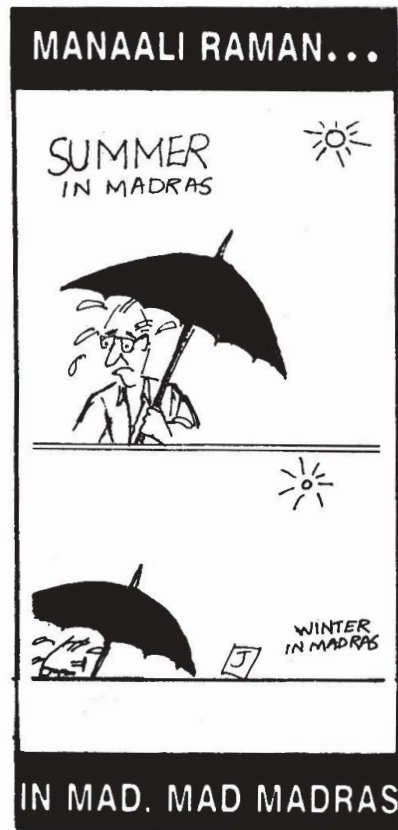
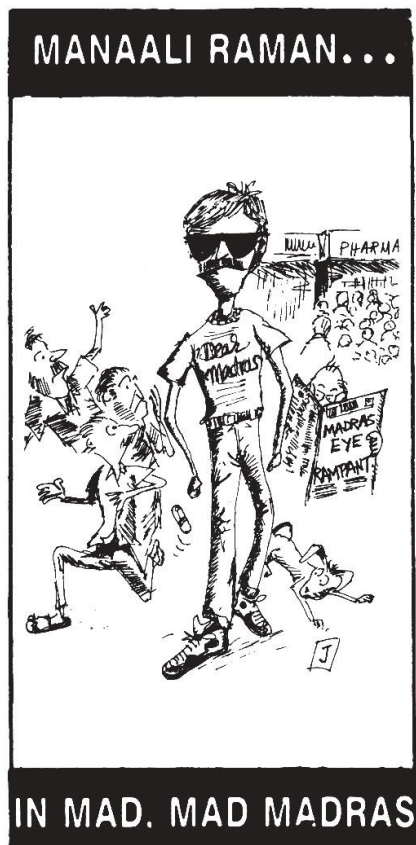




MANAALI RAMAN IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

In 1991, Madras historian S Muthiah launched *Madras Musings*, a fortnightly in tabloid size devoted to the city of Madras (which was renamed Chennai in 1996). Muthiah was then a Macmillan author. He invited me to do a front-page pocket cartoon for the paper. The series name was his creation. The city with its brand of politics, culture, middle class life style and climate offered much to a cartoonist. I thought of creating a character that would represent the invisible eyes and ears of the city. The fortnightly series ran uninterrupted for almost 4 years.



MANAALI RAMAN...



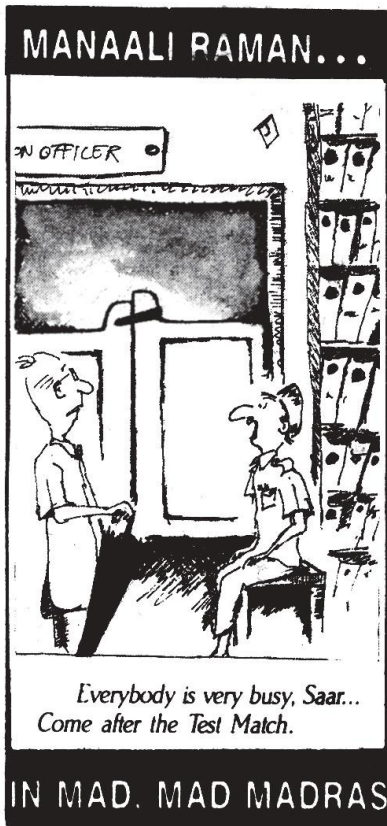
IN MAD. MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



"It's only a Bonda, Saar!"

IN MAD. MAD MADRAS



MANAALI RAMAN...



...nothing to do with irrigation. We are just draining the water from this road and emptying it on the next....!

IN MAD. MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



I say, this is unfair!
Now where will we dig?

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



"We bank on the Students' Union to help us fulfil THAT part of our demand!"

IN MAD. MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



I'm going on indefinite strike... If any of them want to see me they can come home.

IN MAD. MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN
MUSINGS

MANAALI RAMAN...



...That was all right then...But now she'll have to bring much more...You know, there are so many others interested in our son...

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



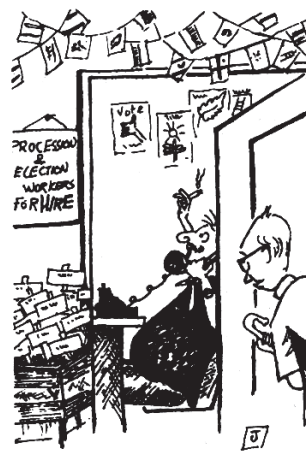
IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



IN MAD. MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



Our chaps are the best in the city... The rate is per hour... make-up, costumes and accessories are extra...

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN
—MUSINGS—

MANAALI RAMAN...



IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



*The trials I faced on the city's roads
gave me the immense confidence
necessary to win the rally.*

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



"Forward looking?.... Yes, but
my ambition now is to become
· BACKWARD."

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...

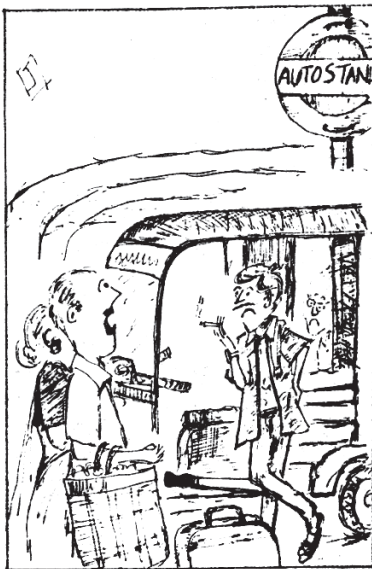


"So much more?!"
"Yes, Amma! The severe water
shortage, you know!"

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN
MUSINGS

MANAALI RAMAN...



*"First tell me where **YOU** are willing to go, then I'll decide where **I** want to go".*

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

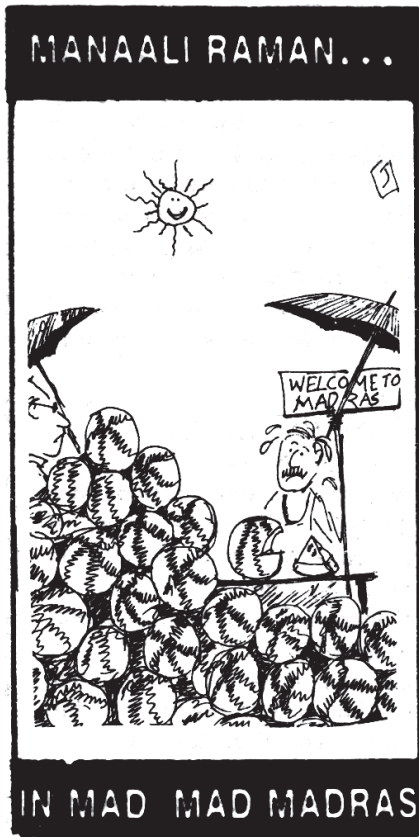
MANAALI RAMAN...



This is no invasion from the sky... This is by the stars... the Kodambakkam Stars!

IN MAD MAD MADRAS

MADRAS
MUSINGS



MANAALI RAMAN...



"Who's at the door?... What does he/want? Tell him to wait till the New year special programmes are over."

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



Hurry! Hurry! Get more needles soon. We have to finish this before it is dawn.

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN
MUSINGS

MANAALI RAMAN...



Only ten paise, Saar?! Please be generous; I only need another Rs. 50 to buy a colour TV

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



*What're you complaining about, Sir!
You've still got a bargain; it's only
shrunk by 30 per cent!*

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



"Will such practices come under the Heritage Act?"

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...

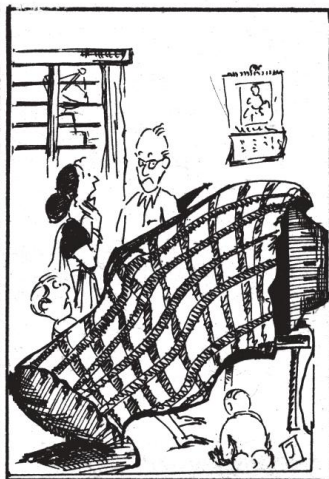


*"Pleeease ... Pleeease ...
Don't disturb him ... He has
an interview tomorrow".*

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN
MUSINGS

MANAALI RAMAN...



"He is SO worried about the impact of TV programmes on children!"

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



"Not for votes, Ma... I am a real beggar."

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



"I don't think this will work unless the World Bank gives us the money for raised footpaths and flyovers for pedestrians."

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



All said and done, the city is losing another landmark

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN
—MUSINGS—

MANAALI RAMAN...



Hey! Keep off Anna Salai, we haven't yet provided a lane for you!

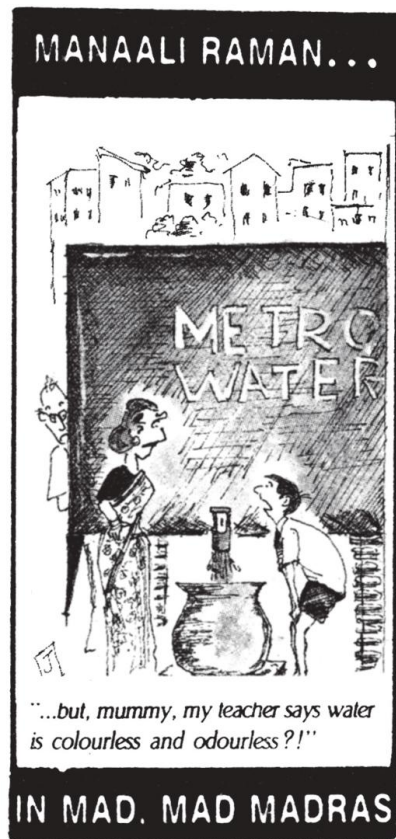
IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...

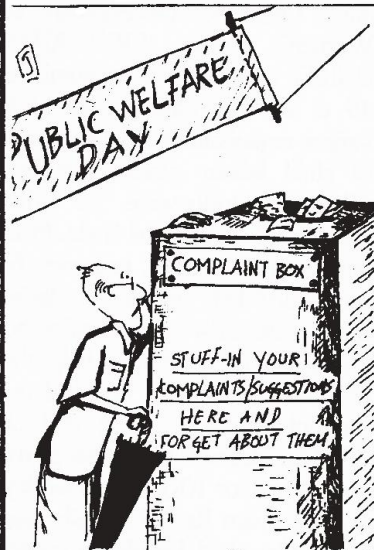


"Joining the silent procession?"

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

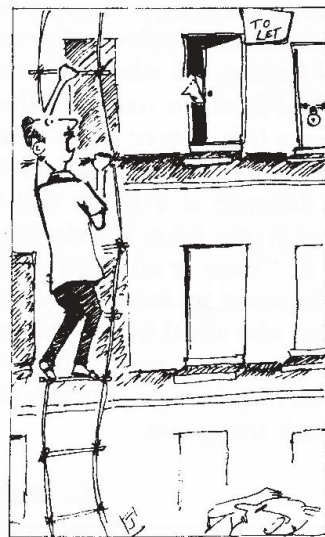


MANAALI RAMAN...



IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



"I've come to see the posh
upstairs portion"

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



"Sorry, Saar, we sell only banners!"

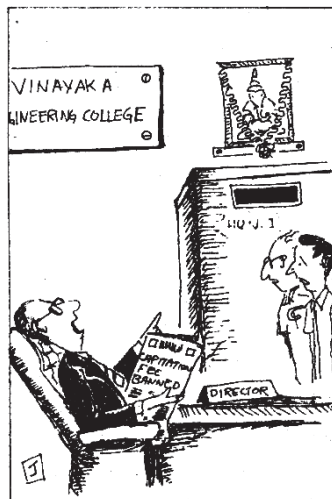
IN MAD. MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



IN MAD. MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



Oh, it's not for us! It's for the Lord. Make your offering to Him and seek His blessings!

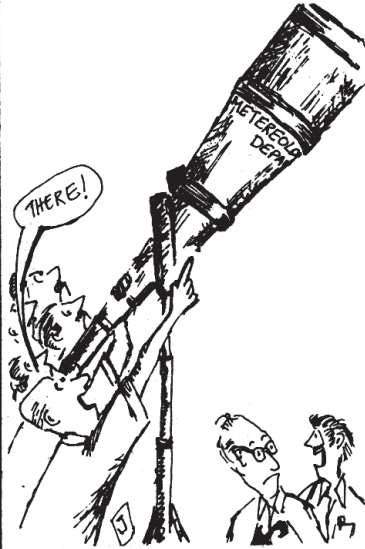
IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



Looks like they are searching for rainclouds!

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



"How about a simple do-it-yourself process to desalinate sweat?"

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN
MUSINGS

MANAALI RAMAN...



Oh, well, it's an occasion to remind us of the existence of his office ...!"

IN MAD MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



"Ban or stay, the loudspeakers will stay for ever."

IN MAD MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



Now, what's the existing record for a cut-out's height?

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



Oh! Oh! Santa's special gift for all of us is water! Water from the Kaveri!

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI
RAMAN
MUSINGS

MANAALI RAMAN...



"Still smaller, please... the Budget's in the offing, you know!"

IN MAD MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



I swear I have had nothing to do with them. I'm not hiding; I just live here!

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



"...It's such considerations above caste, creed or community that makes it truly secular"

IN MAD. MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



"Rs. 5 per square metre for sweeping, piece-rate for washing vessels and clothes... But above all, I expect to be treated like a member of the household! Do you agree?"

IN MAD. MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN
MUSINGS

MANAALI RAMAN...



He's NOT sick! It's just that ever since we got the TV he's not moved out of bed!

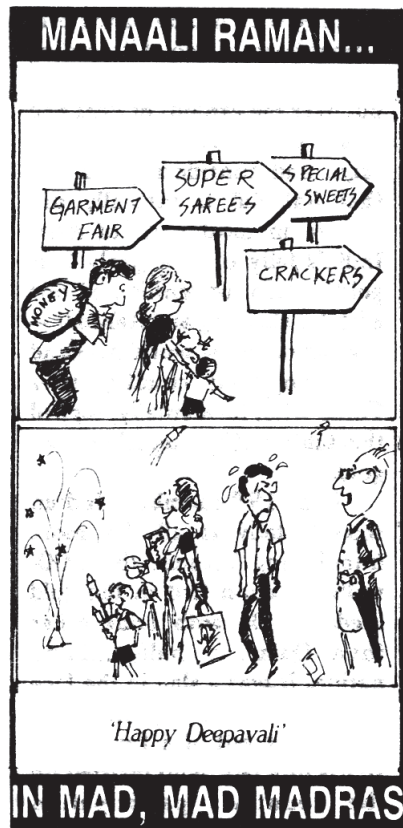
IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



Bye-bye, folks! It's time for you to leave. We've come for the annual clean-up!

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS



MANAALI RAMAN...



"It's a symbolic victory celebration - NOT with champagne, but VAT 69!"

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



Looks like the city's man-holes are all clogged... What do you think?

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

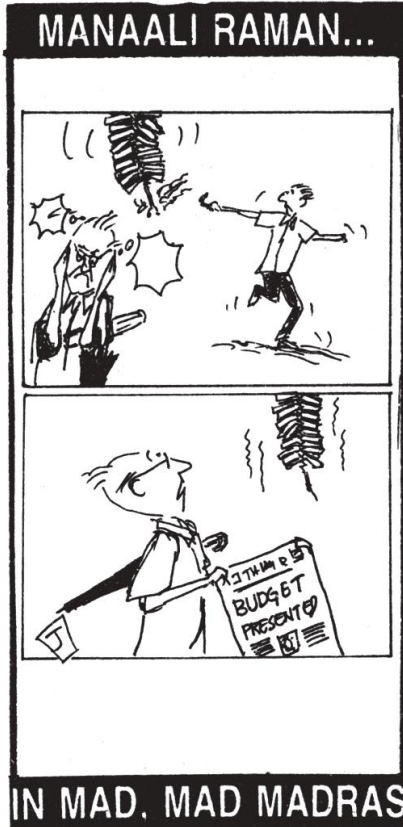
MANAALI RAMAN...



"I'm trying to locate the footpath.
Could you help, please?!"

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MADRAS
MUSINGS



MANAALI RAMAN...



*"Don't you know the gods are
above all politics?"*

IN MAD MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN...



"Help?"

*"No, thanks... I'm only inviting
public attention to the issue."*

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

MANAALI RAMAN
MUSINGS