

Wheel of fortune

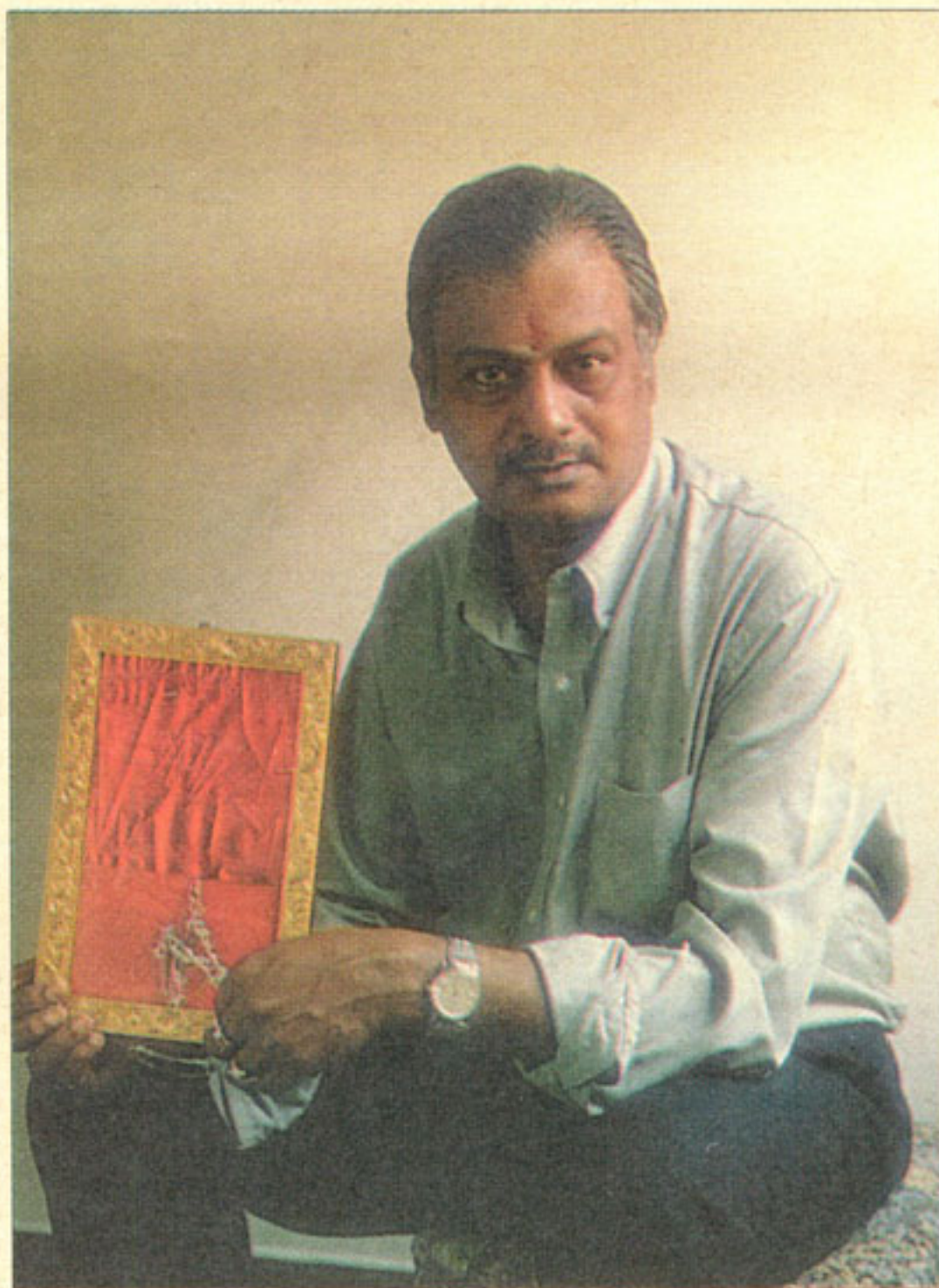
A Madras-based draftsman uses a Hindu ritualistic symbol to predict the future

In an age when all past certainties of executives are being challenged, Indian corporates are living in a period of extraordinary turmoil. While globalisation and liberalisation are already jaded jargon, many corporates are gearing up to be more flexible and adaptive, some competitive, others combative. Faced with tumultuous changes in the business and organisational environment, most would be happy to talk about B-school strategies...restructuring, product/process reengineering, ISO certification, customer-driven products, information technology, quality circles, empowered teams, so on and so forth. Only a few would boldly accept that they also seek help from an unknown dimension, the supernatural or the superstitious. A software can project business needs and growth potential, but there are many events which fall in the intuitive realm, not quantifiable nor amenable to logical or scientific justification. Very few can resist the temptation to know tomorrow.

A.V. Krishnan, the 53-year old managing director of India Castor Ltd (Madras-based 100 per cent EoU with a Rs20-crore turnover) and vice-chairman of the Rs8-crore deposit *nidhi* company, Harvest Benefit Fund, changed his name to A.V. Krushnun, as per the Sri Chakra divinations of a mystic, who uses this 1,200-year-old Hindu ritualistic symbol to make amazingly accurate predictions. Krushnun's business cards, logos and even the colour coordinates of these are determined by R.K. Sennalswamy Muthukrishnan, founder of the Anthro Bio Metric Research Centre, Madras.

A draftsman by profession, 36-year-old Muthukrishnan hails from a family of freedom fighters of Bodinaikanur, in the picturesque Palani Hills region. He had predicted that Krushnun would be going

through a bad financial phase in 1993-94, but that the adversities could be countered by a Sri Chakra. Coincidentally, Krushnun was preparing for his company's public issue with this worrisome prospect looming before him. Consequently, Krushnun emphasises that he did his pre-issue homework thoroughly.



The Sri Chakra changed his life for the better, says Krushnun

Krushnun admits that if the Rs5.63-crore issue sailed through, being over-subscribed 60 times, it was all thanks to the extraordinary powers of the Sri Chakra. As he reasons, "If the environment is against you, and you can alleviate it with a solution like this, why not use it? I believe in planning." Now, Krushnun seeks Muthukrishnan's guidance for all major business decisions and the Sri Chakra finds a prominent place in his office.

The Sri Chakra *yantra* or seal, a revered Hindu icon, graphically represents a symmetrically arranged cluster of triangles and circles, surrounded by lotus petals. It is supposed to represent the universe and man's place in it. Believed to have been introduced by Adi Sankara himself, it has been used traditionally as an aid to meditation, as it is perceived to be a storehouse, medium and transmitter of cosmic energy.

Some foreign scholars, like the German Indologist Heinrich Zemmier and John Woodroffs, have been intrigued enough by this symmetrical symbol to study the science of the *yantra*, but none before Muthukrishnan has used the vibratory powers of the Sri Chakra to make accurate predictions. In fact, Muthukrishnan himself recounts a *deja vu* experience, when a paper fluttered into his hand while he was meditating in the Kapaleeswarar temple in Madras. It was a page from *The Hindu*, and he read with fascination about a Soviet scientist, Alexey Pavlovich Kulaichev and his research involving the Hindu *tantrik* symbol, the Sri Chakra. Kulaichev, belonging to the biology faculty of Moscow University wrote in the *Indian Journal of History of Science*, "The *Sriyantra* is an ancient geometrical portrayal...From the ancient world we can find example of some cultural achievements which appear to have used very high mathematical knowledge..."

Muthukrishnan established contact with this Soviet scientist, seeking answers to many questions his obsession with the Sri Chakra evoked. "I am convinced that Egypt's geometrical pyramids, as well as the Star of David (the Hebrew version of the Chakra) also hold tremendous significance," he says. He now devotes all his time to the study of the intricacies of the Chakra, honing his predictive skills. It is not surprising, in a land where all kinds of godmen, clairvoyants, astrologers, numerologists and other occult practitioners thrive, a simple and

unaffected Muthukrishnan has many hard-core followers who don't venture into new business or other risky activities without his clearance.

K.B.S. Manian, 46, was employed in Muscat with the Inchcape group for 16 years. He has a strange tale to tell. "I came home to India in 1992 hoping to set up my own computer stationery enterprise. The Rs20-lakh venture turned out to be a disaster and I could not even find a buyer for the loss-making unit. That was when I met Muthu and heard about his powers with the Chakra," he says. But when Manian heard that he would have to fork out Rs15,000 for a Chakra, he backed out not wanting to add to his losses. But a confident Muthukrishnan went ahead and made the Chakra. He said, "I am sure you will come out of this financial mess, and generate enough to pay for the Chakra." Today, Manian has not only found a good buyer for his venture, he has now become the trading partner for the Rs3-crore computer stationery making unit. Now he is on to another Rs3-crore mushroom export project.

Manian recalls that he had a Chakra while in Muscat, a wedding gift that found a place in his home but which had not seriously merited attention. He had also fared very well in the overseas job, never facing any financial troubles. But he had lost the Sri Chakra when he returned to India. Thinking back, he is convinced that Muthukrishnan's Chakra has restored his days of prosperity.

What are the dynamics of Muthukrishnan's predictive skills? He admits that he came across this skill quite accidentally and even now is not sure how he achieves it. "I have only 60 to 80 per cent accuracy," he says rather modestly. Though the stylised drawing of the Sri Chakra has 43 triangles, Muthukrishnan says there are only nine significant ones, each corresponding to the nine planets. He points out that the five triangles at the base represent the male principle and the four at the apex, the female. When a person's date of birth and his handwriting are given, he reduces them to a basic number, and each number

is linked to a particular triangle in the Chakra. He then extrapolates the past and predicts the future with a great degree of accuracy.

P.K. Balachandran, special correspondent, *The Hindustan Times*, Madras, met Muthukrishnan at a friend's office, when working on the election outcome after the fall of the short-lived V.P. Singh government. Muthukrishnan predicted a Congress comeback, but warned that Rajiv Gandhi would face a threat from a woman if he came to Tamil Nadu. Balachandran took this as a joke but later, the events of Rajiv Gandhi's assassination had a

framed picture of the Sri Chakra in their offices, but they camouflage it under another picture, not wanting to admit that they seek such unscientific beliefs. I am convinced that Muthukrishnan is not a liar," he says.

In fact, even when he foresees very adverse conditions, he bluntly cautions the person. His bluntness, of course, cannot be easily understood, as he speaks a somewhat archaic Tamil. Some of his admirers point out that his limited communication skills may prove a handicap if he has to reach out to non-Tamil speaking people.

Even the controversial Pamela Bordes is reported to have sought his predictive abilities whilst on a visit here. She was introduced to Muthukrishnan by a journalist, and was advised to drop the 'Bordes' from her name and change it to 'Singh' or even 'Chowdhry'. Considering the difficulties this would have caused for her passport, she resisted making the change. However, later when faced with problems, she decided to follow Muthukrishnan's advice. Subsequently, she wrote to the Madras-based friend that she was now at peace.

Krushnun does not think that Muthukrishnan's political predictions are so accurate, "A poll outcome depends on the star configurations of so many people in the party. But I am convinced that Muthukrishnan's individual charting based on the Sri Chakra are amazingly accurate," he says.

This is reiterated by S. Venkatraman, executive director, Gem Spinners. Says he, "As far as my experience goes, I feel Muthukrishnan is gifted with extraordinary intuitive powers. But the quality I admire most in him is his insistence that he will only help a good cause or a positive venture. If anyone were to come to him to cause harm to others, he flatly refuses. His capacity to customise the Chakra according to individual needs is a big plus point."

■ PADMA RAMNATH



Muthukrishnan is the first person to use the Sri Chakra to make accurate forecasts

chilling impact on him. Now Balachandran is convinced of the Sri Chakra's powers, especially after the success rate of Muthukrishnan's predictions regarding his own career changes, and some personal events.

V.R. Mani, special correspondent, *The Times of India*, Madras, is also a firm believer in the Sri Chakra after many events that Muthukrishnan accurately predicted many events for his family. "Many industrialists in Madras have a