CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT IN KRISHNA DISTRICT

During the time of non-co-operation movement, it is seen that the policies and actions of the Congress, though practical, were vague. Congress did not pass the resolution for 'complete independence' till 31st December, 1931, the date on which 'Lahore Congress resolved, where it says "This Congress therefore, in pursuance of resolution passed at its session at Calcutta last year, declares that the word 'Swaraj' in article 1 of the Congress Constitution shall mean complete independence and further declares that the entire scheme of the Nehru Committee's Report to have lapsed and hopes that all Congressmen will henceforth devote their exclusive attention to the attainment of complete independence to India."'

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald returned to India on October 31st, 1929 and said "I am authorised on behalf of his Majesty's government to state clearly that in their judgement it is implicit in the declaration of 1917 that the national issue of Indian Constitutional progress, as then contemplated is the attainment of Dominion Status."

On 30th, January 1930 Mahatma Gandhi published in the 'Young India' his eleven points which included among others introduction of total prohibition, reduction
of land revenue by 50%, abolition of salt tax and declared, "Let the Viceroy satisfy us with regard to these very simple but vital things of India." \(^2\) Shortly afterwards the Congress met at Sabarmath in February 14th, 15th, 16th, 1930 and empowered Gandhi and those working with him with full authority to lead and direct the Civil disobedience movement.

Thus Gandhi having empowered, decided to launch the Civil disobedience movement by breaking the salt laws of the government at Dandi on 6th April, 1930. Gandhi declared in his programme that the entire country should try to break the salt laws by manufacturing contraband salt and that women should picket the shops, dealing in liquor, opium and foreign cloth, students must leave government schools and colleges and that government servants should resign from their services. While taking these things as direct actions, he did not forget to appeal to the public the most important items, that is bonfire of foreign cloth and non payment of taxes. He also appealed to Hindus to discard untouchability.

Taking the government action in enhancing the tax on salt, Gandhiji, accompanied by a band of 79 trained and disciplined workers marched on foot from Sabarmath Ashram to the sea shore on 12th March, 1930. The distance
of 200 miles was travelled in 24 days. On the way cheered by thousands of admirers, who exhibited a good deal of fervour and patriotic sentiment, Gandhi reached Dandi on 5th April, 1930. On the next day after the morning prayer, Gandhi along with his followers commenced civil disobedience movement by picking salt lying on the sea shore.

Krishna Patrika referring to this salt satyagraha, hails it as "the dawn of moon of independence", and it characterised it as 'a movement of soul force unprecedented in the annals of civilised world' and 'a great unfailing divine weapon granted by the 'goddess of independence to that supreme saint' and exhorted the people to have a purifying ablution in the river of independence which flows in the heart of every Indian.\footnote{3} Again the paper Satyagrahi wrote, the trumpet of war had been sounded. An unprecedented war commenced by The Indian nation has resolved to bathe Mother India with streams of its own blood.\footnote{4}

The movement gathered momentum very soon. Ladies from aristocratic families also came to participate in the action. At Dharasana, 2,500 satyagrahis raided a salt depot. The police resorted to merciless repression. The government gained its peak point in June, 1930.
The administrative machinery was paralysed at many places. But the police force went into action and the public places turned into red, with the thick and warm blood of the patriots. Jawaharlal Nehru, Congress President, was arrested on 14th April and his arrest was followed by the imprisonment of other leaders too. Nearly 60,000 people went to jail. It was the first time such a large number of people courted arrest. Whosoever wore the Gandhi cap or khaddar was indiscriminately lathicharged or arrested. At Sholapur five police stations were set to fire by the mob. The result was firing and deaths everywhere.

Finally Gandhi was arrested on 4th May at 1.10 A.M. He was taken to Boriwal Station and then to Erahwada Jail.

Andhra Patrika writes "with the arrest of Mahatma, who had been acknowledged as the greatest man, it may be said that the repressive policy of Lord Irwin had reached its Zenith. With the arrest, England had lost the opportunity of solving the problem of India amicably. The whole civilised world cannot but feel sorry for his arrest. By this Act England had entirely lost her prestige and she cannot but sustain irreparable disrepute."

As the Civil Disobedience Movement was in full swing, the British government convened a Round Table Conference, in which British Prime Minister, Mr. Macdonald presided and moved some constitutional proposals namely a
Federal form of government for India. Firstly in the provinces he proposed full responsible governments subject to the special responsibility of the governors to safeguard the interests of the minorities and secondly in the centre, a dyarchy in the centre with a governor general armed with special powers. Jinnah demanded for acceptance of his 14 point formula and separate electorate for Muslims. Dr. Ambedkar demanded reservation of seats for Harijans. Though the Hindu delegates agreed for reservation of seats to minorities, they insisted on joint electorate. Both the parties were indirectly forced for a settlement.

While the things were thus progressing that is, the government having left with no other alternative but to release the congress leader for a settlement on the constitutional issues and the congress party on the other hand finding that the civil disobedience movement agitation was not so acute as it was when it began. Gandhiji was released on 17th February, 1931, and a pact was concluded between Gandhi and Irwin on 5th March, 1921 through the mediation of Sapru and Jayakar. Gandhi had a tough time to have this pact approved by the Karachi Congress held on 25th March, 1931.

While Gandhi was away to England, wellingdon, Viceroy, the avowed anti-Indian began suppressing the
congress. Thereupon Gandhi again called upon by the nation on January, 1932 to resume the civil disobedience movement. The government on the very next day invoked a number of ordinances to suppress the Civil disobedience movement. Gandhi and Patel were arrested. Congress Offices were raided, papers and documents seized, properties confiscated, and the congress workers were beaten even on suspicion and put behind bars. The government unleashed such a repressive action that 1,20,000 persons were put in prison.

While the repression was thus going on Ramsay Macdonald announced his communal Award on 16th August, 1932. But the Award was vehemently criticised as it is a mischievous attempt to divide and separate the Hindus and Harijans. The motive behind the award was to split the people into small and mutually hostile sections. Again the Europeans who were only 0.1 of the population were given 10% of the seats. Further it was criticised that the Award was opposed to the spirit of democracy. It encouraged separation and religious ill-will. In no country there had been any representation on the basis of religion, sex or caste. As a result of these anti-Hindu biased proposals of Macdonald, Gandhi communicated his refusal to accept the proposals and decided to take fast 'unto death' from 20th, September. This decision
was taken under Poona Pact, wherein Gandhi and Ambedkar agreed to retain joint electorate, but the number of reserved seats for the scheduled castes in provincial legislatures were doubled. Adequate representation in local bodies and promise of financial aid to promote literacy among the Harijans were some other benefits received by the Harijans.

The third Round Table Conference met from 17th November to 24th December, 1932. No Congress man attended it. It was only a body of sycophants of the government. The reports of the various sub committees appointed during the Second Round Table Conference formed the basis of discussion for drafting the future constitution of India. In March, 1933 the British government published a white paper on lines on which the Act of 1935 was to be prepared. But the Congress and other progressive elements rejected it outright as there were no proposals at all to curtail the powers of the Governor General or the British Parliament over the Indian affairs.

Sumit Sarkar gives a critical account of civil disobedience movement for the second time "By the second half of 1932, Civil disobedience movement was evidently going down in defeat. It is true that the decline in
peasant participation is evident for instance in Gujarat, Andhra and Uttar Pradesh. There was a clear submission to the overwhelming superior force rather than any loss of faith in the Congress, and the halé of sacrifice and martyrdom won by the latter during 1930-34 helped decisively in the winning of election from 1934 onwards.

In the international sphere, the things were changing very rapidly. Germany invaded and captured Poland. Britain declared war on Germany on 3rd September 1939. Linlithgow the then Viceroy wished for co-operation of Indian politicians during this time of crisis. The Congress Working Committee which met on 10th October, 1939 passed a resolution expressing its sympathy to the free world.

Internationally the affairs at this time became more tense. The Japanese forces were advancing farther and farther. It captured Burma, Malaya and Andamans etc. It actually began bombarding the harbours in Bay of Bengal. Again politically India gained sympathy from Roosevelt, Chiang-Kai-Shaik and from the diplomats in Australia. Seeing the democratic forces gaining ground, the British government sent Cripps to India on 22nd March 1942, to have his proposals accepted. But the Congress as well as the Muslim League rejected the Cripps
proposals on the ground firstly, that the people of the states were not given the right to send their representatives to the Constituent Assembly, secondly, for not giving Indians control over defence and finally, refusing Cripps proposal to accept the Viceroy as the constitutional head.

Thus during the time of civil disobedience movement, a number of proposals were offered and missions tried on behalf of the British government to passify the Indians from their unflinching fervour to attain independence. During the Civil disobedience period, while the Congress party was engaged in negotiations with the British to wrest power and independence, in the country and in the congress party itself a number of changes were taking place politically.

Internationally, the Soviet Union without having been tarnished by Stalinist purges or a Nazi-Soviet pact, was going ahead towards new civilisation with its five year plans. Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose and Vithal Bhai Patel very much wished for and emphasised the need to combine nationalist objectives with radical social and economic programmes. In consonance with these socialist ideals a tentative socialist programme was drawn in April 1934 and in the next month Congress Socialist Party was established. The Congress Socialists
took-up the leadership on agrarian reforms, problems of industrial labour, the future of Indian princely states and non-Gandhian methods of mobilization and struggle. In Andhra, N.G. Ranga and in Bihar Sahajananda mobilized ryots and several kisan rallies were held. The labour strikes were also on increase. In 1932 there were 118 strikes with 1,28,009 workers involved. There was unrest everywhere and workers threatened to go on strike. The Congress Socialist Party, the Communists (though the communist party was banned) took lead in these strikes. The Student Federation of India was organized. The terrorists who lost their hopes in the movement slowly and steadily entered into these organizations. Day by day the movements were on increase. Outwardly all these signs were of significance to the left growing Socialist and Communist activity. (despite the ban on C.P.I.) Numerous labour and peasant struggles, the formation of several left led All India mass organizations, and Congress Presidential addresses by Jawaharlal Nehru at Lucknow and Fuzipur (April & December, 1936), which formally seemed to embody virtually all the radical aspirations and programmes of the left, are some of the examples. In 1937 the Congress ministries were formed in a member of states with thumping majority. But the actions of these ministries were not to the Expectations
of the workers and peasants. In fact as Clande Markovitz has called, it is "a durable alliance" between Indian business and the Congress party. Thus the Congress was losing hold among the masses. Even in princely states the agitations were going on, though the congress stuck to a strict policy of non-interference.

The estrangement between the right wing and left wing Congress leaders came-out with definite marks with the election of Subhas Chandra Bose as Congress President with 2/3rd majority supported by left wing in the Tripuri Congress. However, the right wing so manoeuvred that Subhas Chandra Bose was to leave the Congress, expelled. The Congress ministries resigned on 29th & 30th October, 1939.

During the IIind World War time the opinion of Indians was definitely divided as to support Britain or Japan. No doubt Congress leaders realised the greater danger of 'Nazism'. But with the Hitler's invasion of the U.S.S.R., the Communists came out declaring the war as 'Peoples war'. But Subhas Chandra Bose fled to Germany to get independence to India by negotiating with the anti-British. The British were only aiming to keep the things in ambiguity. Given one pretext or the other, the government decided to put the leaders behind bars. Even the
Communists who supported the war were not spared, lest there would be more danger in as much as they would advocate class struggle, equality and support communist Russia. The occasion arose in 'Quit India' resolution of August 8th, 1942. This very 'Quit India' movement proved a death blow to British imperialism in India.

1. CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT IN KRISHNA DISTRICT:

The Civil Disobedience Movement in Krishna District was no less dynamic or patriotic when compared with the movement in any other part of India. Sumit Sarkar observes that "originally the Congress in Madras presidency has its strongest base in coastal Andhra, where the No-changer Swarajyists rift had been much less acute than in Tamil Nadu, and where, as we have seen an agitation against revenue enhancement had been going on since 1927." District 'Salt Marches' were organized in East and West Godavary, Krishna and Guntur merchants contributed readily to congress funds, and dominant castes Kamma and Rajulu cultivators defied repressive measures. Sarojini Regani remarks that "the Krishna District was the first to start the Satyagraha Movement. Again the same author quotes the comment of K.K. Vzielli, the district Magistrate of Guntur."
"The temporary attraction of ryot to the movement was most noticeably in the rich deltaic areas of the Telugu Country where the natural fertility of the soil and unfailing supply of water drawn from the Krishna and Godavari rivers had brought prosperity during a period of high prices and created comparatively a leisured class with enough education to appreciate the wider issues involved. With money to spend and plenty of time to spare, many of this class took to politics as a game and a means of escaping from the boredom of dulness of everyday life, more especially during the dry weather months when agricultural operations were at a stand still. History here repeated itself once again as during the non co-operation days. It was the Brahmins, Kshatriyas and the Kammas who were more prominent in their hostility to the government. The same district Magistrate in another occasion tells "The country is strongly occupied by Kammas and Kashtriyas in whose minds the anti government propaganda of newspapers and political extremists have been working for years." Thus we see the civil disobedience movement in Krishna District has strong base with educated, economically well-to-do and progressive sections of the community coming to the forefront.

The Civil Disobedience Movement was commenced in Krishna District even earlier than the green signal for
the movement was given by Mahatma. The Governor of Madras was scheduled to visit Machilipatnam on 8.2.30. The East Krishna Congress Committee meeting at Ghantasala on 2.2.1930 resolved to stage black flag demonstration with the placards depicting the words "Governor go back". The procession to be held was banned. The volunteers transgressed and 32 persons were arrested. Out of them charge sheet was filed on 11 people. They were kept in sub jail for six weeks. At every time they attended the court, with their hands hand cuffed. Those imprisoned in the case were Sri Gottipati Brahmayya, K. Anjaneyulu, Bobba Venkata Seshaih, V. Rama Rao, M. Venkata Rao, T. Rama Rao, A. Venkata Ratnam, G. Venkatachalam, V. Satyanarayana, B. Audinarayana Murthy, B. Rangaiah and G. Audinarayana. In this regard 'Andhra Patrika' says that in the Machilipatnam black flag demonstration the sentences were cancelled on two persons. While the remaining seven accused were sentenced to one year imprisonment as they had not preferred appeal. The paper appealed for the interference of the government in the matter and cancel the sentence to these accused also. 

The special features of this civil disobedience movement, which we will study in detail in the following pages are 1. Establishment of a sibiram in every district. For Krishna District, both East and West, the
sibiram was established in Machilipatnam. 2. Participation of different groups of and varying interests including the industrial and mercantile communities who came forward with moral and material aid. 3. Participation of women in large numbers. Participation of all communities including Adi Andhras and Christians. 4. The reception with songs and tilak and sandal paste to the incoming volunteers to the sibiram. 5. Conspicuous absence of terrorist activities during the time of civil disobedience movement and finally, 6. Participation of volunteers in satyagraha irrespective of caste, creed, religion or economic or social status.

This integration as Regani observes "is an indication of new forces that were asserting themselves in the society where caste distinctions were getting obliterated under the new found ideal of common nationalism." As the leaders were arrested more and more volunteers began to come forward for the breaking of the salt laws. 10

Now we shall see in detail the development of civil disobedience movement in Krishna District.

After consulting and obtaining the wishes of Mahatma Gandhi regarding the programme and principals to be adopted in the satyagraha, the Andhra Congress Committee which met at Guntur on 31st March resolved
to appoint Konda Venkatappayya to carry on the satyagraha movement in the entire Andhra.

In the meanwhile at Machilipatnam leaders China Venkata Dasaih, President west Krishna Congress, Pattabhi Seetaramaiah, M. Krishna Rao, Cherukuvada Narasimham etc., toured 100 villages and gave documents to the youth and collected funds in the shape of money and material. The camp was opened by K. Nageswara Rao on 2.4.30. The satyagrahas took lessons for a week. The number of volunteers rose to 250 and divided into 12 divisions. The dalas were under the leadership of 1. Gonuguntla Venkata Subrahmanya Gupta 2. Sri Kamineni Venkatappayya, 3. Vallabhaneni Ramabrahmam, 4. Kollipara Surayya, 5. Sree Kaseenadhuni Veera Mallayya, 6. Surapaneni Gopala Krishnayya.

On 5th April A. Kaleswara Rao went to the beach and picked up some salt and distributed it to the people in the meeting held at Robertsonpet under the presidency of Mutnuri Krishna Rao. Later it was decided to shift the sibiram to Chinnapuram, a village which was at a distance of eight miles to the sea.

At Bezwada to West Krishna Congress under the presidency of Kakumanu Lakshmaiah decided to participate in the satyagraha at Machilipatnam. The
Satyagraha Sibiram was formerly opened on 2nd April by A. Kaleswara Rao. Kotagiri Venkata Krishna Rao was appointed as commander-in-chief to the satyagrahis. 'Andhra Patrika' reports on the meeting held on 2nd April, 1930.12

Kumara Raja of Gampalagudem had made the following remarks in his speech "It may be said that the government has become cowardly. The salt satyagraha has been started for the establishment of Swaraj. This peaceful war, will therefore continue till swaraj is secured even though the salt tax may be repealed. Be prepared to sacrifice your all."

Out of the 300 volunteers assembled at Bezwada Sibiram, 120 volunteers under the leadership of Kotagiri Venkata Krishna Rao started marching from Andhra Ratna Bhavan, Bezwada on 9.4.30 morning. The batch after receiving the wishes of A. Kaleswara Rao and T. Prakasam etc., moved through the streets of Governorpet and Bandar Road, while music was played in their honour for their patriotism. This batch consisted of important people like Peta Bapaiah, A. Anjaiah, V. Yagnanarayana Sastry, Swamy Narayanananda, Pingali Lakshmeenarayana, K. Lakshmaiah Chowdary, K. Madhusudhana Rao, P. Rama Kotaiah, P. Madhava Rao, N. Veera Raghavaiah,
V. Venkata Rao, M. Satyanarayana Sastry, D. Surya Prakasa Rao and Kakani Venkataratnam etc. The batch after camping at Mogulrajapuram, Patamata, Patamata-lanka, Poranki, Edupugallu, Punadipadu, Neppalle, Akunuru, Vuyyuru and Kanumuru collecting subscriptions and absorbing 17 more volunteers in the batch, reached by foot to Bandar on 11.4.30, in the evening. Here at Bandar Kumara Raja leading all volunteers of both East and West Krishna proceeded to Chinnapuram and from there for three days they collected the salt and returned to Bandar on 14.4.30 with the salt collected. In the meanwhile V. Yagnanarayana Sastry with his band of 17 volunteers reached Bandar on 19.4.1930, collected the salt on the sea shore and sold it in the public meeting.

The second batch of 34 volunteers under the organisation of Velidandla Hanumantha Rao were set-out from Andhra Ratna Bhavan, Bezwada with a grand send off by the public. K. Narayana Rao, Camp Commandar, Ch. Seetarama Sarma and Potina Ganapathy were among those thirty four. On the way they went to Poranki, Penamalur, Velpur, Uppalur, Mantena, Tenneru, Manikonda, Kalvapamula, Mudunuru and Mantada. On their way to Bandar they conducted meetings, propagated satyagraha and sold salt. Finally they reached Bandar on 13.4.30.
The third batch that set out to Bandar under the organisation of A. Kaleswara Rao consisted of thirty volunteers. A. Kaleswara Rao after making due propaganda in Nandigama and other areas enlisted about 80 volunteers. R. Madhusudhana Rao, a student in Nandigama, who became a collector later, R. Buchiramaiah Sreshti, Rama Govinda Sarma, Vedantam Sambhu Sastry, Dr. S. Subba Rao, Dr. Basava Raju, S. Rama Krishnaiah, D. Krishna Murthy and a musalmam from Munagala area were among these sixty and 20 more joined at Bezwada. All these eighty volunteers under A. Kaleswara Rao were given send off at Bezwada and they went in special third class bogie with national flags adorned to the carriage. On the way twenty more joined as Volunteers. At night on 12.4.30, they reached Machilipatnam and the others were led by Hanumantha Rao. In the meanwhile at Bezwada Swamy Narayanananda Saraswathy was arrested and brought to Bandar Jail.

At Bandar the Satyagraha and the public meetings reached a climax.

The 'Andhra Patrika' published in its column the speech delivered by Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya at Machilipatnam in the course of which sentiments like the following occurred. "On the whole, in India about
ten thousand persons have defied the 'Salt Act' and prepared contraband salt. If we are arrested lakhs of people will come forward from tomorrow. Our men, women and children are all slaves. The present generation should at least get rid of the slavery and then secure swaraj and independence to the future generations. The Circle Inspector Mr. Krishna Murthy Nayudu, has questioned me whether our salt is pure. To this I replied ours is a national salt as such is superior and that I would sell the same in the Tilak Chowk in the evening.

Krishna Patrika of 1930, gives an account of speech delivered by Ch. Narasimham on 12th and 13th April. "Hereafter you may openly come and take salt plains. The police may beat and abuse you. They may ask you where from you got it and who asked you to manufacture it. Then you had better tell the truth. Do not utter falsehood. Say boldly that the salt was neither got from England nor produced by the government by putting up bund. So, you ryots may freely trade in salt hereafter. Say that Mahatma Gandhi was permitted you to manufacture salt. Ask the police why they should trouble you when Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramaih is collecting salt with his 200 volunteers and they do not interfere with him. Do not quarrel with the police or abuse them.
Remain non-violent." All of you should give up the drink habit and wear khaddar always. Urge the village Munsiffs and Karanams in your village to resign their offices. Hereafter this Chinnapuram village will be a place of pilgrimage in the East Krishna district. I shall explain about you and your village to Mahatma Gandhi. Establish a village Congress committee in the village and all of you become congress members. Put a national flag in the village permanently.\textsuperscript{15}

Gampalagudem Raja returned on 17th to Andhra Ratna Bhavan Bezwada after conducting meetings. Andhra Patrika gives an account of speech delivered by the Raja of Gampalagudem at Bezwada.\textsuperscript{16} He said that the movement would not stop even if Mahatma Gandhi was to be arrested.

**REPRESSION BY GOVERNMENT:**

At Bandar on 19th and 20th April Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya and Ch. Narasimham were arrested and on 21st A. Kaleswara Rao and V. Hanumantha Rao were arrested. With the arrest of these leaders the acts of government suppressing the movement...
begin. Extracts from the secret files of the government reveal the dynamic personalities of Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya and A. Kaleswara Rao.

After the arrest of Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Koka Ahobala Rao Nayudu took up the cause and propagated Khaddar and prohibition in the town and the neighbouring villages. His participation created much enthusiasm in the public. T. Naga-bhushanam had taken the oath not to import foreign cloth. P. Venkata Rangaiah did very much help for propagating prohibition. 17

They were hoisting the flag in the public square at Machilipatnam. Whenever the government officers came across a national flag, they made it a point to remove it and tear it to pieces. On 6th May, at Machilipatnam a serious clash occurred between the police and the public when the former pulled down the national flag that was hoisted in the public square by Tatwananda Swamy. When the Swamy tried to rehoist the flag, he was belaboured and thrown down. Several volunteers were mercilessly beaten till they fell down.
unconscious. The police concentrated on people with good physique, particularly on Thota Narasayya Nayudu who was beaten at a time by fifteen police men. This roused even the ire of Municipal Chairman, Seelam Jagannadha Rao Nayudu who was not a Congress sympathiser, and he came forward donning khadi clothes, made his colleagues, the Municipal Councillors, to adopt a resolution not only to hoist the flag in the public square but also on the municipal building. In this struggle at this public square the police resorted to such a heinous attempts that E. Subba Rao was made bare bodied and insulted. Others who suffered were Sri S. Varada Raju, 2. Ch. Nagabhushanam, 3. G. Raghava Sarma, 4. T. Veerabhadra Rao, 5. T.P. Alwar.

The paper 'Congress' informs the incident "At the flag hoisting ceremony in the Machilipatnam on the Tilak pillar before 10,000 people, the brute police tortured Mr. Thota Narasayya. Even though he was beaten till became senseless he was uttering all the
while 'Mahatma', 'I believe in none but you'. People realised the brutality of the British in true colour.\textsuperscript{19}

In spite of severe repressive measures the agitation in Machilipatnam town continued during the whole year of 1930.

Mr. Krishnamurthy, representative of 'The Hindu' and 'Sanskari' was arrested under section 108. A public meeting was held immediately after the arrest. The national volunteers paraded the streets singing national songs. Again Mr. Gopala Krishna Murthy was arrested on May 19th under Section 108A. On refusal to execute a bond, he was sentenced for one year simple imprisonment.\textsuperscript{20}

During the month of June 1930 a police headed by D.S.P. Krishna and consisting of 80 reserve constables who had been requisitioned from Kurnool and 20 police constables raided the satyagraha camp, East Krishna satyagraha sibiram and the satyagraha mass quarter on 1.6.30 afternoon.\textsuperscript{21}
Search of the satyagraha mass proceeded side by side and began with the partial demolition of the steps of back entrance of the building belonging to Mr. Suri Sastry.

The Deputy Superintendent of Police asked the volunteers how long they intended to continue the sibiram and the volunteers replied 'so long as we can'.

On 4.6.30 a new flag was hoisted in Robertsonpet, in place of a flag that was hoisted by T. Narasaiah and Tatwananda Swamy and removed by the police. Again on the same day orders under section 144 were served by the local police on 43 congress workers in Machilipatnam and Divi taluqs, prohibiting meetings, processions, demonstrations and picketing etc. Among those who served the order were Messrs. P. Krishna Rao, official Director of Andhra Desa and Y. Mangayya. Again P. Krishna Rao was arrested on 6.6.30 while he was conducting a procession with seven volunteers through Ramanayudupet. His followers were also arrested for refusal to disperse.
Two batches of volunteers each consisting of four strong men started from the satyagraha camp that morning at about 8 A.M., to carry on a house to house propaganda with respect to the distribution of khaddar and the selling of taklis in furtherance of the constructive programme of the congress.

Mr. L. Syamasundara Rao was sentenced to imprisonment in Masulipatam on June 11th. Mr. Lakkaraju Sundara Rao, who was taken into police custody, the day before, while going along Chilakalapudi Road, was produced before the S.S.M. without summons or warrant at Bandar. A case was filed against him under section 188 by the police and the accused was sentenced to six months rigorous imprisonment.23

The first accused, Mr. Hanumantha Rao was charged under sections 143, 145 and 188 I.P.C. and the rest under sections 143 and 145. The accused declined to take part in the proceedings. the Magistrate found them all guilty and sentenced them for one year's rigorous imprisonment. Mr. P.V. Subba Reddy was also sentenced to imprisonment.
M. Krishna Rao was arrested in Godugupet at his residence, consequent upon the declaration by the government that the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee was an illegal body. 24

In the final events at Machilipatnam sibiram organisers K. Gopala Krishnaiah and Audinarayana were sent to jail. As a result of police atrocities V. Ramji Rao and P. Bhushaiah resigned to the Assembly membership. T. Veera Raghava Rao, a co-operative trainee stopped his training and entered into the movement. He was sentenced for six months. D. Pattabhi Rama Rao resigned his government post and participated in the movement. He was also sentenced.

The developments in the taluq head quarters and other moffusil areas in the East Krishna District are noteworthy.

On 1.6.30 a party of reserve and Gudivada police with A.S.P. and Circle Inspector over hundred strong went to Angalur at about 2.30 P.M. Police sent for Mr. Y. Suryanarayana who on learning that he was asleep went and
arrested him directly. The police then served orders under section 144 on about a dozen people in the village. The flag staff of the 'Patakam' was then broken and the flag removed and torn to pieces and the torns were burnt. The crowds were lathicharged. About 50 people were assaulted. Then the police proceeded to Gudlavalleru where also they removed and tore the national flags. The crowds were lathicharged as a result of which 12 people received injuries. V. Seshayya and a few other people who refused to leave the place were roughly handled by the police. Tom was carried out prohibiting conduct of meetings, holding demonstrations, hoisting of national flags, organising processions and picketing of foreign cloth and liquor shops with the threat of prosecution.

At Ghantasala and the neighbouring places the programme of cutting spathes was actually taken up by G. Narasimham and his followers. In the month of May, T. Kotayya and T. Narayana and their followers took spathe cutting at Mudunuru and Appikatla. They were sentenced for one year imprisonment.

As regards the C.I.D. information on civil disobedience movement and the activities of K.L. Narasimha Rao, advocate, the following information is a testimony to the overwhelming enthusiasm of the volunteers. In 1930, the taluq of Gudivada came under the growing influence of the political agitation. A number of arrests were made in Gudivada on account of the political activities of the congressmen. There were processions, picketings and display of national flags everywhere in the district of Krishna.28

Turning attention to the developments in West Krishna District after the return of
Gampalagudem Raja, the following information reveals the magnitude and enthusiasm with which the civil disobedience movement was carried out here.

The zamindar of Gampalagudem, K. Lakshmayya and Mattam Balasubrahmany a Gupta were arrested. The CID Report reveals the following facts. "The zamindar of Gampalagudem was today prosecuted before the joint magistrate Bezwada under section 117 IPC as per the rules with the Salt Act and sentenced to one year rigorous imprisonment. M. Balasubrahmany a Gupta of Bezwada was prosecuted under sec. 108 IPC and on his refusing to give security was sent to jail for one year simple imprisonment."29

The resolutions of the Bezwada movement is very interesting to note. On 14th May, the Bezwada cloth Merchants Association resolved not to import cloth from Manchester and Germany for six months, not to purchase the cloth manufactured in mills owned and managed by foreigners such as Carnatic, Buckingham, Pondicherry, Dhariwal, Elgin and Lalmili mills and not to deal in cloth woven out of foreign yarn.30
D. Raghavachandrayya Chowdary was sent to jail for one year simple imprisonment and P. Veeraraghava Rao was similarly sent to jail. Peta Bapaiah of Gampalagudem and B. Subbayya Sastry of Kondapalle were also sentenced for 18 months rigorous imprisonment.


On 19.6.30 prohibitory orders were issued. 1. Prohibiting all public meetings, processions, demonstrations, picketing and the hoisting of 'National flags' on Bezwada Municipality within a radius of five miles. 2. Directing the volunteers to abstain from residing in the sibiram at the office of the Andhra Provincial Committee. The sibiram was occupied by the police and the national flags
were taken down including the flag hoisted over the municipal office. Orders were already in force in Gudivada and against a number of people in Machilipatnam which necessitated the stationary of some reserve police in those areas.

Thus a number of people were arrested. Among those were V. Hanumantha Rao, M. Chitti alias China Appalaswamy, K. Madhusudhana Rao and B.K. Nagabhushanam etc. In all including Ch. Venkatappayya, P. Sundaramma, and P. Subhadramma, 168 satyagrahis were arrested. 31

In West Krishna, beyond searching the congress office and seizing the records, the congress president N. Papaiah’s house at Patamata was searched and at Nandigama B. Lakshmana Murthy and S. Subba Rao of Jaggayyapet and T. Perayya of Kunikenapudi of Nandigama Taluq were arrested. In Nuzvid taluq N. Kanaka Seetaramayya and E. Venkateswara Rao were arrested.

U. Lakshme Narasimha Rao, K. Ranganayakulu, K. Veeraswamy, K. Govinda Rao, K. Venkateswarlu,
K. Surya Prakasa Rao, K. Partha Sarathy, K. Mangatayaramma, Ch. Seetaramayya Gupta, M. Venkatappayya, R. Venkayya, S. Venkayya, G. Rangayya Nayudu, V. Sambhu Sastry, V. Venkata Subrahmanya Sarma, Dr. M. Basava Raju and A. Rama Govinda Sarma were among those arrested in Tiruvur Taluq.

With all the political leaders having been sent to the jails during the year 1930, there was a sort of silence in the year 1931, but the tone of the papers and the political activity of the congress did not die out. The nature of activities during the year paved the way for further greater agitation that was to be launched in 1932.

Andhra Patrika, on the cruelties and the tortures committed by the police says: "that the ignorance still pretended by the British Labour leaders in this connection cannot but be a matter for surprise that it is strange that the severe repressive policy rampant all over India at present should have been accepted by them as the only means of maintaining law and order without raising any question as to its propriety."
Krishna Patrika says that the soup given to the prisoners smells bad and the very sensation of it even now is revolting. Jail authorities are using aluminium utensils which cause dental deseases. The correspondent of Krishna Patrika writes that in jails the virtues of men turn them to be brute.33

'Desabhimani' writing on the mischievous movement of temperance started by the government says "It is the civil disobedience movement and not the temperance propaganda of the government that has been responsible for the decrease of the drink evil." The paper remarks that unless the government is prepared to give-up the excise revenue, there would be no use of these temperance committees.34

Krishna Patrika referring to the durbar held in Krishna District Collector's Office to honour those who worked well to suppress the satya-graha movement by instituting cases etc., says "Elated by large number of trumps in their hands, gamblers in card play bet enormous sums in exactly the same way."
Krishna Patrika again educates that "there has been a decrease of 35 crores of foreign cloth yard amounting to Rs.10 crores. If importing cloth is totally eliminated, India will benefit Rs.60 crores which may be spent in India for development of spinning wheels and rural development."

This is the outcome of Gandhiji’s boycott movement. It finally says, that the sooner the Lankashire merchants realise that there is no remedy for the weapon of boycott, the better."\(^{35}\)

The political leaders did not sit idle after the release under Gandhi-Irwin pact on March 5th, 1931. No sooner the political leaders were released on 16th March, than they assembled at Machilipatnam and participated in the party given to them in the Tadepallivary Choultry at Machilipatnam by the citizens.

On 17-3-31 T. Prakasam re-hoisted the flag in Andhra Ratna Bhavan after it was handed-over. The released prisoners were very enthusiastic on this occasion. One sorrowful event was the death of V. Hanumantha Rao who went to
Mysore to get himself cured of asthma and tuberculosis. In his name a library and park were established.

3. POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN KRISHNA DISTRICT IN THE MOVEMENT:

Political conferences in Krishna District in this brief period of 1911, is another feature. The political prisoners met at Congress Office at Bezwada and decided to conduct a political conference at Mudunuru, where a large number of 30 people were arrested. It is from here, his native village, Anne Anjaiah commenced his political agitation. All the arrangements were made by him and his mother Venkataramanamma. Delegates attended from all corners of the district. Meetings and discussions were held for two days. At the end a public meeting was held. In this meeting A. Kaleswara Rao, K. Lakshmaiah, Katragadda Brothers, V. Venkata Rao, Kakani Venkataratnam and N. Veera Raghavaiah etc. spoke. A. Subrahmanyam the president of the Reception Committee read the welcome address.
The Government disregarding the recommendations of the 'Aurogya Swamy Mudaliar Committee' which was appointed to report on the decision of the government in 1929 to enhance the water cess of 3 Annas i.e. at one Anna per every rupee, decided to educate its programme. On this issue, through ryot societies G. Brahmaiah, D. Bala Rama Krishnaiah, K. China Venkata Dasayya, K. Surayya, V. Ramaseetamma and were booked again on the resettlement issue and were arrested. G. Brahmaiah was prohibited from entering Gudivada and Kaikalur Taluqs. In this connection N.G. Ranga was arrested in November, 1931 at Bezwada and sentenced for 1½ years imprisonment. G. Brahmaiah was also arrested. As a result of this agitation ryot societies were established in many places and 6000 primary members were enrolled. At Edupugallu a ryot training camp was established. Bharati Devi Ranga and Bezwada Gopala Reddy attended, and M. Chukkamma presided.
The agitation that was started was taken to the notice of Mahatma who was in England. He, in turn, brought the matter to the notice of the Secretary for India. All this happened when attempts of N. Subba Rao who met the governor at Bezwada failed.

REPRESSION CONTINUED:

The subsequent events in Krishna District after the failure of Gandhi-Irwin pact were very much horrifying. Volunteers once for all determined to focuss their attention on the achievement of independence. On the other hand Wellington, the then Viceroy after Irwin had also decided to crush the civil dis-obedience movement within a few weeks. The just cause of the people and the despotic decision of the Viceroy became irreconcilable. The latter began suppressing the people unwarrantedly. The developments in Krishna District were as follows.

Having arrested Gandhiji on 3rd January, 1932, the government promulgated special ordinances to counteract the activities of the
Congress by passing the 'prevention of Molestations and Boycotting ordinances, the unlawful Association Ordinance and in order to prevent the revival of no-tax campaign in the district the 'unlawful instigation Ordinance'. It also declared the A.P.C.C., the District Congress Committee and the taluq committees of Gudivada and Kaikalur and the Town Committees of Machilipatnam and Bezwada as unlawful associations. It also declared all the ashrams led by the Congress as unlawful. Gandhiji ashram at Bhatlapenamarru and Komaravolu were seized on 20th January. The houses of Y. Subrahmanyam and Y. Suryanarayana of Angalur were seized by the Police.

By invoking those vicious ordinances the government began to suppress the movement. Under these circumstances the congress decided to continue the civil disobedience movement to be confined to the picketing of liquor shops, boycott of foreign cloth, organization of processions and demonstration by the volunteers and also defying the Salt Laws.

At Bezwada 20 people were lathicharged when they were celebrating the Independence Day
and the Jallian Wallah Bag massacre Day on 5-4-32 Dr. Pattabhi Seetaramaiah and MR. M. Krishna Rao were arrested when they defied the 144 section and when they were delivering the well attended public meeting at Banday Chowk. Afraid of the mass action, the government took the leaders to Gudivada and sentenced them for two years imprisonment.

From this time onwards repression by the government went to every place in the district.

At Machilipatam the Jateeya Kalasala principal, M.R.D. Rama Swamy was arrested and sentenced for two years imprisonment. Mr. Kota Subbayya editor of Krishna Patrika, was served with a notice forbidding publication of matter calculated to support the civil disobedience movement.

HINDU paper also revealed that Gottipati Brahmayya and Kodali Anjaneyulu were arrested and remanded to custody in local sub-jail.
Hindu paper revealed that "On January 15th, 1932 the District Congress Office situated at Akellavari Building was searched leaving the Congress Office in charge of a special police guard."

On January 11, N. Venkata Krishna Rao was arrested for distributing a leaflet at police lines, "Police should leave of government servitude." He was severely beaten in the lockup and let-off in the night. On January 14, there was a lathi charge in Kaza village. On January 17, K. Anjaneyulu's house was searched and sealed. On January 18, P. Subba Reddy of Dokiparru was sentenced for two years and fined Rs. 1000/-.

The police here adopted the meanest methods to collect the fine. The silver ornaments of Subba Reddy's mother was extracted towards fine. The police here did not spare even the relatives in the house. Even the doors of the house was credited towards fine. As a result, Subba Reddy's family had to live under a tree for three months.

The Hindu paper also revealed that on 8.1.32 at Bezwada, the police searched the houses of K. Lakshmaiah Chowdary and K. Madhusudhana Rao.
On 7.1.32 A. Kaleswara Rao, K. Lakshmaiah Chowdary and K. Madhusudhana Rao were served with summons to attend before the Joint Magistrate at Bezwada at 5 P.M. They were charged as the leading members of the west Krishna District Congress Committee carrying propaganda in favour of the civil disobedience movement and non payment of taxes etc. They caused dissemination of seditious matter. The leaders refused to sign the interim bond. They remanded to police custody and taken to sub-jail in lorry.

'Hindu' paper also revealed that on 9.1.1932 evening the police removed the flags flying in the town. They went to Andhra Ratna Bhavan, pulled down the flags and two persons who were there were beaten. The District Magistrate warned some of the presses that security would be demanded immediately upon printing in the presses any matter in support of the civil disobedience movement.

'Hindu' dated 14th January 1932 revealed that on 13th January, 1932 Peta Bapaiah and Ch. Venkataramayya were arrested for organising
an unlawful assembly before the Congress Office on 10th January, 1932. Each of them were sentenced for six months rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs.100/-, in default of six weeks rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs.100/-, in default of six weeks rigorous imprisonment.

On the same day R. Nityananda Sarma was also sentenced for six months rigorous imprisonment for organising an unlawful assembly on 11.1.32.

At Angalur, A. Rama Sastry and Rama Kotayya were served orders under section 144 prohibiting them from leaving their village for two months.

The 'Hindu' paper revealed that "again the St. George Gazette of the Ashram, also called sibiram, established by Y. Subrahmanyam of Angaluru in survey No. 239-2 of Komarovolu Village, Gudivada Taluq of Krishna District and Andhra Ratna Bhavan, Vijayawada was declared unlawful."

Again the tahsildar of Gannavaram promulgated section 144 throughout the whole taluq of Gannavaram in general and in villages of Mustabada, Kanakavalli and Pedaavutapalli in particular.
The Circle Inspector after a lathi charge arrested K. Basavaiah, President of Gudivada taluq, Congress Committee and A. Mallikarjuna Rao, Secretary of Ryots Association, Angalur firka on the 17th 1932 for distributing pamphlets asking them not to pay taxes. They were sentenced for six months rigorous imprisonment and sent to Rajahmundry jail.

At Komaravolu, the police raided the sibiram established by Y. Subrahmanyam for the second time. His wife along with others were arrested and taken to a distant place and left there. When they somehow reached their native place, they were again taken and left at a distant place. At Ghantasala, on January 26th the reserve police beat 30 volunteers and removed the national flag. At Angalur, A. Nagabhusanam and K. Satyanarayana were severely beaten for celebrating the independence day.

On January 24th and 25th at Bhatlapenamarru there was a severe lathi charge. D. Bhimaiah was severely beaten. K. Venkatappaiah was severely beaten until he became unconscious, when he refused to accompany the police without showing him the
warrant. Others severely beaten here were K. Satyanarayana, K. Venkataratnam, Ch. Prasada Rao and Ch. Kutumbaiah etc. The police removed the photos of Bhagat Singh from the shops.

At Bandar, Sowbhagamma was made to get down from the bus for wearing khaddar.

At Ventrapragada, the police levied Rs.1350/- for burning the portrait of the British Emperor. The police were stationed there for two months.

At Bezwada, B. Ramachandra Rao was so severely beaten in the police lock-up that he vomited blood. At Mudunuru, on the same occasion, A. Anjayya and B. Ramalingayya were arrested. At Neppalle, Ch. Vijayamma and Ch. Ramachandra Rao were arrested. In connection with the same on 26.1.32 people were lathicharged by the police at Indupalle, Mogulrajapuram and Patamatalanka near Bezwada. 49

R. Rama Kotaiah who was arrested by the Kankipadu police and remanded to Gannavaram sub-jail was tried by the stationary sub-magistrate
and sentenced for six months rigorous imprisonment or a fine of Rs.260/-.

The paper 'Daridra Narayana' established by Y. Subrahmanyam stopped publication for not paying the security of Rs.250/- imposed by government. At Ventrapragada, on January 28, M. Chandra Sekhara Rao and K. Seshayya were arrested for distributing the leaflets. At Yelakurru, K. Gopala Rao was beaten till he became unconscious. Again at Ventrapragada on January 29, Ch. Brahmananda Rao and V. Rangayya were severely beaten and were let-off next day.

The 'Krishna Patrika' revealed that the volunteers were beaten severely at Ventrapragada. On February 11th at Yellamanchili Y. Narayana Rao, S. Purushottam and K. Veerabhadra Rao were sentenced for 18 months rigorous imprisonment. On February 27th there was a lathi charge in Ghantasala once again.

On February 19th, the Andhra Bank, Bharata Lakshmeee Bank and Andhra Insurance Company were ordered not to operate the account of B. Rajeswaramma, B. Venkataratnam, Y. Bapanaiah and Y. Mangaiah.
Their houses were also searched. The police enquired in Andhra Insurance Company regarding the deposits of Krishna District Congress Committee.

At Bezwada, the police repression and lathi charge became an every day's affair. Either it may be on the independence day, on the day of Gandhi's arrest, National week, Jallianwalabag day or on the salute day to the national flag, the volunteers were lathi charged.

In West Krishna District both male and female volunteers vigorously propagated in the villages. In 300 villages congress bulletins and books were distributed.

On 23rd February K. Sree Ramulu, son of the village munsiff of Mummivada Village of Bezwada taluq was sentenced for six months rigorous imprisonment and N. Kotayya was put up for trial.

From March 1932, the paper 'Ready' was cyclostyled from Mudunuru, with the news of congress satyagraha. The police could not detect the press till the end of the movement. K. Rama Kumara Varma, E. Raja Ratna Sarma, Ch. Gangaiah, Malli Reddy and Sri Salla Reddy worked as agents and distributors of this paper. In this government arrested the readers and distributors.

The 'Hindu' paper revealed that "Real National Congress" from the Swarajya press, and some other books from some other presses were taken away by the police.52

In February 1932, on 26th the Lodian Committee was on Bezwada platform. K. Sreenivasa Rao and Ch. Rajagopala Rao managed to escape the police bandobust and demonstrated the black flags to the committee.

On March 10th at Bezwada, P. Veera Raghavulu Gupta, K. Subba Rao and K. Veera Swamy paraded the streets in the town with national flags and distributed cyclostyled boycott leaflets. The police dispersed them with lathis. P. Veera Raghavulu Gupta received severe blows.
On 23rd March in Machilipatnam, at Robertsonpet E. Sundara Rao, K. Venkata Krishnayya and P. Pattabhiramayya, were kept in jail for parading the streets, singing national songs and picketing the foreign cloth shops. At Kurumaddali and Pamidimukkala two volunteers were arrested and brought to Machilipatnam jail. 53

On March 28th, I. Sree Ramulu was fined Rs.500/- or in default six weeks imprisonment for picketing at foreign cloth shops at Machilipatnam. While picketing at Angaluru, K. Veera Raghavayya and G. Veera Raghavayya were arrested and left between Mudinepalle and Chinnapalem. A. Sugunamani, M. Lakshmamma, M. Nagaratnam, G. Mallikamba and K. Bharatamma were taken away by the police and were left at a distant police. At Gudivada, G. Venkata Subrahmanya Setty one of the directors of the 'Swarajya' paper was sentenced for two years rigorous imprisonment. 54

At Kaikalur, while there was picketing P. Venkataratnam and G. Veerayya were arrested and released. As a part of the programme for the celebration of the national week, flags were seen painted.
On 13.4.32 at Bezwada there was a procession. The processionalists were detained and released in the night. On the same date a determined youth batch by name 'Sivalayam Brundam' commenced picketing. Even volunteers from villages in large numbers came and joined this batch. Many of them were lathicharged again and again. T. Subbaiah and K. Narasaiah were also lathicharged. They could not recover from this effects for a long time. It was told by the very police that they had lathicharged for 250 times. Kolanda Reddy raised this affair in Madras assembly. Again Indian delegates who were on a visit admitted that it was a very severe lathi charge. When there was none to give medical treatment to the volunteers, they stayed at the Ram Mohan Library Varandah. A people's hospital was put up in the house of K. Madhusudhana Rao, Dr. S. Mallikarjuna Rao, S. Venkata Rangayya and Dr. G. Venkateswara Rao attended the wounded, the latter for doing this service was sentenced for six months imprisonment.

On March 26th at Bezwada T. Venkata Subbaya and M. Suryanarayana were arrested, when they were found distributing leaflets. They were later
released at 8.30 P.M. On 28th Ch. Viyyamma, L. Lakshmamma and P. Varalakshmamma were brought from Katuru at 12 P.M., while they were proceeding to Elukapadu for manufacturing salt. At Bandar, on 28th I. Sree Ramulu and K. Acharyulu were arrested and later released.

At Bezwada dictators were appointed to organise picketing. The first was K. Lakshmayya, after the arrest V. Sambhu Sastry was appointed. After him in serial order 13 dictators were appointed. Among them were A. Anjayya, K. Kutumba Rao, K. Suryanarayana and P. Rama Kotayya etc.

At Gudivada, Ch. Narayana Murthy, Jagannadha Rao, Prakasa Rao, D. Bhimayya and S. Veerayya were sentenced for 1½ years imprisonment. S. Krishnamma etc. were remanded in jail.55

On 10th June D. Tatayya and M. Lakshmeenarayana were arrested when they were picketing. They were taken to Krishna Ayacut and released there.

On July 7th, 1932, 60 volunteers under Mohammad Habibullah tried to occupy the 'Andhra Ratna Bhavan', 17 were arrested after lathicharge.
On 25.8.32 six volunteers including K. Venkataratnam also tried to occupy the Andhra Ratna Bhavan. But they were beaten and arrested. Again nine volunteers who raided were arrested and released later. On 14.12.32 eight volunteers raided the Andhra Ratna Bhavan. They were beaten but released.

**WOMEN ROLE IN CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT:**

The part played by women during the severe repression days is praiseworthy. A letter of the chief secretary to government Madras addressed to the chief Secretary, Government of India elaborates this. In the Krishna District activities have become more noticeable particularly in Gudivada and Bezvada taluqs. In the former taluq the women are playing a conspicuous part. They have regularly picketed the foreign cloth shops are reoccupied two sibirams which have been notified and taken possession of under the unlawful Association Ordinance." We can now examine the activities of these women in the struggle.

In 1932 at Mogulrajapuram K. Ramaseetamma was arrested and imprisoned for one year and fined Rs.400/- for giving hospitality to the volunteers, beaten on
the occasion of flag hoisting. Twenty six volunteers from Garikaparru, Kanumuru, Mudunuru, Pamidimukkala, Gurazada, Kapileswarapuram, Puritigadda, Yakanuru, Telaprolu, Vuyyuru and Neppalle. Two volunteers from Bezwada, M. Bramaramba and P. Sundaramma bravely participated in satyagraha, 17 of them were arrested and one of them fined Rs.200/-. At Garikaparru R. Rajamma, M. Sriramamma, G. Subbamma and Ch. Viyyamma were imprisoned. The remaining were subjected to various troubles and later let-off.

S. Gopalakrishnayya was fined Rs.1000/- for giving hospitality and serving meals to satyagrahis.

During 1930-33 the following satyagrahis were subjected to various sentences. Ch. Viyyamma, G. Ravamma, G. Subbamma, K. Lakshmamma, K. Rama seetamma, K. Lakshmeekantamma, K. Anasuya, M. Ramamma, M. Varalakshmamma, N. Mahalakshmamma, P. Varalakshmamma, T. Satyavatamma, M. Poornamma, P. Subhadramma and S. Annapurnamma.

In 1932 in Mudunuru, a sibiram was established in the outskirts at Anne Peda Basavaiah 'Valmiki Ashramam'.
From this place T. Satyavatamma, A. Punnamma and K. Lakshamma started their propaganda along with volunteers. These volunteers were chased and arrested. P. Varalakshamma, K. Lakshmeekantamma, S. Annapurnamma, Y. Rattamma, M. Rajeswaramma, N. Nancharamma, V. Chittemma and A. Durgamba were arrested, while they were in procession singing national songs. Police took them to the Krishna river and released after mid night. By other volunteers these lady satyagrahis were safely sent to Mudunuru sibiram. In another satyagraha incident these were sent to jail. 58

In Bandar T. Sitaramamma and D. Tulasamma were arrested and released on the occasion of independence day. On the next day while A. Ushamani, P. Varalakshmi of Gurazada and T. Kowsalya Devi were picketing foreign cloth shops, the police poured coloured water discharged from pistons. They were arrested and released. The next day again coloured water was used on the picketing ladies.

At Gudivada, V. Seetamahalakshamma, transgressed 144 section along with other satyagrahis.
They did not care for Deputy collector 'Rayappa Bangaru'. The police arrested them and left them at a very distant place. Volunteers of Bhatlapentamarru rescued them.

At Komaravolu: Seetamahalakshmamma gave notice to government that they would be occupying the ashram there. She along with other volunteers, broke the seals and opened the ashram. Police arrested them and left them at a very distant place near a sea coast. They came back again and participated in picketing.

The police resorted to meanest methods, while the satyagrahis were picketing. The police party came with pistols and bullets filled with coloured water mixed with chilly powder and dirt and mud and discharged the water through pistons at them with such a force that Seethamahalakshmamma became unconscious. Then Seetamahalakshmamma along with G. Lakshminarasamma proceeded to Angalur where where A. Nagabhushanam's wife and sister Ushamani and Kausalya propagated satyagraha. Here Ushamani and Kausalya were admitted in hospital as they
became unconscious as a result of pouring coloured water at Gudivada. Next day when they conducted picketing, they were arrested and left at a distant place of 11 miles. Along with these satyagrahis, 11 years old, Sugunamani, the niece of Y. Subrahmanyan took part. Nagabhushanam's mother Manikyamma also participated. It is surprising to note that even Sugunamani was sentenced for two years along with other satyagrahis at Angalur. At Gudivada for picketing P. Sundaramma, M. Annapurnamma and G. Putlamma were sentenced for six months.

On 2nd May V. Seetamahalakshamma, G. Lakshmee narasamma, A. Manikyamma, A. Ushamani, A. Maha Lakshmamma, K. Nagaratnamma, Ch. Sowbhagyyamma, G. Mallikamba, T. Kausalya were sentenced for one year imprisonment.

G. Mallikamba underwent imprisonment along with her child for six months. Even eleven years of age P. Suguna was not let-off. She was sentenced for two years.

At Bhatlapenamarru the Congress Office was raided V. Annapurnamma and G. Seetamma in whose
possession the congress office was, were arrested and later released. The Congress Office was again sealed on 5th August, 1932.

It is surprising to note some of the meanest methods employed by government, in suppressing the movement led by lady satyagrahis. The fine was imposed on K. Rama Seetamma, and they had taken away the bangles of her and her sister-in-law.

While the women were on satyagraha, an account given above will suffice to narrate the inhuman treatment meted out to them. The women detenues in jail were not treated properly. For instance Ramaseethamma of Mogulrajpuram was kept in quarantine room for 3 days in Vellore jail after she had an attack of paralysis.

A.I.C.C. LEADERS VISIT TO KRISHNA DISTRICT:

Gandhi came to Bezwada on 16th Dec, 1933 people as well as leaders gave him a hearty welcome. Andhra Mahila Sangham garlanded him at Durga Vilas. First Gandhi went to Edupugallu, where a four years child gave her gold year-rings and a harijan child
gave her rolled-gold ring. In the mid-day 1000 women met at Durga Vilas and subscribed Rs.120/- later in Durga Kala Mandir, Gandhiji met various harijan workers, poets and songsters etc. In the evening at the venue of public meeting Rs.3982-8-00 was subscribed by the time the meeting was commenced. At Mogalrajpuram K. Ramaseethamma gave Rs.116/- to Gandhi Harijan Uplift Fund.

On 17th, Gandhi went to Punadipadu, Komatigunta and Kalvapamula. At Punadipadu Rs.116/- was subscribed. At Mudunuru, besides harijan entry into the temples, Rs.408/- was subscribed. K. Rajamma subscribed Rs.23-14-6 and other ladies gave their ornaments. Then Gandhiji proceeded to Gudivada, Nandivada, Dondapadu, Tonnepadu, Dandiganapudi and Virivada, where the people subscribed Rs.1000/-. Then he went to Sidhantam, where Gandhi led the harijan entry into Durga Nageswaraswamy Temple.

After a brief halt at Kowtavaram and Pedana, Gandhi went to Bandar and delivered his speech at 6 P.M. in Andhra Jateeya Kalasala.
At Bandar, Gandhi received the reception given by Krishna District Board, Municipality. Hindu Premi Mandali, East Krishna District Hindu Service Society, Student Society, Women Society, Krishna District Adi Andhra Sangam and All India Charka Sangam, a Andhra branch.

On 17th night there was a well attended public meeting at Challapalli at 8 P.M. Besides subscriptions in the form of land, gold and money and other miscellaneous subscriptions were also made there. The meeting lasted for 120 minutes. Gandhi strongly advocated the cause of harijans and pleaded for their up-lift.

Gandhi after completing Andhra tour gave good compliments for Andhras for their sincerity. But advised them to be careful and also critical in their approach to the problems eventhough they were small.

Thus in Krishna District we see the magnanimity of the leaders as well as the people in subscribing funds to Gandhi Harijan up-lift fund. Mere donations did not satisfy the feelings of downtrodden sections
of the Hindu community. Even before Gandhi commenced his tour to the district, there was widespread propaganda for harijan up-lift.

On 12th to 24 October, 1933 under the leadership of A. Anjaiah the volunteers propagated for harijan uplift in the following villages Bollapadu, Katuru, Kalvapamula, Nandamuru, Manikonda, Maredumalle, Tenneru, Tarigoppala, Gannavaram, Pedasutupalli, Atkur, Pottipadu, Telaprolu, Ampapuram, Kanumolu, Kâkulapadu, Arugolanu, Tippanagunta, Chimivada, Garapadu, Penukumadu, Unguturu, Erukepadu, Veldipadu, Endupadu, Kadanpadu, Konduru, Neppalle, Akunuru; China Ogirala, Gandigunta, Vuyyuru and Komanuru etc.

On May 18th 1933 there was a meeting under the auspices of A. Kaleswara Rao. In the meeting G. Seetaramaiah, M. Bala Subrahmanya Gupta and S. Venkatramaiah strongly pleaded for harijan up-liftment. On 23rd May there was a meeting at Tilak Chowk, Bandar, where T. Veeraraghavaiah and D. Lakshmaiah strongly pleaded for Harijans. On
26th May there was a meeting at Jaggaiahpet where N.G. Ranga, Jayanthipuram Raja and K. Madhusudhana Rao explained the need for bringing up the harijans to the level of other forward castes. In this area at Bandipalem and Konakanchi meetings were conducted by N.G. Ranga, Jayanthipuram Raja and R. Butchi-ramaiah Sresthi. In this connection A. Ramagovinda Sarma was even threatened to be ex-communicated. At Veerullapadu also the meeting was held. Speakers were V. Veera Vara Prasada Rao, Jayanthipuram Raja and N.G. Ranga.

Gandhiji's principals of harijan welfare heralded a new era for the development of harijans in particular and eradication of social evils in the Hindu Community in general.

After the visit of Bula Bai Desai in August 1934 to Bezwada to decide the candidates for the Assembly in November 1935, Rajendra Prasad, the Congress President, visited Krishna District. Here at Bezwada N. Rattamma promised to donate 3 acres of land and Y. Lakshme Narayana promised before Rajendra Prasad to donate to Hindu University at Bezwada. Later Rajendra Prasad toured the district.
Meetings were organized at Bezwada, Kanchikacherla, Punadipadu, Vuyyuru, Bhatlapenamarru, Machilipatam, Gudivada, Hanuman Junction, Gannavaram and Gunadala. In all these places he explained the principals of Congress. He was accompanied by A. Kaleswara Rao, Pattabhi Seetaramaiah, T. Prakasam, K. Lakshmaiah, and M. Satyanarayana. Then he went to Gandhi Ashram at Komaravolu and delivered speeches in the volunteers meeting-Forum. Then Rajendra Prasad proceeded to Nandivada & spoke in the meeting.

Nehru visited Krishna District on 2.10.1936. There was a meeting in Gymkhana Grounds. Later he participated in the meetings held at Kankipadu, Vuyyuru and Machilipatnam. Then he visited Gudivada and gave his speech to a well attended public meeting held in the grounds of Travellers Bungalow. V. Seeta Mahalakshmamma presented a purse of Rs.207/- on behalf of the volunteers. Nehru was much impressed with the enthusiasm and sacrifice shown by the lady volunteers during the time of civil disobedience movement.
Under the impact of speeches of Jawaharlal Nehru and other personalities in the tour to the Krishna District, the Congress Socialist party was established in Krishna District. G. Lingaiah was its President and V. Ramabrahmam was its Secretary. In course of time other sister organization like Youth Declaration were established.
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