', but said she had been others who had told her the same thing.

Text and pictures by RAJIND N CHRISTY

April: 'Artist of the Month' - Shankar, a self-taught artist, who started as a portrait painter, but has been working on the subject of 'trees' from the middle of 1992.

Dates For Your Diary

16-21: Exhibition of Environment 'Be or Not To Be' - The Industrial Revolution of Nature. Parts of the exhibition are: Death of Nature, Destruction of Nature, Methods of Industry, Pollution, Boss's Floor, An Alternative Future. The Easel.

The car boom

(Continued from P3)

car segment which will continue to grow at a faster pace. They are also taking a more long-term and possibly pragmatic route of making virtually everything here, taking advantage of the booming components industry.

Most of the other car manufacturers are merely trying to set up assembly line operations, taking advantage of the government's new policy which permits import of knocked down kits at a 50 per cent duty. Investment in kit assembly operations can be as low as a few crores of rupees which is why even car dealers are thinking of going in for assembly lines!

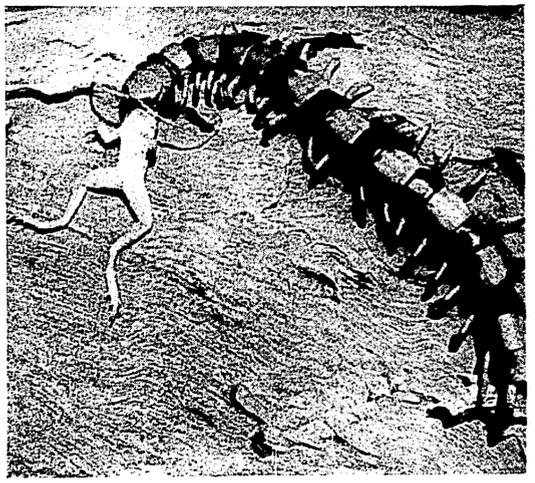
Possibly one reason for the foreign auto-makers going in for the upper end of the market and planning "assembly lines only", is that, at a 50 per cent duty, assembled budget cars will simply not be able to take on Maruti, the

The music, which created the original controversy with Shubha Mudgal going to court over the question of credits, was too simplistic and quite warped, with the Sopana singing in Hindi but with a Kerala accent! Why couldn't Sonal stick to Sanskrit for these portions? The use of yards of orange cloth seemed very political. And there was the interpretation of Draupadi. Where was the fiery anger? Was Draupadi's honour at stake at all? Would she have lost her honour if she had stood there completely disrobed? Was providing the yards of cloth the solution? Sonal's Draupadi could have been more explosive. The excessive use of fabric made it all look weak and contrived.

Suggestion and stylisation were there. But that was all. Sonal Mansingh's *Draupadi* raised more questions than that faithful production by Kalakshetra, *Panchali Sapatham*, which had no pretensions of projecting liberation or innovation.

V.R. DEVIKA
* Editor: And so is Madras Musings.

Naturalists' Corner



Dinakara Pandian's 'Centipede eating frog'. (Courtesy Madras Naturalists' Society).

Following up last fortnight's pre-concert report on L. Subramaniam, we publish this post-concert piece by LOUISE NICHOLSON, who made the concert the subject of her column, 'Nicholson's London', in The Telegraph, Calcutta.

Music is the medium

The last time I heard Subramaniam playing his violin was in the cool evening beneath a large awning in a back street of Madras. He was playing his homecoming concert after a foreign tour and his fans were out in force to welcome him back. The concert was long, full of happiness, full of appreciation...

It was a memorable evening, all the more so because my husband was with me in India, a rare treat.

Recently we both went to rekindle those memories at the Royal Albert Hall when Subramaniam came to play his violin with Stephane Grappelli in aid of a charity - not for poor or deprived or ill people but for something equally and eminently worthwhile: projects for schoolchildren to do in other countries, in communities which will by their help receive a lasting improvement. It is called Round Square.

Founded in 1966 during the celebrations to mark the 80th birthday of the remarkable and revolutionary educationalist, Kurt Hahn, this is a loose organisation of schools around the world - including Doon and Lawrence (Lovedale) in India - whose aims are to encourage learning through both academic study and service to others, to gain self-reliance through challenge, to develop leadership qualities through teamwork and to learn their responsible place in society and the environment.

Bold objectives, but Hahn, a German Jew, had bold objectives; to equip young people "to effect what they have recognised to be right despite hardships, inner scepticism, boredom, mockery from the world and the emotion of the moment".

It was Hahn who, having been arrested by the Nazis after the Reichstag fire in 1933 because of his radical educational ideals, left Germany and founded Gordonstoun School in Scotland. He later set up the Outward Bound project after the War and, in 1962, founded the first United World College. A hard taskmaster, those who survived Hahn's punishing regime have tended to soar high; those who did not,

The way Round Square puts Hahn's philosophy into action is to give students a mild form of Outward Bound experience, what could be termed adventure training.

For the two dozen schools scattered over five continents taking part in the scheme, Round Square is now an essential part of the curriculum. At Dehra Dun, for instance, some Doon School boys have built workshops for an orphanage and helped construct a new road in a deprived area of the town, while others joined an international team helping with relief operations following the 1991 earthquake. At Lovedale, students from schools worldwide joined with Lawrence School students to build a kindergarten for the local village school...

...It is this sort of constructive and practical community effort which should be an integral part of all children's education. The more we learn about other communities, their needs and their problems, the more we who are fortunate can try to make the

world a better place for a greater number of people.

Such socialist ideals were not, I am sure, uppermost in the minds of the audience at the Royal Albert Hall (who came to listen to a) most extraordinary concert. The important thing was that they came.

First we had Stephane Grappelli, aged 86... He and his jazz Trio softened us all up with gentle rhythms and soft smiles.

But Subramaniam was the star. First, he played with Grappelli with sympathy and respect for his senior. Then he played alone with his Madras Percussion Ensemble. Around the vast, circular hall built in the 1860s, and spanned by an iron and glass dome 135-feet high, all eyes and ears were on the Madras master. He played, on and on, the music rising to crescendos matched by his audience's response... (It was a) pleasure knowing that such uplifting music had also contributed to something of lasting benefit in some part of our troubled world.

On to antique silver

(Continued from P5)

might, we have been unable to attract our men to gold," Davies laughs.

Women in old England wore elaborate skirts and low-necked blouses and to complement these were what were called festoons - a kind of necklace with curved pieces of gold, sometimes embedded with gemstones, branching out from the main piece - which covered the neck and chest. But in modern England there is hardly any chance to wear such jewellery. Again, in the past, almost every well-to-do girl in England had a pearl set - necklace, earrings etc. Now that too is changing. But Garrard's has also kept up with the times.

That Davies remembers most fondly. And so he keeps coming back regularly, to visit with the many friends he made over the years. And yes, if he has to change the battery for his watch, it is only at P.Orr's that he does so. And whenever he sees a P.Orr clock with its intricately done case or even a simple one - in an office, home or even in the Victoria and Albert Museum (which is where some old P.Orr clocks are now) - a flood of memories comes back on his life in Madras and his days in India. Those days were to prove the gain of the British Crown Jewellers, Garrard's of London!

(Concluded)

Tough Times. Tougher Diesels...

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Madras helps Kerala, not itself

The 1994-95 Ranji Trophy season has been by far the best ever for Kerala, which qualified for the knock-out stage of the Ranji Trophy for the first time. And Madras had a lot to do with this success. Ten of Kerala's Ranji Trophy squad have been competing in the Madras league!

Their captain, Anantapadmanabhan, who did his State proud by getting picked for India 'A' in the series against England, is a fine leg-spinner who turns out for the Indian Overseas Bank. Unfortunately, his selection for India 'A' meant that Kerala were without his services for key encounters, including the pre-quarterfinal which they lost to UP. Kerala's most consistent

particular has been quite brilliant this season, with young Shankar outstanding in the slips. Ironically, Shankar dropped one of the two catches that proved to be the turning point in the match against UP on a plumb batting strip. Jabbar also compliments the Kerala Cricket Association for being totally non-interfering in selection matters. He predicts a bright future for new find Ajay Kudua who batted very well throughout.

Jabbar also feels that the improved remuneration and facilities, ever since the Board — with the help of the sponsors of the Ranji Trophy — standardised and increased match fees for all States, have made a considerable

difference. Earlier, teams like Kerala received a pittance as match allowance and travelled second class. Today, a Ranji player receives a match fee of Rs. 1500 per league match and Rs. 500 per one-day fixture. The fees are increased in the knockout stage from Rs. 2000 for the pre-quarter finals to Rs. 5000 in the final.

The Kerala coach is convinced that this year's performance is no flash in the pan. With the continued support of Madras-based companies, cricket in Kerala can only go forward from here. But it was not always like this. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Hyderabad have dominated cricket in the South since the inception of the Ranji Trophy national championship. For a few years in the Seventies and the early Eighties, Andhra Pradesh emerged as a strong force which could spring a surprise or two in its encounters with the Big Three of the zone. Kerala, however, had always remained the punching bag, barring flashes of

brilliance from outstanding players like Balan Pandit, C K Bhaskar, Ramesh Sampath and K Jayaram. Goa, the latest entrant, remains at the bottom of the league. The reasons for Kerala's lack of success in the past are not difficult to nail down. The state is known for its passion for football and relative indifference to cricket. Over the years, the facilities for cricketers have been woefully insufficient. The situation is exacerbated by the short duration of the season, which is cut short by the monsoon, much in the manner of Calcutta's cricket programme. In the last decade, however, interest in cricket has increased manifold thanks largely to Satellite TV coverage of international competition. And during the same period, many Kerala-born cricketers have found employment in Madras. These players compete in the First Division League of Madras as professional cricketers. The league teams, sponsored by companies, usually have full-time coaches on their rolls. Excellent practice facilities are available and the city boasts a number of turf pitches. All these factors have contributed in no small measure to the gradual improvement in the standards of Kerala cricketers. They can only go forward from now.

• by V. RAMNARAYAN

all-rounder, Ramprakash, also its most experienced player, represents MRF-Globe Trotters. Sunil Oasis and M A Satish, very consistent performers both, turn out for India Cements, while promising left-arm spinner Suresh Kumar plays for Railway Institute. Stylish left-hander P G Sunder and opener Narayanan Kutty are members of the Kunal Engineering team, all-rounder Feroz Rashid plays for Southern Railway, paceman Jayakumar for Chemplast and leg-spinner Habibur Rehman for Madras Port Trust. It can be clearly seen how Madras employers have indirectly helped Kerala's improving cricket fortunes.

Another strong Madras factor in Kerala's new-found cricketing strength has been the induction of the old soldier Abdul Jabbar as the State team's coach. The Tamil Nadu veteran has been responsible for infusing team spirit and a "a positive outlook." He has also worked on the team's fielding. According to Jabbar, the close-in fielding in

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DOWN IN THE DUMPS

The Madras Football Association did a fine job of the organisation of the Bharat Petroleum-51st National football championship for the Santosh Trophy at the Nehru Stadium recently as part of the diamond jubilee celebrations of its parent body, the Tamil Nadu F.A. Despite a big entry, the league-cum-knock-out tournament had a smooth passage in Madras and Udhamandalam, thanks mainly to the work put in by such officials as C.R. Visswanathan and D. Sampath Kumar, the MFA president and secretary, respectively, and T. Govindarajan, the TFA secretary.

A vice-president of the All-India Football Federation, Visswanathan is perhaps one step nearer the country's No. 1 soccer post. Whether he will accept the AIFF presidency if it comes to him, is a matter for conjecture, for Indian soccer has hit rock-bottom and cries for reforms, not to say a re-birth. Such indeed has been the dismal catalogue of Indian catastrophes that the world's second most populous nation after China has come to be ranked 105(!) in the world soccer ratings. It was no wonder the football at the recent National championship did not carry the stamp of class at all. Even poorer was, understandably, the average size of the crowd.

With the gate not bringing in

Bharat Petroleum for its substantial sponsorship, and also to a few other business houses that made handsome donations. Though the football was mediocre, the championship venue came in for praise from every team and its officials. They were unanimous that they had not competed in a better-

by
JAICI

equipped stadium, or on a better-maintained turf pitch. But the size of the crowd left every Madras fan wondering when, if ever, the Rs. 40 crore, 45,000 capacity Nehru Stadium will draw a full house to justify the amount of money that had gone into its construction by the Jayalalitha government. Radical changes are indeed needed to help the stadium gain in popularity, and serve its purpose.

Cricket's sad state

The Tamil Nadu cricket team's Ranji Trophy championship run, which ended with its humiliating innings defeat by Bombay in Bombay recently, underscored the nosedive cricket has

title for only the second time. Tamil Nadu cricket's virtual stagnation is indeed. Indian sport's biggest irony, for cricket is by far the most popular and most sponsored game in the State.

It was perhaps not without justification that T.V. Ramana resigned from the TNCA selection committee last January after Tamil Nadu were, for the first time, humbled by Kerala. He claimed he was quitting "out of sheer disgust at the lack of application of the Tamil Nadu players". The Bombay rout perhaps vindicated his decision and his estimate of the worth of the present day State cricketer. It is up to A.C. Muthiah, the new TNCA president, and his executive committee to take stock of the situation and find ways and means to revitalise the game.

A thoroughly experienced coach to catch 'em young is perhaps the need of the hour. The TNCA is reported to have a scheme to aircondition its Chidambaram Stadium's VIP stands. Obviously it is to give the Chepauk stadium a new look, as it has been left way behind by the Nehru Stadium. But more important than airconditioned stands is the need to find ways and means to revolutionise Tamil Nadu cricket so that it can never again taste defeat at the hands of such a junior side like

Thrills at India's No. 1 motor race centre

Motor-racing on two Sundays in February provided a sight to tingle the blood. Thousands turned up to watch the daredevil speedsters on both two-wheelers and four-wheelers, including squads from Japan, Germany and Sri Lanka, in action at the Madras Motor Sports Club's annual two-Sunday all-India race meet and McDowell Grand Prix on the Club's track at Irungatukottai.

The track, however, came in for criticism by a couple of foreign drivers. While they alleged that the track was "bumpy", some of the Indians blamed their vehicles for their comparatively mediocre overall performance. They claimed that the foreigners' cars were equipped with speed boost buttons, which made a world of difference.

With no ban on such equipment, the Indians can follow suit. They may do so next year, when, perhaps, the foreigners will equip their cars with some other new device. Whatever is in store for Indians in the future championships if they continue to be patronised by foreigners, the irrefutable fact remains that thanks to the drive and initiative of the Madras Motor Sports Club (MMSC), its annual bonanza has

earned Madras city world fame as India's No. 1 motor-racing centre.

Such indeed is the status and popularity the annual meet has gained over the years that it has led to a great sporting rivalry between MRF, pacesetters for decades, and JK Tyres. It is certain to attract more tyre manufacturers into the fray and in the process, help MMSC scale the heights as the country's No.1 motor-racing organisation.

The name the MMSC has already earned in the motor racing world is a tribute to the pioneering work put in by its President, M. Muthukrishnan, his executive committee and its knowledgeable media relations chairman, P. Madhusudhan. The unforgettable 1995 two-Sunday speed sport festival ended with V. Shyam Sunder, Executive Director, Southern Region Indian Oil Corporation, presenting the prizes at a function held at a Meenambakkam five-star hotel. The choice of the venue for the final act was about the only snag of the international championship, for to many of the media persons Meenambakkam was too far to reach on a working day evening.

— AJAY

Catching 'em young

(By A Sports Reporter)

Late re-opening of schools, on account of the World Tamil Conference, the Pongal holidays and mid-term tests resulted in the two annual Don Bosco Athletic Club (DBAC)

meets being conducted this year within ten days of each other in February. But the response from the 35 schools associated with the Club was enthusiastic and competition keen.

Fr. McFerran could not make it for the Relay Carnival named after him, but the third edition of it went off as smoothly as if he were present at Rajarathinam Stadium. Over 750 boys and girls in age groups Under -12, -14, -16 and -18 contested the seven medley relays in each section. St. Mary's AI HSS won the boys' title and Doveton Corrie GHSS the girls'.

A little over a week later was the 25th Kiddies' Meet, in which over 950 boys and girls in age groups Under -7, -9, -11 and -13 participated. During the two days of dawn to dusk athletics, seven new records were set. They were:

Girls Under-9: T Bindu (Doveton Corrie GHSS) — 400 m (1 min 21.6 sec) and long jump (3.64 m).

Girls Under-11: Odellia Mathews (Doveton Corrie GHSS) — 600 m (2 min 10.8 sec); Archana Devi Mohan (St. Ursula's AI HSS) — long jump (3.83 m) and high jump (1.22 m).

Girls Under-13: P Hemamalini (CSI Ewart MHSS) — 80 m hurdles (14.2 sec).

Boys Under-11: Swapnesh Sebastian (Chinmaya Vidyalaya) — long jump (4.40 m).

Age Group Individual Champions were: **Girls Under-7:** C Divya (Chinmaya Vidyalaya); **Girls Under-9:** T Bindu; **Girls Under-11:** Archana Devi Mohan; **Girls Under-13:** Neetu Susan Santosh (CSI Jessie Moses); **Boys Under-7:** Mohd. Syed Thameen (Don Bosco Prim.); **Boys Under-9:** Robin K Jacob (Don Bosco Prim.); **Boys Under-11:** Swapnesh Sebastian; **Boys Under-13:**

Twentyeight schools participated in the competition for 'smart' and 'turn-out' at the opening and closing ceremonies. Sponsors TTK Pharma promoting Kiwi Shoecare, presented the Radiant Leather Shoes award to the Doveton Matriculation and the White Shoes Award to Sishya at the inaugural assembly. At the parade, the best contingents were St. Francis Xavier's High School, and Doveton Corrie Girls' HSS. won prizes from co-sponsors Thomas Industrial Products (Consumer Div.) promoting Deepika Co. Hairoil.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Morarji Desai; 2. Prahlad S. 3. Charles Sobhraj about Kiran 4. Venugopal Chandrasekhar; 5. The was authored by Bombay Chief Justice Bhattacharjee and the furore was due fact he had accepted \$80,000 as from his publishers; 6. Greg Lo 7. The 'Kiss of Honour'; 8. SEB performed vasectomy on three to prevent hybrid breeding; 10. Massach 11. M.S. Subbulakshmi and Bisimillah Khan; 12. Basil Ali and Latif; 13. It is a banker personally villagers' houses to recover loans instead of villagers coming to the repay the loan; 14. Barings and Nick respectively; 15. Kapaleeswarar 16. Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 10,000 vely; 17. They were the nine militants, who made a daring jail break the city's Central Jail on February 18. Mammen Mappillai; 19. Agarwal; 20. It has banned the visitors on Friday nights.

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