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Nehru Science Centre
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Nehru Science Centre
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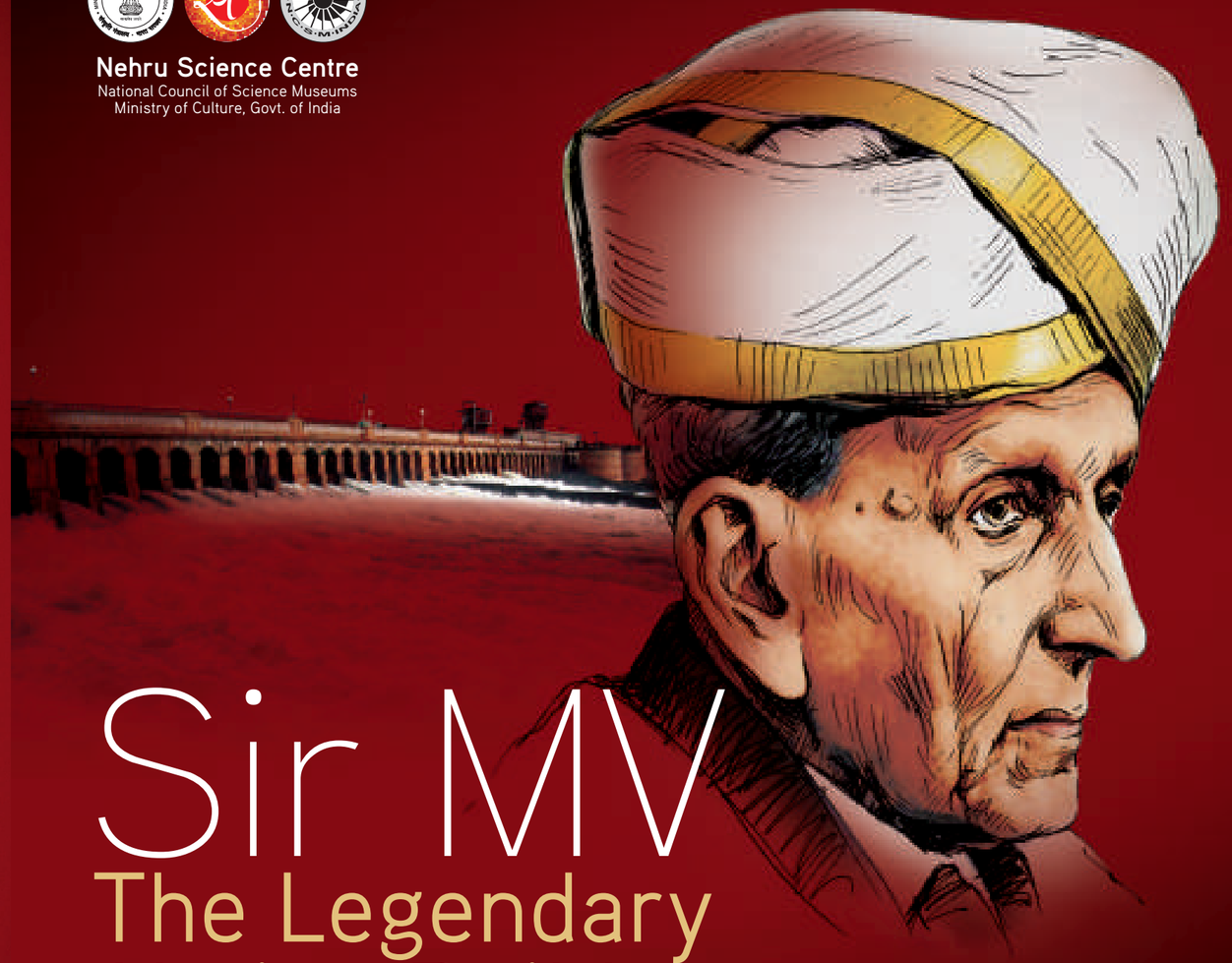


Sir MV
The Legendary Nation Builder



Contents

		Page No.
Message		2
Foreword		4
Director's Note		5
Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya	The Legendary Nation Builder	14
Childhood	A humble beginning from Muddenahalli	16
Early Education	Genius in the making	18
Education at Poona	Foundation for a professional career	20
The first engineering challenge	Innovation in water supply	22
Services in Sukkur	Innovative collector well	24
Automatic Sluice gates	A patented invention of Sir MV	26
Automatic Sluice Gate Patent	Testimony to Sir MV's creativity	28
Foreign Travel	Assimilating knowledge	30
Services for Hyderabad	Scheme for combating floods	34
Chief Engineer in Mysore	Service to the motherland	40
Krishna Raja Sagara Dam	Standing testimony to MV's excellence	48
Dewan of Mysore	Statesman par excellence	56
Mysore Iron and Steel Works	Step towards self-reliance	62
Mysore Sugar Company	Integrating Farm & Factory	68
New Industries	Placing Mysore on the path to progress	70
Building Infrastructural Support	Transport Development	72
Banking and Commerce	State Patronage	76
80	**University of Mysore**	A step towards advanced learning
84	**Initiatives in Education**	Building temples of learning
86	**Sri Jayachamarajendra Polytechnic**	Developing skilled labour
94	**Government committees**	Service to nation
98	**International assignment**	Recognition beyond borders
100	**Hirakud Dam**	Vision for taming Mahanadi
102	**Hindustan Aeronautics Limited**	India's first aircraft factory
104	**Premier Automobiles Limited**	Sir MV's pursuit in automobiles
106	**All India Manufacturers' Organisation (AIMO)**	Step towards nation's economic resurgence
108	**Formation of Clubs**	Creating space for intellectual discourse
110	**Indian Institute of Science**	Sir MV's scientific connection
112	**Father of Planning**	Sir MV's foresight & initiative
114	**Awards and Honours**	Nations recognition for the legend
116	**The Bharat Ratna**	Nation's reverence to the Legend
118	**VITM**	Befitting tribute to the legend
132	**Sir MV in Print**	Media's accolades for Sir MV
136	**Centenary Celebrations**	A tribute to the visionary
140	**Antim Yatra of the Legend**	Homage to the legend by the grieving nation
142	**Acknowledgement**	
	NCSM Nationwide	



Chairman's Message

The Government of India has declared 15th September, the birthday of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, as 'Engineers' Day'. It is a befitting tribute that the nation has paid to the legendary engineer Visvesvaraya, who made immense contribution in nation building. Engineers play a major role in nation building and are central to the development of infrastructure and growth of industries. Sir MV's contributions to the field of engineering need to be recognised and portrayed to the younger generation. Of the several contributions that Sir MV has made to this nation, I would specifically like to mention his contribution in the establishment of the Mysore University, which was the first non British university to be established in India. I would also like to quote certain attributes of Sir MV namely; his impeccable honesty, integrity and dedication, which are so essential for developing a nation.

National Council of Science Museums has developed an exhibition **'Sir M Visvesvaraya : The Legendary Nation Builder'**. I am sure this exhibition, on the life and works of Sir MV and the accompanying richly illustrated catalogue with archival content will truly be inspirational and motivational for the younger generation, specially the students who visit the science centres in large numbers. I hope the younger generations will make Sir MV as their role model.

I am also pleased to note that Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai, a unit of the National Council of Science Museums, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, is bringing out a well researched catalogue to supplement the exhibition. I take this opportunity to congratulate the National Council of Science Museums for taking the initiative in bringing out this catalogue that presents the multifaceted contributions of Sir MV.

Prof. R C Sobti
Chairman
Governing Body, NCSM



Message

JSW Foundation has always believed in the promotion of Arts and Heritage among several other areas of intervention and it is under one such initiative that the Foundation supported the Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai in its initiative in developing this exhibition on **Sir M Visvesvaraya : The Legendary Nation Builder** and for organising the Sir MV Memorial Iron and Steel Heritage of India lecture series at the Nehru Science Centre. I had the privilege and the honour to be present during the inauguration of this exhibition and the lecture series at the Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai, on 15th September 2014, the birth anniversary of Sir MV, which is also commemorated as Engineer's Day in our country. This exhibition with its unprecedented collection of the archival material and information on the life and works of Sir MV was inspirational to say the least and revealed several hidden facets of the genius. His achievements and attention to detail while working towards the common good, should form an inspiration to all of us, as we work towards taking India towards its rightful place in the pantheon of nations in the modern world.

Our largest steel plant is at Vijayanagar in Karnataka, the karmabhumi of Sir M V and our engagement with the community in the hinterland has been inspired by his sense of selflessness, as he strove to work towards the benefit of the weaker sections of society. His contributions to the nation range from engineering to statesmanship to nation building. Being from an industrial family, I can truly appreciate how valuable his contribution has been to the nation building process and in the upliftment of society. He was a champion of Corporate Social Responsibility long before it became a buzz word in the lexicon of the industry in our country. As a social entrepreneur and philanthropist, I am in awe of the unprecedented contributions that Sir MV has made to this nation.

I am sure this exhibition is a fitting tribute to the country's engineering community and the legendary Sir M. Visvesvaraya who tirelessly worked behind the scenes to make life more comfortable for the country's people. I hope that it will encourage student community to try and emulate the achievements of Sir MV and imbibe his values of honesty, integrity and sincerity. This richly illustrated catalogue which supplements the exhibition captures some of those rare moments for posterity. I am positive that it will be an eye-opener to the multitude in our nation and reveal the true genius of this great son of our country. I am sure that this will richly benefit the public at large and form a guiding light to us all as we forge ahead. I take this opportunity to compliment Mr Shivaprasad Khened, Director, Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai and his team for their dedicated effort in developing the exhibition and the Lecture Series, and am honoured that JSW Foundation could be associated with such a wonderful tribute to one of the luminaries in the world of engineering.

Mrs Sangita Jindal
Chairperson, JSW Foundation



Foreward

We are all aware of the immense contribution of **Sir M Visvesvaraya : The Legendary Nation Builder**. Sir M Visvesvaraya, the extraordinary engineer, dedicated eight decades of his life in the service of the nation and played an important role in many engineering projects across undivided India.

National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) has developed a well researched and documented exhibition on the Life & Works of Sir M. Visvesvaraya to mark his 150th birth anniversary. NCSM has also brought out a catalogue to supplement the exhibition. VITM, one of the science museums working under NCSM, is named after this legendary engineer & nation builder.

I am happy to note that this richly illustrated, well researched catalogue will be released on the occasion of the valedictory programme of this exhibition and the JSW- NSC, Mumbai Annual Lecture Series on Iron and Steel Heritage of India that was organised at the Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai.

This exhibition and the catalogue would not have been possible without the contribution of Mr Shivaprasad Khened, Director, Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai (NSCM), and the teams at VITM & NSCM who were involved in the research and conceptualisation of the exhibition and development of the catalogue.

I also take this opportunity to sincerely thank Mr Sajjan Jindal, CMD JSW Group and Mrs Sangita Jindal, Chairperson, JSW Foundation for graciously supporting this initiative of Nehru Science Centre.

Shri G S Rautela
Director General, NCSM

Director's Note



Nehru Science Centre (National Council of Science Museums, Ministry of Culture, Government of India) is privileged to present this catalogue to complement the exhibition **Sir M Visvesvaraya: the Legendary Nation Builder.**

This exhibition, drawing on a range of research, sources and images, documentary, visual and audio, highlights the unique contributions of Sir M Visvesvaraya in nation building.

In the annals of human history very few people have had the dispensation of celebrating their own birth centenary; from amongst those few who have, there are no parallels to the life that Sir M Visvesvaraya lived for all of 102 years.

Visvesvaraya, popularly referred to as Sir MV, was an engineer par excellence, statesman, visionary, a staunch votary of industrialization, education, women empowerment and several other statutes that he strenuously worked for building the nation. There are very few fields of thoughts and constructive endeavours, of technical advancement and nation building in which Sir MV had not made a significant contribution. Some of his contributions include engineering, in all its branches, particularly those of irrigation, reservoirs, dams and water supply, power supply and bridge building; university education, technological and occupational training, town planning, industry and banking, commerce and manufacture.

Sir MV was a man with impeccable integrity, discipline and a grand vision for the nation. Krishnarajasagara (KRS), one of the premier reservoirs of the country, owes its existence to him. Mahatma Gandhi, referring to sir MV said

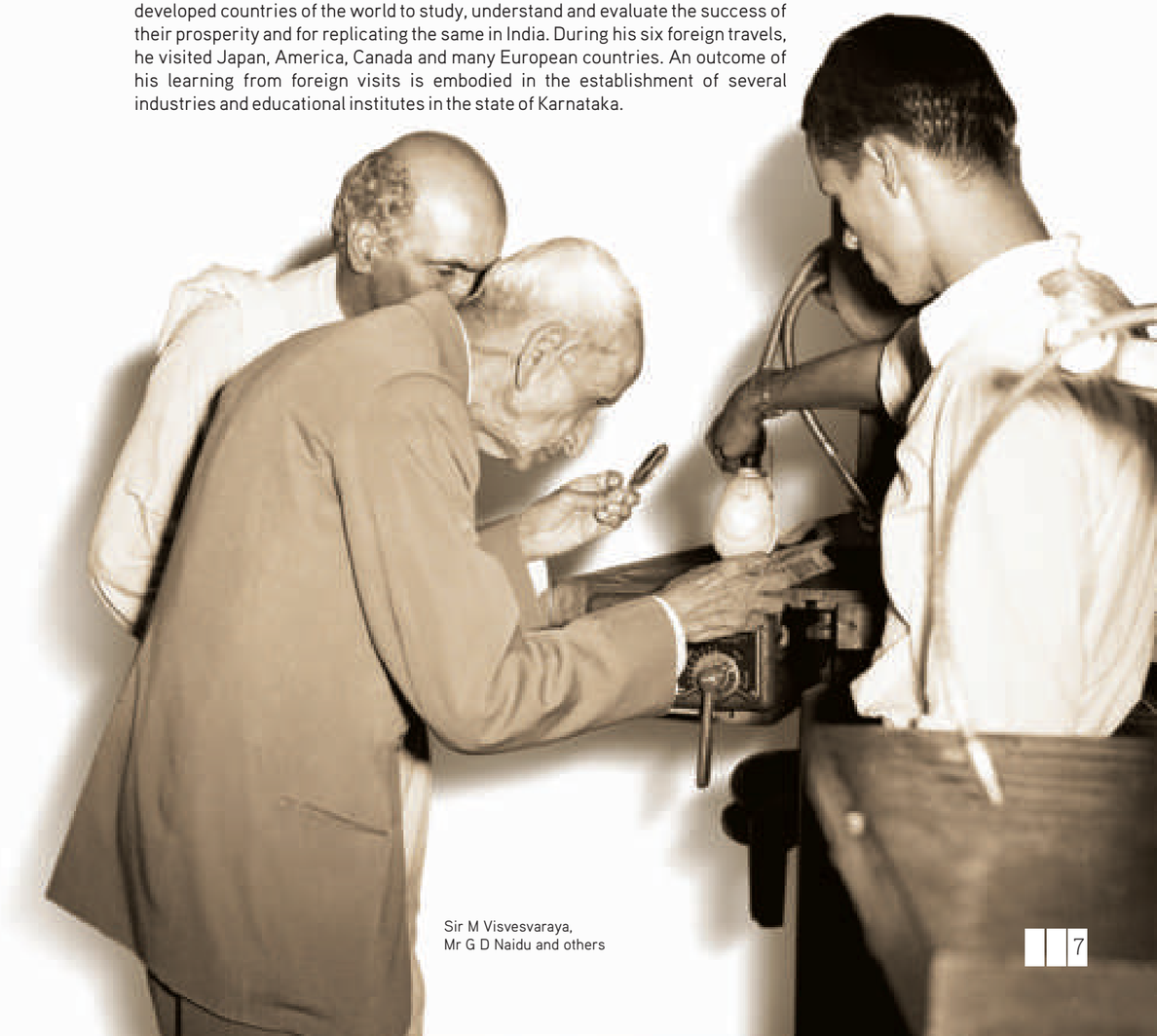
> KRS alone, one of the largest of its kind in the world, would perpetuate the name of Sir MV.

Pandit Nehru, the architect of modern India, borrowed the idea for planned economy from Sir MV.

From Aden to Hyderabad, Sir MV's civil engineering contributions are spread across the country and abroad. His engineering services were used in various capacities all across the country including in building the Hirakud Dam, in Odisha, a Railway Bridge across Ganga in Patna, combating floods in Hyderabad, constructing the Himayatsagar and the Osmansagar reservoirs across the rivers Musi and Easi, and in the reconstruction of Hyderabad city and preparation of the drainage scheme for the city. Sir MV was also a member of the engineering committee that was involved in construction of several buildings in Lutyens Delhi.

Sir MV was known for his foresight and prophetic vision for industrial development, which he advocated was essential for alleviating poverty. He was a master in irrigation designs and was very passionate about effective utilization of scarce water resource for drinking and irrigation purpose. Block System of Irrigation, Automatic Sluice gates and Collector Well are some important innovations of Sir MV. Automatic Sluice gates, used in KRS and other dams, enable storage of water well above the crest of the weir of the Dam. He obtained a patent for this invention but refused to accept any royalty. He designed the Block system of Irrigation to optimize, control and evenly distribute water supply to parched agricultural lands across number of villages. The supply was rotated within "blocks" in each village to curtail misuse and water logging. This system, devised in 1899, continues to be used even today in Deccan Canals. The collector wells can provide moderate to large quantities of naturally filtered water from the river beds.

Sir MV was a firm believer that development alone can bring about prosperity for people. He also believed that India could be benefited from harvesting the knowledge and experience of the prosperous nations. Visvesvaraya toured many developed countries of the world to study, understand and evaluate the success of their prosperity and for replicating the same in India. During his six foreign travels, he visited Japan, America, Canada and many European countries. An outcome of his learning from foreign visits is embodied in the establishment of several industries and educational institutes in the state of Karnataka.



Sir M Visvesvaraya,
Mr G D Naidu and others

Visvesvaraya served his mother state Mysore in different capacities first as the Chief Engineer to the government in 1909 and next as the Dewan of Mysore from 1912 to 1918. He firmly believed that education is fundamental to the progress of a nation. His regime as the Dewan of Mysore witnessed unprecedented growth in the establishment of a number of primary schools. In just six years of his tenure as the Dewan an additional 6,500 new schools were added. He pronounced a revolutionary legislation making primary education compulsory for every child. He also believed in social upliftment of the depressed communities and backward classes and laid special emphasis on education of girls. He was instrumental in establishing educational institutes, industries, banks, Mysore University and Agriculture Science College. He also used his personal money to help establish a vocational college (Jayachamarajendra Polytechnic College). HAL the premier aircraft manufacturing company in Bangalore, the steel, sugar and soap factories in Karnataka owe their existence to Sir MV. He improved the Railway infrastructure of Mysore and established clubs and association for improvement of the state. He was associated with the premier Indian Institute of Science and promoted linkage of industries with scientific institutes.

Sir MV received the knighthood from the British Empire &

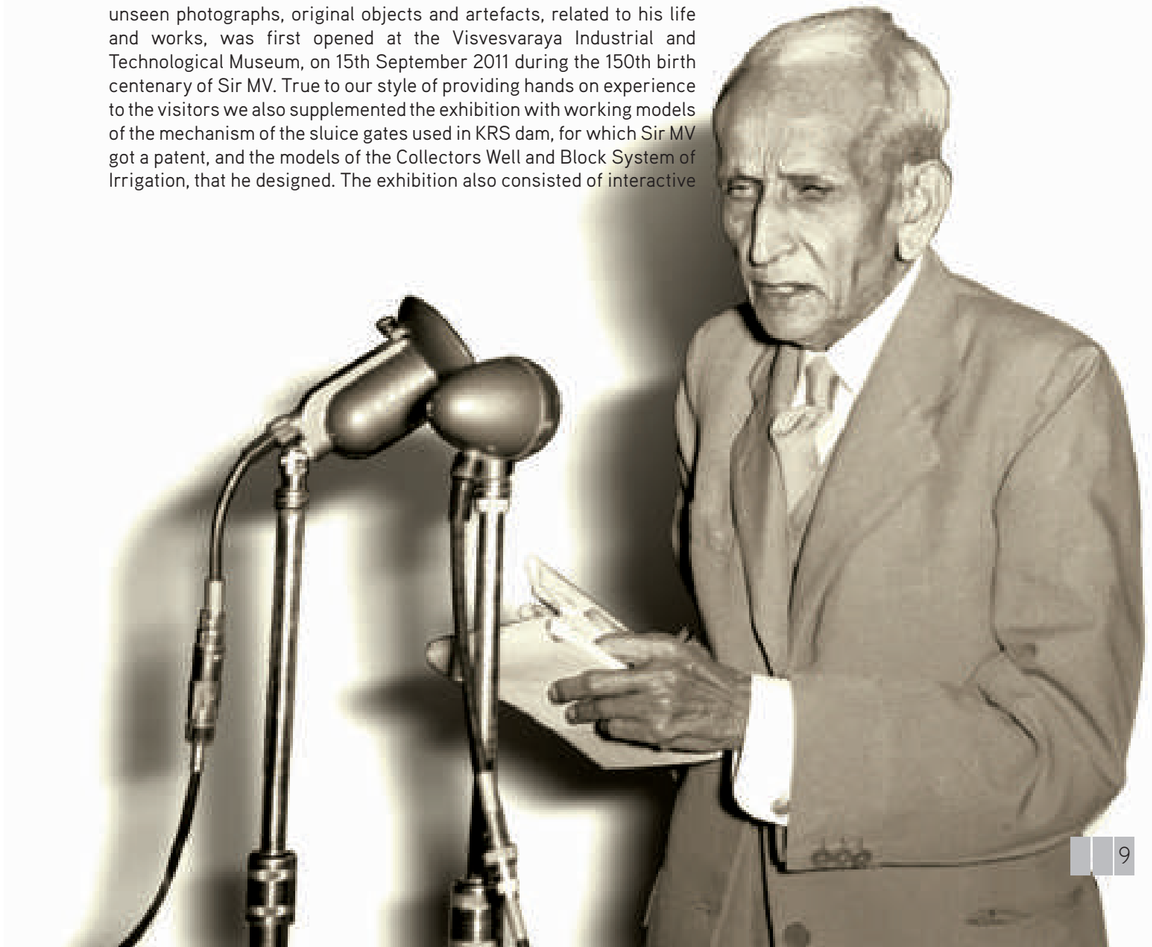
Bharat Ratna



in the year 1955. After actively serving the nation for more than 100 years Sir MV breathed his last on 14th April, 1962 at Bangalore.

On the eve of the centenary celebrations of Sir MV, which was held at Bangalore, Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India, who had joined the centenary celebration to honour Sir MV, announced a befitting tribute to Sir MV of establishing a Industrial and technological Museum to be named after Sir MV. Thus was established the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM) at Bangalore, the foundation for which was also laid by Pt. Nehru.

To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sir M Visvesvaraya, Mr G S Rautela, the Director General, National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) decided to develop an exhibition **"Sir M Visvesvaraya - The Legendary Nation Builder"** and entrusted this work to VITM Bangalore. It was an honour and privilege for me, as the then Director of VITM, to be associated with this project in researching and collecting a wide ranging historical and archival materials related to the life and works of Sir MV. This historical and well researched exhibition with hitherto unseen photographs, original objects and artefacts, related to his life and works, was first opened at the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum, on 15th September 2011 during the 150th birth centenary of Sir MV. True to our style of providing hands on experience to the visitors we also supplemented the exhibition with working models of the mechanism of the sluice gates used in KRS dam, for which Sir MV got a patent, and the models of the Collectors Well and Block System of Irrigation, that he designed. The exhibition also consisted of interactive





multimedia, audio recordings of his original voice, and a period room setting with original objects and belongings of Sir MV including the Bharat Ratna commendation that the nation bestowed on Sir MV in 1955, which were graciously loaned for the exhibition by Mr Satish Mokshagundam and his family.

The seeds of nation building traits that Sir MV cultivated were sown early in his engineering career, which he started in the erstwhile province of Bombay under the British rule. It was in consideration of this that the Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai decided to present this exhibition at its premises on the eve of Engineers day (his birthday). It was also decided to publish a catalogue to complement this exhibition, and to organise a Sir MV Memorial lectures series on Iron and Steel Heritage of India, to complement this exhibition at the Nehru Science Centre. The credit for organising this exhibition, the lecture series and for

bringing out this richly illustrated catalogue for the exhibition should rightfully go to **Mrs Sangita Jindal, Chairperson, JSW Foundation,** who very graciously came forward to financially support the Nehru Science Centre in developing the exhibition, organising the lecture series and in bringing out this richly illustrated catalogue for the exhibition. The exhibition Sir M Visvesvaraya : The Legendary Nation Builder, and the Sir MV Memorial Lecture series on Iron and Steel Heritage of India was successfully inaugurated by Dr Anil Kakodkar, Former Secretary Atomic Energy Commission, in the august presence of Mr Sajjan Jindal, CMD, JSW Group, Mrs Sangita Jindal, Chairperson, JSW Foundation, Mr G S Rautela, DG NCSM, and several other distinguished dignitaries on 15th September, 2014 at the Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai on the occasion of Engineers day and birth day of Sir MV.

Today, perhaps, many people may know Sir MV as one of the ablest engineers of India and creator of the famous Brindavan garden, but very few really know about his role as a builder of modern India.

Sir MV's nation building contributions in industrializing India, his views on education and planning, his role in establishing educational institutes, university, industries, banks, making education compulsory for women and backward section of society, establishing vocational institutes, empowering women, setting a model for a planned economy, that Nehru introduced for the nation, have all been duly depicted in the exhibition. The exhibition also has archival information and materials on the services that he rendered in civil engineering in the Bombay Presidency and also in the princely states of Hyderabad. Sir MV epitomised impeccable honesty and integrity, these aspects, which were integral to his life, have been exemplified in the exhibition alongside his other innumerable nation building contributions.

On behalf of the Nehru Science Centre, National Council of Science Museums, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, I take this opportunity to sincerely thank Mrs Sangita Jindal, Chairperson, JSW Foundation and Mr Sajjan Jindal, CMD, JSW Group and their team for their benevolent financial support in developing this exhibition, supporting the Sir MV Memorial Lecture series and also for the publication of this richly illustrated catalogue.

Our thanks are due to Mr G S Rautela, Director General, National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata for his encouragement and constant support. The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, under whom the National Council of Science Museums functions, has been a pillar of strength to the council and have always been highly supportive of the programmes and activities of our Council. I would like to place on record our sincere and heartfelt thanks to Mr Ravindra Singh, Secretary Culture, Government of India and Mr Pramod Kumar Jain, Joint-Secretary Culture and their team at the Ministry of Culture for their continued support and patronage for NCSM.

This exhibition would not have been possible without the extraordinary and benevolent support, including providing archival information, visuals, images and documents for use in the exhibition, given to the



NCSM by several institutions, Industries, Individuals, Private bodies, whose support has helped NCSM in developing this exhibition, our heartfelt thanks to every one of them. We would specifically like to acknowledge the support and thank Smt Shakuntala Krishnamurthy, Daughter-in-law of Sir MV and Shri Satish Mokshagundam, Director, Visvesvaraya National Memorial Trust, Bangalore for their extraordinary support and encouragement and for sparing archival information for the exhibition including original objects and memorabilia for the exhibition at VITM Bangalore.

On behalf of NSCM I would also like to thank Cauvery Neerawary Nigama, Visvesvaraya National Memorial Trust, Bangalore, Karnataka State Archives Department, Govt of Karnataka, Smt. Leela Krishnamurathy, daughter of Mr. Hiriannaya, Bangalore, Mr. Mukund Dharashivkar, Freelance writer, Maharashtra, Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited, Bangalore, Karnataka Engineering Research Station, AP State Archives and Research Institute, Hyderabad, Premier Automobile Ltd, Mumbai, Hirakud Dam Project, Odisha, Tata Steel Ltd, Jamshedpur, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited, Odisha, Directorate of Irrigation Research & Development, Pune, Mysore Palace, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt of India, Films Division, Mumbai, G D Naidu Museum and Industrial Exhibition, Coimbatore and others.

Last but not the least I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of our dedicated team of officers and staff at Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai and VITM, Bangalore for their extraordinary support in developing this exhibition and the publication of this catalogue.

Shivaprasad M Khened
Director, Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai

exhibition



Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya

The Legendary Nation Builder

C.I.E, K.C.I.E, LL.D, D.LITT, D.Sc.

(15th September, 1860 - 14th April, 1962)

Bharat Ratna, Sir Dr. Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, popularly known as Sir MV or MV was an engineer extraordinary, a statesman, a visionary and a staunch votary of industrialization. He is often considered as an early architect and champion of modern industry. He became a legend in his own lifetime – lived a life filled with singular engineering achievements unparalleled by any one in India in the last two centuries.



Sir MV's House in Muddenahalli

Young Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya

Childhood

A humble beginning from Muddenahalli

Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya was born to a poor Brahmin family, Srinivasa Sastry and Venkata Lakshmamma, in Muddenahalli, a small hamlet town in Chikballapur District of present day Karnataka state, on 15th September, 1860 (The birth date as per his pass port record is 15th September 1861).

His father was a scholar who devoted most of his time in studying Hindu scriptures and in performing pilgrimages. His mother was a pious strong character woman. He was second among the six children (four sons and two daughters).

The family name Mokshagundam is attributed to the name of a small village Hamlet in Giddalur taluk of Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh from where the ancestors of Sastry's hailed before migration to Karnataka in the late 15th or early 16th century.

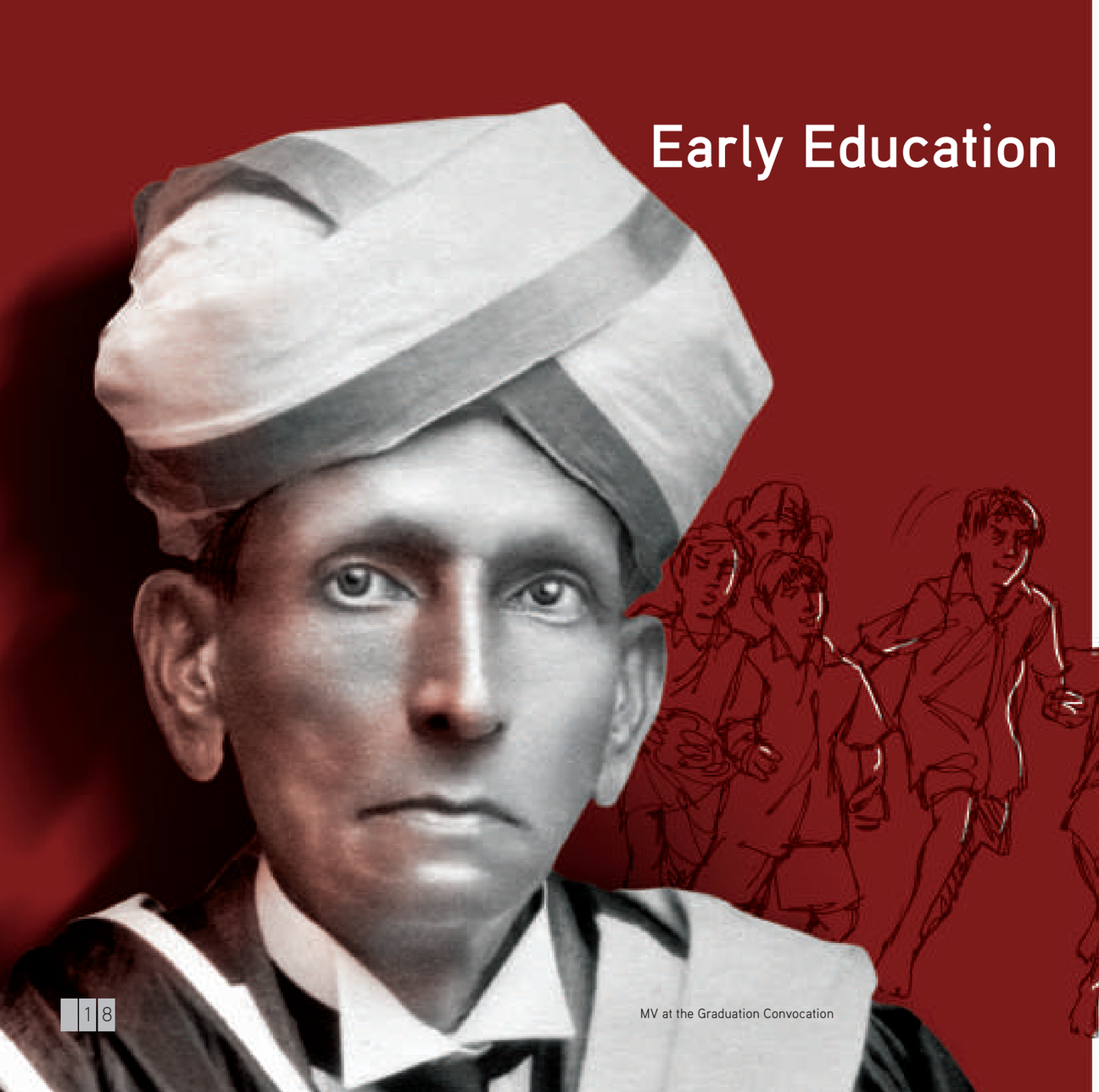


Venkatalakshmamma
Mother of Sir MV



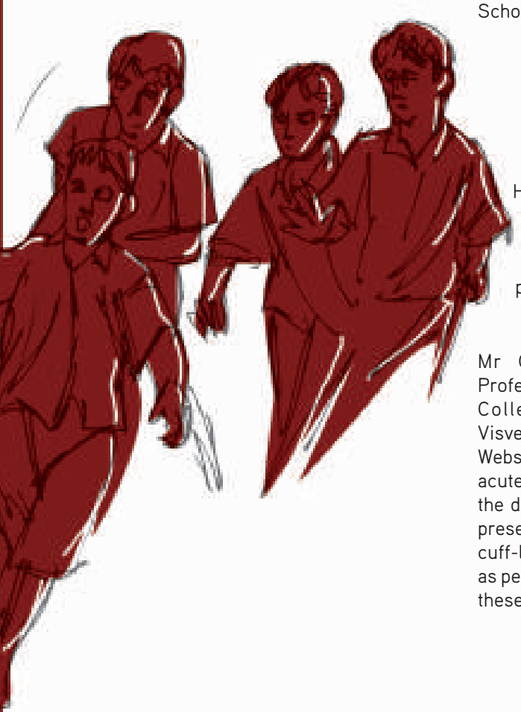
H. Ramaiah, maternal uncle of Sir MV who played a pivotal role in giving a decisive turn to his career

Early Education



MV at the Graduation Convocation

Genius in the making



Young Visvesvaraya had his primary education at the government school, Chikaballapura. The teachers in the school were impressed by his intelligence and discipline. They encouraged him to read by lending him advanced books. After completing primary education, he went to Bangalore with his mother to pursue further studies under the foster care of his maternal uncle H. Ramaiah.



Visvesvaraya completed his Matriculation as a topper at the Wesleyan Mission High School, Bangalore.



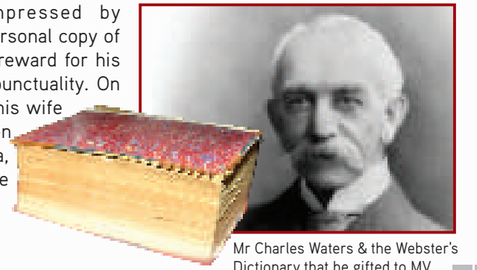
Wesleyan Mission High School

He then moved to the Central College, Bangalore, for his intermediate education in 1875. He continued his degree studies at this college and passed the same with distinction.



Central College, Bangalore

Mr Charles Waters, Principal and Professor of Mathematics of Central College, who was impressed by Visvesvaraya, gifted his personal copy of Webster's dictionary as a reward for his acute sense of duty and punctuality. On the demise of Mr Waters, his wife presented a pair of golden cuff-links to Visvesvaraya, as per his wish. Sir MV wore these all through.



Mr Charles Waters & the Webster's Dictionary that he gifted to MV

Education at Poona



Visvesvaraya
at College of Science, Poona

College of Science, Poona

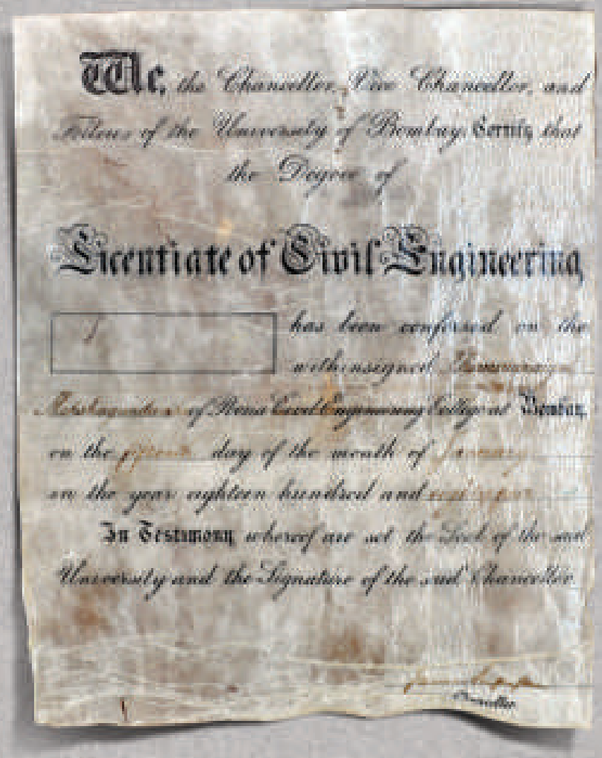
Foundation for a professional career

In November 1883, Sir MV got his Licentiate Civil Engineering (L.C.E.) degree from Bombay University (equivalent to today's B.E. Civil Degree), by standing first. His brilliant success in the examination earned him the coveted James Berkeley prize. ▼



Mr Rangacharlu, Dewan of Mysore, who helped Visvesvaraya in obtaining a scholarship to study Engineering at the College of Science in Poona.

◀ Visvesvaraya joined the College of Science, Poona in 1881. His professors were impressed with his dedication, sincerity, discipline, hard works and intelligence. They showed keen interest in him and helped him to complete his course in two and a half years instead of the usual three years.

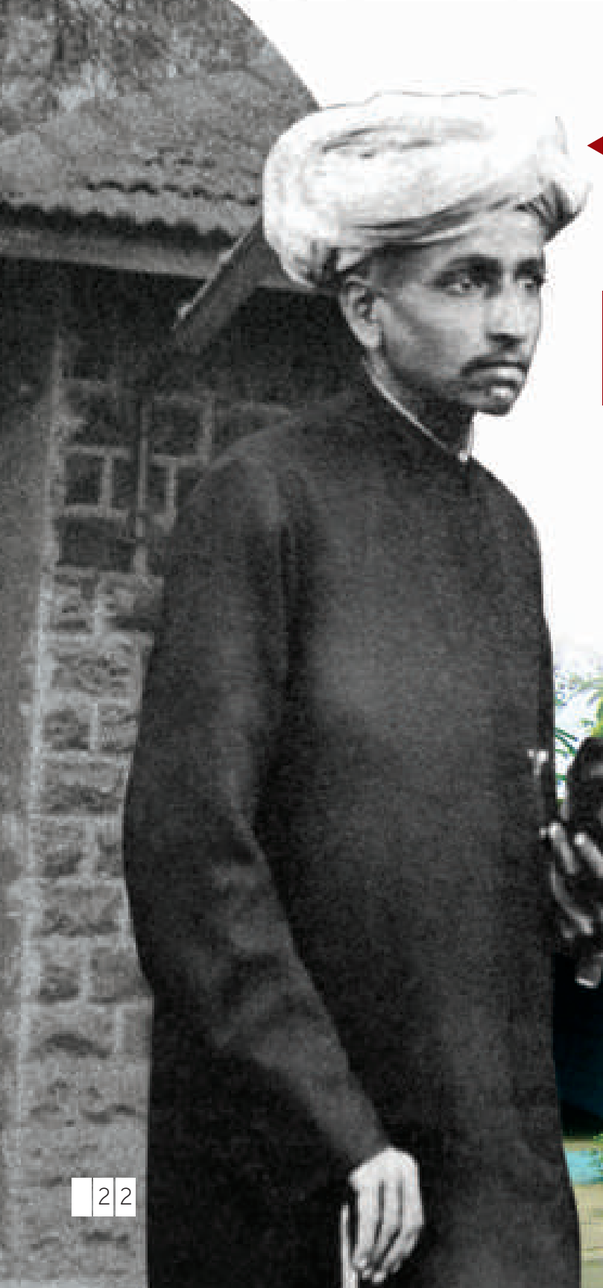


We, the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, and Fellows of the University of Bombay, Certify that the Degree of

Licentiate of Civil Engineering

has been conferred on the

In Testimony whereof we set the Seal of the said University and the Signature of the said Chancellor



MV as an assistant engineer, Public Works Department of Bombay Government

The first engineering challenge



Sir MV's work at Dhulia



Sir MV's work at Dhulia

Innovation in water supply



Office of Sir MV as assistant engineer in Nasik, 1884

MV was twenty three years when he started his career as an Assistant Engineer in 1884 under the Public Works Department of Bombay Government. His first posting was in Nasik district during which he was assigned the task of executing the laying of water pipe line system across the channel that would carry water from the tributary of Panjra River, 35 km from Dhulia to the city.

Despite odds of heavy rains and other challenges, Sir MV successfully completed the work in time. His British superior Mr H G Palliser, Executive Engineer, who initially was at odds with Sir MV, recognized his ingenious talents and recommended him to appear for the practical examination meant for promotion much before the usual time required for the purpose. He appeared for the examination and was promoted to the second grade and soon after to the first grade. Within twenty months of entering into the services, Sir MV rose to the first grade rank, a feat which no Indian could ever dream of achieving under the British government.

Innovative collector well

Services in Sukkur

In the year 1893 Sir MV devised an innovative natural water filtering system for supplying pure drinking water, known as the collector well.



Sir MV, as an in-charge of water supply and drainage system in Sukkur, Sind, an area which was quite hot and arid, was faced with a major challenge of supplying potable water with limited funds. The only water source available at Sukkur was from the Indus River whose water was muddy. The choice of erecting filter beds was a costly option. Visvesvaraya visited the site and after studying the ground conditions came out with an ingenious and innovative idea of digging the wells in the river bed close to the river bank to obtain the water, which was filtered naturally. The technique of digging collector wells on river bed is one of the most efficient ways of extracting filtered water at low cost. This was a technique rarely seen in those days, but is now standard text book material under the heading "Collector Wells". The then governor of Bombay, Lord Sandhurst, inaugurated the drinking water facility, which was built by Visvesvaraya in Sukkur in 1895, and in his inaugural address complimented Visvesvaraya as the most able engineer the project could have had.

Automatic Sluice gates

A patented invention of Sir MV



Automatic sluice gates from downstream view



Automatic sluice gates from upstream view

LORD AND LADY LAMINGTON AT KHARAKWASLA.

Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Lamington paid a visit to the great Poona Waterworks at Lake Fife yesterday. The Government House Party arrived at about two o'clock and were met by Sir Archibald Hunter, the Lieut. General Commanding the Forces Bombay, the Hon'ble Mr. W. H. White, Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, Messrs Cameron and Visvesvaraya and their Staffs and other Executive officers.

After tiffin, which was served in the Chief Engineer's Bungalow, the whole party started out to visit Lake Fife, on whose shores or above which they had tiffined.

They first inspected the new invention of the automatic Sluice Gate by Mr. Mirza, who was congratulated after it was tried ; then they looked at Mr. Mawson's automatic gates , and proceeded towards the waste weir. Her Excellency Lady Lamington then left by motor car driven by Capt Crawford.

On going ahead Mr Visvesvariya's gates were opened and inspected. Here a stop was made for tea, and a photo of the party was taken by Messrs F B Stewart and Son.

On leaving forGaneshkhind the party complimented Mr Visvesvariya on his invention and thanked him for the excellent arrangements he had madefor visiting theLake.

LAKE FIFE- Automatic Gates under Construction



Visvesvaraya's Automatic sluice gates



Deccan Herald

JANUARY 12. 1905.

Deccan Herald 12-1-05

THE WASTE WEIR GATES.

To meet the special conditions of this weir, a new appliance designed by Mr. Vesvesvaraya, Executive Engineer for Irrigation, Poona, the author of the monograph from which we take facts and photos. The design was sanctioned as an experimental measure for a set of 8 gates in 1901 as being eminently suitable to the special conditions at Lake Fife. The first set of 8 gates, which was subsequently completed and tested in the floods of 1901, worked very satisfactorily.

The gates are in sets of eight. Each gate covers a clear opening 10 feet wide by 8 feet high, so that one set of 8 gates worked by one counterweight occupies a length of about 110 feet. Eleven sets of gates have been constructed over a length of about 1,208 feet of weir. Set No. 1 was erected, as already stated, in 1901 ; sets Nos. 2 to 11 have been completed since. Eighty gates or 10 sets have been worked automatically for the full head in the lake. The remaining set of 8 gates, which is of the all-rising pattern, has been worked under a head of 6 feet. The adjustment of this set for the full head is in progress.

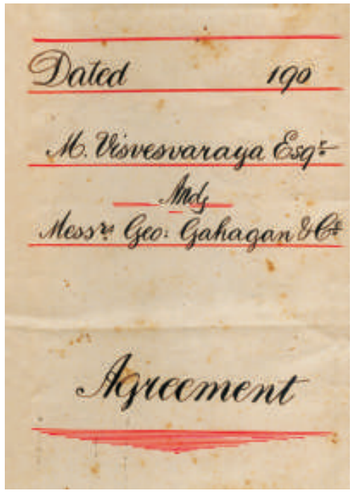
The gates or shutters used are those invented by Mr. E K Reinold. The gates move on wheels or rollers against the sluice frame whereby all surface sliding friction is avoided and the frictional effect of the water pressure on the gates is much reduced, being converted into axle or rolling friction.

Water, a scarce resource, cannot be wasted and it is for this express reason that check dams and reservoirs are built across the rivers. Yet during monsoon, water gets wasted. For combating this situation Sir MV designed innovative automatic sluice gates for Lake Fife in Khadakawasla during 1901-1903. This resulted in saving enormous quantity of water that would otherwise have been wasted.

Lake Fife was the main source of water supply for residents of Poona. This lake had a weir which could not suffice the drinking water requirements during non-rainy seasons. Sir MV devised the Automatic Sluice gates which resulted in storage of water well above the crest of the weir. The arrangement was such that when high flood level was reached, the gates were automatically opened to let the surplus water escape. Again when the water fell below a particular level, the gates automatically closed and held the water. These gates increased the storage capacity of the reservoir by about 25% without raising the height of the dam. The automatic sluice gates designed by Sir MV served satisfactorily for more than half a century. The same pattern of automatic sluice gates have later been used in the Tigara Dam in Gwalior and at Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) dam in Mysore. This innovative design of automatic gates has been copied all over the world including its adoption in Panama Canal. Although Sir MV got a patent for his innovation, he did not accept any royalty for his design.

Automatic Sluice Gate Patent

Testimony to Sir MV's creativity

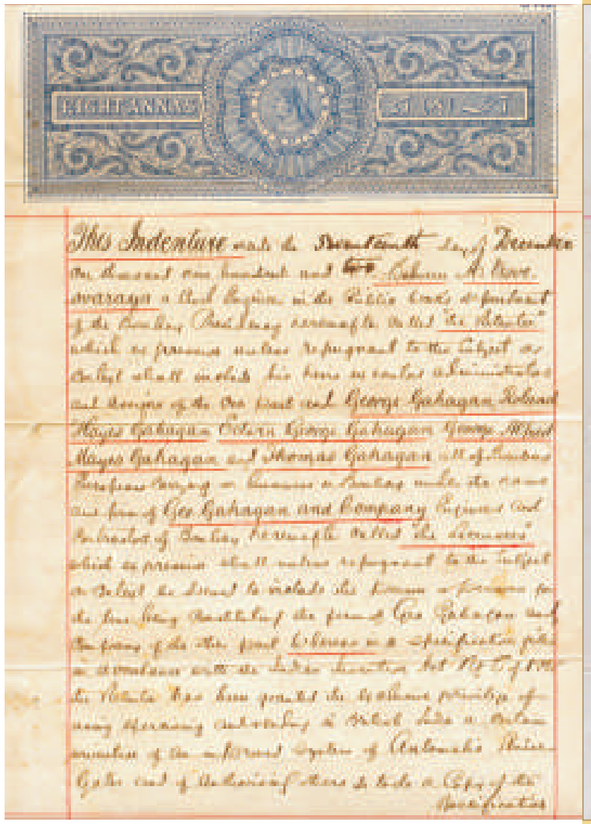

Dated 190

M. Visvesvaraya Esqr

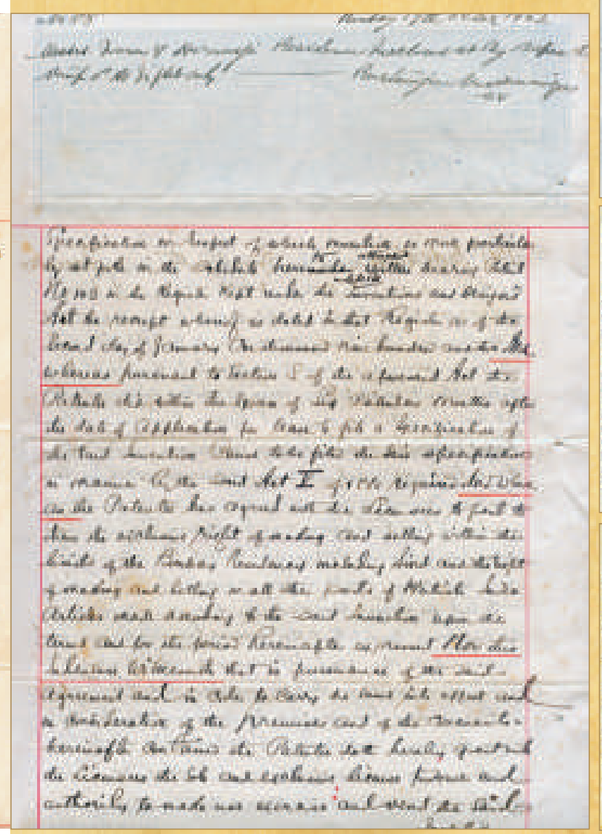
Mdy

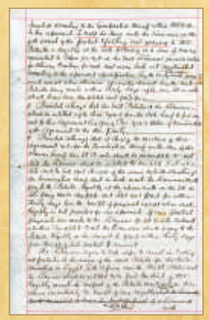
Messrs Geo: Gahagan & Co

Agreement


EIGHT ANNAS

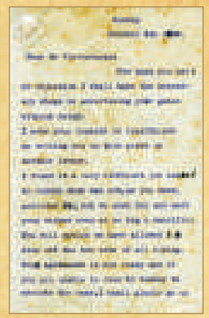
This Indenture made the Twentieth day of December

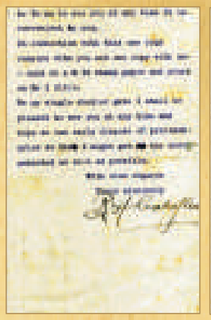


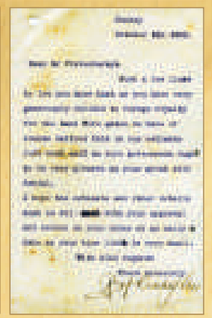




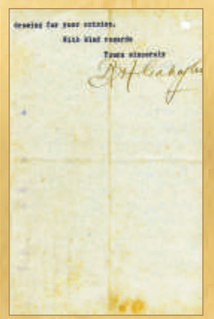












Foreign Travel

Assimilating knowledge



Passport of Sir MV

Sir MV was a firm believer that development alone can bring about prosperity for people and that India could be immensely benefited by harvesting the knowledge and experience of the prosperous nations. For this reason Visvesvaraya toured many developed countries.



Sir MV during his England visit

First foreign tour in 1898

Sir MV undertook this tour at his own expense, spending three months studying how Japan was rapidly developing. He visited many factories and took notes on everything that was worthy to note. He wrote a book on his arrival but did not publish it.

Second foreign tour in 1908

His second foreign tour was to America, Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Holland and St. Petersburg, once again at his own expense. He examined, in particular, the engineering developments in the fields of water supply, dams and irrigation and drainage in these countries. In Milan, Italy, he studied underground sewers. He met Indian traders and businessmen of America to know the economic conditions of America. At Detroit, he visited Ford Automobile factory. Later in his career he was able to use this experience for the development of the state of Mysore.

Third foreign tour in 1919-1920

During this tour, with a group of industrialists of Bombay headed by Mr Vittaldas D Thackersay and Mr Rubral Khaithan, he visited Japan, America, Canada and Britain. He published a book titled "Reconstructing India" based on his experience from this trip.











Sir MV with Mr Frank F. Beall at Detroit club, USA, 1935



Sir MV with AIMO delegation tour to Europe & America, 1946

Fourth tour in 1926

This tour to London was as an "Engineer Member" on the "Backbay Reclamation Committee". During this tour he studied steel manufacture and wood distillation in different parts of Europe and America, which he used in establishing a steel and sandal wood oil factory.

Fifth tour in 1935

This tour, at the age of 75, was to pursue his desire to set up an automobile factory in India. He toured England and Europe and was impressed by the Fiat Model at Turin, Italy. He visited Ford factory, General Motors Corporation and Chrysler Corporation in USA and got technical and economical feasibility reports for setting up an automobile plant in India and also negotiated an agreement with them. It is under this agreement that the Premier Automobile Company was established in India under the stewardship of Mr Walchand Hirachand.

Sixth tour in 1946

At the age of 86, he led a delegation of AIMO (All India Manufacturers' Organisation) to several developed countries of Europe & America. Each delegate prepared a detailed note on the industry he was interested in. The report of this tour was published by AIMO. It included the scope of development of Indian industries in various fields like iron & steel, automobile, aircraft, shipping & shipbuilding, rayon & silk, textiles, chemicals etc.



JOHN J. WOELFLE
MANAGER

HOTEL Mc ALPIN

BROADWAY AT 34TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

Sept. 1935

My dear Hiriannaya,

I have been travelling through Europe and Africa since I wrote to you from Montreal on my way to New York. This afternoon I will be leaving for Detroit.

I retain many interesting impressions and memories, the keenest perhaps of all being my visit to Egypt. I was there for a month and enjoyed every minute of it. I visited the Pyramids and Sphinx, Luxor, Karnak, Memphis, Mena House, Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, Ismailia, Suez, Heliopolis, Helouan, Gizeh, Sakkara, Abydos, Dendera, Edfu, Kom Ombo, Assuan, Philae, Kalabsha, Abu Simbel, Wadi Halfa, Khartoum, Omdurman, Atbara, Port Sudan, Suakin, Jeddah, Mecca, Medina, Aden, Colombo, Kandy, Peradeniya, Nuwara Eliya, Bandarawela, Ella, Badulla, Diyatalawa, Haputale, Ohiya, Bogawantalawa, Hatton, Dickoya, Talawakelle, Maskeliya, Nanu Oya, Colombo, Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Batavia, Buitenzorg, Bandoeng, Tjiandjoer, Soerabaja, Tosari, Pasoeroean, Probolinggo, Soerabaja, Semarang, Batavia, Tandjong Priok, Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Port Said, Alexandria, Cairo, Naples, Rome, Florence, Milan, Venice, Trieste, Zagreb, Budapest, Vienna, Munich, Nuremberg, Frankfurt, Cologne, Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam, Antwerp, Brussels, Ostend, Dover, London, Paris, Marseilles, Gibraltar, Tangier, Casablanca, Madeira, Bermuda, New York.

I will write you from Detroit. I hope you will write me there. Kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

M. Visvesvaraya

ONE BLOCK FROM PENNSYLVANIA STATION

Letter in which Sir MV shares his experiences during a foreign tour, 1935

c/o Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son,
Ludgate Circus,
LONDON, E.C. 4.

13th October, 1930.

My dear Hiriannaya,

Many thanks for your letter of the 23rd August.

I am very pleased to learn that things generally, and industries in particular, are making excellent progress in Mysore.

I am leaving by the P. & O. steamer "DONGOLA" which sails from Marseilles on the 30th inst. I shall probably be in Paris on the 23rd inst. after completing short visits to Manchester and one or two other places in this country.

I am looking forward to my return to old haunts and old friends,

Yours very sincerely,

M. Visvesvaraya

Letter of Sir MV, to Mr Hiriannaiya, friend of Sir MV, from London



Scheme for combating floods

Services for Hyderabad





Flood water of river Musi had severely damaged the city of Hyderabad in 1908. The flood water rose to an unprecedented height and left 15,000 people dead and 80,000 homeless. Property worth Rs. 3 crore was also destroyed in this natural disaster, which struck the city.



Sir MV with the PWD officials of Hyderabad in 1909



Osmansagar Reservoir



Himayatsagar Reservoir



Sir MV's visit to Hyderabad in 1929

The Nizam of Hyderabad sought the expert advice of Sir M Visvesvarya on measures to prevent the recurrence of such a devastating tragedy. Sir MV studied the entire situation, relying heavily on statistical data on the rain patterns in the city, the distribution of living habitat surrounding the river and the nature of human settlement and came out with a well thought out report which he submitted to the Nizam on 1st Oct, 1909.

The Nizam accepted the report and on the basis of this report, constructed the Himayatsagar and Osmansagar reservoirs over the rivers Musi and its tributary Easi, respectively. The river bank within the old city was raised to a height of 10 metres and lined with stone and cement. The sites of former residential areas by the river bank were converted into parks beyond which the High Court, Osmania General Hospital and the State Central library were constructed.

Impressed by the outcome of the work, the Nizam further sought the advice of Sir MV in the reconstruction of Hyderabad city and preparation of the drainage scheme for the entire city.



Sir MV during his visit to Hyderabad in 1909





Drainage System implemented in Hyderabad

City Improvements, Hyderabad

PRELIMINARY NOTE.

Commencing from 15th April, the day following my arrival in Hyderabad, I spent several mornings inspecting the ruins along the banks, first in company with Mr. Moosej, Secretary Public Works Department, and subsequently with Major Wake, Special Relief Commissioner, and Mr. Stevens, the Municipal Commissioner. I also obtained from these officers records and detailed information concerning the flood of 28th September last and the ravages for which it was responsible.

2. Mr. Ahmed Ali, Assistant Superintending Engineer, joined me on the 16th April 1909. With his aid and that of Mr. McLeish, Assistant Engineer, and staff working under his orders, preliminary surveys have been commenced in the city, and a close search is being made for all maps and records likely to give reliable information concerning the present condition of the city, and the character of recent and past inundations. Mr. Ahmed Ali also accompanied me in my visits to the two water-supply tanks and various parts of the Municipal area and suburbs.

Thus equipped, I have been able to gather a general idea of the circumstances and wants of the city and of the nature of the work to be done during my deputation. I will first briefly explain the lines on which, if approved by His Highness' Government, I propose to carry on the investigations, and then state what establishment, funds and other support I shall want for the purpose.

3. The flood swept over about 343 acres of a thickly populated area on the south bank of the river, and over 689 acres of similar area on the north bank. The number of houses destroyed on the south bank was 6,758, and on the north 12,195. Over 1·00 square miles of built area was submerged, a quarter of the total number of houses in the city razed to the ground and a population of nearly 85,000 persons rendered homeless.

4. Various measures have been taken by His Highness the Nizam's Government within past seven months to repair this damage and rehabilitate the sufferers.

The amounts sanctioned or expended for the purpose by Government and Municipal agencies, or paid out of public subscriptions, are roughly as under:—

Sir Mv's note on city improvement, Hyderabad

		Rs.
Government Funds—		
Works in connection with the restoration of bridges		7,48,305
Works undertaken by the Public Works Department for restoration of communications, &c.		1,58,033
Expenditure by various Government Departments and Committees on sanitation and on first aid to sufferers		2,47,092
Bolaram Aid—		
Compensation for land ...	25,000	
Constructing a new settlement	1,00,000	
Loans (to be recovered) ...	6,89,661	
		7,64,661
Government contribution towards subscribed funds		5,00,000
Municipal Funds—		
Expenditure by Municipality in opening up communications, constructing new roads, &c., ...		80,670
Public Subscriptions—		
Subscriptions raised in His Highness' Dominions, British India and London, ...		7,75,072
Total ...		32,73,853

The greater part of these sums has already been expended; the balance will probably be spent within the next two or three months.

5. The value of houses destroyed from all accounts cannot be less than 150 lakhs. The value of other property lost or buried in the debris is said to be over 100 lakhs. Including the expenditure referred to in the last paragraph, the total money value alone of the losses sustained by the City cannot be far short of three crores. The loss of life and the temporary dislocation of the trades and occupations of the survivors should also be taken into account before an idea can be formed of the appalling character of the devastation.

Magnitude of the calamity.

PROPOSED PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS.

6. In the correspondence relating to my deputation I was informed that my work here would be "to advise and assist in reconstruction of Hyderabad, and prepare a drainage scheme." Since my arrival here the question of flood investigations has also been specifically mentioned.

Sir Mv's note on city improvement, Hyderabad

QUESTION OF PROHIBITED AREA ON THE BANKS OF THE

MUSI WITHIN HYDERABAD CITY.

I have received personal enquiries as well as official letters asking why the prohibited area, that is, area from which buildings are to be debarred, on the -- river banks, is not yet determined.

The prohibited area cannot be fixed, without first fixing the maximum height and volume of future -- floods. This again cannot be done before the capacity of the proposed reservoirs above the City, the size of sluices and other similar questions are determined. -- But these are precisely the questions which have to be answered by the flood investigations.

If I gave an opinion now by rule of thumb, and not as a result of scientific investigation, I shall be announcing results before completing enquiries -- in fact, reversing the natural order of operations.

The question is one of great complexity and importance. The amount of flood to be provided for in the river depends upon a variety of considerations, for all of which data are not yet ready. For example, the maximum amount of flood that may come down the river is partly dependent on the small tanks in the catchment and the maximum number of such tanks likely to breach during a cyclonic storm. The determination of the position, size, &c., of the flood regulating reservoirs is another

Sir MV's note on flood protection system at Musi River, Hyderabad

Proceedings of the Committee held on 20th Azour 1*18 Fhali in Public Gardens regarding Sir Visvesaraya's report on Flood protective measures & City Drainage.

President.

Rajai Rajayan Sir Kishen Pershad Maha Raja Bahadur Yamin - us - Sultanath, K.C.I.E. Prime Minister.

Members.

Sir C.Gasson Walker, I.C.S., C.S.I.

Nawab Faridoon Jung Bahadur, C.I.E.

Sir Fazil Ghulam Husain Moorai, A.M.I.C.E.

Sir A.T.Mackenzie

Sir M.Visvesaraya

Sir Dalal

Sir Ahmed Ali, F.C.H.

work commenced at 8-40 A.M.

Proceedings.

Sir Visvesaraya's proposals for storage of water considered- Sir Mackenzie made a note suggesting the need for including in the report more detailed explanation on the following points:-

(1) Why not prohibit requisite area and let the floods run? Prima facie this looks cheapest. It is possible that a small tank a short way from river would do it. There are various ways of enforcing the prohibition- This point is not sufficiently treated in para 41 of Yellow Book.

(2) Possibility of diversion not fully treated. It is not a likely alternative but proof should be given- Para 42 is vague.

(3) Assuming the necessity of storage proved, why not provide more storage and decrease flood discharge, and save widening bridges, widening river, embankments, prohibited area &c. The water would be available for irrigation and extraordinary floods might be a benefit and not a disaster. Why fix on ½" run-off for river ?

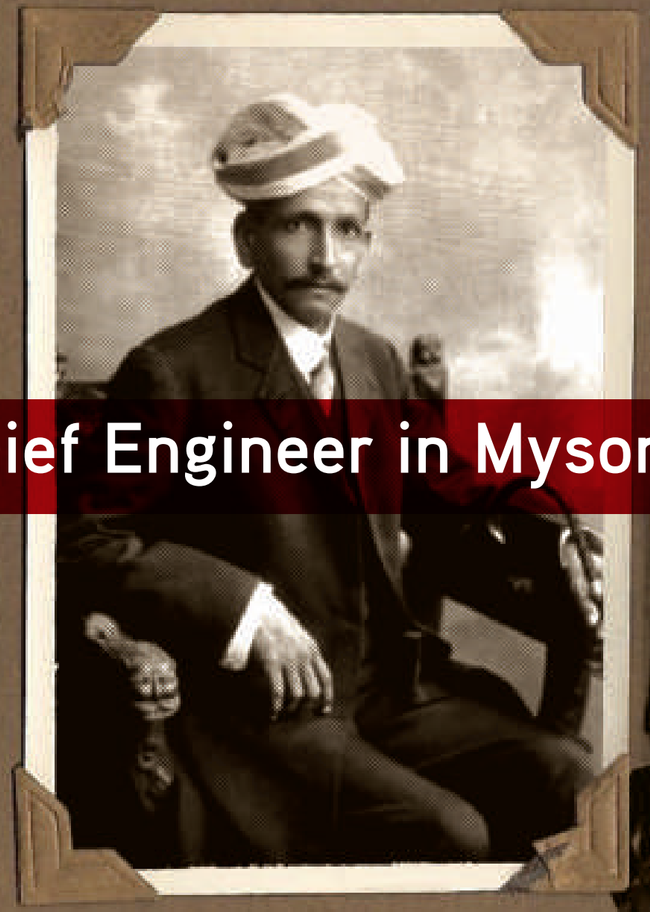
(4) Why not store on one river, and let the other run ?

(5) Why not build 4 or 6 small reservoirs, instead of 2 large-

(6) Report on sites insufficient. Upper possible sites shoul be

Proceedings of the Committee regarding flood protective measures & drainage, Hyderabad

Chief Engineer in Mysore



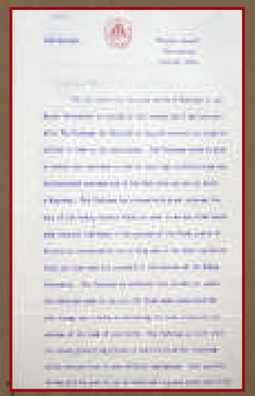
Sir MV retired from service of the Govt of Maharashtra, after serving for 23 years, in 1908. By then he had earned a very high reputation as an engineer par excellence and was well known for his impeccable honesty, integrity, ability and intelligence. After his retirement, Sir MV went on a foreign study tour to America but had to curtail his trip on receiving an SOS telegram from the Dewan of Mysore, his mother state.

Service to the motherland

Mr V P Madhava Rao, C.I.E., the Dewan of Mysore sent him a telegram asking him to join Mysore services as Chief engineer. Unfortunately Sir MV had already accepted a new challenging assignment with the Hyderabad government and therefore he couldn't accept this offer. After a couple of months, Mr T Ananda Rao, who had succeeded Mr Madhava Rao as Dewan, wrote to him again saying- **" His Highness would be glad to secure your services in view of your high qualifications and distinguished services and of the fact that you are by birth a Mysorean ... "**

In his next letter, Sir MV enquired whether there was any prospect of the government to encourage industries and technical education in the state on a larger scale than they are accustomed to ...

In response to this, he was enthused by His Highnesses' programme and the available opportunities that existed in his new assignment as the Chief Engineer, which he ultimately accepted and joined on 15th November 1909. He was primarily responsible in the construction of the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) dam, which now stands majestically and serves the farmers of Mandya district in Karnataka.







Sir MV with his team

N° 56½

Confidential.

"Bhavani House"
Ootacamund,
24th May 1909.

My dear Sir,

You are aware that the post of Chief Engineer to the Mysore Government is shortly to fall vacant and I am instructed by His Highness the Maharaja to enquire whether you would be willing to take up the appointment. His Highness would be glad to secure your services in view of your high qualifications and distinguished services and of the fact that you are by birth a Mysorean. His Highness has perused with great interest the copy of the Bombay Gazette which you sent to me and which bears such eloquent testimony to the success of the Block system of Irrigation introduced by you in Sind and to the high reputation which you have made for yourself in the service of the Bombay Government. His Highness is confident that should you accept the offer now made to you you will find ample scope both for your energy and talents in developing the vast irrigation resources of the land of your birth. His Highness is aware that you attach greater importance to opportunities for rendering public service than to mere official emoluments. Such opportunities will be open to you in works and projects which have to be

Letter from T Ananda Rao, the Dewan of Mysore to MV, Special Consultant Engineer, Hyderabad, inviting him to be the Chief Engineer, Mysore

be carried out in Mysore. The salary of the Chief Engineer, if held by an officer from the British Service has been fixed at a maximum of Rs.2,000 per mensem exclusive of furlough and Pensionary contribution and will vary from Rs.1,800 to Rs.2,000 according to the status in the British Service of the officer occupying the post. His Highness has ascertained informally from His Excellency the Governor of Bombay that the Bombay Government will be glad to spare your services in the event of your accepting the appointment. Trusting that you will give the matter your serious consideration and will see your way to meeting His Highness' wishes.

Yours sincerely
(Sd) T Ananda Rao

Copy
24/5/09

M. Visveswarayya Esq.,
Consulting Engineer to the Government of
H.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad,
Sifeabad, Hyderabad (Deccan).

Letter from T Ananda Rao, the Dewan of Mysore to MV, Special Consultant Engineer, Hyderabad, inviting him to be the Chief Engineer, Mysore

Sifabad. Hyderabad (Deccan)
June 2nd, 1909.

My dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter dated 24th ultimo enquiring whether I would accept the appointment of Chief Engineer to the Mysore Govt. which is shortly to fall vacant. I am deeply grateful to His Highness for his gracious offer and the personal interest he has been pleased to take in the matter. I am also highly impressed by your courtesy and the singularly cordial tone of your letter.

Your predecessor, Mr. V.P. Madhava Rao, made kind inquiries to the same effect nearly 18 months ago. As the acceptance of the office would interfere with my future programmes of work and involve other sacrifices on my part, I did not hitherto look upon the appointment with favour. For the same reason, my engagement in Hyderabad is limited to six months at my own request.

There are many considerations I have to take into account before coming to a decision and I wish to be allowed a fortnight or three weeks to give a definite answer. In the

Mean

Sir MV's response to Dewan's letter dated 24th May 1909

meantime, I beg to be informed (1) whether His Highness' Govt would be willing to give me a salary of Rs 2,500 per mensem; and (2) whether there is any prospect of Govt encouraging industries and technical education in the State on a larger scale than at present and utilizing my services in connection with the same.

As regards salary, the Mysore Govt are already paying Rs 2,500 per ~~mensem~~ mensem to the present incumbent of the office. I am now drawing a salary of Rs 3,000 per mensem from H H the Nizam's Govt with the sanction of the Govt of India. As it is a matter of prestige, I attach some importance to the salary and wish to know whether, in the event of my accepting the appointment, His Highness would be pleased, as a special case, to sanction a salary of Rs 2500.

As regards the second inquiry, I am aware nothing definite can be said at once. I have recently visited the principal centres of industry and technical education in Europe and America and my chief anxiety is that my experience should not be wasted. I only wish to know whether there is any likelihood of

such

Sir MV's response to Dewan's letter dated 24th May 1909

such work being specially encouraged by His Highness' Government.

On receipt of your reply to the foregoing inquiries, I shall endeavour to give the matter my earnest consideration and seek your early reply.

With renewed thanks for your very kind letter,

I remain,

Yours Sincerely

(Sd) M. Visvesvaraya

Sir MV's response to Dewan's letter dated 24th May 1909

Hyderabad (Deccan)

24th June 1909.

My Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter dated the 21st instant.

As it is His Highness' command that I should take up State service and the terms generously conceded are on the whole liberal, I have this day decided to accede to His Highness' wishes.

And as desired in the concluding portion of your letter, I have despatched the following telegram which I now have the pleasure to confirm :-

"I thankfully accept His Highness' gracious offer. My engagement here ends in October. I can join Mysore in November. Letter follows."

I propose to join the Mysore appointment on 15th November after a few weeks rest. But if you particularly desire I should join earlier, I can arrange to take over on 1st November.

As you propose to make a formal official application in the matter, I am writing unofficially to the Bombay Government to confirm the above understanding.

An acknowledgment will be esteemed a favour.

Yours Sincerely,

M Visvesvaraya

Sir MV's letter to the Dewan of Mysore accepting the post of Chief Engineer

Krishna Raja Sagara Dam









KRS Construction

As the Chief Engineer of the state, Sir MV, in the year 1909, advocated for construction of a multipurpose reservoir project across the river Cauvery and prepared a complete project report bringing to use his past experience of studying the Aswan dam in Egypt and working on large dams in Bombay presidency and Hyderabad. Bringing to fruition his dream was however not that easy for him. The estimated cost for the project was Rs 253 lakhs, an amount that the state had never ever spent on any single project. Officers of Mysore State were shocked at this projected cost and opposed the scheme. There was also opposition from the Madras Government. However despite all odds stacked against the project the scheme submitted by MV was finally accepted without any addition, omission or alteration and the project was taken up and completed in right earnest.

Standing testimony to MV's excellence





KRS as it stands today

One of the greatest achievements of Sir M Visvesvaraya was the planning and construction of the Krishnarajasagara dam, which on completion was the largest reservoir of India. Referring to this colossal multipurpose river valley project dam, Gandhiji, said "KRS alone, one of the largest of its kind in the world, would perpetuate the name of Sir MV". KRS apart from being the main source of water for irrigation in Mysore and Mandya districts is also a source of drinking water for Mysore and Bangalore city.

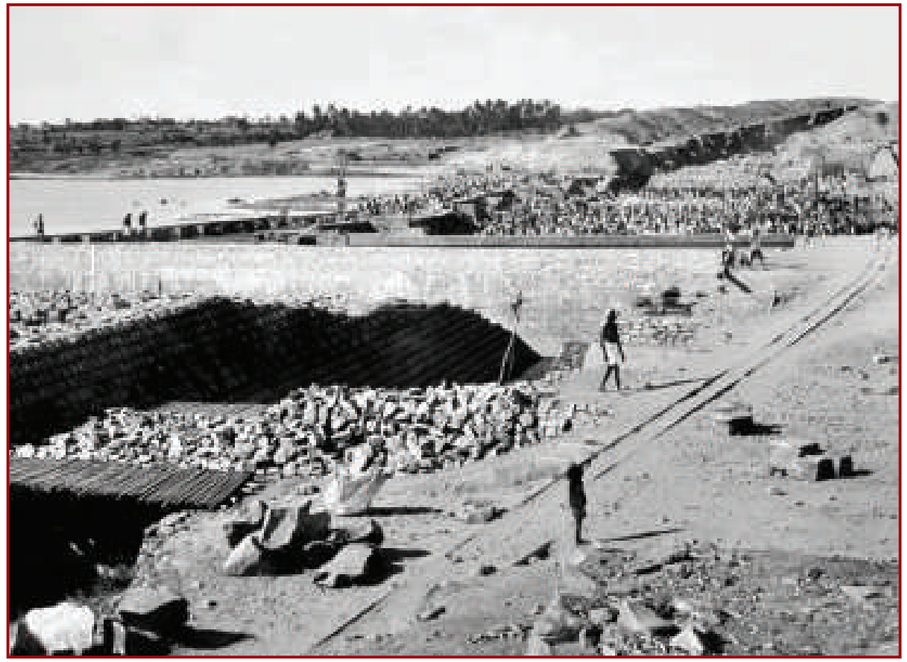
Salient features of the dam
Height: 134 ft
Width: 111 ft
Storage: 48,000 million cubic feet (48 TMC)

The construction of the dam was started in 1911 and completed in 1934. The dam uses 171 gates of which 48 numbers of automatic sluice gates are the ones invented by Sir MV. The left bank Cauvery Canal has a tunnel, about 3 Km long. This was the largest known irrigation tunnel in India.






Glimpse of KRS in the Making



View of works taken from Right Bank on February 1914

View of works taken from Left Bank on February 1914







View of Reservoir and Dam from the North Bank taken on 31-3-1915

View of dam and reservoir taken from the Right (South)
Bank down stream side on 27-05-1914







View of dam, reservoir and river taken from Left (North)
Bank down stream side on 27-5-1914



View taken on 04-10-1914

View of Trollies worked by the Drum in the temporary weir gap
taken on 23-02-1921





















Sir MV with Lady Hardinge when Lord & Lady Hardinge visited Mysore in 1913. Lord Hardinge was the Viceroy of British India from 1910 -1916

Statesman par excellence

Dewan of Mysore



In Nov. 1912, Visvesvaraya was elevated to the rank of Dewan of the Mysore state by the Maharaja of Mysore. In spite of the war conditions for the initial four years, which taxed the resources for Mysore, the advancement made in Mysore during those six years, of the service of Sir MV as its Dewan, were more than phenomenal. All this was possible due to the imagination, untiring efforts and brilliant statesmanship of one man, Sir MV.

Visit of Dewan Sir MV to Nanjangud Municipality in 1914



Sir MV - Dewan of Mysore

The Mysore Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

BANGALORE, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1912.

PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the office of the Dewan of Mysore has become vacant by the retirement of Pradhana Siromani Tanjore Madava Row Ananda Row, C.I.E., We, placing trust and confidence in the loyalty, ability and judgment of Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, C.I.E., do hereby appoint the said Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, C.I.E., to be the Dewan of Mysore, and We do further appoint the said Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, C.I.E., to be *Ex-officio* President of the Council.

Given under Our hand and seal at Mysore this 10th day of November 1912.

KRISHNARAJA WADIYAR.

SEAL

Proclamation in Mysore Gazette on the appointment of Sir MV as Dewan of Mysore

PROCLAMATION.

*****

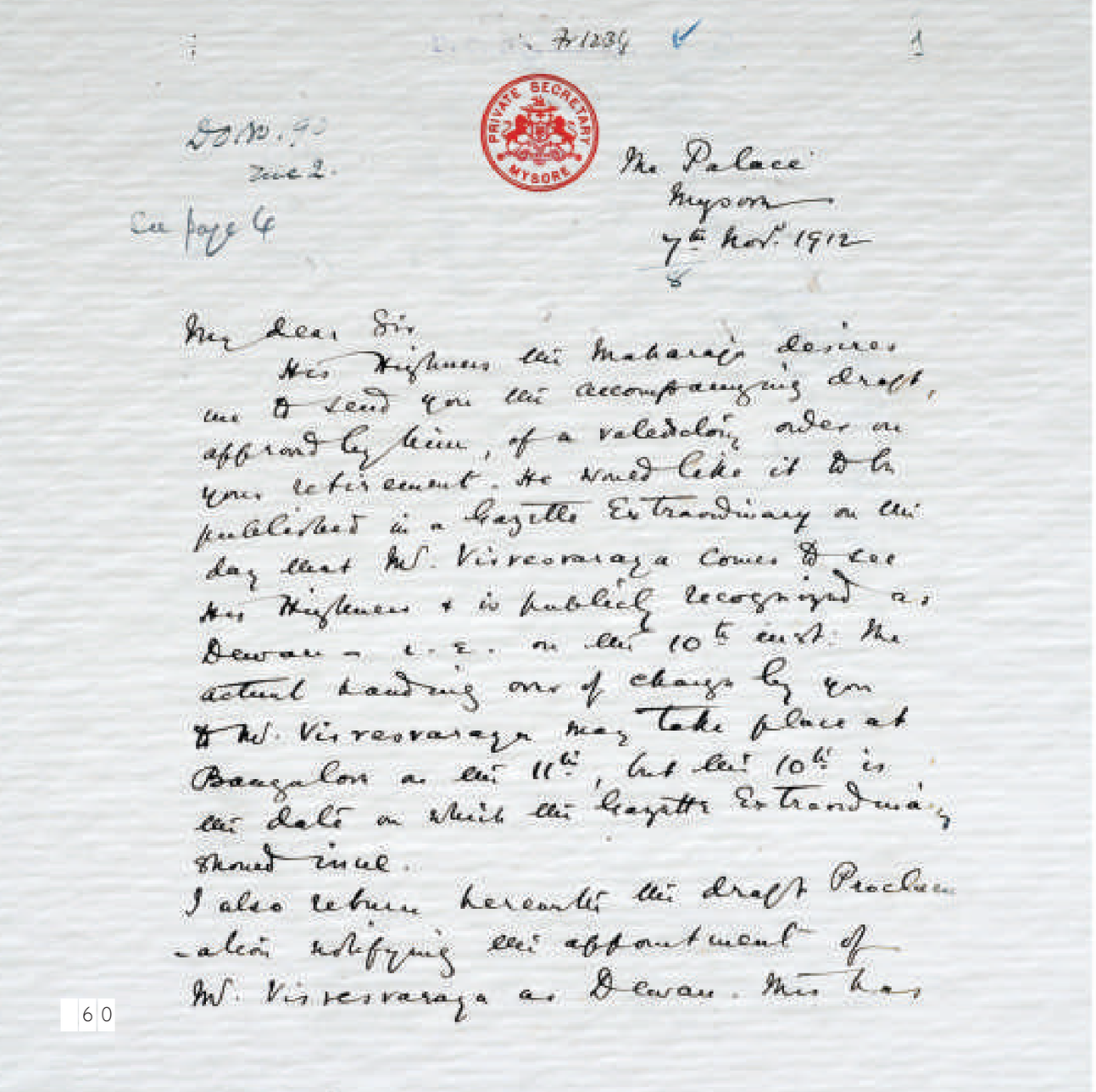
Whereas the office of the Dewan of Mysore has become vacant by the retirement of Pradhana Siromani Tanjore Madava Row Ananda Row, C.I.E., We, placing trust and confidence in the loyalty, ability and judgment of Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya C.I.E., do hereby appoint the said Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, C.I.E., to be the Dewan of Mysore and we do further appoint the said Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, C.I.E. to be ex-officio President of the Council.

Given under our hand and seal at Mysore this 10th day of November 1912.

Sign Manual.

Seal.

Proclamation from office of the HH of Mysore declaring MV as the Dewan of Mysore



PRIVATE SECRETARY MYSORE

DO No. 90
Inc 2.

See page 4

The Palace
Mysore
7th Nov. 1912

My dear Sir,

His Highness the Maharaja desires me to send you the accompanying draft, approved by him, of a valedictory order on your retirement. He would like it to be published in a Gazette Extraordinary on the day that Mr. Visvesvaraya comes to see His Highness & is publicly recognized as Dewan – i.e. on the 10th inst. The actual handing over of charge by you to Mr. Visvesvaraya may take place at Bangalore on the 11th, but the 10th is the date on which the Gazette Extraordinary should issue.

I also return herewith the draft Proclamation notifying the appointment of Mr. Visvesvaraya as Dewan. This has been approved by His Highness and may issue simultaneously with the valedictory order. The date of this proclamation has been corrected by His Highness' orders to Nov. 10th.

The Gazette Extraordinary containing the valedictory order & the Proclamation may be issued on the afternoon of the 10th Nov.

No mention has been made in the valedictory order of the recognition which will be given to you at Palace Durbars, as this is not a matter which can be dealt with in a Govt. order. I have however given you His Highness' assurance on this point.

Yours sincerely

[illegible]

Prabhana Sinhamani
T. Ananda Rao Esq. C.I.E.
Dewan of Mysore
Bangalore

Letter of Private Secretary to the HH of Mysore to T Ananda Rao, Dewan regarding assumption of charge of MV, the newly appointed Dewan

Step towards self-reliance

Mysore Iron and Steel Works



The Mysore Iron and Steel Works, Bhadravati

Sir MV, an ardent admirer of Japan's industrial progress, believed that Government should take the lead in establishing industries and as the Dewan of Mysore was primarily responsible for the establishment of the Mysore Iron and Steel Works at Bhadravati in the year 1918. Sir MV used the services of Charles Page Perin, Geologists from Pittsburg, USA, whose service was used by Jamshedji Tata in establishing the Tata Steel, in the establishment of the Mysore Iron and Steel Works at Bhadravati.

Charcoal blast furnace at Mysore Iron & Steel Works



Sir MV at TISCO (Tata Iron & Steel Company)



Men at work at Mysore Iron & Steel Works







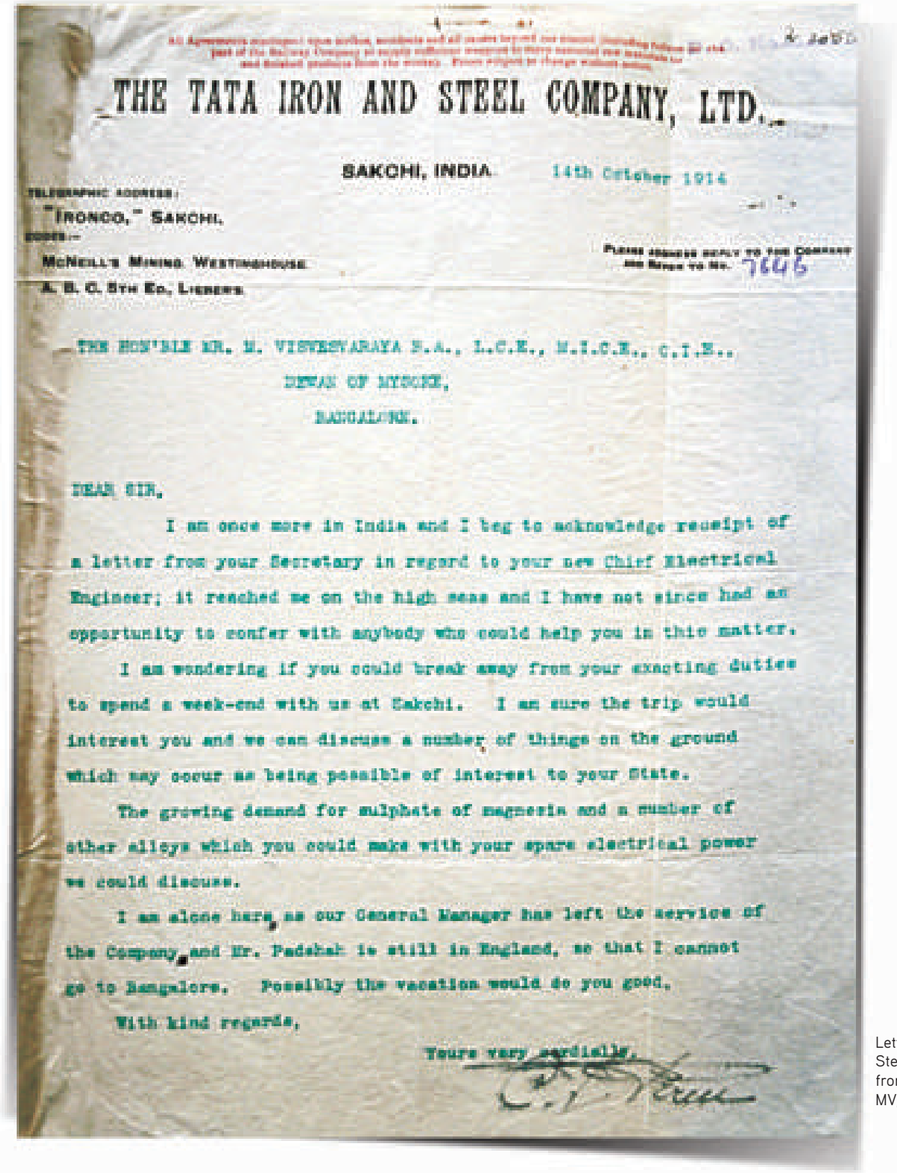
The Blast Furnace installed in 1923

In 1923 Bhadravati Iron works was on the verge of collapse due to fall in the price of pig iron and its products. To revive the industry, Sir MV was persuaded to accept the office as the Chairman of the Board of Management of Bhadravati Iron Works. In six years, Sir MV, revived the fortunes of the factory and brought back the factory to success.

Some of the steel products manufactured by this plant included cast iron pipes, sluice gates, fountains, ornamental railings, lamp standards, spiral staircases, merchant bars, flats, hoops, strips, tar and wood preservatives etc.

Sir MV's idea for setting up a steel industry was guided by sound scientific planning. Iron ore and limestone, the major prerequisites for the steel industry, were available within the state and coal required for reduction of iron ore could be obtained from nearby forests in the state.

Vithaldas Thackersy and B J Padesha, businessmen from Bombay were consulted by Sir MV on the business and financial aspects of the industry. The Government, on accepting his proposal, nominated Tata Iron and Steel Company as the managing agent for establishing the steel plant. The plant could start functioning only in May, 1918 towards the end of Sir MV's tenure, owing to the First World War and the resulting economic recession.



THE TATA IRON AND STEEL COMPANY, LTD.

SAKCHI, INDIA. 14th October 1914

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"IRONCO," SAKCHI.
CODES:—
McNEILL'S MINING. WESTINGHOUSE.
A. B. C. 5TH ED., LIEBER'S.

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO THE COMPANY AND REFER TO No. 7646

THE HON'BLE MR. M. VISVESVARAYA B.A., L.C.E., M.I.C.E., C.I.E.,
DEWAN OF MYSORE,
BANGALORE.

DEAR SIR,

I am once more in India and I beg to acknowledge receipt of a letter from your Secretary in regard to your new Chief Electrical Engineer; it reached me on the high seas and I have not since had an opportunity to confer with anybody who could help you in this matter.

I am wondering if you could break away from your exacting duties to spend a week-end with us at Sakchi. I am sure the trip would interest you and we can discuss a number of things on the ground which may occur as being possible of interest to your State.

The growing demand for sulphate of magnesia and a number of other alloys which you could make with your spare electrical power we could discuss.

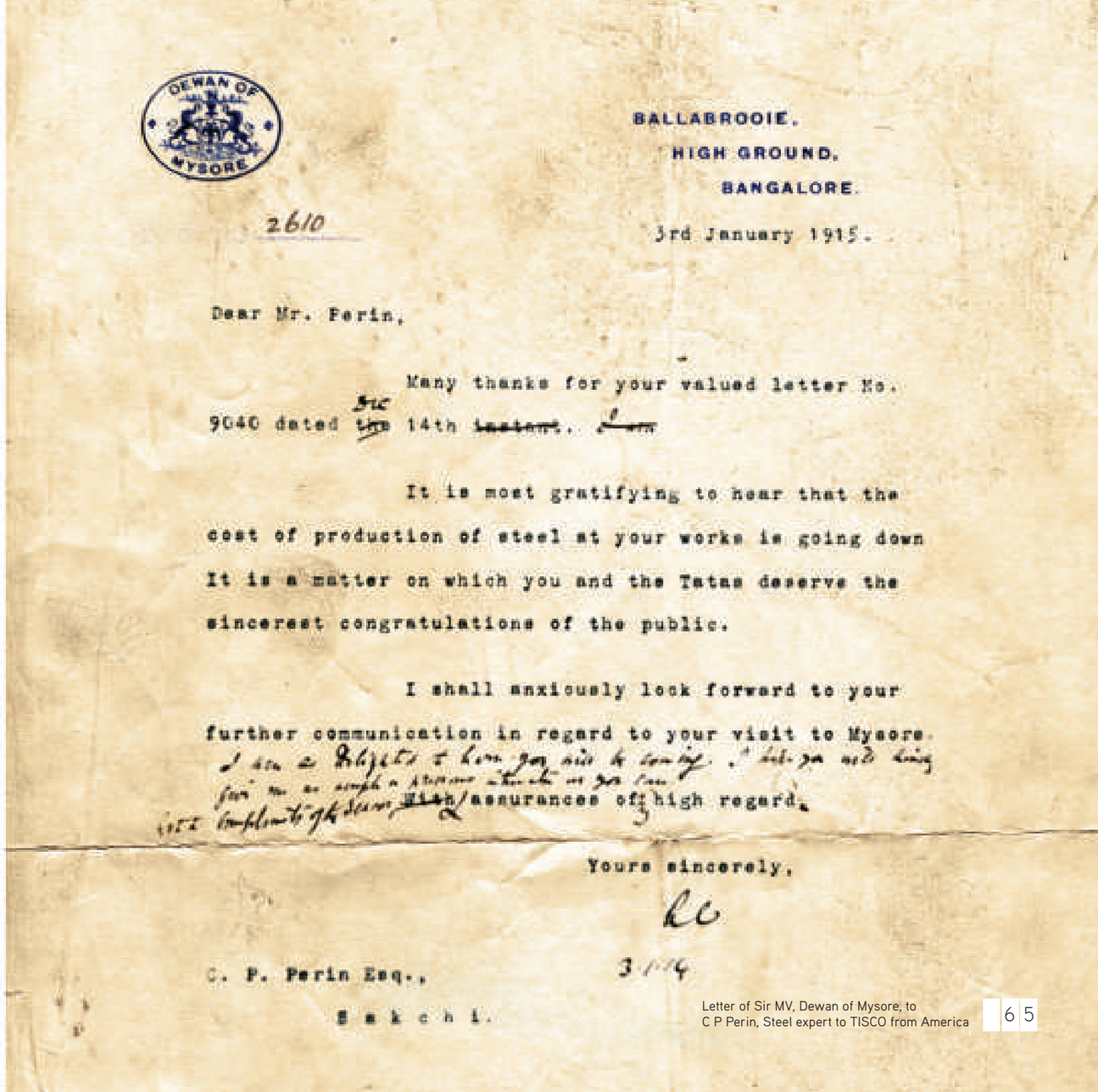
I am alone here, as our General Manager has left the service of the Company, and Mr. Padshah is still in England, so that I cannot go to Bangalore. Possibly the vacation would do you good.

With kind regards,

Yours very cordially,

C. P. Perin

Letter of C P Perin, Steel expert to TISCO from America, to Sir MV, Dewan of Mysore



DEWAN OF MYSORE

BALLABROOIE.
HIGH GROUND,
BANGALORE.

2610

3rd January 1915.

Dear Mr. Perin,

Many thanks for your valued letter No. 9040 dated ~~the~~ 3rd 14th ~~instant~~. ~~I am~~

It is most gratifying to hear that the cost of production of steel at your works is going down It is a matter on which you and the Tatas deserve the sincerest congratulations of the public.

I shall anxiously look forward to your further communication in regard to your visit to Mysore. I am so delighted to hear you will be coming. Let me know [illegible] assurances of high regard.

Yours sincerely,

M.V.

C. P. Perin Esq.,
Sakchi.

3.1.14

Letter of Sir MV, Dewan of Mysore, to C P Perin, Steel expert to TISCO from America

To

C.P.Perin, Esqr.,

Tata Iron and Steel Company,

Sakchi.

Dear Sir,

I was glad to see from your letter of the 14th instant that you have come back to India. Owing to pressure of work here, I am sorry I cannot act on your suggestion to pay a visit to you; but I look forward to an early opportunity of meeting you here.

The subjects you have raised for our consideration are all important and we have to proceed cautiously. Your advice on such matters is always welcome. I shall consult you when the questions assume a practical shape.

Yours very sincerely,

DEWAN.

Letter of Sir MV, Dewan of Mysore, to C P Perin, Steel expert to TISCO from America

D. O. No. 2501

Bangalore
9th December

Dear Mr. Perin,

I am sorry it is not possible for me to visit Sakchi. I wonder if it would be convenient to you to come here for a couple of days and study our local conditions and advise us on the question of ~~the development of~~ manufacture of iron and steel in the State.

You had a proposal about ferro-manganese. How is ~~this matter~~ it progressing? You have already ~~got with you~~ been furnished at some of the information collected by Dr.Smeeth our State Geologist.

I hope you will not think it improper if I should suggest your kindly informing me what your expenses will be for coming over here and when we may have the pleasure of meeting you.

I understand you are in a hurry to go back to America - hence this letter
[illegible]

Yours sincerely,

Dewan.

9.12.[illegible]

Letter of Sir MV, Dewan of Mysore, to C P Perin, Steel expert to TISCO from America regarding the possibility of manufacturing iron and steel in Mysore State

Integrating Farm & Factory

Mysore Sugar Company



The machinery for the sugar factory, capable of grinding 400 tons of cane per day, came from Mirrlees Watson Company, Glasgow.

The Mysore Sugar Company, Mandya



Sir MV was convinced that industry alongside agriculture could bring about prosperity to the citizens of the state, and hence designed an irrigation network for the state of Mysore, which would provide impetus both for agriculture and industry. The KRS dam, which remains a standing testimony to Sir MV's extraordinary engineering contribution, was constructed with a prime objective of irrigating the lands in Mandya District. The construction of the Irvin Canal, now renamed as Visvesvaraya canal, in 1933, provided a major boost to the growth of agriculture resulting in high yields of sugar cane produce which benefited both the farmers and consumers. High yielding sugar cane produce necessitated establishment of a sugar factory.





Sir MV advised the Government of Mysore to establish a White Sugar Factory for utilising the large sugar cane produce. This resulted in the establishment of a Mysore Sugar Company, which came into existence in January 1933 with an authorised capital of Rs. 20 lakhs, of which 60 percent was the Government's share. The sugar factory at Mandya was one of the biggest industrial units in the state and the district of Mandya continues to be a leading producer of sugar even today.







Placing Mysore on the path to progress

New Industries

As Dewan of Mysore, Sir MV initiated various economic measures for the prosperity and welfare of the state. He organised an Economic Conference with a primary objective of promoting growth of industries in the Government and private sectors. He was responsible in starting several new industries and reviving old ones in the state of Mysore.



Government Sandalwood Oil Factory



Sandalwood Oil Extraction Process



Government Soap Factory

The State of Mysore has been famous from time immemorial for its sandalwood, (Santalum Album Linn) also known as Liquid Gold. As the Dewan of Mysore he convinced the Maharaja of Mysore, His Highness, Nalwadi Krishna Raja Wadiyar, in establishing a Government Sandalwood Oil factory, which was established during the year 1918 at Mysore. The first experiment for extraction of Sandalwood oil from Sandalwood was successfully conducted at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, under the leadership of Prof. Suddourough and Prof. Watson. Based on its success high quality Sandalwood oil was produced by the Government Sandalwood Factory and supplied across the world.


BALLABRODIE
HIGH GROUND
BANGALORE
7th August 1916.

I hope to be able to obtain His Highness' orders in a day or two on your letter received today about the site for the sandalwood oil factory in Mysore.

Sir MV's Letter to Mr A Chatterson, The Director of Industries



Workers involved in Soap Making Process



Sir MV laying the Foundation stone of the new Soap Factory building on October 28, 1954.

Sir MV also was responsible in the establishment of a Government Soap Factory during his tenure as the Dewan of Mysore. The Factory started the production of soap on a modest scale in 1918 using the boiling process obtained from England. In the early stages, only one variety of a pure household soap, equal in every way to a very popular imported soap, was manufactured at this factory. In 1954, a new manufacturing facility was established at Rajajinagar in Bangalore. Sir MV laid the foundation stone of this building. The Government Soap Factory was renamed as "Karnataka Soaps and Detergent Limited" (KSDL) in October 1980. This company was registered as a public limited company. Today KSDL produces varieties of international quality products ranging from the famous Toilet soaps, Detergent, Agarbathies and Cosmetics.

Other factories that were started by Sir MV include the Chrome Tanning Factory, Metal Factory, Match Factory, Brick and Tile Factory, Sri Krishnarajendra Mills, Central Government Weaving Mills etc. He also made efforts to modernize cottage industries and handicrafts. Various depots were opened in Bangalore carrying the name The Mysore Arts and Craft Depot.



"I was very delighted to learn from your letter received this morning that the Government of India had passed orders regarding transferring the Birur-Shimoga, Myosre-Naryangud, the Bangalore-Mysore lines to State management- A rea gain to the State on which I congratulate you."

-Krishnaraja Waelirai

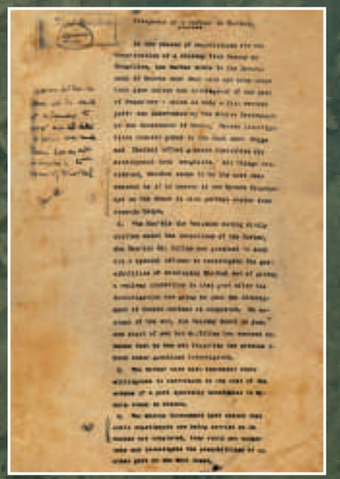
Letter from the His Highness of Mysore congratulating Sir MV on the transfer of railway lines to Mysore state.

Building infrastructural support

Transport Development

Railways were the life line of economy. On the initiation of Sir MV as the Dewan of Mysore, construction of additional railway lines was taken up by the British. The railway mileage in Mysore was raised from 411 miles to 616 miles and another 46 miles was under construction when he retired from the state service. He also established a new office of Chief engineer for railway construction and a local Railway department, for recruitment and training of local engineers and officers. Many branch lines were taken over from the Madras & South Maratha Railways.

Bhatkal Harbour
Investigations and surveys were made by Sir MV for developing a harbour at Bhatkal for supporting foreign trade of Mysore. Bhatkal was also connected to Shimoga by rail.



Excerpts from a note submitted by Sir MV regarding prospects of a harbour at Bhatkal

Railway lines in Mysore







BALLABROOIE,
HIGH GROUND,
BANGALORE

28th December 1934

My dear Sir,

I am much obliged to you for your valued letter of the 24th instant received this morning. I have submitted it for the information of His Highness the Maharaja who takes a very keen interest in the matter of railway and port facilities for the State. I know he will greatly appreciate the support promised, both as coming from you and on behalf of the Railway Board.

The Durbar quite fully realise that no step forward could be taken until the present terrible war is over. But they are gratified to find that they might look forward with hope and confidence for the future: hope that every good scheme for the development of the State, of local effort and enterprise, will receive the support of the Railway Board and the Government of India.

The concluding portion of your letter is also encouraging. The time has arrived for increased co-operation between the Government and the people, and the indications all point to the opening of a new era of the progress ~~and hope~~ for India on the termination of the present war.

I ~~greatly appreciate~~ am very grateful for your good wishes for the season. I send you the same and many more.

With every assurance of my high regard

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

M. Visvesvaraya

The Hon'ble

Mr. R. F. Gillan, ~~Mayor~~ CSI,

Letter of Sir MV to Mr Gillan, the President of Railway Board regarding railways & its facilities in the State of Mysore

Bh. Thal Harbour

Prospects of a harbour in Bhatkal.

In the course of negotiations for the construction of a railway from Dessan to Mangalore, the Durbar wrote to the Government of Madras that they were not keen about that line unless the development of the port of Mangalore - which is only a fair weather port- was undertaken by the Madras Government or the Government of India. Recent investigations however point to the fact that Malpe and Bhatkal afford greater facilities for development than Mangalore. All things considered, Bhatkal seems to be the most convenient as it is nearer to the Mysore frontier and as the Ghaut is also perhaps easier than towards Malpe.

2. The Hon'ble the Resident having kindly written about the intentions of the Durbar, the Hon'ble Mr. Gillan has promised to send out a special officer to investigate the possibilities of developing Bhatkal and of giving a railway connection to that port after the investigation now going on into the development of Cochin harbour is completed. On account of the war, the Railway Board is just now short of men but Mr. Gillan has assured the Dewan that he has not forgotten the promise to have these questions investigated.

3. The Durbar have also expressed their willingness to contribute to the cost of the scheme if a port specially beneficial to Mysore trade is chosen.

4. The Madras Government have stated that until experiments now being carried on in Cochin are completed, they could not undertake and investigate the possibilities of other port on the West Coast.

Note of Sir MV on the prospect of a harbour in Bhatkal

State Patronage

Banking and Commerce

Banking in India began in the last decades of the 18th century. Inspired by the swadeshi movement, various banks were established between 1906 and 1911. Sir MV, while serving as the Dewan for the state of Mysore, believed that a dedicated bank, patronized by the state, should be established in line with the banks established earlier, solely for the purpose of serving the citizens of the Mysore state. On his initiative, as the head of a banking committee, the Bank of Mysore was established in the year 1913 under the patronage of the erstwhile Government of Mysore. In March 1960, this Bank became an associate of State Bank of India and was renamed as State Bank of Mysore.



Bank of Mysore, Bangalore

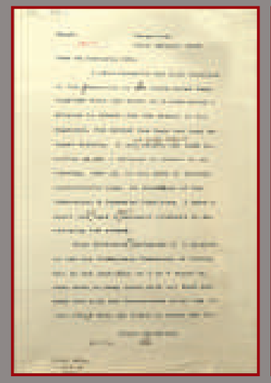


State Bank of Mysore, the new building

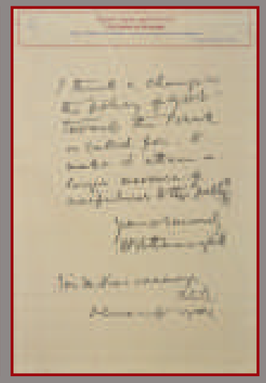


Mysore Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Sir MV's communication regarding formation of a state aided bank



Letter addressed to Sir MV



Bank Pass Book of Sir MV



Sir MV played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Mysore Chamber of Commerce on May 8, 1916, in Bangalore. The motivation was to provide a forum for businessmen to continuously interact and work with the Government in resolving various problems arising in business and economic spheres. In keeping with the changing times, the name of the organization was enlarged into Mysore Chamber of Commerce & Industry during 1966-67. This was again changed to Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI) in 1973.

URGENT

D.O.No. 362

Encl.One

Comptroller's Office.

Bangalore, the 26th March 1913.

My dear Sir,

With reference to Mr. Hiriyannaiya's D.O. letter of date enclosing Mr. K.P.Puttanna Chetty's letter of date regarding the Bank of Mysore, I beg to state below my opinion on the two points referred to by Mr. Puttanna Chetty:

As regards the first point viz. announcing in the prospectus that sums in payment of share capital will be received in all Mysore Government Treasuries as well as in the Bank of Madras, I beg to state that there will be no difficulty and I am issuing necessary instructions to all the District and Taluk Treasuries in the Province as well as to the Bank of Madras, Madras and Bangalore, in this matter.

As regards the Bank being placed in a position to announce that His Highness the Maharaja has taken a block of shares in the pro-proposed Bank from Palace Funds, I beg to state that this is a matter entirely for His Highness the Maharaja to decide. I may add, however, that I have no hesitation whatever in recommending that if it so pleases His Highness, shares to the extent of say Rs.10,000/- may be subscribed for from Palace Funds.

The enclosure referred to above is returned herewith.

Yours sincerely,

J S Chakravarti

M. Visvesvaraya Esq., B.A., C.I.E.,
Dewan of Mysore.

Letter from comptroller's office to MV, Dewan of Mysore, regarding Bank of Mysore

DRAFT.

Bangalore,
12th January 1913.

Dear Mr.Kantaraj Urs,

I send herewith the file relating to the formation of a State-Aided Bank together with the draft of a note which I propose to submit for the orders of His Highness. The matter has been too long delayed already. If you will kindly bring a return the case tomorrow ~~on-or~~, I propose to submit it on Tuesday, that is, if you have no serious objections to urge. As chairman of the Industries & Commerce Committee, I have no doubt you will take a great personal interest in developing the scheme.

With reference to paragraph 9, I propose to ask Sir Vithaldass Thakersey of Bombay who is the chairman of 3 or 4 banks on that side, to keep touch with our bank and keep advising the Directorate until the latter feel they can stand on their own legs.

Yours sincerely,

12/1/13

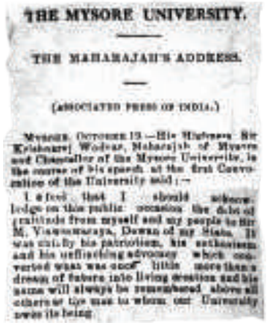
Letter to an official of Mysore state regarding the setting up a state aided bank

University of Mysore

A step towards advanced learning

Sir MV possessed extraordinary qualities of articulating his thoughts for nation building. One such articulation pleading with the Government for establishing a University at Mysore is reproduced below.

"The population of Mysore is close to six million, the attempts to provide ourselves with a university cannot be regarded as ambitious. In the United Kingdom, there is one University for every 2.5 million of the population, in Canada and in Australia, there is one university for less than a million people, our opportunities of benefiting from a University are not inferior to those of many of the existing Universities of Canada or Australia. We have nearly one thousand graduates engaged in various occupations in the state, nearly all of whom sympathise with the idea of a University and many of whom will actively work for it" Sir MV



THE MYSORE UNIVERSITY.

THE MAHARAJAH'S ADDRESS.

(ASSOCIATED PRESS OF INDIA.)

Mysore, October 13.—His Highness Sir Krishnaraj Wodiar, Maharajah of Mysore and Chancellor of the Mysore University, in the course of his speech at the first Convocation of the University said:—

I feel that I should acknowledge on this public occasion the debt of gratitude from myself and my people to Sir M. Visvesvaraya, Dewan of my State. It was mainly his patriotism, his enthusiasm and his unflinching advocacy which converted what was once little more than a dream of future into living creation and his name will always be remembered above all others as the man to whom our University owes its being.

The pivotal role played by sir MV in establishing the Mysore University is best seen in the words of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore



Mysore University campus



Administrative block, University of Mysore

Sir MV was the architect for the establishment of the first ever Indian University in India, the Mysore University, which was established in the year 1916. Until then India had only five universities and all of them were established by the British. In his inimitable style, Sir MV placed before the British Govt several facts and figures, and pleaded for establishing a university in Mysore. The then Viceroy, Lord Hardinge and the British Resident in Mysore, Sir Hugh Daly, in appreciation of the visionary and thoughtful proposal of Sir MV approved the formation of the university in Mysore. The University of Mysore stated functioning from July 1, 1916.

Submitted to His Highness.

I submit herewith for His Highness' information Residency letter dated the 28th June 1916 communicating copy of a telegram from the Government of India regarding the starting of work under the Mysore University from July next. I have discussed the question with the Hon'ble the Resident and explained to him that as the Government of India are not in touch with the latest phase of the negotiations with the Madras University authorities, they could not send any other reply to the query addressed by the Hon'ble the Resident as to -- whether the Durbar might be permitted to start the University from July next. In this connection I submit for His Highness' kind perusal a private letter dated 26th instant received from Sir P.S. Sivaswami Iyer who expresses the hope that the Durbar's final proposals will be sympathetically considered by the Syndicate of the Madras University. I think there is no reason why we should anticipate any further trouble. The correspondence with the Madras University will be pursued till a proper understanding is reached.

M. Visvesvaraya

30th June 1916.

Letter of Sir MV, Dewan of Mysore, to His Highness regarding Mysore University

Submitted to His Highness.

2. I submit for His Highness' kind approval the draft of a letter which it is proposed to issue to the ---- Registrar of the University asking for proposals regarding the institution of the Faculties of Commerce and Engineering in the University. We should minimise as far as possible the disadvantages resulting from a too restricted number of faculties and in adding new ones due regard should be had to the practical needs of the country. Our students are finding it increasingly -- difficult to get admission into the Engineering Colleges in British India owing to the limited number of seats in those institutions and with our growing public works it would be folly not to look ahead and provide for the future.

3. The need for a higher type of Commercial Education is equally great if our merchants are to adopt modern business methods in their work.

4. I solicit the favour of His Highness' approval to the draft letter.

M. Visvesvaraya

19th July 1916.

Sir MV's letter to HH highlighting the need for higher type of commercial education

Building temples of learning



Sir MV's plea for introducing compulsory primary education



The Agriculture School in Hebbal

Initiatives in Education

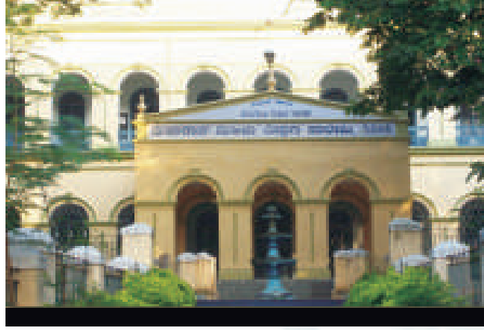
Sir MV, as Dewan, was eager to banish illiteracy. According to him, progress in every country depends mainly on the education of its people. His regime witnessed the peak figures in the number of primary schools. When he became Dewan in 1912 there were about 4,500 schools in Mysore State. In six years 6,500 new schools were opened during his regime.

Special grants were made for the education of depressed communities and backward classes. He laid special emphasis on girls education. The Maharani College in Mysore was raised to the first grade college with the addition of Bachelors of Arts courses in 1917. The first hostel for women students was opened in the same year.

Other educational initiatives

Sir M V established agriculture school in Hebbal in 1913 with a large farm attached to it and started short term courses in Kannada. This institution has now grown to the status of the University of Agricultural Sciences. He was also instrumental in establishing the Mechanical Engineering School and School of Commerce at Mysore and Government Engineering College, now called University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE), at Bangalore. UVCE was the 5th Engineering College that was established in the country.

He was also responsible in the establishment of Public Libraries which started in Mysore and Bangalore District. He also founded the rural libraries, a special feature being the travelling exhibitions in rural areas. Industrial schools were opened in all district headquarters. Foreign scholarships were granted to enable students to study abroad. Kannada Sahitya Parishat owes its existence to the efforts of MV. **He wished that the Parishat should give special attention to the preparation of books on Science in Kannada a prophetic vision which holds good even today.**



The Maharani College in Mysore



Public Library Bangalore



University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering, Bangalore



Kannada Sahitya Parishad, Bangalore

Sri Jayachamarajendra Polytechnic

> **Work performed with higher knowledge of skill, capacity or ambition, usually brings correspondingly higher reward.**
>
> -Sir MV

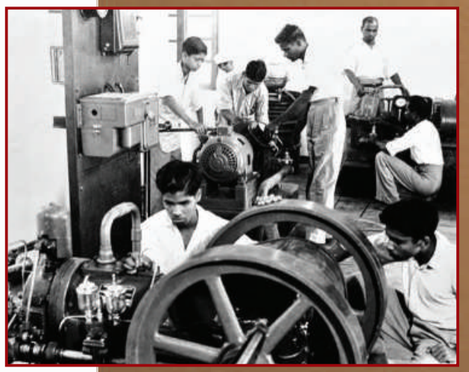
Sir MV was convinced from his trips abroad, especially Japan, that education and training alone can equip India's large work force and thus eradicate poverty. He believed that establishment of the vocational institutes would result in improved skilled labour force. Even today, when India is a fast growing economy, his vision holds true.

Sir MV advocated development of a professional vocational training institute for developing skilled labour force. The result was the establishment of the Sri Jayachamarajendra Occupational Institute, primarily aimed at skill development, at Bangalore in 1943. For setting up this vocational institute Sir MV donated his personal money amounting to Rs. 2 lakh that he had received as honorarium from the Government serving as the Chairman of Bhadravati Iron & Steel Company for more than six years.

In recognition of his self less service and his donation, the Government wanted to name the Institute after Visvesvaraya. But Sir MV insisted that the institute be named after the "Maharaja of Mysore". Thus the institute was named Sri Jayachamarajendra Occupational Institute (Now known as Sri Jayachamarajendra Polytechnic). This institute offered training in several different fields of engineering from Radio, Mechanical, Mining, Acoustics, Automobile etc.

Radio Engineering



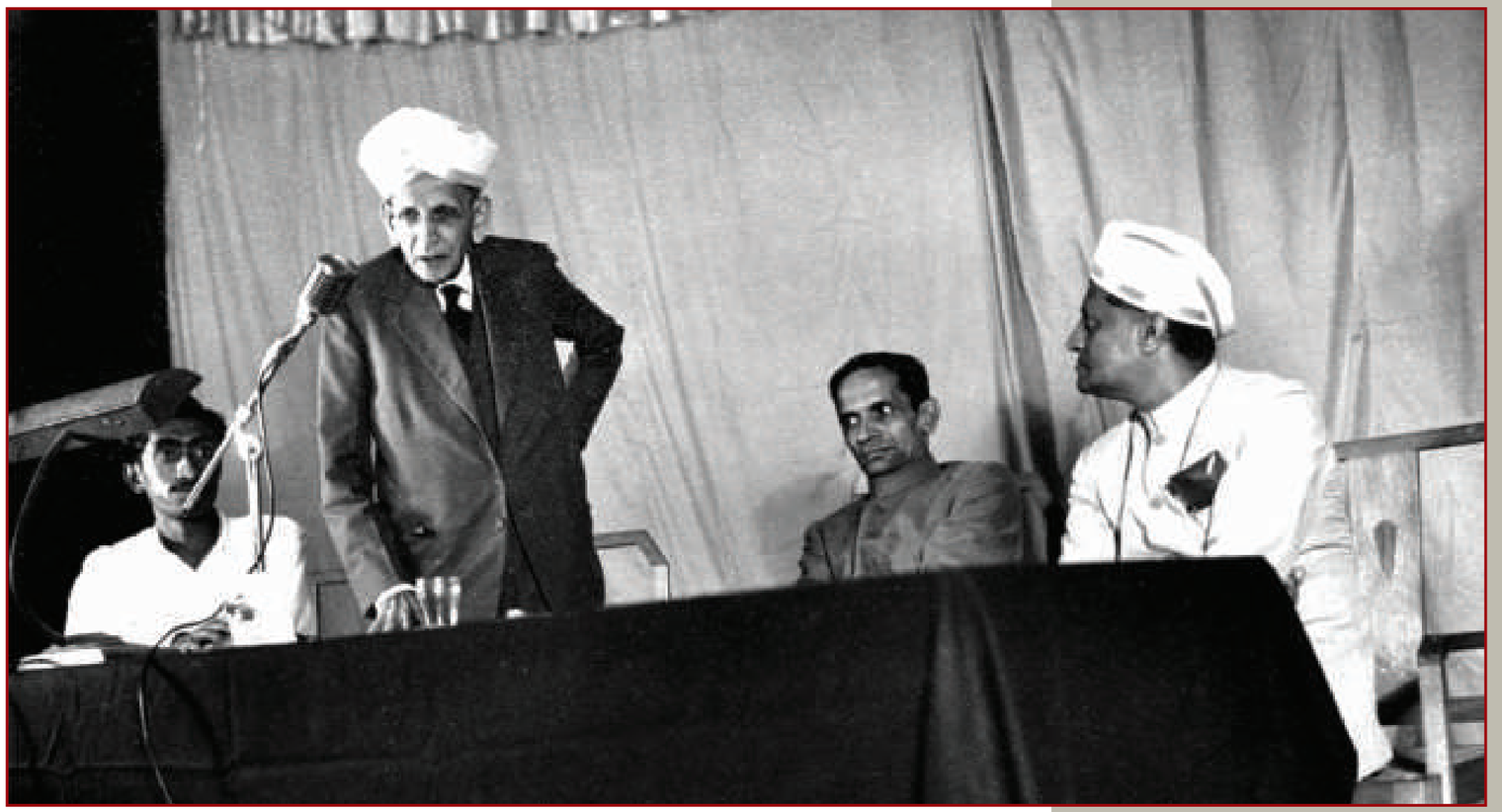


Boilers & Engines

Developing skilled labour



Automobile Engineering



Sir MV addressing the SJP students

The new building of J C Polytechnic





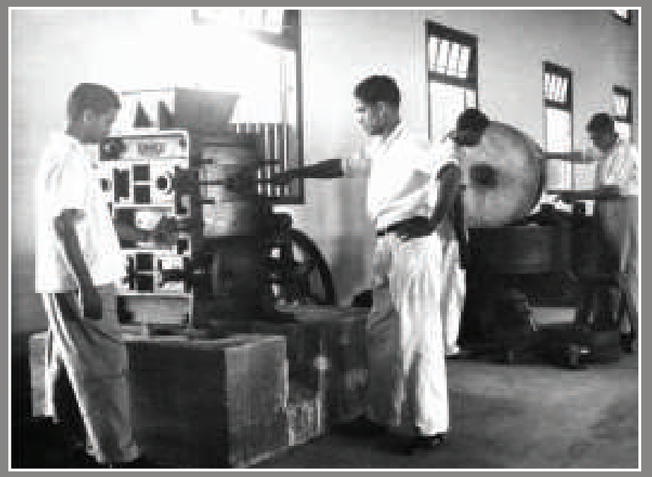


HH the Governor presenting the opening speech during the opening of new building

Carpentry



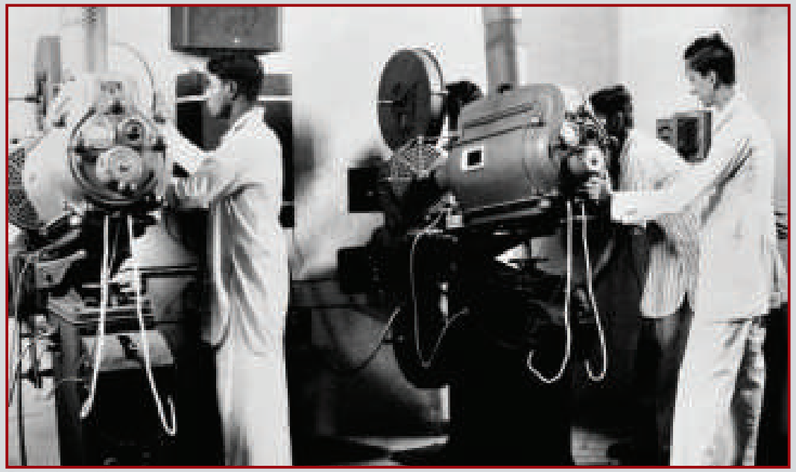
Radio Engineering



Ceramics

Sheet metal





Projection cabin

Sound Engineering





Cinematography

Government committees

Service to nation

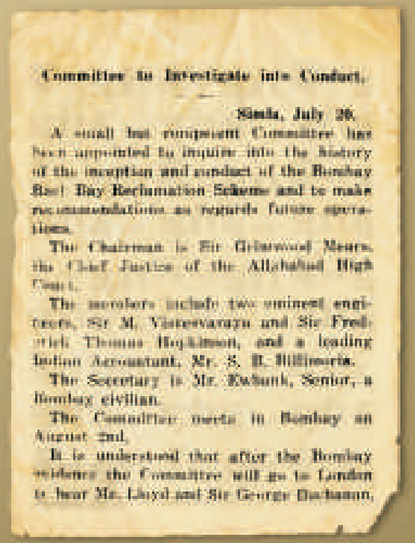
Sir MV, after retirement from the Government service, participated as Chairman and Member of numerous Committees on a variety of subjects.

Bombay Technical and Industrial Education Committee 1921-1922

Sir MV was the Chairman of the Technical and Industrial Education Committee set up by the Government of Bombay. The objective was to enquire into the present status of Technical and Industrial education in Bombay Presidency and to draw up a comprehensive scheme to meet its future needs.

1922-New Capital Enquiry Committee

Sir MV was a member of the committee to plan for construction of viceroy's residence, Central Government offices, Assembly building etc. in Delhi. The committee enquired into the financial aspects of the construction of the new capital, inspected buildings, checked up the plans and rendered suitable advice.



Committee to Investigate into Conduct.

Simla, July 26.

A small but competent Committee has been appointed to inquire into the history of the inception and conduct of the Bombay Back Bay Reclamation Scheme and to make recommendations as regards future operations.

The Chairman is Sir Grimwood Mears, the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court.

The members include two eminent engineers, Sir M. Visvesvaraya and Sir Frederick Thomas Hopkinson, and a leading Indian Accountant, Mr. S. R. Billimoria.

The Secretary is Mr. Eckunk, Senior, a Bombay civilian.

The Committee meets in Bombay on August 2nd.

It is understood that after the Bombay sessions the Committee will go to London to hear Mr. Lloyd and Sir George Buchanan.

1926- The Bombay Back Bay Enquiry Committee

Sir M V was the Technical expert in this committee set up by the Government of India to enquire into the history of the inception and operation of the Back Bay Reclamation Scheme and to make recommendations for future operations. Report showcased the defects in the technical, engineering and financial aspects of the scheme duly supported by facts and figures. The recommendations of the committee proved helpful in carrying out the reclamation work at Bombay at the same cost within the estimated time.

1930 - Bombay University Committee for Promoting Chemical Industries

Sir MV was Chairman of this committee. The recommendations were accepted by the University and thus the Chemical Technology Institute was established in Bombay.

1938 - Irrigation Enquiry Committee, Bombay

Sir MV was the Chairman of the committee, which was to enquire upon general irrigation policy, supply of water to different classes of crops, industries and non-agricultural purposes like municipalities and railways. Committee recommended the implementation of Block System of irrigation and suggested the cultivators to think, plan and administer irrigation and to work in a co-operative spirit to make them self-reliant.



1925-The Indian Economic Enquiry Committee

Sir MV was the Chairman of this committee meant to enquire into the economic status of the country, per capita income of people, cost of living index, ability to bear burden of taxation, tax administration etc. Measures recommended were valuable in guiding the Government in shaping economic and financial policies. Other recommendations were tax reforms and establishment of good statistical organization for collecting statistical data and publications of particulars regarding income, labour, wages, prices, cost of living index and other relevant matters. The report proved to be the basis in shaping its economic and financial policies in due course.

1929-Bangalore Political Disturbances Enquiry Committee

Sir MV was the Chairman of the committee to enquire into the causes of communal riots in Bangalore during 1928. Report pointed at the failure of the Government in preventing a series of riots. Constructive suggestions were put forth to restore communal harmony. Sir MV also served as a member of the Sukkur Barrage works Committee (1929), Cauvery canal Committee (1924) and the committee for New Bangalore water supply.

Sir MV presided over the Indian Science Congress at its annual session in 1923 and the Indian Economic Conference in 1924.

CONFIDENTIAL.

THE MYSORE ECONOMIC CONFERENCE.

Industries & Commerce Committee, Bangalore, 31st September 1912.

Proceedings of the Twelfth Meeting of the Committee for Industries and Commerce, held at "Ringwood" High Ground, Bangalore, commencing from 3 P.M. on Saturday the 31st August 1912.

PRESENT.

M. Visvesvaraya, Esq. (Chairman).
Alfred Chatterton, Esq.
Dr. W. F. Smeeth.
M. Muthannah, Esq., Rai Bahadur
C. Srikantesvara Aiyar, Esq.
M. Chengiah Chetty, Esq.
M. A. Narayana Iyengar, Esq.
Khan Bahadur Hajee Ismail Sait, Esq.
Mandi Hariyanna, Esq.

C. Ranganatha Rao Sahib, Esq., Secretary.
K. Subba Rao, Esq., Provisional Secretary of the Mysore Economic Conference.

ABSENT.

Rajamantra Pravina C. Srinivasa Iyengar, Esq.
V. Rangaswamy Iyengar, Esq.
Karnik Krishnamurti Rao, Esq.

Mr. Abdul Kuddus, Member of the Mysore Economic Conference, also attended the meeting by permission.

2. A letter from Mr. Rajamantra Pravina C. Srinivasa Iyengar was read to the meeting in which, owing to his "inability to attend the meetings of the Committee regularly or to give the subjects, Industrial and Commercial, the attention which their importance demanded, he begged reluctantly to tender his resignation." The Committee *resolved*

Proceedings of a meeting of Mysore Economic Conference, 1912

Dr. Smeeth objected to the free grant of clay and sand in perpetuity and suggested that the period might be limited to three years. Mr. Narayana Iyengar was of opinion that the concessions proposed, taken with the modifications suggested, were cautious and unobjectionable. He thought that the necessities of the case would be met by a lump sum money grant calculated on the total amount by which the proceeds of the tile factory would fall short before it can yield a reasonable dividend on the capital invested. Mr. Srikantesvara Aiyar remarked that the promoters were all men of means and there was no reason why Government should be approached for concessions. Mr. Muthannah brought forward an amendment to the effect that the salary of the expert may be paid by Government for a period of three years only whenever the dividend fell short of 4 per cent. The proposition that the concessions be recommended as proposed by the Special Adviser was put to the vote and lost. The amendment proposed by Mr. Muthannah was also put to vote and lost.

Mr. Hajee Ismail Sait stated that he would subscribe a sum of Rs. 75,000, the amount which the promoters of the Mysore Tile Factory intended to throw open to the public, of the concessions as regards the free grant of land, clay, and the plant at the Industrial School at Mysore were sanctioned and if he was assured that the new factory would not compete with the City Tile Factory in Bangalore. He would require no further concessions. Mr. Chatterton undertook to communicate Mr. Hajee Ismail Sait's offer to the promoters of the proposed factory.

13. The discussion of Mr. Chatterton's proposals for industrial development in Mysore, copies of which had been circulated to the members in advance, was opened by a memorandum from the Chairman. The memorandum concluded with a recommendation that the following proposals be submitted for the sanction of Government :—

(1) That a Department of Industries and Commerce be created for a period of three years in the first instance.

(2) That the Committee and the Special Adviser be authorised to work out details for starting and developing the department and submit the same for the orders of Government.

(3) That on the assembly, as a preliminary step, the Industrial Schools at Mysore and Channapatna be transferred to the control of the Special Adviser.

Mr. Muthannah moved an amendment to the first proposition to the effect that the department be created for a period of five years; the amendment was put to the vote and lost.

The recommendations made by the Chairman were next put to the vote and passed. The name of members who voted for the proposition are shown in the margin. The Committee *resolved* to submit the recommendations for favour of the early sanction of Government.

Resolution 5.
A Chatterton, Esq.
R. R. Muthannah, Esq.
M. Changalı Chetty, Esq.
Hajee Ismail Sait, Esq.
M. Hariyanna, Esq.

14. With reference to his explanation referred to in para 3 *ante* Mr. Chatterton suggested that a sum of Rs. 400 might be sanctioned for the purpose of conducting experiments with a view to ascertain the quality and quantity of silk obtained from cocoons reeled by improved machinery on the Tata Silk Farm, as compared with that obtained from ordinary cocoons reeled in the bazaar. The Committee *resolved* to sanction a sum of Rs. 400 for the experiment.

Resolution 6.

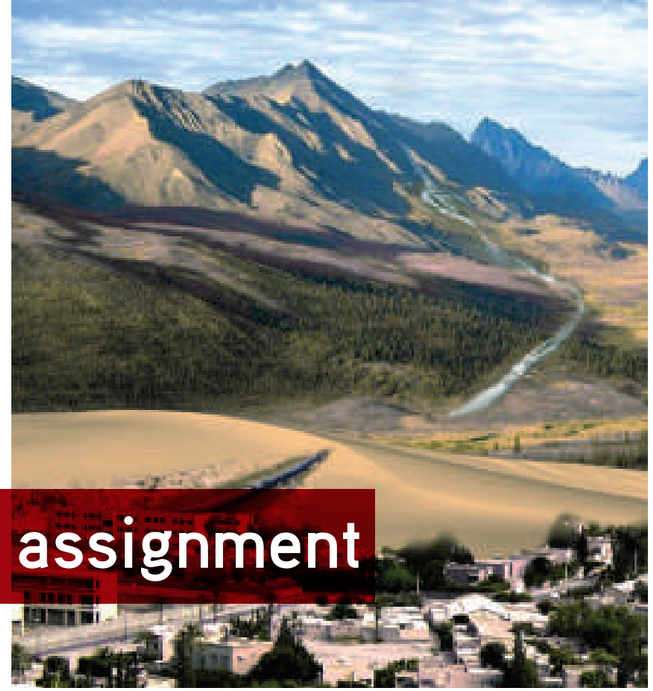
15. It was decided to hold the next monthly meeting at 1 P.M. on Saturday the 28th September 1912.

The meeting dissolved at about 7 P.M.

M. VISVESVARAYA,
Chairman.
C. RANGANATHA RAO SAHIB,
Secretary,
Industries & Commerce Committee.

Proceedings of a meeting of Mysore Economic Conference, 1912

International assignment



Aden water works

Aden located at the southern end of peninsular Arabia, was a crown colony of the British, administered by Govt of Bombay till Indian Independence in 1947. In the year 1906, the services of an engineer were required for the military settlement to work on a system of clean water supply and underground drainage in the water scarce and disease-ridden port of Aden.

Sir MV was deputed to undertake this assignment by the government. He surveyed the entire area and observed that 60 miles north of Aden was a hilly place, which received an appreciable amount of rainfall. He noticed that the rain water runs down the hills, enters a river channel and flows down through it for some short distance. He further noticed that the river did not flow into the sea, but was completely absorbed in the sandy bed of the river in Lahej.

Sir MV proposed that underground wells could be constructed in the river bed for collecting the absorbed water by percolation and for pumping this water through a pipe conduit at a distance of 28 miles from the Aden. This resulted in overcoming the problem of scarcity of water in Aden. In recognition of his unique engineering services, the British Government conferred on him the title **"Kaiser-I-Hind"** award in the year 1911, named after a giant swallow-tailed butterfly, native to India.

Recognition beyond borders



Sukkur Barrage Project

Government of India had sanctioned a scheme for the construction of a barrage to be known as Llyod Barrage across the river Indus at Sukkur in Sind. The planning of the scheme was done by expert European engineers. But various complaints appeared in press about the ways the Sukkur Barrage were being constructed and about the prospects of these works. So the Government constituted a committee in May 1929 consisting of two Indian engineers, Sir MV and Mr Ahmed Ali, Chief Engineer of Hyderabad to investigate and report on the technical, financial and administrative aspects of the works. The Committee worked in the hottest part of the year for three and a half months, visiting the Barrage and the new canals and submitted the final report in September 1929, which proved helpful in many ways for greater benefits of society and the government.

Hirakud Dam

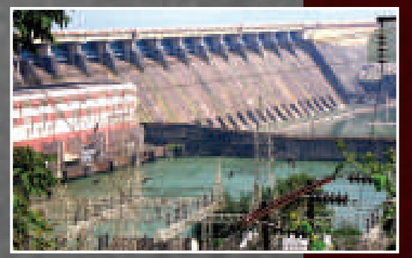
Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru launching the Hirakud Dam project across Mahanadi River on April 12, 1948.







Entrance Gate of Hirakud Dam



Hirakud Dam on Mahanadi, Odisha

Vision for taming Mahanadi

Odisha witnessed an unprecedented devastation, due to high floods in Mahanadi during the monsoon season of 1937, resulting in considerable damage to the life and property. Mahatma Gandhi after visiting the flood affected areas wrote a letter to Sir MV requesting him to advice on the matter adding **"I have no doubt that you would give such assistance as it may be in your power to give."**

Sir M. Visvesvaraya paid a visit to Odisha and after studying the old documents and official records, submitted a preliminary report in 1937 expressing his disagreement with the opinion of the previous committee that it would not be feasible to construct flood control reservoirs on the account that the rivers are huge and it will include gigantic cost. His report was rightfully accepted by the Government.

In 1939 he advised the government to build three dams, in the course of the river, which besides affording protection against floods, would help in generation of electric power and irrigation of large lands of Odisha. Thus was laid the foundation for the first post-independence major Multipurpose River Valley Project in India.

Power generation along with irrigation started progressively from 1956 and full potential was achieved by 1966. Today not only the flood problem of Odisha has largely been controlled but also the state has been immensely benefited from this project both by irrigation works and power generation.

India's first aircraft factory

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

Sir MV had a vision to set up an Automobile industry in Bangalore, which he hoped would provide adequate expertise and generate skilled manpower that could be ultimately utilised in manufacturing aircrafts.

Seth Walchand Hirachand



With the support and influence of Sir MV, Seth Walchand Hirachand, an industrialist, succeeded in pursuing the Government of India to establish an Aircraft Factory in Bangalore. Govt of Mysore came forward with a generous offer of help in the form of 1000 acres of land, water and electricity facilities. Finance for the project was provided by the Govt of India, Govt of Mysore and Walchand Hirachand & Company, who became the managing agent for the factory.





Sir MV used to visit the site of the factory almost every day and watch the brisk activities of building construction, acquainting himself with every detail through searching questions about machinery, equipment, raw material, engine, wings and the type of steel that was required.

Hindustan Aircraft Factory main gate, 1942



The Aircraft manufacturing is a supremely complex industry involving multiple employment of every kind of workshop and factory techniques. It incorporates infallible precision, highest skill and soundest quality in the manufacture of every single part, big or small that go into building a modern aircraft.

Sir MV at HAL



The agreement for the establishment of Aircraft factory was signed by Govt of India in December 1940. Thus was laid the foundation of Aircraft industry on the outskirts of Bangalore. This factory is now known as the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, a premier aviation research and manufacturing company of the Govt of India, which was established due to the efforts of Sir MV.



The first flight of Harlow Aircraft manufactured at Hindustan Aircraft Factory in July 1942.

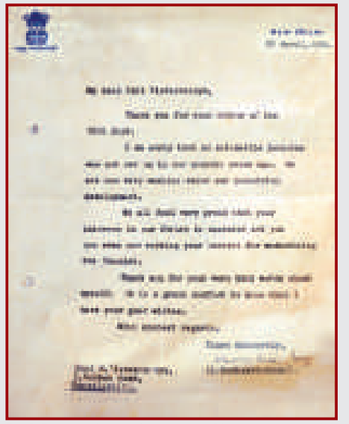
Sir MV's pursuit in automobiles

Premier Automobiles Limited



Sir MV with Mr Walchand Hirachand, founder of Premier Automobiles

Sir MV, in line with his thinking that large industries will immensely benefit the economy of the country and will also lead to increased employment, preferred to undertake a study tour abroad to understand the workings and nuances of establishing an automobile industry in India. In 1935, at the age of 75, Sir MV undertook a foreign trip to England, Italy, Germany and France to investigate and study automobile industries. Based on his study, he prepared a project report incorporating budget estimates and scheme for establishing an automobile industry and submitted the report to the Government of India in April 1936. Chrysler Corporation of America was willing to participate in establishing the automobile industry. It was intended to manufacture 11,000 vehicles every year in a factory with a capital outlay of Rs. 2.25 crores. But, it was not accepted on account of the war situation and the project could not make much headway in setting up the factory in Bangalore. However the efforts of Sir MV did not go in vain and a Premier Automobile Company was established at Pune in 1939 by Mr Walchand Hirachand and his associates.



Dr S Radhakrishnan's letter to Sir MV



Premier Fiat Car



Registration document of The Premier Automobiles Ltd.



Premier Automobile Factory, 1935 in Poona



The first line of vehicles being rolled out of Premier Automobiles Company in 1948



Production unit

All India Manufacturers' Organisation (AIMO)



Sir MV as leader of nine members' delegation of AIMO on a foreign tour

Step towards nation's economic resurgence

Sir MV truly believed that India could achieve prosperity through industry. It was in pursuit of his vision that he strived relentlessly to put India on the map of industrialized nations. In 1940, when he was presiding over a conference of manufacturers, he proposed to set up a national level Manufacturers Organization. So, a central committee of industrialists was formed to frame the constitution of this organization and named it All India Manufacturers' Organisation (AIMO).

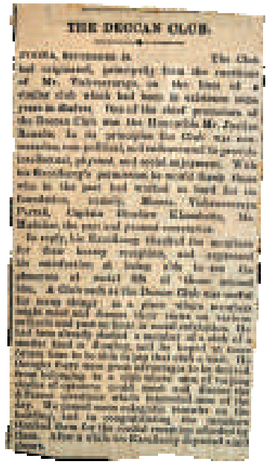
Sir MV worked as the president of the AIMO from 1941 to 1954. Under the aegis of AIMO, Sir MV led a delegation of nine leading members of AIMO to Europe and America in 1946. A report of the five month's tour was published by AIMO which incorporated the study of several major industrial centre's abroad like iron and steel, automobile, aircraft, shipping and ship-building, rayon and silk, textiles, chemicals, fertilizers etc. This report was primarily responsible in growth of various industries across the country.





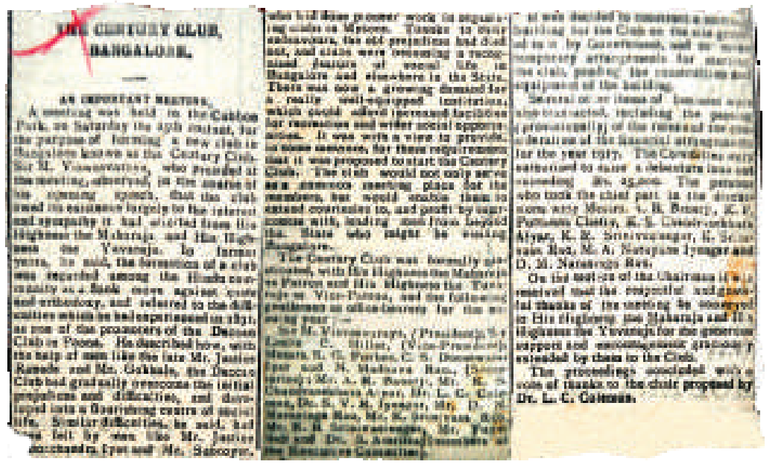
Creating space for intellectual discourse

Formation of clubs



THE DECCAN CLUB.

POONA, SEPTEMBER 14.



THE CENTURY CLUB, BANGALORE.

AN IMPORTANT MEETING.

Concept of a social club, which refers to a group of people or the place where they meet, generally formed around a common interest, occupation or activity, for achieving a common cause, was unheard of in India. Sir MV, from his visits abroad, had learnt of the strengths and utility of such clubs. He therefore advocated in the formation of such clubs for the common good of society. He was primarily responsible in the foundation of a well-known social club- the Deccan Club in Poona on 14th June, 1891. He met with considerable resistance as the social clubs at that time were not compatible with the Indian culture of those days. Sir MV managed to obtain support of honourable men like M G Ranade, Gopala Krishna Gokhale and Lokmanya Tilak to realize his dream of setting up this Club at Poona, which is now housed in Hira Baug, a historic building associated with one of the Peshwas. Deccan Club, in principle, was non-sectarian, non-political and endeavoured to provide intellectual, physical, social enrichment for promotion of social and cultural values among the people. Encouraged by the outcomes of the Deccan Club, Sir MV established similar clubs the Century Club and Ladies Club in Bangalore.



Deccan Club, Poona



Century Club, Bangalore



Ladies Club, Bangalore

Sir MV's scientific connection

Indian Institute of Science

Sir MV had an active association with Indian Institute of Science, the premier scientific institution of the country in Bengaluru, in various capacities, particularly during the period 1938 to 1946 when he was the President of the court. Member of the newly constituted court of the IISc in Bangalore elected Sir MV as the President of the court for nine consecutive years from 1938 to 1946. He strongly believed in establishing an empirical relationship between industry and scientific research institutions. The process of extraction of oil from Sandalwood was developed in the Chemistry department of IISc and was used in the Sandalwood oil factory that was set up by Sir MV.

Similarly, the Department of Metallurgy of IISc had a close connection with Mysore Iron and Steel works.

The process of destructive distillation of wood which was used to produce charcoal at that time, considered to be a pioneering industrial process, was developed at IISc for use by the Mysore Iron and Steel works. Sir MV was the one who showed vision in starting the Departments of Metallurgy, Aeronautics and Internal Combustion Engines at IISc. IISc in recognition of his services to the institute and also to the society, conferred Honorary Fellowship to Visvesvaraya which he shared with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Sir C V Raman.

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore



Sir MV with H J Bhabha, Bhagavantham and J.R.D. Tata at IISc



Sir MV at the Golden Jubilee Celebration of IISc, 1959

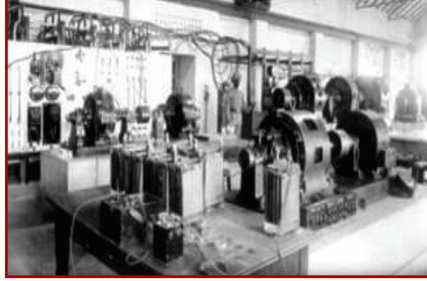




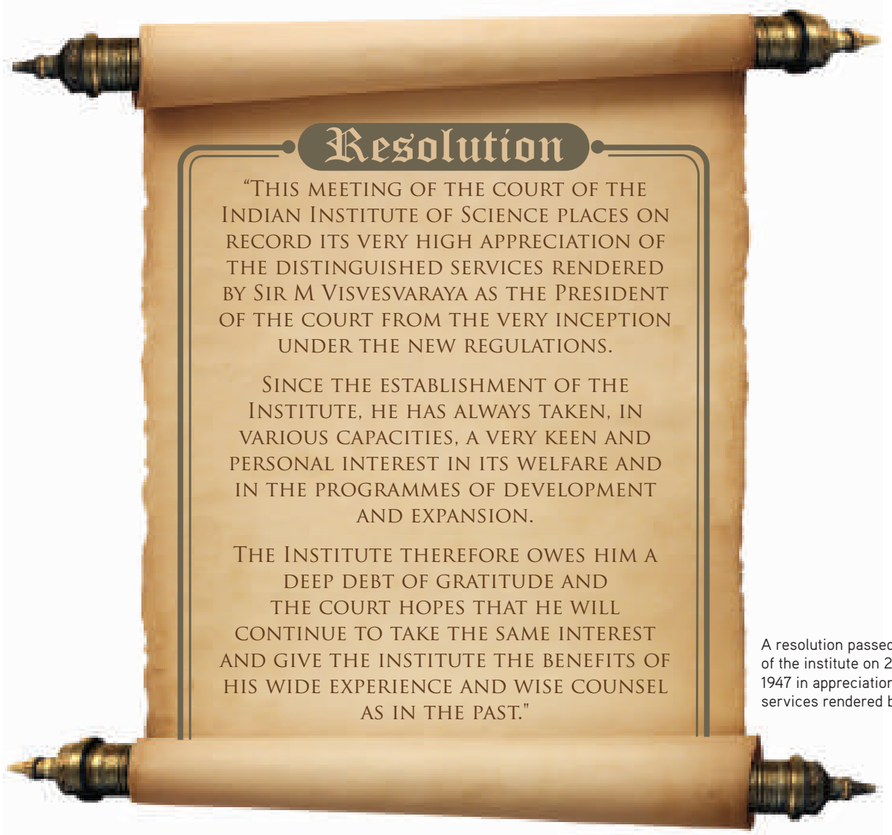
Aerospace Engineering department of IISc



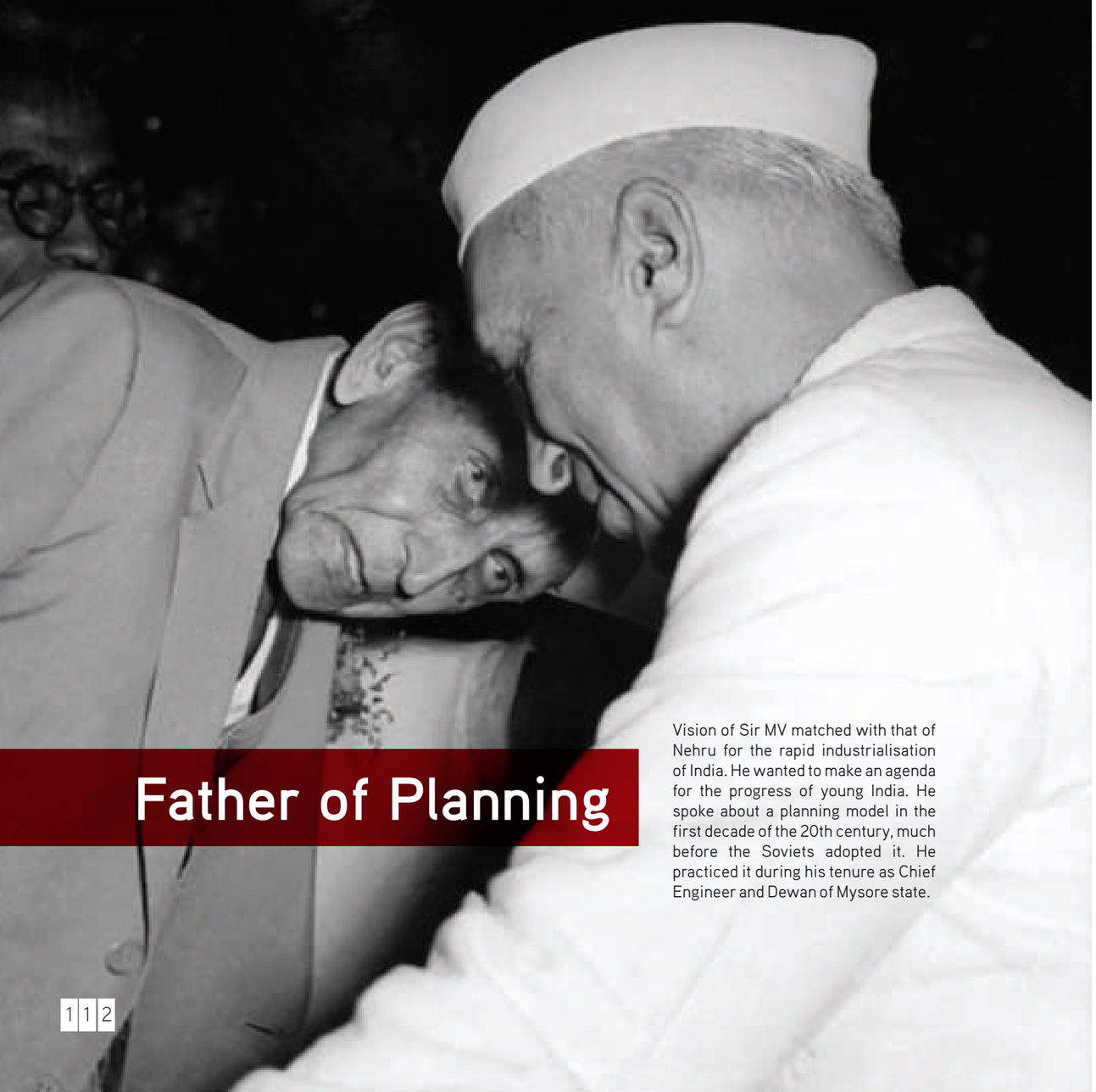
Sir MV at IISc during the inauguration of Metallurgy department



Electrical Lab



A resolution passed by the court of the institute on 28th June 1947 in appreciation of the services rendered by Sir MV.



Father of Planning

Vision of Sir MV matched with that of Nehru for the rapid industrialisation of India. He wanted to make an agenda for the progress of young India. He spoke about a planning model in the first decade of the 20th century, much before the Soviets adopted it. He practiced it during his tenure as Chief Engineer and Dewan of Mysore state.

Sir MV's Foresight & Initiative

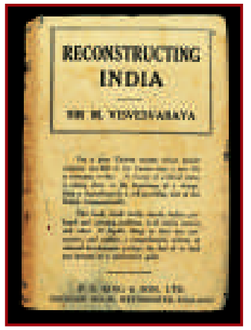
Economic Planning later became an accepted idea, but during Sir MV's time, it was mocked and resisted. By the time it was understood that it was necessary for the growth of the country, people forgot the 'Originator of the idea of Planning'.





Sir MV had discussed this idea of planning model with Mahadev Ranade and Gopal Krishna Gokhale when he was Sanitary Engineer with the Bombay Government in Poona for fourteen years





Sir MV's book 'Planned Economy for India' is a collection of his thoughts on planning.

Nations recognition for the legend

Awards and Honours



Left : Knight Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire (KCIE) medal

Right : Kaisar-I-Hind medal awarded by the British Government in recognition of his services

Sir MV honoured by
The University of Mysore



Honorary Doctorate from Patna University, 1944

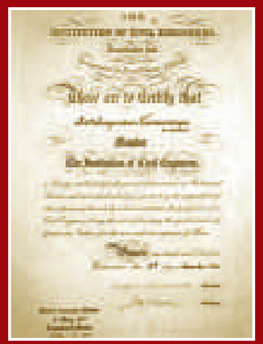


Andhra University awarded Sir MV the Honorary Fellowship of the Institute of Town Planners

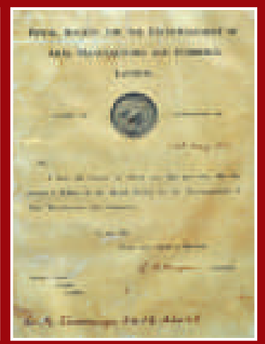


In recognition of his unprecedented service rendered to the nation, Sir MV was conferred with several coveted honours and awards some of which are listed.

Elected as an Honorary Life Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers (London)
Kaisar-I-Hind medal awarded by the British Government
Elected as Member of Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce, London
D.Sc. awarded by University of Calcutta
Knight Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire (KCIE) medal
D.Sc. awarded by Patna University
Andhra University awarded Sir MV the Honorary Fellowship of the Institute of Town Planners
Doctorate from Patna University, 1944
Honorary Membership of London Institution of civil Engineers
C.I.E. (Companion of the Indian Empire) at Delhi Durbar
D.Sc. - University of Calcutta | L.L.D - University of Bombay
D.Litt - Banaras Hindu University | D.Sc. - University of Allahabad
D.Sc. - University of Patna | L.L.D - University of Mysore
Fellowship of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
D.L.H. - University of Andhra
BHARAT RATNA- by the Government of India
D.Sc. - University of Jadhavpur, Calcutta
Durga Prasad Khaitan Memorial Gold Medal by the Royal Asiatic Society Council of Bengal
Diploma of Honorary Membership of the Institute of Consulting Engineers, being a member for an unbroken period of 50 years of Civil Engineers (London)



Elected as an Honorary Life Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers (London)



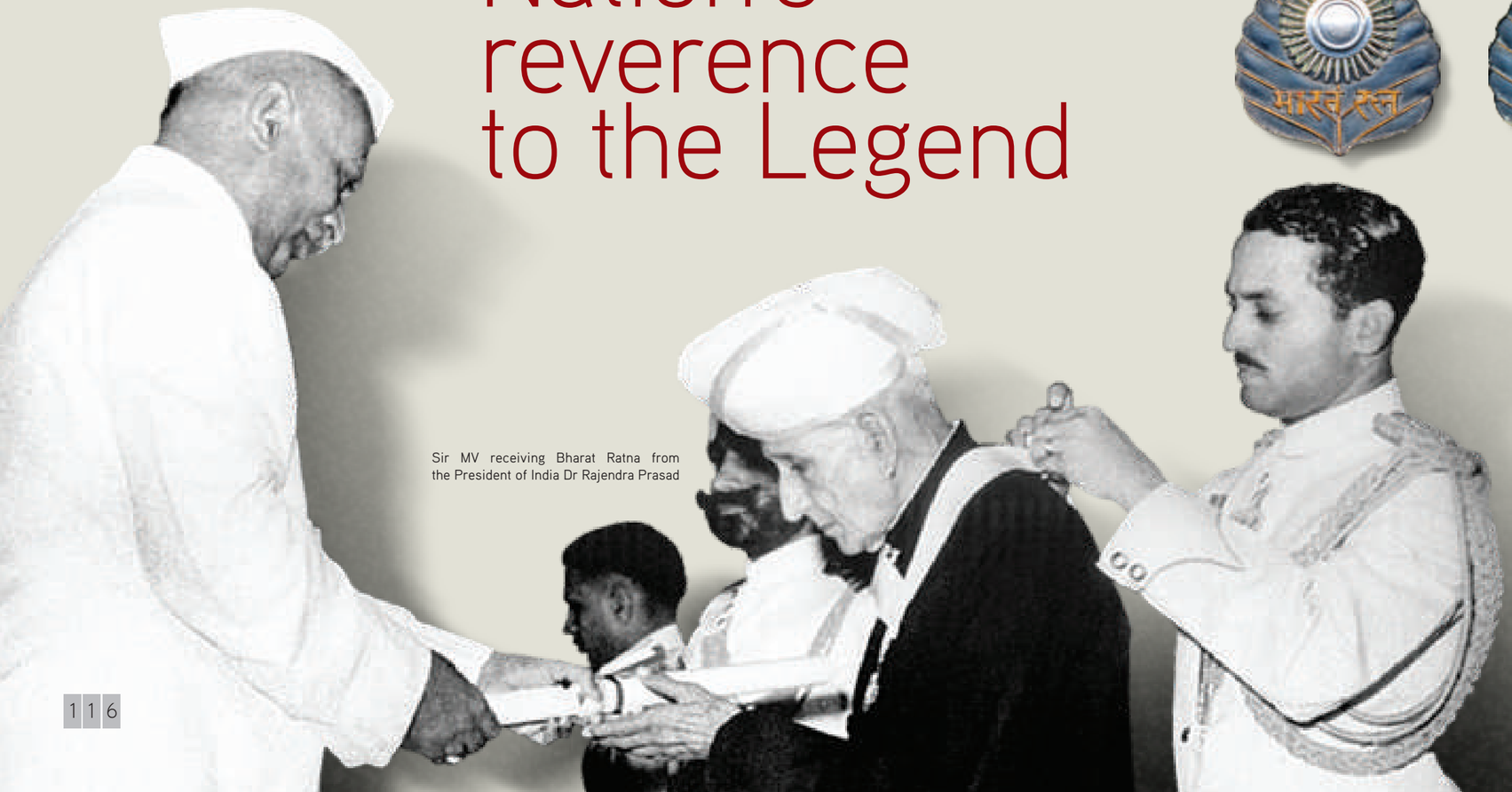
Elected as Member of Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce, London



D.Sc. awarded by University of Calcutta

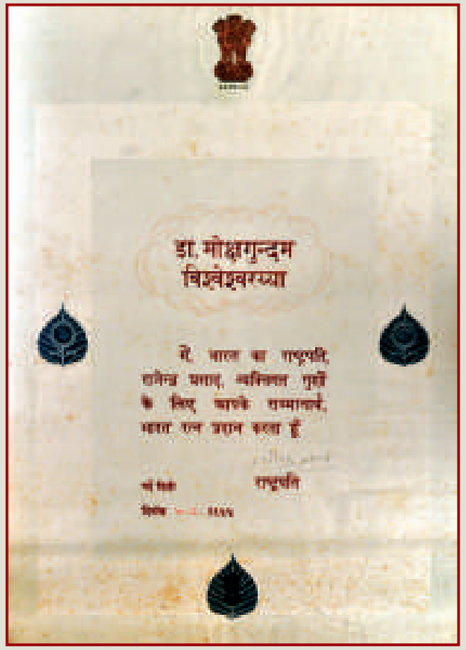
The Bharat Ratna

Nation's reverence to the Legend



Sir MV receiving Bharat Ratna from the President of India Dr Rajendra Prasad





Sir MV untiringly served the nation with impeccable honesty, integrity, dedication and statesmanship for more than 80 years, until bidding adieu to the nation at the age of 102 years. The Government of India, in recognition of his extra-ordinary services to the nation, conferred the nations highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna on Sir MV in the year 1955. He shared the award with two other luminaries of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Bhagwan Das. Both Nehru and Sir MV shared a similar passion and dream of developing an industrialized nation and can be truly recognised as nation builders. Sir MV believed that the benefits of science and technology could be harnessed for the betterment of human society. Nehru, who coined the phrase "Temples of Modern India", like Sir MV, believed in developing a planned economy for the nation. The Five Year plans for India and the establishment of a Planning Commission, which Nehru initiated, was largely based on the works of Sir MV when he was the Dewan of Mysore.



Nehru admiring the Cake made in shape of Visvesvaraya Museum

VITM

Befitting tribute to the legend



VITM as it stands today



Nehru at the inauguration of the Museum



Nehru garlanding the bust of Sir MV at VITM

Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM)

On the Centenary celebration of Sir MV at Lal Bagh in Bangalore in 1960, the celebration committee, as a tribute to the legendary Sir MV, decided to set up an Industrial Museum at Bangalore. With the help of Centre and State governments, the committee raised funds which were utilized in the construction of a museum building on Kasturba Road, Bangalore, inside the picturesque Cubbon Park. The building had 40,000 sq. ft. of space in three floors with a basement of 2,500 sq. ft. for locating a workshop. To ensure that the museum gets a national recognition, the Visvesvaraya Society offered the building to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Govt. of India. This museum was named Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM), which is now one of the land mark museums of the country and receives close to a million visitors annually.

On 11th November 1962 late Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated the museum building. The first gallery on Electrotechnic was inaugurated at the Museum by Smt Indira Gandhi, the then Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting on 27th July, 1965. VITM is now a part of the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) an autonomous scientific institution that governs 25 science centres and museums across the country including the Nehru Science Centre in Mumbai. NCSM functions under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Sir MV's visit to Coimbatore



Sir MV is received at Coimbatore Airport

Sir M Visvesvaraya, Mr G D Naidu and Mr T Sidhalingaiah - Reception at the Airport, Coimbatore



Master Gopal, Mrs Ranganayaki Ammal, Mr G D Naidu, Sir M Visvesvaraya & Mrs Sarojini Balakrishnan

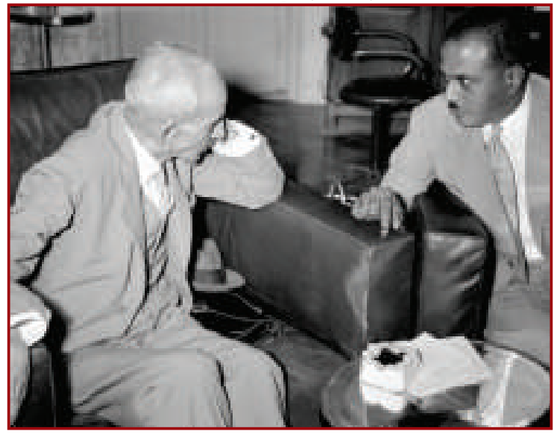
Sir M Visvesvaraya, Mr G D Naidu, Dr B P B Naidu
Mr T Siddhalingaiah and others





Mr G D Naidu, Sir M Visvesvaraya, Mr Textool Balasundaram and
Mr T Sidhalingaiah at Podanur Research Garden

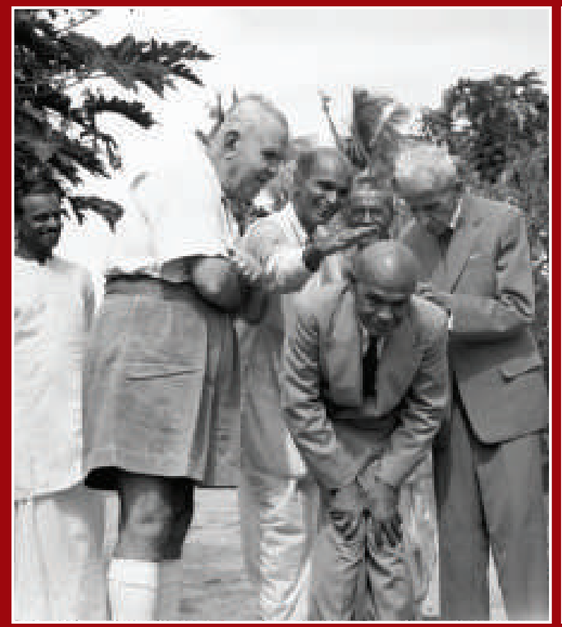
Sir M Visvesvaraya and Mr G K Devarajulu
(Chairman, Lakshmi group of companies)



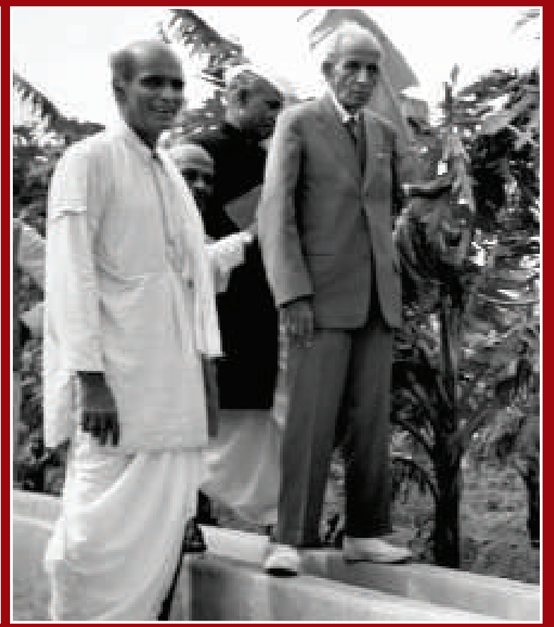


Sir M Visvesvaraya, Mr G D Naidu, Mr T Siddhalingaiah and others
in front of the Buses donated to school

Sir M Visvesvaraya, Mr G D Naidu,
Mr T Siddalingaiah and others



Sir M Visvesvaraya, Mr G D Naidu, Dr B P B Naidu &
Mr T Siddhalingaiah at Podanur Garden



Sir M Visvesvaraya, Mr G D Naidu, Mr T Siddhalingaiah







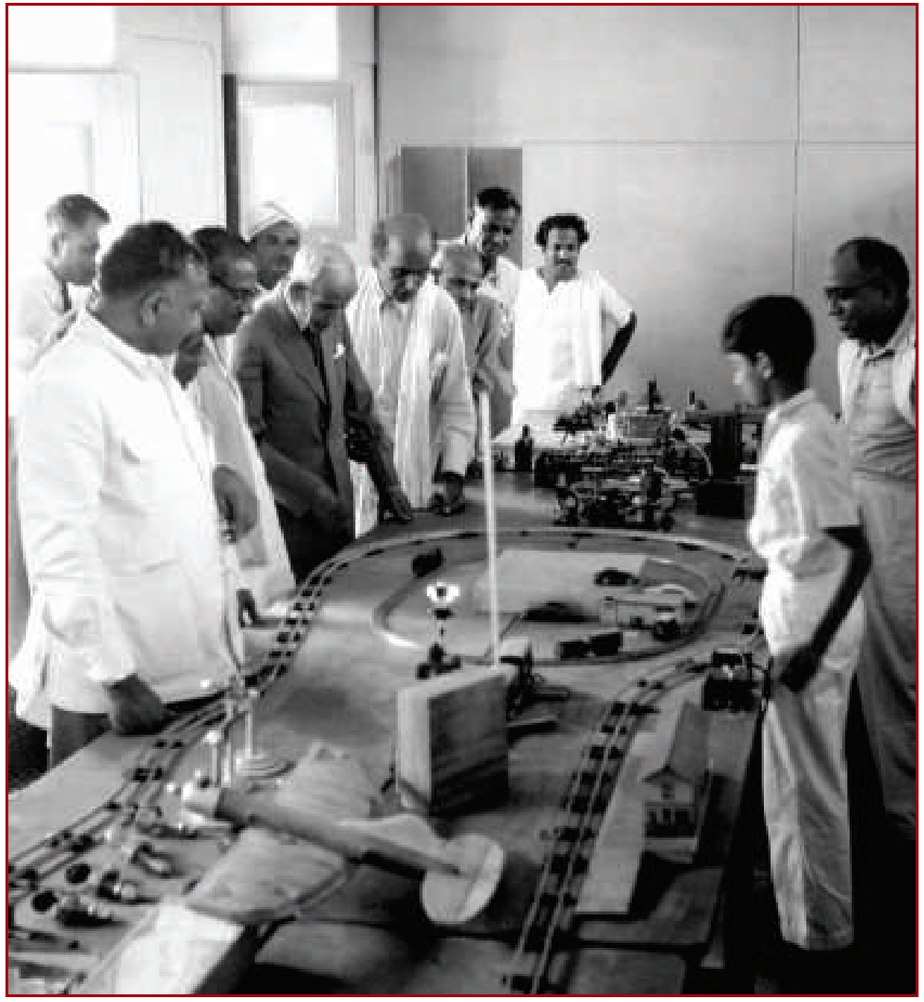


Left Top: Sir M Visvesvaraya and Mr G D Naidu

Left Bottom: Dr R K Shanmugham Chetian
Sir M Visvesvaraya, Mr G D Naidu and others

Centre: Sir M Visvesvaraya, Mr G D Naidu
Mr T Siddhalingaiah and others

Right: Sir M Visvesvaraya, Mr G D Naidu and
Mr T Siddhalingaiah



Sir M Visvesvaraya, Mr G D Naidu, Mr T Siddhalingaiah & others

Mr Textool Balasundaram, Sir M Visvesvaraya and Mr G D Naidu





Mr T Siddhalingaiah, Mr G D Naidu, Sir M Visvesvaraya and others



Dr R K Shanmugam Chettiar, Sir M Visvesvaraya, Mr Raja, Sir Muthaiah Chettiar

Sir M Visvesvaraya, Mr G D Naidu
and Mr T Siddhalingaiah

Media's accolades for Sir MV

Sir MV in Print



Dr. M. Visvesvaraya

CENTENARY NUMBER

DECCAN HERALD 15th SEPTEMBER 1960

In his hundredth year Dr. 'M.V.' remains the....

INDEFATIGABLE ENGINEER PLANNER STATESMAN

DR. M. V. is an engineer, but he is equally prominent and famous as an industrial economist. As a government servant (from 1894 to 1918) he could not attach himself to any party or leader nor give expression to the views which conflicted with his loyalty to government. As a free citizen, from 1918 and onwards, he came into contact with the Indian National Congress, Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Malaviya, Jayakar, Das and such other leaders in the movement of State for India, the Viceroy and Governors and with the state Peoples of many India. But these associations were always as a friend or consultant, never as a party man. Consequently, he was a man with political ideas and sentiments, but without any political partialities in the development of political thought or organisation within India. Anyone who could speak to, or be in his company, could see the mature judgment he was giving in his heart although he could not say whether it was of the moderate or extremist type. Indeed, it would appear as he still put on other occasions it would be exactly not said at all without being guilty of insincerity.

There were two strong forces working in the life of Dr. M. V. The first was the desire to serve India (the motherland) and mankind in general, and the second was his partiality for Japan and the U.S.A., for Italy and Sweden and for Canada and Australia. Both these forces were basically political in character with their origins in the conditions of contemporary India. Dr. M. V.'s argument was, 'If in the course of a few decades, in the nineteenth century or after, these countries could industrialise themselves and become great powers, why should India not do likewise and become a great nation? Let Britain give India a chance to help herself.' This was an open challenge to the British Government in India, which was no good as that of any political party or leader.

First Publication

Dr. M. V. was an engineer, trained after his first visit to England in the Poona College of Science, Bombay, and was in direct touch with the latest developments in engineering and technology. Dr. M. V. appears to have come directly, but whatever was the truth his appointment, first, as Assistant Engineer and, then, as Superintending Engineer, was gained with no real help from the powers that be at that time. The reason for this being apparent, as Indians, was his keen desire to work nationalistic projects of construction, projects of the West-



Dr. Visvesvaraya when he was an Engineer in Bombay service

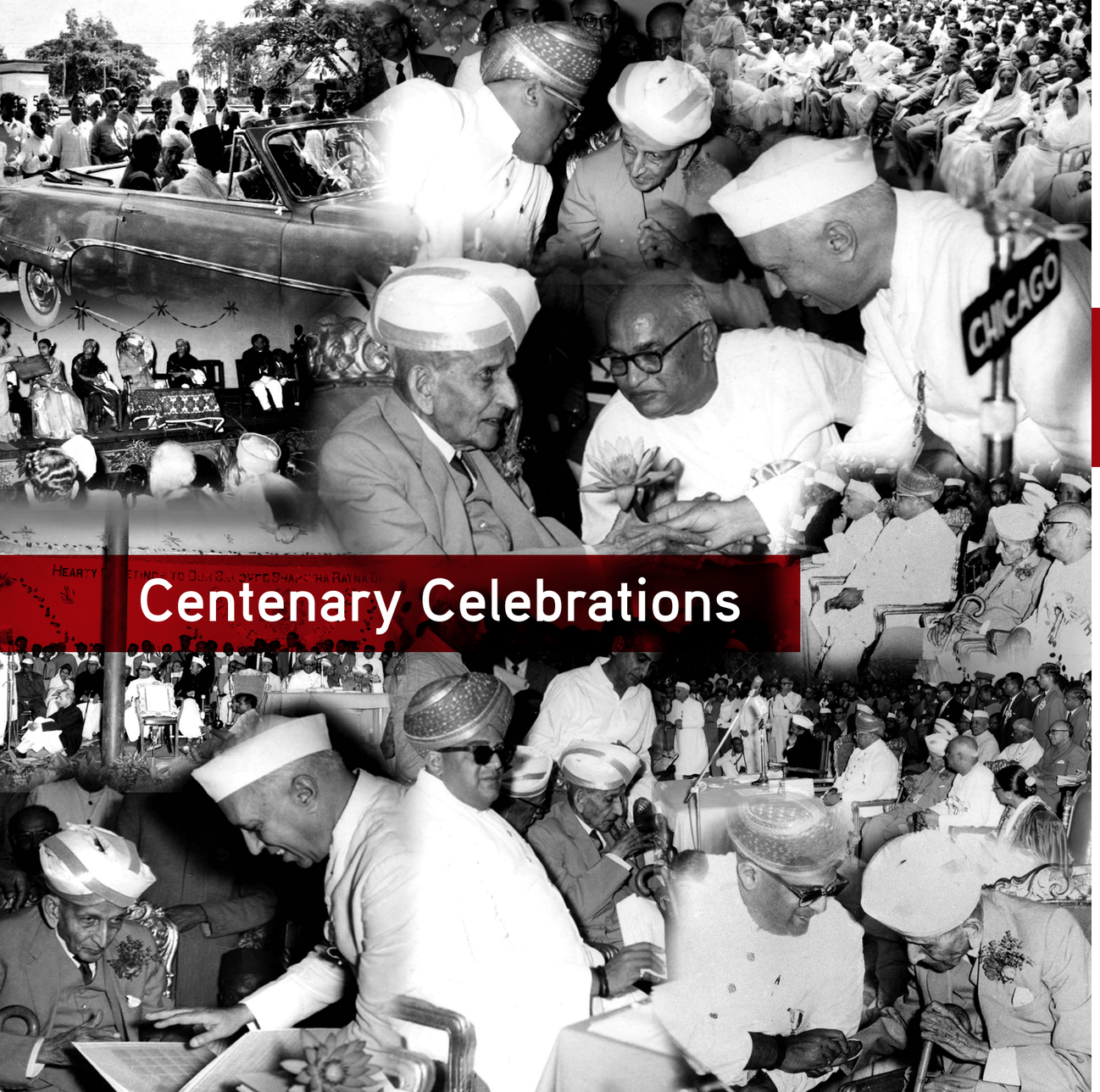
ern ideals and institutions and make Mysore more progressive and prosperous.

Dr. M. V. did not belie these expectations. There was no particular or permanent check to desire for innovation. The British Residents was more than satisfied with the Westernisation of habits and customs that had come to predominate for the previous years, and when he relinquished his office there was a real fear that Mysore would be like a ship without a pilot on the high seas. But we have seen before that Dr. M. V. knew the charts and the compass. Whatever the Peregrinations through or less, he had returned to private practice as Consulting Engineer at the request of Maharaja and even the Government of India, which was so good as that of any political party or leader.

First Publication



Media's accolades for Sir MV



Centenary Celebrations

A tribute to the visionary

Dreamer thinker and a man of action, not lost in past but always thinking of the future, living an integrated life, bringing into existence and giving shape to dreams not for himself but for India and the people of India

- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's centenary tribute to Sir MV



Sir MV, who lived for 102+ years, had the privilege of celebrating his own Birth Centenary, which was observed all across India. The most significant function was held at Lal Bagh in Bangalore, which was graced by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India.

A documentary film was released by the Films Division, Govt. of India, depicting the life and works of Sir MV and several newspapers carried special tributes in his honour. On this unique occasion a special Postage stamp of Visvesvaraya was issued by the Government of India.

His Highness Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, the Rajpramukh of Mysore, who was present on the occasion of the birth centenary of Sir MV paid rich tributes to Sir MV by stating:

"There are few fields of thoughts and constructive endeavours, of technical advancement and national building in which he had not made a significant contribution. Engineering, in all its branches, particularly those of irrigation, reservoirs, dams and water supply, power supply and bridge building; university education, technological and occupational training, town planning, industry and banking, commerce and manufacture. ...Sir MV is a combination of endeavour; adventure, courage, intellect, capacity and strength and thereby enjoys God's Grace... "

Declaration by Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (Sir M. Visvesvaraya) residing in Uplands High ground Bangalore – 15th February 1946

Being in my 85th (eighty-fifth) year I desire to place my wishes on record as to the arrangements to be made for my funeral whenever death (which cannot be very far now) takes place.

2. In the event of my death away from home or without warning, the most responsible person or persons near me at the time of my death and interested in (though not necessarily related to) me are authorised to spend up to a sum of Rs 2500 (Rupees two thousand and five hundred) towards the expenses of my funeral including subsidiary ceremonies and charities and recover the same from my property mentioned in my Will. There is provision made for the expenditure in the Will.

3. Among the personal papers which I carry in my travel boxes I usually keep an office copy of my Will giving in Schedule I of the same full particulars of my property, investments, etc and also a copy of this declaration sheet. A separate sheet giving the latest revised copy of Schedule I will be also kept with the Will. This I propose to revise at intervals of a year or two if the Will itself is not changed during my lifetime.

4. Security bonds, receipts for securities, bank sep-custody receipts etc. of entire movable property are kept done in the house of the Bangalore house and the remainder in my travel boxes (vide detailed statement Schedule I attached to the official Will)

5. My last Will was deposited in the office of the District Registrar of the Bangalore District on 20th July 1945.

The Registrar's receipt for sep custody of the Will will be found in the steel sep in my Bangalore residence or in my travel boxes.

6. As stated in the Will the joint executors are three persons:
(1) M. R. Krishnamurti, my nephew, son of brother Ramchandra Rao,
(2) Mr S. Hiriannaya Retired Revenue Commissioner in Mysore residing in Basavanguddi Bangalore
(3) Takur Kashinath grandson of my sister, the late Sri Nanjamma.

7. Should my death occur in Bangalore City, it is my request to those around me at the time that my body should be quickly taken away in a motor car to my village (Muddenahalli) near Nandi Hill and cremated there. The ceremony may be plain, humble and simple.

Bangalore M. Visvesvaraya
15th February 1946.

A copy of this declaration is kept one in the sep in the Bangalore house and another will be found with office copy of the Will in my Travel Boxes.

AB

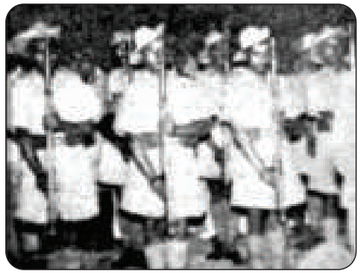
Antim yatra of the legend

Crowd outside Sir MV's house in Bangalore after hearing the news of his demise









State homage to the legend

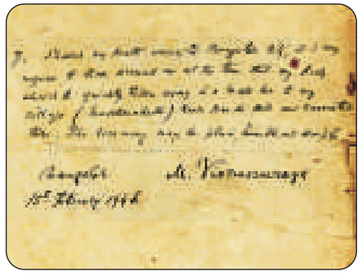


Sh M V Krishnappa, Finance Minister of Karnataka, Sh M R Krishnamurthy, Sir MV's nephew and others at the funeral function in Muddenahalli.



Samadhi Sthal of Sir MV, Muddenahalli

Excerpts from Sir MV's Will





Bangalore Mayor Shri V S Krishna Iyer and others paying homage to Sir MV

Homage to the legend by the grieving nation

Sir MV, whose life was full of significant achievements and contributions to the society, came to an end on 14th April 1962. Muddenahalli, which witnessed the birth of this legend, was once again the place that was chosen by the legend himself to rest in eternal peace.

> Sir MV had wished that his body should be laid to rest at his birth place and the last rites should be performed without any pomp and fanfare.

Despite the legend's own wishes, the state of Karnataka had to pay heed to the reverence and overwhelming demand and wishes of the citizens of the country to accord a state funeral to the legend. Sir MV's body, with full state honour, was carried in a decorated wagon from his residence in Bangalore to Muddenhalli. The decorated wagon of the departed legendary soul left his residence and marched along the Vidhana Saudha, Mysore Bank Circle, Kempegowda Circle, Ananda Rao circle and passed by the Congress Bhavan, Race Course Road, Ringwood Circle reaching Muddenahalli via Sankey Road and Bellary Road. All across the **antim yatra** of the legend thousands of inconsolable mourners paid their homage to this most loved son of India.

Acknowledgement

National Council of Science Museums gratefully acknowledges:

- Smt. Leela Krishnamurathy, Daughter of Shri Hiriannaya, Bangalore
- Smt. Shakuntala Krishnamurthy
- Shri Satish Mokshagundam
- Cauvery Neerawary Nigama
- Visvesvaraya National Memorial Trust, Bangalore
- Karnataka State Archives Department, Govt of Karnataka
- Shri Mukund Dharashivkar, Freelance writer, Maharashtra
- Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited, Bangalore
- Karnataka Engineering Research Station
- AP State Archives and Research Institute, Hyderabad
- Premier Automobile Ltd, Mumbai
- Hirakud Dam Project, Odisha
- Tata Steel Ltd, Jamshedpur
- Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited, Odisha
- Directorate of Irrigation Research & Development, Pune
- Mysore Palace
- Nehru Memorial and Museum and Library, New Delhi
- Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi
- Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India
- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt of India
- Films Division, Mumbai
- G D Naidu Museum and Industrial Exhibition, Coimbatore and others
- Shri Sajjan Jindal, CMD, JSW Group
- Smt. Sangita Jindal, Chairperson, JSW Foundation

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EAST ZONE

EAST ZONE

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENCE MUSEUMS (Hqrs) &
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- Regional Science Centre, Guwahati

Science City, Kolkata

Birla Industrial & Technological Museum, Kolkata
- Shrikrishna Science Centre, Patna
- Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar
- North Bengal Science Centre, Siliguri
- District Science Centre, Purulia
- Bardhaman Science Centre, Bardhaman
- Dhenkanal Science Centre, Dhenkanal
- Digha Science Centre & National Science Camp, Digha
- Kapilas Science Park, Kapilas

WEST ZONE

Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai
- District Science Centre & Planetarium, Dharampur
- Regional Science Centre, Bhopal
- Regional Science Centre & Planetarium, Calicut
- Goa Science Centre & Planetarium, Panaji
- Raman Science Centre & Planetarium, Nagpur

NORTH ZONE

National Science Centre, Delhi
- Regional Science City, Lucknow
- Kurukshetra Panorama & Science Centre, Kurukshetra

SOUTH ZONE

Visvesvaraya Industrial & Technological Museum, Bangalore
- District Science Centre, Gulbarga
- District Science Centre, Tirunelveli
- Regional Science Centre, Tirupati