R.N. 53640/91

WE CARE FOR MADRAS THAT IS CHENNAI

MUSINGS

INSIDE

- For charity or commerce?
- Return of John Company
- Printing an art/craft
- December decibels
- The tied thriller

March 1-15, 1998

Vol. VII No. 22

FREE ISSUE

TN: A major A-power state?

Tamil Nadu is expected to ▲ become a major nuclear power generation centre in India by the year 2010. This will depend on two major projects coming through. When they go on stream, the total atomic power generation in the State will go up to around 3,450 MW.

One of the projects is the Kudangulam project, for which an agreement with Russia is likely to be a reality soon. And the other project will see

couple of the many guar-

Aantees of the Humour

Club are, "We will certainly

laugh at whatever joke is

cracked and we will make you

laugh too!" The politicians do

the latter well, don't they? But

that's not what they are meant

to do. They should leave it to

stress-free lives — that's what

the Humour Club promises. It's

Good laughs, better health,

the humour brigade!

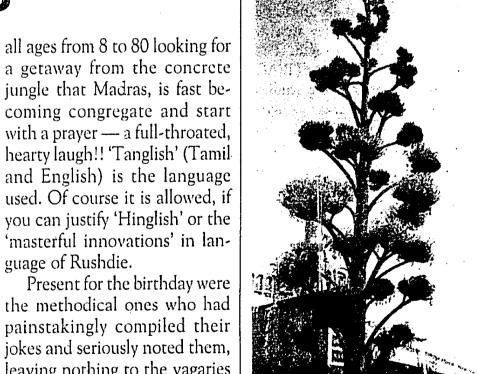
Kalpakkam get 2x500 MW indigenously developed Prototype Fast Breeder Reactors. The Centre has in the IX Plan allocated Rs.102 crore for preliminary work for the latter project and Rs.82 crore for construction of the reactors. According to officials, the project will go on stream in 2007, with construction expected to start in 1999.

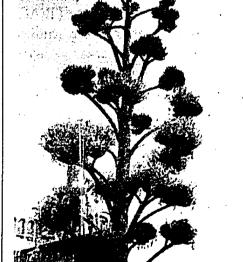
Speaking about the agreement with Russia, R Chidam-

baram, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, recently said that the Centre will shortly sign the long-awaited supplementary agreement with Russia for the 2x1000 MW Atomic Power Project at Kudangulam, Tamil Nadu. The supplementary agreement is warranted as the original Inter-Governmental agreement (IGA) between the erstwhile USSR and India has had to be modified in the light of the changed political circumstances.

Soon after the signing of the IGA by the Rajiv Gandhi Government with the USSR, the Soviet Union disintegrated,

(Continued on Page 7)









A SLOW FLOWER BLOOMS

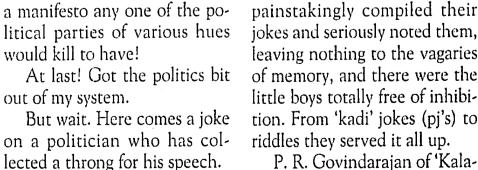
ll these years it looked like **T**just another variation of a cactus to an uneducated eye. But suddenly in the last few months it struck passers-by in the eye, as a solitary 'stalk' towered over the rest of the vegetation at the Gemini, and then burst into bloom neither stalk nor bloom look elegant, but both have been certainly eye-catching.

The plant is apparently commonly known as 'Century Plant' or 'Rail Kathali' in Tamil. Its botanic name is Agave americana and it belongs to the family of Agavaceae.

These glow-growing plants are remarkable on account of their curious leafless formation, they can withstand drought in arid areas where no other plants survive. The thick, fleshy leaves are 3-6 feet long and 6-8 inches broad. Flowering denotes the maturity of the plant and a plant flowers only every 7-10 years, though under less favourable conditions flowering may take 20-25 years. An erroneous notion, which gives it its name, is that it blooms only once in 100 years.

The fibre from the leaves is used to make ropes and twine and even to manufacture fabrics. The sap of the plant is extensively used by Mexicans to make fermented liquor.

Rajind N Christy



Ten years — no

How? You may ask. A kilo of onions free to each one who attends. It's election time after all so

there were a few more of these than usual.

It's been ten years and the same Aala maram, every Sunday mid-morning, at the Rajaji Hall grounds. An enthusiastic band of men, women and children, of

'masterful innovations' in language of Rushdie. Present for the birthday were the methodical ones who had painstakingly compiled their jokes and seriously noted them, leaving nothing to the vagaries of memory, and there were the little boys totally free of inhibi-

P. R. Govindarajan of 'Kalakendra' and 'Ragini Creations', that brought such classics as Ethirnichal to the stage, pioneered the concept of the Humour Club. To have survived ten years is no laughing matter, when associations and coalitions don't cast a week.

Oops! Haven't yet got politics out of my system!

Priya Krishnan

rays almost form a halo around

your head. Mr. Casabianca,

Your bench is covered with

thick layer of dust and your

desk is full of nails sticking out.

Of course, you are expected to

hit the nail on the head, but cer-

tainly after slogging 14 hours a

day for months together you

would not like to write an exam

that will decide your future on

Every minute counts and a

bell is rung at periodic intervals.

But the Sohan Papadi Wallah

outside also goes ding-dong and

you wonder for whom the bell

tolls! You need absolute silence

to concentrate, but even if the

invigilators refrain from chat-

ting loudly, domestic wrangling,

people breathing fire and brim-

stone at each other in apart-

ments nearby can be clearly

Welcome to a typical centre

where competitive exams are

heard.

the back of a porcupine!

that's not all!

Wits' End

A charitable or a commercial takeover?

man of the Atomic Energy Com-

mission, were in such a hurry to

leave for their next engagements

that they could answer only a

few of the many questions the

journalists had for them. Now

you don't get positive news in

the Press by being in such a

hurry to get away from it, Abdul

Another area where Abdul

Kalam could have offered much

positive news to journalists was

one where he wears a different

hat. He is the head of the Tech-

nology Information Forecasting

and Assessment Council

(TIFAC) of the Department of

Science and Technology and

The Man From Madras Musings

hears that that Council aims to

make India a developed country

by 2020. But MMM hadn't even

heard of the Council till the

other day - and he considers

himself a reasonably informed

Be that as it may, MMM

SHORT

SNAPPY

titbits the other day on TIFAC

and its findings. India's strength,

has decided to multiply many

times in the next few years.

These technical skills are to be

let loose on several key areas it

has identified for growth. The

17 technical documents TIFAC

released in 1996 on its studies

focussed on such areas as agri-

culture, food processing, health

etc. It plans to convert these

studies into action plans and

give them to the State Govern-

ments/State Planning Commis-

For instance, Kalam said

there's much we can do in horti-

culture if only we upgraded

technology. The country at

present suffers an annual loss of

a "staggering Rs. 6,250 crore"

because of the lack of storage/

packing facilities for fruit and

vegetables! In 1995, India pro-

duced 33 million tonne of fruit

valued at Rs. 10,000 crore and

71 million tonne of vegetables

the value addition was negli-

gible. This is one of TIFAC's

thrust areas, MMM under-

Other areas TIFAC is at

present hastening on are sugar

and fly ash technologies and

something called 'composites'.

Would that Kalam had the time

to explain 'composites' so that

MMM could have something

positive to say about this item

valued at Rs. 15,000 crore, but

sions for action.

heard its Chairman offer some

Developing India

T ast fortnight's business Librief by The Man From Madras Musings on the Child's Trust Hospital looking for a knight in shining armour to rescue it from its problems appears to be only the tip of an icebergsize story. In the first place, there are not just two bidders but FOUR for the public charitable trust hospital that the late Dr M S Ramakrishnan had set up to provide medical help for children at low or no cost. The four include a trust newly set up by Apollo Hospitals, the Sri Ramachandra Medical Trust which is in the process of opening a 500-bed free hospital the Madras Medical Mission, a charitable trust one of whose specialties is child heartcare, and Sankara Nethralaya, a trust whose specialty is eyecare.

These four trusts offered bids based on a document from the trustees of the Child's Trust Hospital. This document, however, is a most curious one, MMM finds: it does not call for a figure as a bid. If it had done so, life would have been easier for the trustees; they could have just looked at the highest bid and the commitment to pay it. But by not seeking a concrete figure, they've been left in a quandary and have asked ICICI and IDBI, the two financial institutions to whom nearly Rs.10 crore has to go, to decide on the successful bidder. IDBI, it would appear, would go along with whatever ICICI's decision is, so the ball is apparently in the latter's court.

Based on the terms of the bid document and the offers made by the four bidders, ICICI will fulfils the following terms best:

- Settling the liabilities of the financial institutions and any other outstandings.
- Being prepared to invest at least Rs.5 crore in modernising the institution within a short period of time. — Taking over the staff or
- coming to terms with them. Running the hospital for the same objects and purpose it was intended by the founding Child's Trust.

With agreement by the deciding authority not likely to be difficult on the first three counts, the decision could well boil down to which of the four institutions best fulfils the fourth condition, which, in effect, calls for a charitable medical trust with a proven track record in medicine and in viability and which has a clear-cut idea where it wants to take the Child's Trust Hospital to in terms of its medical future. MMM can see the ICICI having quite a problem on its hands trying to come to a decision on those ideological grounds.

At stake

The bid for the Child's Trust Hospital is not only for the eight-storey building and the 12 grounds it is on in the heart of

Nungambakkam. It is also for 18 grounds opposite the hospital. This plot is vacant at present but is occupied by squatters and getting them out will have its price, The Man From Madras Musings foresees.

At least one of the bidders, MMM understands, sees immediate use for the property. A maternity hospital coming up on it, they seem to think, will make eminent sense next to a paediatric institution. Now do such plans come within the purview of the Child's Trust's objectives? If they do, and another of the bidders is more interested in the childcare aspect, might it not be a good idea if two bidders team together to keep the Child's Trust and its objectives alive, wonders MMM.

What is, however, important in all this bidding, counter-bidding and manoeuvring is that the Child's Trust's objectives are respected, thereby paying homage to the memory of the founder, the ever-smiling Dr Ramakrishnan, for whom the care of every child was a lifelong mission. He had run his hospital as a charitable institution and it is on the basis of who best will run it as a charitable institution in the future that a decision on the successful bidder will have to be taken. In fact, two institutions that didn't see the hospital in that way, Wockhardt's and Hinduja's, dropped out of contention in the first days. Who, then, will be successful?

What's news?

ooking at the pages of Lenewspapers and magazines have to pick one based on who filled every day with scams and TIFAC has found, is its vast and their minions, it's obvious to The Man From Madras Musings what the Indian Press thinks is news. A P J Abdul Kalam, Scientific Advisor to the Minister of Defence and a recent Bharat Ratna-awardee, however, thinks iournalists can do better. Speaking to the Press after

> the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research and the Centre's celebration of the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence, he urged journalists to file "more positive stories", particularly highlighting the accomplishments of silent achievers. "And, remember," he said, "most of them are in our villages; there's a lot happening there that you don't report." Indeed, who would have heard of the scientist from the little fishing village of Rameswaram if Kalam hadn't taken India into

Be that as it may, at least one journalist present on the occasion was not on the same wave length as India's top scientist; "positive news is no news," he muttered. MMM however. feels somewhat differently; the cloak of secrecy many an organisation puts on its achievements makes it virtually impossible for journalists to report the positive aspects of news. In fact, the

that is going to make us a develpress conference itself was a oped nation in the 21st Century. case in point. Both Kalam and Dr R Chidambaram, the Chair-

Selling print-ed

The London College of Printing is one of the world's best institutions in its field. The Man From Madras Musings had always thought. And he was happy to have that view confirmed the other day by Dr A K Maitra, who, after nearly 35 years at that venerable institution, considers only three others worldwide in the same class - the Rochester Institute of Technology, New York University and the California Institute of Technology, all American

centres of excellence. If the London college is any example, however, they have all moved far from the type of printing MMM knows anything about. In fact, Maitra wondered at a lecture the other day whether the word 'printing' would remain in the vocabulary in the 21st century? Or would it be replaced by 'Information Management and Distribution', (abbreviated to something like 'informandis', Doctor?) within the next ten years? MMM could see his point, looking at the syllabus of the College he screened. Very little of it had much to do with what it once taught and which India still uses and is likely to be stuck with for many years to come, except in the case of a very, very few institutions.

With the new press automation, printing has been deskilled and just a few with multi-skills are necessary, Dr Maitra told an audience of printers and a few of their children. Would this still prove attractive for those children, wondered MMM, given the future of much of Indian printing. Even if it would MMM was rather taken aback by the London college's fees -\$6,500 a year tuition plus \$6,500 a year living expenses (no grants or scholarships) for three years. MMM works that out to be around Rs.25 lakh for the three years, not counting travel, luxuries etc. How many Indian printers could afford that? But, then, wondered Maitra, how many Indian printers invest a crore and more on a single machine every other year or so? Wouldn't a few machines warrant a person educated for Rs. 25 lakh? MMM might have quickly said 'yes' if that syllabus had looked at machines more closely than management, pubishing and distribution. But no doubt there are other views.

In briet

★ In the Springhaven Road area the Madras Port, there are half a dozen old and comfortable bungalows with large gardens, making the whole area a true haven for those who live in this retreat. The Man From Madras Musings understands that the Port authorities, having built concrete blocks of flats by the Cooum, are now toving with the idea of getting these residents to move into the empty flats and

then rulling down these, what could well be heritage, buildings. And what does it plan in their place? A container yard, if you please, in the middle of the City, MMM understands. When, oh when are we going to get that Heritage Act?! And when, oh when, are we going to get developers with a sense of heritage of

★ With the Prasar Bharati Act, The Man From Madras Musings thought we would be in for a whole new world of television; in fact, he had never watched much television and hoped that the promised new look would get him interested in the 'box'. But alas, we still live in the world of politics and mindless serials. MMM is prepared to accept the serials, even if he doesn't watch them, but must the news programmes be so bad? Is there no other news than politics? And when it comes to politics, the new dispensation seems to think that it must change from concentrating on the party in power and switch to an evenhandedness that gives time to ALL. Which results only in more air-time being spent on politicians who have nothing to offer the listener and watcher. leave alone the nation. TV news has never been so bad as it has been in the run-up to these elections. MMM truly despairs of television in India, Prasar Bharati or not.

Business briefs

★ A public sector condom manufacturer doesn't get an order from the Government and not only is the national Press full of it but a major national daily also writes an EDITORIAL about it! The Man From Madras Musings doesn't care on which side of the fence these papers are sitting, but surely there's more happening in India, leave alone the world, to write about, indeed comment on, than matters of simple trade! Surely even onion prices are more important than Covernment orders for condoms. But if indeed the latter are important, surely their importance lies in the fact that not enough are being bought from any manufacturer. What the Press should be worrying about is the fact that not only has the Government been looking at family planning as a low key issue for some years now but it has also not become particularly concerned about the growing incidence of AIDS. In fact, what the Press should be urging the Government, if it looks at the issue with concern — instead of looking for a scam which, if at all and in the worst circumstances, can't be very big - is to buy more condoms from all Indian source which can supply acceptable quality. The need of the hour is to urge buying more condoms, not worrying about what, in the reality of the Indian context, is a negligible purchase, totally inadequate for the country's needs.

MMM

OUR

READERS

WRITE



T refer to the pictures of the Old Madras Club 'New and old (MM, October 16, 1997).

In this building, during the 1950s, the Office of the Postmaster General was functioning on a monthly rental of Rs. 5,000. After linguistic reorganisation of the States, the first Postal Circle to be separated from the erstwhile Madras Postal Circle was the Andhra Circle which also functioned in this building in the eastern wing till it was moved to Kurnool in 1954. By April 1959, the new building of the PMG's office in Mount Road was ready and the office shifted there.

According to 'Madras Discovered', the present site which is now occupied by the PMG's Office, Anna Road HPO and the office of the Chief G.M., Tamil Nadu Telecom Circle etc., was a building constructed by Nawab Wallajah, which was under occupation by Lewis Milner & Co., Spencer & Co and the Madras Survey Office. Can anyone add to that?

> T.M. Sundararaman No. 19, Nallappan Street Chennai 600 004

Language of use

This is with reference to B. ■ Gautham's letter 'Tamil in English' (MM, February 1). People living in Tamil Nadu, even those whose mother tongue is not Tamil,

Tamil. So, for the English language

in the Roman script, whether they be for Cadburys Perk or Pepsi or titles of films. Advertising is a source of revenue for newspapers, so it does not matter to them, but for the readers it is a loss especially when it pertains to notification of entrance exams or payment of taxes.

The Photograph of Spencers in Egmore (MM February 1) really brought back memories of the curry rice, Mallaga and a bottle of beer at

> Anna Varki "Aalil", No. 9 Central Street Kilpauk Garden Colony Chennai 600 010

Friend and sister

t was one of those typically sloppy

can all converse in and understand newspapers, wouldn't it be nice to have Tamil ads in the Roman

All product advertisements are

bits of journalism that occasionally finds its way into the best of publications. The photographer had not got the names of the two women he photographed, thinking the writer would know. The writer didn't, but the caption writer recognised one of the women and decided to take a chance, instead of contacting the woman she knew for an identification. The result was that we had 'Alamelu Arunachalam and a friend' instead of 'Alamelu Arunachalam and her sis-

held in the city. These include, magine sitting in a small apart from a dozen university Ldusty room without a single entrance tests, the Civil Service fan at a time when the sun is at Exam! Perhaps this is also an its hottest and the only thing between you and those scorching orientation course on the raw realities of village life for the rays is, hold your breath, an asyoung city-bred IAS aspirants. bestos sheet. You have been seated near a window and the

This is not an attempt to bring the whole roof down merely because the centres chosen lack fans and other basic

Black Hole Tragedy

facilities. At a time when people shout from rooftops about regional bias and the trend of candidates from the South being kept out of the 'Steel Frame', the least the UPSC can do is to allot places which are reasonably comfortable. Does Chennai have a dearth of good, wellequipped schools and colleges that they have to hire only the worst maintained Government

schools? Is it because they come cheap? Or free?

That all Government schools are badly maintained is nobody's contention. The point here is that the worst are chosen as centres! That too, located in places which even a local person will not be able to find

Have the authorities forgot ten institutions like Lovola which has produced a galaxy of top Indian bureaucrats? Conveniently located, hardly a stone's throw from the bus stop and railway station, it can jolly well accommodate all the candi dates' in the city. Are not many bank exams and university entrance tests conducted here Don't the authorities realise that the atmosphere of the place matters a lot?

I can go on and on, but let's not forget the children who actually spend not a couple of hours but years together in the schools we have just complained about. Some of them even manage state ranks! Art 45 which talks of compulsory primary education should be modified to include 'in decent conditions'.

Sanjay Pinto

ter Visalakshi Alagappan' in the caption to a picture accompanying our story on the Aarubadai Veedu in MM, February 16th. We regret the sloppiness. The Editor

John Company

By A Special Correspondent

The East India Company is ■ back — and India is once again an important thrust area. The Company, founded by the Royal Charter of Queen Elizabeth I in 1600, now belongs to Tony Wild and his partner.

Wild, a former coffee man who worked with Taylor Tea & Coffee, and his partner "got interested in the Company and began tracking it down and finally extracted it from the Crown and took it over," he

The reborn company, with full rights to the original coat of arms and other insignia has established links with institutions like the Indian Office & Library in London, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Royal Armouries, even as a newly appointed archivist works on providing the "authentic background of visual and written material for new product development, packaging and design"

The preliminary product line-up will, apart from coffee,

include India Pale Ale, porcelain, silks, spices, tobacco, tonic water, furnishing fabrics, gin, antiquities and, to keep up with the times, financial services.

The Company hopes to put its brand on products, seek out joint ventures, source unusual products with the Company provenance and find partners with specialist expertise. "In the early days of the EIC,

it established what were known as factories in various locations in India and the East. A factory was effectively a warehouse where goods bought and sold by Company traders (or factors) were stored. The Company will use the website as a virtual factory," reads the Company's trading philosophy. The Company, in its pre-

amble, points out that its administration still forms the basis of Indian bureaucracy and its corporate structure was the earliest example of a joint stock company. It also says it created British India, Hong Kong and Singapore, and was the single most powerful economic force the world has ever seen. Under its "launches", the Company claims to have introduced woollens to Japan, spices to the West Indies, opium to China, porcelain to Russia and tea and polo to India. And yes, its flag inspired the Stars and Stripes.

The Company's first major product is St. Helena's Coffee, considered the most expensive coffee in the world (\$32,000 per tonne) and now available at Harrods in London. The Company says it introduced coffee to St. Helena in 1731, attracting among other things this comment from Napolean: "The only good thing about St. Helena is the coffee.'

The Company will target Indian companies wanting to market products overseas and perhaps use the East India Company tag. "We want this to be a two-way process," he says. And soon to be launched is an Indian coffee brand.

Statement about ownership and other particulars about the newspaper

(As required to be published under Section 19-D Sub-section (b) of the Press and Registration of Books Act read with Rule 8 of the Registration of Newspaper (Central Rules), 1956.)

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Mr C O Verghese

6. Name and address of individuals 1 who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total capital:

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5. Mrs. Mary Punnose 110 Velacherry Road, Chennai 600 032.

6. Ms. Susan Venglet 110 Velacherry Road, Chennai 600 032.

I, Anu Verghese, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

ANU VERGHESE

Publisher.

Dated: 1.03.1998

Seeing red at TNPL

Tamil Nadu Newsprint back in 1995 to reduce its stake exchange contracts with several and Papers Ltd (TNPL) is fac- in the company to 26% within ing several problems, the most serious of which is the Madras High Court ordering TNPL to take necessary steps to see that (The company had doubled its the red colour in its effluent is capacity to 1.80 lakh tonne by removed before it is let into the installing a new plant at an out-Pugalur channel. "We are tak- lay of Rs. 585 crore — including ing all possible steps to remedy a World Bank loan Rs.263 crore 2000, the demand is expected the problems," states T. Jacob, Managing Director, TNPL.

According to TNPL officials, talks are being held with an Australian company on treating the effluent. All these years, the plant has been functioning with a 'No Objection Certificate' from the Tamil Nadu Pollution latter has refused a 'consent letter' because TNPL has been unable to remove the colour in its effluent nor does it have any time-bound programme for doing it.

treated water conforms to the BOD/COD levels prescribed by the TNPCB and the water discharged from the plant is used to irrigate about 1,400 acres of cane fields, company officials

Another problem is that the On the financial front too, company has got itself caught in the Company is facing tough a discount war in the Rs.9,000 times. The Central Excise Decrore domestic paper industry. Not so long ago, the Company used to enjoy a premium for its the grounds that the company newsprint and printing and writing paper (PWP). This is no ers. Several of its investments longer the case.

turer in the country with the most modern machinery till last year, TNPL was promoted by ing dealers, who came to its resthe State during MGR's regime to manufacture, with financial assistance from World Bank, newsprint and PWP from ba- by adding several new dealers. gasse — a pioneering effort in the country. The company was firming up of domestic newsonce touted as a shining example of how a government undertaking should be run. The tractive. The Company should World Bank, in one of its reports, paid rich accolades to the Government for the freedom given officials to run the company professionally.

same TNPL is a sad example of how a company should not be pendence on imported pulp, run. This is despite the fact that the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and the general public own 36.51% and 28.57% stake in TNPL's Rs.68 crore equity, as against government's share of 34.92%.

The State had given an un-

one year of the company commencing commercial production on its second machine. — in January, 1997).

out with a premium public issue in 1995, is yet to nominate two outside directors as promised at that time. Further, IDBI, which can nominate four representatives to the company's Board. has restricted itself to two and, Control Board (TNPCB) as the hence, TNPL's Board is packed



with government nominees. La-Except for the colour, the ments an official, "The company is functioning more like a government department than like a corporate entity". The fall-out is that the company's once and former pride, its managers who have grown with it in puter stationery. Will he have state. Nevertheless they have to the last one and half decades, new answers to TNPL's woes? fulfil the Court Order or face are leaving the company one by

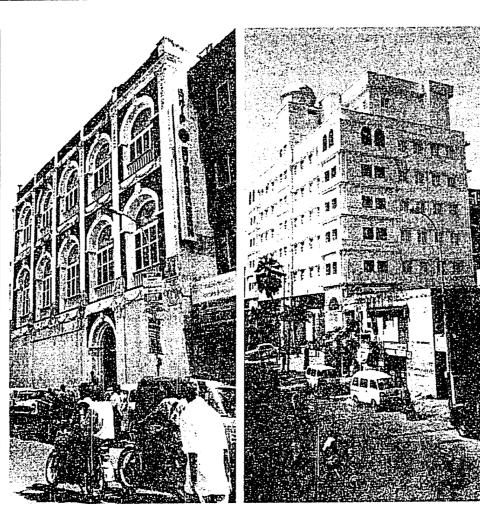
partment has slapped a demand for a huge sum as tax arrears on is not eligible for certain waivare also proving headaches. The premier paper manufac- There are, in addition, considerable overdues from its dealers. Several of TNPL's long-standcue in times of crisis, are offended that the company has of late doubled its dealer network

The only silver lining is the print prices as recent rupee prices have made imports unattake advantage of the situation. market sources state. The company should also improve the quality of its maplitho and creamwoven papers, they add. Unfortunately, today, the As a cost-cutting measure, the company should reduce its decosting Rs.15,000, and instead, scout for cheaper inputs. It is also suggested that the company integrate backwards by taking over sick sugar mills or installing a new one of its own. While that is for the future, the company should concentrate sugar mills immediately.

According to industry esti-

mates, the future of the domestic paper industry is bright, with per capita consumption expected to rise to 4 kg by the turn of the century from the present levels of 3.5 kg. By the year to be of the order of 49 lakh The company, which came tonnes, comprising of 40 lakh tonnes of paper and boards and 9 lakh tonnes of newsprint. Moreover, with the Centre reintroducing the 'actual user condition for imports and a levy of 10% import duty, and with rising international prices, the local industry should do better.

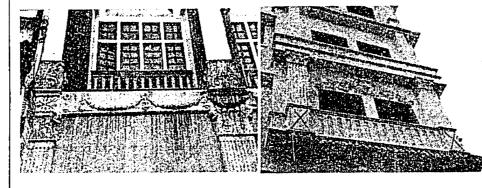
Given this scenario, all at TNPL are pinning their hopes on M S Srinivasan, Industry Secretary, the ex-officio Chairman of TNPL, who, while he was the Managing Director of TNPL, installed efficient information systems to monitor costs and was the key mover for TNPL rolling out pink newsprint, now favoured by financial dailies in the country, and com-



The OLD...

...& the NEW

Our OLD is of an old building in Armenian Street, George Town, owned by A S Shipping. Whether they built it or bought it — and if so, from whom — is not known, but it certainly looks a building that goes back to the 1910s and 1920s. It also appears to have received a face-lift in the last couple of years, which has also included embellishments such as period coloured fanlights. But what struck us about the building were the original fluted pillars and the elaborate garlands that link the ornate capitals of the pillars. Both pillars and the garlands — in their usage — bear a striking resemblance to the embellishments on the facade of 'Graeme's Dugan' on Grae ne's Road, our NEW. This gleaming new building with its echoes of the Reger zy style, is occupied by the Corporate Division of the State Bank of India. The Bank's choice of this Raj-style building makes us wonder why it doesn't pay more attention to some of its own buildings in a similar style, the Mount Road Branch, for one. (Photographs by RAJIND N CHRISTY.)



THE STATE OF THE PAPER INDUSTRY

One likely casualty of the Tamil Nadu Government's attempts to enthuse the Indonesia-linked Sinar Mas Pulp and Paper (India) Ltd to locate its mega packaging paper project in Cuddalore (see MM, February 1) will be industry's demand for a mother pulp unit. The subgroup on the paper industry formed by the State Government to recommend measures to boost the paper industry in the State had requested Government's assistance in promoting a 300 tpd bagasse-based pulp unit at an outlay of Rs.450

The Subgroup had stated that 60 per cent of the paper produced in the State is accounted for by non-integrated mills using waste paper as raw material and the mills would be in a better position to improve their efficiency and their product quality if they were assured of sustained supplies of chemical pulp.

The State Government, however, seems to favour a greenfield project to generate more employment opportunities and is banking on Sinar Mas to

Tamil Nadu has 74 paper mills accounting for 12 per cent of the country's paper production (41 lakh tonnes). Excepting two mills, Seshasayee Paper Boards Ltd (SPB) and TNPL, the rest are non-integrated ones.

According to the Subgroup, if the State is to maintain its share in the domestic industry, then it has to add 2.5 lakh tonnes capacity by the turn of the century and another 3 lakh tonnes before 2005.

The Subgroup has requested the State Government to impress upon the Centre the need to give the industry five years to restructure itself to meet global competition. The Industry wants the Centre to revise upward the import duties on paper. It has also requested the State to ensure adequate availability of bagasse without affecting the returns to sugar mills which use it for power generation. The report states that bagasse for making paper adds more economic

value to the country and provides better returns to the Among other demands of the

Encourage recycling of paper by formulating suitable

legislations. Permit the industry to raise wood plantations to meet its raw material needs.

Encourage co-generation and captive generation of Encourage use of treated pa-

per mill effluents for irrigation purposes. — Encourage establishment of paper conversion units in

Tamil Nadu. Ban packing of food items in plastic or wooden pack-

aging material. Meanwhile, Seshasayee Paper Board Ltd is going ahead with its Rs. 230 crore expansion programme to double capacity to 1,20,000 tpa by next June Similarly, the Coimbatore-based Amaravathi group is expanding capacity to 250 tpd from 170



Ct. Nachiappan, now Swami

Nachiappan, a pioneer in colour

department of Kalakshetra Publications in 1950 served professional photographers like the Magnum group, Henry Cartier Bresson, Brian Brake who worked with National Geographic and Time and Life magazines and leading advertising agencies in Madras like J. Walter Thompson and Benson's.

Kalakshetra Publications was the first to introduce many photographic services in India: like the processing of rolls and large format Ekachrome trans-

The man who made printing an art/craft

The stories about him can **1** make another *Mahabarata*. Nachiappan, who now wears the robes of a swami and has been installed as the Swami of the Koviloor Madam near Karaikkudi (Chettinad), invites controversy by the dozen. His association with Kalakshetra has been a colourfulness, with the gossip mill grinding its grist without pause. After my curtain-raiser about the photographic exhibition of the early dancing years of Rukmini Devi Arundale appeared in The Hindu, there was call after call to give me stories that will serve as ideal material for a future bestseller I may write!

Nachiappan came to the Theosophical Society as a young boy in the early Thirties. Rukmini Devi saw him through his education. Nachiappan had an aptitude for art and became a disciple of Conrad Woldring, a Dutch commercial photographer who arrived at the Theosophical Society. He learnt photography, commercial art, furniture design and lighting for the stage from Conrad. Nachiappan took over from Woldring after the latter died in an electrial accident in 1941. In 1945, Nachiappan created a makeshift darkroom and began to make his own photographic prints. At this time, Kalakshetra was borrowing time at the Theosophical Society's Vasantha Press to print books on Montessori methodology and other textbooks, as well as pamphlets and brochures for the Kalakshetra programmes.

In 1948, The Kalakshetra Colour Laboratories became Kalakshetra Publications. Under Nachiappan's management, Kalakshetra Publications began its activities by publishing Education for a New World by Dr. Maria Montessori. Kalakshetra Publications undertook photo documentation of Kalakshetra activities, performances, visitors and classes. The dark room developed for the photographic

parencies to world standards for reproduction purposes for the advertising world; processing of Kokad colour rolls and large formats films for Ektacolour print system for such professional uses as colour showcards for movie theatres and for the advertising industry; the making of colour transparency duplicates for advertising, making dye transfer prints from trans-



The young Rukmini Devi Arundale photographed by Nachi appan, who captured on film all the Kalakshetra personalities and programmes for years.

parencies for use in advertising; making commercial and industrial pictures for advertising and setting up photolab service both for black and white and colour. J. Walter Thomson & Co. was helped to set up its photo lab in the Fifties and this led to the setting up of photo labs by ad agencies all over India. The Kalakshetra photo lab also helped in setting up manual colour photo labs in Hyderabad, Bangalore and Madras for many

The lab also took up microfilm services on a commercial basis for customers like The Hindu, the Oriental Manuscripts Library, the State Archives in Madras and Hyderabad, the Adyar Library, Dr. Swaminatha Iyer Library, the Regional Meteorological Centre, Madras etc.

(Continued on Page 7)

December decibels and death-traps

uite a lot has been said Mand written about the ever-increasing number of sabhas and the consequent number of concerts and concert hours during the Season in Chennai. The decreasing number of listeners at these concerts has also been a topic of discussion in the last few years. One reason, of course, is that supply far exceeds the demand.

There are so many sabhas competing for so few auditoria, so that some concert series even start in late November. So many residential colonies have come up in the peripheral areas of the city and many people have moved out to these colonies from the central part of the metropolis. But most of the available auditoria are concentrated in the Mylapore/T.Nagar areas of the city. Only music lovers within reasonable distances from these halls are willing to attend concerts due to problems of commuting and, nowadays, of security. But how many can this limited audience attend during an extended sea-

of concerts and the audience, there are other aspects to the concert scene that many people do not seem to have thought of. Two aspects that need to be that are acceptable in concert feedback of their own voices or considered have to do with hu- halls and these should be en- instruments. man wellbeing and safety. One forced by the authorities. I am is the sound/noise level at the not talking about the quality of concert halls due to sound but the loudness of it. overamplification and the other

Even a child understands that



A Kalakshetra dance-drama of a time long ago when the December Season was not as hectic as it now is. Kalakshetra is also one of the few places where there is an auditorium safe and sound-friendly. The photograph is another

safety standards in these halls due to overcrowding during the concerts of popular artists. In many a hall, even if the auditorium is somewhat empty, people cannot in times of emergency get out safely in haste. Easily accessible and an adequate number of exits do not exist in

Let us take noise levels first. During the recently concluded season, at least one popular Besides the quality/quantity sabha paid heed to the complaints of a writer and reduced the noise levels. But this was an exception. There are well-defined levels of amplification

is the ever-decreasing level of beyond a point loud noise hurts the ears and grown-ups know that a person can actually get hurt irreversibly by a constant bombardment of the eardrums by high levels of noise.

> There is a real problem here — we are increasingly like the Caribbean islanders in our attitude in such matters — the louder the better (literally and metaphorically). This has become steadily worse in the last 15-20 years. Of course, technical arguments will be advanced on behalf of musicians and listeners for very high amplification levels. And musicians will complain that they do not get

> which should satisfy the musi-

(Continued on Page 6)

NOTHING EXCEEDS LIKE EXCESS

and other festivalmongers have yet to grasp the reality beneath the brouhaha, although they have begun to deplore the poor levels of audience turnout except for a few star performers. And the sponsors have yet to introduce a sense of discrimination in providing the funds.

The 'mad, mad Madras season' has, over the years, expanded to encompass the 4month period beginning on November 1st and concluding on the last day of February. Even those who have begun to speak or write about the excesses of the extravaganza underestimate the numbers. The data assembled by Sruti for the 1997-98 covers only the first three months of that period. Yet, it is clear that the number of organisations conducting festivals, the number of festivals conducted and the number of music and dance performances organised this season will ex-

ne, the sabhanayaka-s ceed the figures for the 1996-97

Here are some details:

Fiftynine organisations conducted 65 festivals during the full period of the 1996-97 season. By the end of January this year, with a month still to go before the season concludes, 57 organisations had already conducted 66 festivals.

The music and dance programmes for the four months of the 1996-97 season totalled 1,732; the score at the end of January this year is 1,954 — and a number of programmes have already been scheduled for February. A conservative estimate is that the final figure for the current season will exceed the previous season's total by about 20 per cent. This is galloping inflation, nothing less.

• The number of music perfor-

season was 1,425. The tally during the current season i already 1,605. The number of dance events during the 1996-97 season was 307. It has already been overtaken with the score at the end o the first three months of the

mances during the 1996-97

On the other hand, the audi ence turnout did not match the increase in the number of programmes; on the con trary. The sparse attendance at many performances is the talk of the town. Over the years, it is the alien invader who have constituted the hard core of the audience.

current season at 351.

The statistics, even at this point, confirm once again that to quote what was said in Srut last year, "It is sheer madness indeed, to boost supply to the extent it has been done when de mand is so inadequate." —

(Courtesy Sruti)

(Quizmaster V.V. RAMA-NAN'S questions are from the period February 1 to 15. Questions 16 to 20 pertain to Chennai.)

1. Name the popular South African Cricketer who called it a day on February 4th.

2. Name the former Union Minister and senior member expelled from Congress (I) for six years. 3. Which Indian temple's replica is being built in Sri Lanka to ward off ill-effects and prevent political turmoil there?

4. Name the legendary lead singer of Beach Boys who passed away recently.

5. Which epic film has been nominated for a record 14 Oscars?

6. What bestselling song lyrics for 1997 were sold for \$442,500 to the Lund Foundation?

7. Name the outfits banned immediately after the Coimbatore blasts.

8. In the recent list of best uni versities, the top university outside the US and in the world is in India and ranked 18th. Which is

9. To which State's people did Mohamed Azharuddin publicly apologise for allegedly calling them 'thieves' during a Ranji Trophy match?

10. To which group of people did the U.N. award \$ 5.5 million as compensation recently?

11. Name the cricketer who became the first No.10 batsmen in 96 years to score a Test century. 12. Name the popular writer and visionary who was knighted shortly before his name was linked with a sexual scandal

13. Who recently became the second oldest winner of a Grand Slam men's singles title when he captured the Australian Open? 14. Name the magazine which has initiated a crusade by publishing a list of offenders contesting the present Parliamentary elec-

15. What dubious distinction did Tripura's cricketer Hemula Yadav achieve recently?

* * * 16. Who is the new Police Com-

missioner of Chennai? 17. Name the city-based sporting

legend whose house was ran

sacked on February 6th. headphones that are not at all 18. Where in city was the State's cumbersome. Also, the artists second Mass Mailing Centre can wear tiny FM microphones on their collars or saree flaps,

opened on February 10th? 19. Name the former Finance Secretary and Professor Emeritus of the Madras Institute of Development Studies who passed away

recently. 20. Where in Chennai was an 'Aarupadai Veedu' Subramanya Temple built over one acre, inau-

gurated recently?

(Answers on p.7)

In Madras and at Home always a Church Unionist



Newbigin who died recently in the UK had a long and reer that lay ahead. distinguished career in the Madras area. A Tamil linguist, he was also a proponent of the unification of the Church in South India and was one of its first

The following are excerpts from his obituary in The Times.

Lesslie Newbigin was an outstanding worker in the cause of Christian reunion. He was elected at the early age of 38 to be one of the first bishops of the Church of South India at the point of union in 1947.

James Edward Lesslie Newbigin was born into comfortable circumstances in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1909. His parents were members of Jesmond Presbyterian Church there. After education at Leighton Park School and Queens' College, Cambridge, he had every intention of entering his father's shipping business. At Cambridge, however, he became caught up in the work of the Student Christian Movement, then in its heyday. Recruited to be the movement's secretary in Glasgow, he went to live with Dr Archie Craig, the chaplain of the university, later the first general secretary of the British Council of Churches.

Newbigin's vision of Christian unity became enlarged. His personal life enjoyed at the time even greater enlargement, for he was able to pursue his growing friendship with another staff member, Helen Henderson, whom he was to marry in 1936.

(Continued from Page 5)

listeners' eardrums. After all

the listener is entitled to listen

to music that is not distorted.

(The fact that the poorer sabhas

cannot afford expensive acous-

tics is another matter). Today's

electronics is such that it is pos-

sible to provide feedback to mu-

sicians through miniaturised

which will ensure a close-to-

deal conveyance of the music

they produce. In such an ar-

rangement, amplification can

be reduced to acceptable levels

and music will be music, not

noise. Most important, our ear-

As for health and safety as-

drums will be spared.

cians as well as protect the

The Right Rev Lesslie It was to be an ideal marriage which enormously supported Newbigin in the demanding ca-

> Both offered themselves for service in the foreign mission of the Church of Scotland in India, although Newbigin's marrige had to await his theological training. This he sought not in a Scottish divinity hall, but in the theological college of the Presbyterian Church of England in which he grew up. There, at Westminister College, Cambridge, his prowess as a student became legendary and he was deeply influenced by the then principal, John Oman, the philosophical theologian.

> Appointed to the Madras area, he became both an expert

by local buses to gain an insight Tamil linguist and a committed evangelist, ready to "live rough" in a way which did not commend itself to all missionaries. His theological prowess swiftly caused him to be drawn into the difficult closing stages of the reunion movement, which had been going on since 1919. At the crucial point of union he became Bishop in Madura and Ramnad, the only former Presbyterian to become a bishop at had flowed. that time. The pastoral simplic-This had two fascinating

prelacy. In 1959 he left India with some reluctance to become

ity with which he interpreted

the office of a bishop of which

he gave a vivid picture in 1951

in his South India Diary, allayed

any Presbyterian suspicions of

In Memoriam

DECEMBER DECIBELS AND DEATH TRAPS

Except for one, the ment for an emergency. With

certs. With no ventilation in such primitive facilities.

method of reunion, setting forth his convictions in an influential book The Reunion of the Church published in 1948. Its second edition in 1960 gave him the opportunity to write a hard-hitting introduction in which he dealt faithfully from his point of view, with the 1958 Lambeth Conference for its discouragement of other Anglican churches from following the same method. Characteristically, his argument was incisively theological rather than pragmatic. It led to a memorable clash between him and Geoffrey Fisher, the Archbishop of Canterbury...

Leaving Madras in 1974, when his service was recognised by his appointment as CBE, he returned to England overland

pects, let us consider the indif-

ferent conditions of our halls.

Tin sheds and asbestos-roofed

halls are common. Sadly,

thatch-roof pandals which still

provide the best acoustics for

our kind of music and which are

ideal for our climate — the

thatch prevents the heat from

filtering in — have gone out of

existence. Remember how nice

it was when the Music Acad-

emy used to organise their se-

ries in the thatch-roof pandals

airconditioned halls do not

switch on the airconditioners

for the daytime ticket-free con-

general secretary of the International Missionary Council, then drawing near to its integration with the World Council of Churches.

Newbigin had already become a notable figure in World Council circles, having served as chairman of the weighty commission on the main theme for the second assembly at Evanston, Illinois, in 1954, and as a vice-chairman of the Commission of Faith and Order.

Newbigin served as an asso-Madras in 1965...

Newbigin was a doughty proponent of the South India

such halls designed for

airconditioners, the artists and

audience get cooked inside the

closed auditorium. As for the

asbestos-roofed halls, the less

said about how hot they get the

better, even though the sides

Most of the halls lack

legspace between rows of seats,

making movement difficult.

With the lack of adequate exits

and with these narrow spaces

between rows of seats, many of

the average age of concertgoers

around 45-50, any emergency is

ciate general secretary of the World Council after integration in 1961 until he was called back to southern India as Bishop in

into both history and geography. He then gave five years service as lecturer in theology at the Shelly Oak Colleges, Birmingham. He courteously declined an invitation to be an assistant bishop in the diocese of Birmingham, and firmly identified himself with the United Reformed Church, into which the Presbyterian Church of England

consequences: the ecumenical leader of worldwide renown being minister of a small congregation near Winson Green prison, 1980-88, and (earlier) the vision of a bishop being presiding officer of a Free Church assembly. He served as Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, 1978-79...

His publication of a short but influential book, The Other Side of 1984, for that year, led to many invitations to lecture across the world, which he did with undiminished zest. He was to write five further books before his death, the last being published in 1995.

He was given honorary doctorates by six universities. His combination of spiritual power, intellectual acumen and evangelical zeal, voked to profound ecumenical commitment, made him one of the outstanding British figures on the world Christian stage in the second half of the century.

He is survived by his wife, Helen, a son (who used to work for Neil Kinnock) and three daughters.

Besides these, there are

other comparatively minor

complaints. There are some

halls which do not have proper

toilet facilities. In other halls

there are continuous prog-

rammes from 9 a.m. — 10 p.m.,

but no canteen facilities. In

some places the temporary

kitchens are so close to the hall

that the cooking smells smart

the throats of both the listeners

and the artists, leading to bouts

of coughing, while the smell of

the smoke from the cooking oil

more people, these health and

safety aspects need to be ad-

dressed to make the year-end

A half century

For a half century, USIS libraries in New Delhi, Of providing American clude a broad range of journals, information Chennai, Calcutta and Mumbai, have been used by millions of Indians in all walks of life, from school students to goverbeen very actively coordinating provide training for a few uninors, chief ministers, senior IAS versity students. Since requests USIS's American studies progofficers, judges, politicians, and like this for professional guidramme. In fact, the library has academics and other leading ance kept coming from several become the centre for research public personalities. These four Indian institutions, a formal inscholars from all over South Inlibraries, with their collective ternship programme was introholdings of about 85,000 books, duced in 1968 at the New Delhi one thousand journals in print library. The libraries in Chen-

nai, Mumbai and Calcutta soon

followed suit. Several Indian

students of library and informa-

tion science have benefitted by

this programme and are cur-

rently occupying important po-

ety and management practices. The USIS library in New Delhi celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1996, the library in Mumbai celebrated its golden jubilee in 1994 and the library in Calcutta in 1993. Established in 1947, the USIS library in Chennai is currently marking its 50th year of service to South Indians; it celebrated its golden jubilee last month.

and electronic form - includ-

ing back issues of many maga-

zines — provide the latest infor-

mation on American life, cul-

ture, government, politics, soci-

Over the last five decades, the Chennai library has grown steadily from a small lending service to a highly effective reference and research facility. Its collection, which started with just 800 volumes, now has more than 24,000 books and subscribes to 127 magazines.

Several years ago, Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, the then Professor of Library Science at the University of Delhi, arranged

dia who meet regularly, exchange ideas and make new

Today, after years of refinement, innovation and marketing techniques, USIS libraries in India are model electronic libraries using state-of-the-art technology. The traditional im-

• by Thomas D. Gradisher

sitions in India and abroad. It has become a common practice for library science students of leading universities in India to visit a USIS library for orientation as part of their learning USIS libraries also have

extensive outreach services. This is usually done through book and article discussions, satellite TV programmes and telephone conferences, in addition to individualised book and article promotions. The four libraries in India specialise in specific areas in providing information: Over the past several with the American library to years, the library in Chennai has

age of USIS libraries as "book bound" has changed over the years with the addition of new services and new technology, such as the CD-ROM and access to online databases. This includes bibliographic, indexing and textual databases, and di-

The combined resources of all the American Centre libraries in India can be accessed through the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC). Proquest General Periodicals OnDisc offers access to almost 1,000 titles in abstract and index form, with nearly 400 of them available in full-text format. The titles in- beginnings.

business and public policy and many other subject areas.

To keep pace with the fast

growing Information Technology (IT) industry, the Chennai library is currently concentrating on introducing a Bulletin Board System (BBS) as a pilot project for institutional members. Once it becomes fully functional, these members can have remote access to the OPAC as well as other library resources. The BBS will be of great use to the outstation members who can browse the library catalog without visiting the library. Very soon, it, along with the Internet, will open new and exciting vistas of information retrieval and usuage for library members.

The Centre has also set up a multimedia system and has ten very popular multimedia databases. Patrons are allowed to use these PCs to access them for research purposes. In order to keep pace with

current trends in the world of information technology, the USIS libraries are transforming themselves into the vibrant pro-active and sophisticated "Information USA System" This system is a network of information resources about the United States and provides seamless access to state-of-theart electronic databases.

All this is a far cry from the

Ballad of the ballot

The fashionable question on evry lip with indelible ink on index finger tip is have you cast your vote in this election.

Thereby hangs a tale, dear friend, what with frequent change of my residence I leave behind a trail of votes uncast.

I did, I did inform the pundits with long forms and affidavits. alas the administration denies me cognizance.

But hope does spring in my heart eternal for something tells me soon, very soon I shall have my chance at the hustings.

Combines and coalitions of fair weather friends and unholy alliances will join and break and form governments periodically ad infinitum

And like the student who takes twice annually his examinations every September and March we'll have failed governments and vote begging politicians.

Padmini Natarajan

THE MAN WHO MADE PRINTING AN ART/CRAFT

(Continued from Page 5)

When offset technology began replacing traditional letterpress in India in the Sixties, Nachiappan decided to stick with letterpress and made in a craft. And today remains one of the outstanding letterpress printers in the world.

A whole new generation of artists, poets and publishers came to Kalakshetra searching for precisely what they could not find in modern technology, the handmade quality of craftsmanship that spoke of another era. By stepping back, into the world of monotype, collotype, four colour letter press and engraving, hand sewn bindings and the like, Nachiappan and Kalakshetra Publications set niche in printing technology.

most artistic work is the book created for artist Franscesco Clemente called "Udue Clemente Flamina Pulsae". The illustrations were printed as Akademi till March 6th.

colour plates and tipped into the book. Decorative borders surrounding the images were printed in letterpress of brightly coloured handmade paper from Pondicherry. The signatures were hand sewn and the binding cloth was handmade khadi. Franscesco Clemente then came back to Kalakshetra to work on a larger format publication, "Franscesco Clemente Pinxit". And he has kept coming back. And several others seeking the excellence of printing as a craft that's an art have kept coming. Kalakshetra Publications is

now celebrating its fiftieth year and the Golden Jubilee celebrations are being marked by are dramas, some landmark print Nachiappan, like the prints of Franscesco Clemente and his famous Hanuman series. The exhibition is on at the Lalit Kala

TN: A MAJOR A-POWER STATE? ties has been obtained for Russia, Chidambaram allayed (Continued from Page 1) fears that India is buying reac-Kudangulam after the Environ-

putting the project in limbo. However, life was infused into the project in 1995 with the Russian Federation agreeing to offer its expertise but on modified terms. Russia will now restrict itself to the supply of design, plant and other equipment instead of executing the entire project on a turnkey basis as was originally agreed. The civil and other engineering works will now have to be handled by

The deal, it is stated, would revitalise the Russian nuclear industry, but India too will benefit, 85 per cent of the Rs.11,400 crore project being on a soft loan basis.

The Russians are expected to submit a Detailed Project Report (DPR) within two years Report is approved. Rs.200 crore has been allocated in the IX Plan for the DPR.

Necessary clearance from the pollution control authori-

mental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies were conducted. According to Chidambaram. the required land has also been acquired for the project about 25 km for Kanniyakumari

Two options are being examined for the disposal of spent fuel. While the IGA talks of sending back the spent fuel to Russia, India is not averse to reprocessing it here. Spent fuel from a light water reactor can be reprocessed, as it will contain 2 per cent Uranium, thereby enabling it to be used as a feed-

is buying identical reactors from

tors no longer on the production line. Stating that these reactors are very different from the Chernobyl reactor, Chidambaram explained that the Kudangulam reactors would be provided with leak-tight containments consisting of 1.2 m thick pre-stressed concrete and 8 mm-thick steel lining on the inside, so that, in the unlikely event of an accident, the reactors will be isolated from the

environment. Chidambaram also disclosed during his visit to Chennai that plans were being drawn up for a Pointing out that China too 6.3 million litre/day desalination plant at Kalpakkam.

Answers to Quiz

son; 5. Titanic; 6. Candle in the Wind; 7. Al-Umma and All India lihad Committee; 8. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; 9. Bihar; 10. The victims of the Gulf war of 1991; 11. Pat Symcox; 12.

Arthur C. Clarke; 13. Petro Korda; 14. Outlook; 15. First batsman in first class cricket to be timed out. * * *

16. P. Kalimuthu; 17. Ramanathan Krishnan; 18. Anna Road P.O.; 19. S. Guhan; 20. Tiru-

at the P.S. High School these halls are death traps. which pervades the atmosphere exhibition of photographs of grounds? With the sides open Look carefully and you will also of signing the agreement and 1. Dave Richardson; 2. Buta is not conducive to the comfortthey are also the best accommothe course for a very unique Rukmini Devi and her dancenotice that many concert halls the Indian Government will go Singh; 3. Sri Ranganathaswamy able listening of music. dation for people to escape from do not maintain the standard Temple at Srirangam; 4. Carl Wilahead with the project if the Kalakshetra Publications' ing work undertaken b in case of emergency. If our concerts are to attract minimum firefighting equip-

> celebrations less worrisome. bound to cause problems with Lakshmi Venkatraman

A sporting declaration sets up NOSTALGIA

When Mark Taylor's Australians take on Azharuddin's Indians in the first match of the 3-Test Pepsi Cricket Series at Chennai's M.A. Chidambaram stadium from March 6th, there'll be only one player on each team who will remember what it was like in the middle during the last Test the two countries played at Chepauk. That was in September 1986, and it was one of the most famous matches of all time, the second tied Test. It was a thriller which Azharuddin and Steve Waugh — and many in the crowd — will remember...

The several milestones reached during the match were overshadowed by the events that occurred on September 22nd, the last day of the Test when the game ended in a dramatic tie off the penultimate ball of the Test match. The only other instance in which a Test ended in a tie was the December 1960 West Indies-Australia Test at Brisbane, which also ended with the penultimate ball of the match.

What set up the excitement and thrills of the last day? "It was the sporting and bold declaration by Border", feels former Test medium pacer T.A. Sekar, who adds that "the Australians played positive cricket and went for a result". "It was the courageous effort from Dean Jones, who used his feet very well against the spinners," feels former South Zone batsman V. Sivaramakrishnan. And the dubious decision against Maninder Singh was responsible for the thrill of a tie, feel many who were part of the crowd on that day of exciting cricket. When the match started, however, there was no promise of the thrills to come.

Batting first, Australia piled up 574 for 7 declared on a perfect batting pitch. Tasmanian David Boon (122) and skipper Allan Border (106) scored centuries, but the highlight of the Australian first innings was the courageous 210 by Victorian Dean Jones in his maiden Test appearance against India. The stadium was a cauldron. It was

• by G. Krishnan

always at least two degrees Centigrade hotter inside the concrete-and-steel enclosed ground with no means for cooling breezes to reach the middle. And that was a particularly hot September. Jones suffered the most from the conditions. Despite suffering from dehydration, vomiting, leg cramps and stomach upsets, he determinedly battled the Madras heat, never giving up. "And Border extracted the best from him, keeping him going through the worst," recalls former Test off-spinner M. Venkatramana.

India replied with 397. Srikkanth, Azharuddin and Ravi Shastri scored half centuries but it required a captain's knock from Kapil Dev (119 from 138 balls) to save India from a follow-on. It was vintage Kapil Dev, according to former international cricket umpire R.V. Ramani.

Australia struggled a bit in

the second innings but were a comfortable 170 for 5 on the fourth day of the Test when Border, to the surprise of everyone, declared the innings closed before play on the final morning. As news of Border's declaration spread, the crowd began to build up at the stadium. And after lunch the stadium was packed to watch the Indian run-chase.

Chasing 348 to win at four runs per over from a maximum of 87 overs, India began in style with Srikkanth knocking the ball all over the ground for a quickfire 39. Gavaskar and Amarnath added 103 runs for the second wicket that laid the foundation for India's charge for victory. Gavaskar missed his century by 10 runs. Ravi Shastri kept his cool throughout and closed up one end. Azharuddin pitched in with 42 and C.M. Sharma added 23.

The climax set in when last man Maninder Singh joined Shastri with India four runs from victory. India required two runs from four balls in the last over when Shastri took a single and ensured that India did not lose. And that's when off-spinner Greg Mathews trapped Maninder lbw and history was created at Chepauk where so much history had been written from the first days of India Cricket.

To this day there are mixed reactions to Shastri taking that last run and giving Maninder, a batting 'rabbit', the strike. "He played it safe and ensured that India did not lose," says Sunil



The umpire's finger is up, Maninder Singh is out and the Test is tied, only for the second time in the history of the game. The only picture taken of that historical decision, this one was clicked by amateur-photographer MALA MUKHERJEE, who regularly exhibits her work.

Subramaniam, the left arm spinner who is the third highest Tamil Nadu wicket-taker in Ranji Trophy cricket and no mean bat. Cricket enthusiast Ramachandran, who was present on the last day at the popular 'D' stand, however recollects Shastri's role and says emphatically, "He did the wrong thing by taking that single and let the nervous Maninder face the bowling. If it hadn't been for that, India would have won."

Sunil Subramaniam, who missed his college final exams because of the Test, however feels, "Australia deserved to win the Test as they bowled us out twice, which we could not do to them, and for the way Border led during the tense moments, keeping a cool head". And former Test opener W.V. Raman sums up the Test, "There was everything in that Test, the Dean Jones double century in boiler conditions, the brilliant hundred by Kapil, good spin bowling by Mathews, the sporting declaration by Allan Border and that dubious lbw decision. We could not have asked for a better result than a tie." Border was to say later, "It was a fantastic result which did justice to a great game".

five wickets in each innings to make it 10 for 249 in aggregate. His spinning partner, Ray Bright, took the other five wickets in the Indian second innings. Sunil Gavaskar became the first player to appear in one hundred consecutive Tests and Ravi Shastri achieved the double of 100 Test wickets and 2000 Test runs during this historic Test. And Dean Jones and Kapil Dev shared the Man of the Match award for their cen-

Will we see a match like that again a few days hence? The result, almost definitely not. But why shouldn't it be a thriller?

It's a hot March — and it'll be hotter in the Chepauk coauldron. But both teams can handle warm conditions, though it might not make for high individual scores. After the Indore pitch debacle, the Kingston pitch drama and the mysterious boot marks on our own Chepauk pitch during the Delhi-Tamil Nadu Ranji Trophy match, the pitch could be the focus of much interest. But curator Parthasarathy says, "I will prepare a sporting pitch" and Kapil Dev, Chairman of the BCCI's Pitches and Grounds Committee promises that all will be well.

Raman feels the series will go in favour of India, but is quick to point out that it will depend on the kind of pitches we produce. Sunil Subramaniam, however thinks, 'Shane Warne will be a major obstacle for In-Greg Mathews picked up dia". He however expects the series to end in a draw as "neither team is likely to dismiss the other twice". But whatever the result — and Chepauk usually produces results — a good game can be expected Chepauk has always assured that.

