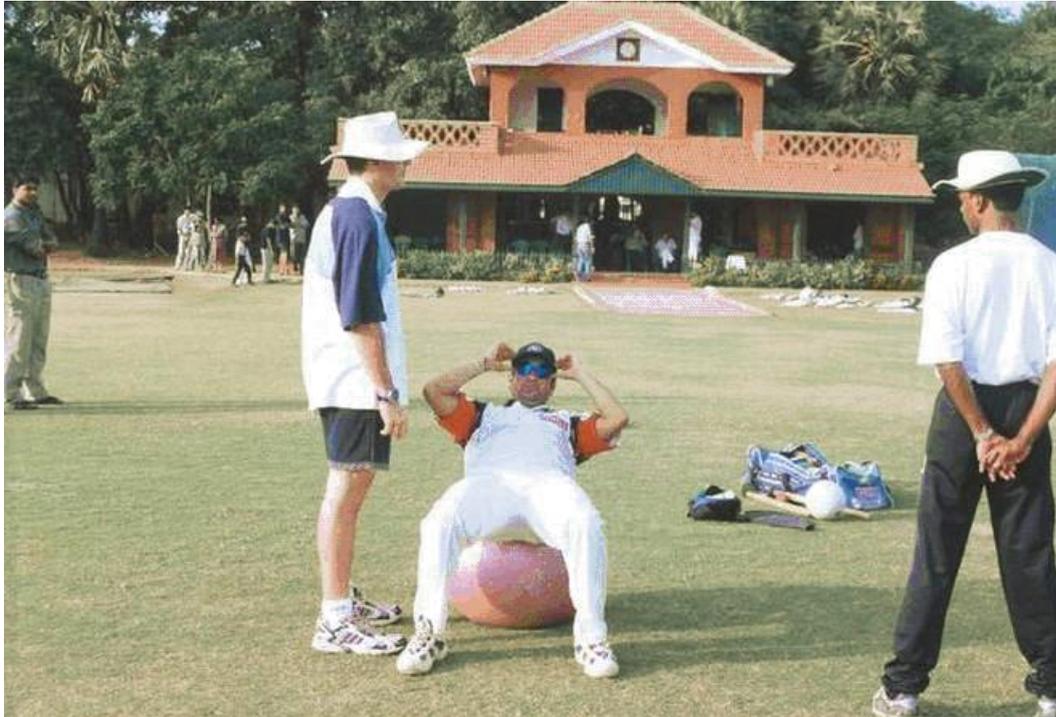


SPORT

The ground with a view

S. Dinakar

CHENNAI MAY 02, 2017 00:00 IST



Picture perfect: Maestro Sachin Tendulkar works out at the stunning ground with a lovely pavilion during the conditioning camp for the Indian probables in 2000.

The IIT-Chemplast facility is to be renamed K.S. Narayanan Centre for Cricketing Excellence today

Nestled in the verdant and sprawling IIT campus, the ground provides the cricketers a sense of space and serenity.

The setting is ideal to get their mind focussed and their body in shape; an ocean of calm in the heart of a bustling metropolis.

“It’s lovely here, excellent facilities,” said a beaming John Wright after a gruelling practice session at the IIT-Chemplast ground.

Those were eventful times for Indian cricket, attempting to find its feet after the devastating match-fixing scandal.

And Wright, appointed Indian team’s first overseas coach, was striving to get his men ready for the ICC Champions Trophy in 2000.

And he was pleased with what he saw at the quaint arena during the preparatory camp for the probables.

The lush green ground, sporting centre wickets, fine practice pitches and an aesthetically built red-brick pavilion named after Aussie legend Neil Harvey, kept the Indian camp happy.

Among the Indians were legends Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble and Sourav Ganguly.

How time flies! Now the next generation of some outstanding Indian cricketers such as R. Ashwin and M. Vijay have made the venue their home.

On Tuesday, the IIT-Chemplast ground will be renamed K.S. Narayanan Centre for Cricketing Excellence, in memory of the Chemplast-Sanmar group's late chief, whose passion for the game was boundless.

He was the driving force behind the construction of the pretty pavilion; the great Harvey himself flew down here for inauguration of the building in 1998.

Unforgettable campaign

The ground has witnessed some memorable moments since. M.S. Dhoni's triumphant men trained and played practice matches here during the course of their unforgettable campaign in the 2011 ICC World Cup. There are as many as 12 practice pitches on this ground, surfaces of different nature to enhance cricketing skills.

Then, six centre pitches greet the players. Intense sessions here have played a huge role in the development of someone such as Vijay, who spent countless hours honing his technique in the quiet setting.

Apart from hosting countless TNCA first division games, the venue has hosted several high-profile Ranji games, including Tamil Nadu's matches against Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

In fact, in the Tamil Nadu-Delhi Ranji knock-out game in early 2000, Vidyut Sivaramakrishnan notched up a hundred, coming in as No. 11.

This season when the Ranji duels were played only on neutral venues, the arena hosted the Maharashtra-Assam game.

Now, as the ground is set to be renamed after its guiding light, its future should be even brighter.

The IIT-Chemplast ground has a new name Venue will be re-laid with working starting in June

Special Correspondent
CHENNAI May 03, 2017



Re-christened arena: N. Sankar, centre, along with Bhaskar Ramamurthi, left, and Vijay Sankar survey the K.S. Narayanan Centre for Cricketing Excellence. R. Ragu

In a pleasant function, here on Tuesday, the IIT-Chemplast ground was renamed K.S. Narayanan Centre for Cricketing Excellence.

N. Sankar, Chairman, Sanmar Group, was greeted by players of Chemplast-Sanmar's two TNCA first division teams, Jolly Rovers and Alwarpet, as he and IIT Madras Director, Professor Bhaskar Ramamurthi, inaugurated the newly renamed ground. The ground will be re-laid, with working starting in June. Bharat Reddy, President Corporate Affairs, Chemplast-Sanmar, said, "The ground has been extensively used in the last 18 years and the lack of water too has taken a heavy toll on the outfield. It has been decided to resurrect the ground to its old charm and beauty."

He added, "IITM, on its side, has assured constant supply of recycled water to maintain the ground."

The ground and its facilities, including the lovely pavilion and the varied practice pitches, had helped many cricketers such as R. Ashwin, M. Vijay, Piyush Chawla, Jayant Yadav, K. Vigensh and T. Natarajan evolve, Bharat Reddy said. He highlighted the role of the support staff K. Ram Mohan Rao, G. Jayakumar, N. Ajay Kudua, Shyamsundar, Vasanthraj and Danasekar in guiding the cricketers. He said, "Most player have benefited from Jayakumar's one-on-one sessions, M. Vijay is a huge beneficiary of the same. Jayakumar is regarded one of the best batting coaches."

The relationship with IITM had grown over the years, he said.

“They have always come forward to help with our requests.”

Reddy said, “Chemplast firmly believes that the best of facilities should be provided to budding cricketers to express their game and to bring excellence on the field.”

He added, “All this is possible only because of the passion displayed towards cricket and sports by the late K.S. Narayanan, and subsequently N. Sankar, N. Kumar and Vijay Shankar.”

The New Indian Express

3 May 2017

Hub of cricket rechristened after leading light in golden jubilee celebrations

By Express News Service | Published: 03rd May 2017 04:01 AM |
Last Updated: 03rd May 2017 04:18 AM



Officials at the renaming of the IIT-Chemplast ground on Tuesday | D
SAMPATHKUMAR

CHENNAI: Chemplast Sanmar Limited, flagship company of the Sanmar Group, is all set for golden jubilee celebrations on May 4. The group runs the Jolly Rovers and Alwarpet CC clubs in the TNCA Senior Division League and their home ground is IIT-Chemplast.

On Tuesday, as part of golden jubilee celebrations, the group renamed the IIT-Chemplast Sanmar cricket ground as KS Narayanan Centre for Cricketing Excellence. N Sankar, chairman of Sanmar Group and Bhaskar Ramamurthi, director of IIT-M, unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion. India Test opener Murali Vijay and players who represent the two clubs were present on the occasion.

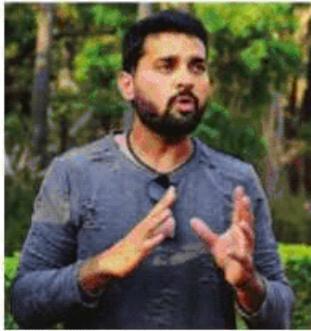
“KS Narayanan, former chairman of Sanmar Group, was a patron of sports. So it is befitting that the ground is named after him,” said Bharath Reddy, in charge of cricket and president, corporate affairs, at Chemplast Sanmar.

Internationals R Ashwin, Piyush Chawla, Jayant Yadav are some of those who play for Jolly Rovers. In last year’s series against England, Vijay, Ashwin and Yadav were part of the XI in the Mumbai Test, which is a unique feat for a club.

The ground too is an important one and has hosted several first-class matches over the years. The Indian team too has trained at this ground, with Sachin Tendulkar being bowled over by the serene atmosphere.

The Times of India

Recuperating Vijay not rushing his return



ON A COMEBACK TRAIL: Vijay speaks during an event in Chennai on Tuesday

Murali Vijay may not be part of the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) season due to a wrist injury, but the elegant righthander -who underwent a surgery in London last month -is making the best use of his time. "It is very sad for me personally not to be part of the IPL this year. But, I am taking this time to focus on becoming a fitter cricketer," said Vijay, who was part of a function where IITM-Chemplast Ground was renamed as KS Narayanan Centre For Cricketing Excellence.

Apart from focussing on his fitness during his time off, Vijay along with KL Rahul -who underwent a shoulder surgery in London -also watched an English Premier League clash featuring Manchester United and Everton at the Old Trafford. Though Vijay is keen on playing the TNCA League clashes for Jolly Rovers, he does not want to rush his return. "I am currently following the rehabilitation program prescribed to me. There will be an assessment next month with my physio," said Vijay.

Despite being away from IPL, Vijay is keeping himself abreast of the happenings. "I am following Kings XI Punjab this season. Punjab are definitely in with a chance to go the distance as they have a balanced side. If they win a couple of games from hereon, then it will put pressure on the other teams as well. Kolkata Knight Riders are playing a good brand of cricket and I feel this edition is witnessing a lot of high-quality clashes," said the former Punjab skipper.

Of late, Virat Kohli has received flak from some quarters for his poor IPL run after a successful home season, but Vijay doesn't want to read too

much into it. “Virat has done well for such a long time and he must be given his space, and that's my personal opinion. Every cricketer goes through hiccups like this. I would say the same thing about MS Dhoni too. These cricketers have contributed so much,” said Vijay.

But cricket is not the only thing on his mind these days. Vijay is spending quality time with his children -son Nivaan and daughter Eva. “I want to be a better father, and this is the best time for me to see my son and daughter grow. I am spending a lot of time with them,” said the 33-year-old.

IIT-Chemplast facility renamed:

As part the ongoing activities to commemorate the golden jubilee of Chemplast Sanmar, the facilities at the IIT-Chemplast Sanmar ground was renamed KS Narayanan Centre for Cricketing Excellence on Tuesday . The ground is to be re-laid in June this year.