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# MEETING GROUND

Racketeering in women. Sounds familiar, doesn't it? There was the celebrated Kamala, 'bought' by an intrepid journalist who exposed the selling of women. . . as so much cattle. Then there is the constant stream of young and good-looking girls, lured and exploited by pimps — girls who enter the portals of prostitution never to come out again. Somewhere between the two come the notorious Gulf marriages and what probably started out as a happy solution to a family's problems has now become a nightmare of the worst kind. And it is in the insouciant, leisurely and cultured city of Hyderabad that the sordid drama is played out almost daily, against a background of large families, abject poverty and the eagerness to get a daughter married. Old, much-married

bridegrooms from oil-rich countries and young, very young brides who part with their family — and their virginity — for a maxi and a pair of high heels. . . and at the end of the 'rainbow' is a fake marriage and disillusionment.

Mention leprosy and a shudder runs through the bravest and most broad-minded of people. This affliction which puts the patient beyond the pale of society seems to be rampant in India. Now, an anti-leprosy vaccine has been developed and the results have been most encouraging.

Mahatma Gandhi's grandson, Arun, recalls for us his childhood glimpses of Madeleine Slade, the Englishwoman who came to be known as Mirabehn and who, for over three decades, served Babu and India.

# RUNTHROUGH

## Cover:

Rani Advani  
Photograph: Taiyeb Badshah  
VOL. XXVI NO. 40, Bombay  
October 2 — 8, 1982



## GULF MARRIAGES 12

It's a phenomenon that's sweeping Hyderabad. Here the girls still dream of husbands from oil-rich countries. And this is when the vultures gather and a racket called 'fake marriages' begins. . . We report from Hyderabad.

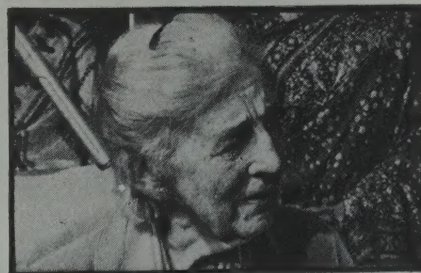
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## A VACCINE FOR LEPROSY 19

This week, which has been declared Leprosy Week, we report on an anti-leprosy vaccine recently developed by the Cancer Research Institute of the Tata Memorial Centre, Bombay. In a country which has the largest number of leprosy patients, this constitutes a major advance.

## GANDHIJI'S LIEUTENANT 37

She was a British admiral's daughter who was inspired by Gandhiji and dedicated her life to his work.

## ALSO

Missing link — page 10. Dolls to love and remember — page 11. Eve today — page 17. 'Mareechika' ban order — page 20. Wall hangings — page 21. Encourage your child to read — page 23. Travel-a-round — page 31. Crime — page 38. The young ones — page 40. On record — page 44. Hiya honey — page 47. Ask the doctor — page 49.

## WEEKLY FEATUERS

Your page — page 7. Feedback — page 9. Comics — page 14. Short story — page 26. Fashion — page 28. Cookery — page 33. Jokes — page 48. Frankly speaking — page 51. People and events — page 52. Horoscope — page 54.

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
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## NAGGING WIFE

1st PRIZE

Willy nilly, the Indian middle-class male has now come to accept the 'phenomenon' — novelty, if you please — of a working wife. He is sensible enough to acknowledge her very vital contribution towards maintaining a certain minimum standard of living which provides, among other things, a good education for the children. However, a situation may arise which will queer the pitch for a happy married life, as it has happened in my case.

Both of us come from average, middle-class Bihari stock. We are in our mid-forties and have been blessed with three, well-behaved children. I am a college teacher, while my wife works as a secretary to the Managing Director of a large industrial house.

Lately, she has been going out of her way to impress upon me the wide disparity in income and social status between her boss and me. In any discussion — which inevitably degenerates into an argument — she never fails to belittle and denigrate me on this score, even in the presence of our children. Incidentally her own income is more than mine — a fact which I have never resented.

Don't you think that by thus comparing me with her boss — which I do resent — she is violating the very sanctity of marriage?

'A WRONGED HUSBAND', New Delhi

If your unsigned letter is not a figment of the imagination then, yes, your wife is certainly not being fair. However, there just might be provocations and you may not be the goody-two-shoes that your letter suggests. Perhaps you are lethargic, devoid of ambition, sanctimonious and consumed with anger and envy? One can never tell. Anyway, we give you the benefit of the doubt...

## UNCLE WHO?

2nd PRIZE

The shoe, at last, is on the other foot. It's the men who are now hiding their age under dyed hair, overgrown sideburns, large-sized goggles and other kinky get-up like denims, safari suits and handbags. You name it, they're wearing it. Most of them hold high-powered executive jobs, are married and have growing kids. But just ask them their age and it's "thirty" if you please! They turn up their noses if they are addressed as "uncle" but call every married woman "didi" or "bhabhi"

even if she is young enough to be their daughter.

In the light of the changed circumstances, one feels one should change the age-old dictum thus:

A man is as young as he looks

A woman is as young as she thinks or feels!

SHOMA CHATTERJI, Bombay

Are they really hiding their age? Good for them! Now they'll have to spruce up and get about instead of being old fuddy-duddies who always complain: "I'm too tired to go out."

## TOPSY-TURVY

3rd PRIZE

Old proverbs are outdated. Example is better than precept. I am compulsively systematic and punctual. My children eat, bathe and sleep at odd hours and reach the station at eleven for a ten-thirty train. They, however, catch it because the driver is of the same genre. Slow and steady never wins the race. The refreshed hare leaps to victory leaving the plodder behind. A stitch in time means no new clothes. Procrastination is the thief of time, but the more you put off the less you have to do. Somebody does your chores. Instead of being dangerous, a little knowledge goes a long way. You get an impressive aura of learning, declaiming on every subject. Never look before you leap. See what happened to all the cowards who looked. Honesty is the best policy...my foot! Point out you have under-charged and you are considered a nut fit for the strait jacket. Count all your chickens before they are hatched to get admission in to the nursery, goods on the instalment plan and a house in your old age. But one thing: the child is the father of the man. Children dictate and parents obey.

LAKSHMY SUBRAHMANIAN, Trichur

Everything changes — so why not old proverbs and precepts. Too long have we been fed on the old fairy tales. And on set rules and regulations: do this, don't do that. Time now to do a little re-thinking. So, let the hare win the race — he deserves to for being so alive and sprightly.

## THE SOLUTION

The Central and Western railway locals ply full to the brim. At peak hours people hang out precariously. Ladies' compartments are no better. Sometimes the

hanger-straps meant for support are missing. Recently in a ladies' compartment, only the main middle pole was available for support and the first four 'hangers' were missing. The women were screaming as they were in danger of being pushed out. It was a pathetic and dangerous situation. By now it is evident that it is no longer possible for the railway authorities to give a better deal to the ever-increasing commuters. Hence, a solution has to be found.

Employers can give a helping hand — why not try it? An example: people staying in Virar/Borivli/Kalyan etc. and employed in banks and post offices in the Fort area travel all the way to town despite having branches/offices in the suburbs. The same is the case with college students. Why can't all these people be posted/admitted close to their place of residence?

Thousands of people could benefit and thereby save time, energy and precious money. This would also bring tremendous relief to the railways and buses. Employers also would have better attendance from their employees.

Employers, rise to the occasion — it's a worthy cause!

I. FERNANDES, Bombay

This idea is being strongly mooted in many quarters. It could certainly lead to decongestion, maybe afford a better quality of life to all these people who are rushing, rushing, morning and evening. We sincerely hope something can be done.

## SILENT SUFFERERS

This has reference to your recent letter "Shackles and Shrouds" (Eve's Weekly, August 7) and your query "Adams, are you listening?"

Yes, we are listening and a bit amused at your outburst. What do you know of how much a husband suffers at the hands of his wife and his mother-in-law? How I wish some of you could change places with your husbands and see what they feel. A man, once he gets married is presumed to have become a callous fellow for his own sisters and parents on the one hand and for his wife and in-laws, on the other. I say Eves are no better than the worst kind of husbands. While you shout at the top of your voice, Adam keeps suffering silently.

BRIJ BEDI, Amritsar

Hush! Adam, you are shouting, not suffering silently. So you wish women could step into your shoes? Beware, some wishes have a way of being fulfilled...

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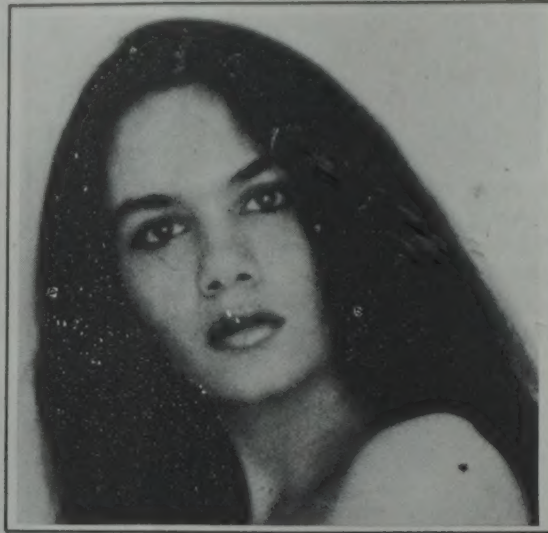
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## SELF-PITY AND SUICIDE

A lot of us at some time in our domestic, academic or employed life come across frustration because of others. Can't one build up enough tolerance to withstand misery — or is committing suicide the only answer? I refer to your special report on Sujata Ghosh's suicide (August 14). Some people are extremely sensitive and the slightest amount of criticism or ill-treatment brings about an inordinate amount of self-pity. Suicide is an extreme but very effective step for arousing remorse in the person who has caused the trouble and makes onlookers sympathise with the victim.

Neglect of the sort indicated by Sujata Ghosh, as well as partiality, is commonplace in a number of institutions, as can be testified by a large number of students and research scholars. Miss Ghosh should have taken the matter with the higher authorities and tried for a change of guide — surely not everyone was against her. I personally feel that reports like yours give a lot of incentive for sympathy-seekers to become potential suicide victims. Is it not more appropriate to study the issue more thoroughly and see if there really are "people responsible for Sujata



Ghosh's misery" which then, of course, needs to be publicised.

**S. Pillai,**  
Mysore

## DESTITUTES AND PROSTITUTES

The Nari Niketan (August 7) reminded me of a dismal and dingy dungeon of despondency and destitution. Are these women imprisoned only to take to prostitution at a later date or are they mere pawns of some larger agency? Sometimes, I accuse the women also for this irresponsible state of affairs. When you report about a women's hostel, it stinks of

prostitution; when you write about a women's college, there is always an odour of sexual orgies; when you complain about a women's organisation, there is always a halo of corruption, malpractice, maladministration, et al. When you are vociferously advocating women's lib, why should these things occur? Are our women leaders crooks and their followers timid and innocent? Why can't this country take the help of born leaders like Mrinal Gore? If women are incapable of defending themselves, how can they trust men, who generally hover around them like vultures?

It is commendable that a free press like yours exposes the hypocrites, but mere exposure can never be the remedy for the malady.

**U. S. Iyer,**  
Bombay

## I BEG TO DIFFER

The letter entitled 'Shackles & Shrouds' by Usha Wadha for 'Your Page' (August 7) makes interesting reading but it is not very thought-provoking.

I would like to make a few comments on her letter. Pre-historic man kept his woman, literally, on a G-string and did not order her to wear anything inconven-

ient or cumbersome, as Usha Wadha suggests. Intelligent women pin up or tuck loose pallavs when doing strenuous work. I have not heard women complain that bangles hinder their work. And who says it is the privilege of men to wear their hair short — in fact, years ago men sported long hair. To my mind the only reason women wear high heels is to look taller. Usha Wadha should put it out of her head that we, men, are laughing at her sex.

**Anil K. Roy,**  
Allahabad

## AN EYE-OPENER

'Mistress On A Three-Year Contract' (July 31) made interesting reading and provoked one to think on the subject.

Like most Hindi films, it had a happy ending for the hero and the heroine, but what happens to a country girl? It is doubtful that her parents will ever accept her back after such a marriage. If she is uneducated she will have problems in finding a job. Can you imagine the state of an innocent girl like that left on the streets? I hope this article will serve as an eye-opener for all Indians who still believe in child marriage.

**Sanjay Rath,**  
Bhubaneswar

## NEXT WEEK

### ISSUE OF OCTOBER 9, 1982

#### Dowry : An Explosion Of Anger

For the first time in years we have reason to be optimistic. Ordinary people, women and men, are coming out into the streets to protest against dowry deaths, they are storming the citadels of middle-class respectability by shouting slogans outside households in which dowry deaths have occurred. Women's organisations are campaigning for more stringent laws and urging people to boycott marriages in which a dowry has been given. PLUS : We report on two recent cases of young brides being killed — the Saharanpur murder case and the Rita Khurana case. In both, the murderers have been brought to book.

#### Martharpakhady : Far From The Maddening Crowd

It's a serene 19th century village in the teeming heart of Bombay. A lifestyle feature.

#### Women's Voices

Bharati Raj hopes to climb the executive lad-



der — as high as possible. "I cannot see why women cannot be ambitious and move up. Most of them do not even want promotions, they work only for the money..."

#### Are Women Too Romantic For Their Own Good?

A Sounding Off feature

#### Encourage Your Child To Read — IV

Why does your child fail to read? Continuing our cut-and-keep series.

#### When Women Solve Crime

Introducing a three-part series on true incidents, where women have taken an initiative in solving crime. Next week: Kusum Lele working as a clerk in the Girgaum branch of the Sangli Bank, discovers one day that fraudulent cheques were being accepted and encashed by the bank. She decides to investigate...

Plus all our regular features

## MISSING LINK

Since this column started, we have been able to help many consumers redress their grievances and have exposed some of the malpractices of dealers and manufacturers. However, sometimes we have received complaints from consumers and have been unable to help because the problem has often arisen because of the consumer's ignorance or carelessness.

One of the most common failings on the part of the consumer is not checking the guarantee card properly. At the time of purchase, you must check that the date of purchase together with the dealer's correct name and address is stamped on the guarantee card. Without this, no manufacturer is willing to concede a replacement or give any other compensation as there is no confirmation that your complaint is within the guarantee period or even that you have purchased it from a bonafide dealer.

Another thing it is important to check for are the items excluded from the guarantee, that is, the parts unguaranteed. Also, often, the most expensive parts have a knack of breaking down

just after the guarantee period has expired. If there is a way of checking out these parts, such checks should be done within the guarantee period to ensure longevity of your purchase. One such common complaint concerns refrigerators. Even after our publishing some precautionary measures in the 'Missing Link' of June 5, 1982, many readers have written in regarding complaints about their refrigerators.

Briefcases are another cause of dissatisfaction with consumers. The part that wears off fastest is the portfolio. This used to be guaranteed, but recently the manufacturers have exempted it from their guarantee. Thus it would be worth your while to check it out at the time of purchase or use it very carefully.

People have also written about keychains, pens and cassettes found missing from their cars. If

you think back, you will find that this mysterious disappearance took place when your car was at the garage for servicing or minor repairs. It is a plain case of theft, so if you don't want to lose them check your car thoroughly before giving it to a garage.

There are also a great many complaints about negligent medical services. Unscrupulous doctors or hospital staff could take advantage of a patient's ignorance. Sometimes tests that ought to be carried out, are not, with disastrous consequences.

Some adults develop allergic reactions to creams and baby lotions and question their safety when used on babies. But, it's possible that the adults may be allergic to some other product they have been exposed to which has made them less tolerant to any kind of external application, not necessarily the baby lotion.

Also the normal skin which is slightly acidic in nature can become alkaline due to an illness or excessive washing with soap, and then will break out in infection or rash due to application of cream or lotion, especially the perfumed variety. Hence, if you are a person who washes her hands frequently it is better to avoid perfumed varieties of soaps, cream and lotions however much you may favour them. The fewer chemicals that touch your body, the better. Also, in such a case, choose a cream which is slightly acidic to counteract the alkalinity, the acids usually used being ascorbic, citric or lactic acid. And, of course, do not forget the patch test. Try out the new cream/lotion on the inside of the arm where the skin is very sensitive. If discomfort is felt, remove at once. If not, leave on for at least eight hours then you know it is safe for you to use. In such cases, the product itself has nothing to do with your reaction. It is the tolerance test alone which determines whether the product is safe for you or not.

**Problems often arise because of the consumer's own ignorance or carelessness.**

**Check your products and use those containing chemicals sparingly, cautions**

**SHOBHA IDNANI**

## PROTECT YOURSELF AS A CONSUMER

### CONSUMER SERVICE COUPON

Do you have any queries/complaints regarding any product or service? Let us know. If we can follow it up with the manufacturer or agency in Bombay, we will do it for you. All queries / complaints must be typed double-space, and explained in detail. They should be addressed to 'Missing Link', Eve's Weekly, Peraj Building, Bombay Samachar Marg, Bombay 400 023, and must be accompanied by this coupon.





# TOYS TO LOVE AND REMEMBER

## POODLE

### MATERIALS:

Raymond's knitting wool "Golden Dream" 4 ply: 3 balls White, 1 ball Black (25 grams each). 2 Blue Buttons for eyes, crochet hook No. 10, Cotton wool for stuffing.

### MEASUREMENTS:

Height 34 cm.

### ABBREVIATIONS:

ch. = chain; dc. = double crochet; tr. = treble; rep. = repeat; inc. = increase; dec. = decrease; s.s. = slip stitch; st. = stitch.

N.B.: Use double wool throughout.

### BASE

With White wool work 4 ch. and work 7 tr. in 4th ch. from hook, s.s. to 4th ch. to form a ring.

**2nd round:** 2 ch., 1 tr. in next st., 2 tr. in each st., s.s. to top of 2 ch., (16 sts.);

**3rd round:** 2 ch., \* 1 tr. in next tr., 2 tr. in next tr., rep. from \* all round, s.s. to top of 2 ch;

**4th round:** 2 ch. \* 1 tr. in each of next 2 tr., 2 tr. in next tr., rep. from \* all round, s.s. to top of 2 ch., fasten off.

### BODY

Start at base with White wool work a row of 40 ch., join with a s.s. to form a ring.

**1st row:** 3 ch., 1 tr. in each ch. to end;

**2nd row:** Insert hook in first tr. and work 1 dc. \* hold the wool with left hand index finger in front of work to form a loop, pull wool through next st. and complete dc. rep. from \* till end, s.s. to top of first st.

Rep. 1st and 2nd rows 8 times more but when working the loop st. row, take 2 strands of White and 1 strand of Black wool in next 2 loop st. rows, 1 strand of White and 1 strand of Black in following loop rows.

**Shape Head:** Continue to work 1st and 2nd rows with 1 Black and 1 White strand for the loop

rows till these 2 rows are worked 4 times more, at the same time dec. 5 sts. evenly in each tr. row. Fasten off and sew up top of head. (Pull all loops to make work firm). Stuff head and body and attach to the base.

**Muzzle:** With White wool work 2 ch. and in 2nd ch. from hook work 8 dc.

**Next round:** 1 ch., work 2 dc. in each dc. Work 6 more rounds (working a round of dc. and a loop st. round alternately). For first round of loops use White wool only and for following 2 rounds use Black and White.

Continued on page 15

The phenomena are known as 'Gulf marriages' in Hyderabad. It is a tale of large families, abject poverty and very little chances of rising out of it especially for the girls. At least the men can work but for the girls there is nothing to look forward to except a husband who would look after them. The men from oil rich countries seem like a boon to them, for the whole family in fact. But it takes no time for the vultures to gather, to prey on the young girls and their families. And a racket called 'fake marriages' begins.

Noor Mohamed and his wife Shamin Begum (the names of all the victims and their place of residence have been changed to protect their identity) lived near Pune but a land dispute arose between Noor Mohamed and his brother. Noor Mohamed decided to leave the village and moved to Hyderabad four years ago taking with him his family of wife, seven daughters and one son. They settled down at Barkatpura and Noor began earning his living as a barber. He earned about Rs. 15 per day. The family had been better off in their native village, their eldest daughter Mehar had been to school and had studied upto the seventh standard. Life was difficult and Mehar at 18 years of age had to be married respectably. There was not enough money for that and there were six other daughters to think of. The son was still young, it would be many years before he could be of help to his father.

Then one day a woman called Aliyabi entered their poverty-stricken lives. She seemed to be a blessing in disguise when she spoke of the easy comfortable life in the Gulf countries. Aliyabi told of the men who were looking for respectable, good girls to marry and take to their country. The bridegroom would present his bride with a bride price and Aliyabi tempted them with the thought of a good sum of money with which Noor Mohamed could set up a hair-cutting saloon. It would make all the difference in their lives, they would be able to provide for all the other girls. Aliyabi promised to help them out. She told them of the Arabs who came to Bombay — there were better chances of marriage in Bombay than in Hyderabad where there were large numbers of parents looking for grooms for their daughters. Out of the goodness of her heart, Aliyabi told the hapless couple caught in her merciless spinning, she would take Mehar



**Promises of a rosy future prompt the bride and her family to agree eagerly to this phenomenon called Gulf marriage. But recent police investigations revealed just how outrageously the girls are duped.**  
**SHUBHA SINGH reports from Hyderabad**

and her mother to Bombay and arrange a match for their daughter. She would also pay their fares to Bombay, after all, they could repay her when their daughter married a rich Arab with all the money and gifts she would be sending back to them. By this time Noor Mohamed and Shamin were well and truly caught in Aliyabi's glittering web and one day in September 1981, Mehar and Shamin accompanied Aliyabi to Bombay.

They went to Bombay with a lot of eager anticipation and some secret apprehensions. The reports from the Gulf countries had been mixed. Some of the girls were very happy but there had also been tales of ill-treatment, but, they rationalised, it was the same in India as well. Some girls were well settled and some were unhappy, it was all a matter of faith and this was the only way out for them.

# When Arabian Dreams Turn Into Nightmares



## Those Arab men & their many wives

DOHA (Qatar), September 7 (PTI): Over 60 per cent of United Arab Emirates men, who have married foreign women, have been married five to eight times, according to an official survey.

The survey also revealed that nearly 20 per cent of the men with foreign wives have local wives as well.

The survey was conducted by the UAE ministry of labour and social affairs following public concern over the number of UAE men marrying foreign women.

According to the survey, 70 per cent of the foreign wives are either of Indian or Egyptian origin, with Indian women proving most popular with UAE men.

Among UAE men married to foreign wives, the majority are over 40-year-old and some are aged between 70 and 80 years. However, the majority of foreign wives are less than 25-year-old, the report notes, with over half less than 20-year-old.

One case uncovered by the survey was of a UAE national who at the age of 55 had been married five times and his sixth wife was an Indian girl, aged 14.

The survey attributes the preference to foreign wives to a number of factors, including the high amount of dowry for local wives and the blind obedience of a foreign wife who is afraid of being divorced and deported.

In Bombay Mehar was married in the proper religious manner to a 50-year-old Arab who gave his name as Abeed Bin Barkat. Barkat paid Rs. 2,500 for the wedding expenses and bride price. Out of this sum Rs. 500 was paid to Aliyabi, the rest went to Hussain Abdul Khaliq, the agent in whose house the nikah ceremony took place. Mehar left to start her married life with the man she believed to be her husband. They lived in a posh hotel for six days where the marriage was consummated. Then Barkat left her at Hussain's house saying that he had to go to Delhi for a few days and would then return for Mehar.

Khaliq had given Rs. 200 to Shamin and after waiting with Mehar for a week Shamin left for Hyderabad. They had paid Rs. 14 a day for food and expenses at Hussain's house. Mehar stayed on for her 'husband' to return.

After about a month Noor Mohamed received a letter from Hussain Khaliq that his son-in-law was in Bombay and wanted to meet Noor Mohamed. Noor arrived in Bombay and was told some story. He finally took his daughter and returned to Hyderabad. It took the unfortunate family some time to understand fully that they had been the dupes of vile tricksters. They returned home without any money as whatever had been given to Shamin had been paid to Khaliq as daily expenses. Mehar is now married and lives in a village in a different state. Her husband is probably not aware of this past experience of his wife.

Sixteen-year-old Nisha Begum was another victim of this gang. Nisha Begum's father Sharief Sab lives in the old city. He earns his livelihood as a cycle-repairer, earning about Rs. 5-10

per day. About a year ago Nisha and her mother Pasha Bee were taken to Bombay where Nisha Begum was married to 53-year-old Salam Sayeed of Muscat. Pasha Bee returned home after the wedding. Salam Sayeed and Nisha lived together for 10 days, after which he told Nisha that he had to go away for some time. He gave her Rs. 90 as travelling expenses and asked her to return to Hyderabad till he came for her. Nisha Begum came back to Hyderabad and is still waiting for her 'husband' to come and take her away to his home. Nisha Begum was fortunate in the sense that she was given some money so she could return home. In many cases the poor girls were left with no money. The girls rescued by the Hyderabad police had no money. They were brought back with the help of funds donated by the Hyderabad Wakf Board and other private parties.

The family of Mumtaz fell victim to these operators of fake marriages twice. Syed Ali works as a driver in a private company earning Rs. 200. He and his wife Zahira Bee fell for the glowing promises of the gang's agent Aliyabi. Aliyabi persuaded them into taking their 20-year-old elder daughter Mumtaz to Bombay. Zahira and her daughter stayed at Hussain Khaliq's house for 15 days. But Zahira Bee was a little suspicious and did not approve of any of the candidates. She was not satisfied with the replies of the prospective groom when she enquired whether he would look after her daughter all his life. So, Zahira and Mumtaz returned home.

After some months Aliyabi reappeared in their lives. She tempted them again saying that this time there was a fresh lot of candidates with much better prospects. So it was decided to try again and the three women left for Bombay. On January 3, 1982, a nikah took place between Mumtaz aged 20 and Ahmed Abbas Ghuloom aged 56. Ghuloom paid Rs. 3000 to the organisers and the newly-wedded couple left for Miraj where they spent a month. Then Ghuloom sent Mumtaz back to Hyderabad.

Satisfied with the match for Mumtaz, Syed Ali and Zahira agreed to get their younger daughter married as well. So one week after the unsuspecting Mumtaz returned from Miraj, her 17-year-old sister Naseem left for Bombay. Within days she was

# THE LITTLE WOMAN



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## TOYS TO LOVE AND REMEMBER

Continued from page 11

Stuff and sew in place on to the head.

### Back Legs: (Make 2)

Work as for muzzle; work first 4 rounds in White dc. then for following 10 rounds work in dc. and in loop st. alternately, working the loops with Black and White wool. Fasten off, stuff and attach to lower part of body.

### Front Legs: (Make 2)

Work as for back legs but work 2 rounds less. Fasten off, stuff and sew in place.

### Ears: (Make 2)

Work with White wool only.

Work a row of 16 ch., turn,

**1st row:** 1 tr. in 4th ch. from hook, 1 tr. in each ch. to end;

**2nd row:** Work in loop st.;

**3rd row:** Work in tr.;

**4th row:** as 2nd row.

Work 8 rows more as above, dec. 1 st. at each end of every tr. (Plain) row. Fasten off and attach ear to each side of the head. Embroider mouth in straight Black stitches and sew the 2 buttons for eyes into position. Crochet with Raymonds knitting wool.

## LAMB

### MATERIALS:

Raymond's Knitting wool "Golden Dream" 4 ply; 4 balls White. 1 ball Grey 926 (25 grams each), small quantity of each Black and Peach 912, Crochet hook No. 5. Cottonwool for stuffing. 2 buttons for eyes.

### MEASUREMENTS:

Height 31 cm.

### ABBREVIATIONS:

ch. = chain; s.s. = slip stitch; dc = double crochet; rep. = repeat; dec. = decrease; tog. = together; alt. = alternate; st. = stitch.

### BODY:

(Begin at bottom).

With double White wool work 2 ch.,

**1st round:** 6 dc. in 2nd ch. from hook, s.s. to 1st dc.;

**2nd round:** 2 dc. in each dc., s.s. to first dc.;

**3rd round:** \* 1 dc. in next dc., 2 dc. in next dc., rep. from \* and s.s. to first dc.

**4th round:** \* 1 dc. in each of next 2 dc., 2 dc. in next dc. rep. from \* to end, s.s. to first dc.;

**5th round:** As 4th round;

**6th round:** \* 1 dc. in each of next 3 dc., 2 dc. in next dc., rep. from \* to end, s.s. to first dc.;

**7th round:** \* 1 dc. in each of next 4 dc., 2 dc. in next dc., rep. from \* to end, s.s. to first dc.;

**8th to 22nd rounds:** 1 dc. in each dc. to end, s.s. to first dc.;

**23rd round:** Work in dc., dec. 6 sts. evenly spaced;

**24th to 29th rounds:** Work straight in dc.;

**30th round:** As 23rd round;

**31st & 32nd rounds:** Work straight in dc.

**33rd round:** As 23rd round;

**34th & 35th rounds:** Work straight in dc.;

**36th round:** As 23rd round;

**37th & 38th rounds:** Work straight in dc. Fasten off.

### HEAD

With double White wool work as for body till 6th round is completed work next 9 rounds straight in dc., fasten off White wool, join Grey wool and work one round straight in dc.,

**17th & 19th rounds:** Work in dc., dec. 6 sts. evenly spaced;

**18th, 20th, 21st and 23rd rounds:** Work straight in dc.;

**22nd round:** Work in dc. decrease 5 sts. evenly;

**24th round:** Decrease evenly to make up 10 sts.

Work 1 round straight in dc., fasten off. Stuff head and body with cotton wool and sew head on to the body.

Stitch opening of the head.

### EAR:

With double Grey wool work 8 ch., turn,

**1st row:** 1 dc. in 2nd ch. from hook, 1 dc. in each of next 5 ch., 3 dc. in last ch., then work along the other side of ch., work 1 dc. in each of next 6 ch., 1 ch., turn and work along the first side, working 1 dc. in each of next 8 sts., fasten off. Similarly work the other ear. Sew ears on to the head (Ref. photograph).

**TAIL:** With double White wool work 10 ch. and work 3 rows of dc., fasten off. Fold along the length and sew. Join to lower part of body at back.

### FORELEGS: (Work two)

With double White wool work 12 ch., s.s. to 1st ch. to form a ring,

**Next round:** 1 ch., 1 dc. in each ch., s.s. to first dc., work 2 more rounds in dc., fasten off White

wool, join Grey wool and work 6 rounds in dc., fasten off Grey wool, join Black wool and work 3 rounds in dc. then dec. in next row by working every 2 sts. tog., work 1 round straight. Fasten off.

Stuff with cotton wool and join to the body into position keeping black portion on the outer side.

### HINDLEGS: (Work two)

With double White wool work 14 ch., join with a s.s. to form a ring.

**1st round:** 1 ch., 1 dc. in each ch., s.s. to first dc., work 3 more rounds of dc., fasten off White wool, join Grey wool and work 7 rounds in dc., fasten off Grey wool, join Black wool and work 3 rounds in dc., in next round work every 2 sts. tog., work 1 round straight in dc., fasten off. Stuff with cotton wool and join legs to body (ref. photograph), keeping black portion on the outer side.

### WORKING OF LOOPS:

Thread long piece of White wool in tapestry wool needle. Wind wool round finger 3 times remove and sew the loop on body and knot. Rep. this in every alt. st. all over the body except at the base, Grey portion of the muzzle and Grey and Black portions of the legs. Use a few strands of Peach wool along with White loops for under part of the body.

**EYES:** Stitch two black buttons for eyes into position.

**MOUTH:** With Black wool work a row of 10 ch. Fasten off, and stitch on to the face into position.

Crochet with Raymonds knitting wool.

## DUCK

### MATERIALS:

Raymond's knitting wool "Golden Dream" 4 ply; 2 balls Yellow 955 (25 grams each) and a small length of Black wool for beak, 2 small Black buttons for eyes. Crochet hook No. 10, Cotton wool for stuffing.

### MEASUREMENTS:

20 cm. x 18 cm.

### ABBREVIATIONS:

ch = chain; dc. = double crochet; rep. = repeat; st. = stitch; inc. = increase; beg. = beginning; s.s. = slip stitch; dec. = decrease.

**N.B.:** Use double wool throughout.

### BODY:

Start at the base. With double

Yellow wool work a row of 33 ch., turn,

**1st row:** 1 dc. in 2nd ch. from hook, 1 dc. in each ch. to end, 1 ch., turn;

**2nd row:** 1 dc. in first dc., holding wool with left hand index finger to front of work draw the wool over through first dc. (a loop will be formed over finger) \* draw the finger from loop and while inserting hook through next st. again hold the wool with index finger to front of work to form a loop and complete dc. in next st., rep. from \* till end, inc. 1 st. in last st.;

**3rd row:** Work in dc. only, inc. 1 st. at beg., 1 st. at centre and 1 st. at the end of the row. (Pull loops to keep them firm otherwise work will become loose) Now rep. 2nd and 3rd rows till there are 8 loop rows, ending with a 2nd row. Fasten off wool and fold the piece in half. Leave centre 15 dc. free for head and sew up back and side to bottom. Stuff with cotton wool.

### HEAD:

With double Yellow wool work a row of dc. over the 15 sts. for the head, 1 ch., turn, work 1 row of loops as 2nd row of body.

**Next row:** Work in dc. inc. 1 st. at beg., 1 st. in centre and 1 st. at the end;

**Next row:** As first loop st. row of body.

Work next 4 rows as 2nd and 3rd rows of body without shaping. In next 4 rows dec. at each end and at centre (3 sts. in every row) ending with a loop st. row. Fasten off. Stuff head with cotton wool and sew over the body.

### BEAK

With Black wool work 23 ch., turn,

**1st row:** Work 3 dc. in 2nd ch. from hook, 1 dc. in each ch. to last ch., 3 dc. in last ch., turn to the other side of foundation ch. and work 1 dc. in each ch. to end, s.s. to first of the 3 dc., 1 ch.

**Next row:** (Turn round the end and work) 1 dc. in same place as previous dc., 3 dc. in next dc. (centre of 3 dc.) 1 dc. in each dc. to last 2 dc., 3 dc. in next dc., s.s. to next dc. Fasten off. Fold in half lengthwise, stitch folded end to the head holding beak into position.

For eyes stitch a Black button to each side of the head. (ref. photograph).

Crochet with Raymonds knitting wool.

Arnavaz Dhondy

## WHEN ARABIAN DREAMS TURN INTO NIGHTMARES

Continued from page 13

married to Mohamed (52) with a payment of Rs. 1,500 and in the usual course of events returned to Hyderabad by the end of February 1982. The two girls returned home penniless but with the hopes and visions of a happy life ahead when their husbands came for them.

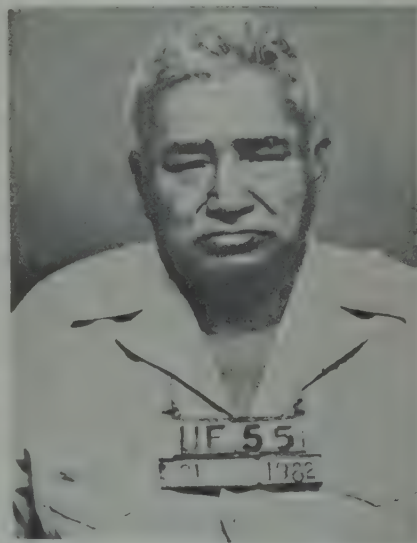
Three years ago Fatima Begum was married to Abbas in Bombay, the marriage being arranged by Hussain Abdul Khaliq. Abbas, aged 60, took Fatima to Doha. She lived there for 10 months and gave birth to a daughter. Then Abbas died and his first wife and her children sent Fatima back to Hyderabad but kept her daughter. They gave Fatima Rs. 5,000 when she left. Fatima came back to her family of mother, one younger sister and three brothers. She recently received a photograph of her daughter. Sometime back she was taken to Bombay again. Fatima was one of the women rescued from Hussain Khaliq's house by the raiding party.

The whole sordid tale was unravelled in March 1982 after concentrated efforts by the Hyderabad police. It all began one afternoon late last year at the commissioner of police's office situated in the heart of the city, near the famed Charminar, the area where many of the victims reside. Mr. T. Ponnaiya, commissioner of police, had revived an old custom of the city. The two kotwals of the city during the Nizam's days had certain times of the week set apart for the common people to come with their complaints and petitions. As Mr. Ponnaiya said, "It is the poor people who do not find the means and ways to be heard. The important people can phone, request and sometimes command me but these people have nobody. I am available to them every day between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. I see them all, talk to them and try to solve their problems. It can be tenant problems, in some cases their daughters being deceived by older men or it can be harassment by 'goondas'. This is not a gimmick, it means six-and-a-half hours of work for me. It was at one such meeting that I heard of the fake marriages racket."

The commissioner of police explained that an old man had come to see him and relat-

ed the case in which his daughter had been tricked in this fashion. He was asked to bring a petition in writing so that the case could be followed up. A pathetic petition written in Urdu was received and the case was handed over to the commissioner's Task Force. The Special Task Force is directly under the commissioner of police consisting of two DCPs, two ACPs, four inspectors, eight sub-inspectors and 16 head constables and constables. An inquiry began which unearthed further such cases. The agents in Hyderabad were identified and the modus operandi was established. The trial then led to Bombay to the house of the agent where the marriages took place.

Finally on March 17, 1982, a party led by Inspector Fida Hussain reached Bombay and raided the house near Nagpada Police Station where nine girls were discovered. Hussain Abdul Khaliq was arrested together with Aliyabi. Syed Ghose and his concubine begum were arrested in Hyderabad as well as Sharifa Bee, another sub-agent who went around the slums and poorer localities looking for prospective victims. Four charge-sheets were prepared and a case No. 32/82 4/Ss 420 and 120B IPC were re-



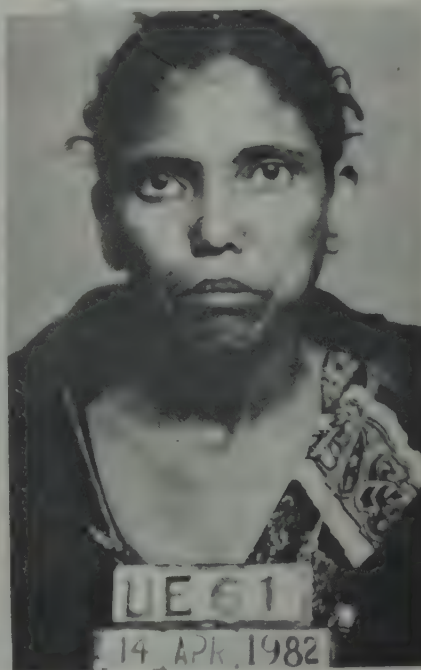
gistered. The accused were remanded at Panjagutta Police Station in Hyderabad and are now released on bail.

The records of eight qazis (priests) in Bombay were checked as well as that of two qazis in Hyderabad, and it was revealed that 338 marriages have been performed since 1980. Also that the vakils and witnesses in most of the cases were the same. The qazis received Rs. 101 for solemnising the marriages. It is believed that in some of the earlier marriages the brides may have been taken to their husbands' homes as is revealed by Fatima Begum's case history. But since

legitimate bridegrooms were in short supply, they hit upon the idea of the fake marriages.

Inspector Fida Hussain said, "None of the nine girls rescued from Abdul Khaliq's house had any idea that these marriages were faked, neither had the older women who had accompanied the young girls to Bombay."

The girls were living in Khaliq's house. A large hall had a raised portion of the flooring like a low platform and the bedding of the girls and their chaperones



Aliyabi, whose business it was to scout for young girls.

LEFT: H. A. Khaliq, the agent.

were spread on it. The girls helped in the household chores and when a prospective 'bridegroom' arrived they were lined up to be displayed, arrayed in all their finery. None of the girls were extraordinarily beautiful, the main criteria was youth and virginity. If a girl was selected, a 'marriage ceremony' with the qazi, witnesses, vakil and the traditional paraphernalia was arranged within hours. Sometimes the girl would be selected, 'married' and the so-called marriage consummated within a short while of her arrival in Bombay.

The 'mehar' ranged from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 3,500 depending on the girl's attractiveness and youth. The 'mehar' would be used to pay the qazi and his attendant coterie for the services rendered, and the sub-agent who brought the girl from Hyderabad, while the major amount would go to Abdul Khaliq as commission for being the source of supply who arranged the marriage. The girls would be given Rs. 200 or less for expenses and beguiled with

rosy promises of the large sums they would be able to send to their relatives in Hyderabad and the comfortable living in their husbands' homes. Out of the small sums the girls were given, they had to pay food expenses at the rate of Rs. 7 per day, until, by the time the poor, cheated girl returned home she had practically no money left.

SETWIN, the Society for Employment, Promotion and Training in the Twin Cities, has made an offer of sewing machines and training for the young girls so that they are able to rehabilitate themselves and earn some money. But unfortunately not many girls are coming forward for the training for fear of the exposure of their humiliation to their friends and relatives. The police are also hampered by the refusal of many victim's parents to talk.

Gulf marriages have been a feature of Hyderabad life since the mid-'70s. Many men came to this former nawabi city to marry young girls and the disparity in ages has been a usual factor of these marriages. For most of the men it is a second marriage and in many cases the man's children are around the age of the bride. But for the girls it is the poverty in which they live that is the deciding factor. The brokers go around the heavily populated gullies of the old city and the slums of the new city looking for poor families with daughters of marriageable age. The families are tempted with stories of good fortune. The poorer families are also large families and such a marriage seems a good way out of their difficulties.

Bombay is the point of entry for the majority of Arab travellers. They can be seen at the best hotels as well as crowding the cheaper lodging places and not all of them are rolling in petrodollars. Touts and cheats pester them, offering all kinds of services. Some may wish to marry, others are interested only in having a good time. In Hyderabad in the earlier days, the richer families used to have young girls of about eight or nine years of age, living in the household, running errands, doing little bits of work. When the girls attained puberty the right of deflowering lay with the master and afterwards the girls were married off.

Prostitutes are easily available in our larger cities and it is no difficult matter for a tout or pimp to procure one but the problem arises when the demand is for a virgin. This is what gave rise

Continued on page 54

## EVE TODAY

Short, stockily-built, fair-complexioned, a broad forehead, beady eyes, and neatly dressed in a self-tailored salwar-kameez, with a chunni carefully covering her grey hair, she looks every inch a village woman. There is grace, poise, and something quaintly innocent about her manner. She conducts herself with a bearing that knows neither awkward self-consciousness nor the subtle arrogance of the social elite. A certain charm makes you feel entirely at home with her. Mrs. Pradhan Kaur ('pradhan' literally means 'president'), is the First Lady of India, the wife of Giani Zail Singh, the seventh president of the republic.

Affectionately called Bebeji 'mother' by her children, grand-

Pradhan Kaur with granddaughter Rano (right); and with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at the Punjab C.M.'s residence in Chandigarh (below).



neat and tidy, she is full of vim and verve.

At 63, the first lady is a victim of wanderlust. She is rarely in one place for more than a month. She keeps shuttling between Sandhwan, Patiala, Chandigarh and New Delhi. For the most part, she prefers to stay with Dr. Gurdip Kaur in Chandigarh. Now, since Dr. Gurdip Kaur is to be the official hostess, Bebeji will have to stay at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. But she won't give up her travelling habits. In spite of the 400-acre expansive domain of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, its Mughal garden, its chandeliers and regal splendour, there is nothing in it that can match a single-waft of fresh breeze which blows over newly-sown fields. Too many formalities, the protocol, the ADCs, the retinue of attendants — have a cramping effect on her.



### PRADHAN KAUR

## THE FIRST LADY OF INDIA

to serve with a smile, to help with a deep concern — and above all, to make the human predicament bearable.

Bebeji's household work, which she pursues with a religious fervour, ranges over a wide gamut of activities — ginning, spinning, weaving, knitting, tailoring, embroidering — to mention only a few. Whether it is a phulkari, a durrie, or a quilt, her craftsmanship borders on mechanical precision. She does not like tailor-made garments. She tailors her own clothes.

Her niece, Surjit Kaur, is an ardent admirer of Bebeji. "Apart from her own three daughters, she brought up another six girls in our family," she says. "You have to see the many items of dowry to believe what loving care she expended on our upbringing and welfare."

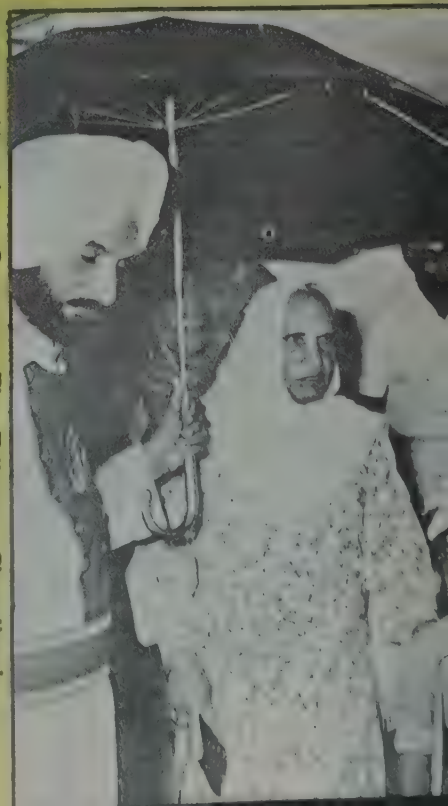
Bebeji is a very light eater. But she loves her daily cup of tea at 11 a.m. sharp. Always

Visiting a gurdwara with grandson Billu, daughter Gurdip Kaur and son-in-law S. S. Viridi.

She must be on the move — as much for her own sake as for the sake of everyone she so dearly loves. Like a large tree she must reach out to the farthest terminal of each branch of her family and carry the sap of love, care and concern.

S. S. Bhatti

Photo: Yog Joy, Courtesy: The Tribune, Chandigarh



children, nieces and nephews, she was married to Zail Singh when she was barely 15. For a major part of her married life, she stayed in her husband's ancestral home in the village of Sandhwan, Faridkot district. She is the youngest of the three daughters-in-law of Sardar Kishan Singh.

Bebeji's commitment to the upbringing and education of her children was inspired by her father-in-law. Although unlettered, she almost single-handedly guided her children through school and college. During the 50 years of Zail Singh's active political

career, he stayed but little at home.

"Bebeji had to work like an alarm-clock during the period of our medical education at Patiala," recalls Dr. Gurdip Kaur, who has specialised in gynaecology and obstetrics and is a senior medical officer at the Chandigarh General Hospital. "She would gladly get up during the night to make tea or coffee for us and attend to all our idiosyncratic demands." Education does not consist merely in being literate. It is a form of self-culture which gives one the ability to communicate with others spontaneously,

A certain kind of man  
will only be seen in plains...



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individual. Whose style is never loud but quiet.  
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One of mankind's earliest recorded diseases (an Indian medical text described it around 600 BC), leprosy is an endemic, chronic, infectious and misleading disease. Unlike the cardiac or cancer patient or the diabetic who can wear the halo of the martyr, leprosy or Hansen's disease as it is often called, puts the patient beyond the pale of society. The disease was, till recently, almost incurable. But with the advance of medical science, knowledge about the disease also increased tremendously and effective measures to curb it were found.

The traditional approach to meet the formidable challenge of the leprosy scourge through mass treatment with dapsone (the mother compound of the sulphone group of drugs) has unfortunately not proved very effective. Recent discoveries that the development of drug-resisting strains of the leprosy bacillus is on the increase has accentuated the problem. The introduction of newer drugs like rifampicin, clofazimine etc. has made the situation a little better, and treatment with a multiple drug therapy, with dapsone as one of the constituents, the others being rifampicin etc., is now being increasingly recommended.

However, such expensive treatment on a large scale is beyond the financial resources of developing countries like India. This greatly enhances the need and urgency of making available a prophylactic vaccine against the disease, and intensive efforts towards the production of an anti-leprosy vaccine are being made today in many countries.

It is disconcerting to find that in a recent World Health Organisation estimate, of the 12 million leprosy patients, only 3.2 million are registered. The remaining 9 million have neither been identified, diagnosed nor offered any treatment. India has the dubious distinction of having the world's largest number of leprosy patients. Studies reveal that the incidence of leprosy has not diminished much in endemic areas like Chingleput in spite of several decades of a programme to control it. A possible reason for this spread of the disease may lie in the continuity of transmission of the infective organism 'Mycobacterium Leprae'. Although M. Leprae can grow in the mouse foot-pad, in armadillos and possibly in some other exotic species of animals, the princi-

pal reservoir of the bacteria appears to be man.

Leprosy is not confined to a given territory. Apart from Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Eastern India, endemic zones have been spotted in U.P., M.P., Nepal and other sub-Himalayan regions. The disease is rampant in both rural and urban areas and it is not feasible to isolate this large number in a distant colony.

Moreover, the identified leprosy patients may not be the only carriers of the organisms. The incubation period of the disease is long and many persons may be the agents of transmission before they are spotted. So, ways and means will have to be evolved to render man an inhospitable territory for the growth of the bacillus. M.leprae flourishes in only a very small percentage of humans, who have apparently low resistance to the bacteria.

The organism causing leprosy was thought to be akin to TB bacillus. The BCG vaccine, used

for tuberculosis, it was hoped, would provide protection against leprosy too. Some trials with BCG seemed to indicate its usefulness. However, the long-term WHO trial with BCG proved that it has very limited protective value against leprosy.

Leprosy or Hansen's disease (known after the name of the scientist who discovered M.Lep-rae, the organism causing leprosy, in 1873) can be classified as tuberculoid (non-infectious) or lepromatous (infectious) on the basis of tissue tolerance tests, immunological reactions and the amount of leprosy germs present in a patient's leprosy lesion. Tuberculoid patients with lesions having less quantum of leprosy bacilli tend to show better immunity against the disease as against the lepromatous patients with little or no immunity.

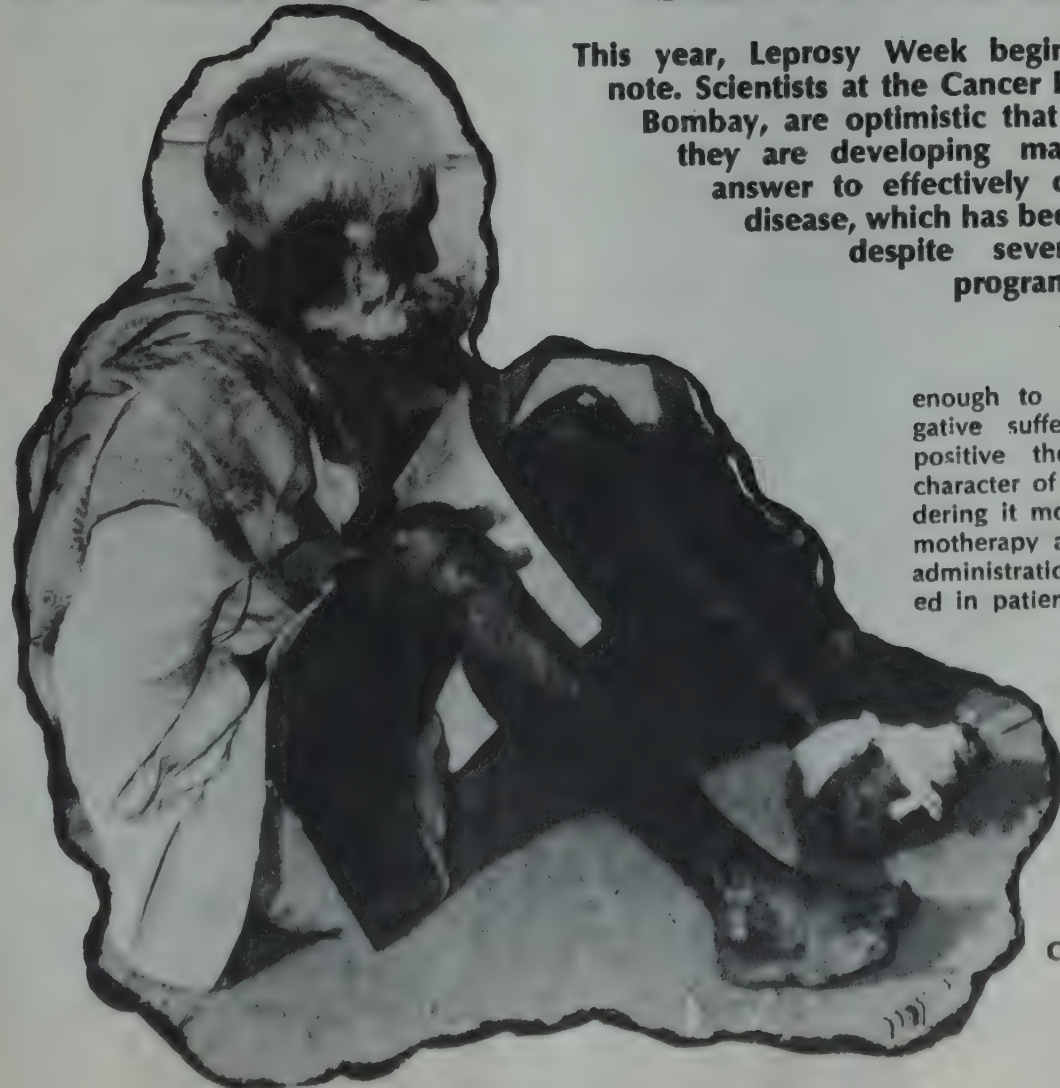
Because of positive response to injections of small amounts of leprosy antigens like lepromin, the tuberculoid patients are often called lepromin-positive, while lepromatous patients with large number of leprosy orga-

nisms and characterised by lack of response are referred to as lepromin-negative.

An anti-leprosy vaccine recently developed by the Cancer Research Institute (earlier called Indian Cancer Research Centre or ICRC) of the Tata Memorial Centre, Bombay, constitutes a major medical advance but as Dr. M. G. Deo, the research director of the Institute told me rather cautiously: "The vaccine used by us contains killed ICRC bacilli. We did not use live organisms. Yes, we are excited about the developments but we feel it's too early to call it a breakthrough." The vaccine, was tried out on patients in Bombay.

Fifty lepromatous patients of the Acworth Leprosy Hospital, Bombay, who would not recover for several years if only on drug therapy, were chosen for the trials. The results were encouraging with the patients safely tolerating and showing signs of immunity against the disease without any untoward effects. The vaccine has proved effective

## AT LAST, A BREAKTHROUGH IN LEPROSY CONTROL?



This year, Leprosy Week begins on a positive note. Scientists at the Cancer Research Institute, Bombay, are optimistic that the new vaccine they are developing may finally be the answer to effectively combat the dread disease, which has been on the increase despite several decades of programmes to control it

D. K. Dixit

enough to convert lepromin-negative sufferers into lepromin-positive thereby changing the character of the disease and rendering it more amenable to chemotherapy at a faster rate. The administration of vaccine resulted in patients developing self-healing reactions, which was a happy augury. Of course, the vaccine cannot be used for immunisation of the public at large. Says Dr. Deo, "The drug controller's

Continued on page 51

On August 10, the high court of Andhra Pradesh quashed a government order banning the novel 'Mareechika' (Mirage) by the Telegu novelist Sitadevi Vasireddy. A full bench consisting of Justice K. Ramachandra Rao, Justice P. Rama Rao and Justice C. Sriramulu heard the case, and Justice Rama Rao delivered the judgement on behalf of the full bench.

novel was allowed to be serialised in a magazine, then sold freely for three years before the ban was clamped on it.

Sitadevi says she was not shocked, but only surprised by the ban order. She is still not sure why the book was banned. Friends and colleagues close to her feel it could be a personal vendetta that sparked off the whole affair.

# WHY WAS THIS BOOK BANNED?

Allowing the criminal petitions filed by the general secretary of the All India Democratic Lawyers' Association, Mr. P. Venkateswarlu, the Bench stated that the government order "is a mix up of several aspects and loaded with violent deviations from the relevant positions".

What is the furore about this book 'Mareechika' all about and what does Sitadevi the author have to say about it? Strangely enough, until a few weeks ago, Sitadevi did not know about the ban. She has written 25 novels and has won the Sahitya Akademi Award twice. That the Democratic Lawyers' Association took the matter to court by themselves is significant. Sitadevi never asked them to. It was decided at a public meeting arranged at Sultan bazar, in which many writers took part and denounced the ban, says Sitadevi. "The ban, the G.O., was dated 6th February 1982, but I came to know about it in March 1982, and only unofficially. It was never communicated to me."

When a ban is imposed the officials go to the various bookshops, publishers and to the writer as well, and confiscate all copies of the book. But this was never done. In fact copies of the book are available at many bookshops, and though the original price was Rs. 12, the copies later sold at Rs. 20. So, in fact, the adverse publicity has boosted sales — as it always does.

What is inexplicable is why the

When the magazine Andhra Bhoomi, was started, the editor approached Sitadevi and asked her to contribute a novel for serialisation. "Many writers have been writing about unemployment," she says "but no one has really written about the problems that confront unemployed youth. There are two kinds of young people nowadays. Those who stray into politics and start agitating, and those who start taking drugs. Neither has any respect for the present set-up and both want a complete change. They want to see a new kind of society where a man is a man, and does not have to compete with dogs for food on the streets. Moreover," she says "I have been observing for a decade and a half the influ-

ence of Naxalites on youth. I have been reading about the young people joining them and being shot dead. Being a conscientious writer, I wanted to portray this. There must first, I believe, be a revolution of thoughts. We cannot just go on killing individuals. We cannot put the blame on individuals either can we?"

'Mareechika' is the story of two girls who come from wealthy homes. They are bored. One, Jyothi, becomes a drug addict and the other, Sabal, joins the Naxalbari movement. Slowly she becomes disillusioned and wonders if she has done the right thing by joining the group. Can killing a few people achieve economic stability for all? If we kill a moneylender to end extortion and cruelty, argues Sabai, must we kill his whole family? But if we let his young son live, how do we know he will not grow up to be a moneylender too? Destroying is not what is required — it is the change in thinking that is necessary. At the end of the book, Sabal's boyfriend, the hero, is wounded in an encounter with the police. As he lies dying he asks her to go back to the people, to help them, and she leaves the armed revolution.

Actually the story shows the futility of joining groups that believe in armed revolt. Sitadevi tries to prove that a peaceful change can be effected through devoted work. So why the ban?

Undoubtedly, the members of the group call each other "comrade." "But", says Sitadevi "those who study Marxism will call each other comrade. Besides this I have got cuttings from newspapers. I have read some Naxalite literature. I called it 'Mirage' or 'Illusion', because it was an illusion for my heroine. Killing individuals and living in jungles does not solve problems..."

Sitadevi receiving a memento presented on behalf of the Bhavna Cultural Association.



Sitadevi comes from Guntur. "In our family purdah was observed, so I was not allowed to study. Because I had to cross a road to go to school, I was stopped from going to school." Had

**The government ban order on Telegu novelist Sitadevi Vasireddy's 'Mareechika', was successfully challenged in the A.P. high court. BILKIZ ALLADIN talks to the author**

this made her bitter? "No, not bitter," she replies emphatically. But perhaps it makes her more aware of what one can be denied if one is brought up in a very rigidly traditional home.

She has revolted against the injustices of society and exposed them, she has rebelled against tradition and has condemned economic inequalities. She is a powerful writer independent and bold in her thinking. Her two novels, 'Samata' in 1972 and 'Oori Thadu' in 1980 have won Sahitya Akademi awards.

For six-and-a-half years now, Sitadevi has been working as deputy director of Youth Services. She has now been transferred to the parent department, that is Women's Welfare. This is a clear case of discrimination. At the public meeting all Telegu writers condemned the action of the government. Both public opinion and the opinion of the opposition and Congress (I) are on her side.

The chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, replying to a question by Mr. M. Omkar (CPM) in the Assembly, said that the forfeiture of the novel was ordered by the government "as certain passages in it tended to excite disaffection towards government and its armed forces and promote class hatred and conflict, besides tending to misguide young impressionable minds." But he assured the Assembly that she would not be victimised.

The judgment of the high court has, needless to say, pleased quite a number of writers. Though the high court has undone the injustice done to her by the state government, it is not yet known if the government will rescind the order of her transfer and demotion. She has, also in the meanwhile, gained a lot of experience and gathered a lot more material. Maybe she will write another novel or a sequel?

# COLOURFUL AND CAPTIVATING

THEY LOOK SO EXPENSIVE  
BUT COST SO LITTLE



Sujata Achrekar, a versatile housewife from Kolhapur is also a self-taught artist who has expressed her creativity in various ways — batiks, ceramics, patchwork and painting. But her most captivating pieces are the wall decorations featured here.

Made from pure silk, the frames are a combination of patchwork and painting. The fabric is first cut into required shapes and then stuck on with adhesive to form patterns, using paints to provide the finishing touches.

Sujata's talents remained latent for many years. But now with all her children grown up, she occupies herself with her favourite pastime, art, which has also become a source of pin money — a welcome addition to the ever-tightening budget.

1. Anticipation

2. Shivaji

Photographs: Taiyeb Badshah

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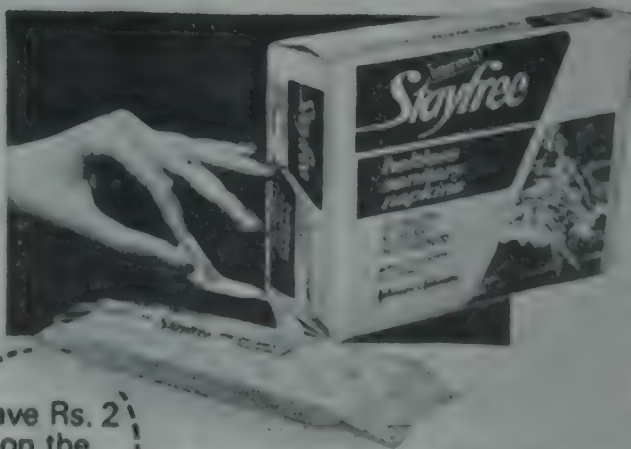


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We continue with the topic of visual discrimination. As mentioned before, this is a basic skill required for reading. The more practice the child gets at exercising this faculty, the greater the ease with which he will be able to decode letters.

## 1. WITH THE HELP OF MATCHING SHAPES

The simplest shapes are the circle and the star. Cut out two circles and two stars from card-paper. The child can match them by placing one star upon the other.

After these two shapes have been mastered, you can add the rectangle and the cross. Last of all are added the square and the triangle.

Small children often confuse the circle and the square. If this happens, and if it upsets the child, remove the square until the child is ready for it.

## 2. WITH THE HELP OF JIGSAW PUZZLES

You will need two copies of the same picture. Our magazines often have very attractive advertisements in full colour, and these can make large, easy-to-handle jigsaw puzzles.

Paste both copies on card-paper. Leave one picture intact. Cut the other picture into large pieces. The size and shape of the pieces will depend on the age and ability of the child. If the child is small, your jigsaw puzzle should have only three or four large pieces, with straight sides. For older children, you can have more pieces, with curved or zig-zag sides. If the child can cut the picture by herself, let her do so. Older children often like to make such puzzles for younger siblings to play with.

The intact picture can be used as a guide. Smaller children can place the cut pieces directly on the intact picture. Older children can do the puzzle adjacent to the intact picture. (This develops the ability to copy an image that is a little removed from the child. Later on, this will help the child when he has to copy something from the blackboard.)

## 3. WITH THE HELP OF SAND-PAPER LETTERS/STENCILS

Madam Montessori used sand-paper letters to help her retard-

ed pupils learn to read. Since then, this aid has become quite popular, as it is easy and inexpensive to make.

You can cut out large upper case (capital) letters from sand-paper. These letters should be about two-and-a-half inches high. They can be stuck on squares of cardpaper, with the rough side out, so that the child can feel the letter with his fingers. You can give a dark glazed-paper background to the letters to make them stand out.

The child should be encouraged to move his fingers along

Also, ask the supplier to remove the stud at the back.

Plastic stencils can be obtained from Prestograph or from the manufacturers of name-plates.

## 4. WITH THE HELP OF MATCHING LOLLIPOP CARDS

You will need to make six cards. The model can be a girl or a boy, depending on the sex of your child. The cards must be identical except for the tongue and the lollipop, which will differ in colour/markings on each card. (See Fig. 2 for details).

a large "C". Roll out some more plasticine to form a large "O". The "C" has an open end, whereas the "O" is a closed ring. This is a feature that is easily recognised even by four-year-old children.

Next, make an "O". Attach a line of plasticine to the lower end. You can call this a lollipop. The lollipop has its stick coming down.

Now, make another "O", this time attaching the line to the upper end. This lollipop has its stick coming up.

# MIX 'N' MATCH SHAPES

PLASTICINE SHAPES, JIGSAW PUZZLES AND LOLLIPOP CARDS ARE FURTHER AIDS FOR TEACHING CHILDREN VISUAL DISCRIMINATION

Gita Bhatia

the letter, in the direction he would normally use in writing the letter.

One can also buy stencils in the market. Wooden stencils are sometimes available at toy shops, but they are quite expensive. Metal stencils can be obtained by buying letters from manufacturers of automobile number plates. When selecting the letters, make sure that they have smooth edges.

Paint the cards with bright colours. Once the cards are dry, cut each card into half, so that the lollipop and the tongue are on separate cards. The child has to match the correct lollipop to the tongue.

## 5. WITH THE HELP OF PLASTICINE SHAPES

Roll out the plasticine to form

You can now proceed to "d" and "b". If your child is familiar with our hand fans or 'punkahs', the "d" is a fan with a stick to the right, the "b" is a fan with the stick to the left. The letter "p", of course, becomes a fan with the stick to the left and coming down. If you have a 'punkah', you can use it to illustrate.

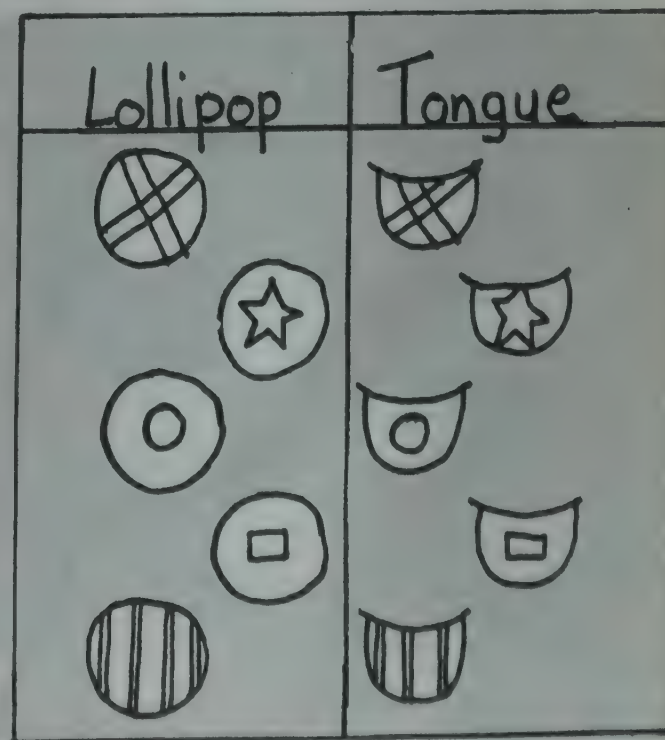
The child can be encouraged to imitate all the shapes you have made. Besides this, she can make zig-zag lines (a row of mountains) and curved lines (a snake).

Next week: More ideas that will both interest and instruct the child.

Fig. 1 Make six cards like this.



Fig. 2 Fill in the different lollipops and tongues.




Adapted from 'Sorting & Matching' by Iris Grender

Lipsticks  
Nail Enamel

# Lakmé

Eye Makeup  
Skin Care  
Face Makeup  
Fragrances





If colour be to beauty  
what music is to mood,  
play on.

# ...and then the vultures came



**“W**HEN Amma died Appa went berserk, you know. He was aware of nothing and no one for quite some time after that. I lay sick, and in great physical agony more than anything else. And then they came, both mother and daughter, tearing the place apart probing every corner for some hidden treasure. It shocked me to the core of my very being. There Amma lay awaiting her last rites. And these people came, shed a tear or two, sat around her and then went about their business — the hunt for Amma’s gold.

“I asked them to wait. ‘How can you do this when Amma’s body has still not turned cold?’ And they told me, ‘How little you know. Soon the others will be coming and then none of us will get anything.’ They searched high and low but they could not find the gold. Do you know why?”

Meeta shook her head. In all her 25 years she had never heard of such callousness. She tried to visualise her own mother dead, her brothers and sisters squabbling over her body for gold but her imagination failed her. Firstly her mother had no gold. Moreover she could not die, not her dear mother. She looked up as her sister-in-law continued.

“They couldn’t find the gold because it was all under my mattress. Ever since Chitra came into this house, I had gauged her capacity for such things. My brother remained blind to her failings but he was her husband and her money had stood him in good stead. Later, much later, I divid-

ed the stuff as my mother had intended it to be. There were two heavy gold chains, three sets of earrings, 14 bangles, some rings and a gold set for Vijay’s wife.” Her voice suddenly trailed off into silence. It was an embarrassing moment, a revelation made unwittingly in the heat of emotion.

Vijay’s wife, Meeta, feigned an indifference she could not feel. “Where is my share, that share meant for Vijay’s wife?” she wanted to know. “Why haven’t you given it to me?” But she said nothing. When a non-Brahmin girl married into a Brahmin family bringing no dowry she could make no demands like the other family members. The gold meant for her husband’s wife meant a Brahmin wife and she was no Brahmin. Yet, illogically, she experienced a yearning, a very strong yearning to possess the gold. She tried to quell the conflict, childishly, silently seeking God’s help. “Please let me rise above all this. Don’t allow me to be greedy like them.”

Somehow she managed to steal away not wanting her sister-in-law to see the guilt on her face. In the privacy of her room, she gave vent to all the thoughts pent up within her, thoughts which she had concealed from her husband so far, but which now threatened to break open the dam of self-restraint.

It had been almost five years since the day she had been received into this house as the bride of the youngest son of the prestigious Chary family. There had been neither the spirit of

**Meeta yearned to possess the gold bequeathed to her by Amma. But as a non-Brahmin girl, she could make no demands like the other family members. “Don’t allow me to be greedy like them,” she prayed**

exultation which marked the other marriages in the family, nor dismay, only a sense of resignation, an acceptance of the inevitable. In the final analysis, the fact that the only rebel in the family had opted to marry someone outside the community but still fortunately a Hindu girl, was a matter of small surprise. The marriage was almost a non-event, a simple ceremony and later a small get-together, a marriage reception of sorts.

Meeta was attractive, intelligent, but essentially a simple girl, eager to please, sometimes almost to the point of obsequiousness. Having been quite accustomed to do without things her heart yearned for deeply and often secretly, she was till now, able to view all the beautiful clothes and other possessions of her sisters-in-law with some measure of outward calm and admiration devoid of envy.

Then each night before sleep touched her eyelids, she would, in the limitless realm of her imagination, see herself dressed

in those clothes, mistress of all those beautiful things, delighting in the sheer visual appeal of her imagination. But of this she never breathed a word to her husband, never expressed by look or sign how much she missed what she could not have. That part of her was securely enclosed, shut out from the rest of the world in layers of outward contentment.

Yet today Meeta found her natural reserve in danger of being destroyed. She felt she would not be able to hold back anything today at least from Vijay. She would tell him about her sister-in-law’s confession, about Chitra and her mother, and of course the gold set. She would ask him about the mystery of the gold set, why it had not been given to her. She suspected he did not care for either Chitra or her mother and their greed would not have escaped him. But almost at once she knew she could not question him about the gold set for fear of falling in his esteem. She could only broach the subject and wait for him to enlighten her, if at all he would.

“Aka was very perturbed today,” she began her carefully rehearsed narration just as Vijay prepared to lie down. Immediately he jerked up his head. His sister and brother were all he had and he loved them dearly. What affected them, affected him.

“Why? Did you say or do anything stupid?”

Meeta’s eyes reflected a deep hurt and she wondered, how he too could believe that she was stupid. But out aloud she said,



"No, no, she was describing your mother's last days. How after her death everyone came rushing to grab her gold, everyone including Chitra and her mother."

Vijay said nothing. The domestic scene had never held much interest for him, not mundane things like gold anyway. Emboldened by his silence however, Meeta continued, "But why should Chitra and her mother do that Vijay?"

"They've always been that way," he answered.

"But Chitra has so much gold of her own. Besides your brother is so rich. His business is such a flourishing one," she persisted.

"So?"

"What do you mean by so?"

"Look Meeta all this happened so many years ago. What good can be achieved by raking up the past? Aka should not have discussed it with you in the first place. It does not concern me and therefore it does not concern you."

"Oh but it does, but it does," came the soundless cry from within her.

"Now go to sleep sweetheart," Vijay said gently.

But Meeta lay awake for a long time. She realised there was not a soul who could answer her question, "What happened to the gold that ought to have been mine?" Nor could she tell anyone about how greedy rich people can be. And then her imagination took over. She saw herself

decked in Kanjeevaram silk looking radiant and happy in her finery. And in her ears were a pair of gold earrings matching the gorgeous necklace round her swan-like neck. People darted admiring looks at her, complimenting her on her choice of jewellery and she said demurely, "Thank you so much but I haven't selected it. My ma-in-law bequeathed it to me."

Her father embraced her whispering, "You are so very lucky. What I could not give you, they made sure to give." And then she fell asleep with an irrepressible feeling of happiness and sense of fulfilment.

In the morning when Vijay woke up he found Meeta still asleep looking radiantly peaceful. He told himself, "She has the mind and beauty of a child who finds joy in the smallest of things, never wanting anything, so alive yet contented. I wish I could be like her instead of being so enmeshed in my ambitious cravings." Gently he whispered into her ears, "Wake up girl. It's already 6.30."

She roused herself from sleep and put her hand to her ears. They were bare and as her husband looked at her quizzically she smiled, well, they were mine for sometime at least, she told herself.

"By the way I forgot to tell you. Our company is sponsoring an amateur's painting contest. Why don't you paint something? You used to be so good at it remember? It would be nice if you got a prize."

"I'll see. I don't know if I can paint any more. I've lost touch."

"Well, there is certainly no harm in trying," he urged.

"I'll see," she said non-committally.

A month later, the painting contest was held. Meeta was as yet undecided on the topic of her painting. Early in the morning she woke up, had a bath and said a short prayer. Then she went into the drawing-room and stood before her mother-in-law's photograph, a prayer in her heart. "Give me inspiration." Turning round she came face to face with Chitra.

"Aacha! So you've been asking Amma to bless you? I'm sure she will. She used to love timid people even if they were not Brahmins, especially good girls like you."

"I'm not sure if it pays to be timid," retorted Meeta softly.

"Most often it does Meeta. Your timidness makes Appa believe that you're just about the ideal daughter-in-law. You never express your resentment in any way, you never argue, in fact I doubt whether you even think. Look at me. I disagree, I discriminate, I discuss, and what is more if I think it is necessary I even oppose Appa's will. But let me not delay you. Best of luck. May your talent illuminate the name of the Charys."

On her way to the painting hall escorted by Vijay who constantly sought to reassure her, Meeta tried not to dwell on Chitra's

parting words, wishing she could have retorted in a suitable manner.

I could have told her, she thought, that I'm not timid because I want to impress anyone. I'm this way because I loathe hurting anyone; aggressive people frighten me and I don't want to be aggressive. Through the maze of her thoughts she heard Vijay.

"Wipe that worried look off your face. It's only an amateur's competition. You'll win. I can feel it."

"But I don't know what I'm going to draw," she protested feebly.

"It'll come to you automatically," he reasoned.

And it came to her, just like Vijay said — automatically, the inspiration. The canvas in front of her leaped to life as she drew vividly the emaciated corpse of a woman sprawled on a blazing desert. Beside her lay a gold chain with matching earrings. Above the dead woman was a swarm of vultures in the act of swooping upon her. With deft, sure strokes she imposed the heads of humans on the vultures, capturing brilliantly the look of greed in their ruthless eyes. The result was awesome and she knew it. In small neat letters she wrote out the title "...and then the vultures came".

Her painting won the first prize. The certificate accompanying the prize money of Rs. 2,500 said, "for a superb creation and brilliant imagination".

U. V. J.

# FLIRTATIOUS 'N' SOPHISTICATED!

Dressing up for an occasion should be something to anticipate joyfully and the right type of outfit to suit the occasion and one's personality should be at hand.

The range of elegant evening wear brought to you on these pages by SHOBHANA NATHANI of Shai boutique, Bombay, is designed for just such occasions and will add a touch of glamour to your wardrobe. The outfits are "dressy" without being "way out" so if you want to get yourself a new look, these may be the right designs for you.

Traditional embroidery highlights conservative elegance, a striking dupatta sets off plain ensemble, leaving you to choose just how much glamour you want to add by way of accessories.

## LEFT TO RIGHT:

Two interesting ensembles in white and yellow with Rajasthani embroidered insets — the unusual red-and-white outfit looks like a two-piece, ideal for a not-too-formal occasion.

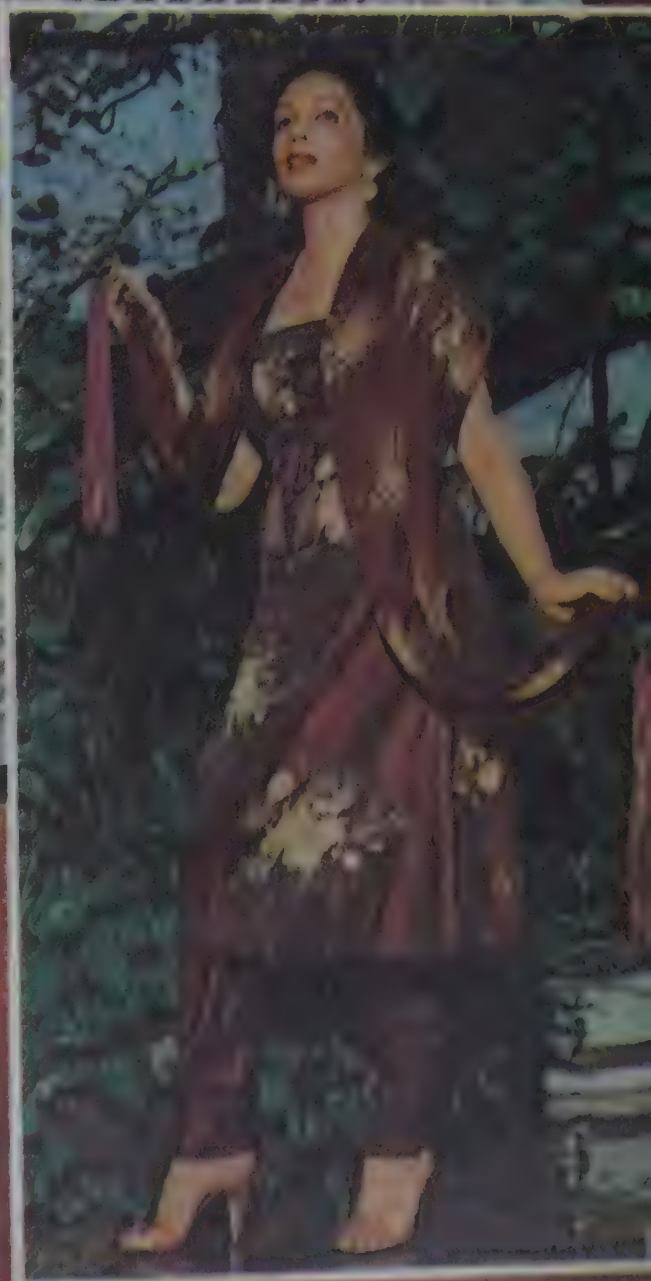
A winning number — a pistachio-green ensemble throws into relief a striped organza dupatta with embroidered floral sprays.

The elegance of pure silk in this sparkling yellow ensemble with a printed churidar. The same print is reflected in the kurta front and the sleeves, to highlight the ensemble.

The type of ensemble that is timeless — a two-piece kurta in a gorgeous floral print has a similar printed chiffon dupatta with tasselled ends.

Photographs: Taiyeb Badshah





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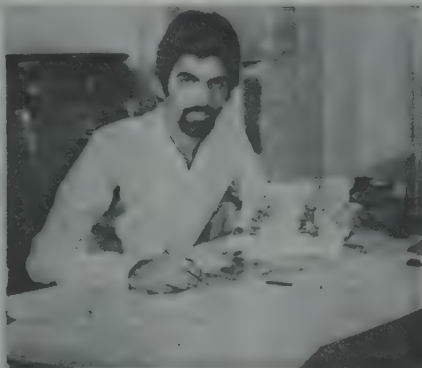


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# TRAVEL-A-ROUND

**Q** We will be spending a few days in Ahmedabad around Diwali and would like to visit Palitana from there. Are there any conducted tours we could consider joining? Is the climb to the temples very difficult?

**A** The Tourism Corporation of Gujarat operates several low cost tours to various destinations, and you could consider taking their Palitana Darshan Package. This is a two day package tour costing Rs. 200 per head which includes transport by deluxe coach, dormitory accommodation and standard

**Q** Could you give me the names of some Indian restaurants in Hongkong and Tokyo?

**A** Some of the Indian restaurants in Hongkong are:- Akbar Restaurant, 193, Kings Shopping Centre Bldg., Kings Road; Shalimar Restaurant, 13 Irving St., Ground fl., Causeway Bay; Curry House, Cleveland Mansion, 5, Cleveland St.; Gaylord, 43 Chatham Road, Kowloon. In Tokyo you can visit Ashoka, 8th floor, Pearl Bldg., 9-18, Ginza 7-chome, Chuo-ku, Tel. 03 572 2377; Tahji, 1st floor,

**A** As your children are under the age of 12, they are entitled to 50 per cent discount on the full Indian Airlines fare. The return fare for your twins will come to Rs. 497 each.

**Q** We know we are expected to tip taxi drivers and restaurant and hotel staff abroad. Do we need to pay airline staff gratuities as well?

International airline staff do not expect and are not allowed to accept gratuities.

3 Transfers to and from the airport — US \$ 15 (approx. Rs. 145) per person each way by boat.

Sri Lanka and the Maldives are heavily booked during the winter, so make your reservations well in advance.

**Q** We will be going to Delhi during Diwali holidays. Could you suggest a short trip by car out of Delhi, to a place where my husband and I can relax, and the children amuse themselves? Our budget is not very high.

## A VISIT TO PALITANA

vegetarian meals. Departures are from the Tourist Information Bureau every Wednesday from November to June. For full details contact the Gujarat Tourist Information Bureau, H. K. House, Ground floor, Behind Jivabhai Chambers, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad 380 009, Tel. 449 683.

The approach to the temples is by a flight of steps which takes about an hour and a half to climb, and an hour to descend. The ascent is about 4 km. in length and fairly steep. Dolis are available on hire at the foot of the hill. Certain religious customs and rules have to be adhered to — no article of leather should be carried. Pilgrims ascend the hill either barefoot or in non-leather footwear.

The temples of Palitana in Gujarat

Pagoda Bldg., 2-7, Akasaka 3-chome, Minato-ku, Tel. 03 586-6606; Delhi, 3-11, Ginza 6-chome, Chuo ku, Tel. 03 571 7895; Nile, 10-7 Ginza 4-chome, Chuo-ku, Tel. 03 541 8246.

**Q** My husband travels frequently to London on work. Next month he will be making his first trip to Paris, and I would like him to get me some ready-to-wear clothes. I usually take a British size 36. What is the French equivalent?

**A** Ask for a size 44.

**Q** I would like to send my ten-year-old twins to Hyderabad on holiday. What would the airfare be?

**Q** We are considering a second honeymoon in Sri Lanka and the Maldives in November. Could you give us an idea of the cost involved as regards airfares, and also hotel accommodation at the Villi Varu Island Resort?

**A** The airfare will work out to Rs. 1,427 per head one way to Colombo from Bombay, and Rs. 746 per head one way Male to Colombo. Charges at the Villi Varu Island Resort at Villingilivaru in the Maldives are as follows:

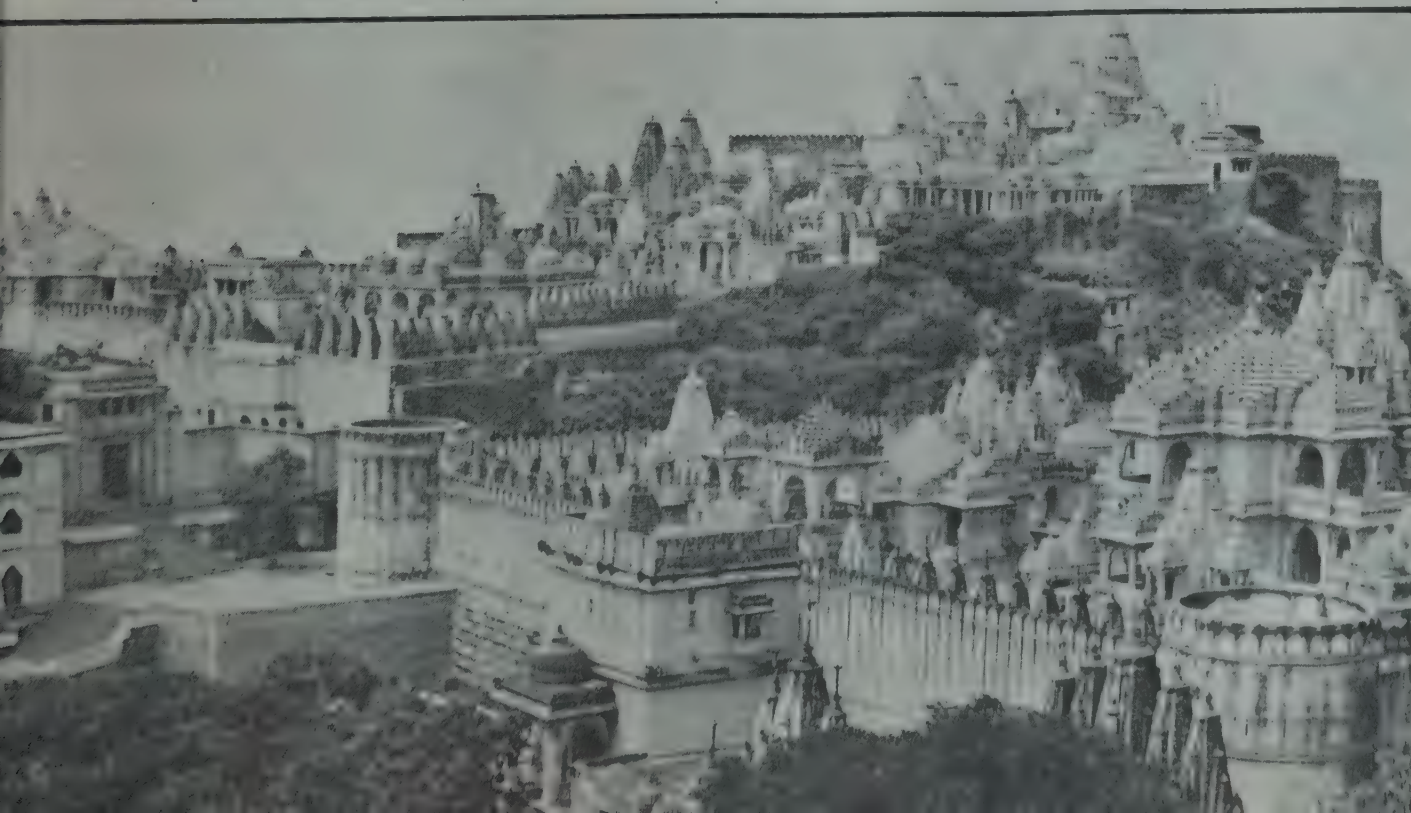
1. Charges for one double room — US \$ 45 (approx. Rs. 435) and US \$ 3 per person per day bed tax (approx. Rs. 30).
2. Meal supplement US \$14 (approx. Rs. 135) per person per day.

**A** Not far from Delhi are several Haryana Tourism Development Corporation resorts, where you can stay in inexpensive comfort, just relaxing, or else boating, fishing, swimming, walking and picnicking. You could drive to the Sunbird Motel at Surajkund (18 km. from Delhi) or to Badkhul Lake, or the Magpie at Faridabad (both about 30 km.).

Alternatively, drive a little further out to Sonha (56 km.) where in addition to the usual facilities you can take a sauna or a sulphur bath; or the Dabchick at Hodal with camel and elephant rides for the kids. All these resorts offer a choice of accommodation in motels or in camper huts. For further details regarding location, tariff etc., write to the Haryana Tourism Corporation 111, 112, 113, Sector 17-B, Chandigarh 160 017.

All travel regulations, fares and timetables are subject to revision. For individual replies to your travel queries contact:

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# CATCHING UP ON LEFTOVERS

Leftover bread and chappatis are inevitable, and who likes to eat them stale? With just a little effort, you can add interest and taste to them. Budget conscious and nutritionally aware cooks will appreciate these simple snacks, and the hungry family will polish them off before they realise that the goodies have anything to do with leftovers!

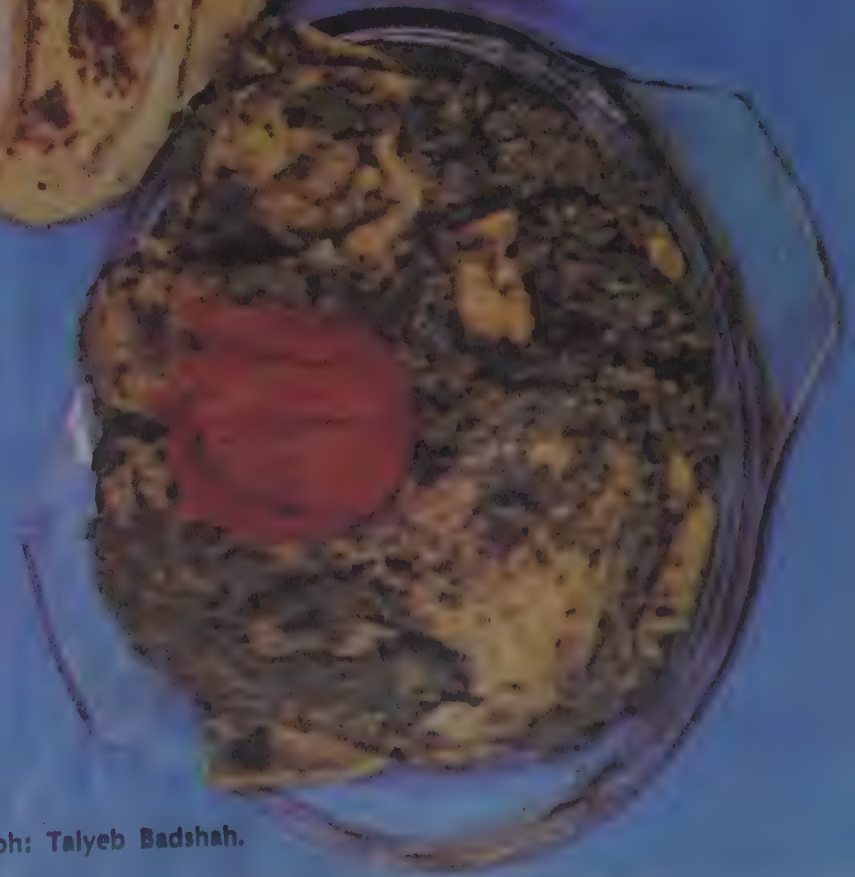
Breadcrumbs can be stored for any length of time. Make them with crusts and stray slices. Dry thoroughly, crush and keep for cutlet day! Also helpful when cooking just for yourself or for two — now you won't feel compelled to finish the whole loaf — convert it and chase boredom away.

*Premila Lal*

## TRADITIONAL BREAD STUFFING FOR CHICKEN

- ¼ cup butter, melted
- ½ cup onion, finely chopped
- ½ cup celery, chopped
- 4 cups, white bread, cubed
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 tsps. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tbsps. chopped parsley
- ½ cup cream

Melt ¼ cup butter in a pan. Cook the onions and celery until soft but not browned and mix with the bread. Add the salt, sauce, chopped parsley and cream. Mix well and stuff lightly into chicken cavities. Sew or skewer the chicken and roast. This quantity of stuffing will be enough for a two-and-a-half kilo chicken.



## CHAPPATI LADOOS

- 4 chappatis, leftover
- ½ cup coconut, grated or peanuts, coarsely pounded
- 2 tsp. seedless raisins
- 1 cardamom, ground
- 1 cup jaggery
- 2 tsp. ghee

Dry the chappatis thoroughly in a slow oven or tava and pound them coarsely. Soak grated jaggery in one cup of water till it melts. Strain water and heat over medium fire. When the syrup turns thick, add the rest of the ingredients and stir. When mixture leaves the sides of the dekchi remove and keep aside till slightly cool. Form into ladoos and allow to cool and harden.

## BREAD AND MARMALADE PUDDING

- 150 gm. bread
- 2 eggs
- 4 tbsp. milk
- 150 gm. caster sugar
- A pinch of salt
- 100 gm. suet, grated
- Marmalade as required

Rub bread through a wire sieve to make 125 grams of crumbs. Beat together the eggs and milk, add salt and sugar and beat together for 5 minutes. Put in the breadcrumbs and grated suet and beat well till smooth.

Put into a pudding bowl, alternating with a layer of marmalade. Bake in a hot oven for 1½ hours or steam for 2 hours.

## TOASTED CHEESE ROLLS

- 12 thin slices of bread
- 2 tbsp. butter
- 4 tbsp. grated cheese
- 1 tbsp. minced coriander leaves

Sprinkle a little water on the bread slices, to make them soft and pliable. Blend together the butter, coriander leaves and cheese. Spread this on one side of the bread slices. Roll and tie with string. Fry till crisp and golden in colour. Remove the string and serve.

## SHAHI TUKRI

- 12 slices white bread
- 1 pint milk
- 10 green cardamoms
- 250 gm. sugar
- ½ tsp. saffron
- 200 gm. khoya
- 2 tsp. essence
- Silver leaves (varak)
- A few almonds, pistachios and preserved cherries
- Ghee

Cut bread into triangular pieces, remove the hard crust, and fry in ghee till golden brown. Remove from ghee. Boil milk with crushed cardamoms and dissolve sugar and saffron in it. Soak the fried bread in this prepared milk for a few minutes. Then remove the slices with a flat spoon and keep aside.

Mix khoya into the milk and heat for 5 minutes. Then add the bread slices and continue to cook on low heat till the mixture thickens. Turn the slices over a couple of times with a

flat spoon. Add essence, remove from heat and leave to cool for a while. Spread out carefully in a serving dish, garnish with silver leaves, chop and sprinkle almonds, pistachios and cherries on top. Serve cold.

## MASALA TOAST

- Few thick slices bread
- ½ cup milk
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp. ginger-garlic paste
- Green chillies, chopped fine
- Mint leaves, chopped fine
- A pinch of salt

Soak the slices of bread in the milk. Beat the eggs with ginger-garlic paste, add salt and green chillies and mint leaves according to taste and pour over bread. Turn the slices over and cover both sides. Fry in hot ghee and serve with freshly sliced tomatoes.

## CHICKEN KIEV

- 6 chicken breasts (3 chickens one for each portion)
- Butter
- 3 spring onions, chopped with the leaves
- ½ tsp. chilli powder
- 1 egg, whisked
- 2 tbsp. corander leaves, chopped
- 1 cup breadcrumbs, made from left-over bread
- 2 cups oil for frying
- Flour
- Pepper
- Salt

Flatten the breasts firmly with the palm of your hand. Slice half-inch wide strips of frozen

butter for each piece. Sprinkle the butter pieces with coriander leaves and chilli powder. Roll the chicken pieces around the butter, then roll in seasoned flour. Dip in egg and roll again in breadcrumbs. While you are doing this, heat the oil for deep frying. When the oil is hot fry the chicken rolls till golden brown. Drain and serve, sprinkled with onions.

## ROAST CHICKEN WITH TRADITIONAL BREAD STUFFING

- 1½-2 kilos roasting chicken
- 1 tbsp. soya sauce
- Softened butter
- Traditional bread stuffing
- Salt and pepper

Rub the cavities of the chicken well with softened butter. Place the stuffing in the chicken and sew or skewer the openings. Sprinkle salt and pepper over the chicken and rub well with softened butter and soya sauce. Place the chicken in an open roasting pan and roast uncovered in a moderately hot oven allowing 20 minutes to the ½ kilo until browned and tender. Baste frequently with the drippings in the pan. The last 20 minutes of cooking time, turn the chicken over so that the underside can brown too. Carve and serve the chicken with the bread stuffing.

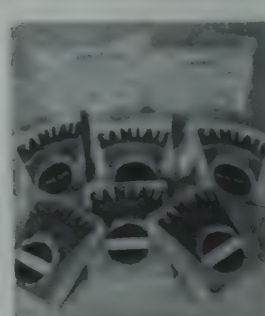
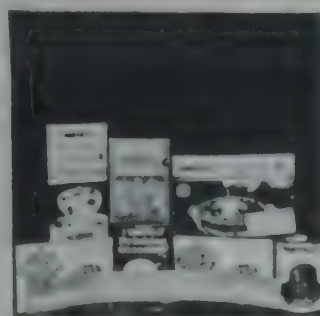
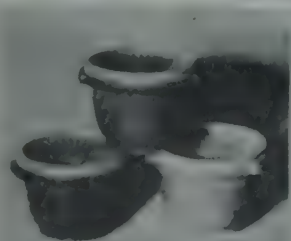
**KALPANA TANWAR** will be temporarily our cookery editor in the absence of **Roshan Billimoria**, who is away on extended leave.

## ANNOUNCING NEW GIFTS FOR OUR COOKERY WINNERS

Winners of our Weekly Contest will receive in addition to the usual Rs. 50.00 cash prize :

1. A set of 3 Thumb-Press Storefresh containers from TRUPTI INDUSTRIES, 2. A gift hamper from WEIKFIELD containing custard powder, jelly crystals, drinking chocolate, glucose-D, variety custard powder and baking powder, 3. A complete stainless steel spoon set of six from BIMBO INTERNATIONAL, 4. A gift hamper from SANJALI FOOD CORPORATION

containing instant roasting masala, rohani curry powder, mughlai curry, garam masala, pav bhaji, chat masala, korma curry, dahi wada and bhajia mix, and 5. A handy pack set of 4 multi-purpose containers with attractive printed designs from BRIGHT BROTHERS LIMITED, Bombay.





Mrs. Meena Balachandran, Madras

## CHICKEN IN AUBERGINE CUPS

- 1 chicken
  - 5 large aubergines (brinjals)
  - 2 cups flour
  - 1 cup cream
  - 2 cups milk
  - 5 cups chicken stock
  - 1 tbsp. butter
  - 1 tsp. monosodium glutamate
  - 1½ tsp. salt
  - 1 tsp. chilli powder
  - 1 tsp. garam masala
  - 1 tsp. parsley, chopped
  - 1½ cups rum
- Oil or ghee for frying

Clean and wash the chicken. Sprinkle monosodium glutamate on the chicken pieces and allow to stand for a while. Add sufficient water, salt, and boil the chicken until tender. Drain the chicken and keep five cups of stock aside. Now remove the flesh from the bones. Meanwhile slit the aubergines into halves along with the stalk. Scoop out the centres of the aubergines and keep aside. Make the sauce separately by putting the milk, butter, flour (mixed to a paste and blended with the liquid) cream, chicken stock and the scooped out aubergine and cook until fairly thick. Add the chicken pieces and mix well the chopped parsley, garam masala and chilli powder.

Now fill this into the aubergine cups and place two at a time in the frying pan. Add two teaspoonful oil and place the frying pan over the fire. When the frying pan is sufficiently hot add a quarter cup of rum. The whole thing should go into flames. Add some more rum if necessary and cook until the aubergine skin is tender and soft. Cover with silver foil and serve with hot rice.



Mrs. Judith D'Costa, Goa.

## EGG IN COCONUT JUICE AND SPINACH

- 5 eggs
- 15 spinach leaves
- 2 onions, finely chopped

- 2 tomatoes, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp. oil
- ½ cup cheese, grated
- Salt to taste

### TO BE GROUND:

- 1 coconut, scraped
- 4 green chillies
- 5 peppercorns
- ½ tsp. cummin seeds
- ½ tsp. coriander seeds
- 3 cloves garlic, flaked
- ½ inch piece ginger
- Small ball tamarind

Grind all the ingredients coarsely and extract three cups of juice. Keep aside. Wash and cook spinach. Blend to form a paste.

Fry onions. Add tomatoes and fry further. Pour the extracted juice and boil till it bubbles, stirring now and then. Next add the spinach paste and let it cook.

## WEEKLY WINNER



RENU DAWAR,  
PUNE

Miss Renu Dawar wins Rs. 50 for this week's best recipe plus a set of three thumb-press store fresh containers from Trupti Industries, a gift hamper from Weikfield, a spoon set of six from Bimbo International, a gift hamper from Sanjali Food Corporation and a set of four containers from Bright Brothers, Bombay.

## PRAWN STUFFED TINDA

- 12 large tinda
- 1 cup prawns, shelled and chopped
- 1 cup thick coconut milk
- ½ cup gram flour (besan)
- ½ cup cooking oil
- 1 tbsp. ghee
- ½ lime

Chilli powder and salt to taste

### Grind to a paste:

- ½ cup grated coconut
- 2 large bunches coriander
- 1 bunch mint
- 6 green chillies
- 2 large onions
- 1- inch piece ginger
- 6 cloves garlic
- 1 tsp. cummin

Scrape the tindas, pierce the top of each with a sharp knife and gently scoop out the seeds and keep aside.

Heat a little oil in the pan and add half the ground masala. When fried well, add chopped prawns and salt and cook till excess water dries up. Cool and then stuff each tinda with prawn mixture. Use gram flour to seal the top.

Mix gram flour with ghee, chilli powder, salt and enough water to form a soft dough. Form into one-inch 'cigars' and keep aside.

Heat oil in a shallow keral and fry the rest of the ground masala. When done, add salt and a half cup water. Put in tindas and besan 'cigars'. Allow to cook till done. Add thick coconut milk and simmer for 5 minutes. Just before removing from heat add the juice of half a lime and stir carefully. Serve with plain boiled rice.

Break the eggs and drop them whole one by one into the curry without stirring. Boil till eggs are cooked. Serve hot sprinkled with grated cheese.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Monthly Cookery Queen Contest

All contestants for the Monthly Cookery Contest have to send in their recipes, non-vegetarian, and vegetarian, according to the subject specified for each month. Out of the seven best entries selected, one Monthly Queen and one Weekly Winner will be selected. The remaining five recipes will be published along with the winning recipes. We give below, the subjects for the coming three months.

NOVEMBER 1982  
LEAFY VEGETABLES

DECEMBER 1982  
BAKED DISHES  
(SAVOURY)

JANUARY 1983  
JELLY DESSERTS

All entries for November should reach us by October 5, the December entries by November 5, and January entries by December 5.

## COOKERY CONTESTANTS!

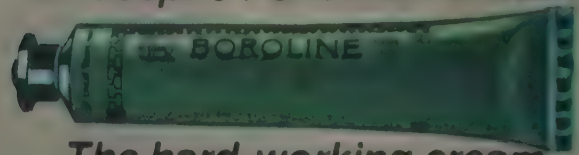
### Revised Contest Rules

1. Each recipe must be accompanied by this coupon.
2. The author of each selected entry will be informed in advance and requested to send a passport size photograph of herself to be published along with her recipe.
3. The recipe must be original and not copied from a cookery book, a magazine of any other published material. The prize-winner shall have to sign a declaration to that effect before the announcement is made and the prize awarded.

Address your entries to the Cookery Editor, EVE'S WEEKLY, Bombay Samachar Marg, Bombay—400 023.

*“Between keeping house, looking after children and meeting friends, I don't have a moment to spare on fancy skin care. That's why I use the same antiseptic cream my mother always used. Boroline. With Boroline's antiseptic action, I know my skin is protected round the year—against dryness and chapping, rashes and sunburn. Boroline also helps to heal all those small cuts and abrasions that are so much a part of everyday life. Now I can take care of everything—and still have healthy skin. Thank you, Boroline.”*

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My first impressions of Mirabehn were those of a little boy unaccustomed to seeing a tall, white, beautiful lady in the spartan surroundings of Sevagram Ashram.

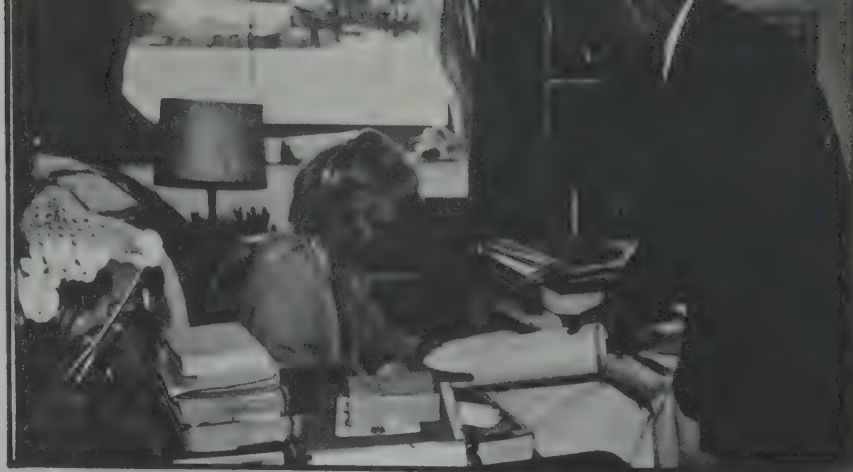
She was like an oversized angel, always dressed in coarse white, a strong boney figure and the delicately chiselled features adding to her sublime expression in spite of a clean-shaven head. She was an extremely quiet person who rarely spoke to anyone.

I had been accustomed to all sorts of visitors coming to meet Bapu and staying over, but still I had never seen a European lady living in an Indian wilderness, doing chores that come naturally to an Indian woman.

peared lost. She was equally devoted to two great persons — Beethoven and Gandhi — and between the two she led a truly muddled life.

Her restlessness grew out of her indecision and to some extent her inability. This she displayed in ample measure in her autobiography. When the rest of the family were thrilled by the invitation to participate in the Royal Darbar in India she preferred to stay back in England. Nothing could persuade the charming and impetuous Madeleine to make the trip. She was already devoted to Beethoven and writes:

"I played and listened to Beethoven day after day, following the music in the score. Being untrained I could not analyse what



Mirabehn was visited by Indian ambassador A. S. Mehta at her home in Vienna.

I was listening to, but I imbibed, more surely than if there had been words, a sense of fearlessness, strength and purity passing, especially in the slow movements, to those regions of the spirit

which lifts one into that which can only be felt but never spoken."

She felt a great frustration at having to listen to Beethoven's music on a mechanical player:

# THE DAUGHTER BAPU NEVER HAD

On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, ARUN GANDHI, his grandson, recapitulates his boyhood impressions of Mirabehn, Gandhiji's devoted disciple, who died in Vienna in July this year

I learnt from my parents that she was Madeleine Slade, the daughter of a British Admiral, who had become the daughter that Bapu never had. Though this filled me with admiration for her I was too young and too shy to go and speak with her.

We later went back to South Africa where my parents were running the Phoenix Ashram started by Mahatma Gandhi and so our ways parted. Except for an occasional letter to my parents when I would hear them talking of Mirabehn I never had the occasion to see her again. When I returned to India in 1956 she was already on her way to settling down in Austria, at the edge of the famous Black Forest.

When fate took me to England in 1967 I had hoped I would be able to visit her in Austria, but when one is on a shoe-string budget many hopes remain unfulfilled. But it was in London that I found a copy of her biography 'The Spirit's Pilgrimage' which spurred me to visit Dorking to discreetly see 'Milton Heath', the home she so readily gave up for the privations of life with Bapu.

To say that she made an amazing sacrifice to devote her life to Indians and their problems would be a gross understatement. From British aristocracy to Indian peasantry is, indeed, a far cry. Apart from that. Mirabehn struck me as not only a very restless soul, but also one who ap-



"Yet in spite of all my efforts I could make no real headway (in learning to play the piano). It was as if Fate said 'No'. I felt desperate. Was there no way in which I could be of service? And my prayers to God, which had never ceased, throbbed passionately in my heart — Guide me, Guide me," she cried.

She never did learn to play Beethoven's music and towards the end of her life, the best part of which she had devoted to India and Gandhi, she decided to go and live in the area that had inspired Beethoven. And so she moved to Austria.

Her indecision related more to her spinsterhood. Though she was spiritually wedded to both Gandhi and Beethoven, the fact that she was physically not married to anyone seemed to add to her restless spirit. In the prime of her life in England she spurned offers of marriage, but while in India she appeared to have been overwhelmed by the need for it.

In her autobiography she writes: "While I had been away in the Northwest Frontier a well-known Punjabi revolutionary, Prithvi Singh, who had been absconding for some time, had come

Mirabehn with Gandhiji: from British aristocracy to Indian peasantry.

to Bapu. On my return I heard from Mahadev and others how this revolutionary had expressed himself converted to Bapu's ideals and had, on Bapu's advice, surrendered himself to the police. Since then Bapu had been pleading for his unconditional release. I listened with interest, but thought nothing more about it.

"Suddenly one day a powerful, fearless looking man appeared in the doorway of Bapu's hut. Bapu recognised him with delight. It was Prithvi Singh. Bapu's pleading had done the trick, and he had been released. I watched the whole scene with peculiar satisfaction, though I did not then know the complete and remarkable history of this man.

"When the story of his adventures, which he had written down, was given to me for poli-

shing up the English, my interest in him greatly increased, and I read through with avidity his account of the Second Lahore Conspiracy Case Trials, the condemnation to death of himself and several companions, the reprieve, the life in the Andamans prison, the transfer to jails in India and then his escape from a running train in spite of the chains with which he was fettered, his later recapture, his re-escape and long, successful absconding, which lasted till, after several years, he came openly to Bapu.

"In the beginning he spent most of his time at Sevagram and I saw a good deal of him. I felt at home with him, and rejoiced in his frank and fearless manner. I began to feel, here at last is someone with whom I could perhaps work outside independent-

ly, as Bapu always wanted me to do. This feeling grew so pressing that I spoke to Bapu about it. Bapu looked at me with unexpected seriousness and said, 'If you feel like that it means to my mind that you should marry, and added, as if thinking aloud, 'Perhaps marriage has been the unspoken word in your life.'

"I was taken aback and felt speechless. Bapu saw my astonishment and said, 'Your former resolve not to marry, to my mind, should not stand in the way. As far as I am concerned, you are absolved from it.'

"My mind and emotions were in a whirl. Was this the way out of my frustration? Bapu was probably right. Could I be of use at last if I made the plunge? Bapu, in his usual unhesitating way, said, 'I shall speak to him.' And

I accepted the situation without further ado. The whole conversation did not take five minutes. I felt perfectly breathless, and then for a little extraordinarily happy.

"After all the pent-up suffering I had been through I could not catch any balance in this completely new orientation, and my emotions ran riot. Fate was tossing me around like a little cork in a rough sea. Prithvi Singh wisely resisted all proposals whether from Bapu or others."

But, whatever the turmoil in her personal life Mirabehn's 33 years of devotion to India should never be underestimated. Her work among the poor in the foothills of the Himalayas will forever remain a living memory of one who fought for, and eventually attained, the realisation of her true self.

The recent case of the murder of a woman in Bombay whose young daughter was the only witness to the crime, raises urgent questions about the future use of child witnesses.

This ghastly, traumatic incident, a constantly recurring nightmare for four-year-old Sapna Pawale, occurred on June 2, 1981. Her father Sadanand Pawale left his residence at Ambe Nivas, Mahim, Bombay, for work as usual, leaving behind his wife Swati and three children including Sapna.

When he returned home in the evening, he found his wife in the kitchen lying in a pool of blood. There were six stab wounds on her including a deep gash above her left eye. Investigating sub-inspector Shivaji Sawant and his staff also discovered that ornaments worth Rs. 15,000 were missing from the flat.

On June 6, a 25-year-old electrician Ashok Chavan, was arrested in Jogeshwari by the CID. The police found a T-shirt with barely visible bloodstains. A forensic examination of Chavan's chappals revealed bloodstains similar to the blood group of Swati Pawale.

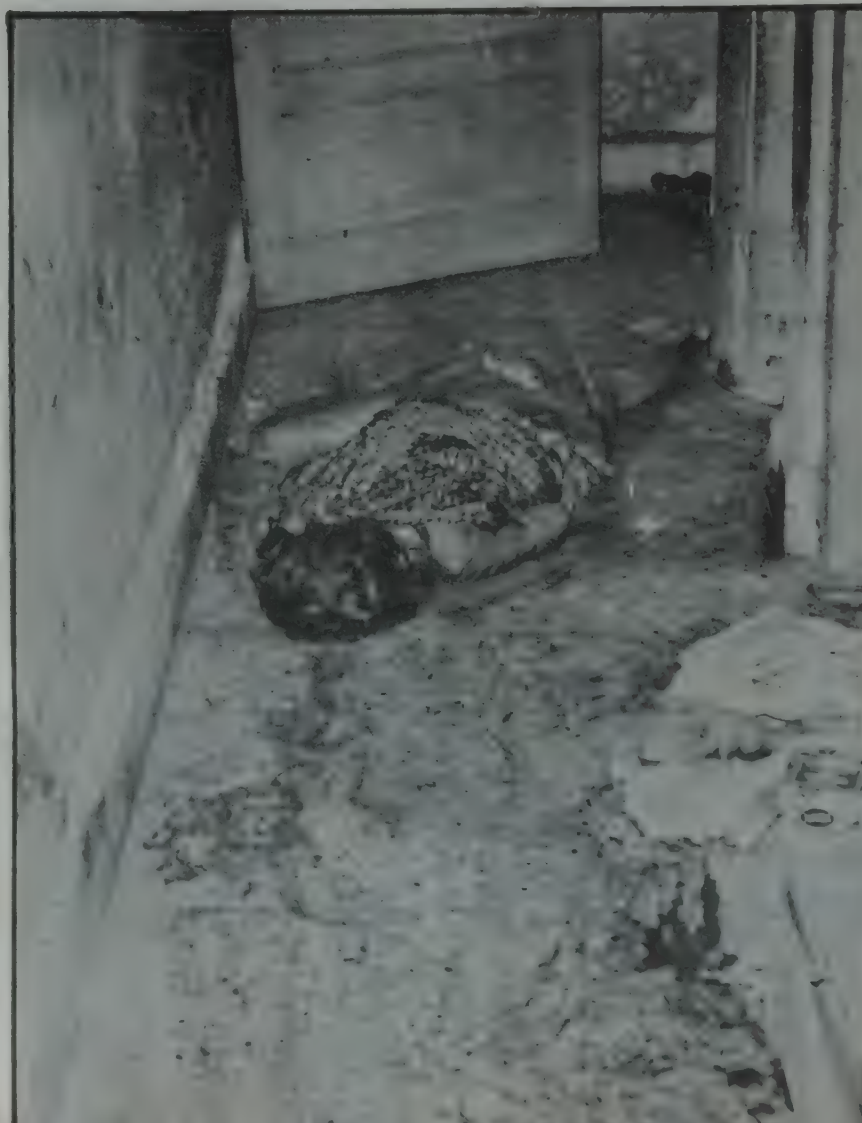
An identification parade was organised and Ashok was immediately identified by Sapna as the *pahuna* who "beat" her mother with a knife.

By the time loose ends were tied up and the case came up

## HOW RELIABLE IS A CHILD WITNESS?

After subjecting her to the trauma of a cross-examination, the testimony of four-year-old Sapna, the only witness to her mother's gruesome murder, was dismissed

Pradeep Shinde



The body of Swati Pawale.



Four-year-old Sapna: the key witness.

for hearing in the Sessions Court in June, 1982, a year had passed. Sapna was a key witness and a year had passed and yet a child like her was supposed to vividly retain the memory of her mother's murder and faithfully recall events in the gloomy and intimidating atmosphere of the Sessions Court

However on being produced before Judge Jalisatgi of the Sessions Court, Bombay, four-year-old Sapna Pawale stated that she saw a *pahuna* (guest) "beating" her mother Swati with a knife. The questioning in court went something like this:

Q : Where is your mother?

A : She is dead.

Q : How did she die?

A : She was beaten by *pahuna*.

Q : Where is the guest?

Continued on page 47

# HE'S HAD HIS INNINGS!

**EVEN HIS WORST ENEMIES CONCEDE THAT RAJESH KHANNA, AS AN ACTOR, IS FIRST CLASS. NOW THAT HE IS OVER THE 'PHENOMENON' STAGE, HE MUST GIVE THOUGHT TO DIVERSIFYING HIS UNDOUBTED TALENT**

**Jyothi Venkatesh**



Is Rajesh Khanna in hiding? That's what his fans (the few ones who still remain) are asking these days. Rajesh seems to figure more in newspapers and magazines than on the screen. He has been lying low for the last several months. Is the charisma on the wane? What happened to the once-upon-a-time phenomenon with the Midas touch?

Rajesh has always been synonymous with sensation and stunts. Whether it was his involvement with Anju or his affairs with Mumtaz or Sharmila Tagore or his marriage to Dimple or his split up with her.

After 'Ashanti', not a single distributor is willing to touch a film with Rajesh in the lead. 'Ashanti' too didn't fare well. Neither did 'Rajput' nor 'Dharam Kanta' which followed. While he got the accolades after 'Rajput' in spite of being starred with giants like Dharmendra and Vinod Khanna, after 'Ashanti' it was Mithun Chakravarty who walked away with the honours.

It is the infiltration of young people into the film industry that is edging Rajesh slowly out of the industry. The producers prefer to opt for youngsters like Mithun, Kumar Gaurav, Kamal Hassan and Sunny Deol. Unfortunately for Rajesh, though talentwise, he can hold his own against the young newcomers who have yet to prove themselves and carry a film on their shoulders like Rajesh has done, what works against Rajesh is his figure which is no longer slim and youthful.

Today the rough and tough hit-and-run image sells. Action is what the public needs. And Rajesh doesn't have that macho image which Amitabh has patented over the years. The audience today will identify with the angry young man projected by Amitabh but not with the goody romantic hero image with which Rajesh is saddled.

Not that Rajesh didn't have a go at the action image. He made a feeble attempt at it with 'Red Rose' in which he played a maniac on a killing spree. But unfortunately for him, though the film had clicked when it was made in Tamil with Kamal Hassan, it bombed when made in Hindi.

Rajesh has had his innings. It is high time now that he thought of diversifying. As an actor, no one will dispute — not even Amitabh, his staunchest enemy on the professional front — the fact that Rajesh is good. Instead of clinging to his romantic image which has led him nowhere, Rajesh ought to tackle the kind of roles which Sanjeev Kumar does unabashedly, without any silly hang-ups.

If trade people who have had sneak previews of Sawan Kumar's 'Souten' are to be believed Rajesh Khanna will come out of hibernation after 'Souten' is released with a bang. It is Rajesh who is carrying the film on his shoulders and matching his talent with that scene-stealer Padmini Kolhapure.

Ask Sawan Kumar about Rajesh and he will take up the cudgels on Rajesh's behalf. "Today Rajesh can sell on his own. If Amitabh sells for his action roles, you can depend on Rajesh to deliver the goods when you want to make a film which lays more emphasis on emotion," he says. And to prove that he means what he says, Sawan has also signed

Rajesh to play the lead in his next venture 'Aasman Chup Hai'.

And when one talks about 'Souten' one is automatically reminded of Tina Munim, and Rajesh's link-up with her. Insiders in the industry point out that Dimple has walked out on Rajesh Khanna only because of the 'arrival' of the third person in the triangle.

One is not able to surmise whether this involvement of Rajesh Khanna's with Tina is for keeps or a passing phase. The fact that Sunjay Dutt and Tina have called it quits is proof of the fact that there is more to the rumours than meets the eye. It remains to be seen whether Rajesh, in his desperate bid for some more sensational publicity, may even decide to plunge into matrimony with Tina.

If the grapevine is to be believed, Rajesh is right now lying low only because he has great plans for the future. On his agenda, is an ambitious plan to produce and direct a film and establish his own banner, the way his colleagues, Manoj Kumar, Feroz Khan etc. have done. His earlier attempt at launching a film proved to be abortive when his 'Majnoon' was stopped after Kamal Amrohi, the director, had canned nearly three reels of the film.

Whether Rajesh will be able to really stage a comeback either as an actor or as a producer-director, remains to be seen.

## THE YOUNG ONES

On July 4, 1982, a notice appeared in the 'Indian Express', Madras, announcing that new admissions to the first year and post-graduate degree courses, in the 27-year-old Southern India Education Trust Women's College had been "suspended". Reasons given included "indiscipline by a section of teachers". The notice was inserted by the college management.

The announcement seems to confirm the widely prevalent rumours that the College is to be closed permanently. The academic circles in the city including the student community, are naturally agitated, and have asked the state government to intervene and

Anti-management slogans on a compound wall opposite the college.

And yet, S.I.E.T. College admitted more students than any other in the city because it had a large variety of courses to offer, ranging from Commerce and Psychology to Mathematics and Home Science. That the College was always full, with a long waiting list of applicants, speaks of the acute shortage of seats for women in the city's colleges as a whole. The city does not boast of any additional colleges for women during the past three years, and hence, if S.I.E.T. also closes

# SAVE S.I.E.T.

take over the college. But the state government is hesitating because the S.I.E.T is a so-called "minority institution", and is protected under article 31, Section A, of the Constitution of India.

One of the premier colleges in Madras, the S.I.E.T. College, a couple of years back, had a strength of 3800 students, which has now dwindled to a mere 900. Founded by Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed, a retired judge of the Madras High Court, the college employs a predominantly Muslim staff, both teaching and non-teaching. Of the 176 teachers, 120 belong to the minority community, while 90 per cent of the non-teaching employees are also Muslims. Of the students, however, only about 10 per cent are Muslims.

Trouble began brewing in 1979, when some of the staff members joined the Association of University Teachers (AUT) much to the management's disapproval. A member of the college staff says: "Conditions before 1979 were deplorable. Lecturers and professors were harassed and humiliated. Pay scales were very low. Sweepers received a salary as low as Rs. 75 per month, with an increment of one rupee per annum. Teaching staff got Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 less than their counterparts in other colleges. S.I.E.T had a separate set of leave rules: There was no job security. Some non-teaching staff was kept temporary, even after 25 years of service..."

This correspondent, an old student of the college, can vouch for the fact that term fees were the highest in the city. Almost any punishment included a fine. Hostel regulations were so strict that the hostel was simply referred to as the 'jail'. The students and teachers were compelled to sell tickets for cultural programmes, which nobody wanted to buy, because they were too expensive. In many cases, the students bought them themselves! A majority of the students got admitted into the college after paying heavy donations. It was a question of money all the time! Dress regulations were very strict (only saris and half-saris allowed). Men between 11 years and 58 years of age were not allowed to enter the premises.

down, as threatened by the management, it will be a grave disservice for girls in the South.

The entry of the AUT into the college campus was a blessing for the hard-pressed staff, but not immediately. When the AUT branch of the college presented their first memorandum to the trustees asking for better treatment and better pay scales, the reaction was unexpected. Says the AUT president: "The next day, the heads of departments were asked to lock up the laboratories. Hostel students were directed to vacate at 9.30 at night. Where would they have gone at that time? Three of us advised them to stay put. The hostelites stayed on. The same day, the management announced through the local media that the college would stay closed 'indefinitely' from the next day onwards. For the next 13 days, the teaching staff demonstrated and shouted slogans outside the college. Eventually the college reopened on August 23. After this struggle, we got the UGC pay scales, and the non-teaching staff also got better pay." Also the dress restrictions were relaxed, and college fees reduced.

Although the staff got a fair deal by this agitation, there was obviously too much bitterness all round. Things came to a head again with the dismissal of an elderly Muslim member of the non-teaching staff in late 1979 on a "fabricated pretext", according to the AUT. But the Christmas vacation intervened and the college closed.

Returning to college after the Christmas holidays, the staff and students had a nasty shock: 60 ex-servicemen ("muscle-men", according to some) were deployed on the campus, including the hostels. Says a spokesman of the teaching staff, "It was intimidating; there was no privacy. Our complaints were of no avail. But more was to come. On February 6, when the teachers had taken casual leave and gone to the University for a meeting of their Association, the glass panes in

the college were found broken, and other property damaged, for which we were blamed." A lock-out followed.

It was at this time that the teachers took a novel step, which made them the talk of the town. Thatched pandals were put up on the roadside pavements outside the college, and the classes were held in them by the lecturers and professors, in full view of the curious pedestrians! Photographs of the pavement classes were splashed in all leading newspapers in the country. As is to be expected, the main sufferers were the students. Says a former student who passed out that year: "The tension and worry we underwent at that time was terrible. The University exams were nearing, the college remained closed, we were not prepared... it was we, the final year students, who bore the brunt of the scuffle."



A group of students on a normal working day.

After 48 days of this strange mode of college education — for which the teaching staff, too, was strongly criticised — the prime minister is reported to have intervened, and the lockout was lifted. The staff and the management patched up their differences for a time, but a fresh instalment of trouble started after a few months, and the management issued a press release in a Tamil newspaper, saying that, in future, if there was any demonstration or disturbance in the campus, they would close down the College. The AUT claims that the trustees were vindictive, that increments were cut on flimsy pretexts, that withdrawals of provident fund were not allowed, and so on.

The climax to these bickerings came on July 4 this year, when the management issued the notice already referred to in the beginning. The AUT has published a rejoinder to this notice also. ("We had to borrow the money to publish the rejoinder. We wanted to make sure that the public should get to know both sides of the picture," said Ms. Minnie George, the AUT president). Several members of the teaching staff are under suspension.

Following the notice, the S.I.E.T. has been hitting the headlines of local papers almost every day. Mr. Aranganayagam, the state's education minister, counsels patience, and is presumably, doing what he can to prevent the closure. The state education department, the University authorities and other officials are generally sympathetic towards the employees. The chairman of S.I.E.T., Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed, is not a favourite of these officials, for he has a long history of confrontation with the authorities in various matters connected with the running of the college.

In the meantime, the employees of the college — barring, of course, some persons who continue to be loyal to the management — are organising agitations to bring public pressure to bear on the government. 'Relay fasts' were held in front of the college, till, in August, the police unexpectedly refused permission for them. During July and

## The government in Tamilnadu is known to be very keen to promote women's education. Yet a major women's college may be allowed to close down. SUBHASHINI RAMASWAMI reports from Madras on the conflict in the S.I.E.T. College

August, processions were frequently organised to the Secretariat. Demonstrations and slogan-shouting are a daily feature. A memorandum signed by 15,000 persons, mostly Muslims, was taken in a procession and presented to the chief secretary at the Secretariat, protesting against the closure threat and victimisation of employees. Attempts are however being made to run the classes regularly. The education minister reportedly told the strike leaders: "If classes are disrupted, you will lose my sympathy."

The demonstrations in August were supported by the P&T Staff Union, and the Bank Employees Union, besides other unions in the education field. At public meetings held on August 14 and 26, a few leading journalists and leaders of political parties also took part. In these meetings, which are addressed by the college professors and lecturers such as Minnie George, Roshanara Khader, Jehanara Begum and Vanajakshi Natarajan, the audience is visibly in favour of a government "take-over" of the S.I.E.T.

In fact, the current agitation specifically demands that "the state government should immediately issue an ordinance to take over the management of the S.I.E.T. College." This, it is said, is the only way to prevent

the college being closed permanently. The S.I.E.T. College campus, it may be noted, is one of the best in the city. It is centrally located, and easily accessible from all parts of the city. The college has large, spacious grounds, well-equipped laboratories, a mosque and a swimming pool. It has been imparting education to, possibly, the largest number of girls in the city, has a successful girl's NCC wing, and has also been outstanding in various fields.

Ironically, Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed, through whose efforts the college has attained its present stature, seems indifferent to the imminent closure, and to the effect of this on the students and staff. The large skyscraper, built recently on the fringe of the college campus by the trustees, has added to the material wealth of the institution. Its flats are rented out to leading companies in Madras.

The MGR government in Tamilnadu is known to be very keen to promote women's education. It maintains a number of institutions for higher education for women, including colleges in Madras, Madurai, and Coimbatore. And yet, the demand for higher education for girls is so great that the existing facilities are inadequate.

### STOP PRESS

Consequent to the passing of a bill in the Tamilnadu legislature, which provides for the taking over of the management of erring 'minority institutions', good sense seems to have dawned on the present trustees of the S.I.E.T. College. As we go to press we learn that the college has resumed admissions.







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## A NOVEL DOWRY DEMAND . . .

It seems that the dowry-hungry parents of bridegrooms are no longer satisfied with the jewellery, furniture and the hard cash. They have now started demanding even cement in dowry. Sounds incredible, but this practice has be-

come prevalent among Kashmiri pandits. Recently one such case has come to light in Srinagar where the parents of a bridegroom demanded 100 bags of cement besides Rs. 50,000 in cash. The girl's parents, however, turned down the demand and refused to marry off their daughter.



## ...AND A NOVEL DOWRY DETERRENT

One way, albeit a rather extremist one, of eliminating the ceaseless demands for dowry, is prevalent in Dr. Jagannath Mishra's Bihar. Here parents of girls have resorted to forcible marriages at gun-point. An average middle class family in Bihar cannot think of getting the daughter married without getting together Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 50,000 in hard cash. A groom employed in a bank or in the medical or engineering profession costs Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 70,000. Because of this abnormal rise in the dowry the guardians of the brides have resorted to these unscrupulous means to get their daughters married. Many even take to kidnapping the boys for solemnising marriages. In Nalanda district alone, 1145 marriages were performed during the last two months by kidnapping

the grooms. About 4,000 such marriages were performed at Raigir, Hilsa, Aungari, Dhanshwar etc. in the last few months. Besides, the people of Nalanda district performed about 840 marriages at Deoghar, Vishnupad, Gaya, Deo, Sun Temple and other religious places. The modus operandi adopted by the guardians of brides in this "catch-hold-of-the-boy - and - solemnise" operation varies from place to place. Some hire professional criminals to kidnap the boys, paying Rs. 100 to Rs. 5,000. The boys are kidnapped from college campuses or hostels. Those going to attend the marriage ceremony of a friend or similar functions also fall victims to kidnapers. In Begusarai district about a dozen gangs are engaged in "groom-lifting".

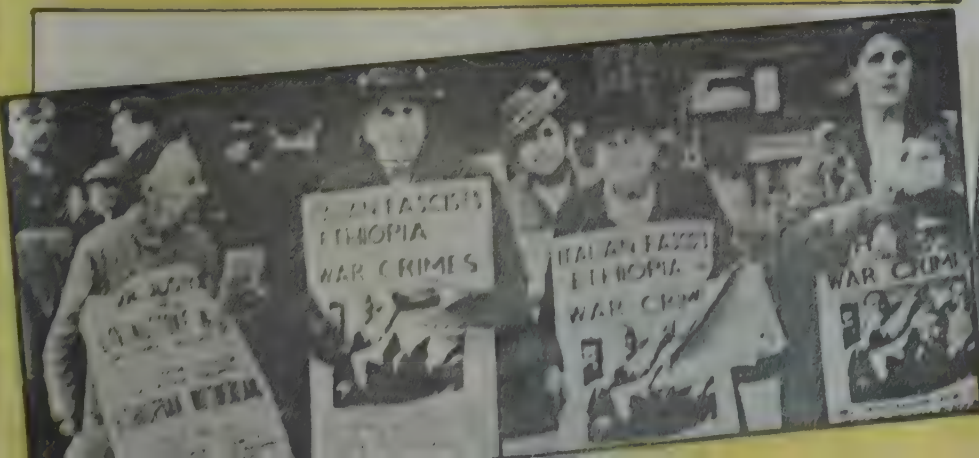
V. KUMAR

## AN INIMITABLE PANKHURST

Emmeline Pankhurst and her eldest daughter Christable are, of course, well-known as early, militant feminists. Sylvia, the second daughter is perhaps less well-known but she was a more revolutionary personality than the elder Pankhursts. A communist, she believed, unlike her mother and sister, that equal rights was essential not just for women but for all the underdogs of society and that as true equality could never be achieved under a capitalist system the aim should be to change the system. She lived and worked for much of her life in the poor East End area of London, made countless revolutionary speeches, espoused the cause of unmarried mothers, fought for child welfare clinics and maternity care, edited a radical paper called the Dreadnought and was even imprisoned for a particularly inflammatory article that appeared in it.

Museum of Labour History held an exhibition earlier this year that traced her career and highlighted the causes she espoused. It did this through the medium of her paintings (she was a good artist, who gave up a promising career as an artist to fight for the causes she believed in so ardently) which show scenes of women working in various industries as well as in the home.

Sylvia died in Ethiopia in 1960 aged 78. She had become a close friend of Emperor Haile Selassie and had lived in Ethiopia for four years prior to her death. She was a remarkable member of a remarkable family. The amazing tenacity and dedication with which all the four Pankhurst women (the youngest daughter, Adela, was a militant trade unionist in Australia) fought in the various causes to which they were committed, pointed the way ahead for women to take a more active role in public life.



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Continued from page 38

Sapna pointed towards the accused, Ashok Chavan (25) standing in the dock. "He beat my mother with a knife." She added, "He hit her with a knife on her eyes . . . I was in my bed at that time."

A four-year-old cannot know that a knife can be used for stabbing and not for beating a person. Since the properties of a knife and its usage may not be known to a child of that age, she could, on witnessing a stabbing incident come to the conclusion that the knife was used for beating or hitting the victim.

In a bid to confuse Sapna, the defence attorney whipped out a large pen and asked:

**Q: Is this a chaaku (knife)?**

**A: No, it is a pen**

**Q: What is a chaaku used for?**

**A: Marnya sathi (for beating)**

**Q: Who told you that it is used for beating?**

**A: Nobody**

**Q: How do you know that a chaaku is used for beating?**

**A: Because pahuna beat my mother with it.**

In spite of such categoric statements, Sapna did contradict herself several times. Naturally enough, she was not the ideal prosecution witness and one questions the propriety of a four-year-old being vigorously cross-examined.

Her behaviour in court was in keeping with her confusion and her age — she sulked, she cried, she smiled and laughed or gambolled about as if the courtroom were a playground.

The judge ruled that Sapna's testimony was invalid on the grounds that she was not "mature" enough to identify correctly her mother's murderer. That Sapna was an innocent child with no possible motive for lying did not seem to weigh with him. That she could quite clearly describe the pahuna beating her mother with a knife also did not influence the judge. He acquitted the accused for want of a credible witness.

It is perhaps permissible to dismiss Sapna's testimony as a flight of fantasy of a child lying idle in her bed. But would she, or any child for that matter, have conjured up the nightmare of a man assaulting her mother with a knife, and later on, identify him in a parade?

This acquittal has therefore raised pertinent questions. Should children be allowed as witnesses and can they make reliable witnesses? The CID apparently thinks so — it will be appealing against this verdict in the Bombay high court.

## THE SMALLER YOU STAY, THE BIGGER YOU APPEAR

Except, of course, if you are a short guy like I am. Honey it's great to feel big, especially when you are not so big really. I have recently taken to wearing high-heeled shoes. It's made a new man of me. Putting my chest out I walked about the office as if I were boss. I was at last taller than my typist, even my assistant looked up to me in admiration. My boss suddenly found that I was his equal, in height, and this made him a little uncomfortable, but it didn't stop him from telling me who was boss. It was only when I went home that I realised that the high-heeled shoes were in fact "labour lost". When she bent down and kissed me on my forehead, I knew she had worn her 6 inch heels. So the difference is still three inches, a difference that we have been managing rather well all these years.

I was recently made a special executive magistrate for the second time and I felt really big. As I passed down the street, all my neighbours congratulated me. Some said they were proud of me others actually said I deserved the honour. Three days later my little son asked me what S.E.M. stood for. When I asked him why he wanted to know, he said, all the boys in the village say that Chorelal, the grocer down the street, is an S.E.M.

Expense account air travellers have a glow all their own. I've seen them strut about as if they pay their fares. Since they travel first, they carry their pink boarding cards jutting out of their breast pockets. I, normally a free traveller keep my green boarding card in my inner pocket. Once I travelled first because I was upgraded due to lack of space in the economy class. (Heavens no! It's never called second class). With the pink ticket hanging out of my pocket I walked into the VIP lounge. As I sat, a telephone was placed next to me. Good God! Whom shall I phone at 1 am? Everyone around me was phoning and giving last minute instructions to their secretaries. How important they sounded! So I picked up the phone and dialled home. With a voice matching that of a Tata director I said "Babs, sorry to keep you working so late, but have you received any cables or telexes from London?" I didn't expect her to shout such rude remarks, but I kept my composure. "Please read it to me," I said, as I heard a few unkind words again and the receiver bang. Then I pretended to hear it, thanked her and said, "Raise the offer by 2 lakhs," and put the receiver down. Everybody around was eyeing me. I did look big, and it was a great feeling.

I seldom travel by taxi. I cannot afford it. Last Saturday I did. I sat behind with my legs crossed and read the Evening News. The cabby looked at me through the rear-view mirror. I must have looked important because he said "Saab, you must be an important business man?" I felt big, so I played along, "Well if you consider owning a mill big . . ." I saw his eyes widen, as I adjusted the position of my legs. At the end of the journey the fare amounted to Rs. 1.90. I gave him Rs. 2 and nonchalantly asked him to keep the change. Taking the money the taxi driver said in pure English, "Thank you sir. The tip must have hurt you a great deal. No wonder the mill workers are on a fourth strike."

But it's in the house where my attempts to act big always end up as big failures. Everything I do that appears to be big, she comes up with something bigger, or shows me off as really small. I took a new job recently with a well-known organisation. That evening feeling quite proud of my achievement I went home and said, "Babs guess what? I am the public relations manager of this large organisation and I now have bigger responsibilities than you can imagine." Without batting an eyelid she said, "As long as you remember that I am managing director in this home its fine. Now wipe your feet before you get in and don't throw your weight around here."

Until next time then.

"I am very careful; whenever I quarrel with my wife, I send the children for a walk."  
 "No wonder they look so healthy."

**B**OSS: "For this job we want a responsible man."

Applicant: "That's me. Everywhere I worked, if anything went wrong, they said I was responsible."

**H**E was gazing with dreamy eyes into the distance.

"Ah, my darling," he murmured, "what matters is that sorrow and trouble must of necessity be lurking in the unknown future. While I am with you, I think of naught but the present — the beautiful present."

"So do I, dearest," she replied. "But you'll take me with you when you buy it, won't you? Men have such queer taste in rings."

**A** pedestrian fell into a

manhole and began to yell for help.

"Well, well," said a man who came around. "Did you fall into that manhole?"

"Not at all," was the sarcastic reply. "As a matter of fact, I just happened to be around here and they built the pavement around me."

"**W**HAT do you take as a remedy for your insomnia?"

"A glass of wine at regular intervals."

"Does that make you sleep?"

"No, but it makes me content to stay awake."

**L**ADY: "My husband has an inferiority complex, doctor."

Doctor: "And you want me to cure it?"

Lady: "No, Doctor, I just want you to make sure he maintains it."

**V**ISITOR: "Why do you

sing when you really don't have a good voice?"

Girl: "Oh I really hate to do it, but Mummy makes me sing when she wants the visitors to quit."

**A** third standard girl asked her teacher: "If George Washington was such an honest man, why do they close all the banks on his birthday?"

**A** young unmarried girl said to her mother: "He says I'm the most beautiful girl in this town."

Mother: "And you still want to marry that man when he is telling lies right from the beginning?"

**A** married lady asked her husband: "Dear, if I cook a dinner like this for you for two months, what will I get?"

Husband: "It won't take two months. If you just cook the dinner for fifteen days, you'll get my life insurance."

**A** man got into a taxi in New Delhi and told the taxi driver to take him twenty times round Connaught Place. After the fifth round the man shouted to the driver: "Faster, faster. I'm in a hurry."

**M**INISTER (to municipality inspector on the phone): "There's a dead ass in front of my house."

Municipality Inspector: "I thought you ministers took care of the dead."

Minister: "We do, but first we get in touch with their relatives."

**R**AM: "You're looking bright and happy this morning. What's the matter?"

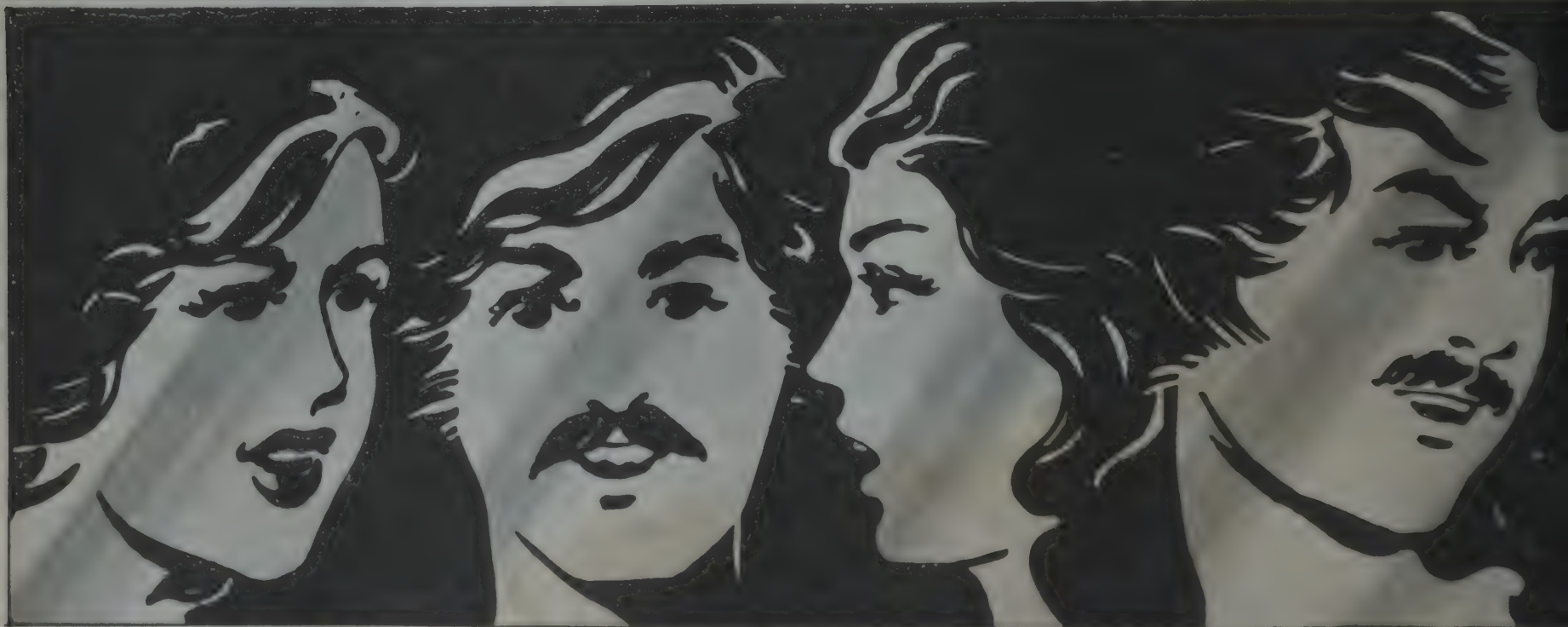
Shyam: "I've cleared all my debts."

Ram: "Where did you get the money from?"

Shyam: "I didn't get any money — my creditor died last night."

Compiled by George Fegradoe

## The word is spreading



# ASK THE DOCTOR

## COSMETIC SURGERY

**Q.** I am a 15-year-old girl with a strange problem. My breasts are not situated properly — one is higher than the other. Further, they are small in comparison with my general build. Is there any remedy?

— U. C. (Hyderabad)

**A.** One way to solve your problem is by cosmetic surgery — a prosthesis will be fitted under the breast which is lower, causing it to be raised. However I may warn you that this surgery will leave a scar at the point of incision. An alternative method is to wear brassieres which are padded in one cup, so that an artificial uplift may be obtained for the lower breast. In any case, be assured that the physiological functions of the breasts are not impaired by their position or size.

## PAINFUL LUMPS IN BREASTS

**Q.** I am a 17-year-old girl with painful lumps in each of my breasts. I have been having this pain for the last three or four years, but have been too shy to go for a medical checkup. Do you think I may have breast cancer?

— S. R. (Secunderabad)

**A.** This sort of shyness or embarrassment in the face of medical problems of the genitals or breasts, is the bane of Indian women. They bear pain until it reaches an excruciating level, and only then will they seek medical opinion, possibly because some family member forces them to. By that time, the disease has invariably taken a stronger foothold, and is much more difficult to treat. Cure also takes correspondingly longer.

In your case, age is on your side. Though cancer cannot be completely ruled out, it is most unlikely that it may be your problem. However, you must get yourself medically examined without delay. There are several causes for soreness and pain in the breasts, and they cannot all be discussed here. Still, I may mention that pain or soreness in the breasts occurs in several women at the time of their periods — either just before, during or after.

## FALLING HAIR

**Q.** I am a boy of 18, and my problem is that my hair has been falling in clusters over the last eight months. I have tried several medicines, homoeopathic allopathic and ayurvedic; but to no avail. Can you suggest a remedy? I may

add that hair has been falling from all parts of my body.

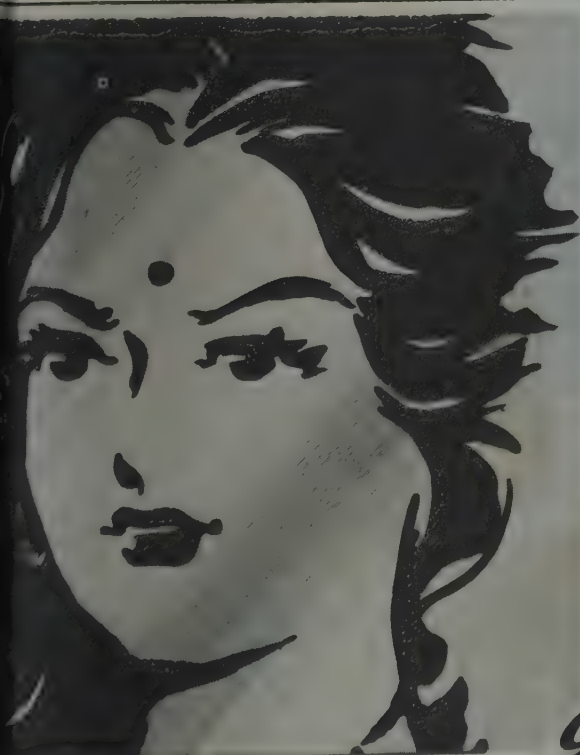
— V. B. (Chandigarh)

**A.** There is what is known as the 'natural turnover of hair, viz. hair falls as a matter of course, and is replaced by nature. But if the fall is much more than the replacement, then you do have a problem. Tension very often causes loss of hair; not sufficient nourishment for the hair is another root cause. The first thing you should do is to improve your diet; eat foods which are rich in proteins and vitamins. Many people have found positive results from using Pure Silvikrin. If the problem still persists, consult an endocrinologist.

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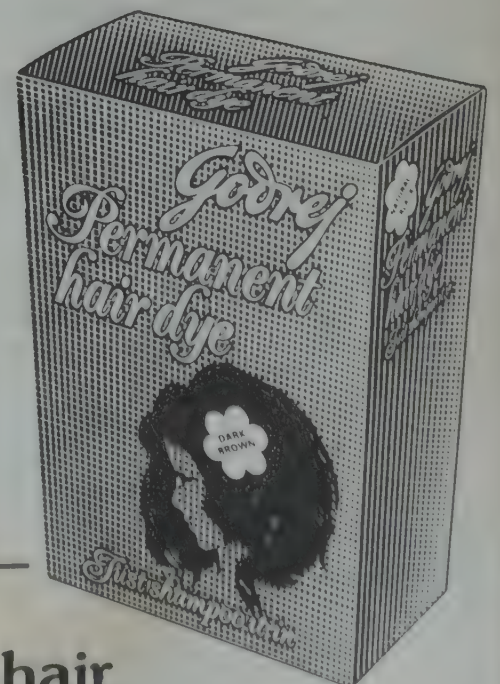
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### Or as natural

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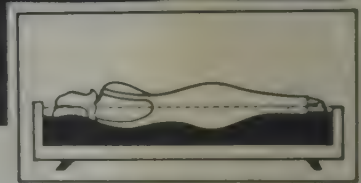
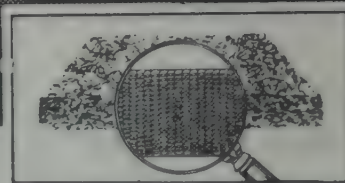
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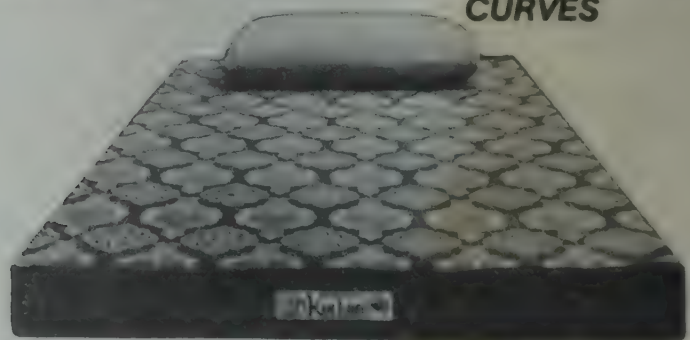
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Continued from page 19

office has okayed our ICRC vaccine for safe use. Now after successful city trials, we are simultaneously undertaking multi-centric clinical trials under the supervision of the Indian Council of Medical Research to ascertain the wider acceptance of the vaccine's therapeutic efficiency.

"The World Health Organisation is providing the required quantity of lepromin antigen for these multi-city field trials. Hopefully, the vaccine will be available for widespread use in a couple of years. It must be emphasised, however, that it would need about 10-15 years before the full impact of the prophylactic anti-leprosy vaccine in man is fully appreciated."

The WHO has now launched a special project, IMMLEP, in which attention is being paid mostly to the production of vaccine from the leprosy bacilli, isolated from the tissues of experimentally infected armadillos, which provide a substantial quantity of the bacilli. But because of the pathogenicity of M. Leprae, a vaccine prepared from these bacilli obtained from the armadillo tissues could not be used as a live vaccine. Since a live vaccine ensures the best immunity, other approaches were contemplated.

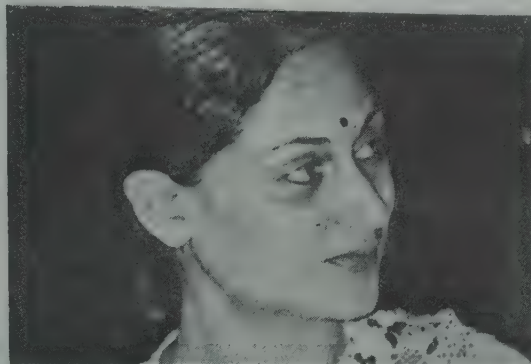
Explaining the efforts to develop a live vaccine, Prof. G. P. Talwar of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, at present director of the National Institute of Immunology, Delhi, says: "Experience with other vaccines amply brings home the point that for a long-lasting immunity the live vaccines fare much better than those based on killed organisms or extracts. We are, therefore, exploring the possibility of using some non-pathogenic cultivable mycobacteria for the preparation of a live vaccine."

Of the 16 strains collected in Prof. Talwar's laboratory, 5 were selected on the basis of their ability to produce immunity when injected into non-infectious leprosy patients and sensitised animals. After preliminary trials in the laboratory, specimens of the vaccine with coded numbers were sent out to different centres for intradermal tests in patients. When samples were decoded, the vaccine from Mycobacterium (a new organism isolated in the laboratory and given the name M. Delhi) and the ICRC bacillus culture, originally isolated from leprosy patients at the Indian Cancer Research Centre, Bombay, were found to produce adequate skin reactions in the tuberculoid patients. "The reactions produced by the ICRC bacillus were comparatively weaker," says Dr. Talwar.

Now the most important phase of the work is to ascertain the extent to which the vaccine prepared from the selected mycobacterium confers immunity. Let us hope we will have a live vaccine for leprosy before the turn of the century.

## GIVE ME THE LUXURIOUS OUTDOORS OF 'BAD CINEMA'— Devi

Amitabh had progressed from idli to half-boiled eggs and porridge. When he was wheeled out into the sunlight, the superstar's eyes grew moist at the first glimpse of natural light. Mama Bachchan, restrained so far, almost broke down with joy. She turned to Jaya and ordered her to go to the beauty salon — "Go and take a facial, do up your eyebrows," etc.



Jaya was for two months restricted to Breach Candy Hospital, temples and daily visits to the children's school: The Bombay Scottish. Folks around the school marvel at the lady-like cool and dignity shown by Jaya. In spite of Amitabh's critical condition, she never failed to reach the children to school every morning and fetch them back every evening — and that too with a smile.

Then Shatrughan made it to the dailies when he got a chest congestion at Dhanbad. Must be the charcoal dust, what else? I am glad I dropped out of Shatru's outdoor shooting at the coal mines at Dhanbad. Publicist Harish Mehra tried his best to get me there. Why should I go to the coal mines at Dhanbad? With Shatru now involved in 'Good Cinema' like Shashi Kapoor, I suppose I am out of Shatru's outdoors. For 'Good Cinema' is generally shot in some 'good friend's' house. If at all they go outdoors they go to places like Sadhashiv Peth, Pune, (Sai Paranjpe's 'Katha') or to coal mines or to the city's slums, footpaths, rail tracks, and so on, since 'Good Cinema' characters live around chawls, mills, bustees.

I am all for the outdoors of the 'Bad Cinema' which is the commercial cinema. They go with wives and girlfriends to Kashmir if not to Toronto and Amsterdam. They go again and again to match the chinar trees of Kashmir with the pine trees of Switzerland, or they match the tulsi-dominated indoors of the Thakurs in a village, with the tulips of Holland ('Prem Rog') or they go to Nainital for rubber trees, then realise rubber plantations are in Kerala.

Their weak memories go beyond rubber plantations so they forget their wives in Nainital and pick up someone else in Kerala and fly around from the Himalayas to the wild seas of Kerala with scandal. And then with all this, more often than not, stars like Amitabh, Rekha and some chotta chillar who do rape scenes, refuse to have journalists on the sets at their outdoors. This I enjoy most, because in any case I like everything else, like the plane travel, a new set of fans, the pampering, the free holiday, everything except the shooting itself and the scorching sun with umbrellas only for the top stars.

How I wish publicist Gopal Pandey had taken me along with the press party to the shooting of Dasari Narayan Rao's 'Asha Jyoti', starring Rajesh, Rekha and Reena Roy at Hyderabad. The press party went there and was promptly turned back by Rekha who refused to shoot in the presence of the press. So they came back with the mild consolation of having Rajesh Khanna regale them with tales. Said Rajesh, "About one year ago, the same woman (Rekha) had done a similar thing on the set of Kamal's 'Dost Dhushman'. Devi had come as my guest. That woman wanted her out so I said if she orders Devi to leave I will pack up and leave the film." Hearing this a female journalist said to Rajesh, "Why don't you take me to Rekha's shooting now?" Replied Rajesh coolly, "You are not my guest, why should I?" But actually I came to know about Rekha's objection to me much later, on that set I had mistaken her for Rameshwari and even wished her thinking she was Rameshwari. As I said, shooting is the most boring part of the whole shooting stint. That day, one year ago, I had gone to the 'Dost Dhushman' shooting for a lazy noon of tea, pakodas topped with Rajesh, Shatru, Roopesh, and others, in the cool, lush green of Film City. That reminds me, it is needless to add, film folk know that my delights lie in the city, in greenery, fans, strangers and not in Star Darshan. So they do not extend an invitation to me except to Dhanbad's coal mines or Film City near Aarey Colony.

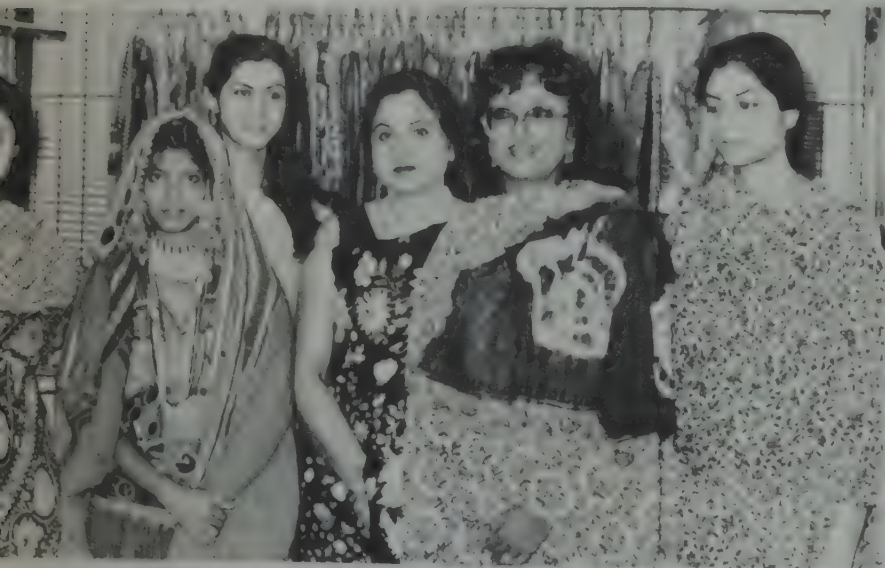
# PEOPLE AND EVENTS



At the inauguration ceremony of 'Jaycee Week' in Bombay, are seen (from left) Mrs. G. Ghadiali, president, Mahalaxmi Jaycees; Mr. M. Venkatraman, state president; Mr. J.T. Vyas; Mr. N. Verma; Mr. G.G. Mishra; and the chief guest, Mr. P.P. Kamdar, deputy municipal commissioner of Bombay.



A fund collection drive, organised by the National Foundation for Teacher's Welfare was inaugurated on Sept. 5, at 'Varsha', Bombay. Seen on the occasion are (from left) Mr. P. Mehta; Mr. H. Karkaria, treasurer; Mrs. M. Kalantri; Mr. M. K. Morarka, chairman; Mr. Babasaheb Bhosale, the chief minister of Maharashtra, who inaugurated the drive with a donation; and Mr. Manmohan Singh, the collector of Bombay.



At an exhibition-cum-sale of handprinted saris and churidar-kameezes, 'Banjaran', at Aakar Art Gallery, Bombay, between Sept. 1-3, are seen (from left) Ritu Kapur, a banjaran, Renu Kapur, Kusum Kapur of Gooncha Fabrics, Hyderabad, Geeta Gopal, publicity in-charge, and Arti Kapur. The exhibition was inaugurated by Mrs. Gulshan Ewing, editor, Eve's Weekly and Star and Style.



At a certificate and prize distribution function organised by the Stree Mandal at Tejpal Auditorium, Bombay, Mrs. Sarla Sheth, president of the Mandal, is seen congratulating the students of Vividh Laxi School and welcoming the chief guest, Mrs. Smita Shah.

## BOMBAY

The World Wildlife Fund — India organised a press conference prior to the launching of its new fund-raising products. Mr. S.P. Godrej gave an introductory speech which was followed by an audio-visual show and a talk by chief guest, Mr. K.S. Dharmakumarsinhji on the projects WWF-India has undertaken for the future.

The Jaycees of Bombay inaugurated their 'Jaycee Week' at a ceremony held at Sundarbai Hall on September 8. Jaycee national president, Ishwar Garodia and state president, M. Venkatraman were felicitated on the occasion.

The Spastics Society organised a press conference on September 15 to give information on the work it has been doing since its inception 10 years ago. Several specialists working at the Centre for Special Education spoke about their personal experiences. The Society will be opening a research centre in Bandra soon.

The Finance Raising Committee of the National Association for the Blind organised an All India Flag Day on September 15. It was inaugurated by Mr. Idris Latif, the governor of Maharashtra.

Suresh Choudhary of Bhopal held a one-man show of his paintings, 'Inscapes', at the Taj Art Gallery from August 31-

September 7. Suresh's non-representational paintings are in bold, striking colours and are overtly abstract but, on close observation, impart a sense of solidarity.

Shivali Cultural Society of India, Bombay, an organisation devoted to promotion of Indian classical dances is organising its eleventh All India Young Dancers Festival at New Delhi, on Oct. 11-15. Those desirous of participating in the festival, can write to: C. M. Rana, secretary, Shivali Cultural Society of India, F/2 Daswani Apts, Four Bungalows Road, Andheri (west), Bombay-400 058. The society plans to repeat the programme annually as well as take it to other parts of the country.

## CALCUTTA

Non-formal education is being considered more and more important because it gives the much needed opportunity to women who had to give up schooling. The Jawahar Sishu Bhavan, organised a "walk" in which five hundred people, mostly children and women, took part, to raise money for the Non-Formal Education Centres established by them in some villages surrounding Calcutta.

The amazing talent that lies latent in children of village schools was revealed at the Science Exhibition-cum-Competition '82, organised by the Photo Science Centre, Panskura, How-

## PEOPLE AND EVENTS



ABOVE: Mrs. Sharada Shiva Prasad is seen speaking on the occasion of the release of her book 'Alone in America'. On the dais are (from left) Mr. Shivanandan, Brig. Krishnamurthy and chief guest Mrs. Shakuntala Balu.



ABOVE LEFT: At a dinner party hosted by the directors of Fariyas Hotels Pvt. Ltd. on the eve of the opening of Abanara Restaurant, Bombay, are seen (from left) Mr. R. Variava, G. M., Fariyas Hotels; Mrs. P. Fernandes; Mr. M. Fernandes; Mr. C. Sippy, of Grant K & E; Mr. M. D'Souza, and Mr. H. B. Mistry, M.D., Fariyas Group of Hotels.

LEFT: A West Bengal handloom fashion parade was held on the occasion of the World Gynaecological Conference in Calcutta. Seen here are some of the participants with (sitting from left) Dr. Shova Ghosh, convenor, and Shefall Chowdhuri, the compere.

rah district. Many clubs from the surrounding districts of Midnapur, Hoogly and the 24 Parganas took part.

The Bhidhannagar Swimming Association presented a water ballet at Salt Lake. The ballet was performed by children between the ages of five to twelve. Specially appealing was Tagore's 'Bir Purush', a poem describing a child's imaginary, single-handed fight against a gang of dacoits to save his mother.

## BANGALORE

Mrs. Sharada Shiva Prasad held a function under the auspices of the Guindy Alumni Association to release her Tamil book containing her experiences in America. Mrs. Shakuntala Balu, the chief guest, released the book. Mrs. Mangalam Gopalan sang an invocation and Brig. M.K. Krishnamurthy, president of the association welcomed the gathering.

## CHANDIGARH

Well-known dancer, Preet Pranita, was awarded the Nritya Apsara Award at the first Pandit Gian Shankar Nritya Sammelan held at Tagore University on August 17. The chief guest, Mr. Joginder Pal Pandey, minister of health and public relations, Punjab, gave away the award. The award has been constituted by 'Gian Arts' in the memory of noted choreographer Pandit Gian Shanker who has conducted hundreds of dances in more than 180 films. Pandit Gian Shanker also founded the Punjab Charana in Kathak. The sammelan was organised on the first anniversary of his death to commemorate his services to the world of art.




A fashion show competition was the highlight of a week of cultural activities at Stella Maris College, Madras. Seen in the photograph are the prize-winning third year students.

## IF IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK :


OCTOBER 3 — 9, 1982

What a crowded year! So many calls on your time and attention, so many opportunities, intriguing possibilities, that your reputation for being indecisive could increase! If changes must be put into effect, be positive; if you have found certain people, situations and arrangements to be unrealistic in operation or unprofitable, it might


be possible to rectify matters without too much upset, if you employ your usual tact and diplomacy. A romantic year, one when a current flirtation will develop into a lasting relationship. Carewise, efforts you have made over the past few years should bring their reward — and this also applies in family affairs.

**ARIES**  
(March 22 — April 20) 


You may have some expenses you have not allowed for in your budgeting between now and the end of this month. Keep a tight grip on your spending and, if considering an important purchase, shop around before buying.

**TAURUS**  
(April 21 — May 21) 


Don't miss the chance of delegating work or a special task you find tedious. At present, people will co-operate at work or at home, whereas towards the end of this month they'll be more resistant to your requests!

**GEMINI**  
(May 22 — June 21) 


Throughout October, strenuous conditions will mean less relaxation. Try to avoid taking on additional work and responsibility or nervous tension could be a problem. There are splendid signs for social life.

**CANCER**  
(June 22 — July 23) 


A link between home and working life indicates that a change on the way in one of these spheres could affect the other. However things turn out, plan ahead on the basis that you will soon be into a hectic phase.

**LEO**  
(July 24 — Aug 23) 

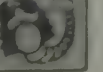
Be alert to opportunities, for several new openings could come to your notice over the next few weeks. A career change could be on the way. Your love life is under promising stars.

**VIRGO**  
(Aug 24 — Sept 23) 


The new and novel will stimulate your ideas, get you thinking and planning along more adventurous lines. In leisure time, try fresh scenes and activities and cultivate new friendships.

**LIBRA**  
(Sept 24 — Oct 23) 


Travel movement and change will offer all sorts of interesting meetings and openings, some happy surprises. A pleasing response to a recent application or enquiry may trigger off a series of pleasing communications.

**SCORPIO**  
(Oct 24 — Nov 22) 


Any excitement this week will come through secret news and hints of opportunities on the way, rather than dynamic events. The successes of people close to you will be heart-warming.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
(Nov 23 — Dec 22) 


What you decide or do over the next few weeks will influence your affairs over quite a long period, so be careful not to overlook any worthwhile openings. An exciting trend in social life.

**CAPRICORN**  
(Dec 23 — Jan 20) 

A progressive period when new ideas will fire your enthusiasm. As your birthday draws near, you may be projected into a peak of activity which boosts your prospects and alters some of your long-held ideas.

**AQUARIUS**  
(Jan 21 — Feb 19) 

Travel stars are strong, suggesting journeys for business or pleasure, also activity to do with overseas interests or connections. Careerwise, a change of direction may be on the way. A new flirtation needs a little extra attention.

**PISCES**  
(Feb 20 — March 21) 

A dynamic influence on the mid-heaven of your Solar chart is the first sign that your worldly prospects are beginning to change for the better. You should have more cash to play with this week.

## WHEN ARABIAN DREAMS TURN INTO NIGHTMARES

Continued from page 16

to the fake marriages racket. The girls were from poor, though respectable, families, who believed the men to be their husbands.

Once the channels for bringing girls from Hyderabad had been set up, the supply of grooms was no problem. Satisfied clients returned home and passed the word on to friends and relatives. New clients would be tempted by the easy availability of girls and of there being practically no chances of being caught. But the surprising fact is that the sub-agents and others were not paid very large sums. In some cases only Rs. 600. The entire operation netted only Rs. 2000.

The countries from which these Arabs come, like Saudi Arabia, have very stringent laws and very strict punishments for any moral transgressions. A few months back a young Keralite Ahmed Abdul Wahab Kutty (23)

had been sentenced to death by stoning for adultery with a Sri Lankan girl who became pregnant. The sentence had been passed by the Al Ain Sharia Court in Abu Dhabi. The girl was deported after what was described as "100 gentle lashes" in her pregnant condition. Finally Kutty won a reprieve and was deported to India after a public whipping. On return to his village near Calicut Kutty alleged that he had been framed. But these are the state laws for adultery and the laws for stealing, deception etc. are just as harsh. These laws are not just secular laws but have religious sanction. It is in this context that the fake marriages which are performed with the full knowledge of the Arab involved, should be seen. It then becomes a strongly emotional issue and now some respected leaders are asking for strict preventive measures and stringent laws for foreigners.

In many Middle Eastern countries the bride price to be paid by the bridegroom is so high that young men are not able to

put together the money. It is much cheaper, therefore, to find a bride in India and most of the grooms are from poorer families looking for a second wife. Police officials in Hyderabad admit that they have heard of instances where the brides are ill-treated in their new homes in the Gulf countries. The girls are often made to work as servants. In some cases they are a source of entertainment for all the males of the family. But there is no legal recourse in India for the offence takes place abroad.

As a social worker explained, "Even if the girl is not treated well and she is kept for the pleasure of the men of the family, she still has good food and clothes. She can still send money to her parents. When the father is earning Rs. 200 a month and there are five more sisters in the house, a girl will not write home and complain. You have to see the poverty to believe it. The very first things the girls ask for when they get married is a maxi and a pair of high heels. That is the limit of their desires."

Even now between 12 and 15 marriages take place every month in Hyderabad, except for the three months of the Haj period. This is not to say that all girls are ill-treated; some of them are happy. But 15-year-olds present themselves for the police check on passport applications, brazenly declaring their ages to be 22 years and their claims cannot be disproved without long procedures. A young girl holding her passport and visa papers says, "What you are talking of is fake marriages. My husband has a visa for me, he has given me a ticket. What else is there for me in Hyderabad with my father dead and my two brothers too young to help?" she finished rudely.

To this social problem the only suggestions that have been made are highly controversial. The payment of Rs. 30,000 as security at the time of marriage, registering with the Wakf Board and checking the man's antecedents through his embassy are difficult to impose, though they may check this racketeering in women.







