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MADRAS

MUSINGS

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Vol. VI No. 5

FREE ISSUE

June 16 — 30, 1996

First steps to a better city?

(By The Editor)

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS)-sponsored Sustainable Cities Programme is slowly

getting underway in Madras. The two-year, Rs. 20 million, MMDA-implemented 'Sustainable Madras Project's' first

step has been the convening of five Consultative Groups to identify the problems facing Madras City, the Madras Metropolitan Area and the Outer Metropolitan Areas and suggest approaches to deal with them.

The groups, which have been holding their first meetings in May and who will draw up their preliminary recommendations in July, are:

- The group on the Economy and Urban Poverty chaired by N Kumar of the CCI and the Sanmar Group.
- The group on Urban Infrastructure (except water and sanitation) chaired by C N Ramdas, IAS (Retd.), who had dealt with both the Corporation and Industry during his career.
- The group on Environmental Management and Pollu-

(Continued on Page 7)



The highways' menace

Porur Junction, on the Madras-Bangalore Road and fast hurtling towards gridlock, is one of the first problems SPIRIT (see below) needs to tackle on this vital highway. The traffic situation at this junction is aggravated by all the vans parked near it in anticipation of hire. Such parking of vans, and the considerable work that goes on at roadside workshops in towns through which highways pass, make nonsense of the highways, no matter how much we keep improving them. For instance, the splendid NH 45 reduces traffic to a crawl in towns like Pallavaram and Tambaram, entirely due to this problem. In Tambaram, the problem is further worsened by a sales tax checkpost holding up all lorry traffic, which then parks helter-skelter. (Photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)



Among City's priorities

- Decongestion
- Infrastructure
- Heritage

(By A Special Correspondent)

Is decongestion, with its attendant higher cost of infrastructure, or intensification, which is certainly possible if the additional infrastructure could be provided, the solution to Madras's various urban problems? This perennial question was once again raised when a group of civic planners met recently.

How best and how fast the necessary infrastructure could be built, was the answer to the question. In fact, a better Madras depended entirely on increased and improved infrastructure as fast as possible.

Nevertheless, though the hoary suggestion of moving the capital was once again made, a suggestion favouring decongestion, one which could be more easily implemented, was offered: Move to more logical sites those Government Ministries and Departments which have no real reason for being located in Madras. Forestry to Coimbatore for instance, Fisheries to Tuticorin, Agriculture and Irrigation to Thanjavur etc.

Of particular concern on the infrastructure front was the uncontrolled growth of traffic and the excessive dependence on road transport (80%). Providing greater rail transport facilities and decongesting the roads by creating parking facilities (particularly highrise and underground ones) were priorities, it was pointed out. Making greater use of solar power was also mentioned; in Sri Lanka, every hotel mandatorily uses solar power for much of its requirements.

A Heritage Act — long close to the heart of Madras Musings — was also sought as a priority. The Act, it was stated, should not only protect buildings of historical, cultural or architectural importance, but should also protect heritage areas, like the Mylapore core and George Town, waterways, sanctuaries, open spaces, the seafront, forested areas etc. As part of this view, the traditional water tanks and reservoirs needed to be restored and revived, it was pointed out.

More realistic building rules, slum improvements, on site, making greater use of modern information systems were other requirements mentioned. But all of it seemed to boil down to two key issues.

ONE, getting Industry involved. But how was that to be done in the context of Industry's need to feel that its money has been well spent? And,

TWO, the need for discipline on the part of users and determination on the part of the implementers. Both would need the political will to enforce discipline. Since the political will could not be counted on, indoctrination from the school level, aimed at proper use of public property and pride in the city of Madras, was called for. Getting both introduced as a special course in schools and, thereby, developing better citizens might be a way the Government would not say 'no' to. This, then, too should be a priority, it was suggested at this planners' meeting.

In the SPIRIT of environment care

(By a Staff Reporter)

MIOT Hospital, dedicated to trauma care and promoted by Professor P V A Mohandas and other professionals, will open on the Mount-Poonamalle Road, near MGR Gardens in Ramavaram, in February 1998 by hosting a World Congress of Traumatology and Orthopaedics. Thereafter it will provide traumacare of international standards, having as it will close links with German institutions. An offer of a million-dollar equity by Dr Joseph Devadas of the USA will also assure American inputs.

But even as MIOT Hospital adds to Madras's reputation of being the 'Medical Capital of

India', it has taken a unique step that other such institutions might well follow. Under the Presidentship of K Krishnaswami, MIOT's Chief Executive (Administration), the hospital has helped launch SPIRIT, a society for the protection of the environment which hopes to prevent pollution and encroachment in the Mount-Poonamallee area.

With several leading industrial houses — Bush Boake Allen, L & T units like ECC, Moolchand Leathers, S & S Power and W S Industries among others — and hospitals — like the Ramachandra Hospital and MIOT — in the area, this is becoming yet another busy highway. And symptomatic of its ills is Porur junction

which is becoming a major bottleneck.

SPIRIT has already got Government agreement to widen the road and once that is complete SPIRIT hopes to plant shade trees on either side of the highway. SPIRIT will thereafter monitor road lighting, road maintenance and encroachment, and initiate suitable action. SPIRIT also hopes to develop community centres, healthcare centres, primary schools, crèches and sports facilities in the area to improve its quality of life.

The hospital, which is fast coming up on a 6.5 acre site, will in the future have a nursing school, physiotherapy school, research wing, guest houses and nursing quarters.

Will C.M. help broker the peace?

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam may have been bruised, battered and bundled out of their Jaffna Peninsula stronghold, but even as they nurse their wounds in the Vanni jungles they still have the capability to cause death and destruction in Colombo. But from what *The Man From Madras Musings* hears, they are NOT looking at that option for the time being. Rather, MMM hears, they are hoping Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi will help broker a peace settlement, now that he has enormous clout in Delhi.

What these reports state is that the Tigers are hoping that Karunanidhi will be able to persuade Delhi to convey the LTTE's peace proposals to Colombo and get the Sri Lankan Government to reach an agreement on the basis of them with the Tigers. These proposals were discussed at a conference organised by the Norwegians at the Christian Michelson Institute in Bergen, Norway, on February 26th. At that time, the Norwegians were willing to play honest brokers — but, for some unexplained reason, the Tamil interests lost confidence in the Norwegians. Thereafter, the proposals were conveyed to Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and President Chandrika Kumaratunga. Nothing further was heard from the formulator of the proposals, an Europe-based political adviser of the LTTE, Viswanathan Rudrakumar, till May 14th when printed copies of the proposals were circulated at a Paris meeting.

The proposals, now part of a worldwide LTTE diplomatic offensive, have been necessitated as much by the Tigers' unexpected defeats in Jaffna as the fact that Tamil Sri Lankans worldwide, and particularly those innocents in the front-line, are getting fed up with 15 years of war.

Tamil proposals

- The proposals on "power-sharing", as MMM has heard them stated, are as follows:
- A Central power-sharing concept called "consociational democracy", as in Belgium and the Netherlands Antilles and which inspired the US-brokered agreement for Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- There are to be two "confederal states joined into a union of a single sovereign nation-state".
- Sri Lanka will be ruled in turn by a Sinhala and a Tamil Prime Minister under a single President.
- Power-sharing is envisaged at both "the Centre and the periphery".
- All offices will be elected.
- Tamil interests will be safeguarded by a Belgium-like provision under which Tamil areas will have the right to veto any legislation.
- Foreign policy, 'external defence', monetary policy and inter-state disputes will lie with the President.

- The agreement should be underwritten by India and the UN Security Council.
- Such a guarantee will be followed by the LTTE laying down arms and surrendering its arm-poles.

For the first time in many years, MMM has heard Tamil sources close to the LTTE say, "We want to preserve the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka". That's a major change in policy, though "power-sharing" is a term that might be like a red rag to the Sinhala bull.

MMM understands that, possibly even by the time you read these lines, Sri Lankan Tamil emissaries from Europe would be flying in to meet Chief Minister Karunanidhi to request him to take the initiative and persuade Delhi to talk to Colombo and broker a peace settlement for the troubled island.

The Man From Madras Musings wishes all those involved with this proposal—for "something short of separation within the union"—well, but wonders whether several parties in India would be willing to forget the Rajiv Gandhi assassination sufficiently to encourage the Indian Government to play a major role in brokering this badly needed peace.

More concern

The Man From Madras Musings is delighted to find more and more people in the City taking a greater interest in the environment and a better Madras. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that politicians and civil servants, be they of the past variety, are beginning to sing these songs. Should we dare to say that the messages spelt out by *Madras Musings* are beginning to sink in?

The Pattali Makkal Katchi's Dr S Ramadoss is planning to spread environmental awareness among the people — a change from spreading the message of caste awareness — and was planning to have his followers plant 500,000 saplings — a change from destroying crops and property. He was planning to create awareness that would lead to the abatement of noise and vehicular pollution — no more lorry processions or loud-speakers at meetings, MMM hopes. And he was planning to stop the Thapar Dupont plant in Gummidipoondi peacefully — but, MMM hopes, only after he has inspected the facilities the company says it has to prevent pollution.

The Minister for Social Welfare, Mrs S P Sargunam, was considering how to prevent the Madras practice of defecating on the roads of the city. Her priority, MMM noted, was to prevent this in the surrounds of the temples of Madras.

And D K Oza, the former civil servant and vice-chancellor, sees a sustainable Madras possible only if we have an elected municipal corporation

in place. MMM was pleased to note his call for early municipal elections and a redefining of the roles of the Corporation, the MMDA and Metrowater. Looking at certain specific solutions for Madras, Oza, feels decongestion of the City is imperative, with several Government and corporate offices needing to find new locations outside Madras. His most interesting suggestion, in MMM's view, however, was to move the Central Jail to "somewhere beyond Tambaram" and use the area freed as the central base for a transport system. Incidentally, MMM had thought the Jail was moving to Puzhal; what's happened to that proposal?

Whether all these plans and suggestions materialise is quite another matter. But it certainly is nice to hear others talk about issues *Madras Musings* has been raising over the years.

In brief

★ Governor Channa Reddy and Mrs Savitriamma Reddy celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 27th in their Hyderabad residence. The reception committee at the grand three-day celebration, which started on May 25th, included former President R Venkataraman, Chief

SHORT 'N' SINAPIPIY

Minister M Karunanidhi and TMC leader G K Moopanar. While wishing the Governor and his lady many more anniversaries, what intrigues *The Man From Madras Musings* is why the English language Press in Madras downplayed the happy event.

★ A cue for the Corporation of Madras. In Delhi, 2000 hoardings were recently pulled down because they were illegal or violated Government rules. *The Man From Madras Musings* wonders whether the Madras Corporation will look into the sudden mushrooming of hoardings in the City and take similar action.

★ Chief Election Commissioner T N Seshan is due to retire on December 12th. *The Man From Madras Musings* hears that when he was asked, shortly after the fall of the BJP Government, whether he was preparing for retirement, he answered, "There may not be time. The way things are, I might well be called to hold another general election before I retire!" For Seshan's sake, MMM hopes the United Front Government gives him the time to get ready for retirement.

★ They're beginning to label P Chidambaram the 'Economic Czar' and the 'Economic Overlord' of India. *The Man From Madras Musings* is not very sure of that, whatever Chidambaram's ambitions. Yadav in the Commerce Ministry is sure

to cause the same problems Chidambaram had with Manmohan Singh. But that apart, others too want a finger in the supremacy pie. MMM hears that Chidambaram wants a major role in the crucial Foreign Investment Promotion Board. But so does Murasoli Maran, who thinks it should form part of the Industries portfolio. And the Prime Minister's Office, which has control of it at present, does not want to let go. May the best man win, even if the country doesn't. Meanwhile, another story reported about the man who wanted to be Finance Minister badly enough to throw the TMC's votes into the game of cabinet-making, lends further justification for the title 'Czar' now being bandied about. It is stated that when Chidambaram turned up at the joint session of Parliament, he went up to all the leaders, including Sharad Pawar and exchanged smiling pleasantries with them. But there was one man he pointedly ignored — former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, even though he was only four chairs from Pawar. Not the happiest of ways for youth to behave towards age, MMM is inclined to think.

★ With the City getting more and more specialist healthcare

institutions, whole teams of doctors are migrating from one to the other, *The Man From Madras Musings* notes. With Dr KM Cheria's dream come true with the Madras Mission Hospital, he's moved out of the Vijaya Hospital premises. To strengthen Vijaya's healthcare units, a team from Apollo has moved in. And a new institution, Harvey Heartcare Hospital, set up in Nungambakkam by a specialist who has worked several years in the UK and Saudi Arabia, has been drawing heart specialists from several established institutions. Doctors, it seems to MMM, are becoming like MBAs in the consumer product sector in their migratory habits.

★ An introduction to Internet, organised recently by a group committed to better communication, was rather disappointing, *The Man From Madras Musings* hears. The high tech end of Internet was discussed in great detail by the engineers making the presentation and they left their audience some way behind them. This might not have happened if they had discussed some of the issues and problems arising out of Internet's burgeoning capabilities. One problem, for instance, that MMM came across recently was one reported in England: British security agencies "moved to plug loopholes after... disclosures that terrorists anywhere could discover the whereabouts of the Queen on the Internet... (The) terrorists can call up the Queen's di-

MMM

ary of engagements on a computer screen at the touch of a button". So much for information accessibility!

Business briefs

★ There's something to be said for business, industrial, strategy and financial consultancies, *The Man From Madras Musings* is beginning to think. The Sanmar Group engaged McKinsey & Co, the leading American business planning consultants, to recommend strategies for growth. Diversify into shipping, recommended McKinsey's — and Sanmar Shipping now have five bulk carriers and is adding two product carriers to increase profits further. McKinsey's also recommended diversification into textiles — and that's the next greenfield venture the Group is entering.

★ Spencer's, heading into its 100th year as a limited company, seems to see its future as being in roots. What was a retail company, is beginning to look at retailing all over again, *The Man From Madras Musings* is told. Teaming with Dairy Farm International of Hong Kong, an international supermarket major, Spencer's has opened the first of its food supermarkets in the City. Three more 'Food Worlds' will open during the year in different parts of Madras. The target is 200 Food Worlds throughout India in a few years. While the first Food World comes with all the razzle-dazzle of international class food supermarkets, including colourful mailers about special offers to a mailing list of customers, it still has a few wrinkles to iron out, it would seem. MMM, eavesdropping on a couple of regular shoppers, overheard the views that "selection is limited", "the top racks are beyond reach for self-service", "Panagal Park still is better for fruits and vegetables", "And have you been to Nine to Nine in T Nagar? They've even got rambutans from Sri Lanka and some of the best mangosteens in town! When's Food World going to have that kind of variety?"

★ When the Sterling Group reorganised itself recently, the Group made it clear that the reorganisation was purely for improving efficiencies in a company that has grown big fast and that there were no internal problems. The first fall-out of this is the resignation of the President of Sterling Resorts. So the reorganisation was not entirely an happy one, *The Man From Madras Musings* would think. And its investors are likely to worry what next in the Sterling Group. Certainly several things are on hold in the Group, but founder R Subramanian is convinced that this is only a passing phase, MMM hears.

The Speaker makes his remarks

The first session of Tamil Nadu's 11th Assembly, with the DMK firmly back in the driving seat, will long be remembered as much for the pithy comments heard and the absence of acrimony as for the sober behaviour of the members, who occasionally threw in a bit of cheer. Flush from the success at the hustings, innocuous platitudes by DMK and TMC (Moopamar Congress) members dominated the early proceedings till Chief Minister M Karunanidhi politely brought them to an end by saying, "Enough! Don't upset my balance!" His well-timed interruptions on several occasions later showed clearly that he meant to provide good government, with accountability to the people.

Indications of the shape of things ahead came from

The View from Fort St. George... by R.K.K.

Speaker P T Palanivel Rajan, son of Sir P T Rajan. He has had a good record as an able legislator in earlier years, and he reflected that with two significant remarks. Each member should speak at least once a year on issues of their constituencies, lest the voters turn their backs on them, he advised. And, secondly, he pointed out, the Speaker has no sky-high powers; this was a gentle rejoinder to previous Speakers who had declared that the Speaker enjoyed unbridled powers. The Opposition members — there are only 11 of them apart from the TMC which, though occupying the Opposition benches, was an election ally of the DMK — would also be given more time during debates, he promised.

The session began with a brief address by the Governor, Dr M Channa Reddy, in which he said, among other things, that Tamil should be made one of the official languages of the Central Government, elections to the cooperative societies would be held early, and that the Government had decided to set up a State Human Rights Commission.

Another point the Governor made, and which has caused some consternation outside, was that the Legislative Council, abolished in 1986 during MGR's regime, would be revived. Though no objection came even from the AIADMK opposition, which has been reduced to four, there are criticisms heard outside that the additional House would only create more tax-swallowers than tax-payers, and that the tax burden would be higher.

that he would entrust to the CBI the two cases of the bomb blast in the Madurai Meenakshi Temple took the wind out of the sails of the AIADMK opposition. He also said he was not against temples, but only against temples being turned into sanctuaries for anti-social elements.

The House heard the Government's promise that the

(Continued on Page 4)

OUR READERS WRITE



Splendid gesture

I have been intending to write to you since I read a report in the Express some time ago that MM was in dire straits and was to close shop. To see such a thing happening and not do something would be almost criminal.

I am, therefore, sending a cheque for Rs. 10,000 to help out. I hope that it will go some way to meeting costs. I want to make this a recurring payment and would be most grateful if someone in MM were to remind me of this commitment annually.

I'm doing this because I enjoy MM, and think that it's an example of what sets this city apart, and makes it the enjoyable place that we are lucky enough to live in.

A Reader
Madras 600 028.

Editor's Note: This reader, a long-time friend of *Madras Musings*, wishes to remain anonymous. While acknowledging once again this splendid gesture, we respect the request for anonymity but feel the least we can do is publish his letter.

An about turn

I fully agree with the content of the article on Nugent Grant (MM, April 16). The famous advocate had a great reputation for integrity and so we engaged him to defend the case against K C Mammen Mappillai and others. Our family had an unfortunate experience with him.

Keeping cool... with fortified wines

In a recent issue of *Madras Musings* (May 16th) a correspondent asks why the British went to all the trouble of bringing ice by sea from America (it was Boston actually) when they could have got it from a much nearer source, the Himalaya, where the Mughals are reported to have obtained it. Well, if the Mughals enjoyed ice during their Kashmiri holidays it wouldn't have been surprising, for the snowy peaks are in view from the lakes, but getting ice from the Himalaya down to Madras would have been a rather more difficult operation.

Himalayan ice comes from glaciers which lie above the snow-line. Mining and transporting ice from such a source would be an extremely hazardous task even today. Moreover, how could it have been transported from the Himalaya all the way down through the great heat of peninsula India in the days when the only form of transport was bullock carts? One lady friend of mine who had read this article pointed

bullock carts and back again repeatedly.

Bringing it in sailing ships around the Cape on a journey that must have taken months was also an incredible feat. And, at the end, it had to be brought ashore through the breakers in either *catamarans* or *masula* boats, just as all other cargo and the passengers were, for there was no harbour in those days.

When Sri C P Ramaswamy Iyer was the Dewan, he made the Official Liquidator of the Travancore and National Quilon Bank file a case against K C Mammen Mappillai and other Directors. We engaged Grant to defend us and he accepted a retainer. But to our surprise, he not only returned the retainer but appeared for the Government of Kerala to prosecute the Directors in the Magistrate's Court! It was reported that the amount paid to him was beyond imagination.

The Directors did not defend the case in the Magistrate's Court. Grant did not appear for them in the District and High Courts. Sir C P used to make use of Grant's reputation as a man of integrity to create public opinion against K C Mammen Mappillai. Later, the then Retd. Chief Justice of the Federal Court of India gave a statement condemning the judgement.

K.M. Mathew
Chief Editor
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Kottayam 686 001
Kerala.

More about Nimi

Re Nimi McConigley (MM, May 16) here is more information about her:

Nimi Swamidoss was a brilliant student of Queen Mary's College, Law College, Madras, and the Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University, New York. She became a news correspondent of All India Radio, New Delhi. Her husband was a Peace Corps Volunteer and, while in Madras, married Nimi. She has two daughters, Lila and Nina. Both her sisters and a brother are settled in the U.S.

The McConigleys have been residents of Casper, Wyoming, for 18 years. Patrick McConigley is a consulting geologist there.

Nimi McConigley was Media and Political Consultant and Casper News Director, KGWC TV, Casper, from 1988 to 1993. She had trained with WGBH TV, Boston.

In India, besides handling news for AIR in New Delhi, she was Director, Youth Radio Network, New Delhi. As a TV News Director in Casper, she "emphasised the importance of positive local community news".

Nimi was President, American Association of University Women, DARE Board, Casper, and has served on the Casper Downtown Development Authority Design Committee, the Wyoming State Library LSCA Advisory Board, the Parents' Advisory Board, Sr Olaf College, Minnesota, and the National Radio and Television News Directors Board 1993.

She was the first Indian-American woman elected to a State Legislature. A Republican candidate, she was elected to the Wyoming Legislature on November 8, 1994. Nimi's platform was:

Economy: To keep our children in Wyoming, by building a healthy economy, with jobs for everyone.

Education: To keep education in the hands of teachers and parents at the local level.

Government: To reduce unnecessary government interference and to increase personal responsibility.

Tourism: To make Wyoming America's most wanted tourist destination, by projecting our State's appeal in new, innovative ways.

Community: To introduce the support legislation to build and foster strong, safe and stable communities in Wyoming.

Seniors: To project the rights and dignity of the senior citizens in our state.

She is a talented speaker, a gracious hostess, and knows Western and Carnatic music. She has a lovely cottage in Casper, Wyoming, furnished in a typically Indian style. Her house is filled with Ganeshas of various colours and sizes. He is her favourite among the pantheon.

Nimi is my niece.
Dolly Simon
10, Nandanam Main Road,
Nandanam Extension,
Madras-600 035.

The technique was to line the ships' holds with cork insulation. Then there was the added, and equally effective, insulation of the thin layer of melt-water surrounding the ice — water is itself a very effective insulator. Moreover, the entire journey, long as it was, would have been through an oceanic temperature environment not varying significantly at any time, as that on dry land would be.

What I've never found out is how the ice was maintained in our famous *Ice House*. In the days when I was more active I tried to find out by going inside, but was sternly refused entrance on the grounds that it was in those days a hostel for young ladies. As if anyone could have thought...!! But if readers luckier than I have been inside and gained some clues as to how and where the ice was kept, I'd be most interested to hear from them.

Whatever the way it was kept, a double Scotch must have been very much more expensive with the addition of

ice, though apparently the heavy portlike drink called Madeira was the favourite alcoholic beverage of those days, at least among the Europeans. Strangely, long sea voyages were also important in the transport of Madeira. It was favoured because, it was said, it 'travelled well', unlike ordinary unfortified wines (port, sherry and Madeira are wines 'fortified' with brandy, itself a spirit containing a very high percentage of alcohol). Unfortified wines, like clarets or Burgundies, are very much more sensitive and must be handled with considerable care. They certainly do not travel well. Nevertheless, port, sherry and Madeira are 'heavy' drinks and it is surprising to learn that they were very popular in a climate such as we have in Madras. It is even more surprising to learn that Madeira not only travelled well but that travelling improved it so much that it was first sent to Australia and then back to Madras.

(To be continued next fortnight)

English in India today

The English language is making a comeback in India after many years of slow decline. But it is not, alas, the language of Rudyard Kipling, Paul Scott or E.M. Forster that is enjoying popularity, but the US telespeak of MTV, CNN and The Simpsons.

Older forms of English co-exist with that permeated through the sub-continent's rapidly expanding satellite and cable TV stations in sometimes startling ways...

...Livelier television means the Indian English-language press must sharpen its act if it is to hang on to readers and advertisers.

Leisurely essays dissecting the minutiae of shifting politi-

People rarely "say" anything in Indian newspapers, but they do a lot of recollecting, reiterating, stating, declaring, admitting and averring.

My insistence on concise prose struck some journalists as dangerously radical. "If we write as tightly as you want, how will we fill up the paper?" objected one journalist...

After a few weeks, however, some forms of Indian English begin to grow on you. Is it really so silly to call detectives "sleuths" and journalists "scribes"? "Antisocials", "miscreants" and "bad characters" are merely the equivalents of our nuggers, yobs and louts. I put my foot down at "eve-teasing", however, the unbear-

(By Tim Minogue, who came out to The Telegraph,

Calcutta, to update the English used in India.)

cal alliances are a turn-off for younger readers who hold India's corrupt politicians in the deepest contempt... readers want more human interest, more about the environment, fashion, consumer affairs and technology.

But one cannot discuss the subjects of the 1990s in the language of the 1890s, and the fossilised lexicon which survives in much of the English-language press is not up to the job...

...old habits die hard. Some Indian reporters would be happier in the age of quill pens and carrier pigeons than in that of Apple Macs and modems: writing concisely seems to offend their sense of the dignity of their craft.

ably coy term for any form of sexual harassment.

As my aircraft took off from Dum Dum airport I thought of the youngsters working on that night's edition, newly enthused with the idea of writing crisp introductions and to-the-point headlines.

I felt a pang of doubt: had I been a dull standardiser, urging them to strip their language individuality and charm? I turned to the sports page of The Telegraph while on the flight. The centre-forward of a popular Calcutta soccer team had, I read, "hit a purple patch". He had "lashed the leather orb" past "the astonished custodian of the net". I need not have worried. Indian English survived my visit. — (Courtesy: Financial Times, London)

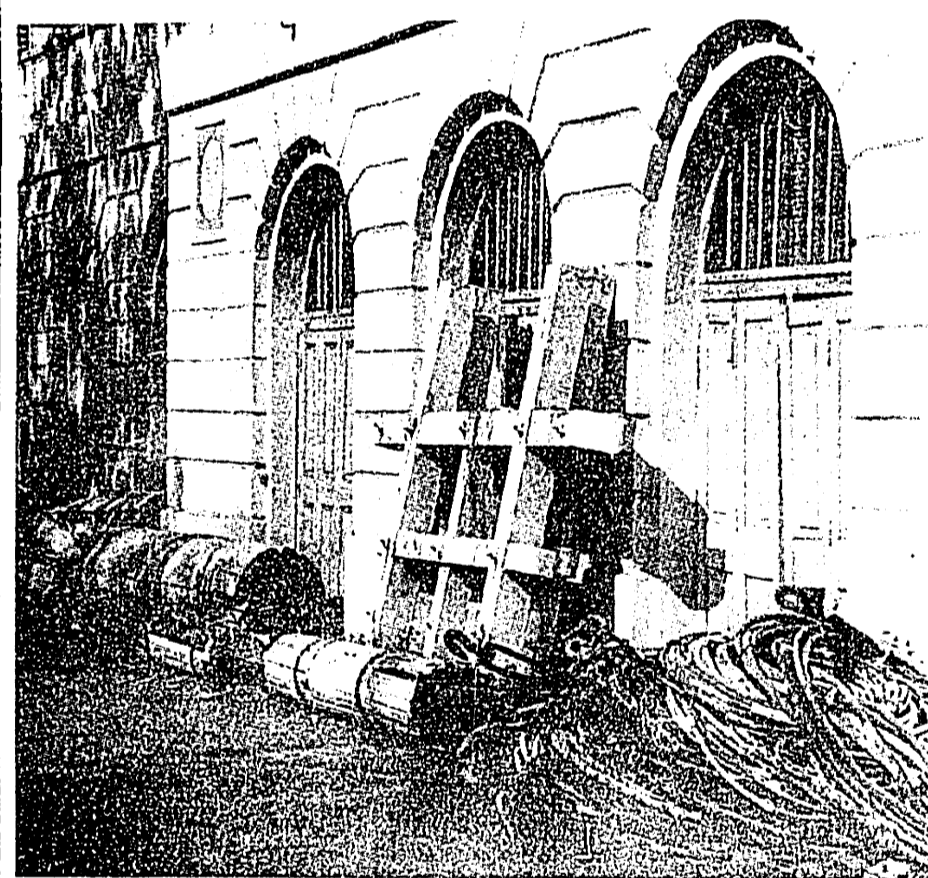
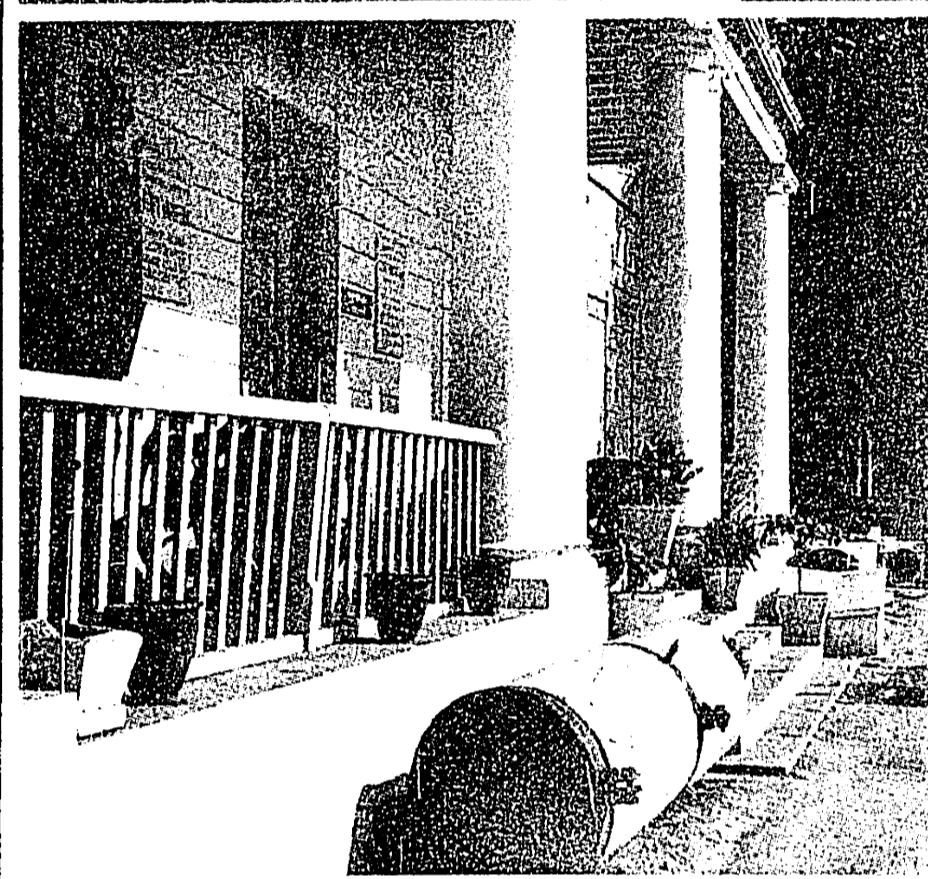
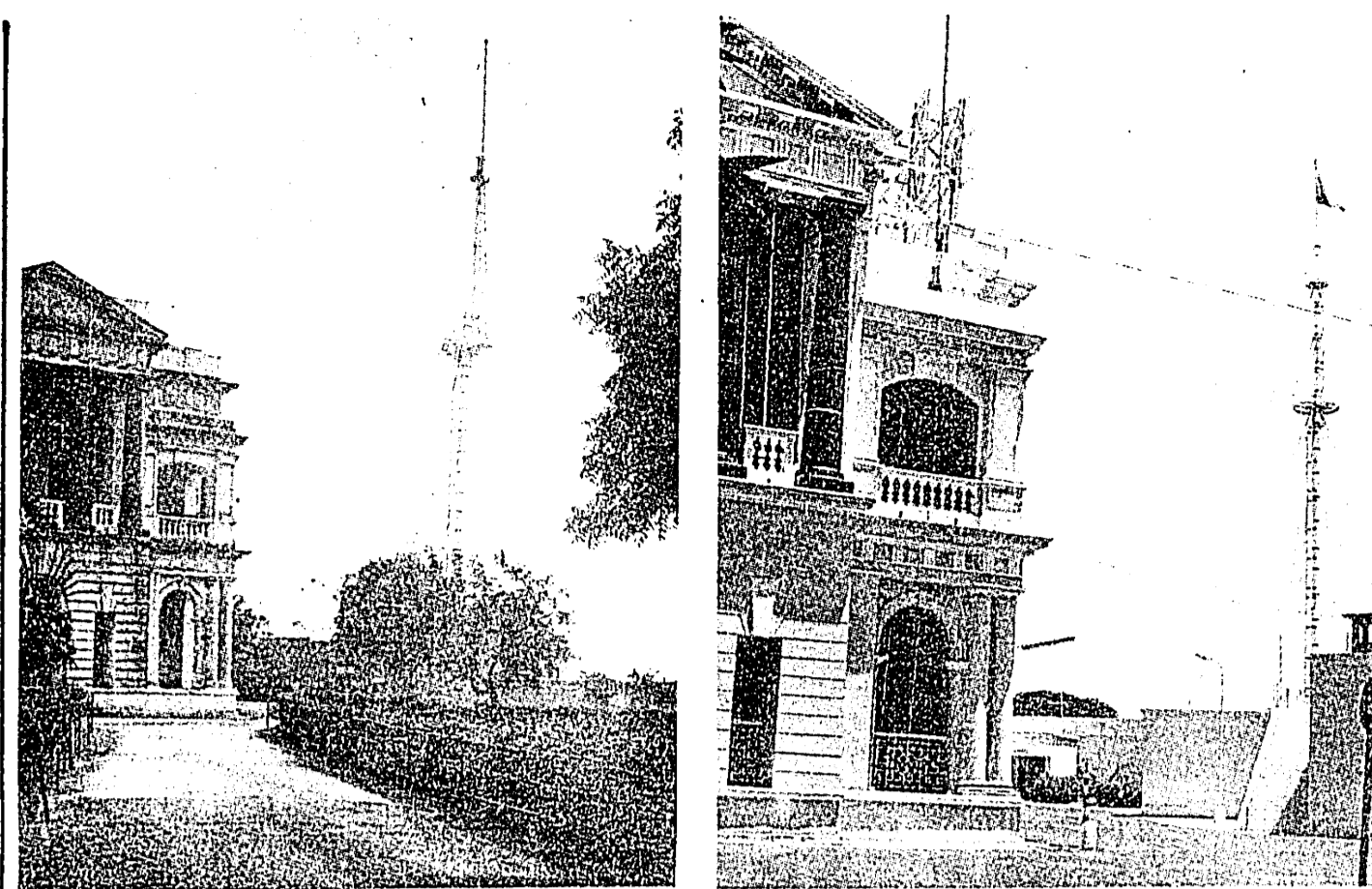
The Speaker makes his remarks

(Continued from Page 3)

Krishna waters would reach Madras before the year-end, and priority would be given to drinking water schemes. The TMC's Dr A. Chellakumar said the new Veeranam scheme would be taken up in incremental phases. He also wondered how the project cost had shot up by 100 per cent during the AIADMK regime. Incidentally, the TMC members were chided by the AIADMK for glorifying the DMK; the AIADMK's Thiruvavukkarasu said the DMK was quite capable of defending itself. The irony of it all, not missed by anyone, was that it is Thiruvavukkarasu, a staunch opponent of the AIADMK till the recent elections, who is now its main defendant in the Assembly, having won on an

AIADMK ticket — a disconcerting experience he will have to get used to.

Members from the TMC, CPI and CPI(M) demanded a probe into the corruption charges against the former AIADMK regime. The TMC's S N Balasubramanian said there should be an inquiry into the functioning of the entire AIADMK cabinet. The session ended on a happy note: House Leader Anbazhagan announced that, come September, elections to the local bodies would be held, but without reservation for the Backward Classes for the time being, as the provision for the B.C. quota had been struck down by the High Court. We look forward to better things in the days ahead.



THE OLD... ...& THE NEW

Our OLD this fortnight is a picture of the Yale Flagstaff opposite Fort St George, taken some time after 1910. The NEW is the metal flagstaff which replaced it on August 15, 1995. Our reason for publishing this sequence this fortnight is the two pictures on left which show the sad fate which has befallen the historic, 307-year-old Yale Flagstaff. Chopped into sections, parts of it lie opposite the Fort Museum, its moorings and other parts are opposite the Pay and Accounts Office, more popularly called Clive House and once known as Admiralty House, and, possibly, the rest of it is in other parts of the Fort St George campus. Is there anyone around willing to rescue this piece of history and preserve it? Or can someone persuade Yale University to take it?

The 150-foot-tall Yale Flagstaff, the tallest flagpole in India, was raised by Governor Elihu Yale in 1687 on almost the site where it remained till it was pulled down. Yale hoisted the Union Jack on it, not the East India Company flag, the first time the British flag was formally raised in India. The teakwood flagstaff was the central mast of an East Indiaman which had floundered in Madras Roads shortly before, very likely the Loyall Adventure which had been battered by the cyclone of October 4, 1687, which lasted four days.

Such a historic piece of wood and its moorings surely deserve a better place of rest that sundry nooks and crannies in the Fort. (Photographs: THE OLD courtesy VINTAGE VIGNETTES; THE NEW: G VIJAYAN; Alongside: V S RAGHAVAN)

MRL lead the South

(By A Staff Reporter)

Madras Refineries not only leads Tamil Nadu in turnover in 1994-95, but it also heads the South with sales of Rs. 2443 cr.* But in terms of profitability, it trails in fourth place in the South with Rs. 92 cr. Second, with a handsome profitability of almost Rs. 180 cr. is Neyveli Lignite Corp., whose Rs. 1094 cr turnover puts it in 6th position in sales.

Among the top ten South Indian companies, five are from Tamil Nadu — Madras Refineries (1), MRF (3), Ashok Leyland (4), SPIC (5) and Neyveli Lignite (6). In Tamil

Nadu they are followed by India Cements (Rs. 567 cr), EID Parry (Rs. 522 cr), Tube Investments (Rs. 497 cr), Lakshmi Machine Works (Rs. 496 cr) and Balaji Industries Corporation (Rs. 439 cr).

Of the four Tamil Nadu-based companies among the top ten in net profit are also Ashok Leyland (Rs. 71 cr on sales of Rs. 1538 cr) and SPIC (Rs. 68 cr on sales of Rs. 1259 cr).

Three companies with Tamil Nadu roots are found in the top ten companies in Karnataka in sales: McDowell & Co, very much an old Madras name;

Coats Viyella, whose mills are in Tamil Nadu; and Essar Shipping, the Ruia family's business growth started in Madras port. Amongst the top ten in Kerala is A V Thomas, the parent company very much headquartered in Madras.

Whatever anyone may say of Bangalore, Tamil Nadu still leads the South in industrialisation — and this will only grow with all the new entrants coming in from home and abroad.

*Note: All figures above have been rounded.

Ramanujam at Cambridge

Trinity College
11th June 1914

My dear Vinayaka Row,

Your kind letter to hand. Very glad to hear that Suryanarayanan has got the scholarship. Please excuse me for the long delay in writing to you. It is because that I felt quite uncomfortable till now.

The voyage on the whole was very pleasant though I suffered from seasickness for two or three days in the Mediterranean. As soon as I arrived in England on the 14th April, Mr Neville was kind enough to come to the docks and take me to Cromwell Road. After staying a few days at London I came to Cambridge on 18th evening. But as I came here in

A growing institution in Madras is the Ramanujam at the Avvai Academy in Tondiarpet. Its latest additions are these letters written in 1915 by Ramanujam to a friend. They present a picture of Indian student life in England eighty years ago.

Trinity College
24th March 1915

My dear Vinayaka Row,

Received your letter of 18th Feb. I have received all your letters. It appears from your letter that you haven't received my letter. In that letter I wrote mainly about the war.

I was not well till the beginning of this term owing to the weather and consequently I couldn't publish any thing for about 5 months. This term I have published 3 or 4 pamphlets and a long paper. Up to this time I have written on the following subjects:

Definite Integrals, Modular equations and approximations to π (Elliptic fns)...

Series connected with the Euluvan (?) Constant, Sum of the square roots of the natural numbers (and some other allied sums)... Some series having curious properties, and a very long paper on the Divisions of a number. All these are published in the 'Messenger of Mathematics' and the 'London Mathematical Journal'...

Suryanarayanan is not appearing for the I.C.S. as he has a very bad short-sight. He will not be selected even if he comes in the top of the list. He will enter the Educational Service. I am glad to inform you that he shines in public speech in various societies and has glorious tutorial reports in his college.

I hope you and your family are doing well and wish you success in the B.L. examination.

With best wishes from
..... S Ramanujan
* * *

Trinity College
10th September 1915

My Dear Vinayaka Rau,

Received your letter... very glad to hear of the birth of... to you. But I am sorry that you... in the examinations. Tenati Suryanarayanan... also was sorry when he heard... your failure in D T M. He sat for... exam last month. I shall... know about the result when it... I do not know anything... S S Suryanarayanan for these four or five... This being the long vacation most... he may not be in Oxford at all.

Tenati Suryanarayanan and... were exceedingly sorry to hear the sudden death of Professor Singaravelu Mudaliar at so early an age. We came to know of this unexpected sad news for

ian... previously to the... He can easily... he is coming in.

There is another Suryanarayanan here, who was a tutor in the Pachayappa's College. He says that he knew you all. He is living in a lodging where

This is another Suryanarayanan here who was a tutor in the Pachayappa's College. He says that he knew you all. He is living in a lodging where they prepare excellent vegetarian food. During voyage there will be no difficulty because most of them will be Indians and he may tell the... whatever he wants. Let him be prepared to take meals in an English Restaurant in Madras, for... it will be very awkward in the beginning if he remains taking food in his house to the last moment. It is also better for him to cook one or two things for himself after coming here, if he cannot find a good house and if he finds time.

One of the letters written by Ramanujam to Vinayaka Rau. The damage to the letters over the years has resulted in the blanks found in the text published today. (All photographs by V S RAGHAVAN.)

the middle of the year I couldn't (get) licensed lodging here and (stayed) in Mr Neville's house...

Staying in college is more... houses. Cambridge... place; next comes... I have no idea of the... to pay all the expenses... unlike the lodging houses where the expenses are paid weekly. The college pays me £40 a year of which at present £20 is given to the college for my entrance and other fees.

I am staying in the college... there will be much inconvenience to the professors and myself, if I stay (outside) the college. I would advise Suryanarayanan to try to live in lodging houses and if he can fortunately... in an unlicensed lodging house, he will find it by far cheaper than other places.

As for the food, I would have suffered much more had it not been for the good milk obtained here. For the first two months I felt why I had come here. Now I am alright. Suryanarayanan also will feel the same... for two months from the time... let him not be discouraged... it is only a matter of two months... vegetarian will be home... Let him select such... where good vegetar-

Yours affly,
S Ramanujan.
* * *



Mrs. Saraswati Dole, daughter of Vinayaka Rau, Ramanujam's friend, holds the collection of letters which the mathematics genius wrote to her father in 1915. She recently presented the letters to the Ramanujam Museum housed in the Avvai Academy in Tondiarpet.

the first time from your letter which reached here before the Indian Math. Journal.

Do you want the general information about Cambridge or special information about all

the colleges here? I shall... to you in my next letter the... reasons for the rapid progress in mathematics here unlike there.

Yours
S Ram...

The Videshi and the Swadeshi

(By A Special Correspondent)

The BJP wasn't long enough in power at the Centre to make decisions on consumer products which it had in the past labelled *videshi* and *swadeshi*, in a proposed blacklist campaign. Will the left-leaning National Front also produce such a list, given its attitude to several Western business houses? Only time will tell, but meanwhile the earlier blacklisting should prove illuminating.

In 1992, the BJP's Mazdoor Sangh, the labour wing of the BJP, in association with the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch, published a 28-page booklet listing 'foreign' products and their Indian alternatives.

Several foreign companies were also 'blacklisted', while the Sangh Parivar acknowledged the contribution of some Indian firms to the economy.

The list below (certainly not up-to-date) should be a useful guide for those ignorant about the BJP's taste for Indian consumer products.

THE BLACKLIST OF FOREIGN COMPANIES:

Hindustan Lever, Procter & Gamble, Brooke Bond, Colgate Palmolive, Bata, Shaw Wallace, Philips, ABB, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Coke, Pepsi, Kellogg.

'VIDESHI' PRODUCTS AND THEIR 'SWADESHI' VARIANTS:

Videshi toothpaste: Colgate, Forhans, Close-up, Cibaca, Gleam, Emofom.
Swadeshi: Promise, Prudent, Neem, Babool, Globe, Dabur, Vicco Vajradanti etc.

Videshi toothbrush: Colgate, Ciba, Wisdom, Forhans.
Swadeshi: Ajay, Dr Strong, Promise, Jatus of neem and Babool.
Videshi blades: 7 O'clock, Wilman, Wiltedge, Erasmic.
Swadeshi: Topaz, Gallant, Laser, Bharat, Silver Prince, Esquire, Super Max, Platinum.

Videshi aftershave lotions and creams: Old Spice, Pond's.
Swadeshi: Boroline, Boro Plus, Boro Calendula.
Videshi toilet soaps: Lux, Rexona, Clearsil, Liril, Lifebuoy, Breeze, Pears, Nicko, Santoor, Ponds, Dettol, Wipro.

Swadeshi: Hamam, Chandan, Vigi, Jasmine, Moti Margo, Swastik, OK, Rose, Mysore Sandal.
Videshi washing soaps: Sunlight, Rin, Wheel, Surf, Check, Harpic, Vim.

Swadeshi: Nirma, Double 555, Vimal, Hipolin.
Videshi cosmetics: Halo, Henna, Palmolive, Clinic, Sunsil, Medicare, Gleam (all shampoos), Brycreem, Cleartone, Fair & Lovely, Nivea, Dettol, Supreme, Charmin, Nycil, Liril, Johnson & Johnson (creams and talcs).

Swadeshi: Conodine, Express, Pomade, Afghan Snow, Lakmé, Arnica, Haircare, Velvette, Dabur, Lavender, Vicco, Vintage, Jaishree, Maurice.

Videshi shoes: All shoes made by Bata, like Ambassador, North Star, etc.

Swadeshi: Liberty, Lakhani, Bharat Leather.
Videshi foodstuff: Dalta, Britannia biscuits, Cadbury's chocolates, 5-Star, Swad.

Swadeshi: Amrit, Gagan, Gopi, Hanuman, Postman, Dhara (all vegetable oils), Anul.

Videshi cigarettes: India Kings, Classic, Gold Flake, Wills, Tiger, Charms, Charminar, Four Square etc.

Swadeshi: No alternatives were suggested in this category because smoking is injurious to health.

Quizzin' with Ram'nan

(Quizmaster V.V. RAMANAN's questions are from the period May 16 to 31. Questions 16 to 20 refer to Madras past and present.)

1. What are the new names of the J. Jayalalitha Transport Corporation and the JJ Film City?
2. Which Asian country has announced that it is expanding the area of sea under its jurisdiction by more than 2.5 million sq. km?
3. Which Indian newspaper giant has launched a TV network called 'Home TV'?
4. Name the flamboyant Indian batsman of yesteryears who fell to his death on May 19th.
5. Miss Alicia Machado of Venezuela is the new...?
6. Name the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who passed away on May 19th.
7. The first elected leader in China's 5000-year-old civilisation was sworn in as President of Taiwan on May 20th. Name him.
8. Which film won the Golden Palm at the prestigious Cannes film festival recently?
9. What important legislative post is held by P.T.R. Palanivel Rajan of the DMK?
10. Which Indian sportsman has been appointed as the UNICEF's National Ambassador for Children?
11. The new DGP of Tamil Nadu is....?
12. Which cricketer has created history by walking out of the Indian team in England?
13. Why were the film personalities Rajit Kapur and Seema Biswas in the limelight recently?
14. Which country has retained the Thomas and Uber Cups, the symbol of supremacy in world badminton?
15. The ruling United Front observed May 20th as...?

16. What building is sited on what was once the 'Abercrombie Battery'?
17. Because of its numerous doctors and medical establishments it is called the 'Harley Street of Madras'. What is this road's correct name?
18. Name the tower in Anna Nagar which commemorates the trade fair held there in the late Sixties.
19. After which college is College Road named?

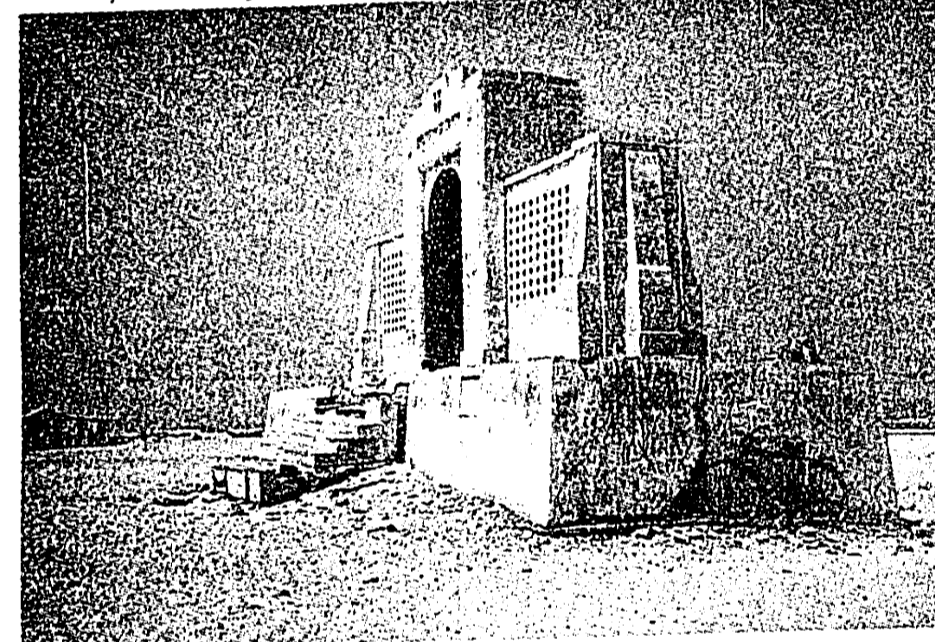
20. The main building of Women's Christian College bears the name of the guardian of Tipu Sultan's sons while they were being held hostage by Lord Cornwallis after the Third Mysore War. Name him.

(Answers on p.8)

An elegy to a beach!

Trees and turtles last centuries. Elliot's Beach had neither trees nor turtles when we moved to its shore more than two decades ago. It is so even now, but that does not diminish the beauty of the beach.

The Housing Board, which built a row of 2-in-1 flats facing the sea, formed a service road culled out from the frontage of the plot for the flats, visualising a sea change for the main beach road. True to their expectations, Madras Vision 2000 was planned and it did bring about a change in the short time of two years, confirming the saying that Government at times moves like a torrent, though by and large it never moves. Except for the super-star of the tinsel world, everything else has changed in the beach face. I mean the memorial for the valiant Schmidt; it has played a role in almost all the films shot in Madras and can claim the honour of having appeared in a record number of films, though not one conveyed the supreme sacrifice



made by the late Schmidt while rescuing a damsel in distress from the sea.

There are two rising towers which flood the beach all through the night, though they cause frequent black-outs in the dwellings nearby by over-drawing power from the mains. There are many pairs of sodium vapour lamps in the middle of the road, though they wink often like the eyes of a blushing bride. Rows and rows of cars line the parking lot. Different hues of two-wheelers, occa-

COOKING with Chandra

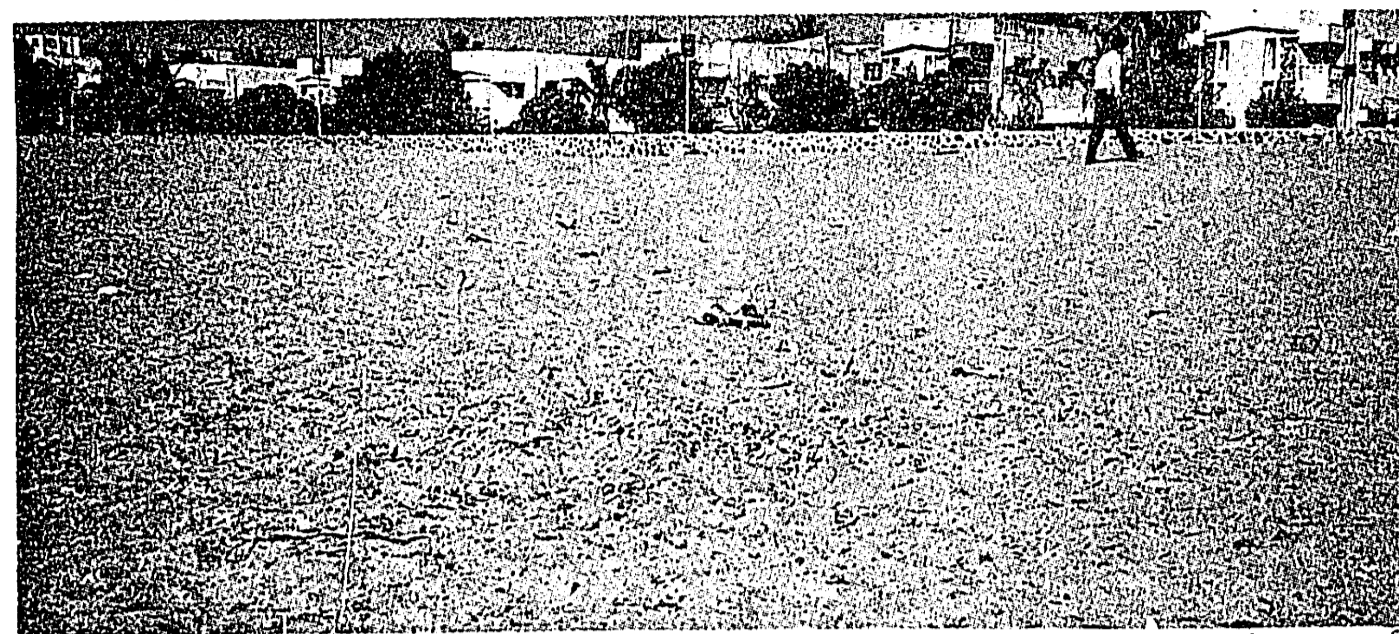
Beat the sizzling heat with Be cool, cool drinks. Choose from the variety of fruits available, mix and match to create thirst-quenching delights.

FRUIT PUNCH

1 cup orange squash
1/2 cup lemon squash
1/2 cup mango squash or pineapple squash
2 scoops of vanilla ice cream
4 orange slices for decoration

Method

Combine all the squashes and the ice cream in a blender and beat till frothy.



The litter at Elliot's Beach on a morning after a weekday evening before.

sionally a few three-wheelers, overflow the parking space and move to the side streets. For children's amusement, various ladders and slides dot the beach; they get the immediate attention of the officials whenever *The Hindu* carries a photo feature on their hazardous condition. There are permanent merry-go-rounds, mobile tiny go-rounds, tiny wheels, etc. There a number of vendors offering cold and hot dishes...

masala nuts, chips, *thengamanga sundal*, *murukku*, *milagu vadai*, *samosa*, *bajji*...

Come Saturdays/Sundays and summer holidays, people throng the beach. Gone are the days when my wife felt lonely in *Alai Isai Illam*, when I was

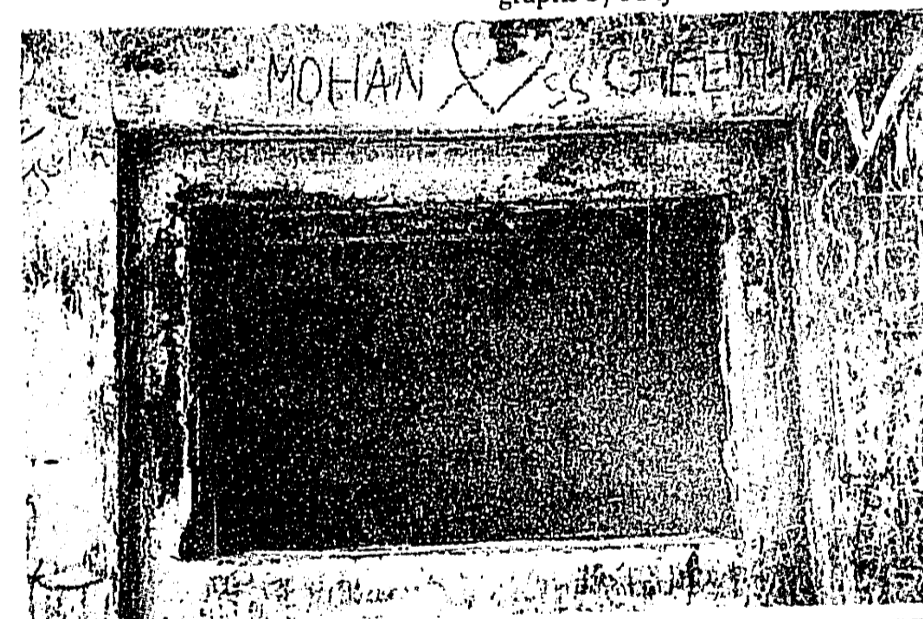
way or flies into the row of houses facing the beach. The Corporation located concrete dustbins. Then improved on these and placed ornamental litter carriers in the shape of Kangaroos in ceramic. But they never carried any of the throw-aways and they were themselves thrown away. Why?

by D. SRINIVASAN

building projects in remote corners of the country.

But, alas, for all the progress, there remains Litter ... Litter ... Litter ... The whole beach looks like a deserted battleground after midnight. We cannot say 'gone with the wind' because the litter 'comes with the wind'. All the litter either accumulates between the pavement and pedestrian walk-

This is the sorry state the *Kaj Schmidt memorial* is in at Elliot's Beach. The commemorative plaque on it is in an even sadder state. Can't all the film-makers who make regular use of it pay for its upkeep? (All photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY)



It is not the poor and the illiterate who desecrate the beach. It is the educated, the affluent, the owners of Contessas, Ceilos and other fashionable cars, who blare music from the cars, drink, dance, eat and throw the remnants out of the cars on to the pavement.

When the beach was lonely, with Oroorkuppam and Odamanagar slums on either side, it was not so bad. The poor and the illiterate slum dwellers did not desecrate the beach, save during the church festival season. But now that the well-to-do, well-educated affluent sections of society have taken over, things have become worse. Why? Is it because of the age-old belief of Hindu Society that there are outcasts to do menial jobs? Is it because the affluent consider it below their dignity to carry the litter and put it in its place? What else is the reason for the utter chaos on this once serene and beautiful beach?

(To be concluded next fortnight)

Serve immediately, decorated with orange slices.
Serves 4.

ICED TEA

8 tsp good quality tea leaves
2-1/2 tbs lemon juice
Crushed ice
Sugar to taste
4 lemon slices for decoration

Method

Pour boiling water into a teapot and allow to stand for a minute or two, then pour out. Add eight teaspoons of tea leaves to the warm tea pot. Pour four cups of boiling water over the tea. Allow it to stand for 3-4 minutes.

Strain the tea into four ice-filled glasses. Add the lemon juice and sugar. Stir till well mixed.

Serve topped with lemon slices.

TENDER COCONUT MIST

4 cups tender coconut water
4 tsp honey
4 tsp chopped coconut (preferably very tender ones)
8 mint leaves

Method

Add honey to the coconut water. Mix well. Serve garnished with coconut pieces and crushed mint leaves.
Serves 4.

WATER MELON COOLER

3 cups fresh water melon juice
1 bottle chilled *Limca*
1/2 cup chopped water melon pieces

Method

Add *Limca* to the water melon juice. Mix well. Serve chilled in tall glasses garnished with chopped water melon.
Serves 4.

STRAWBERRY MILK SHAKE

1/2 cup fresh strawberries, chopped
1-1/2 cups milk
2 scoops vanilla ice cream
Sugar to taste
8 strawberries, halved for decoration

Method

Beat the strawberries, milk, sugar and ice cream in a liquidiser till well blended. Serve immediately, decorated with halved strawberries.
Serves 3-4.

— Chandra Padmanabhan

Ever active IWA celebrates ten

Madras — *Melody and Rhythm*, an audiovisual show about life in Madras, is being put together by the International Women's Association, Madras, to celebrate its 10th anniversary next month. The multimedia presentation by Nirmal Seshadri, on July 25th, will have video clippings, transparencies, live dancing and singing.

Nirmal Seshadri is one of the founders of IWA. Joining her at this celebration will be her co-founder, Nancy Stempel, who was the wife of the then U.S. Consul-General.

When Nirmal returned to Madras in 1985, after 29 years in Bombay, she was full of passion for the city of which she had such fond memories (she grew up in a house on East Mada Street, joined the Congress Youth Corps, learnt music, watched *appalams* being made and saw the world around the Kapaleeswarar Temple change...) Remembering INDUS, an Indo-US association that she had been very closely associated with in Bombay, to which she had moved after her marriage, she discussed with friends the possibility of starting a similar

organisation in Madras that would bring about closer interaction between Indians and foreigners. There were a couple of organisations in Madras with a foreign membership, but they did not accept Indians as members.

It was Nancy Dean Stempel, whom she met by chance at a tennis match (Nirmal's hus-

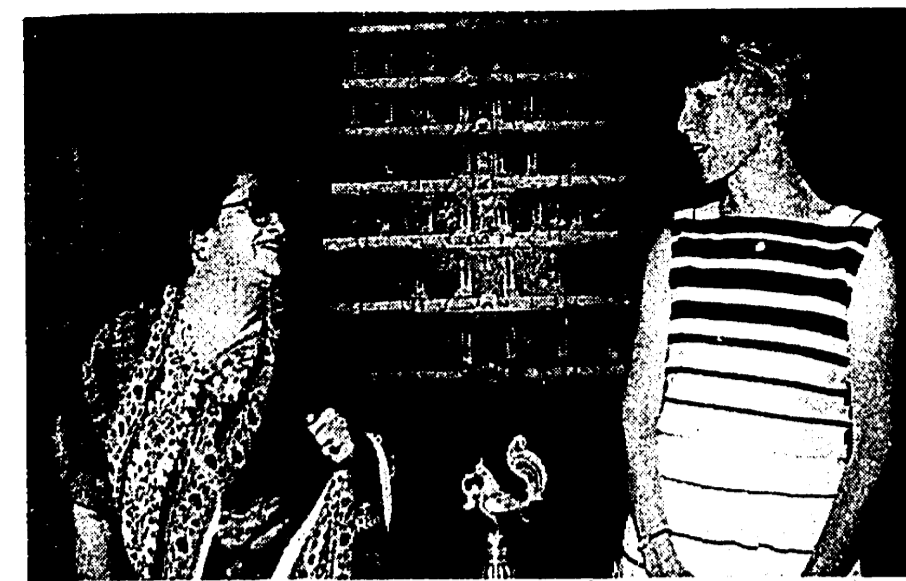


band Seshadri was the Madras tennis champion before Ramnathan Krishnan), who encouraged her to go ahead with her plans, saying, "Madras needs such an organisation". The U S Consulate-General printed the first invitations and helped in many other ways. Anne Liese Hazari, a German girl married to an Indian, was also most supportive and IWA started with seven members: Nirmal, Nancy, Anne, Lakshmi Padmanabhan, Rewa Singh, Sunita Shahaney and Saroja Ramamrutam who did a

special *Ikebana* flower arrangement, symbolising friendship, for the inaugural meeting. From that time, IWA has had joint presidents every year — one an Indian, the other a foreign passport-holder.

IWA was founded as a cultural association for women of all nationalities living in Madras. Its object is to promote greater understanding between people of various nationalities and multicultural backgrounds, by providing them with an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas, to work together on stimulating projects of mutual benefit to the members and to the society in which they live, and to enjoy the cultural facilities available in the company of people from all over the world.

Today, IWA is probably the most active social and cultural group in the city. It has the following activity groups: arts and handicrafts; book discussions;



Nirmal Seshadri with Nancy Stempel on the day the International Women's Association (IWA), Madras, was inaugurated ten years ago.

cooking; swapshop; current events; health and ecology; history; culture and tours; music and performing arts; and philosophy and religion. The activity chairpersons arrange monthly meetings for each group, drawing upon membership and outside talent. Guest speakers and artists are invited, films are shown, arts and handicrafts are demonstrated and tours to places of interest arranged. There are almost a hundred programmes a year for members!

IWA has brought out a very popular cookbook with tried and tested recipes from members. It organised a Pro-Am Tennis tournament with Seshadri and Ramnathan Krishnan. It annually cel-

brates an international evening of song and dance during Deepavali. And it has had several distinguished speakers, including Kiran Bedi, Karan Singh, R K Laxman, Cho Ramaswamy and P Chidambaram. International Music Day is also celebrated every October 1st with a concert by a star from the music world.

IWA is non-profit organisation. Profits (if any) are donated to deserving local charities.

Current presidents Alagu Muthu and Poonam Lalchand and the chairpersons of the different activity groups are planning the best programmes possible for IWA's 10th year.

THE FIRST STEPS...

(Continued from Page 1)

tion Control chaired by Dr M S Swaminathan, the eminent international scientist.

- The group on Water and Sanitation chaired by Dr B B Sundaresan, former Vice Chancellor of Madras University and former head of the National Environmental Research Institute, Nagpur.
- The group on Land Use and Development chaired by Dr M Anandakrishnan, former Vice Chancellor of Anna University.

The groups will consider the following agenda and make their recommendations based on their deliberations and ultimate findings:

- Identification of the principal issues in each group's sector.
- Prioritising the issues identified for necessary action.
- Broadly suggest action considered feasible and viable for improving the present situation in respect of the prioritised issues.
- Identify the cross-sectoral linkages possible with the prioritised issues.
- Assess the extent of involvement of the stakeholders in the implementation process and how their involvement can be achieved.
- Consider whether and how existing programmes of the Government and Private Sectors can be integrated to provide solutions to the issues listed.

Once the preliminary reports are in, the Chairmen of the Groups, their Facilitators (there's one been appointed for each group), the MMDA's Sustainable Madras Project implementers and the UNCHS consultants working with them, a CORE consultative group, will meet to discuss the recommendations. And out of their deliberations will emerge a prioritised list of overall recommendations for implementation to create a better Madras. Some of the approaches suggested may also be studied further, time and funds permitting.

But what happens after that, what happens at the end of two years? There will be recommendations available, but who is to fund further studies on approaches and lobby for implementation? It is here that a Madras First initiative, proposed both by *Madras Musings* and the Association of British Council Scholars, will become meaningful. It is such an initiative alone that will make the present Sustainable Madras Project meaningful and ensure its continuance into implementation and beyond.

It is in this context that *Madras Musings* welcomes a workshop planned for September by the British Council and the ABCS wherein it is hoped that the Bombay experience will be detailed to the core consultative group of the Sustainable Madras Project AND the representatives of industry who might be reasonably expected to take the initiative in establishing a Madras First movement. From this learning, it is to be hoped, will emerge teamwork between the two groups and continuity that will lead to a Better Madras which could be SUSTAINED.

Madras Musings looks forward to Madras First contributing to a sustainable Madras by building on the foundation laid by the Sustainable Madras Project.

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Due to duplications in mailing lists being received by us as well as duplication of requests, you may be getting more than one copy of *Madras Musings*. If you are, and are passing on the extra copy/copies to a friend/friends, we thank you for the thought. But if you don't need the extra copy/copies, kindly mail us the wrapper and the address pasted on it of the copy/copies you do not require. Such a gesture by you will enable us to place more accurate print orders and help make every rupee received from the sponsors go a longer way.

To keep you up-to-date, we are pleased to announce that this fortnight we are distributing 8000 copies of *Madras Musings*, up 5000 copies from April 1st's 3000 copies.

M/s Lokavani Hall-Mark Press Pvt. Ltd.
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Bharata Natyam — Non-stop for 72 hours and world record

(By A Special Correspondent)

Is she a girl from Madras, this girl who danced Bharata Natyam for 72 hours non-stop and set a world record? Madras Musings doesn't know, so would be glad to hear from readers. But whether she is from Madras, or not, the city is the Bharata Natyam capital of the world and her spectacular effort needs to be recorded in these pages.

Her effort was a tribute to her father, who had died of heart disease, and to raise money to spread awareness about the ailment.

Vidya Chandra Sekar, 27, recently set a world record for dancing by performing Bharata Natyam for 72 hours and 10 minutes at a stretch in Troy, N.Y.. An audience of about 600 watched her performance in the final hour.

Sekhar danced through one of the US summer's warmest

weekends with blistered feet, a knee injury and exhaustion setting in. She had injured her left knee and was finding it more and more difficult even to stand between dances. But the thought of her father kept her going, she recalled after her record-making performance.

With tears of joy and exhaustion running down her face, she told the audience, "My tears are for my father. This is my way of coming to terms with losing him. Dealing with life without Dad is difficult".

Sekhar spent the past year training by dancing for hours to prepare for the event.

In 1989, Sekhar had set a world record by dancing for 48 hours non-stop. She had danced for the American Cancer Society to help three children who had cancer. Sekhar had raised \$10,000 then.

Answers to Quiz

1. Rajiv Gandhi Transport Corporation and MGR Film City; 2. China; 3. Hindustan Times; 4. Russi Modi; 5. Miss Universe; 6. Janaki Ramachandran, the widow of MGR; 7. Lee Teng-Hui; 8. Mike Leigh's *Secrets and Lies*; 9. The Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly; 10. Ravi Shastri; 11. A. Rajmohan; 12. Navjot Singh Sidhu; 13. They have won the

Bharat and Urvasi awards for 1995; 14. Indonesia; 15. Save India from Communal Forces' Day.

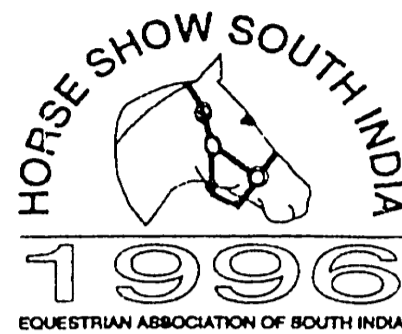
* * *

16. The Madras GPO; 17. Poonamallee High Road; 18. Visvesaraya Tower; 19. The College of Fort St. George; 20. Lt. Gen. John Doveton, whose house it once was. The edifice is *Doveton House*.

Good riding at Wellington

(By A Sports Reporter)

three-day event horse Shogun.



A variety of equestrian activity — 22 events in all — was seen over the four days of the Lakshmi Horse Show — South India - '96, sponsored by LMW and the Lakshmi Mills of Coimbatore, and conducted by the Equestrian Association of South India (EASI) and the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington (DSSC), at the Wellington Gymkhana Club grounds, Wellington.

Major Anand Saini of DSSC, partnered by Major David Labourchere, won The Holiday Inn Gem Park Successive Relay on the concluding afternoon. Having won the silver medal in the Lakshmi Card Clothing Open Dressage and the Open Hunter Trial, as well as finishing third in the Open Hacks, Major Saini was declared the best open rider of the show.

Another DSSC rider, Ms Ratika Mehra, excelled in the sub-junior and ladies events, winning three gold medals and two silvers. Also successful in the sub-junior category and declared the best

overall rider in it was Dhruv Futnani, a member of the Autolec team from Madras, who were all mounted on ex-racehorses. Dhruv's elder brother Manav, one of the driving forces behind the newly established team, performed well on Magnetic Prince which he has trained himself. Magnetic Prince was adjudged the best turned out horse in the show. The best junior rider was Itath Khan, who was outstanding in the Junior Dressage. International rider and national award winner Major Sunil Shivdas of the OTA walked away with first place in the Open Dressage even on his magnificent

The star of the Lawrence School team was undoubtedly N.C.Subbiah, who delighted the crowd with his performance in the showjumping events, picking up the gold in the LMW Junior Showjumping and a silver in the Taj Top Score event on his little grey horse Sohrab, who, before coming to Lawrence School, had pulled an army carriage!

The show was fortunate to have had Col. G.M.Khan, India's top showjumping and eventing rider for ten years and now the Secretary-General of the Equestrian Federation of India, as the chief judge

The show looks set to become an annual event and EASI hopes to extend participation next year to teams from all over India. On the form shown here, several juniors are likely to be in the running for top honours at the Junior National Equestrian Championships to be held shortly.

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