

SPECIAL FEATURE

RAMESH MADAN

WORLD'S ACE DETECTIVE

by MEENAKSHI NATH



THE MAN came to Madan's agency in a distraught condition. His hair was dishevelled and he was biting his nails agitatedly. The words tumbled out incoherently but the detective could make out that the man's wife was seen moving around with another man and he could not believe it. "She is so

religious and devoted. How could she do this?" moaned the man.

Thus started a search with detectives shadowing the stranger who was seen with another's wife. And the story seemed to be

true for they were both seen together in a restaurant in Connaught Place, New Delhi, quite obviously on intimate terms. Madan decided to show the husband the entire scene and as he walked in furiously he confirmed, "Yes, it is her alright!" But soon his expression changed, as he realised that despite a strong resemblance this was actually another woman. A house about to be broken had just been saved and the man was profuse in his thanks. For Madan it was just another case successfully solved, though this one had a happy ending. Later, he revealed how even he had been momentarily baffled but then it dawned on him to put detectives on the trail of the stranger, find his address from the registration authorities who registered his motorbike and thus bring the husband face to face with the real situation.

A wide range

This is only one example of the kind of cases tackled by Ramesh Madan who, in his own words, "deals with anything from abuse to murder". A range that includes an incredible list of problems that he promises to confidentially investigate. From undercover operations to industrial espionage, employee trouble, mysterious deaths and murders, kidnappings and all types of fingerprints, footprints and typewriting evidences. Other simpler and more frequent ones are of the variety mentioned that involve settling matrimonial disputes or even conducting pre-marital investigations. But his major achievement has been a record of saving as many as 26 innocent persons from the gallows. This, besides his being a member of the Council of International Detectives for 20 years, were some of the factors that won him the coveted International Investigator of the Year Award on Aug 28, 1989. Forty-one-year-old Madan is also the pioneer of private investigation in India and has truly done the country proud by becoming the first Asian to

Phal S. Girota



You have a mystery that calls for the expertise of a private eye to unravel it? Well, you don't need to call on Sherlock Holmes or Hercule Poirot. India has its own private investigator, Ramesh Madan, who is also the world's No 1 today. He is the first Asian to be recently awarded the International Investigator of the Year Award.

receive this award. Thirty years ago, he made a modest beginning with the Indian Detective, a small organisation, and today he heads the huge Goliath Detectives Private Limited, with as many as 12 branch offices and a staff of 500 sleuths including 130 women.

Madan believes that some people are "born investigators". But this in no way undermines the importance of efficient training. His own staff started fresh with him and learnt everything they now know under his guidance. "Many of my students have also opened their own small detective organisations and are doing quite well for themselves," he says with unconcealed pride. There is as yet no training school for

private investigators and Madan personally prefers to hire inexperienced young men and women and train them on the job till they are familiar with all the finer points of the trade. "This way we also avoid the danger of our enemies planting spies in the guise of our staff," he explains. Occasionally, they also advertise in the 'Wanted' columns of the local dailies and invite young interested students, preferably graduates, to apply for training. During the probation period, they are neither charged a fee nor paid any stipend, except in special cases when a deserving and needy student may be paid a pocket allowance.

This is no James Bond life

Madan also plans to start postal training courses at the end of which the students will undergo practical training and may be employed with him there-after. However, Madan has a word of warning for those who come into the field for the glamour and thrill of getting into investigation and cherish romantic notions of leading a luxurious life replete with beautiful models, fast cars, five-star hotels and so on. "Such people always go back disappointed—this is no James Bond film." Though he does admit that sometimes a case may take one into glamorous surroundings, but it is never just a joy ride. Indeed, sometimes situations can get very dangerous and he himself has faced three serious attempts on his life.

Madan is the perfect example of a self-made man, who gives great importance to "dedication and commitment". He cites his own story as an example for and inspiration to the unprivileged who dream of success. At 13, he started to earn for his family and went through 22 regular professions before he finally became a private investigator. "From selling balloons to pulling rickshaws or selling cinema tickets, I have done it all." And he is considerably wiser for the experience. In

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