



શ્રીરાજ ઈન્ડિયા
સ્ટીમ નેવીએશન કુ.

વાસ દોવસમાં મુંબઈ પહોંચાડનારો

સ્ટીમરો

સ્ટી. "કારાપારા."

ડીસેમ્બર તા. ૨૦ થીએ મુંબઈ જવા ઉપલ્લે.

સ્ટી. "ખંડાલા" બનયુઆરી તા. ૩ થીએ ૧૯૨૭
મુંબઈ જવા ઉપલ્લે.

ટીકાટના ભાવો

સેકન્ડ ક્લાસ: પાર્ક ૨૪-૦-૦

ઈન્ડર: પા. ૧૫-૦-૦

ટેક પા. ૮-૦-૦

મુસલમાની વીથી રૂ. ૪૦; હિંદુ વીથી રૂ. ૩૪.

મુચના—ઉતાડ્યોએ પોતાના મોટા ઠાગીના સ્ત્રીવારે ૧૧
વાગા અગાઉ કસ્ટમમાં પહોંચતાં કરવાં.

સેકન્ડ અને ઇન્ડર માટે એક મહિના અગાઉથી બંદોબસ્ત કરવો.

દરેક હિંદી પેસેન્જરે પોતાની ટીકટ અમારી ઝોરીસમાંથી
લેવી અને બહાર મામલાના ભાષ્યોએ અમારી સાથે પત્રબ-
વહાર કરવાથી પણ યત્ન કરશે. સ્ટીમરને લખતું દરેક કામ-
કાજ અમારી ભત્તી ટેમ્પરેશન નીચે થાય છે.

વધુ ખુલાસા માટે લખો યા મળે:—

કેમલ હીમેડ,

Tel. Add. ૩૭૭ પાછન સ્ટ્રીટ, ડરબન.

"Karamat Durban"

અઠવાડીક પંચાંગ

વાર	ખ્રીસ્તી	હિંદુ	મુસલમાન	પારસી	સુર્યોદય	સુર્યાસ્ત
	૧૯૨૬	૧૯૮૩	૧૩૪૫	૧૨૬૬	ક. મી.	ક. મી.
	ડીસેમ્બર	માગેશીર્ષ	જમાદિલ	કર્તીક		
	૧૨	૧૩	૧૪	૧૫		
શુક્ર	૧૭	સુદિ ૧૩	૧૧	૧૦	૪-૫૩	૬-૫૨
શનિ	૧૮	" ૧૪	૧૨	૧૧	૪-૫૩	૬-૫૩
રવિ	૧૯	" ૧૫	૧૩	૧૨	૪-૫૪	૬-૫૩
સોમ	૨૦	સુદિ ૧	૧૪	૧૩	૪-૫૪	૬-૫૪
મંગળ	૨૧	" ૨	૧૫	૧૪	૪-૫૫	૬-૫૪
બુધ	૨૨	" ૩	૧૬	૧૫	૪-૫૫	૬-૫૫
ગુરુ	૨૩	" ૪	૧૭	૧૬	૪-૫૬	૬-૫૫

South African Indian Congress

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Sixth Session of the South African Indian Congress will meet in Conference at Johannesburg on the 27th, 28th, and 29th days of January 1927.

AGENDA ;—

1. Presidential Speech.
2. Minutes.
3. Secretary's Report.
4. Treasurer's Statement.
5. Round Table Conference.
6. Notices of Motion.
7. Revision of Constitution and Standing Orders.
8. Election of Officials.
9. General.

A. I. KAJEE,

Hon. General Secretary.

South African Indian Congress.

Headquarters :

175, Grey Street, Durban.

સાઉથ આફ્રિકન ઇન્ડિયન કોંગ્રેસ

વાર્ષિક પરિષદ

સાઉથ આફ્રિકન ઇન્ડિયન કોંગ્રેસની ૭મી બેઠક જોહાનીસ-
બર્ગ ખાતે તા. ૨૭, ૨૮ અને ૨૯ જાન્યુઆરી ૧૯૨૭
ના બારો.

યાદી, પ્રમુખનું ભાષણ, મીનીટ, સેક્રેટરીનો રીપોર્ટ,
ટ્રેઝરરનો રીપોર્ટ અને હિસાબ, રાઉન્ડ ટેબલ કોન્ફરન્સ,
દરખાસ્ત, ચાલુ નીયમોમાં સુધારા વધારા, કાર્યકર્તાઓની
ચુટલી અને પરચુરસ.

એ. આઇ. કાજી,

એન. બનરલ સેક્રેટરી.

સા. આ. ઇન્ડિયન કોંગ્રેસ.

રૂમો ભાડે આપવાનાં છે

બાલકોની ખીલીમાં રૂમ ભાડે આપવાના છે દરેક ભવની
સમવડ.

પ્રેરો:

રૂઝવેલી, ૯૪ પ્રિસ બેલ્ડ સ્ટ્રીટ, ડરબન.

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ઈસ્ટર્ન ટ્રેડિંગ કો.
૧૪ પ્રીમ એડવર્ડ સ્ટ્રીટ,
ડરબન.

ઓ. આર. પટેલ

ફ્રુટ એન્ડ વેજિટેબલ ડેપો.

ફ્રેશ ભાતની સાલવાણ, લીંચુ, યેરકી (ખાખા લાયક)
અને ફર્લફલાદી અમાસ બજારમાં પાકે છે.
બહારગમના ઓર્ડરો પર પુરતું ધ્યાન આપવામાં આવશે.
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૧૮૨ ગ્રે સ્ટ્રીટ, હીરાભાઈ મોરાર મટવાડકર, ડરબન
ફોલોલેલ ફ્રુટ અને વેજિટેબલ ઇક્સપોર્ટર્સ
પેકીંગ સારી રીતે કરવામાં આવશે.
ટેલિફોન ૩૮૮૭. અને કમીશન એજન્ટ બોક્સ ૩૧૬.

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એમ. આઈ. ડાદાબાઈ,
જનરલ મર્ચન્ટ.
૨૫, વેન હેગન સ્ટ્રીટ, કેરોલીના, ટ્રાંસવાલ.
ટેલિફોન નં. ૫.

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નથુ ટભા એન્ડ કો.
નવા અને જુના લાકડાના વેપારી.
ધર ખાંધવાનાં લાકડાં, લીન, તથા તેને લખતો સહને
સામાન શખીએ છીએ. ફ્રેશ ઓળ કિફાયત ભાવે મળી
સકશે.
ફ્રુટ બોક્સ કિફાયત ભાવે બનાવી આપીએ છીએ.
નાખીસના બોક્સ ખાસ બનાવી આપીએ છીએ.
માઇસ લીસ્ટ મંગાવી ખાત્રી કરો.
ટેલિફોન ૩૫૧૯. ચાર્જ ૨૪, બીરેયા ફ્લેટ, ડરબન

KAPITAN'S BALCONY HOTEL



કિસ્ટમસના પવિત્ર તહેવારમાં
સ્નેહી મિત્રો અને ઓફીસરોને શુ' ભેટ આપશો?
અમારી પોતાની બેકરીમાં ઉત્તમ ભેટ આપવા
લાયક માલ મસાલાથી તૈયાર કરેલા કિસ્ટમસ કેકસ
આપીશું.
ગયા વર્ષે હમારે ત્યાં બનેલો માલ ખાત્રીના અતે
સ્વાહવાળો તેમજ વધારે લાંબો વખત રહી શકે તેની
ગરની આપવામાં આવી હતી. તે ચાલુ વર્ષમાં
પણ તેવીજ ગરની સાથે ઉંચા તેમજ લહેજતનાર
નાના મોટા સાઈઝમાં તૈયાર કરેલા કિસ્ટમસ
કેકસના ઘણાજ કીફાયત ભાવ રાખ્યા છે કે જેથી
ખરીદનારને ભારે પડે નહિ.
ફ્રુટ કેકસ ૨/૬ થી લઈને ૬૦/- સુધીની કીમતના મળશે.
સુચના. બહારગમના શ્રાહકોએ પોસ્ટલ વિગેરે ખર્ચ
અલગ સમજવો.
ફોન ૩૬૨૩ સેન્ટ્રલ. લખો યા મળો:
એન્ડ મેનેજર ઓર. કે. કેપીટન.
૧૧૮ ગ્રે સ્ટ્રીટ, ડરબન એ અને વિક્ટોરીયા સ્ટ્રીટ,
ડરબન.

Indian Opinion

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ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

MESSAGES OF PEACE AND GOODWILL

THE BISHOP OF NATAL :—

It is my earnest hope and prayer that the representatives of the Governments of India and of South Africa who will be meeting next week at Capetown to confer on the Asiatic problem in South Africa will be guided to decisions in regard to it which will make for a just, wise, and permanent settlement of what is, admittedly, a very difficult question.

THE MAYOR OF DURBAN, MR. H. L. BUZZARD :—

I have been asked to give a message in connection with the above. I hope the deliberations of the Conference will be carried on, as I feel sure they will, with entirely friendly feelings. You will have the advice and opinions of men well acquainted with Indian matters, and whatever conclusions you arrive at will, I hope, be for the good of all concerned. I am glad to see that your deliberations will be preceded by Prayer to the Almighty for guidance. This is right and cannot fail you.

May I wish your Conference every success.

I shall follow your proceedings with great interest.

THE REV. C. F. ANDREWS :—

Let us all observe very earnestly indeed Day of Prayer Sunday next putting our entire faith in Almighty God knowing that our cause is just. Let us cast out every moral evil from our hearts and lives and look entirely to Him to give us victory ; in this way only can we help and strengthen hands of the delegation which Viceroy himself has chosen with such care and judgment.

THE REV. HENRY COTTON :—

I am hoping that the outcome of the Conference will be generally satisfactory and that a wise settlement will be reached along just and humanitarian lines ; which will promote peace and goodwill between the races.

COUNCILLOR THE REV. A. LAMONT, M.A., B.D.,

My earnest desire and prayer is that the Great Round Table Conference will be crowned with success with respect to

(1) A fair, just and equitable attitude towards the Indians of Natal in particular and of South Africa in general

(2) A revised conception of India's place in the sun which extends to Indians who are subjects of His Majesty King George in South Africa

(3) A sane and reasonable decision on the part of the Conference that Europeans in South Africa so far from suffering from the presence and development of their Indian fellow-subjects will be enriched alike economically as morally in the common well-being of all.

In South Africa as in other lands the highest good is open to all and all may equally enjoy it. This is the true British spirit ; and it is fortunate at this juncture on the very eve of the Conference that the Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa is likely to bring this larger, longer

and worthier view to bear on the future destinies of South Africa as a free and full-grown state in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

COUNCILLOR MRS. KNIGHT :—

I hope that the Conference now being held in Capetown between the representatives of the Empire of India, and the Union of South Africa, may further 'Peace and Goodwill' that a broad outlook may govern the proceedings and deliberations, and a policy result which will give justice to all

COUNCILLOR MR. H. H. KEMP :—

On many occasions, and in various ways, I have endeavoured to ripen into fruition a suggestion made to me by the late Lord Milner, during his last visit to South Africa in 1924, after I had put to him, in my own words, the difficult problem with which we, in South Africa (and particularly Natal) were faced by the Asiatic problem. His suggestion was a Round Table Conference. That suggestion to-day is an accomplished fact. It is, I hope, more than that, it is a fact fraught with the solution of a *prima facie* insuperable difficulty—a difficulty which we in Natal in particular are concerned with. Certainly two Union Parliaments have endeavoured to face the difficulty. But with class legislation, such as the Government Class Areas Bills contemplated, our legislators could never hope, in consistency with British traditions, centuries old, of equity and fair play, to succeed. Apart from the endorsement by Mr. J. H. Thomas, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, my efforts were as a voice calling in the wilderness. However, re-inforced, in my endeavours to bring about what I have consistently advocated as the only solution of this difficult problem, by several discussions with the present deputy-leader of the Deputation from the Government of India—Mr. G. L. Corbett—I have successfully persisted. It is true that, in deference to the expressed wishes of the Union Government, and in view of the negotiations which gave promise of bringing about the Conference, I have refrained from my activity in that direction recently.

Nevertheless, it is a matter for rejoicing that the Deputation from the Government of India is here, and that we shall have the Conference.

It would be unlike me if I did not have some grievance in the matter, however ; but it does seem a matter for regret that the Round Table Conference, so far as South Africa is concerned, is to be made the occasion of a political affair, in that the Union is to be represented only by members of the Government. I could have wished that a gentleman such as Mr. Patrick Duncan had been included as one of the representatives of the Union. Apart from that, and, finally, may I repeat, the wish expressed in a memorandum addressed by me to the Town Council on 20th April, 1925, that "this conference will be the means of completely and properly solving the Asiatic question to the satisfaction of all these separate parts of a single economic whole—the British Empire."

DR. GOOL, DEPUTY-PRESIDENT S.A.I.C. 1925 :—

"Our fate is in hands of capable trustworthy men, therefore with hopeful outlook and courageous hearts let us face future.

ADVOCATE JAS. W. GODFREY DEPUTY PRESIDENT, S.A.I.C. 1926 :—

Our hearts are with you, our honour in your hands, we know and believe that you will only agree to such terms as can be accepted with honour to ourselves and the Three-Hundred Millions whom you represent.

MR. A. I. KAJEE, HON. GENERAL SECRETARY, S.A.I.C. :—

It is befitting to the nature of things that this Round Table Conference should meet in the month of Christmas, and with men to whom peace and goodwill are living ideals, nothing but good is sure to come from it.

A word of prayer to the Conference. Let each one of those that sit at the Round Table, remember, that the community whose destinies they are going to consider has no direct voice in their deliberations. Above all let them take the tide of goodwill at its flood and not let it ebb to end in miseries and shadows for those whose fate they have assembled to decide.

MR. V. S. C. PATHER, JT. HON. TREASURER, S.A.I.C. AND JT. HON. SEC. N.I.C. :—

The Round Table Conference meeting as it is with the best brains of India and South Africa and under the best auspices, there is no reason why it should not bring forth good results satisfactory and honourable to both sides. So far as the history of Indians in South Africa goes, this is the first time when two great entities of the British Commonwealth of Nations have come together in Conference to find a solution to that great problem of Race Conflict which has been agitating in nearly all the countries where East met West.

Whatever might be the results of this momentous gathering, we as Indians will have consolation in the thoughts that a principle of consultation—though for the present it may not be between the ruler and the ruled—has been gained, which will in the future be a stepping-stone to other principles that may lead to mutual understanding, goodwill and co-operation essentially necessary for both the races to live side by side peacefully in this land of their birth and adoption.

Let us hope that it shall be so.

MR. AMOD BAYAT, PRESIDENT, NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS.

The Round Table Conference has commenced its sittings.

The European and our Community have strictly conformed to the appeal made by Dr. Malan. The Conference is being held under a peaceful atmosphere. The Delegates have entered the Conference with a desire to do justice.

The Government of India Delegation carry with them the honour of India, and I have every hope that every member of the Delegation will do his duty.

Our cause is just. Need we therefore doubt the result of the Conference?

True, our request to be represented at the Conference was not granted. We have conclusive proof, that, as a Community, we are not a menace, and what need is there to fear?

Allah will always protect the weak, and my

fervent prayer is that the Conference will be attended with every success.

MR. V. LAWRENCE, VICE-PRESIDENT, N.I.C. :—

Peace on earth to men of goodwill.

In a few days hence Christmas all over the world will be celebrating the nativity of that great Prince of Peace. It was on that day the angels sang "GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH AND PEACE ON EARTH FOR MEN OF GOODWILL." How sweet then that the representatives of the Union Government and the Government of India should meet just about this time to discuss the position of the Indians, who form an integral part of this Union. Our Prime Minister General Hertzog who is to open the Round Table Conference on the 17th instant, and who has just returned from the Imperial Conference, where he has gained for South Africa the Sovereign Independence spoke in appreciative terms of the assistance given by the Indian Delegates. Will General Hertzog and his colleagues show their appreciation in the handling of the Indian question at this Conference, which is a momentous one for the Indian community. May God's Blessing rest upon the labours of the representatives of the two countries and may the great God guide them in their deliberations and may they reach an understanding therein that will be honourable, lasting and beneficial to both sides is my earnest and sincere prayer.

MR. S. R. NAIDOO HON. SECRETARY, MARITZBURG BRANCH, N.I.C. :—

The meeting of the Round Table Conference is going to prove a turning point in the history of the South African Indian community and incidentally is going to be the acid test of the British Empire, for any unanimous decisions reached are bound to be held as a precedent, and may likely to be followed in the other Dominions, where the Indian problem as it is called and understood is as acute as it is here. The Hand of Providence, for good or ill, has chosen South Africa as the meeting place of East and West for the discussion of what appears to be at first sight a South African problem, but what would be on a broader vision an Empire problem.

Let it be remembered that for the first time, at any rate as far as South Africa is concerned, India and Union are meeting on an absolute term of equality. Free, frank and full discussions are bound to flow from the meeting. Men on each side, fortified with experience, statesmanship, and with intellectual gifts, will discuss the great issues involved. Although, much against our desire, we have not been permitted to participate in the proceedings of the Conference, yet we owe a duty to ourselves. And that duty will be to consolidate all our forces, and bring about a united front to bear upon issues immediately involved. In our own strength lies the hope of proving the justness of our cause not only to South Africa, but before the bar of humanity.

Men live and die in hopes. Let us hope that justice will triumph, and that we may be treated as citizens of South Africa with privileges enjoyed, and responsibilities shouldered. Let us, as Indians, hope for the best from the Conference.

MR. A. ISMAIL, HON. SECRETARY, CAPE BRITISH INDIAN COUNCIL :—

The forthcoming Conference between the Government of the Union and India is very important; one in the annals of this community. It is going to make or mar the Indian progress and development. My prayer is may the Almighty and the All merciful bring about an honourable settlement, fruitful of happiness and peace to all concerned.

WELCOME

WE extend a hearty welcome to the Government of India Delegation to the shores of South Africa. The Delegation is easily the most important that had so far left the shores of India. It is charged with a mission that is to determine the future of the Indians in South Africa.

The Delegation comprises members with world-wide reputation. Sir Mahommed Habibullah has handled the South African Indian question very delicately and possesses a profound knowledge of our affairs. Of the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, we need not say much. His services in Kenya and Australia are still fresh in our memory. In Sir George Paddison, we have a person who has a personal knowledge of the conditions as they obtain in South Africa though he may not have obtained a thorough knowledge within the short period that he had been in South Africa. Mr. Corbett has served us before. Sir Pheroze Sethna and Sir D'Arcy Lindsay have evinced a great deal of interest in our affairs in South Africa.

The Delegation is a strong one and we feel that the destiny of Indians in South Africa can safely be placed in their hands. We wish the Delegation every success in its sacred mission.

We present our readers with a supplement of the Delegation from India.

THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

BEFORE this issue gets into print the Round Table Conference on the South African Indian question will have been formally opened by the Premier General Hertzog. The Conference will assemble for serious business on Monday. General Hertzog has returned from Great Britain with fresh laurels, and with a spirit of animation he will have opened the Conference. That spirit we have every hope will tend to bring a happy conclusion to the Conference.

The Indian question has been in the force since the year 1895, and although the question has been a plank in the platform of many a politician, no one has been able to suggest a way out of the difficulty. In recent years, especially after the Great War—a War that had brought together all races, irrespective of colour or creed—the question had become very acute in view of the fact that many “budding” politicians had taken the Indian question as the only plank in their platforms. The problem was made to appear alarming notwithstanding the findings of the Asiatic Commission of 1921—a Commission that proved to the world in explicit terms that there was no Indian menace.

We had thought that the Smuts-Gandhi Agreement would have settled once for all the vexed problem but that was not to be. The many legislations, which were passed both in Natal and Transvaal Provinces, and which were directed to adversely effect the Indian community, tend to show that the observance of the terms of the Agreement by the governing authorities was more in breach. This is by the way however.

At the Round Table Conference, India is being

represented by cultured persons. Mr. Sastri's world wide experience, will, we have every reason to believe, materially assist the Delegates attending the Conference to find a solution to the knotty problem. The cause of the Indian community is just, and we have no reason to doubt that the findings of the Round Table Conference will be satisfactory to all.

Elsewhere in this issue are published messages from the Leaders of the Indian community, as also from members of the European community. It is notable that all the gentlemen are animated with one desire and that desire is that the Round Table Conference will arrive at a happy conclusion.

THE PRAYER DAY

WE have, in a previous issue, referred to the efficacy of prayers at this moment. We are passing a period that is momentous in the annals of the history of the Indians in South Africa. Will this period bring with it peace to the Indian community? Let us pray that it will.

We are pleased to learn that all the Provinces are making arrangements to ensure unanimity of action. This is essentially necessary if we are to expect a settlement of the Indian question in South Africa. The date selected for the Prayer Day is indeed appropriate. Let us pray that on Monday the Delegates attending the Round Table Conference will enter into discussions with a spirit of Goodwill and with a desire to find a solution that will be just and equitable.

The meetings that are advertised to be held in every centre will, we hope, be attended by large numbers, for, it is absolutely necessary that every member of the community shall offer his or her prayers. It would be fitting to the occasion if the teachers of Sunday Schools will see that the children attending these schools shall also offer prayers.

We feel sure that the Indian community will respond to the request of the South African Indian Congress.

Farewell Function
To Archdeacon Hodson

The Venerable Archdeacon Morris O. Hodson sailed for England on Friday the 10th inst. The Indian community bid farewell to him at a reception given in his honour at the M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall, Durban, on the 7th inst.

Advocate Jas. W. Godfrey, on behalf of the S.A.I. Congress, garlanded the distinguished guest and presented a bouquet to his sister and wished them bon voyage. Speeches were also delivered recognising his services to the community by Rev. C. F. Andrews, Mr. A. L. Kajee and Mr. V. S. C. Pather.

On behalf of the Natal Indian Congress Mr. Amod Bayat President—garlanded and also presented Archdeacon Hodson with a beautiful pair of flower vases.

The S.A.I. community is poorer by the departure of Archdeacon Hodson. He was a true and trusted friend of the Indians and he championed their cause in and out of season.

We present our readers with a supplement of the Venerable Archdeacon Morris O. Hodson.

Sir Mahommed Habibullah

A Brief Sketch Of His Career

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahommed Habibullah, K.C.I.E., K.T., is a son of the late Mr. Aushukh Hussain Khan Sahab, a scion of the famous and ancient Carnatic family. He was born in September 22, 1869, and after completing his education in the "Zilla" High School, Saidapet, prosecuted his studies for law for which he had an ardent liking, and joined the Bar at Vellore in July 1888. He soon attracted the attention of the authorities, and was appointed to the various honorary offices open to the Non-Officials in the mofussil.

For a period of 13 years he commanded an extensive practice as a Yakil and was recognised to be the leader of the Bar. He laboured much for the welfare of the public; and in 1901 he devoted all his attention to public affairs to the entire exclusion of his legal practice, and thoroughly acquainted himself with the administrative and legislative details of Local Self-Government. He was elected as Non-Official Honorary Chairman of the Vellore Municipality in July 1895 largely through the suffrages of his Hindu brethren on the Council. In this capacity for a period of three years he guided its affairs, with consummate tact for administration.

After giving up a very lucrative practice at the Bar, he accepted the office of Secretary of the Municipality in September 1901 and despite the great personal sacrifice involved thereby continued in that Office until September 1905, when he was made its paid Chairman. He was specially chosen by the authorities for these offices as, before he became the administrative head of the Municipality, its affairs had been in such a notorious state, that the Government had found it necessary in the interest of the taxpayers to dis-enfranchise the Municipality in 1900. From the year 1905 till 1919 for a period of over 14 years, he filled the office of Chairman and showed remarkable industry, which eradicated the scourge of cholera to which the city fell a victim every year, as also a Draining Scheme. He was able to launch these schemes by wise and judicious handling of the finances of the Municipality. He laboured hard to improve the amenities of life in the town and was very keen on improvement schemes for which he was able to obtain appreciable financial aid from Government. He was no less responsible for bringing into existence an up-to-date hospital in the place of an old and ill-adapted which served the purpose. He brought about numerous improvements in the city that it is no exaggeration to say that it was due to him that Vellore was recognised as a model Municipal City. A full-sized oil painting of Sir Mahommed, which was unveiled by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to the Madras Government in 1923, adorns to-day the Lakshmanaswami Town Hall of the City as a reminder of his beneficent activities.

Honours and Government Recognition

In recognition of his disinterested devotion to public weal a certificate of Honour was awarded to him by the Government in 1897 on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria and the title of "Khan Bahadur" conferred upon him in 1905. As the Vice-President and President of the Vellore Taluk Board and subsequently as Vice-President of the North Arcot District Board he earned a reputation for administrative capacity and was in 1917 elevated to the position of the Non-Official President of the District Board, North Arcot. As an active and vigilant member of the pre-Reforms Legislative Council from 1909 to 1911, he shared in the discussion of many important questions concerning his electorate and was noted for the courage of his conviction. He was regarded as the best orator on that body next to Sir Arthur Lawley, the then Governor of Madras. It is noted to his credit that he was elected to the Madras Legislative Council by a mixed electorate consisting of mostly Hindu voters, representing North Arcot, Chingleput and Nellore Districts. Such was his popularity among the Hindus that they vied

with one another in giving their votes to him, in preference to other Hindu rival candidates.

He attended the Coronation Durbar of H.M. King George V. in December 1911, as the guest of the Madras Government, and was one of the few who was chosen for that rare privilege of paying homage to His Majesty on the occasion of the Coronation. He had also the honour of being presented to the King Emperor at the Royal Court held at Calcutta after the Coronation.

In his Council work, as in other fields of public activity, there was not a single Committee or Conference convened by Government, in which his participation had not been secured, nor was there any administrative or legislative measure of importance in which his advice was not sought by the Local Government and the District authorities, showing the great regard in which his views were held by them.

It was in the year 1919 that his exceptional merits found suitable recognition when he was appointed by that sagacious and shrewd statesman Lord Willingdon as Temporary Member of the Executive Council during the absence of the Hon'ble Sir P. Rajagopal Achariar on leave for six months (July 1919 to January 1920) and in that capacity he held the portfolio of Local Self-Government with credit. On the expiry of this period, in view of his wide knowledge and long experience of Local and Municipal Administration, he was nominated as expert member to steer the District Municipalities Bill through the Legislative Council.

In April 1920, he was appointed Commissioner of the Madras Corporation and was the first Non-Official to be chosen to that office under the Madras City Municipal Act of 1919. In June of the same year he was the recipient of the title of C.I.E. in recognition of his meritorious services as Temporary Member of the Executive Council which His Excellency publicly acknowledged in his speech at Vellore, in reply to the address of the Municipal Council.

On the introduction of the Reforms in December 1920, he was appointed permanently to the position of Member of the Executive Council and took his seat on December 17, 1923. He had the charge of the Revenue portfolio and inaugurated far-reaching reforms in the Land-Revenue Administration of the Presidency. By his frequent tours, he came into touch with the land-owning and agricultural classes and studied the problems affecting their welfare at first hand. He endeared himself, in particular, to the people of the Ceded Districts by his sympathetic and humane famine measures during the years 1921 to 1923 which were suitably acknowledged by the representatives of these Districts in the Legislative Council. Although Sir Mahommed assumed charge of the most important portfolio in the Provincial Government without any previous training or experience of the intricate and complex problems of Land Revenue administration, yet it must be said to his credit that he left the Department with an impress of his efficient, tactful and sympathetic management of its affairs.

He has always held independent and authoritative views on all matters of administrative import. He gave valuable evidence before the Royal Commission on Decentralisation and the Islington Public Services Commission and was appointed as the Provincial representative of the Indian Reforms Committee.

Further honours were in store for him. A Knighthood was conferred on him in June 1922.

Member of the Viceroy's Council

Sir Mahommed was a member of the Royal Commission on Superior Public Services in India presided over by Viscount Lee during 1923-1924 and he contributed not a little to the Commission's main recommendations on Indianisation and Provincialisation of Imperial Services. He returned in March 1924 for a few months as Senior Member and Vice-President of the Madras Executive Council; and in December 1924 was elevated to H.E. the Viceroy's Executive Council as Member for Education, Health and Lands to fill the place vacated by the Hon'ble Sir Muhammad Shafi. He has been since

appointed as Pro-Chancellor of the Delhi University. In June 1924, he was made a K.C.I.E. It is confidentially anticipated that he is destined for further honours and distinctions at the hands of His Majesty the King Emperor.

An eloquent speaker and a trenchant writer, gentle and alert in appearance, catholic and large hearted, highly thoughtful and cultured, known alike for his devotion, courage, sympathy and insight, this distinguished noble man enjoys in a pre-eminent degree the respect and confidence of Government and the love and affection of the people, as it is given to few in the illustrious roll of public men in India. As an administrator and statesman, he has made a name; and as a premier Muslim nobleman of India, he is held in universal esteem.

The Rt. Hon. Mr. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri

A Brief Sketch of his Career

Mr. Sastri was born of poor parentage in a village called Valangiman in the Madras Presidency on 22nd September, 1869. While young he showed remarkable aptitude for English studies. He matriculated in his 14th year and entered the Government College, Kumbakonam. He passed his F.A. in 1885, and his B.A. in 1888, standing first in Presidency of Madras, and with a first class in English, besides winning prize money and a gold medal for proficiency in English. After his course of studies, he served as a teacher in the Municipal High School in Mayavaram, the Municipal College at Salem, Pachaiyappa's High School in Madras, and finally became the Headmaster of the Hindu High School Triplicane. It was then that he came under the spell of that charming orator and statesman, the late Mr. Gokhale. Gokhale became his idol of worship. Disregarding the life of poverty and strictest discipline the Servants of India Society, founded by Gokhale, enjoined upon its members. Sastri joined it in 1907. His apprenticeship to the Servants of India Society laid the "foundations of that scholarship, and mastery of facts and profundity of grasp." His public life became a living being. In 1913 Mr. Sastri was nominated to the Madras Legislative Council. On Gokhale's death in Feb. 1915, after his mission to South Africa, Mr. Sastri was elected President of the Servants of India Society—and in this upon no worthier shoulders fell the mantle and leadership of Gokhale. In 1916 Mr. Sastri was returned to the Imperial Legislative Council. He served with Sir Surendranath Banerjee, that Gladstone of India, on the Franchise Committee appointed under the Montagu-Chelmsford Scheme in 1918. In the following year he went to England as a member of the deputation of the Moderate Party, and gave evidence before the Joint Parliamentary Committee. His evidence "was characterised by phenomenal mastery, independence, outspokenness and dignity." In rapid succession he was elevated from one post to another, and in 1920 he was elected to the Council of State. A memorable occasion came. In June 1921 Mr. Sastri was appointed to go to England to attend the Imperial Conference as India's representative. His presence at the Conference proved a triumph for himself. "The striking impression that he succeeds in creating by his personality, eloquence, dialectic skill and diplomatic finesse" craved him out as a statesman of no mean order. It was then he met Gen. Smuts, who attended the Conference as the then Premier of the Union. The Freedom of the City of London was conferred upon him, and His Majesty the King was pleased to appoint him a Member of the Privy Council.

of Mr. Sastri and the Maharaja of Cutch, he described the British Empire as the Greatest Temple of Freedom. He said on that occasion "Like culture, like knowledge, like virtue, and like spiritual merit, freedom is a thing which the more it is given the more it grows; the more it is spread wide on all lands and soils the more it takes from the substance where it dwells and in return gives out in greater abundance of beauty and colour and bliss for all" One triumph leads to another. . . Mr. Sastri represented India at the Second Assembly of the League of Nations held in Geneva. "The speech that he made on that occasion has been pronounced by eminent critics to be the highest exhibition of finished oratory." The following lines vividly describe his ability as an orator:—

"There was a hush of expectancy as a tall, dignified figure, picturesque in his flowing tunic and white turban mounted the tribune. Men wondered what the Brahmin from the slumbering East had to tell them of political idealism and statecraft. With some, well bred courtesy could hardly disguise a supercilious indifference. Yet the first few phrases, like the opening notes of an organ, had captured the attention of the most indifferent and the most doubting. As sentence followed sentence in rich sonorous voice, cadence answering to cadence, harmony to harmony, the smiles vanished and attention deepened. Every ear was strained as if fearful of missing a single syllable. For twenty minutes or so the audience was spell-bound. Then as the orator's last word, softly spoken in the dying fall of the concluding phrase sank into silence, there was a thunderous outburst of applause. The East had spoken in accents unsuspected by the West."

The Government of India sent Mr. Sastri as their representative to the Washington Conference. Although critics questioned the need for Indian representation at this Conference, yet "the real significance of the Conference for India lay of course in the recognition of her place in the comity of nations." The gain to India lay in the excellent impression created in the American mind by Mr. Sastri's achievement and intellectual force. "His eloquence swept Washington off its feet as it had previously done in London."

Mr. Sastri thereafter returned to India, but his stay was not destined to be long. The Government of India, taking advantage of invitations issued to India's representative at the Imperial Conference by the Premier of New Zealand, Australia and Canada, decided to send Mr. Sastri as a missioner. On his departure (23rd May, 1922) at a Viceregal Banquet given by His Excellency Lord Reading, then Viceroy of India, His Excellency spoke "in terms of striking eulogy of Mr. Sastri's qualities of head and heart and his unique services to India." The sum total of his mission to the Dominions resulted in the removal of many disabilities to which Indian residents were subjected. The Commonwealth of Australia admitted Indians to the sanctum of the Franchise.

What is the secret of Mr. Sastri's greatness? Moulded in the school of thought of Gokhale, he has the keen grasp and capacity of appreciating the view of the "otherside" as much as his own. On the world's stage and in the humdrum of politics, he is not dragged down to its muddy level, but seeks an elevated plane from which his perspective becomes dearer and his thought and action sounder.

His art of oratory can by no means be measured. His treasure house of words is inexhaustible. His noble bearing, his personality, and above all his depth of vision give him the imprimature of a philosopher-politician-statesman. Earl Balfour has placed Mr. Sastri among the five of the world's foremost orators of the day. His training

eulogised him as the Empire's silver-tongued orator.

Just the other day he gave a repeat lecture in Madras on "Constitution problems"—a series of lectures known as the "Kamala's lectures", which he first delivered in Calcutta. It showed his profundity of knowledge in jurisprudence and international politics. His lectures were described by a critic as the setting of oscillating gems in a crown studded with jewels. So illuminating, so enchanting and so instructive was it.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai, whose knowledge of the South African Indian question, was appreciated by all who came in contact with him acted as Secretary to Mr. Sastri both at the Imperial and Washington Conferences. He said, "Mr. Sastri's name was sacred to him, his poverty was his wealth, as he has dedicated his life and his all to Mother India."

Mr. Sastri although a leader of the Moderate party, is an extremist among the moderate, and moderate among the extremist.

He is truly an Ambassador, of whom India is proud. Above all he is one of the strong pillars of the British Empire.

Government of India Delegation

The Government of India Delegation to attend the Round Table Conference arrived at Lourenco Marques on the 13th instant by the *s.s. Karapara*. The Delegation comprised Sir Muhammed Habibullah, the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, Mr. G. L. Corbett, Sir Pheroze Sethna, Sir George Paddison, and Sir D'Arcy Lindsay. A special train awaited them at the quay and they were taken to Pretoria, Col. T.H.P. Oreswell joining them at the Border. The special train arrived at Pretoria at 3 a.m. on the morning of the 14th instant. The Delegation were the guests of His Excellency the Governor-General at a luncheon given at Government House.

The officials and members of the South African Indian Congress as well as thirty-five members of the Natal Indian Congress travelled to Pretoria to extend a welcome to the Delegation.

In accordance with the arrangements made by the General Secretary of the South African Indian Congress and the Secretaries of the Natal Indian Congress, Sir Muhammed Habibullah and his co-delegates arrived at Rissik Station at 2-40 p.m. on Tuesday. At the station, there were gathered the representatives of the South African Indian Congress, Natal Indian Congress, Transvaal British Indian Association and the Cape British Indian Council. The Delegation was introduced to the representative gathering. Mr. Amod Bayat as Vice-President and on behalf of the South African Indian Congress garlanded the members. Advocate Jas. W. Godfrey, the Deputy-President of the South African Indian Congress, who arrived a few minutes late joined in the proceedings.

Mr. E. I. Aswat, the President of the Transvaal British Indian Association garlanded the Delegates on behalf of the Transvaal Indians. The Delegates were also garlanded by the Transvaal Parsee Association, Pretoria Indian community and the Transvaal Tamil Benefit Society. Lastly, Mr. Amod Bayat, President of the Natal Indian Congress garlanded the Delegates on behalf of the Natal Indian Congress.

A remarkable feature of the last function was that the garlands were made from Natal Carnations.

The leader of the Deputation thanked those present for the warm welcome.

The Delegation thereafter immediately left for Capetown by special train amidst tumultuous cheering.

Mahatma Gandhi and Rev. C. F. Andrews' Letter

Here are extracts from a letter from Mr. Andrews after his arrival in Durban.

"It is good to get here again, and though it has been a difficult time on the voyage I am ~~so thankful~~ that I came on and did not delay longer. There are any amount of things here to be settled and other things to put straight before the delegation arrives, and it will take every moment of my time to get through."

"Today I have had the warmest possible welcome and Rawat's Bioscope was crowded this evening at the 'welcome.' I am staying with Sorabji at 19, 1st Avenue. The house at 110, Field Street is all pulled down and the site sold to an European!

"The days have been crowded to the full and it is almost impossible to avoid it as I had expected. There was a very serious small-pox outbreak in the Indian quarters and every single small-pox case was that of an Indian. The mortality was as high as 25 per cent and it was of a very virulent type. There were vicious letters in the Press abusing Indians for insanitary habits etc. The one thing to do was what you did in Johannesburg and after getting vaccinated myself (without which I could have done nothing at all) I got the Medical Officer to let me visit the Indians who were kept in quarantine daily, and did everything I could to pacify them. Also we met and formed an Indian Health Committee and decided to work under the Doctor's orders and he has already set us to work. At once, as soon as this was announced the whole tone of the Press changed and we have been praised where before we were being blamed. Altogether it is going to work out for the best.

"I have had time now to consider things fully and get hold of the situation. There is no doubt that if we can get the best public opinion on our side in the next few weeks we shall get a good Press and materially help the Conference by creating a favourable atmosphere beforehand. It has been rather difficult to persuade them not to have a big demonstration just at the time of the Conference, thinking it would 'impress' them. I have been explaining to them that some good solid work clearing out the dirt from insanitary quarters would 'impress' far more than all the demonstrations and speeches in the world.

The reference to the sale of the property in Field Street revives oldest memories. It was one of the oldest properties of which a long lease was purchased by the late Haji Aboobaker Amod,—one of the earliest Indian merchants to settle in South Africa. The property was sub-let to the late Parsee Rustomjee who had possession of it till his death. It was more a public place than a private store—most informal Indian gatherings were held there. It was the place where the most important decisions were taken. It was there that Gokhale used to pass much of his day time. It was there that Andrews worked. It sheltered the rich and the poor. It had become a real *dharmashala*. On the expiry of the lease the Durban Town Council refused to renew the lease and advertised the property for sale subject to the prohibition of Indian bids. The Durban Town Council knew the (to the Indians) sacred character of the place but the knowledge could not save the property from passing into European hands. Hence the reference to it by Mr. Andrews and the note of exclamation.

His presence there at this juncture is indeed a god-send. The unfortunate outbreak of small-pox might easily have created a panic both among Europeans and Indians. The former might have taken dangerously drastic measures and the latter might have become paralysed with fear. The prompt measures taken by Mr. Andrews averted what might have developed into a calamity.

That godly man's presence is likely to turn the scales in favour of the settlers. And though not much may be expected of the Conference, he is certainly creating the proper atmosphere for a calm and just consideration of the intricate problem.

Sir Mahommed Habibulla's delegation has a heavy responsibility on its shoulders. It has the solid backing of unanimous public opinion. Let us hope for the best.—
(*Young India*.)

Mr. Polak Thanks S.A. Indians

The Editor, INDIAN OPINION, Phoenix, Natal.

Dear Sir,—May I ask you to allow me the privilege, through your columns, of thanking, on behalf of Mrs. Polak and myself, all our friends in South Africa who have at this moment of our bereavement, so sudden and inexplicable, helped to lighten the burden of our sorrow by their generous sympathy? Our son Waldo never forgot that he was a South African by birth and that, not only was there a special obligation upon him to express towards the Indian community all that is best in the European community, but that he and all the members of my family have ever received boundless affection from our large number of friends and fellow-workers in the South African Indian community. If this young career has appeared to be cut short in its early flowering, we can only suppose that it is in accordance with a great unknown plan, and that the activities that have been begun in the earthly body are being continued in the realm of the spirit. It has been a matter of great consolation to us to know that we still retain the warm affection of the Indian community that we have always so highly valued, notwithstanding, the fact that we are not now resident in the country to which we tried to give of our best, and in which we gathered so rich and varied an experience.

Yours sincerely and gratefully,

H. S. L. POLAK.

Our East African Letter

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Mombasa, 4th December 1926.

The Indian Delegation for the Round Table Conference arrived here yesterday. Hon. Mr. J. B. Pandya, Hon. Mr. R. S. Nehru, Mr. A. B. Patel, Advocate Mr. A. H. Kaderbhoj and other prominent Indian Leaders had been on board to receive the Members of the Delegation. All the members of the delegation were entertained at a garden party at Mr. Jiwanjee's bungalow.

East Africa and South Africa

It is now the unanimous opinion of our leaders in India, and East Africa as well that what is finally settled in South Africa must naturally react on East Africa. For instance at an interview given to the Editor of the Comrade, an Indian Weekly Paper published at Dar-es-salaam when asked whether the South African and East African problems were the same. Mr. Andrews replied; "In one important sense they are one and the same problem. Everything that is finally settled in South Africa along with other dominions, must react on East Africa immediately. On the other hand if South Africa takes up a hostile attitude it will certainly give a handle to the Anti-Asiatic agitation in Tanganyika (formerly German East Africa) and Kenya (formerly British East Africa). Let me show you this by an example. I actually asked Mahatmaji whether I might break my journey on this very voyage and arrive a fortnight later in South Africa, but he said to me at once 'certainly not.' Every minute of your time must be given to South Africa for there is the storm centre and whatever is settled there will most directly influence the whole of East Africa also. Only after you have finished your work in South Africa can you be spared to stay in East Africa."

Indians in East Africa have realised that the cause of their countrymen in South Africa is theirs and they must

carefully keep a watchful eye on what is happening in South Africa. The Indian community here is very eagerly awaiting to know what would happen at the forthcoming Round Table Conference.

General Smuts has openly stated in October last that our question is soluble. If it is so—and it is so if the Union Government cares to do it,—it must be finally solved now. But the General has in a very diplomatic way suggested a compromise by putting in the suggestion that the question of East and West will always crop up. It means that only compromise that may result from the Round Table Conference will be nothing but a show and a garlanding of mere words. It is therefore better that we should flatly refuse to submit to any compromise. We can not rely anymore on the compromises and the solemn promises by The Union Government. The past record of the Union Government's dealings with us shows that every solemn pledge has not only been broken but has been arbitrarily reversed when an opportunity has arisen.

For instance, was not the Smuts-Gandhi agreement a solemn pledge? But where is it today? In these circumstances India could not afford to put anymore reliance on the Union Government's pledges. And what we want is the reversal of the Asiatic Bill and it must die a natural death or the Indian Community must be prepared to stand at the parting of the ways. It would be better for our people to bear hordes of injustices more severe than the present Bill could impose upon them to accept a crumb from the hesitating Whiteman who when pressure is brought upon him, is always prepared to make a grudging concession which is soon taken away when opportunity arises. The Indian members of the delegation know very well that they have come here to represent India as a Nation and not otherwise. And as such it is their foremost task to see that they do so in a way which could be acceptable to their Race. Of course, it is up to the Members of the delegation to what to agree and to what they should not agree; they should not forget to see that their countrymen's wishes are carried out. There is every possibility of the Union Government's agreeing to a revision of some of the provisions of the Asiatic Bill or in another form they may suggest a Commercial Treaty. But such things could not be of any use at all. Therefore we must ask the Union to throw the Asiatic Bill to the waste paper basket and if they are not prepared to do it, the only honourable way for the Indian Delegation would be to return to India and to show what they can do.

"No Tax Campaign"

The Government of East Africa has recently proposed to impose an additional Poll Tax of 20s. on Asiatics only. The Government's loose plea for this additional taxation is to raise more revenue to meet the educational expenses of this Colony. It is for the first time in the history of this Colony that the Government has proposed the taxation on racial lines. The Indian community has strongly protested against it. At a Mass Meeting held under the auspices of the Indian Citizens Association at Mombasa it has been decided to hold the next Session of the East African Indian National Congress at Mombasa on 25th, 26th, and 27th December this year. Everyone is of the opinion that the Indian community must plunge in Satyagrah. Perhaps the Congress will decide for a "No Tax Campaign." At present the Government has been asked to abandon the proposition of this New Taxation and failing a favourable decision the Leaders have determined to non-cooperate with the Government by refusing to pay the additional Poll Tax.

"INDIAN OPINION"

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NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS

PRAYER DAY

FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

A Monster Meeting of Indians will be held at the Indian Football Grounds, Mitchell Crescent, Durban on Sunday 19th instant at 10-30 a.m. when prayers will be offered to the Almighty God for the success of the Round Table Conference.

All are requested to attend.

AMOD BAYAT,

President.

V. S. C. PATHER and SORABJEE RUSTOMJEE,

Joint Hon. Secretaries.

நாடாள் ஈந்தியன் க்ரெஸ்
ராண்ட் டேபல் கான்஫ர்ன்ஸனி க்தெஹ் ஈந்தியா மாடெ
பார்த்தினானி டிவஸ்

ஹிந்தியானி க்ரெஸ் க்ரெஸ் சபா, டர்ஹன்மா ஹிந்தியன் க்ரெஸ் க்ரெஸ் மாடெஸ்ட் மாடெஸ்ட்
ரவ்வார தா. 19 டிசெம்பர்னி சவாரே சாடி டிசெம்பர்னி சவாரே சாடி டிசெம்பர்னி சவாரே சாடி டிசெம்பர்னி சவாரே சாடி
டேபல் கான்஫ர்ன்ஸனி க்தெஹ் ஈந்தியா மாடெ ஈந்தியா மாடெ ஈந்தியா மாடெ ஈந்தியா மாடெ ஈந்தியா மாடெ

ஈந்தியா மாடெ ஈந்தியா மாடெ ஈந்தியா மாடெ ஈந்தியா மாடெ ஈந்தியா மாடெ

ஆமோட் லீயாத், ப்ரஸிடென்ட்.

வீ. எஸ். சி. பதர் அன் ஸோராபஜி ருஸ்தம்ஜி

ஜெண்ட் ஆன்சரரி செகரெட்டரி.

நாடாள் ஈந்தியன் க்ரெஸ்
ராண்ட் டேபல் கான்஫ர்ன்ஸனி க்தெஹ் ஈந்தியா மாடெ
பார்த்தினானி டிவஸ்

समस्त हिन्दुस्तानी भाइयोंको सुचित किया जाता है कि रविवार ता. १९ डिसेम्बर १९२६
को दिन में साढे दस बजे के समय इंडियन फुटबोल ग्राउंड, मिचेल क्रीसेंट, डरबनके स्थान पर
एक विराट सभा—मीटिंग—होगा. सर्व शक्तिमान परमेश्वरसे राऊंड टेबल कान्फरेंसके सफलता
प्राप्त करनेके लिये प्रार्थना किया जायगा.

सब किसीसे निवेदन है कि वे अवश्य कृपा करके सभामें पधारे.

आमोद भयात,

सभापति.

वी. एस. सी. पथर और सोराबजी रुस्तमजी.

संयुक्त मंत्री.

ஈம்
நெட்டால் இந்தியன் காங்கிரஸ்.

பிராத்தவண தினம்.

ரவுண்ட் டேபில் கான்஫ர்ன்ஸ்

கன்மையாய் முடிய கடவுளை பிரார்த்தனை செய்ய ஈர் இந்திய பொதுக் கூட்டம் குதிரை பந்தையத்
துக்கெத்தாப்போலிருக்கும் இந்தியர்கள் பந்தாடும் இடத்தில் வருகிற குாயிற்றுக்கிழமை 10.30 மணிக்கு
கூடுதல் இக்கூட்டத்தையும் வரும்படி நயவுடன் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறோம்.

ஆமோட் லீயாத் (புத்திராசனார்)

வீ. எஸ். சி. பதர் அன் ஸோராபஜி ருஸ்தம்ஜி

ஜெண்ட் ஆன்சரரி செகரெட்டரி.