

Modernity's tryst with antiquity

STREET SMART - QUEEN'S ROAD

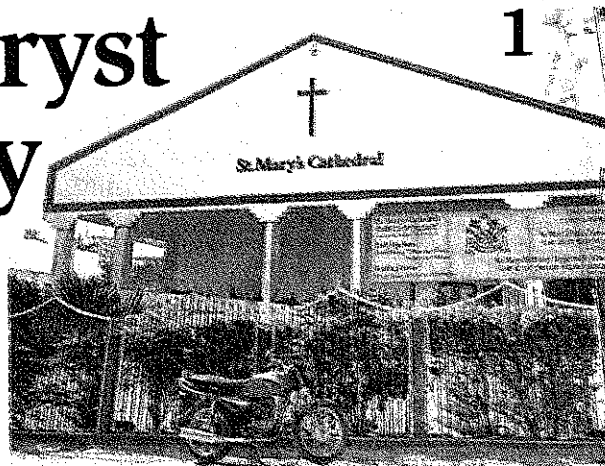
Queen's Road, a prestigious address to quote if you have an office or residence here. It is a sort of "hybrid" road, beginning as a two-way and tapers off into a one-way. The road begins here with the Queen Victoria statue and ends near Cubbon Park. Sculpted by Sir Thomas Blackthorn, it is a white marble replica of the one at Worcester, UK. The 11-foot sculpture was unveiled on February 5, 1906, by the then Prince of Wales, George Frederick Ernest Albert.

A strip of the Cubbon Park runs parallel to the road at the end of which you find the statue of Edward VII, King of Great Britain and Ireland (1901-1910) erected in 1914 and unveiled by Frederick John Napier Baron Chelmsford, Viceroy and Governor General of India in 1919.

Most people recognise this stretch by the gates to Chinnaswamy Stadium. The road intersects Cubbon Road, Infantry Road and continues to the wall of the Cantonment railway line. Queen's Road buzzes with commercial activity only after the S G Balekundry Circle. At one corner of the circle is the Sacred Fire Temple of the Parsis built in 1925. Also on the same stretch is the office of Income Tax Department, Karnataka and Goa region

Queen's Road is the address of several newspaper offices - from the impressive building of Indian Express and Kannada Prabha to the small office in an apartment block of the Delhi Press, publishers of Alive, Women's Era and Griha Shobha. The news agency, Press Trust of India (PTI) occupies the first floor of an old building. Also located nearby are offices of Sanje Vani (Kannada evening), Kalai Kadhira and Dina Sudara (Tamil newspapers).

The headquarters of the Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited, a State Government undertaking to promote renewable energy sources like solar, wind, small hydro, biomass and cogeneration, is located here. The Aditya Solar Shop of the Central Government to promote spot sale of renewable energy products, servicing



and repair of the devices is located in the same premises.

During the last couple of decades, a number of institutions have come up here such as the Institution of Agricultural Technologists. The Congress Bhavan, headquarters of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee. Opposite the Bhavan is an eyesore - Rajiv Gandhi Colony, a semi-slum area.

The Congress Bhavan's neighbour is St Mary's Cathedral catering to the Syrian Orthodox Christian community of Kerala which started migrating to Bangalore in 1930s. The St Mary's Public

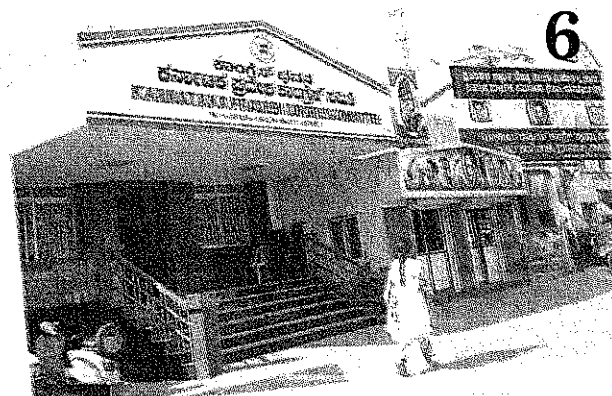
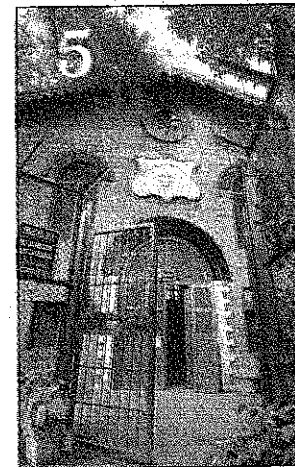
School is attached to it. Despite being in the main part of the City there are no major hotels, except Gold Star Hotel and a serviced apartment called Nandaleke Homes.

A touch of the old

Despite modernism sweeping this road, a touch of the old persists. Towards the end of the road there is the Government Veterinary Hospital. The building was constructed in 1924 by the British. It was inaugurated by Mr Austin in 1924 who was the Collector then and the Governor, Steean. Later it was transferred to the Government of Mysore, Department of Animal Husbandry in 1927.

A shrine devoted to the presiding deity of snakes (Nagakanni Amma temple) and a Sankastahara Ganapathy (remover of obstacles) are on this road. Just next to the Veterinary Hospital is the KPTCL 'C' Station, a stone building dating 1907, something which has remained from the past.

M P



Different landmarks on Queens Road. 1) St Mary's cathedral; 2) Statue of Queen Victoria; 3) Sankastahara Ganapathy temple; 4) Parsi temple; 5) KPTCL B station; 6) Congress Bhavan.