

CURRENT EVENTS

the Salvador Army declared that the offensive had been a total failure, the rebels' Radio Vencarenos countered that the offensive had been totally positive. But, the guerrillas are right about the cost to the Government's image. Both at home and in the US Congress, the Cristiani Government is answerable for the Nov 16 murder of the six Jesuit priests, the aerial pounding of the capital and the choking off of political dissent under the state of siege.

But, while the FMLN succeeded in undermining the Government's political standing, it did little to enhance its own. Latin democracies such as Costa Rica criticised the offensive. Civilians refused to rise in support of the FMLN, and people through-out San Salvador accused the rebels of taking over houses to use civilians as a shield. The FMLN, has failed in almost all its strictly military objectives as well. The attempt to decapitate the Government by attacking the President didn't work. The insurgents could not overrun the vital



Air Force base at Ilopango either. And, though the Army's official body count is inflated, an intelligence source estimates 600-700 rebels dead. C.S.

RAMESH MADAN

(Continued from page 17)

fact, he discovered his knack for detection around the same period when he was involved in personal struggle to recover his own share of his father's property that was usurped by relatives. And ever since there has been no looking back.

The detective's modus operandi

Today he is a very busy man and his work involves tailing, shadowing, interviewing, gathering information, finger printing, photographing and even video-taping the movements of a person. Revealing his modus operandi, Madan explains how they first find out the exact requirements of the client—whether he simply wants the details of the activities of a particular person or if he requires solid evidence too. From here the complete blueprint of the modus operandi is formulated and the necessary technical equipment like wireless, walkie-talkies, auto focus cameras, video cameras, and stand-by cars (in case a change of cars is required) are kept in readiness. The team members are then delegated particular tasks. "No one person does the entire investigation," Madan explains. "Each is given the job he can handle well." The detectives are also prepared for unforeseen contingencies like surprise police checks when they may have to explain their presence in a certain place. "This kind of thing is more frequent due to heavy patrolling to curb the terrorist menace. So we always



have to be prepared for questions." They are thus provided with some relevant papers or identity cards to validate their story. The agency also has disguises for everybody including complete attires of people from different parts of the country. The whole investigation finally rests on coordination amongst the entire staff so that if one of them were to get into trouble there are always friends who will get them out of danger.

People, generally, have looked upon investigators with a mixed feeling of distrust and suspicion. Often, they are even scared of them. But there is a marked contrast in the attitude of most people since Madan won the award and proved his worth.

Madan has no doubt that Indian detectives are no less efficient than their counterparts abroad. But they face a marked disadvantage due to the lack of sophisticated gadgetry that is so necessary in this profession. He also agrees that it is not possible for everyone to hire their services as the minimum operational costs have now gone upto Rs 1,000. A far cry from early days when he started as a freelance detective charging about Rs 25 for a case.

He also emphasizes the importance of "contacts" in his work and is particular about building friendships with people from all walks of life. "This is a lesson I learnt from my early days when I worked with the most humble folk and thus cultivated respect for all kinds of people." As a result Madan is today considered one of the best employers who respects his staff and is concerned about their welfare.

Madan, the super sleuth, can easily pass off as the man next door but he is obviously not ordinary. A revolver, a knife, a chemical defence weapon and a pair of handcuffs strapped on to his belt establish his identity. Today, he is confident enough to tackle any kind of case that is assigned to him, and it can range from fraud, forgery, cheating, employee verification to infringement of trade marks. With the rise in the number of dowry deaths, Madan's agency also gets a lot of cases pertaining to this social evil. Recently, he also worked for the famous author Gulshan Nanda whose books were being pirated in the market. Whatever be the case, Madan has always cracked it wide open. The award that has come to him is only a just recognition of his investigative ability.

CCT