

LIJSTERS FIGHTS PAST STOSUR, TAKES
N VENUS AT US OPEN SEMIFINALS | 35

ROONEY PUTS PERSONAL PROBLEMS ASIDE,
SCORES FOR ENGLAND IN EURO QUALIFIER | 34



Delhi F1 track among 5 fastest

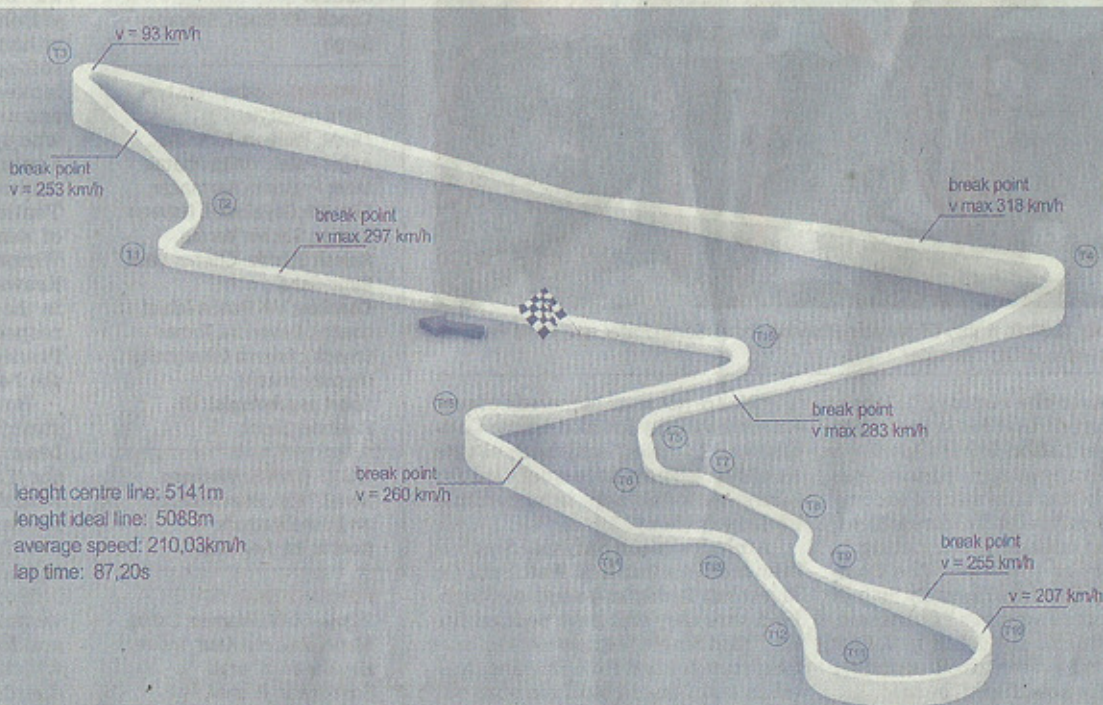
Karun Chandhok Awaits National Anthem At GP

Dhananjay Khadilkar | TNN

Pune: Delhi will host India's first F1 race next year. According to Mark Hughes, vice-president (operations) of JPSI, the track will be among the top five in the world as far as average speed is concerned. The average time per lap is expected to be around 1 minute 24 seconds. The track will have straights, quick corners and elevation changes. Hughes assured that the track would be ready by May 31.

FIA delegates will then inspect the safety conditions of the circuit along with the nature of the track surface. The track, which is being built at a cost of \$350 million, will have a spectator capacity of 1-1.2 lakh and won't be restricted to Formula 1 races. It's being built to accommodate Moto GP and Superbike races as well.

Indian F1 driver Karun Chandhok said the announcement will provide a major boost to Indian motorsports. "With the Indian GP, more people in India will have access to not only F1 but motorsports in general. For me personally, it will be thrilling to be on the grid and hear the Indian national anthem before the start of the Grand Prix."



Tilke 3D-TRACK LAYOUT (5x superelevated)
JP INTERNATIONAL RACE TRACK - INDIA



Talk about dreams coming true... Indian Formula One Grand Prix finally inscribed on 2011 F1 World Championship calendar!! Great for India!"

—Vijay Mallya, REACTS ON TWITTER

Length of the track
5.14km
No of turns
16

Location: 35 km from Delhi on the outskirts of Greater Noida
Budget: \$350 million
Lap time: 1 min 24 sec (approx)
Designer: Hermann Tilke
Capacity: 1,00,000 to 1,20,000
Highest elevation: 14 metre
Maximum width: 14 metre
Tickets on sale from: Jan 2011
Track to be ready: by May 31
Compatible for: Moto GP and Superbike racing



CHANDHOK ON CIRCUIT DESIGN AND LAYOUT

I've seen the track in its various stages from an empty field to the stage of land-levelling and now construction of the pit building and the grandstands. When I was in Greater Noida last month, I even drove on the dirt track and from a driver's point of view, it's an interesting layout.

There have been some changes since the original design, especially elevation changes. Like Turn 8 in Istanbul, Turn 10-11 will be something truly special. It's not that long, but it is a double-apex corner, slightly banked, though I can't quite make out the banking level till the tarmac is laid down. It's going to give the fans a parabolic view, watching cars whizz by at over 200kmph. So whoever manages to get a set for that area, is in for a treat.

I spoke to Bernie Ecclestone just yesterday (Tuesday) about the circuit and he keeps weekly updates on what's happening in India. He seems quite pleased with how it's coming along.

I think end-October is a good time to host the race and I firmly believe that it pays to be either one of the first for races or the last four races. The Indian Grand Prix is right now the third-last race of 2011, with just Abu Dhabi and Interlagos to follow. And I'm sure it will be an exciting race since interest in the championship will be at its peak.

I visit the Jaypee International Race Circuit nearly every month and from what I've seen they have a good 10 months work still left. They're aiming for a June finish, so as to beat the monsoons in July and August, but frankly speaking, Bahrain was cleared just weeks before the race. So I wouldn't really worry about it.

(as told to Rishi Batra | TNN)

Singapore GP welcomes Indian F1 foray

Singapore GP's deputy chairman Colin Syn says garnering sponsorships won't be a problem in a country like India

Saibal Bose | TNN

Jaipur: There seems to be more enthusiasm in Singapore for the Indian Grand Prix than it is here. "Entire Asia is looking forward to it," Singapore GP's deputy chairman Colin Syn told TOI during a recent interaction. "We expect it to be a great event and I have heard that the track is going to be an excellent one."

With a Formula One race coming to India, Syn pointed out that the focus in the sport is gradually shifting to Asia. "We have F1 races in Bahrain, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan and South Korea. With India joining the circuit, Asia will become a big player next year."

Singapore's most popular race driver Yaey Tan too expects a great event. "India is an ideal place to have a Formula One race," he said. "It's a surprise you guys don't have a race yet. I am sure sponsorships would not be a problem in India, unlike in Singapore."

The officials of Singapore GP are willing to help out, if needed. "We have already conducted two races, and they have been very successful," Lawrence Foo, in charge of the track, said.



HERE'S TO THE FUTURE:
Narain Karthikeyan

Singapore hosts a night race on a street circuit. Foo and his team get the track ready for the likes of Mark Webber and Adrian Sutil to test their skills. The third Singapore GP will be held on September 26 this year.

English commentator Steve Slater, known as the Voice of Formula One, told TOI that there is a great expectation from the Indian GP. "Everyone on the circuit expects it to be grand event."

Slater has kept himself updated on the developments regarding the Indian GP. "There is definitely going to be a lot of excitement before the race. It would also be good for India. I am sure the Indian GP would give a boost to the sport and you would have more Narain Karthikeyans and Karun Chandhoks."

In 2011, Gr Noida on Formula One circuit

Dhananjay Khadilkar | TNN

Pune: It's official. India will host its first Formula 1 Grand Prix on October 30, 2011. The announcement came following an extraordinary meeting of the World Motor Sport Council in Paris on Wednesday. The addition of an Indian GP to the F1 calendar will make 2011 a 20-race season, the longest in the history of the sport.

According to FIA deadlines, the track needs to be completed by July 30 and it will get a go-ahead subject to FIA homologation.

The 5.14-km track, located on the outskirts of Greater Noida (35km from Delhi) is being



VROOMING IN

built by Noida-based Jaypee Sports International (JPSI) and is designed by German race-track designer Hermann Tilke, who has designed F1 circuits in Malaysia, Bahrain, China, Turkey, UAE and South Korea.

► Track among 5 fastest, P 33