

REPORT OF NON SPONSORED/LOCAL ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY CENTRES / OVERSEAS CHAPTERS

Name of Centre		ANDHRA PRADESH	
Title of Activity:		Sir Arthur Cotton Jayanthi	
Activity under Divisional Board		CIVIL	
Date:	15-05-2023	Venue:	ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CENTRE



Report of Non-sponsored Activities

Brief Details about the Programme:

10 AM - Joining the Program

10:10 AM – Started the garlanding to Sir Arthur Cotton Statue Member of IEI



Prof.(Dr.) M L S Deva Kumar, FIE, Hon. Secretary, IEI APSC

10:20 AM - Er. Ramesh Kumar, MIE & Er. Alapati Prasad, FIE garlanding to Sir Arthur Cotton Statue



Er. Alapati Prasad, FIE

Vadde Sobhanadreeswara Rao garu told the greatness of Sir Aurthor Cotton garu Sir Arthur lambasted the Raj for its neglect of India and described himself as a man with one idea that could make a difference here: irrigation. The Dowleswaram Barrage, also known as the Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage on Godavari river. Photos: Wikimedia Commons

In 1877, at the height of the Great Famine that devastated the south, a distinguished Englishman, recently knighted for services rendered to the British empire, yet again took a vociferous stand against the policies of his queen's government in India. For years he had railed against imperial overzeal for the railways—a sophisticated scam that funnelled out Indian resources while delivering unconscionable profits to faraway investors—and now he was vindicated. For “we have before our eyes,” he noted, “the sad and humiliating scene of magnificent (rail) Works that have cost poor India 160 millions, which are so utterly worthless in the respect of the first want of India, that millions are dying by the side of them.” The railways certainly brought grain to starving masses, but the costs were so disproportionately high that nobody could afford to buy them—official profiteering perverted even the delivery of famine relief.

Sir Arthur Cotton had made a career of crossing the line where India was concerned, taking stands that irritated his superiors even as they earned him much local admiration—two districts of Andhra Pradesh hold an estimated 3,000 statues of the man. He was, of course, as much an imperialist as his peers, but it was not a desire

to bring glory to Great Britain that motivated him. Instead, this 10th son of the 10th son of a regrettably named Sir Lynch Cotton had experienced a religious awakening as a young man in 1826. Thereafter, he felt his mission was to work “for the glory of God...and the benefit of men”, and with familiar racial condescension, he decided that the men in question were poor brown Indians. His self-righteousness, however, was wedded to sincerity—having taken up the Indian cause, Sir Arthur never gave up, describing himself as “a man with one idea” that could make a difference in India: irrigation.

11 AM - End of Session