

SUPERSONIC TRAVEL

WITH THE launching of the Concorde flight by the British Airways from London to Bahrain and Air France flight from Paris to Rio De Janeiro on 21st January, 1976, the world has stepped into the next era in air travel. The Anglo-French Consortium, which has developed the supersonic aircraft at a cost of 3,000 million dollars, has carried out 5,000 hours of exhaustive flight tests and secured certificates of air-worthiness from the British and French authorities. The Concorde, which costs about \$60 million a piece (Rs 50 crores) will fly at a speed of 1,400 miles per hour, i.e., faster than sound, and carry 140 passengers, as against 370 passengers carried by Jumbo jets and consume two or three times the fuel per seat mile as the ordinary jets do. It will cut travel time so much



that if one travelled west with the sun, one could leave Bombay at breakfast and be in Rome for breakfast! The Concorde is undoubtedly a feather in the cap of the Anglo-French technicians. The Soviet Union has also developed a supersonic transport—the TU-144—and has been operating it on domestic cargo service. The United States, however missed the bus when it dropped its own pro-

gramme of supersonic transport because of Congressional opposition. It is now stalling permission to fly Concorde into US airports of New York and Washington. Objections are raised that the noise during the take-off in Concorde is beyond the permissible limits and that the air pollution caused by Concorde could destroy the protecting layer of ozone over the earth. No one will be deceived by such objections, as they are motivated by a desire to maintain US superiority in aircraft industry. It is obvious that unless the Concorde operates on the lucrative Trans-Atlantic route, its future is doomed and the great breakthrough in technology may end in a heartbreak in finance. It is hoped that enlightened world opinion will not allow narrow interests to cripple an outstanding technological achievement of great potential for the future.

FIFTY GLORIOUS YEARS

"RAJARANGAN"

[Loyola College, Madras, celebrated its Golden Jubilee recently. This article on the institution's striking growth and its significant contribution to the expansion of education over the last five decades will be read with abiding interest by those who are closely associated with this and its sister institutions and their alumni.]

AS THE TRAIN from the South passes Nungambakkam Railway Station, a traveller visiting Madras for the first time will see on his right a row of impressive buildings done in subdued yellow colour, an old gothic Church spire towering over them as though bestowing benediction. If he chooses to alight at the station to visit this place, he will enter a hundred-acre campus, set in sylvan surroundings of scenic beauty, humming with activity. Students with modish dresses including the inevitable blue jeans and vests tattooed with esoteric slogans like, "Make love not war", and professors sedately dressed and walking with a pre-occupied air and Catholic priests in white cassocks treading slowly, either telling the heads or reading their

breviaries will be seen here and there, set as gems on a big, green canopy.

FOUNDING FATHERS' UNTIRING EFFORTS

This is Loyola College, Madras, which has just seen 50 summers of fruitful activity in the academic field. This is the institution, run efficiently by the Jesuit Order, its present eminence being the fruit of labour of the founding Fathers like Bertram whose untiring hands have shaped its destiny. Imagine Father Bertram in those days wending his steps wearily across the ruts and mounds of earth and snake-pits dotted over the campus, then virtually a virgin forest with only one or two small buildings, or, Father Varin bending lovingly over a sapling and chiding the gardener for little acts of omission. The beautiful avenues bordered with magnificent trees of the campus owe their existence to Father Varin who knew by heart the name of each tree, shrub and creeper in the campus.

Later came a batch of young rectors, principals and wardens belonging to the Society of Jesus, whose hard work and devotion, cemented by the service of a dedicated, lay teaching staff, helped in creating a magnificent image of the college in the public mind as a temple of learning, an institution of rigid discipline and a promoter of sports, all rolled into one. In this batch, one may mention witty Father Murphy who tackled students with tolerant humour; Father Jerome D'Souza, a close friend of Rajaji and a member of the Constituent Assembly of India and the first delegation to the UN, whose very presence, with his tall stature and regal gait, brought inspiration to the students and Father Lourdu Yeddanapalli of proverbial simplicity and dogged determination, who built an excellent research department of international repute in Chemistry, starting from the scratch, with cheap, handmade, indigenous equipment of his own design. One also remembers the stalwarts among the lay staff then like Professor Sebastian, P. C. Rama Chandra Iyer, Somasundaram, Anantanarayana Aiyar, N. Sundaram Iyer, T. R. Raghava