Chennai under ‘Unlock 4’ – what now?

The question that is uppermost in the minds of most residents of the city is whether there is any lockdown at all in place. Yes, those with school and college-going children do know that educational institutions are still out of bounds for physical attendance. The entertainment industry is still under lockdown, at least that part of it that involves screening or performing to a live audience. But that is about it. For the rest, it is life as usual, as it was before March 2020. With one difference – the threat of Covid is forever hanging overhead, rather like the proverbial sword of Damocles.

There are many who feel that nothing much was achieved by the lockdown anyway. There are others who wonder as to why we went into a lockdown when numbers were low and why we are opening up now, when the figures for infected cases remains at a steady high. There are however no answers. The lockdown was necessary for the Government and those in the health sector to prepare for a sharp rise in statistics. We are told that this has been achieved. This is not believed by several but at this stage, it is better to go with an element of trust. There is nothing achieved by negative thinking and being suspicious.

Was the hand of the Government, Central and State, forced into opening up? Most certainly – by the demands of the economy. As a city we operate on a dynamic model – we can function only if everything works. Metropolises such as ours were not designed for shutdowns. There are many who depend on a daily wage and they have already been pushed to desperation and more. Sadly, these are also the same people who are most likely to contract this dreaded disease. Preaching social or physical distancing to them is a cruel joke. They do not live and work in environments where such a luxury is possible. At the service of the economy, social distancing is impossible.

TMRL – back on track after a 5-month hiatus

With the lockdown gradually lifting in Chennai, it remains to be seen how the city will handle free public movement even as it continues to battle the pandemic. A Layman’s analysis of data published by the Tamil Nadu government seems to give hope.

For instance, the city’s positivity rate, which had hit a high of 10.7 per cent on August 22nd, came down to 7.8 per cent on September 5th. Additionally, the number of persons undergoing treatment (including home treatment) was seen to dip to 11,029 on September 8th compared to 11,734 on August 8th.

It’s admittedly a small improvement and a deeper trend analysis will probably give a more accurate picture; however, an optimistic person may consider this a step in the right direction. The bigger concern lies in ensuring that the absence of the lockdown doesn’t throw caution to the wind as public spaces reopen and services resume. City authorities must take the necessary steps to ensure that preventive measures are upheld by the public uncompromisingly. Their campaign to contain the pandemic continues – fever camps are being conducted across the city and the GCC will report.

Nestled in one corner of the Directorate of Public Instruction campus on College Road is the Madras Literary Society. Its origins go back by 200 years, for it was meant to be the library of the College of Fort St George, which operated from this campus and gave the road its name. The MLS was the fount of intellectual thought for the entire Presidency and was more or less the equivalent of the Asiatic Societies of Bengal and Bombay. In its initial years it was a part of the College building and then, after peregrinating it came back early in the 20th century to its old location but with a new building constructed specially for it. It was most likely designed by Henry Irwin, for many of its design features match those of the Connemara Public Library and the Museum Theatre.

Accorded Grade 1 status by the High Court of Madras, the building itself is in reasonable condition, though what privations the structure is by itself in a perilous condition. With a shoestring budget and a falling membership, its collection of rare books face a very dark future. The current pandemic has also meant fewer footfalls and renewals of memberships. A young band of diehard supporters are doing their best to keep it going but it needs more help. We request readers of Madras Musings to help it by way of donations. Those interested can contact madrascaliterarysociety@gmail.com.
WHAT NOW AFTER UNLOCK 4

(Continued from page 1)

other end of the spectrum, the State too needs its daily wages, by way of taxation revenue. It has its running costs that have to be met. And for this it needs the city to function. As of now, all the services and places that experience passenger or commuter flow have opened up — transport systems, malls, places of worship and open recreational spaces. The first unlocked Sunday, September 6, saw people following the last named. A day earlier, a prominent mall in the city had to close down within hours of opening as it could not manage the influx of people. How can people cannot be blamed — for how long could they remain cooped up at home? There is a limit to being entertained by the daily drama.

All of this is understand able. But what is not is lack of discipline among people. It has been shown that the wearing of masks is probably the least expensive and most effective way of keeping the virus at bay. And yet, most residents of Chennai do not appear to take this seriously. You only need to see the number of bare faces, others with masks hanging around necks or dangling from an ear or nestling in the crook of an elbow. Why is this simplest of rules not followed? The excuses are many and the worst of all is the quoting of some unknown study that says there is no mask needed in the face of the virus. Are Chennai people so undisciplined that even this basic hygiene requirement is beyond them? Sadly, it would appear so. And so, if the numbers spike, we have only ourselves to blame.

Covid is a merciless virus that respects none. As of now there is no vaccine for it. But it can be contained. All it takes is to stop wearing to masks and washing of hands with soap. Let us resolve to do this from today.

Back on track after a 5-month hiatus

(Continued from page 1)

The blue line, which operates between the Airport metro station and the Washermanpet metro station, began running on September 7th while the green line, which runs between the St. Thomas Mount station and Puratchi Thalaiavir Dr. M. G. Ramachandran central metro station commenced operations on September 9th. Of course, service resumption comes with a few changes to accommodate the safety and convenience of passengers.

Trains will run from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. in response to requests from IT professionals and office goers. The stations are equipped with hand sanitizers and thermal scanning facilities at the entry to identify affected passengers; those showing symptoms of the virus or without masks will not be allowed entry. The usage of face masks has also been made mandatory. At the Platform, a contactless system is introduced which allows passengers to check in and out on the CRM mobile app through QR codes. Passengers with smart cards can top up balance on the CRM mobile app or website, as well as on-ticket counters or vending machines. CMRL has also introduced contactless QR ticketing, where passengers can book tickets and buy passes of their choice on the CRM mobile app through QR codes. Passengers with smart cards can top up balance on the CRM mobile app or website, as well as view additional information such as the available balance, available trips, top-up and travel history etc.

While the authorities take the necessary steps to ensure safety at the stations, one hopes that citizens will take cognizance of the fact that we are still battling a pandemic. A worrisome trend is that public usage of masks and safety measures like social distancing has been dipping. With public transport services back on track, CMRL’s measures are the need of the hour; one hopes that it is enforced strictly among passengers.

Mangosteen Musings

The lockdown has given rise to several unsolvable mysteries, one of which is the case from Madras Musings is concerned. Who for instance are the few who removed the signboard “Sorry, no More!”? There was a time when you could identify the local butcher, baker and candlestick maker in the city, but now they all appear masked and you never know who is calling. If you thought you could detect their voice, forget it, for they all mumble into their masks. If after all this, they are saying something is by noticing the way the mask keeps bouncing around the face of the person. No, MM seems so many walking around bare faced – they must be sick and tired of trying to make themselves understood.

When this is the fate of even familiar faces, what kind of relationship is there for when they need to performe call on people? MM includes in this band of couriers, handymen and errand boys of various kinds. At Chez MMM for instance all of these people prefer to wave outside the gate and yell “St. St. Saar... Saar...”, in increasing volumes until someone notices. The first time is often the last, more than a soothing murmur, muffled by the masks, and then when it produces no results, the subsequent ones, after the mask is removed accompanied by muffled oaths, are much louder. Fortunately, the room where No MMM speaks and repeats his daily quota of words over looks the gate and so MMM is often the first person to know of a caller.

Thus it was the other day when a man began his clarion call from the windows of a train with a poster on venturing into the verandah, he was a character out of Alexander Dumas. He, the stranger and not MMM, was branding a basket of some kind, which he moved through a more gesture than words, indicated as much to be delivered. On the contrary, he had come to take back the basket, and the fruits. He had apparently made a mistake and had delivered it at Chez MMM when all along it was meant for someone else. He is a stranger and not MMM’s good lady. That ended MMM’s tryst with Socratic mangosteens. He is yet to make sense of this description by the train, and his good lady is still pondering over who sent them in the first place.

The Man from Madras

Some see the current daily numbers described as a plateau in comparison to the initial peaks. But the numbers dip somewhat, is also true – on days when the figures on certain dates have gone up, the Plimsoll line so to speak, he goes into a tizzy and looks for the lighter side. The reverse is true on days when the numbers dip somewhat, MMM goes singing about the recovery. All in all, there is not a dull day with this virus. But as they say, too many shocks to the system are not good and many shocks to the system appear to be so. And so, if the numbers spike, we have only ourselves to blame.

The numbers game

Each evening, a friend does the statistics for COVID19 as released by the Government of Tamil Nadu. As of now Madras Musings eagerly awaits this missive and then for the rest of the day, his mood fluctuates from one extreme to the other. The latest was a postcard for a change. It carried a picture with a different quote than the usual ones. "The saddest fact about mankind is that we are more or less rock steady. The excuses are many and the lack of discipline among people is not under any kind of control. And so, the numbers will rise and fall with no end in sight."

The numbers are not good and many shocks to the system appears to be so. And so, if the numbers spike, we have only ourselves to blame. 

Back on track after a 5-month hiatus

The lead article in this issue of Madras Musings, on the manner in which our city’s civic body is barricading people afflicted with Covid brings to the fore their voice, forget it, for they all mumble into their masks. If after all this, they are saying something is by noticing the way the mask keeps bouncing around the face of the person. No, MM seems so many walking around bare faced – they must be sick and tired of trying to make themselves understood.

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SHORT ‘N’ SNAPPY

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Back on track after a 5-month hiatus
Editor's Note – The Police has recently asked residents to record on audio/video/paper the issues they face in their localities. This document reflects what most colonies in the city face.

Barricading Houses

Your view on Barricading Houses was very sensible. Such a tactic truly belongs to the middle ages. Hope the concerned authorities learn from the Bangalore example.

Salim Khakh salimkhakh@gmail.com

Open book examination

I agree with the suggestion of N.S. Venkataraman (MM: Sep 1st, 2020) to try Open Book Examination, as recommended by the late Sir CP. In fact, it is practised in the Departmental examinations of some State Governments, which I too had an occasion to witness.

There is yet another type of examination – purely oral and some professors may combine it with a written paper prepared at home and held in practice in the University in Europe where I specialised in EU matters and obtained a post-graduate degree. There were about twenty subjects apart from a thesis. The examiner thought that the oral examinations would be easy. But I found it difficult because in a written examination, one could go over some subjects and come to the conclusion on the spot and the benefit of doubt is given to the candidate, whereas in an oral examination, the professor stops you and questions you bringing out your weaknesses!

In all, everything depends upon honesty. Since this is a rare commodity, the UPSC changes the number so that the examiner does not know the candidate whose paper he is correcting. I was told by a highly respected English professor that a high school teacher of a high school thanked the Vice-Chancellor who used to call another highly respected English professor to his office to replace the answer-books of some influential candidates!

So there are exams and exams!

Dr. G. Sundaram, (88), A601, Dugar Apartments
Keshava Perum Parum Greenways Road 600 028

Editor's Note – The Police has recently asked residents to record on audio/video/paper the issues they face in their localities. This document reflects what most colonies in the city face.

I will be foolishly to visualize a T Nagar of yore now. For, there were days when life was at its slow pace without much of traffic, business activities, population, life changing high-rise buildings. There were only independent single continuous houses. Therefore, a long-time resident of T Nagar can at best only live now in despair and rejoice thinking of the good old days.

Today, T Nagar has undergone a sea change. While no one craves for the developments taking place in this predominantly residential area even today, as they are but necessary, it has in its wake wrought havoc, which the long-time residents abhor. Though many outsiders may feel that those living in T Nagar are blessed ones as they can get anything at any time, just as it is said that only the wearer of the shoes knows where it pinches, the residents alone can feel the disadvantages and mayhem caused by such mindless developments. The following are a few which needs mention:

- Encroachments of the highest order.
- Multi-storey commercial buildings built in violation of rules, any kind of.
- An unsolicited precious gift from the Chennai Corporation – The elevated road, arising out of relaying of the road over and above the surface, without milling, exposing the decades-old residential apartments, whose floor level at the time of construction was about three-to-four feet above the road, to floods.
- The dysfunctional stormwater drains which add to the miseries of the residents.
- Streets/Roads turning into parking bay for the shoppers vehicle.
- Though the residents are the prime stakeholders of T Nagar by virtue of their stay, they are not consulted whenever any project is taken up.
- Footpaths which are meant for the pedestrians are nowhere to be seen; they are hijacked/encroached upon by the vendors/hawkers forcing the public to walk on the road.
- The high-level encroachment both by the vendors/hawkers and the commercial establishments on Ranganathan Street has forced the authorities to build a sky-walk at a whopping cost of Rs.32 crores least realising that the street could be ticking by removing the encroachments at no cost whatsoever. While one has to wait and watch as to whether the said sky-walk will become another Ranganathan Street over a period of time, the going ahead with the sky-walk only indicates the resolve of the authorities not to meddle with the present status quo ante at Ranganathan Street.
- Ranganathan Street, which unruly crowds besiege on all days and specially on holidays and festival days, is a ticking time bomb as none of the shops has fire safety mechanisms. In case of any untoward incidents taking place, it will be disastrous, as, with the encroachments, it will be next to impossible to escape. It will be impossible for the fire tenders or ambulances to make way into the street. In any case, the street needs to be rid of encroachment at least to provide safety for the passengers, pedestrians and others working in the various shops/establishments.
- Encroachment by the commercial establishments – Thanks to Corporation turning a blind eye, encroachment by these entities has been on the rise. As a result, the public space is narrowed, impeding the traffic.
- Since the residential complexes are sandwiched between the commercial complexes, in case of any fire accidents taking place, precious lives of the residents are in grave danger. Following the fire in a textile showroom on Usman Road sometime back, the residents learned on the news by the authorities to stay away. That the residents had to abandon their homes and had to fend for themselves, with no agency or the complex owner coming forward to their aid.
- The commercial complex owners have been on a mission to acquire flats in the residential apartments in an effort to eject the residents out of T Nagar. Once they acquire a residential building, they get the same certified as commercial. The role of the commercial complex owners is not to fight for the residents, but to make money by converting the area becomes commercial, it will be of advantage to the purchaser in many ways. Though the CMDA states that it goes through the due process, in the absence of any dissemination of the information about the change in the land use, even the residents living nearby come to know only after everything is over.
- Under the Smart City Mission, the authorities are carrying out work. It remains to be seen whether this will indeed make T Nagar really ‘smart’. For, T Nagar has become now a role model for all the wrong things and how a city should not be.
- While service lanes are usually made available for public transport system, the ones on Usman Road, where the encroachment is at its worst, are unfit even for a stroll. On the western end service lane of Usman Road, Government Girls High School is located. Though the school is creating records by producing cent per cent results year after year, the surprise is that it is functioning with a strength which is far below the capacity. There is no reason for such a decision, since feasible is the option if the school is at all a role model. This brings me to another highly respected one.
- Barricading Houses is very sensible.

Our view on Barricading Houses was very sensible. Such a tactic truly belongs to the middle ages. Hope the concerned authorities learn from the Bangalore example.

September 16-30, 2020

A601, Dugar Apartments
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Al. Chandramouli
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I read with interest the account of N.S. Venkataraman on Sir CP’s views on examinations. Long back, I came across a book titled Examination. The author concludes that examination is an evil, but a necessary evil. Several Education Commissions have recommended retention of examination system, but with little effect.

Now the new trend is to have an entrance test for a course or job. The system has now evolved to training for actually commercializing coaching centers. In Newcastle, I came across a letter from the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds to the science teacher of a high school thanking him for giving the university a bright gem. The teacher had recommended one of his students for admission into the University. The student, who thrived in the interview, came across a letter from the Vice-Chancellor thanking him for giving the university a bright gem. The teacher had recommended one of his students for admission into the University. The student, who thrived in the interview, came across a letter from the Vice-Chancellor thanking him for giving the university a bright gem. The teacher had recommended one of his students for admission into the University. The student, who thrived in the interview, came across a letter from the Vice-Chancellor thanking him for giving the university a bright gem. The teacher had recommended one of his students for admission into the University. The student, who thrived in the interview, came across a letter from the Vice-Chancellor thanking him for giving the university a bright gem. The teacher had recommended one of his students for admission into the University. The student, who thrived in the interview, came across a letter from the Vice-Chancellor thanking him for giving the university a bright gem. The teacher had recommended one of his students for admission into the University. The student, who thrived in the interview, came across a letter from the Vice-Chancellor thanking him for giving the university a bright gem. The teacher had recommended one of his students for admission into the University. The student, who thrived in the interview, came across a letter from the Vice-Chancellor thanking him for giving the university a bright gem.
Standing on the balcony of his house, this four-year-old Shahaney was humming the tunes of Kasturba Varma. Usually, the latest MS hit hit from the film Bala was being loudly washed down by the musicals of grand mother, mother and a couple of others who were seated on the horizon to upgrade the engine.

When the government started relaxing the Indian Armed forces, he planned AL on the national stage was un doubtedly the Hindustan version of the film Mala was, however, the Tamil original that caused my childhood fears.

Beginning the lyrical genius of Kalki Krishnamurthy and the most melodious (for un trained ear) of concerts, but a mere pedantry ‘amateur’ of quality, wholesome music. The fact is, I have to perhaps thank MS for even that modest ability. It was a fortunate coincidence for me that my early formative years coincided with one of the most crucial phases in MS’s career when she was transcending from being an outstanding exponent of Carnatic music to Mesmerizingly, however, a local audience, to popular music, the vehicle that launched her on to the national stage was un doubtly the Hindustan version of the film Mala. It was, however, the Tamil original that caused my childhood fears.

In the current year of 1916, MS was in college and she joined the company in college. True, MS was in college and she joined the company in college. True, MS was in college and the company was led by Nagendra Shahaney. Nagendra Shahaney's passion was technology and he understood finance better than anyone else.

"We thank reader and contributor Karthik Bhatt for locating this 1956 issue of the magazine Swarajya. Is there still a rivalry between Mylapore & Triplicane?"

Shahaney's passion was technology. He understood finance better than anyone else. We made him work for us, but he was not afraid to take a risk, a risk which I would have done if the Covid was not there", he unravelled. "After the initial reservation, he knew that AL could not be competed with, but Shahaney led by example. And working with MS, his plan was to lead the company.

To MS, with gratitude

M.S. Subbulakshmi was born on September 16, 1916. We publish this article as a tribute to such a great artiste.

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Quizz*in with Raman*an

Quizzmaster V.V. Raman’s first 10 questions are on current affairs and the next 10 on Chennai Super Kings.

1. According to WWE’s ‘Living Planet Report 2020’, which type of animal population has seen an alarming decline of 68% from 1970 to 2019?

2. Which businessperson recently became the first person to be worth $20 billion?

3. Which spiritual leader’s book Let Us Dream, explaining how a crisis can teach an individuals to deal with problems they face in their lives, is to be released in December?

4. Who was Novak Djokovic playing in the US Open when he was disqualified for hitting a line judge?

5. This actor who achieved fame by playing the Black Panther in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, which was the highest-grossing superhero film in the world, is?

6. UNICEF has appointed which popular Indian actor as its celebrity advocate for promoting and supporting its work around ending violence against children?

7. The WHO recently announced that Africa has seen the eradication of which disease?

8. Which famous National Park is to be expanded by 884 sq km?

9. Name the eminent lawyer who was penalised Re. 1 by the Supreme Court in a criminal contempt case that made headlines recently.

10. On September 7, India surpassed which nation to become the second-most COVID-19 affected after the USA?

1. What IPL first did M.S. Dhoni achieve as a captain with CSK’s maiden win in 2010?

2. Chennai Super Kings has made it through to the IPL as its celebrity advocate for promoting and supporting its work around ending violence against children?

3. The WHO recently announced that Africa has seen the eradication of which disease?

4. According to WWF’s ‘Living Planet Report 2020’, which type of animal population has seen an alarming decline of 68% from 1970 to 2019?

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MADRAS MUSINGS

How well do you know Chennai?

One of the biggest fallouts of the Covid-19 pandemic has been that social events across the world have moved online. Those of Madras Week this year were no exception. With virtual walks, talks and competitions all substituting for their physical counterparts, all eyes were on two of the most anticipated events – the Madras Open Quiz and Murugappa Madras Quoitient Quiz, considering that they have consistently managed to draw large audiences year after year. That they managed to replicate and even better the success of their earlier editions is ample testimony to our city’s status as the Quizzing Capital of our country.

The Madras Open Quiz was held on August 30th and was hosted by noted quiz master and social commentator Dr Sumanth C. Raman along with Abhijit Shyam. Over a thousand took part in the preliminary round consisting of 40 multiple-choice questions, which was hosted on the Quizfit platform. The questions were an interesting mix of things that make up our city and our Madras and which make up contemporary Chennai. Six finalists were shortlisted out of the participants. The final consisting of eight rounds was held over the Google Meet platform and was webcast live. An interesting feature was a couple of ‘pounce’ rounds apart from the regular direct rounds, wherein the top hundred scorers other than the one to whom the question was directed had an option to pounce on it before it went to the original recipient. The ‘pounce window’ was kept open for a specified period of time, after which the person whom the question was intended could answer.

A few questions from the finals, edited suitably:

Q: The idea for this venture came about when Balaji, a differently abled person who used to drop his yoga teacher home every day decided to start a similar service to cater to others as well?
A: Maa-Ula, the bike taxi service run completely by differently abled persons.

Q: Name the famous personality who was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1967 from the Tiruchengode constituency from this acronym: AB-DUL AZANA GYMKHANA SARAAN.
A: Karthik Bhatt

Q: Connect this non-exhaustive list of movies: Sinda Special, Thillu Madhu, Keerth Vaanam Stikakkam, Netrikkan and Avan, Aval, Adhu.
A: Films for which story/screenplay was written by Visu.

The Murugappa Madras Quoitient Quiz hosted by Dr. Navin Jayakumar, well-known quizzer, on August 6th too had more than a thousand taking part in the preliminary round which comprised 35 questions. It was hosted on the Kahoot platform. The format was a mix of multiple-choice questions requiring typed answers and questions that required participants to rearrange the choices in the correct sequence.

The final round, for which the top hundred scorers were selected, saw technology used to its fullest – the quiz took place on Zoom, participants had to answer on Kahoot and the entire proceedings were webcast live on YouTube!

A few questions from the finals, which had 26 questions (one for every letter of the alphabet) with every letter denoting the theme of the question):

Q: Which “5-tupe doctor” who “loved his fellow men” was immortalised in a 2017 film?
A: Dr. V. Thiravanam

Q: Who is the inspiration for a song which was named after the alphabet?
A: Maa-Ula, the bike taxi service run completely by differently abled persons.

Another interesting aspect was that the scoring pattern for the preliminary rounds of both quizzes and for the final in the Murugappa Madras Quoitient Quiz was based on both accuracy and speed. The ones who got the right answers in a shorter time scored more points than the ones who got the answer in a longer duration of time.

Overall, both quizzes were perfect examples of how technology can be leveraged to put together an effective infotainment package.

(MADRAS MUSINGS – THE EDITOR)

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– THE EDITOR

EXCITING SUNDAYS COMING YOUR WAY!

SUNDAY AUG. 30
SUNDAY SEP. 06

Mylapore vs. Triplicane

(Continued from page 5)

the noblest sentiments of Mylapore. It can, therefore, cause little wonder that neither should take kindly to the other. They are agreed that the intellectual leadership of Madras City belongs to them, but they are agreed in nothing else.

This is an invertebrate quarrel in high places and only fools will rush in to adjudicate where angels may fear to tread. It may, in fact, be doubted whether any such adjudication will not be the means of reducing such gaiety as has survived in Madras City. The hostility causes little harm, but it produces much good. It lends vivacity to life. Blood may boil in the Mylaporean, steeped in thought, his brows almost, if not quite, crowned with the olive leaves of intellectual privity, or he tries his way through the traffic, his mind immersed in the profundities of a Penguin Special. He has no ears or eyes for the mundane world; he is deeply discussing with the author the latter’s new principles of the origin of the alphabet. But he is not so abstracted that he will not eye with disdain the oncoming impertinent Triplicanite who makes no secret of his contempt of these intellectual processes. If the latter does not quite cock a snook at the reverent student, it is not because of lack of desire. The learned scholar breathe fire and slaughter as he stalks away while the ragamuffin (I speak figuratively) pours on him a wealth of ridicule by signs. It is such encounters that lend piquancy to the streets of Madras, and it will be an evil day when the lion sits down with the lamb. Fortunately, neither Triplicane nor Mylapore knows which of them is the lion and which is the lamb.

– Smurajya, July 21, 1956

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When Dhoni knocked the fight out of the Aussies at Chepauk

His durable and indelible association with Chennai Super Kings made MS Dhoni a great favourite with the Chepauk crowd. It may not be wrong to say that he was fussed and feted about and even worshiped more in this city than even in his native Ranchi. For get the matches in which CSK was involved, even the practice games attracted over 10,000 spectators to the MAC stadium and for the vast majority of them Dhoni was the one who mattered. Shouts of “Dhoni, Dhoni” or “Mahi, Mahi” rent the air even as he just entered the ground or made his way to the crease. Probably no single player of any franchise has enjoyed the kind of rapport with the crowd and the city as Dhoni did. For the “whistle podu” CSK fan he was simply “Thala”. They adopted him as one of their own and for all practical purposes he could have been born in Chennai rather in Ranchi. In any case he was a naturalized Chennaite.

Dhoni of course could do no wrong while playing for CSK but fortunately the Chepauk crowd saw their favourite come off on numerous occasions while representing India in all three formats of the game. In fact Dhoni made his Test debut in Chennai against Sri Lanka in December 2005 in a rain-hit, 224 but not before the ninth wicket partnership had added 140 runs in 36 overs.

The Australian bowling line-up of Mitchell Starc, James Pattinson, Peter Siddle and Nathan Lyon did not know what hit them as Dhoni launched a furious onslaught with the result that by the end of the day the Indian score had leapt to 515 for eight with Dhoni on 206. Bhuvneshwar Kumar (38) was content to play a supporting role to his captain who was out only on the fourth morning for 224 but not before the ninth wicket partnership had added 140 runs in 36 overs.

Answers to Quiz


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